By Peter and Mama

Dear Family,

We love you very much and are praying for you! Thank you for your love, loyalty, faith, and continued intercessory prayer. Mama and I are so proud of you, and we know you’re growing in faith and becoming stronger day by day as you stand firm in the Lord and the Word.

As you surely have noticed, we have not been able to keep with the original plan that the Lord gave for the study month in preparation for the Feast. The plan was that you’d have one month during which time you would not receive new GNs and you could prepare for the Feast workshops. Due to the unexpected deaths of Angela and Ricky, it has been necessary to send you the Lord’s urgent counsel. You will also receive a lengthy GN soon about the tsunami. We expect that there will be more GNs that we’ll need to send you in the next weeks as well.

Because you have been receiving many pages of new GNs, with more to come, we don’t see how you can be well prepared for the Feast workshops in less than one month. It is important that you devote some of your study time to reading the new GNs, as well as other faith-building Word, such as the persecution-related Word comps that were posted on the MO site, the Family Statements, etc. You need this Word at this time in order to strengthen your faith and stand strong against the Enemy’s attacks.

Therefore, in order to allow you sufficient time to prepare for the Feast workshops and to read the new GNs that have come out and will continue to come out, the Lord has led us to make some changes in the timetable that was previously announced. The changes are as follows:

→ The Feast has been delayed, and rather than selecting three specific days when all the Homes worldwide would unitedly conduct the Feast, we are allowing more flexibility. Your Home can have the Feast any time from March 15th until April 7th. What that means is, depending on the commitments and schedule of your Home, you can choose any three days during that time period to hold your Feast.

Please note that this means you will need to decide when you’ll have your Feast with enough advance notice so that you can read GN 1114, “Introduction to the Family Feast 2005,” two weeks before you begin your Feast.

Also, even if the Homes worldwide are not having the Feast at the same time, you should still make sure the days that your Home devotes to the Feast are focused and without interruptions and distractions. In order to accomplish this, you need to let other Homes in your area know when you’ll be having your Feast, so they won’t be calling you or expecting you to attend meetings, etc. Perhaps the Homes in your city may want to coordinate having your Feast days at the same time.

Please discuss in your next Home Council meeting when you’d like to have the Feast, and then ask the Lord for a confirmation.

When you decide what dates you’d like to have the Feast in your Home, please follow the schedule put forth in GN 1114. There is a suggested plan that explains when you would have which meeting, and we ask that you please follow that proposed schedule for the days you have chosen to have your Feast.

continued on page 2...
By Phoebe, South Africa

We had a fantastic outpouring of His Spirit during our three-day junior and senior teen camp! Jesus ignited the flame of the Revolution in each of the JTs’ lives, and they were on fire, bursting out in wild praises to Him and giving their all to Jesus! What happened at this camp is not a work of our hands, but a miraculous outpouring of His Spirit and we all experienced it. We feel that the renewal promises have been fulfilled. What a reward to see it happening!

The Lord in His keynote to the JTs had said that this camp was an answer to their prayers and that during the camp He had something special for each one of them. During this first meeting, the atmosphere was a bit cold and we were wondering if the keynote would sink in. From that moment on, all those on staff held daily prayer vigils early in the morning for the teens, rebuking Pan and Bacchus, and calling on Illuminus and Boheme. At quiet time we would again get together to pray and commit individuals to the Lord. This camp was truly run on prayer and would sink in. From that moment on, all those on staff held daily prayer vigils early in the morning for the teens, rebuking Pan and Bacchus, and calling on Illuminus and Boheme. At quiet time we would again get together to pray and commit individuals to the Lord. This camp was truly run on prayer and would sink in.

On the first day, we heard some negative comments from the JTs about the schedule being too tight, them being bored and wanting to go home and other discouraging comments. But we were not going to get easily discouraged. We told the Lord, “We are here to fight a war waged in our JTs’ minds and souls and we are out to win. We are not going to give up so fast.” We got together again and asked the Lord if He wanted us to change anything or see things differently, and He unfolded His plan to us one day at a time.

The Lord told us that this camp is for the teens and fulfilling their needs, and we needed to be open to changing the schedules and our classes if it would be better for them. We were a small team of people with different personalities, and we had to learn to work together quickly. But because we all stopped and prayed and received our instructions from the Lord, we were drawn closer to each other, as we knew the Lord was in control of this camp and not us.

On the second day at 5 AM, the Lord woke me up and told me to reread the Letter about Mama’s visit to Guatemala. I was more than halfway through when I heard a voice saying, “I want Jon, Sam, and Joyanna to testify.” (These are three young people who have recently rejoined.) I brushed this thought away as it didn’t make sense to me. I didn’t even know their testimonies, and even if I had known them, there wasn’t much time for them to prepare before the morning class. But again the voice repeated the phrase and the order in which the testimonies should be shared.

So I woke up Julia and told her about my concerns for the JTs, specifically with their not having faith in the keys and prophecy. I then explained that I had heard a voice telling me to have these three SGAs share their testimonies with the teens. I asked her to pray with me, as I didn’t know what they had to share. Surprised, she asked, “You don’t know Joyanna’s testimony? She has such a cool testimony about the keys and how real they are!” Apparently, before rejoining Joyanna had received some prophecies about the keys, and she didn’t understand what it was all about until she rejoined and read the Word on how the Lord has given them to us, and her mind was blown!

We gathered the staff team to pray and hear from the Lord about this new idea. The Lord laid the plan out for us and we had no time to waste! We were so thrilled with how the Lord was engineering all this without any of our own “good ideas.” We then explained the idea to Jon, Sam, and Joyanna and they agreed to share their testimonies. We explained what the Lord wanted them to bring out in their testimony, and another team prepared the quotes to support their testimonies. We then got together to pray over the three and hear from the Lord again.

That morning, while these three young people shared their testimonies, each young person in the room was...continued from page 1

There will not be an official “study month.” Because we are not sure how many more timely GNs and other updates we will need to be sending you in the next weeks, Mama and I can’t guarantee that we’ll have one month when you will not receive any new mailings. So rather than make that promise, the Lord has shown us that it’s best that we just allow this extra time to study the material before holding your Home’s Feast. We pray that you’ll be able to juggle between the new GNs and the material you need to study and prepare for by the time of your Home’s Feast. We pray that by giving you more flexibility in when your Home holds your Feast, as well as moving the deadline to have completed your Feast to April 7th, you’ll be able to keep up with any timely new GNs and updates, and still find the time to study the board criteria GNs and accompanying material, and any other Feast workshop related material.

