GRAPEVINE **

ISSUE

The shortest distance between a problem and a solution is the distance between your knees and the floor.

Forever Great Adults SEMINAR 2004



By Meekness and Dan (SGA), England

At the beginning of 2004, the Lord indicated that there was a need to do something extraordinary for our dear die-hard "Forever Great Adults" (FGAs) in Western Europe. The Lord spoke and confirmed that the FGAs needed and deserved this time of input and encouragement for all their years of faithful service to Him and His Family. This was when the idea came up of having a regional fellowship exclusively for FGAs.

The Lord supplied a beautiful place in a lovely location on the east coast of Italy for the fellowship to take place. Invitations were sent to our dear FGAs, and over 140 FGAs turned up for the event. A few SGAs from the JT and VS boards were able to sneak in and had a piece of the action and the inside scoop—and what a scoop it was! These FGAs took us by storm and what took place here will have earth shaking results! Lives were changed, bonds of love forged, and discipleship commitments made anew.

Arrival day came and people were pleasantly surprised to see so many fa-

miliar faces that they hadn't seen, some for over 20 years. All were very happy and encouraged to see friends (brethren) who they had met years before on far-flung fields still going strong, many of whom are now grandparents. In spite of all the trials and battles and setbacks, the fires of discipleship were burning brightly. As the days got under way with classes, fellowships, inspiration, and plenty of time together, the spirit and inspiration level rose to a mighty crescendo. It was a five-day event that will never be forgotten, and a landmark for all of those precious FGAs.

On the first morning of meetings a keynote was given by Gallio and Naomi after a rousing inspiration. They explained the history of how this seminar came about and read some very inspiring introductory prophecies. We had prayed before about what classes and topics needed to be covered, and since most of us are moving towards larger Homes, communal living was an important topic to cover, and this was the basis of many of the classes.

That evening, what started as an inspiration became a breathtaking

medley of praise time and gypsy dancing! It was an awesome time and spiritually rejuvenating! (This was not just a two-hour inspiration but lasted well into the night.)

The next morning we had a CP and FED presentation. The CP board covered another important aspect of communal living, which is having a united standard of discipline. Also covered was a recap of the progress made since the board program started; the need for us to work to raise the standard of education; a plug for the CVC; and as a grand finale, a special FED board jingle. Also a folder of material pertaining to our children and young people's education was given to each Home.

In the afternoon, Abi from the Media team gave an overview explanation on the FID. She covered the importance of using the Family's name in witnessing, being prepared to give an answer, being a good sample, building good relations with the local community, etc.

That night the doors were closed to the main hall as a select few prepared the evening activity, which remained a surprise until the doors were re-opened. The room was lit by candlelight and tastefully decorated with fruits, rose petals, feathers, and a nice picture of Jesus with us depicted as His bride—a terrific Loving Jesus experience. When the doors were opened the ambiance of the setting was in honor of the One that is the motivation for it all—Jesus, our precious Husband! One evening was dedicated to the CGO board sharing testimonies of recent happenings on the outreach front, as well as Peter (from the European Activated Desk) giving an Activated presentation on the hap-

Important post-it GN coming your way soon

Please check the MO site for a short Post-it GN regarding celebrating the end of the renewal with your children, JETTs, and junior teens, which should be there by the time you receive this Grapevine issue. It's important! Don't miss it!

The SGAs had secretly plotted and planned a tribute to the FGAs in the form of a skit highlighting the 30+ years of Family history.







penings in Western Europe. Unbeknownst to the FGAs. who thought the SGAs were out enjoying ice cream on the beach that afternoon, the SGAs had secretly plotted and planned a tribute to the FGAs in the form of a skit highlighting the 30+ years of Family history: the sacrifices, revolutions, and the determination of our "Forever Great Adults," who the Lord chose to spearhead and build the Family. Without their faithfulness to follow the Lord, courage to step out, Don Quixote spirit, perseverance, loyalty, and all their extraordinary qualities, The Family wouldn't be what it is today. At the end of each skit, the young people shared from their heart what they personally admire and appreciate about the FGAs, and a poem was read in conclusion to it all. Many people were crying, others laughing through their tears.

The next morning the FGAs surprised the seven attending young people with a song they wrote to show their appreciation. Now it was the SGAs turn to pull out their handkerchiefs as all 140 FGAs joined in the chorus. This was a kick-start to the morning's presentation from the JT board. Testimonies of the board activities and initiatives were shared. Word was read, vision was given for the need to pour into our JETTs and have a united standard regarding their appearance and behavior.

That afternoon was the last meeting of the seminar, led by Gallio and Naomi, who read beautiful closing prophecies from the Lord, letting everyone there know how proud He is of them.

The Lord had promised that it was going to be a special time, and it was. More than a special time, it was a monumental experience that has left a definite mark, and the memories of those days in Heaven will be kept affectionately in our hearts forever.

Our lives are filled with memories. Memories of places we've been, of people we've met, of lessons we've learned. The ones we bring from the FGA Seminar 2004 are exceptional; they remind us that even though a few decades have come and gone, and many things have changed, Jesus is, in a way, only getting started with us, and in this beginning of a new era. every member of this Family has an indispensable role to play—regardless of their age. But it's very plain to see how the very first generation of the Family has—through everything they've been through-earned an honorable place in God's Hall of Fame. Their humble way of being and their gentle smiles are one of their many facets, but they are and will always be remembered for being the fearless warriors God needed to begin this army of the Last Days. In our midst we have some of the greatest heroes of history: this peculiar people, revolutionaries chosen and designed by God Himself, the First Generation Adults.

So, hats off everyone. Here's to each of them! Let music be composed; let books be written and sagas told. May we thank Jesus Christ for the mighty works of His hands!—All in tribute to our beloved Forever Great Adults.

(Jesus:) How it pleases Me to see you still running the race, still going forward and not giving up, still pressing on and pressing in, reaching for the goal! Heaven is not far away, My dear runners, so don't give up! If you're tempted to get weary, just look straight ahead as far as your eye can see, and you will see a glimpse of Heaven, a glimpse of the reward that I have waiting for you. (End of excerpt of keynote prophecy.)

P.S.: We wanted to take this opportunity to put in lights all the fantastic folks who stayed at home, caring for the children and keeping things running so that the different ones could have this time away. Without their love and sacrifices, it would not have been possible. Many SGAs, YAs, and senior teens went out of their way to travel to other Homes to stand in the gap. We also heard some testimonies of some of our dear FM FGAs who traveled to other countries to help set old friends free to attend these meetings. God bless you all!

Magical Keys Bring Financial Miracles

BY JEANNIE, USA

The Lord recently did an outstanding financial key miracle for my two teen sons and I when our visa was abruptly cancelled in the East, and we only had a few weeks to raise our fare to leave the country.—We needed at least several thousand US dollars for tickets, landing funds, etc., to return to the States.

To give a little background—after the Letters about giving gifts and offerings to WS, we had decided as a Home to give an additional 2% of our income to WS each month, plus another 2% to either Mama and Peter or needy missionaries. I believe this was a key factor in the Lord's miraculous supply. Because we had committed to giving more each month, the Lord in return gave much more to us than we could ask or think.

When we had prayed as a Home as to how I should go about raising this large amount, the Lord showed us that, along with putting it on our daily prayer list, as well as hourly prayer vigils, we should also pray specifically for certain friends to give a special gift for our trip. This was a stretch of my faith, as not long before this, every single one of my friends had given generously for our Christmas projects.

The Lord more than honored His promises and supplied exceeding abundantly, so that in seven days He provided US\$7,000! Every single person I asked gave again. One of our kings gave \$2,000 on the spot, and another close friend, who already tithes, gave an additional \$3,000. The keys *are* practical, workable, supernatural, and they *do* work wonders!

"It is My pleasure to grant you all your needs, and more. Call on the power of the keys, and I will supply exceeding abundantly, above what you ask."

An Amazing Week of Miracles

By David (of Praise), South Africa

Last year we did some Bible classes at the Tshwane University of Technology here in Pretoria, South Africa. The student leader of the spiritual care center at the university attended, and was so impressed that she invited us to take part in the "Gospel Week," which is held annually at the university. We prayed about it, and the Lord told us that this would be an opportunity to show the students a living example of real Christianity, as opposed to the church system; of the generations working together as one; and of being in full-time, dropped-out service for Him.

The Lord did some incredible miracles to supply all we needed to come across as the professional Christians we are, supplying business cards, brochures of our work, an amazing Activated banner, t-shirts, etc. Thank You, Jesus, for the keys of supply. Our stand was right at one of the entrances. and attracted a lot of attention from the students, who were enthusiastic about seeing so many people, both young and old, working together full-time for Jesus. We decided to rotate duty at the stand daily, to give each of us the opportunity to witness to the students. It was a real team effort with our whole Home united in spirit together as one.

On the very first day an archaeologist, Hulgard, came by the stand and saw the book Evolution: Fact or Fable, and immediately went in for the kill. The Lord had prepared me well for this, as one of the classes that I give fairly often is on Creation vs. Evolution. I spent some time with him at the stand, pointing out the blatant errors and cover-ups behind the evolution lie, and showing him verses from the Word. We then went to his office, where I was able to witness to him very openly about the Endtime and Salvation, as well as some of our more radical doctrines. And then, after a total of 31/2 hours, the Lord did the seeming impossible-Hulgard renounced evolution and received Jesus as his Savior!