Because of these changes, we also will allow more time for you to have your Home elections, which you can do at your convenience, after you have had your Feast. Please do, however, have your Home elections before April 15th at the latest.

An extension will also be given on the first Home review. We ask that you please have all the board Home review questionnaires filled out and sent to your respective RBCs by no later than May 15th. If you can complete your Home review by the end of April, as was originally planned, that’s good. But if it’s too much for your Home, if it puts you under pressure to fit all this in, then feel free to extend the deadline on that until May 15th. The Home review will be available for download from the MO site by April 1st at the latest.

We pray these changes are a blessing to you and that it allows you sufficient time to study the Word as needed, and to take care of these important Home projects—the Feast, your Home elections, and the first Home review.

Please pray for the worldwide translators, as they’ve had a very heavy load in recent months. Please call on the keys of strength, perseverance, health, inspiration, and wisdom for them!

We are praying for you, and know the Lord will continue to bless and prosper you as you look to Him and follow closely.

Much love in our Husband, Peter and Mama
mesmerized. Not one eye moved from off the three speakers. The room was electrified! Most of us on staff were in the corner claiming the keys to take hold of our JTs’ hearts and set them free from the clutches of Satan and his minions. The keys of discipleship, dedication, yieldedness, and submission were active in that room and we knew we were hitting the Devil hard. We were winning the war and we needed to keep on holding on till this class was over. I cannot tell you or adequately describe the change that came over the young people after this morning class. Here are some of the comments we heard right after the class:

(FM SGA on the camp staff:) I was going to leave the Family in three days, but I gave my life to Jesus this morning and I want to follow Him all the days of my life. I want to be His disciple.

(FM teen:) I want to follow Jesus. And I am going to break off with my boyfriend and be a radical disciple for Him. (And she did, two days after the camp!)

One teen just before the morning class said to me, “I don’t know if I want to be here. I am just so carnal, and I’m not so sure about the keys. Here, please take my key book, and by the way, all these revelations of demons that Mama has pubbed of late seem like too much to believe. I think we are a cult.”

But after the morning class, this same teen came to me and said, “Can I please have my key book back? I need to start memorizing keys. I’m just so happy that I was able to come to this class. I’m so moved and I want to be a radical revolutionary disciple for Jesus.—All the way for Him!” Wow!

These are just a few of the inspiring comments we heard. The unity of the spirit after this was exceptional and so beautiful. It was definitely a revival and an outpouring of His Spirit. The next day, we read a challenge from the Lord and Mama to the young people to rock the world for Jesus. You could feel the vacuum. It was so rewarding to see them eating His words and being satisfied.

From then on, bellwethers within the older teens (17-year-olds) came to the fore to lead the young ones your way to take them to you). These books are:

- Memory Book 2000 (GP)
- Basic MOP (DFO)
- Life with Grandpa, 1–5 (DFO)
- Kidz MOP, 1 and 2 (DFO)
- Activity Book 1 (DFO)
- Daily Bread 4–5, and 8 (DFO)
- Daily Bread 1–3, 6–7, and 9
- Daily-Dex
- Life of Grandpa
- Heaven’s Children
- New Heaven’s Children
- Basic Training Handbook
- ML Lists

At this point we have several other Spanish books for the Family that are print-ready or almost print-ready, but which we can’t print for lack of funds. So any gifts that you can send designated for this purpose will be greatly appreciated and put to good use!

To place your orders, or if you have any questions, contact us at: sacro@familymembers.com. Please send us your payment and gifts via your TRF (or via the ABM) to CH011. Please specify “For Spanish book printing.”

We really love you and claim the power of the keys for a wonderful New Year for you, as you enjoy His love and help many others to do the same!
An African Experience
By the Frontline Home, Gaborone, Botswana

Christmas 2004 has been the best yet for our Home. The receptivity, vacuum, and hunger of the people here is absolutely amazing. This Christmas, the second largest brewery in the world, SAB (South African Breweries) hired our performers to take care of their Christmas parties for the various branches of their company. Our team was chauffeured around in a BMW and even flown in to different venues! All the expenditure was fully covered by the SAB. The Lord certainly does it in style!

We also hosted a Christmas party at one of the most prestigious five-star hotels here, The Grand Palm. The Cresta group of hotels (one of the largest in Botswana) purchased 250 Christmas CD cards for their clients. Pick & Pay (one of the largest supermarkets here) also bought 250 Christmas CD cards. This store has been a regular distributor for us for a year now. Nescafé (the coffee distributors) bought and handed out our Mottos calendars as corporate gifts and have included their Nescafé logo on the bottom of the calendar. All 15 branches of Woolworths played our Christmas CDs in their stores over Christmas. Game City, with a million people passing through their mall this Christmas, played various Christmas CDs from the Family. What a witness!

In total, this Christmas we distributed 1,000 Mottos for Success, 5,000 Christmas CD cards and 10,000 Bibles. And during the last three months of 2004 our Home got 300 Activated subscriptions.

Not a day goes by without meeting various contacts, sheep, and friends, no matter where we are, be it at the market place, shopping center, or just walking down the street. Everybody here knows we’re the Family. The Family International is a well-known and respected name in this part of the world. As the New Year dawns on us, yet another wonderful chapter in our life of faith awaits us. We love Africa!

Christmas 2004 in Puerto Rico
By Ryan, Puerto Rico

With all the work and changes we were involved in last year, we ended up starting our Christmas outreach a lot later than we would have hoped. But God isn’t limited to any timeframe or team, big or small, and we were no exception. The miracles He did for us in our few weeks of Christmas outreach were far beyond anything we could have wished for!

Pretty much every day we sent out four or five outreach teams, hitting streets and towns all over the island. The places we were able to offer our tools at varied from banks, hotels, offices, stores, salons, restaurants, and more—from the rich to the poor and all those in between. And the positive reaction we received about our Christmas tools was pretty much the same regardless of gender, race, or religion.—Everyone loved them!

Puerto Ricans are in love with music and were crazy about the Christmas CD cards. Most of us can’t think of any other field we’ve been in where the people buy our tools as much as they do here. They literally grabbed the CD cards right out of our hands! Sometimes, especially at big office buildings or hair salons, one person would get turned on to the CDs and from then on they’d play the salesman for you, inspiring everyone else to buy a CD too.

Restaurant singing was very different with our team this year than what it had been the previous year. The previous team had better vocals, more experience, and knew the Spanish songs well. However, this year our team consisted of five girls (ages 16–40), and one of them, our main guitar player, had just moved here with her family a few weeks before the Christmas push. Although Spanish wasn’t anyone’s first language and most of the songs were altogether new for some of us, we somehow managed to pull off four songs! We sang on the weekends and some nights we would get out 28–30 CDs, other nights we would get out 47–50, which was a complete miracle. Some people even commented on how well we sounded, holy! All in all, people were receptive and overjoyed that we were doing what we could to bring some cheer to others during this Christmas season!

God bless all our Home members who worked so hard to make this Christmas push the best push ever. With the Lord’s help we were able to get out 7,500 CDs, 500 Mottos for Success, 300 DVDs, 400 From Jesus with Love books, 1,500 Activated magazines, and around 200 souls were saved. TYJ!

We also met one of the main distributors here for Borders (chain of bookstores in the U.S.) and they just flipped when they saw our From Jesus with Love books, and said they wanted to get them into Borders. We then contacted the local general manager for Borders and he was so impressed by the FJWL books, he said he was going to put in an order for their three different stores here. What a miracle and what a witness!

One day while doing outreach in different small towns, my mom went into a Catholic bookstore where she met a lady who had sold our Christmas CDs in her store the year before. She was very excited to see us again as she wanted to order more. She also introduced us to the priest who was in charge of the store, and several days later he ordered 1,000 CD cards! Shortly after this my mom spotted a Catholic church and approached the priest as he was coming out of his office. After showing him our Christmas tools, he too ordered 1,000 CDs! What a day!

A couple of weeks later, we received another order from a Catholic church for yet again 1,000 CDs. Three other smaller churches also ordered another 700 CDs. Had we known earlier that churches could be a real open door to get our tools out en masse we would have started a lot earlier!

We don’t want to forget the most important part of this whole testimony, as we couldn’t have done this without the Lord’s help. We all made a commitment that we were going to get our Word, prayer vigil and prophecy time every morning before starting our day. Even though we would get out the door a little later, it didn’t affect our outreach in a negative way at all, as we were all tanked up and inspired before heading out the door. On the few days that we had to get out the door earlier, we would have good prayer together and then after dinner we’d have our united devotions.

During the Christmas push the Lord opened up new provisioning contacts for food, clothing, guitars, etc., just from the people we met while tooling. To top it off, the Lord even supplied a really nice place on the
from Lahore. However we
about three hours drive
Christian schools in a town
visit some of the poor
locals!
has been a hit in winning the
to a popular song, which
together a beautiful dance
professionalism the girls
with the deaf. Due to his
after hearing that we work
and teach our girls for free
readily agreed to come
We contacted him and he
very famous choreographer
someone recommended a
they didn’t work out. Then
though we had some “leads”
for our local songs, and
us some Pakistani dances
a choreographer to teach
Lahore itself.
In order to put our
shows together we needed
a choreographer to teach
us some Pakistani dances
for our local songs, and
though we had some “leads”
they didn’t work out. Then
someone recommended a
very famous choreographer
who mainly works in films.
We contacted him and he
readily agreed to come
and teach our girls free
after hearing that we work
with the deaf. Due to his
professionalism the girls
learnt quite quickly and put
together a beautiful dance
to a popular song, which
has been a hit in winning the
locals!
After putting our show
together, we planned to
visit some of the poor
Christian schools in a town
about three hours drive
from Lahore. However we
didn’t have a large enough
vehicle for this as we were
a team of 14 people, plus
we had to bring our own
sound system. But the Lord
inspired several sponsors
to pay for a nice coach bus
and we traveled in style,
TTL! Each school we visited
was so happy and thankful
to have us.
In addition to the shows
themselves, someone also
had to host all the shows.
Though I haven’t had much
experience with this, and
actually would rather run
the other way, the Lord
couraged me to go
ahead by faith, promising
to anoint me and give me
the boldness necessary. I
had some good practice on
the road as we performed
at four different schools,
and then we also did a few
shows in Lahore, with quite
a large audience of more
than 500 students and
teachers at one school, and
700 at another! Then we
heard that a five-star hotel
in another city wanted us
to come and perform for
two nights. The Lord led
us to go for it although we
weren’t sure what to do
regarding accommodations,
transport, meals, and so
on.
We prepared by faith,
and on the last day before
we were supposed to
travel, the hotel confirmed
that they would take care
of accommodations for all
of us. We were quite a big
team as almost our whole
Home came, a total of 18
people. It was like a big
family excursion! The kids
especially had lots of fun.
The hotel put us up inive luxury rooms, provided
each meal, plus transported
us to our shows each night.
On top of it, they gave
a good donation for our two
evenings of performances.
During our Christmas
shows we always include
a nativity scene, so even
though this is a Muslim
country, we’re able to get
in quite a nice witness
about the true meaning
of Christmas. A cable TV
station also filmed the
whole show and we found
out later that it was aired
six times the next day,
reaching all of Pakistan, the
Middle East, and England.
The TV station wanted to
interview me, and thank the
Lord, He helped me to put
in a good witness of why
we are here doing the work
we do. (Later we heard
from our friends and others
that they were especially
impressed with the
interview, though I actually
hadn’t had a chance to
prepare for it.)
The Lord also led us to
hold a Christmas function in
Lahore after our return, which
would be an appreciation
dinner for all of our friends
and sponsors here. We
were very busy sending out
invitations and arranging
for the shamiana tent
(decorative circus-style tent
used for outdoor functions),
the catering, and all of these
details, and again the Lord
did it and provided everything
we needed for it to happen.
An old friend donated the
delicious dinner for all 200
people!
Thankfully, all went well,
and even our landlord and
his family came and he was
very impressed. He’s a very
important man in this city,
director of a prestigious
university in the country.
He got really inspired, and
wants us to work together
with some of his students.
It was definitely one of the
most exciting and miraculous
Christmases for us as there
were such victories out of
seeming defeats!