On the first evening, our junior teen girls Talitha, Elena, Lizzy, and Kathy gave a dance performance at a Gospel concert that was held in one of the halls on campus. They danced to two songs, "Time of the End" and "Love Is the Light." It was well received by the students. and they gave a wonderfully professional performance! Many thanks to Praise for her hard work on sewing the costumes and to Phoebe for her expert dance tutoring of the girls.

On the Thursday evening we showed Countdown to Armageddon in one of the lecture rooms. The year before the Lord had provided a video projector and a large screen through the generous donations of some of our supporters, and when hooked up to our sound system it made for a great presentation. The reaction from the students was wonderful. After the video we had a question-and-answer time. The Lord was faithful, bringing all things to our remembrance and helping it to be a success. It always shows me the wealth of knowledge we have from the Word, thanks to Dad and Mama, our prophets of the End. The questions from the students were deep and thoughtful, showing a depth and awareness of the Endtime, which was great to see.

On the last day we did a Holy Ghost sample and a powerful skit based on the Matrix, giving a very clear message against the devilish System and its evil devices. The answer, of course, was the liberating love of Jesus. This attracted lots of students and even one of the rectors of the university who liked what we were doing. The students were very responsive, and certainly got the point.

We have many students to follow up on, with many wanting to attend Bible studies and seeking further fellowship. Please pray that the Lord can lead and guide us as we feed and shepherd these precious sheep, bringing them closer to the Lord and the Family.



Personal witnessing on campus



More witnessing on campus



Pheobe witnessing at our display table



Andrew witnessing at our display table



Doing a skit



James (right) with a friend

The Spirit Lives On

By Bozrah and Ruth, Costa

We have been claiming the keys of destiny for our older kids who left the Family. When we visited our son, Chris, this summer, he asked if we could witness to his boss, as he felt something sad in his spirit. We spent two hours with this precious man, who poured out his heart about his life and what he was facing raising two little girls alone (he's divorced and his ex-wife is pretty unreliable). He was so sincere and open with us.

This man shared how he knew there was something special about our son through his manners, work habits, and overall spirit. He is so happy to have him work for him, and in their "off" moments he'll often engage him in conversations about the Bible, God, etc., and is amazed at Chris's knowledge of the Word and the wisdom he uses in applying it to his daily life.

This man and his girls prayed to receive Jesus with us, and we left him with quite a bit of material, with the promise to send more later via our son

After that visit our son wrote us saying, "Since you guys gave that material to my boss, I'm hearing Family music all day at work. The other day my boss called out to me, 'What time is it?' I looked at my watch and told him. He velled out, 'No, it's the time to be happy!" Ha!

He can't get away from his heritage! I joked with him that before long, he'd be teaching the little girls the motions to the songs he'd sung and performed as a child!

12 FOUNDATION STONES TEACHERS' TIP

Prisons and Other Venues

Do you hold meaningful meetings or classes in prisons, refugee camps, universities, or other venues? You can find some useful ideas for class material in the 12 Foundation Stones Class Book. If the crowd doesn't have much prior biblical/spiritual foundation, then you may find the preparatory meetings especially useful.

In addition to teaching the Foundation Stones as a course with your regular sheep, you can also teach them as stand-alone classes for those you have less frequent contact with.

The Fruit of Children Goes on Forever

By Fe Fighter (30, of Valiant), Zambia

When reading "Shooting Straight, Part 2," about going for the gold, having a long-term vision, and what a blessing children are, I thought I should write something about how my children have worked in my life.

As my husband and I were reading the Letter we talked about how in our ministry the children have been such a blessing. ... But that is getting ahead of my story.

I had my first babies when I was 16 years oldtwin girls. Having children was what I needed to help me settle down and focus on what was truly important in life. I still enjoyed parties and dances, but I also learned I could live without them at times. With less time for social activities I somehow found more time to study the Word with my husband. Some of our sweetest memories are of studying the Bible together during the time when the babies were small.

When things got busy as more children were added to our family in close succession, I was forced to look some of my bad habits square in the face. Habits like a short temper, a tendency to put things off, and laziness. I can't say that I have conquered those vices completely, but progress has been made—progress that may have been put off if not for the fact that having children brought those things to the forefront.

As we began witnessing with the children it was a pleasure to teach them the joy of sharing the love of Jesus with others. Teaching them the skill of talking to people, following up, and so on is ongoing and very fulfilling. It really is like having six new disciples in the Home at all times.

Having children opened the door for ministries that would have been awkward without kids by our side. As we prepared for the mission field and were raising support, our children were the testimony of our fruit. The singing ministry we had with them showed people that we could live by faith. Now that we are on the field of Africa we have found that big families are respected here as a sign of God's blessings, so the messages we bring are more accepted.

Our oldest girls are now 14 and the challenges have increased. We are challenged daily with the need to strengthen the faith of our kids. There are always new questions they have as to what we believe on something or why we believe what we do, and where to find an answer to something in the Word. This causes us to really dig deeper into the Word so we can be ready at all times.

I must also be more desperate for the Lord's will in my life because the decisions I make affect more than just me. I have to be on guard to get victories in my life or I risk being a hypocrite in front of my own children. I have to sharpen and practice with the weapons of the Spirit or else how can I teach and train in the use of them? This gives and brings such a blessing into my life that may not be there otherwise.

Having children is a sacrifice in the beginning.—I've been there. While I see the lack of social activities as a blessing because it brought me closer to the Lord, that is something easier seen in retrospect. At the time I was often lonely when my peers would go off to a dance. When my babies were small (at one point I had four children under three)

it was easy to get swamped under piles of dirty (cloth) diapers, potty training, math dots (starting over for the 15th time that year), or the mess that toddlers make. I would wonder if those days would ever end.

Now, though, with my children all out of the YC age and some entering the exciting realm of JETTs and teens, I can see that it definitely was worth it. Teaching them to read was hard work and seemed endless at times. But now that all the kids are reading well they

can feed themselves the Word, and they can share the Word with others.

I was at a market the other day and saw a mother with three children under three, including a newborn, and I could see myself 10 years ago. I looked over to her and said, "It gets better." She looked up with such relief and thankfulness in her eyes. The years of babies and toddlers don't last forever, but as the Lord said, the fruit of the children you raise will go on forever, in this life and the next.

"Think about spending eternity always knowing that you have a bond with your children that will never be broken, a bond of love and friendship and oneness, and you'll be celebrating that love and connection forever!"

A Life Blessed with Children

By Heidi (of Dave), Czech Republic

In "Shooting Straight, Part 2," I was touched by paragraphs 60-61 where it says: "Think about the souls that will come to Me through your children. Think about the lessons that you'll learn of faith, trust, dedication, unselfishness, and how it will enrich your life in ways you can't even imagine right now. Think about how much vour children will love you—without a doubt, you will be one of their favorite and most needed people. because you're their par-

"Think about spending eternity always knowing that you have a bond with your children that will never be broken, a bond of love and friendship and oneness, and you'll be celebrating that love and connection forever! Oh, it's all so far in the future right now, but compare that with a few

stretch marks that will pass away when you get your new body, and you'll still have only a tiny idea of how insignificant the sacrifices are compared to the eternal rewards."

My kids have reached SGA, YA, senior teen, and JETT age. They think I'm the greatest mom in the world. I view my clan as my best and closest friends. One son even commented recently that I'm one of the women he respects most on Earth.

We have our ups and down. We're not perfectsinning saints all. We laugh together, cry together, rant and rave together about the world situation. We discuss and debate endless topics, each taking the opposite point of view just for the sake of argument. We apologize when we blow it or hurt each other, and go on. That's life. They're the greatest thing I ever did.— My kids have made my life worth it all.

Practicing Praise

By Celeste (YA), Kenya

"Hurry, hurry!" It was our last night to pack up our house before catching the plane early the next morning, and our host, who was putting us up for the night, wanted to see us before we left. We trusted that the Lord would help it to be a short visit so we could finish packing with time to catch a few winks of sleep before loading up for the airport.

Just as we drove into our friend's parking spot, our van gave up the ghost. Yikes, now what? This was the very vehicle our host was going to transport us in to the airport the next morning. We were, to say the least, quite frazzled! Trying to see something good in the situation we were in, we praised the Lord that at least the van was parked in the right place and didn't break down anywhere else. That was the start of another volley of "Glad Game" rounds, and before we knew it our spirits where back on

the right wavelength.

We were reminded of the scenarios mentioned in the GN "Practicing Praise," because as we turned the weapon of praise it boosted us out of this discouraging situation and gave us the faith that all things really do work together for good to those that love God.

What's more, because our van broke down at our friend's house, they called AAA for us, and had the vehicle assessed on the spot. However, the mechanic said it could cost up to £2,000 (\$3,600) to fix it! Well, another Romans 8:28 as our host said, "I'll get it fixed before you get back, no problem!" If it had broken down on our own turf, so to speak, the fixing of the van would have been all in our court.

It's all too easy to see the negative in seeming "bad" situations we're in, but there is always hope just around the corner when we put those praise tips into practice and really wield that weapon against the Enemy!

Activating Is the Best!

By Rachel Scott, the Vine Lodge Home, South Africa

Our Home dedicates several days a week to activating, and we continually discover new ways that work, and we are encouraged by the results. We found that for us it works best to focus entirely on Activated. Although we do offer other tools, it is not the first thing on our minds. At times it is possible to get someone Activated within a few minutes of meeting them, and when that happens we know it is only the Lord. Other times it takes a lot of faithful follow up and patience before the person will show an interest.