Left: Our clowns
performing for a big
crowd in the Punjab
Center: Singing
team performing for
school in the Punjab
Right: Five of
our beautiful girls—
Jessica, Claire, Amy,
Abi, and Jessica
In the Midst of Election Demonstrations

By the Kiev Ranch Home, Ukraine.

Shiloh (of Phil): You may have heard about the presidential elections in the Ukraine. There were two candidates and the country was pretty divided. The first election on October 31st went into a run-off election on November 21st, 2004. There were accusations that the run-off election was rigged, and a second run-off election was called for December 26th, 2004.

The opposition had called for a massive strike, and starting on November 22nd (right after the rigged election), crowds of up to 200,000 were gathered daily in the main square in Kiev! Over 300 tents were set up on the main street, and people said they were determined to stay in them until the opposition candidate was declared the winner.

At first, we thought it would be best to stay away, as there was talk of civil unrest, but after taking some time to pray about it, the Lord showed us that this was a mighty open door to be able to reach and witness to people from all over the Ukraine.

We had recently printed the Endtime posters “Who Pulls the Strings” and “The Four Horsemen” in Russian, which turned out to be the perfect message for this situation. But what we weren’t expecting was the extreme receptivity of the crowd! It reminded us of the early days in Eastern Europe after the Wall had first come down. We couldn’t hand out the posters fast enough, and many people were asking for a stack to take back to their cities.

At one point, on November 28th, Parliament ruled that the run-off was invalid because of “wide-spread voting irregularities.” We happened to be in front of the Parliament building when the announcement was made and the crowd became delirious with joy, chanting over and over “Molodyets! Molodyets!” (“Well done!”) A human tunnel was formed as the MPs left the building, and we just happened to be standing in the right place to be able to give each one of them a “Who Pulls the Strings” poster!

Later we went over to the town hall, which had been opened up to the public as a place to get warm. There was also free food and tea served. We asked if we could sing to the crowd gathered in one of the halls, and we were able to get on stage and sing for as long as we wanted to for a crowd of about 800. We sang every song we could think of, and were very well received. At the end many people sang “Into My Heart” with us!

So far, we’ve been able to distribute 10,000 posters and have led 260 to the Lord!

Mercy (of Chris): I have never seen such a peaceful demonstration before! All the people were united, and were very sweet and receptive. I am very thankful that the Lord let us be here at such a time in the country’s history. I believe that all the posters that got distributed, all the comfort that we were able to share, and the salvation prayer that so many sweet people here prayed, really had an impact on events.

There were many people who had come from very remote parts of the Ukraine, and from little villages off in the boonies to try to make a difference. Most likely, we would never have been able to reach them any other way. The fact that we, as foreigners, were there with them through it, meant a lot to the people, and we were very well received.

I think that our kids were instrumental in reaching many too. People would sometimes come and invite us to a warmer or nicer place, just because we were the parents of “these kids.” Of all that happened during the renewal, this experience is one of the ones that I’m most thankful for.

The Deeper Things of the Spirit

By Paul Pioneer (of Dorcas), Japan

[Editor’s note: Although the article below is older, we still wanted to share it with you, dear Family, as both an idea and also as an example of the wonderful fruit that was brought about through following the Lord’s lead.]

We got together as a Home to pray about what the Lord wanted us to do as far as our outreach. There was an idea of hosting an English camp, where we were hoping to feed some potential sheep. We were also hoping to raise some much needed funds, since we were very low on income for that month. But it seemed the Lord had other ideas for us that summer. Though we advertised our English camp, hardly anyone applied, so we asked the Lord again what He wanted us to do.

He showed us that instead of trying to witness to new people through the English camp, He wanted us to host a Bible camp to feed and strengthen our potential Active members. So we advertised this idea to our Active members and started getting responses right away. Those who responded were excited and eager to attend. One of the Home’s faithful friends even offered us the use of her beautiful summerhouse for the camp.

Our whole Home began the preparations. Steven and I prepared the five classes that were to be held over a period of three days. Noel, our new disciple of one year and Eiko (12), prepared the menus and meals for the whole camp. Yoko (16) took care of the boy of one of our Active members and also helped with the cooking. Isamu (SGA) was our driver, and Jun (FGA) led the inspirations and scheduling of the camp. The rest of our Home members were tremendous in staying by the stuff and keeping the Home running. Also, during the few days of the camp our Home team was able to raise all the needed funds that we lacked for that month!

The Lord really blessed the camp and all the attendees were hungry for the Word. Six of our Home’s Active members attended, as well as the husband of one our Activated readers (even his wife was surprised to see him eager to attend and study the Bible). Also a very faithful and on-fire Active member, Mrs. Tanaka from another Home, attended.
She was a good influence and sample to the others.

I think that one of the reasons why this camp was such a success was due to the cooperation and unity with the other Homes and their Active members, who helped put this camp together.

Our goals for the camp and the aim of the classes were:

1. To provide the opportunity to focus on the classes without the distractions of work and home life, as most are busy businessmen or housewives.

2. To concentrate on deeper topics such as: how to be better channels; recognizing sins and hindrances; learning about different demons; and a refresher on the keys of the Kingdom. (All of these were a little difficult to explain to them during our weekly one-hour Bible classes with them. So this was a good chance for more in-depth study.)

3. To give them the opportunity to get to know other Active members and strengthen their unity.

The fruits and reactions of the attendees were amazing:

- Questions that they had for a long time were answered through these classes.
- One person had battled with deep bitterness for years, but because it was exposed through one of the classes, she got convicted and took the stand to forsake it. She is now delivered.
- Two others testified of their healing! One was miraculously relieved of pain from her stomach ulcer, and another was completely and instantly healed of an allergy and its symptoms.
- One friend who is involved in CTPs, but hadn’t had many chances to attend or to study the deep things of the Spirit said: “Now I understand why the Enemy fights you and why your battles are not so easy—because you follow Jesus closely!”

We made GN-size booklets for each class with the Word text that we used to cover these subjects. The subjects that were covered are:

- The art of war—spiritual warfare / Receiving the Holy Spirit for receptivity.
- Witnessing and winning disciples.
- Why were you born?—A class on accepting the plan and destiny the Lord has for each of us.
- Brother’s keeper—class on standing up for your convictions and looking out for each other’s well-being and spiritual upkeep.
- Worldly or Free? Man’s ways vs. God’s ways.
- Persecution prep—questions and answers, debates, etc.
- Endtime—Grandpa’s revelations and the Bible.
- Law of Love—Relationships and living the LOL.
- Music—New music for a new day!—A challenge to get rid of System music entirely and receive God’s radical new music for this day and age.

**Junior Teen Camp:**

Our six-day junior teen camp carried the same theme as well: renewal action. The spirit of each teen was very different this time than that of other camps—we all felt that their spirits were more pure and moldable—a direct result of the renewal! We had 60 attendees and seven YAs helping us with the shepherding and practical management. And, of course, it is always a blessing and inspiring to have the FGAs join in too!

Some of the night activities we held were: Word game night, campfire and gypsy dancing, loving Jesus for junior teens, skit night (each room came up with an original skit with their room shepherd), and a dance night.

We had a few battles, but they kept us very desperate. We sought the Lord each night, and early every morning before the teens woke up, and He gave us specific instruction and guidance for that day, showing us who to tune into, how to tweak our classes so that they hit the mark and have the needed effects on the junior teens’ lives, etc.

The subjects we covered during our classes were:

- Reaching out to others.
- Renewal (the need for) / Achieving your goals / Carrying on with the renewal.
- Worldly or free? / Man’s ways vs. God’s ways / Who said you were naked?
- Combating peer pressure / Being your brother’s keeper.
- Godly and ungodly relationships/Sex Ed.
- Witnessing workshops.
- Persecution prep.
- Endtime knowledge.
- Challenge to commit.

**Spirit of the Renewal—Japan Camps**

*By Cryssy, Japan*

**Senior Teen Camp:**

Our most recent senior teen camp that the Lord led us to host was just awesome! The theme was renewal action. The Lord always has special surprises for us in each camp, which is exactly what we need to have the wake-up/shake-up effect.

The Lord taught us to make it a habit to get together with our staff, bellwethers, and board members every night and every morning before the teens wake up to seek Him about how things are going. In doing this, He always shows us something spectacular through prophecy. Sometimes He tells us to stop what we are doing and change the classes, or He gives us awesome songs to sing, or shows us a new subject to cover, or gives us a radical message, etc. It is always life-changing for each of us hosting the camp, as the Lord gives us His hot, challenging messages and instruction for the teens. It is also a perfect opportunity for us to check our own hearts, because we all need to be on the cutting edge with our discipleship to be able to lead, shepherd, and care for the teens.

The spirit of the renewal is so beautiful. Each teen is so much brighter, happier, more receptive, and open to shepherding. It was so inspiring to see them take up the challenge to lift high the torch and live the Revolution, to carry out the words of David, to share their testimonies and lessons, and to pray desperately, asking for the Lord to take away all the things that held them back from serving Him.

We had an unexpected prayer of deliverance, followed by a “naked before God” day. On this day nobody wore jewelry, make-up, black or dark clothes, but dressed as simply as possible, to show the Lord that we didn’t want anything else but Him. We fought against Bacchus, Arakan, Disruptor, and Pan, and had an evening of desperate prayer and deliverance. The teens all received a challenge to work hard to keep the spirit of David alive—and the Lord poured forth four new songs in just a few days! The Gypsy nights were so wild and free. The Word classes were alive! We could feel Dad right there with us!

I have been receiving testimony after testimony from the teens of how, after returning to their Homes, they haven’t felt at all melancholy or depressed, but they had more fire and dedication than ever to work with their spirit helpers and do something with their lives. Some have even made bonfires with their friends and destroyed all their System influences. Many are so on-board doing all they can to live the revolution in their Homes. Praise the Lord!
Dear Mama and Peter,

You and the Lord make such an amazing team! Your love, mercy, wisdom, and example are a continual inspiration and guide to me. I feel so unworthy of all His many blessings through you, the New Wine, and His wonderful Family, and yet I’m still here—TYJ!

Something wonderful happened to me recently and I wanted to send it in, as I think you’ll be inspired, as it’s an account of how real and alive the New Wine is!

Recently, I changed Homes. The same week I moved, my laptop crashed and I found out I’d need to pay almost the price of a new one to fix it. We called on the keys for the Lord to supply a good one at a reasonable cost, and the Lord answered by showing me how I got into such a situation. That was before I finished the letter I was about to type. My new Home asked the Lord about it, and the Lord immediately supplied a good one at a reasonable cost, and the Lord answered my prayers for a positive solution to my problem. This Home also has a lot of small children—a real needy situation. Since I knew the set-up of the Home and how things worked, in many ways I knew I’d be just the one for the job. I felt the Lord tugging at my sleeve to volunteer, so I did. My new Home asked the Lord about it, and all the messages were positive, though it would be a bit of a sacrifice for them to let me go.

So I went and as it turns out, it wasn’t so easy, and at times the going was quite rough. To be honest, a couple of times I found myself wondering what I was doing there, or if this was the right thing to do. I felt the Lord tugging at my sleeve to volunteer, so I did. My new Home asked the Lord about it, and all the messages were positive, though it would be a bit of a sacrifice for them to let me go.

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I read these paragraphs over a couple of times, especially paragraph 147. I thought that was the greatest answer I could shout at the Enemy as he tried to discourage me—just because! *Just because* I love Jesus, *just because* I love my Family, and *just because* I know all the things He has up ahead for us! I kept repeating that in my mind, and I got such a peace that I was right in His perfect will.

The next day I went over to a nearby Home to use their Internet connection. While there I received a letter in the mail from my mom. I opened it and was surprised to find a generous check, as my mom only ever gives me something at Christmas and on my birthday. As I read, I was looking for her explanation about the surprise gift, when my eyes fell on her brief comment, “I’m encasing a check for you … just because.” Tears rolled down my cheeks at the Lord's love, provision, and mysterious ways!