Activated is an amazing product that we have in our hands. People from many different religious backgrounds and from every age group are taking Activated—it appeals to all—and if you are sold on it, anything is possible.

A lady phoned us up one day and asked, "Are you the Activated people? My son gave me one of your magazines, and they are just amazing. How can I subscribe? That one on parenting teenagers is fantastic. I have been having trouble with our 15-year-old boy for some time, and when I tried out the tips I found they worked. Within a few days my son is beginning to change. Even my 18-year-old son, who is not a Christian, is very impressed with your magazine." She continued raving about Activated and encouraged us to follow up on her son, as she wants him to get saved.

One Croatian lady was so impressed with her first copy of Activated that she immediately persuaded her sister to subscribe. Another lady we met wants to get all her friends to subscribe. Someone else phoned from an office where we had left a mag and told us that the Activated magazine had been passed around the office, and everyone loved it. Quite a few of them want to subscribe.

The Hindus also love the mags. One Hindu man who recently got saved reads his copy over and over again. When we visited him he had his mag open at the Salvation prayer, which was circled. He told us that he rereads it constantly as it gives him strength. He had done something in his life for which he thought there could be no forgiveness, and it had always haunted him. Now he knows he is forgiven, and it has changed his life. In the past he used to meditate and follow different gurus in an attempt to reach spiritual enlightenment, but when he saw us he knew that we had reached a spiritual level that he could only dream about and he wanted what we had-Jesus. His favorite section of Activated (and this is true of almost everyone we meet) is "From Jesus with Love."

Something we try to be faithful with is phoning our first-time Activated subscribers to find out if they have received their first issue and how they like it. We find this important for several reasons:

- 1. To make sure the address is correct and they are receiving the mags okay.
- 2. To receive feedback and strengthen our connection.
- 3. To encourage them to get a friend to subscribe.

Following are some of the reactions we have received when phoning people back after they subscribed:

"This magazine has changed my life. I used to not really be a believer, but Activated has brought Jesus alive to me, and now I am a changed man."

"My husband, who is a Jew and who I have been trying to convert for 25 years, read the prophecy on the back of Activated and said it was the best thing he has ever read."

When phoning to find out if a girl had received her first Activated mag, she told us that she was so inspired by it and that her boyfriend, who is Lebanese and not a Christian, just loved it as it helped him understand a Jesus who loves, cares, and forgives.

These reactions have increased our faith to keep investing time in Activated. We have also started an online newsletter, which we send to our online subscribers. This serves to feed them more regularly and strengthens their ties with our Home as well as with the Activated desk. We also encourage them to get friends subscribed and we give a free gift of an audio tape when they do. We also use this newsletter to promote our tools, advertising special offers, which encourages them to purchase tools from us.

The next step is to encourage them to participate in the 12 Foundation Stones course either in small groups where they are, at our Home, or by correspondence course. We are very excited at how Activating really does help you to build a local church.

Activated is the best-believe it!

happenings

It pays to speak the local language—literally

Stefan, Pakistan: On a recent road trip to a nearby country, our Italian friend referred us to his Pakistani friend. When we met him and he found out we could speak Urdu, he was very pleased, and didn't want to speak a word of English with us during the entire 20minute meeting. He spoke literary Urdu, and he was quite pleased with our skills in speaking his mother tongue, as it requires quite an effort to learn Urdu here, since you can pretty much get by with only English. A large segment of the population we minister to can speak English; however, they are very touched when they see we have made the effort to learn their language.

At the end of the meeting, this man pulled out his checkbook and pledged a total of \$3,000 for 12 months, with the first check of \$1,500 and the other to be picked up a couple months later. It sure pays to speak the local language!

Specific keys work!

Crystal, Indonesia: I was having so much trouble with virus attacks on my Yahoo e-mail account—every time I logged on, I would be sent another one. I prayed against this, calling on the keys before I even opened the account, yet still they kept coming. I prayed for a specific key to fight these attacks, and I received the "anti-virus" kev. I used that, and I haven't had a virus since!

This method was confirmed for me by reading Xn #29, which talks about using the specific keys for specific problems. The anti-virus key I claimed was not mentioned specifically, but I believe the Lord can show us any key we need. After all, He did say there were thousands. Now if after claiming the keys I don't seem to receive an answer when I need one. I simply ask the Lord which key to claim

and He gives me the one I need and presto—it works!

One little tract

Daniel Endtime, India: Two of the teen boys went on outreach to a place the Lord had told them to go, but which ended up being not much more than a fishing village. They met a few sweet people who took tracts, but nothing outstanding happened. However, the next day they received a call from someone they had given a tract to. This woman passed on the tract to her sister who had recently come to know the Lord. She asked to meet up with us. So the boys went to see her.

During the visit she received the Lord, took the Activated magazines and several Get Activated books. Now she wants us to teach her how to go witnessing and wants to fellowship with us. She has been looking for someone to train her in the ways of the Lord. She is so flipped out that she is trying to work out for her company's computer designing courses to be available on scholarship to our young people. Also her brother, who incidentally works about five minutes from our house, gave us the number of his boss' daughter, as he wants us to witness to her. Now he wants to join us for personal witnessing. It's amazing how far one little tract can go.

Fantastic supply

John Dutch, India: We received a phone call from Peter explaining that when he and Lily went to Hyderabad to have their baby's eyes operated on, they met a man who bought a CD from them at the Taj Bengal, when the children were Christmas caroling there. Amazingly enough, they met each other again at the airport. When Peter explained to the man why they were traveling to Hyderabad, he became concerned about the baby.

The man was planning on flying to Nagpur; however, due to complications, the plane would only be stopping in Hyderabad. During the flight the man came over to Peter and asked how much the operation would cost, and how he planned to pay for it. Peter explained that they would rely on help from friends and other volunteers. The man then humbly asked, "Would it be all right if I covered the expenses of the operation?" Just another of those miracles of the Lord's provision.

When there was little hope

Conéctate, Chile: A lady phoned us up asking for Mottos for Success. When we visited her we explained that we were missionaries, and she opened her heart and told us that she was discouraged because her brother was sick and the doctors had given up hope for him. We offered to pray for her and did so, asking the Lord to perform His will. About a week later we received another call from her thanking us profusely for praying for her brother, who is now back at home and recovering speedily. She was so happy that we had prayed for her, and she loves the calendar

Sheep Learning to Witness

Jere, Brazil: Mariane and I have been ministering to two dentists, Marcio and Renata, for nearly four years. They have always been faithful to help us financially and have done free dental work for us. (For two years I had to go every 15 days for dental treatment, and they also donated braces for two of our daughters). However, they were not bearing so much fruit as far as winning others to the Lord. We started claiming the power of the kevs that the Lord would help them to witness more and bear fruit. And the Lord answered wonderfully.

A cousin of Marcio was going through a crisis in his marriage and he sought out Marcio, who then directed him to us. He is now also having Bible studies with us. He is doing much better in his marriage, and his wife is now about to have a baby. Marcio's secretary was having a very hard time paying off her debts. Marcio and Renata witnessed to her, and she is now also attending Bible studies and growing in the Lord.

Another couple, who are also dentists and friends of theirs, called them up as the man began having very strong depression for no apparent reason. Marcio was able to witness to them both and they are also attending our Bible classes and have offered us both financial and professional help.

"I have chosen you that you might bring forth fruit and that your fruit should remain."

Using Flannelgraphs to Get the Message Across

Lili Rose (of Jonathan), Middle East: Living in a predominantly Muslim country, we have found that we have much in common, one thing being that the Muslims strongly believe that they are living in the Time of the End. So this is a wonderful point to focus on when ministering and witnessing to our friends.

About one year ago we received a flannelgraph titled, "Timeline of the Final Seven Years," which covers the 16 points of the Endtime. Once I had colored it in and used it with my son, I got inspired about how it could be a useful tool in witnessing. So I tried it out first on a Muslim friend when he visited one day. He sat there for almost an hour as we went through the class point by point, interjecting interesting facts and bits of information that I had taken from the END and different articles. By the end of the flannelgraph, he was very inspired and fully understanding the events yet to take place.

Appreciation to donors

Victor B. (of Love), USA: We made Certificates of Appreciation for all of our main donors, and they really appreciated receiving them. We used MS Publisher, which has a number of templates for certificates. We found some nice certificate paper with a variety

of borders, and we purchased gold notarial seal stickers and a "corporate seal." When these are stamped with the official embossed seal they make an impressive addition to the certificate. We set them in frames, so that when we give it to our contacts, it's ready to go on the wall.

Delays are not denials!

Charity, Pakistan: About six months ago we met an African ambassador at his office, and

he expressed a desire to donate to our work. He was very friendly and spent a lot of time with us in a nice relaxed meeting. Since then I've bumped into him at several functions. and he would mention about still wanting to help us! I was tempted to not pursue the matter anymore as when I phoned for an appointment they said he was always very busy.

However, I again saw him and he said that we should contact him and make a time to come and see him at his of-

fice. I took him at his word and his secretary phoned back with an appointment! Again we had a very nice meeting with him and we were able to give him a good witness. We listened a lot also, and I believe he was touched that we were interested in his "woes" and listened sympathetically.

He then proceeded to give us a personal gift towards our work, almost \$200. God bless him! So don't give up knocking on those doors and keep pursuing.

Reaching the Top with Our Five-Star **Hotel Clown Ministry**

BY STEFAN, PAKISTAN

S. is a very close friend who in the last three years has helped push through some sponsorships for some of our projects. During her posting as the Media and Public Relations officer of a five-star hotel, she initiated a "Children's Corner" in a coffee shop for Sunday brunch. The idea is that the children get entertained, while the parents are enjoying their brunch. This way the children will want to come back as often as their parents will let them, or can afford. Ha! She suggested to her management to hire us for this job! It has now been 18

months since we started and looking back we could see His hand in leading us to make this commitment.

Our activities consist of: clown dramas, face painting, ballooning, storytelling using the Family flannelgraphs, games, arts and crafts, and Treasure Attic watching.

The team is made of one or two adults, one teen and one or two JETTs or OCs. We have developed many new talents through this ministry, which has helped us in other ministries as well.

Being a five-star hotel located in the capital, the clientele are the wealthy and influential of our city. To make it a witness, we prepare envelopes with our visiting card, our foundation PR introductory pamphlet, newsletter, an ad with our products, and a Motivated magazine. We are at liberty to give it to all those we come in contact with, which has been people like federal ministers, policy makers, other members of the government, heads of foreign and local delegations, ambassadors, embassy and UN staff, NGO personnel, also CEOs of local and foreign companies, and last but not least your ordinary mothers and wives of those mentioned above, who are thrilled with the material we present. This has resulted in a wide witness to many people from around the world, some tools are distributed and many Motivated magazines out. Once we tell people what we

do, some have exclaimed with great joy that they also know of the Family International in their countries.

Many have called us to perform for birthday parties, multinational companies' annual family functions, embassy staff and family Christmas functions, etc., where more envelopes are given out. Our performing team, "The Fantastic Friends," receives requests for performances as well.

This ministry has involved almost everyone in the Home, been a witness to many, and given us a good source of income as well! I firmly believe that He has blessed us with this ministry because we have been faithful to give out His words in the form of Motivated magazines, Reflections, and

The Joy of Childbirth—Antenatal and Postnatal Courses in Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences

By Tender Joy, Pakistan

About four months ago we were asked to put together an antenatal course for expectant mothers. It was with some reluctance we accepted the request, as we had some hesitations, like: "What can we teach these well-educated doctors and nurses?" We don't have formal education in this field; however, we do have a lot of personal experience, plus even more importantly, we have the

So, after much prayer we dove into our vast treasure of Family publications, and a course was soon on its way.

We have now come to the end of the agreed four-month course. The ones we have trained are able to take off on their own, leading and guiding the mothers-to-be, showing them the great benefits of learning to relax as well as knowing how to concentrate on their breathing during the actual delivery.

In this part of the world the husband, relative, or a friend are not allowed to accompany the mother into the delivery room. So we were asked if we could conduct some classes for about 40 nurses to teach them what a coach can do to help the laboring mother. It was a great inspiration for us as well to lead these classes. as we knew it would benefit the mothers even more when the nurses also know about these things and can guide the mother in what to do while she's lying on the delivery table.

The nurses enjoyed these classes. After instructing them, they themselves took turns to play the role of the mother-tobe and the coach! There was a lot of "huffing and puffing" in the room and then the pretended exclamations that, "Another little baby boy is born!" ha!

We're now going to be focusing on postnatal care, as there are many tips that can be given to these dear mothers to help them after the baby

is born, as then another set of situations and sometimes problems can set in, like what to do with cracked nipples, postnatal blues, etc.

We are praying that the Lord will continue to open doors where we can step in and continue to spread the Lord's love and Spirit in new ways.



Joy (left) with some of the students and nurses at the hospital

-Reactions to "Shooting Straight, Parts 1–5" (MLs #3499–3503)

Jan, Nigeria: This series gives me the feeling of being in an army again, compared to previously when most in the Family were kind of on their own, so to speak. When reading some of the subjects, it was like, "Whoa, you mean there are Family members who are doing that?" But then on other topics, which other Homes may not be weak in, we'd all feel pretty guilty about and realize that we have some big changes to make in our lives and Home. So I'm sure there's something for everyone in this series.

By the Lord's grace we're making those changes, and we'll all once again become the completely dedicated soldiers and disciples that He needs us to be. I especially liked the "Challenging Thots" at the end of each section, as they add a sense of urgency to the matter, like you've got to do something about it quick or you're going to miss out!

Alisa, Thailand: It's so nice to be able to really understand these different issues and have so many questions answered. Even reading some questions that seemed less important, showed me how little things and little questions that I blow off as being not so important, are big things to the Lord. This has been a big building block for me and has helped my faith to grow.

A., China: The "Shooting Straight" series is so feeding. I find it's so easy to get stuck on my pet theory or opinions about what I think or feel is right, and feel free to share this with others. Lately the Lord has been checking me on having the right Word-based attitude about the different issues that are talked about and discussed or debated amongst us. I had been wondering what the Word had to say about certain things, and so it's nice to have them covered thoroughly through the Letter Links. The Lord knows exactly what we need, and when we need it.

Melissa (SGA, of Matt), Sierra Leone: These GNs have been so convicting, there's something for everyone in them. God bless Mama for having the faith and courage to publish this series. In reading through this series I was amazed to see how many areas there are in my life that I need to change in. I took the time to read over them a couple times, writing down the most important quotes that spoke to me. Certain points were quite heavy, like abandoning your own will, being willing to have as many children as the Lord wants us to have, truly living the One Wife vision, and plenty more.

I know these topics have actually been covered in the Word over and over, but it's good the Lord is giving specifics and delving into the nittygritty areas of our lives. It's easy for me to say I believe the Word and love to follow the Lord, but there often are areas that I haven't fully yielded to the Lord in. We really needed this series! Thank you!

Sher (SGA, of Derek), China: The "Shooting Straight" series of GNs and the accompanying Letter Links were great, addressing the main frequently asked questions or rather issues in straight-forwarded non-interpretable fashion. The Letter Links accompanying them were extensive and easy to use "backup" on each topic.

I especially liked the sections on children and having families as I feel that's one of the most widespread issues that has changed quite a bit from when we were young. I remember dreaming of having a family and children when I was a child and JETT, but during my teens and on till now my attitudes had greatly changed. I know for certain that the pervading attitude is brought on by System influence, not necessarily only by movies/TV etc., but also the majority of the people you meet or witness to these days feel that having a large family is risky, unusual, and even irresponsible and unfair to the children. When you hear this all the time it does eventually alter your opinions.

While I've always admired and respected the FGAs and young couples with many children, I never wanted the same, and I battled terribly over

my first child and for a long time afterwards. Until recently I had been very resistant to the role of motherhood and was unyielded to His will in this part of my life. (I'm now pregnant with my second.) I have to admit that the idea of child after child is still difficult, but thank the Lord I'm now very happy and contented with my role as a mother with my lovely son. I'm looking forward to my second child, which for me is a miracle of a change of heart already.

Mary, Ukraine: I enjoyed the format of these GNs, where the various issues are addressed in point form and in a very clear-cut way—there isn't much room for misinterpretation. They've been a real blessing especially with shepherding aspects, as it's a help to have such a clear "handbook" of the Lord's views on these different topics. Now it's no longer "my view against yours," but we can just go to the Word about these practical matters and see what the Lord has to say. It's very helpful and refreshing.

FGA male, Mexico: The "Shooting Straight" series are wonderful, and the Letter Links help bring it all together. I find myself reading and rereading sections, as they've helped me to focus on a couple of needy areas in my life—one is my marriage. Having a healthy marriage makes the Law of Love come alive no matter what Home you are in.

My marriage had been a bit stagnant, and after reading the Letter Links on this topic, I could see why. I needed to put more into my marriage. Now my wife and I are reading up on the subject of marriage and generally trying to make more time together for reading the Word, as we did in the beginning of our marriage. And it's making a difference.

Shemiah, USA: When reading part 4 in this series it was comforting to know that we don't have to have lots of accomplishments to please the Lord, but that we simply have to be faithful to do what we can, and then let the Lord take care of the rest. I've

often felt very burdened about things. to the point that it has at times taken its toll on my health and happiness. But after reading this Letter, I feel set free from this work's trip, and with the Lord's help will enjoy more of what I

Our precious Husband is always faithful to give us the answer to what we need, even when we sometimes don't know what we need, especially if we are thinking we have to do something that the Lord is not necessarily requiring us to do.

FGA female, Norway: I must admit that it was not easy to read through "Shooting Straight, Part 1." Initially I'd only skimmed through it. However, later I went back to read it more deeply, and I realized that, yes, there are things that have been hard for me at times, such as sharing my mate, or others correcting my children. But when I look back, I realize that it has been worth it. I have had my heart broken many times, and thought that I could never live through an experience like that again, but now I know I can-by His grace.

This issue also made me consider whether I really believe in the Family's doctrines. Of course, after praying and thinking about it, all I could say was, "Yes, I do!" It was very good reading and taking time to ponder on these things, as they are subjects that have been uncomfortable for me for a long time.

Sarai, Brazil: The "Shooting Straight" series are a real heart checking for me. I can say confidently that every GN in the series has had something in it just for me.

One of the quotes that spoke to my heart was where Jesus asks how we will feel when we face other Christians in Heaven. That convicted me to want to do better to be the best MM I can

Arnon, USA: I am glad this question about whether good parenting pays off was addressed in the "Shooting Straight" series, because I am sure many of us have asked this in our hearts and minds. The Lord's answers, as always, are so comforting. It doesn't ease away all the pain of seeing a child you've nurtured choose to leave the Lord's service, but these

words do take away the sting and reassure us that all is not lost and that Romans 8:28 will prevail.