I love you dear Peter and Mama. Thank you, too, for the letter you sent about your visit to Guatemala, Mexico, and message to Costa Rica. My new Home is quite isolated from all the other action on the island, and I can’t put into words the encouragement I drew from the love and counsel in that letter. There are also six young people in the Home who were also encouraged as a result of reading about your mission there in Central America, as they also feel they’re “out of the loop” with most of the other young people on the island. I was also touched by your visit to the FM single mom and kids, just to make sure they didn’t miss the message. As always, you give me the best role model I can have to become what the Lord wants me to be. You’ve won my heart again, like so many times before.

Much love and prayers in our Hot Husband,
Anonymous, Asia
in My arms...

(Written by Ivan, JP, and Joy, India.) Dear Family, we love you dearly and we want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for praying for dear Libby (of Ivan) over the past year. She passed away on November 25, 2004 in her sleep. Dear Libby fought right to the end, she was praising Him and claiming the keys all throughout her sickness, and she was a wonderful example to us. We want to especially thank those of you who sent Libby prophecies during her sickness, these were a real strength to her and something that she held onto and appreciated.

We were able to have a very touching ceremony in the home after Libby’s passing. Ivan and JP and Joy invited many of their friends and neighbors. We sang some beautiful songs about Heaven and read from the Glimpses booklet, along with the Bible. Dear Arthur (of Becky) led us in the ceremony. At the end of the ceremony, many of the Home’s friends shared how Libby had touched their lives. Their testimonies brought tears to all our eyes as Libby had had a very significant impact on each of them. Again thank you for supporting us in prayer and with prophecy during this time. We love you.

(Liberty:) I’m free! I’m free! I love this feeling! It’s wonderful! Just the freedom from the pain and the weights of the flesh are reward enough, but there is so much more! I love you and would say I miss you, but actually I am right close by your sides. Don’t feel sad or like something is missing, because I’m not missing, I’m still here and more alive than ever! I know it’s hard to see things differently, but I want you to know that I will be more a part of your lives now than I ever was able to be there.

Being in Heaven is just as wonderful as we have always been taught. It’s like your life truly just begins when you come up here, for it is the start of so many new things—new ministries, new avenues of witness, and being able to minister to people’s spirits in a very real way. I have such a burden to go and help each one whom I have led to the Lord to grow closer to Him and to deepen their connection through a greater understanding of the spirit world.

My sweet loves, no matter how difficult things seem down there, or how hard you’re fought, don’t give up your crown! There is no substitute or comparison to that crown that you will receive for just being obedient and faithful. All the things that you will be asked to forsake will be nothing when compared to all that you receive. All the pleasures of this world from the beginning until the end when combined could not even compare to the reward that just one of the Lord’s brides receives for a life of dedication and service to Him.

It is so true that anything you have to give up or forsake to draw closer to Him is nothing when compared to what you will receive. I felt sometimes that what I had to endure was too much, and the Enemy would come in like he did with Job and tell me to just curse God and die rather than to live on in the pain and suffering. He would tell me that it was all God’s fault that I was suffering. But you know what kept me and what saw me through every time? It was you!—Each one of you. I knew I couldn’t fail you and I had to keep going. I had to keep winning others to Jesus, because I knew I couldn’t fail you. Jesus gave me the grace. So it was not my own strength or will, but Jesus would help me to see the changes in each life that I touched, and that would give me the grace and strength to go on.

Jesus was so good to me to keep me and to comfort me, to hold me in His arms until finally I was able to see Him face to face and to fully embrace Him. At that moment, all the questions, worries, and fears that had been in my heart and mind all those years that I had to wrap up in a bundle of faith were all answered in that one embrace. My heart was at peace and I knew no fear—only love—greater love than I had ever known before. He took all my problems and cares and replaced them with peace and joy. He is that wonderful and loves us that much! So just give it all to Him and He will sustain you and carry you through, so that when you come up here you too will hear His “well done”!

Renewed subscription
BY MARK, JAPAN

We had a few Activated subscribers whose subscriptions would be expiring very soon. Faithy called each one to see if they would like to renew their subscription. Everyone replied with a definite “Yes, please.” In many cases the magazines are reaching whole families, and not just the original recipient. One businessman in particular whom we have known for a number of years and who always came across in a very businesslike manner mentioned that Activated has really been an encouragement in recent months at a time when his business is not doing so well.

Addicted to our material
BY PETER, MEXICO

On our recent road trip, I went into a Christian bookstore to offer the tools, and when the owner saw the Fear Not tape, he got super inspired and said he had been looking for that for years and years! He had been to every Christian bookstore in Tijuana and couldn’t find it. Someone had given it to him years ago, and because it was such a blessing to him, he’d passed it on to someone else, assuming he’d have no trouble finding himself another one. He bought a whole bunch of our tools at wholesale prices to sell in his store.

Nothing like our books!
BY GEM, CANADA

We have been trying new places to get out the tools. Solomon was clowning at a hockey game, and we asked the manager of the place if we could also set up a table to get out our tools there. He readily agreed, as his wife loves our material. We had given her the new From Jesus with Love book “for women,” and she just loved it and ordered nine more for her prayer group. She commented that she had plenty of devotional books at home, but nothing like our books!

Straight to the heart!
BY TENDERHEART, PHILIPPINES

The From Jesus with Love and My King and I books are bringing in more women to our weekly Bible studies that we conduct at the national women’s prison. Many of these women are already attending other religious groups, but after receiving these books and getting fed by them, they want to know more about the group that distributed these beautiful books that speak straight to their hearts.

Virtually every week, new ones come to join our study and each one confesses how these books have touched their hearts. They say they feel the Words from the Lord speaking straight to their hearts.
Many Hearts, One Home, One Goal, One Great God!
By Stephan and Marta, Andy and Maria, Colombia

We started the Casita de Corazones (House of Hearts) project about four years ago in one of the poorest neighborhoods in Medellin. The majority of the residents are refugees from the internal conflict that has ravaged rural Colombia for the past four decades. Most of the people in this neighborhood are sweet, humble, and very appreciative of our help. But poverty, unemployment, and lingering resentment over having lost their former homes and livelihoods also make this neighborhood fertile ground for violence, crime, and drugs.

Since children, teenagers, and young adults are at high risk to these dangers, most of our efforts to help at “La Casita” are geared to the youth. With help from friends, La Casita opens its doors every day to more than 100 children and young people from the community for regular activities. Teaching values is our main goal. And we use every means available: stories, skits, excursions, counseling, educational support, games, sports, incentive programs, and more.

Mothers from the neighborhood also attend our workshops and seminars where they learn about motherhood, childcare, prayer, love, and forgiveness—skills and values they desperately need in order to raise their children right. They have also learned arts and crafts with us in order to start earning a living for their families, and they now operate their own cooperative enterprise based out of La Casita.

Even if there were shops in the neighborhood (which there aren’t), the children have no money to spend, and their parents barely have enough for the most basic necessities. They could have money if they took the gangs, drugs, and crime route, but they haven’t—in large part due to what we’ve been teaching them about honesty and living by the golden rule: treat others the way you would want them to treat you.

Meanwhile, we receive many donated goods for our volunteer work—clothes, shoes, food, and other items for us to distribute to people in need. The children that come to La Casita certainly qualify as needy, but we hesitated to just give the goods away for fear that it would undermine the values and work ethic we have tried so hard to promote. It was quite a dilemma, but when we prayed about it, the Lord gave us a plan: “The Shop!” One friend donated clothing racks and lots of clothes hangers, and with the help of some of the moms who regularly come to our workshops, we organized and displayed all the clothes, shoes, and other items according to size and gender. Before long the shop was ready to open, but how would the children pay for the things needed?

We’ve been teaching these children and young people that even though money is a necessity in this society, godly values and behavior are still the most important assets in life. So with that in mind, the Lord showed us to use an incentive system to distribute the goods that come into the shop. When we see one of the children being kind, loving, helpful, or coming on time to a scheduled activity, or when we receive reports from parents that chores or homework have been done cheerfully and well, we give the child a “bonus card” to spend at the shop. Over the course of the week, some children may get as many as six or eight bonus cards, depending on their attitude and behavior. We try to acknowledge even the smallest good deed, so all of the children have been challenged and respond well.

As in every South American country, boys here thrive on soccer. The Lord gave us the idea to use soccer as a means to teach the boys life lessons such as teamwork, good sportsmanship, obedience, discipline, and self-control. Jorge (an experienced water polo coach) and Irene (our daughter) volunteered to be the coaches. We began by organizing the 30 boys (ages 9–15) into teams to play among themselves, but then someone suggested that we sign up for organized junior league tournaments. When we asked the Lord for His approval and counsel, He told us that prayer would help the boys do their best, and that has proven true. The team trained as much as possible, but since soccer isn’t our major activity, it usually only amounted to a few hours of training each week.

Soon our team found itself in their first tournament, competing against all the junior football teams in our part of town—and our team came out on top! The boys won their very first tournament, and this experience solidified many of the lessons we had been teaching them. For example, one time coach Jorge arrived just a few minutes before the match started and hurried his team onto the field. At the end of the first period, with our team already behind by two goals, Jorge realized that he had forgotten the most important thing—to pray with the boys. They all prayed wholeheartedly, and went on to win the game 6 goals to 2. Ever since, the boys never let Jorge start a game without praying.

Because our boys were the champs, the other coaches and the tournament organizers all wanted to know who we were and how we did it. They’d never even heard of our team before! This turned into an opportunity to explain our work of helping to change lives through the love of God in Jesus. Some of the other coaches then asked if some of their players could train with the La Casita team so they could receive the same positive input.

To encourage and inspire the boys, a few weeks before the tournament ended, we had arranged for a very special visit to La Casita. Pacho Maturana, a former player on the Colombian national football team and until recently their head coach, came to see our work and meet our team. We had met him a few months earlier, told him about our work in Colombia, given him some of our literature, and kept in contact with him by e-mail. During that time his coaching career hit a low, but he said our prayers and the messages we sent him were a big help. The next time we saw him he told us about his own football team at La Casita and invited him to visit, and he accepted.

The police tried to discourage him from coming to our neighborhood because the route was so dangerous, but he decided to come anyway. He tried to keep a low profile, but as soon as he turned onto the road that leads to La Casita, people began to recognize him and shout his name. Though he is no longer coaching the national team, many people here still idolize him because he was the most successful coach Colombia has had.

The boys at La Casita were wide-eyed and dumbfounded when he entered the room. He stayed for about two hours, mostly talking with the team and the other children that gathered. He talked about life, friendship, honesty,
love, being useful to society and very little about football. He comes from a humble background himself, so now that he is a public personality he has much to share from all he has learned along the way. The La Casita children sang some songs for him and gave him thank-you cards and drawings. In his next e-mail to us he said he had “felt God in a very special way” during the visit, and very much appreciated our work helping his people.

Show at a Center of Mother Theresa’s Sisters of Charity
By Asaph, Pakistan
We recently did a show at one of the Sisters’ orphanages here in Lahore. It was run by some Sisters from Nigeria and some local Catholics, and there were about 60 children and adults. Most of the kids were orphans, but there were quite a few that were mentally handicapped as well.

The orphans were so sweet, and one of our most appreciative audiences so far. They especially really flipped over our clowns. The show went very well, and we then distributed some provisioned juices and cakes and gave each one a poster.

The Sisters were all so appreciative of our coming, and the Superior said over and over that this was so special and something those kids had never experienced. I did a little filming as well, and while going around the grounds a bit, I found a few posters of Mother Theresa and some of her sayings on the walls as well. One in particular really caught my eye. Here it is: “I’m your bride The spouse of Jesus crucified! Every bride had a dowry Poverty is mine. Nothing to give But my emptiness and sin Is all for you!” It seems Mother Theresa had a real close link with Jesus and left behind an army of very dedicated Sisters all around the world. They are all really dedicated and sincere, and you feel very convicted after visiting them.