Rayne Pearl, DRC: The Letter Link, "Lessons of Love" by Mama that accompanied "Shooting Straight, Part 5," really spoke to my heart. I can't recall having read that Letter before. and it was so convicting. To learn to love is my heart's desire, and I pray I can do better in this area. It was also encouraging for me to see that even Mama went through similar battles that I go through. Thanks so much for all the hard work put into the pubs, the GNs are great, the links are great, and I want to do my part to change.

Andrew Servant, Russia: I especially appreciated the point about being accomplishment-oriented, and the Letter Links were so feeding. When re-reading Mama's "Lessons of Love," it was almost like I hadn't read it before. God bless you, Mama, for not only sharing your lessons back then, but for re-pubbing them for us now in the Letter Links! You could have kept it back in the "old" Letters, but instead brought it out once again into the limelight so we could all profit from it and get this point.

Pierre, Canada: The point on belittling the Family material convicted me, as even though I was sure of the superiority of our product, I must confess I also felt that the presentation of some materials was a little weak. The Enemy had a foothold with me and that mindset. But after reading what the Lord had to say on that topic, I felt liberated! Now I want to present every tool with pride. I'm excited because the way the Lord designed it will bear the right kind of fruit—the fruit He wants.

Ruth, Mexico: I wanted to comment on the issues addressed regarding SGAs and FGAs. It was right-on. As an FGA I just wanted to say thank you for the encouragement from that section. I know I personally really need our young people, as they have the energy and sharpness that I have lost. It is quite humbling to admit, but I know how much we depend on them in our Home-we couldn't make it without them. I am also thankful for their love and patience with many of

my failings. I enjoy working with them and I just pray to the Lord that I can continue to be a blessing to them in some way, by God's grace.

Florence, France: This series is so well explained and Spirit-led. One of the things that helped me personally was the point about staying open. even when I think I know God's will. Oftentimes I would receive prophecies about something and figure that that was the final on the issue, only to find out afterwards that others had different opinions or counsel contrary to what I'd received. At times I have started doubting that my prophecies were from the Lord, but reading "Shooting Straight, Part 3" gave me hope and reassurance. And the lesson in it for me is to be open to counsel and Spirit-led, which takes love, faith, patience, and humility—which I have a long ways to go in.

FGA mother, Mexico: The section about avoiding making mistakes was very encouraging to me. I have heard many comments from young people (and my own older children, as well) about "this and that" mistake their parents made. Some of my kids who are no longer in the Family are the most vocal about the mistakes we've made. vowing that they will not do the same thing. One of my sons even blames his broken marriage on the fact that his father and I separated when he was a child.

Hearing these things has often hurt me, because I can see and remember my own mistakes probably much better than my children. But the Lord has given me a wonderful victory over feeling remorseful and guilty regarding my past separation from my children's father (who is no longer in the Family).

Some years ago, when I asked the Lord why He allowed this separation He explained that He wanted to give us both the desires of our hearts for our faithfulness in the Family and with our children. But He couldn't do that while we were together because the true desire of my former husband was to live his own life, and do other things besides being a missionary. The Lord knew that my desire was to continue serving Him in the Family, so He had to first separate us to show us both that it wasn't His will for us to reunite.

I have shared this explanation with my two daughters, who are still in the Family, and they received it very well. Their father and I are still on very good terms, and I am also close to his present wife, who is also a former Family member. We recently had a family reunion, the first time in 18 years that we were all together. It was a good time for me to finally be able to let go of so many feelings and questions from the past. Seeing all of my children as adults helped me to realize that that part of my life is definitely over. Each one of them is making their own choices and decisions about their lives, and I am not responsible for those decisions.

I now realize that whether they make "good" or "bad" decisions, is not the most important thing. The important thing is that they are making those decisions with a good Christian background and upbringing. This is what I can be sure of and thankful for.

Tender Joy, Pakistan: This section about not being so accomplishment-oriented was so very convicting! I started to mark some portions of the paragraphs, but I ended up marking more or less everything! It showed me how much of a work-oriented mess I am. I love to be able to cross out something on my to-do list—it feels so good. But if I don't take time with the brethren I am living with, in the end the work I do will all be like husks. I

still have a to-do list, but I am not so dictated by getting all the things done right away, I do what I can during the day, and the rest has to wait till later.

I joined the Family over 32 years ago mainly because some people took time to hear me out and showed me love and care. That is what won me over. Thank you so much for publishing this part, it woke me up to some important facts in my life.

Emmanuel, Iceland: We are quite a dynamic Home, in that there are oodles of talent and drive available from each of our members. These gifts are spread out between the different folks here and no single person has them all. We are seeing that although everyone has a burden for their particular area of expertise, and can even be quite vocal and pushy about it, it takes the glue of the Lord's Love to hold us all together.

The points from "Shooting Straight, Part 5" on accomplishments and works are very helpful in driving this home. The need for love has been made evident through different leadings and burdens other individuals in our Home have mentioned in their reading of the Word also, so it seems to be a very valid point for our Home.

FGA woman, Europe: In the past couple of years, I would sometimes get almost overwhelmed with sadness over some things that happened in

the past 30 years. It's been tempting to look at various choices, including problems in my first marriage, and feel it was just so filled with mistakes, and that that's why I'm faced with certain problems now.

These sections about avoiding mistakes and issues with the past were a real liberation and restored a peace that had subtly and slowly departed from me, because they reminded me again that no matter what mistakes were made, we (my mate and I) had been trying to serve the Lord, we had been seeking His will, and the forsaking we did, the pioneering, the travels, were as disciples. We weren't perfect and we didn't know as much as we know now about hearing from the Lord, but we sure were trying our best and what we did, we did as disciples of Jesus. Therefore, the outcome must surely be within His will.

I know these things are very obvious in the Word, but somehow they'd become clouded in my mind, and I was starting to forget why we did what we did, and began judging things in System terms. Compromise sure has lots of subtle forms. Thank You, Jesus, for this Letter, it has helped to restore something in my heart that I was losing.

"The keys can change your outlook on the past, the present, and the future, and this new outlook will give you the faith and conviction to follow Me and obey My Word."

activated news

God on the spot

BY TIM JORDAN (OF BETH), INDIA

Recently I went to visit a contact I hadn't seen in a few months, as I was away on a trip. He is the general manager of a large pharmaceutical company. Though he is a Christian, he isn't so much into church or his religion. Normally when we'd meet, he wouldn't respond too much to our witness. He's helped with donations towards our work, but other than that he didn't have much of a vacuum. But this time when I went to see him the first thing he said was, "I need to talk to you about *Activated*!"

He then pulled out a laminated page from an *Activated* mag entitled, "Prayer for Miracles." He explained that when he read the article he wasn't so convinced about it, but at the time he was under a lot of stress and he needed a miracle. As a "last ditch" attempt he prayed the prayer in the mag.

He was shocked the next day when everything he prayed for happened! "Nothing but a coincidence," he tried to tell himself. But God wasn't through proving Himself.

The next day this man again prayed a specific prayer and put the Lord on the spot, and yet again the Lord answered every request! He tried this three more times, and each time the Lord answered specifically. So finally he laminated the article because it really works, and he shares it with many others. He now loves *Activated*.

Avid reader of our literature

BY THE CHILE CONÉCTATE DESK

We had a friend come over for prayer and spiritual feeding. She brought with her a copy of *God on God*, which we had lent her. She told us she loved the book and asked if we had others similar to that. Then she told us how

much she liked the first book of *Amaris*, and wanted to pick up the second volume. The thing that impressed her most about *Amaris* was the permanent intimate connection the characters have with the Lord. She said: "I find it wonderful to have such a strong connection with the Lord. I want to read other books about it." The great thing about her reaction is that just a few months back she was into all sorts of new age stuff—Yoga, Buddhism, Reiki, etc.—and was barely interested in our books. Today she is an avid reader of the *Conéctate* mag and our literature in general.

Supply through *Activé*

BY THE EAD

A Home in France left a French Activé magazine with one of their provisioning contacts. The next time they went there the man told them of a friend of his who picked up the magazine in his shop and read it and was very interested in meeting them. They followed up on him, and he turned out to be a Christian and asked how he could help. He had a banana business, so started helping with bananas. It was a real victory as they had been trying to provision bananas. but until then had not been able to find someone who was willing to help.

Activating first works!

BY JOYFUL, INDIA

Paul had been reading a Grapevine testimony over breakfast where one Home mentioned how the Lord blessed them when they put Activated first, before the tools. That afternoon there was extra manpower and a few hours extra to go DTD close by, so off he went with an on-fire, willing OC partner. At first they had a hard time and not much happened. They kept on going, and then met Mr. A. The first item they presented was Activated, and Mr. A. gladly took a subscription. Then Paul presented him with an appeal letter for sponsoring a VCD set for an orphanage, and right away he said he would do so. We delivered it two days later, and the director of the orphanage phoned up Mr. A to thank him.

A few days later we met the general manager of an airline company and requested discounted tickets for two brethren from another Home. We saw a "Mottos" sitting on his desk, and we took the opportunity to tell him that it was a product from the Family International. He said that over lunch he would often meditate on those quotes. When he finally asked how he could help, we told him that the best thing he could do was to subscribe to Activated, which he did right away, and that's when he mentioned that he would also try to give a 50% discount on the tickets. Put Activated first! It works.

"Looking for the Activated "!elgoeg

BY PETER (OF PRAISE), PHILIPPINES

People we activate are always referring us to someone else. They'll tell us, "Please pray for so-and-so," and they try to channel us to who they know has a need. We have an Activated subscriber whose brother got activated, and then shared the magazine with her. She was in Taiwan and subscribed to us from there and then started having Activated meetings, and reading the magazines at her work place together with other Filipinos she worked with. Then before she left to return to the PI she turned her Activated meeting over to the others and got three subscribers in Taiwan.

I was in an office where we have nine Activated subscribers. A girl I never met before saw me with an Activated mag and said, "Oh, you're the Activated people? My friend is looking for the Activated people." Her friend said. "I want From Jesus with Love for Women. I saw it in the dentist's office and was reading it while waiting and asked where it came from and the dentist said it comes from the Activated people." I had never even seen the book before, but another Family member who was visiting our city gave one to their Activated friend, the dentist.

I visited a man who was activated, and he asked when his year was up. I said I couldn't remember, so he just gave me the money and told me to resubscribe him whenever it was. He's a doctor and his sister was visiting him from Manila. She saw him give me the money and asked, "Why did you give him money?" He then explained to her what it was for and got her to subscribe. This lady was traveling with a nun at the time, and she signed up the nun for a one-year subscription as well.

Almost memorized

BY MARY (OF STEVEN), PHILIPPINES

I wanted to go witnessing, but it was a real rainy day, so I wasn't sure if I'd go out. I prayed and the Lord laid on my heart to go see someone I'd met before, the manager of a gym in our area who had previously subscribed. We went to see her even though it was raining. I barely opened the door and she said, "Mrs. Rose, my subscription has been ended a long time and I didn't know how to contact you. I've read God Online and Obstacles Are for Overcoming so many times that I have memorized them."

She subscribed right away, and then let me talk to the people in the lobby, where we got others activated, too. She said that if I wanted to I could get a rack and put our books there and she'd sell them for me.

Bible group with *Activated*

BY THE COLOMBIA DESK

A young guy wrote to us from jail, explaining that he had received an Activated mag inside the jail, and with that he has started his own Bible group of more than 30 fellow inmates, so we're sending him the whole course.

Activated a stress reliever

BY AMOS (OF SARAH), INDIA

I went to visit an office to drop off some books that one of my contacts had ordered. When we arrived he

invited us inside his office, and while there the lady in charge came in. She had bought some Christmas CD cards from us last year, and though at that time she wasn't so interested in us or our message, I had left an Activated mag for her to read. This time, however, she was raving about the mag. She explained that when she first met us six months back she was going through a lot of difficulties, both personal- and work-related (stress) and that her problems had kept escalating to the point that she had just turned in her resignation. She said the only thing that saw her through that time was the Activated magazine we had left her. She said it contained so many answers to her problems, and she had read it over and over. She asked how she could subscribe to it, and after subscribing said, "I hope they don't accept my resignation! But I think I am going to be okay now that I am going to be receiving this magazine regularly!"

Not just a one-time giver

BY PHILLIP (OF MARIE), PHILIPPINES

I asked a lady who we got activated if she had any referrals for people who'd be interested in Activated. She referred me to a fitness trainer who gave me the names of all the people she used to train. I got in contact with them, and five or six asked me to visit them. I went to one office and was referred to the administrative officer. She called in a few people who she knows are active Christians and they got tools from me. I witnessed to the administrator a bit more and she was talking about how much she already helps people. She's a Catholic and helps put young priests through seminary.

When I was leaving I left her with a pledge letter and I almost forgot about it, but a week later I went back. I didn't think she'd help, but she gave me a donation that day and said, "It's a onetime gift." I visited her again the next week and she subscribed to Activated. She also took a couple of Get Activated books.

Now I see her every week and give her more books and things to read. She's so excited about the books and the mags that when I see her now she always tells me about how much they've helped her. Recently, she helped with the deposit on a new house that we moved into and has also been helping with the monthly rent.—The fruit of Activated and follow-up, and not giving up on a "onetime giver"!

We Wouldn't Trade the Life of Faith for Anything!

BY ANGELA, DANIEL, AND HOPE, ROMANIA

When the "Show Me the Money" GNs came out, they caused a revolution in our Home and lives. As we went through the assignments one by one, they helped to fine tune many aspects of our work. The first thing that the Word did was change our mindset and attitude towards asking for support and ministering to the rich.

We started making changes by praying more—to get out more *Activated* subscriptions, for our sheep and friends, etc.—and we also started to use prayer more in ministering to our friends. It's not that we didn't pray before, but now we pray much more and take prayer seriously, realizing how important it is. We went more on the attack in follow up, to really feed and care spiritually for our sheep, and take pride in the wealth that we have when ministering to the rich and influential.

Dad said: "You have spiritual riches beyond compare in the Words the Lord has given you, truth that is so explosive that it can blow the Devil's lies to shreds, and love that is so wonderful that it can change hearts and save lives for eternity!" (ML #3245:77, GN 847).

On the practical side, we are striving to become professional missionaries. No matter what our ministries, we are each trying to organize our time better and work harder in our different ministries. We generally use our afternoons to both receive visitors and visit our friends in their homes, and when the weather is good we take the children too.

Twice a week for one hour we do our CTP, two evenings a week we have Bible classes at our friends' homes, and the rest of the time we have for witnessing.

We have two inspiring CTPs, one for severely handicapped children, which has helped us to have good PR with the local community and to meet many important people. One such lady is activated now and is a blessing to the Home. The other CTP is for children with social problems who come from broken families. In this center there are new children all the time, so every week we have a new audience for the program that we put together. Our children also participate with skits, singing, and leading the children in prayer. In both CTPs we do a lot of witnessing; we witness in the name of the Family. Most of our witnessing time is spent in building our local church.

This is how we are organized at the moment, as we are only four adults in



Angela (far right) with a couple of Activated subscribers during an Activated class

the Home, but we are praying and taking steps to invite more personnel and form a winning team. We agree wholeheartedly with the Lord's, Mama's, and Peter's counsel; we want to go all the way for Jesus and be the disciples that He wants us to be. (If any of you are praying about where the Lord wants you to commit and do your best for Him, we need your help and would be happy to know you and work together with you. The harvest is plenteous but the laborers are few!)

At the beginning of the year we reorganized all our follow up lit that we have translated in Romanian, into a big dossier. We are becoming professionals, aren't we? The Lord showed us to invest in a color printer and scanner, so our office is now very well organized. Now with a printer, anytime we need lit we can print it out right away, and there we have it for the sheep. Many times we've found that when talking with somebody and a certain topic comes up, we want to send them something feeding about it, so it's nice to be able to print it out right there! The InfoStore CD is such a blessing. God bless you who put it together. We also started an e-mail ministry, and send something feeding every two weeks to all the addresses we have.

Another practical step that we took was to be more faithful with the tithe. We'd often receive little donations that we wouldn't write down, and they'd be overlooked or forgotten. But now at the end of the day we write down every single penny that we receive, so at the end of the month we have an accurate account of the income, and thus an accurate tithe.

The Lord has helped us to become bolder in asking the people we minister to for help, whether with buying tools or giving us goods or donations. So instead of having big pushes where we mainly fundraise, we just incorporate it in our follow-up and do a little bit every day. While we talk to and feed our sheep, we show them the tools and present our need for help, and they understand and are more than happy to help. We go on the Lord's business with the main purpose of giving out the Word, and He takes care of the rest. He supplies all our needs, and even more.

We are seeing the wonderful fruit of *Activated* in our friends' lives, not only spiritually as they are growing and becoming members of the Family, but also financially. For example, one lady who renewed her subscription for the second year, told us: "I want to help you more. I don't have much, as I am struggling myself, but I want to do as much as I can." She owns an eyewear shop, and so donated two pairs of glasses to us. Every time we visit her, she gives us a donation as well. Many of our friends are inviting us to their houses, and we are drawing closer to them.

Every day is a miracle! We see now that as we do our part to live the 10 pillars of financial supply, the Lord is more than happy to supply all our needs. It is very important to do our part. We've seen that putting in more hours and working harder has definitely increased our finances. We all have to pull together and be "maximizers" in order to make it work. Sometimes it means missing an activity in order to write a letter to a sheep; other times it means standing in the gap with the kids at the end of the day when you are tired, because a friend has showed up, and so on. But it's thrilling, rewarding, and we wouldn't trade the excitement of living the life of faith for anything!

Through God's Leading and Prophecy

By Julie, Puerto Rico

Despite all the setbacks during the first five weeks of opening a new Home, the Lord helped us to get out 1,600 CDs, win 50 souls, and meet countless new Activated friends. We had a beautiful breakthrough one of the first weeks we went out singing. We met Antonio, 24, a fellow performer (albeit professional) who was singing at the same restaurant we were to perform in. While singing our set in another part of the restaurant, Antonio stood by the door, watching us intently. When we finished singing we prepared to start offering CDs to the customers, when Antonio asked us very sweetly, "Who are you guys? Why are you here?" We witnessed to him and he bought a few CDs and then insisted on backing us up on a few more songs for his crowd of people out on the balcony. We agreed and he played Spanish guitar and sang harmonies to the songs he knew-it was great!

Ever since then he's felt like he is a part of us. He came to our area open house party and performed a half-hour set for our friends and contacts who showed up. He also joined us at an area CTP where we fed, gave gifts to, and sang for 400 underprivileged children.

Late one night he called us, telling us that his childhood friend and neighbor had committed suicide two days earlier. Antonio's main concern was for his friend's father, R., who is a very wealthy and influential man in the city. R's eldest son had been shot three years earlier and now his middle son, L., had died as well. Apparently R. felt very condemned and that this was his fault because he wasn't a good father.

Antonio asked if we would come and sing at the funeral the next evening. I told him that we'd pray about it together and that we hear from Heaven, so we'd ask God what He wanted us to do. Needless to say, Antonio was fascinated that we heard from God.

The next day we got together to ask the Lord about the situation. While waiting for the Lord to speak, I started feeling the presence of a young man in the room. I knew it must be L., but

I was scared of being put on the spot by giving a public prophecy. I waited tensely for awhile, and my stomach turned as I debated whether or not I'd yield. But then someone else gave a prophecy about having the faith to give what you're getting, so that gave me the incentive to go ahead.

As soon as I yielded it wasn't me anymore. The message started with: "I'm sorry. I'm so sorry for what I've done. Tell my family I love them. Please tell my father not to cry. ..." The spirit in the room was so strong my hands started shaking and I began crying, while L. begged us to have the faith to be the comfort that his father and family desperately needed. He told us to tell his dad that he can see Jesus, that He's so beautiful, and that Jesus forgives him and is holding him in His arms. It was so beautiful to be that close to Heaven, all of us in the room were touched. After that the Lord spoke again confirming that it was His will for us to go to this funeral and comfort this man's family.

When we arrived at the funeral home the place was packed, so we stood in the back of the room with Antonio and his parents. The next thing we knew we were being announced as the "missionary girls from the Family who had a special song to sing." It was a little overwhelming as the whole room was silent. We desperately claimed the keys as we walked down the aisle to the platform. As soon as we began to sing, we felt the Lord's Spirit over us, and the song flowed effortlessly.

After the service Antonio took us over to where L.'s parents were standing. They were surrounded by family, friends, and others emotionally expressing their condolences, so we hesitated to approach them. But as soon as R. saw us he pushed his way through the crowd to talk with us. He came up to each of us and held our faces in both his hands exclaiming, "You look like angels!" We then explained that we are the Family and what we do in the area. Immediately he said, "I want to help you."

We gave him a Glimpses of Heaven book and a Fear Not CD, and he opened the book right away. He looked over it and said, "I'm going to read the whole thing when I get home tonight."

While we were talking with him I kept getting a check to tell R. about the message we received from his son the night before, but I hesitated, afraid of what others would think, LHM. Finally, after telling myself I'd rather be embarrassed for a moment than have the guilt of knowing I failed the Lord, I felt the courage to tell him. The Lord came through, and I told R. we hear from Heaven and that the night before his son spoke to us.

When R. heard that he put his hand on his chest to try to keep from crying. I said that L. wanted him to know that he's forgiven and is safe in Jesus' arms, and that he didn't want R. to cry. It was a short message and I was crying as I gave it, while R. and Antonio tried to hold back the tears. R. then promised to be in touch.

Two days later Antonio invited us to the mass being held at R. and his wife's home, and asked if we would sing a few songs. We went to the mass and sang a few songs and when we finished R. stood up and told everyone that we were "missionary angels who have dedicated their youth to help others," and encouraged everyone to give us a donation to help our work.

After the mass we were able to talk with R. and his wife some more, and in the course of the conversation he asked, "What do you need the most?" We told him we are looking for a house in a certain city and he asked why that city and if it could be in another city. Of course we said yes and he said, "If you're interested, I have a house in this city that I'll give to you free of charge-if you want it." Our jaws dropped and we hugged and thanked him profusely. He told us to call him the following week to set a time to meet regarding the house. When we met again he told us that the house he had in mind is too small for us, but that he will pay half of the rent each month for whatever house we find. He asked his secretary to fill out a check for \$300 and started writing down some names of friends and associates of his who he'd like to show our work to in the hopes that they too would commit to helping us. We witnessed to him some more before leaving copies of our PR photos and material in his office, as he wants to promote our work.

It sure pays to follow His leadings, because where He guides, He always provides!

activated responses

Please accept my wholehearted thanks for the finest piece of "food for thought" so generously shared with me! You can be sure that all the materials sent have all had the best use, and still are being used far and wide. I find them priceless! I simply cannot do without regular issues of *Activated*. It has become the essential part of my life. I find the ready answers or valuable tips on the most burning issues and unvoiced questions haunting my mind.

—E.K., Ukraine

came across your *Activated* magazine and loved it with every fiber there is in me. The articles "New Beginnings" and "Peter's Transformation" are a masterpiece that will touch anybody under the influence of the spirit.

Our mission statement is to provide sound information to the world of youth, in their relationships and careers, empowering them to maintain godly values in a changing world, and motivating them to live excellent lives. We want to make you our partners. What we need from you is to help us in whatever way you can with any information that is relevant to our vision. We will want you to always send us copies of your publications for distribution here in Nigeria and particularly to the youths on campuses because we already have a working campus network.

-Pastor Kunle, Nigeria

am a regular subscriber of Activated and I enjoy reading it. The Spirit-filled messages are of great comfort to me in times of trouble and depression. I want my best friend Professor K., who is a Hindu, to know the love and grace of our Lord through the magazine. So I am enclosing a check towards the copies of the Activated to be posted to the address written on the order form.

-Kasthuri, India

am a regular reader of Activated, which comes to one of our neighboring schools. I am writing from a beautiful hill station of India—Kalimpong. Last Christmas one of my friends gave me a music CD entitled Christmas Treasures, produced by your organization. It was really good! I go to a Pentecostal church in our area, where I am a youth

leader, ministering in various regions of our locality. I have read many articles in your magazines about youth, they are encouraging. I shared the views and the testimonies written in *Activated* with many of our youth and they liked it very much. I would like to know more about your organization. I am praying for you that you may reach those un-reached youth and the people of the world with encouraging words of God.

—Paul, India

Dear Activated Family,

am one of the devoted readers of your magazine for the past few months. I am from Eritrea. A friend of mine is a subscriber of your magazine, and he always lends the mags to me. The topics you deal with are deeply moving, as is the way they're written. I am a Christian who struggles to be a true Christian. Your magazine helps a lot on this path of the blessed. Can I be one of your subscribers? God bless all of you.

-Semeré, Eritrea

know you must be wondering who on earth is e-mailing you. Well, I have been activated and encouraged by my group to write to you and tell you how good your mags are, and how they have helped me and many others. From the time I started receiving your mags, thanks to a friend by the name Rayne, it has motivated me in many ways, as I was so depressed and hurt after dropping out of school due to lack of finances.

Today as I write I have formed a support group of Activated readers, which has a total membership of 43 people. We thank you most sincerely for keeping us activated with your mags. They have helped us. We meet every Tuesday, Thursday, and Sundays to discuss the loving-kindness of our Lord and Savior using your mags. I don't think our support group would have been in existence had it not been for your mags and ideas. Thanking you again for all your support.

—Joe, DRC

Dear Activated friends.

came in contact with your *Activated* magazine through my Christian brother. Being a voracious reader of Christian literature, I quickly read

through the mags he gave me. I found them so inspiring and spiritually helpful. I enjoyed the questions and answers, feeding reading and the *From Jesus with Love* booklets.

There's no doubt that God brought you my way so that you could help channel my life in the right direction. There is a hunger and a strong desire in my heart to have a personal contact with you through mail. I would be one of the happiest men on earth if you would start supplying me with more reading materials. I would also feel the joy of Heaven in my spirit if you would send the *Activated* mags from as far back as 1999, and other Christian materials that you have.

May God bless you as you remain active in His work!

—Julius, Africa

Thanks for improving my spiritual life as a result of the monthly edifying Activated magazines, which you've been sending me since December 2002. I wish to express my sincere gratitude to you for transforming my life as a result of the monthly subscription. May He who has taught us through His Word to show appreciation for things done for us increase your good works and reward you and your Activated Family bountifully.

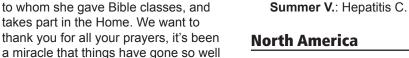
—Fred

met your representative in Dar es Salaam. She shared with me about your work and left me with an *Activated* magazine. You may think your work is just another work under the sun, but it is bringing change into people's lives more than you know.

Just today when I was talking to my students I shared some articles with them from *Activated*—"Gain by Giving," "Answers to Your Questions," and "Bamboo." My students were touched and they asked me to read it to them again. I myself read it thrice, and I am going to read it again and again for it's new all the time. Words that are new all the time are from God only.

I couldn't stay quiet without letting you know how the work you are doing is building confidence to people and giving hope for the future. Keep it up and may God keep on blessing you.

-Tchalewa, Tanzania



in her womb.

Priscilla: Numerous fibroid tumors

Seth: Enlarged heart.



Healing key: When you need a miracle of healing, claim the keys of rejuvenation, and the balm of Heaven will pour on you, bringing the relief and recovery you need.

Testimonies of Answered Prayer

Liberty (of Ivan): Over five months have passed and Liberty (of Ivan), who is suffering from progressive cancer, is still with us. Thank you for all your prayers, which have been answered in her condition stabilizing a little more. She can now write little notes by hand and her fingernails and skin have become more pinkish in color. We have two sweet and positive caretakers employed, who help us with Libby's care 24/7. They both read the Word in between jobs and are now saved. One of these caretakers is very open, receptive, and has come to love Jesus and treats Libby like her sister.

Despite a language barrier (as Libby hardly speaks any Hindi) she is still able to witness to these ladies, which gives her a lot of encouragement and fulfillment. She has had other visitors

Jesse (19, of Sarah): Left ankle diagnosed with "bone trauma" making walking difficult and running impossible.

and without too serious complications.

Please keep her in your prayers.

John England: Herniated nucleous pulposus (HNP), which affects his left leg and limits his physical activities and is also very painful.

Josh (of Lily): Hereditary heart valve disorder.

Europe and Africa

Aina (14): Nephritic syndrome (inflammation of the kidneys).

Angela: Growth between the inner ear and brain causing headaches and dizziness; may require surgery.

Chris (of Joan): Chronic back problems, causing severe pain.

Josh English: Post-viral encephalitis (untreatable brain-swelling resulting from a tropical viral infection). Associated symptoms of chronic fatigue, intense cranial pressure (cranial muscle contractions), severe headaches, occasional vertigo, and loss of morning appetite.

Pacific

Melissa (10, of Micah and Jewel): Diagnosed with dermoid cyst (collection of fat-like substance) on her neck. It is not growing and it could be removed surgically. However, the doctors suggested us to wait for the operation until she is a little older (she has had these cysts since she was two).

Caricia Rose (of Micah): Four cysts on back exuding keratin (white puss-like

Edmond (8, of Abe and Mercy): Rapidly deteriorating eyesight. He is already more than six diopters shortsighted, and through examinations we have found he has problems with double vision and strabismus (squinting).

South America

Ruthie: Breast cancer. For comfort, stamina, strength, and a boost spiritually and physically; leading and guidance on what course of action to take; for a good connection with the Lord.

help wanted

Dear Family,

I want to put in a plea for financial help towards a cardiac heart pacer, which the doctors say I will need some time soon. I underwent a heart surgery 35 years ago because of an inborn heart defect, called ventricular septal defect (VSD). At that time I was one of the first in Eastern Europe who had open heart surgery, so it wasn't done the way it would have been done now with much more advanced technology. Because of this I'm having a relapse of my weak heart condition, which has deteriorated over the last two years. I'd like to ask for your prayers for the strengthening of my heart.

Also, because of the kind of surgery I had as a child, it seems to be inevitable that I will need a heart pacer now, as I'm getting to be a middle-aged fellow, ha! Cardiac pacemakers are generally used to manage a heartbeat that is too slow or irregular, caused by disorders that disrupt the heart's normal electrical conduction system. I don't want to limit the Lord and His healing power through the keys, and I hope that I will not need one. I feel great for the most part, but with each heart test I have, it shows that my heart is becoming weaker. Having a heart pacer would control my heartbeat and speed it up if needed.

In order to purchase a heart pacer I will need \$3,000. I would like to ask the Family for help in raising these funds. I wanted to also ask if there is anyone in the Family who knows about the possibility of provisioning this piece of equipment. It has to be a "dual-chamber device." If the Lord supplies it through provisioning I will return all the donations received back to the givers.

You can send donations and any communications on that matter addressed to: "Radek Polish (Matthew), Middle East" via the ME ABM. Thank you so much!

Much love, Radek

Immediate Supply

By Lilac, Paul, Rachel, and Richard, Guinea

One night after a long day of outreach without any financial results we were a bit discouraged as we had some bills to pay the next day. It seemed like a desperate situation, but then, that's often when the Lord does a miracle.

That very night, at 9 PM a man came to visit us, who Josh had met once while hitch hiking and only briefly explained our work to. This man said that he had

thought a lot about what Josh had told him and wanted to help our work in whatever way he could. He then left us with a donation that was double what we needed to pay our bills!

On another occasion Rachel and Richard had been out all day visiting contacts and trying to raise some funds. However, it had been a slow day and they had to start heading home. They prayed and the Lord said that He would supply and that they should go ahead and buy the needed food, and then

head home. Although they still needed the funds, they went ahead, trusting the

That evening when we checked our e-mail one of our supporters who had previously sent us funds to clear a container from customs wrote us and told us that any extra funds we had after clearing the container we could keep. The extra funds turned out to be \$150. much more than we needed for the next few days. Thank the Lord for His supply.

Key Poems

By Gina, China

Being a bit rusty in memorization, I was having a hard time memorizing the keys promises, but then I found one that rhymed and it stuck in my memory.— Victory! So I took the liberty to adapt several of them to little rhymes to help me memorize them more easily. This way they're readily available in my mind when I need to claim them. I was encouraged by the introduction in the keys book where it is mentioned that we can adapt the keys, dropping or changing a few words here or there if it helps us remember them better. Perhaps these rhymes would be a blessing to others too:

There's no need too great, No price too high, For the keys To supply.

The power of the keys is very real;
To soothe, to touch, to mend, to heal.
The key of supply* is yours to claim.
I claim this key in Jesus' name!
(*can be replaced with health, miracles, protection, etc.)

Sad and discouraged is how you're feeling;

Claim the keys for spiritual healing!

The keys of revelation Cause a sensation, Start a revolution, Bring the solution.

Feeling down and ill at ease?
I can lift you through the power of the keys.

When pain overtakes you, Repeatedly say, "I call on the keys!" The pain will fade away.

Claim intercessory keys For your sheep, And a mighty harvest You will reap!

For every sickness there is a cure, The keys of healing unlock the door. Claim the keys in faith and fight; Jesus will make everything right!

The power of the keys will give you conviction

To overcome any addiction!

Since getting Key Promises I picked out a few promises and put them into

poetic verse, to give an idea of how I do it. (First comes the original promise, then the new rhyming version.)

Activated / Disciple winning

The keys can unlock the need of every heart, and supply comfort, challenge, cheer, change, and answers.

The keys can unlock
The need of every heart,
And supply comfort, challenge, cheer,
And a change on their part.

The keys will point the way to doors that haven't been available before. They'll brightly light the path and then open those doors.

The keys will point the way and open doors

That haven't been available before.

Ritterness

The keys of the Kingdom are a strong "pesticide," which will kill any roots of bitterness that the Enemy may plant.

The keys of the Kingdom are a strong "pesticide,"

Which will kill any roots of bitterness and pride.

Boldness

When others see the boldness of the keys shining through, they will marvel and know that you have been with Me.

When others see the boldness of the keys shining through,

They will marvel and know that I am with vou.

Change / Spiritual progress

Supernatural grace to accept correction and instruction as a token of love and a treasured gift is yours when you call on the keys.

Call on the keys to accept correction, And see it as My loving instruction.

And here are a few more key promise rhymes for children:

Call on the keys throughout the day To overcome obstacles in your way.

Call on the keys every day
To supply your needs in every way.

Call on the keys throughout the day; I'll bless your work and your play.

Personals

Looking for **Japanese Richard**, who was in Matsumoto. I need to contact you. I am Australian Joy. Please contact me as soon as you can. Thanks. My e-mail is: chrisvoc@yahoo.com.au.

Dear Victoria, I don't think we know each other, but you're quite often on the European/African prayer list, asking for prayer against cancer. I received a prophecy for you but I don't know where to send it. Could you please send your address and key to: ckeikay@netcourrier.co.

I love you so much!—Your sister Claire

I'm looking for Ivan, Sharon, and Flor (of Joy). We knew each other around '95—'97 in Foz do Iguaçu.—Remember tiny Claire (of Faithy)? I was just thinking about the good old days, and I thought maybe we could get in contact. You people were great! Hoping to hear from you. My address is: ckeikay@netcourrier.co.

Taines and Tamar (of Ezequiel and Ester), I'm dying to hear from you too. Please write. I love you all!

Josiah (of Joy) in Romania: I have your license now. Please send me your postal ASAP! Love, Tender

E-mail: aguila@philonline.com

Peter Lovebug is looking to get in contact with former wife, **Gabriella Gypsy**. I'm married and have been living in Brazil for one and a half years. Please e-mail me at: peterluz@pop.com.br.

Obede and Clara would like to get in touch with **Tiago Baterista and Lydia**, who spent some time with them in Recife Pe. E-mail: famrecife@yahoo.com.br.

former friends —seeking contact

I'm Patrick Gilroy, looking to contact **old timers.** I joined in 1971. My Bible name was Mathan, and Watchman was our team leader. I still love Jesus with all my heart. E-mail: PGILROY@webtv.net.

Response to "Mottos"

I received a gift from my friend, "Mottos for Success, Vol. 2." It was like an investment—a jewel, motivational, showing new paths for success. I like it a lot! I want to give it to all my friends.

—Navpreet, India

I happened to see one of your calendars "Mottos for Success" on a table in my company. I found it very motivating. We would like to have some more of those calendars for the company.

—Dhaivat, India

The news and views from Family members published in the *Grapevine* do not necessarily reflect WS policy. Suggested reading age for this publication is 14 years and up. Selected portions may be read by or with those younger at parents' or shepherds' discretion. All Family members in China use pen names for their contributions to the *Grapevine*. The Grapevine Family, c/o TRIAG, Aussergrütstrasse 2, CH – 6319 Allenwinden, Switzerland. E-mail: gv@wsfamily.com Copyright © 2004 by The Family International — FD/MM/FM