We’d just done a show the day before at an SOS village (an international organization that has orphanages all around the world), and it was a stark contrast, as they were very well sponsored and set up. You could feel a rather satisfied spirit there, and the teachers were not as thankful or sincere as in this orphanage. What those Sisters do, working there day and night with severely handicapped children in a rather poor standard, is something I had to ask myself if I would be willing to endure. Just recently, I went through some personal battles and trials about my lot here and the isolation and lack of fellowship, and I felt a little ashamed and had to ask myself where I really stand and if I’m still willing to give a leg or just an egg (like in the story from “Commitment” in Good Thots T about the hog and the hen). When we were leaving, all they could give us were some little pictures of Mother Theresa with a prayer to her on the back which reads as follows: “Blessed Theresa of Calcutta, longing to love Jesus as He had never been loved before, you gave yourself entirely to Him, refusing Him nothing. In union with the Immaculate Heart of Mary, you accepted His call to satiate His infinite thirst for love and souls and became a carrier of His love to the poorest of the poor. With loving trust and total surrender you fulfilled His will, witnessing to the joy of belonging totally to Him. You became so intimately united to Jesus, your crucified Spouse, that He designed to share with you the agony of His heart as He hung upon the cross. “Blessed Theresa, you promised to continually bring the light of love to those on earth; pray for us that we may also long to satiate the burning thirst of Jesus, by loving Him ardently, sharing in His suffering joyfully, and serving Him wholeheartedly in our brothers and sisters, especially those most unloved and unwanted. Amen!”

Who Cares Reaching the Youth
By Nina, Tanzania
When I was in New York for three weeks due to physical therapy for my hand, I was asked to speak at a high school. I was very excited about this opportunity to talk to sophomore and senior classes. I gave classes all day long sharing about the African work in Tanzania and the “Miles for Smiles” team’s testimony.

I gave the school principal the Aurora book Who Cares (From Jesus with Love for teenagers), asking if she would like to use them for her classes. The next day this teacher called me and ordered 300 copies. The following day that same teacher showed it to another school, and they also want to order it for all their graduating students.

A school director commented after reading the book, “Instead of giving the students bookmarks and picture frames at the end of the year, I would love to see these books, which express so perfectly what teens go through, given as their end-of-the-year gift.”

Another school is ordering 120 Who Cares books and is giving a donation of $10 per book. This $10 is designated for each student to receive a gift at the end of the school year from their teachers. I will be using some of these donations to get books for the inner city schools as well, and will return to follow up on these schools. I was also able to witness to many people, lead Bible classes, speak at an all-day meeting in a high school and give out Christian materials.

About a year ago, the Lord led us to two very sweet Indian girls, Deepa and Rupal. It’s been very inspiring and encouraging to see the Lord working in and changing their lives. Initially, when we would visit them they’d constantly talk about their problems. Their uncle, a doctor who is a strict Hindu, has been the girls’ guardian ever since their father died. He hasn’t allowed the girls much freedom to go out of the house without supervision or to have any close friends. When we were able to visit the girls (with their uncle’s approval) it had to be very short and sweet. But we would always leave them some Word.

It’s been incredible to see how Activated has been working, not only in the girls’ lives but in their family’s lives as well. Even though our meetings and Bible studies were often limited, the Activated books and monthly mag were changing them. Both girls are now memorizing, praising the Lord, and hearing from Jesus in prophecy. They’ve become very positive about problems, even talking to others about how Jesus has the answers and that they’re going to keep trusting Him, no matter what happens.

Recently, the Lord’s been doing miracles for them to study in a university overseas by putting sponsors in their way who are willing to pay the expenses for them. They know that it’s all Jesus. They said, “When we leave we will be taking Jesus with us!”—And Activated too!
Braving the “Open Sea” Alone
Anonymous, Europe

I just moved from a sensitive mission field back to my home country. One reason for this move was because I spoke the local language and the Lord had shown me to try to work together with a precious man. We had been in a relationship before I went to my former mission field and we wanted to see if it was the Lord’s will for us to be in a relationship again, or even possibly get married. For many months I had been preparing my heart for our “trial period,” so by the time I arrived I was determined to change whatever it took to be the best disciple and wife I needed to be so that our service for the Lord and my relationship with this brother would bear good fruit. I prayed that this brother would want me as his wife and that the Lord would put His stamp of approval on our relationship.

However, circumstances changed and the Lord led him to walk on an entirely different path from mine. I felt shipwrecked in the middle of the ocean. It was especially hard because when I first arrived I had to be in quarantine for the first few weeks, so I didn’t have the comfort or support of the brethren in a Home. All I had was the Lord and His Word. I felt that I was barely keeping my head above water. My heart was completely crushed, and I felt that I wasn’t able to carry on anymore. It was all I could do to keep from crying. I was desperately crying out to the Lord, reading the Word at every opportunity—I know that that was what kept me going and gave me the will to yield to that breaking. I prayed that He would be able to reshape and remake me through it all.

The Lord encouraged me with a vision one night. The vision was of me out on the open sea, with nothing but water all around me. The Lord explained that before someone is able to learn to swim, they first need to overcome their fear of water and trust that I’ll hold them up. He is like the water and all my life I’ve been afraid to be alone on the open sea. I always thought that I needed a relationship to hold me afloat because I’d never experienced that the Lord was enough. But this time the Lord wanted me to experience that He was enough and He told me to let go, stop struggling, and just lie still in the water. He told me that the reason He took away almost everything I was holding on to was not so that I would be lost without them, but so that I could experience that He alone was enough. This way when He did choose to give back what He took away, I wouldn’t be afraid of losing them, because I’d have peace in knowing that He would be able to keep me. He promised that He’d give back everything to me and would make me very, very happy.

I wanted the victory, and I wanted to just let go and trust Him, but the “waves” still seemed huge, the pain seemed unbearable, and I hadn’t experienced any joy for a few weeks, only deep sorrow and pain, which was even making me feel sick physically and I was losing lots of weight. I got to the point where I felt so sick and weak that I couldn’t even get out of bed. Finally I got hold of the key promises and started to read them. It was eye-opening for me.

Up until then it seemed like the waves and the battles were just huge and I was so little, but as I was reading those key promises, I realized what power there was available to me, and my whole attitude towards the battle changed. I realized that the battle didn’t necessarily have to be long, and I didn’t have to feel miserable. I found that through the keys there is a cure for everything and my heart could be mended. I didn’t have to feel that pain and my mind could experience peace.

Here are two keys that really helped me:

“ ”

“The keys can soothe your troubled heart. Call on the keys of love when your heart is aching and the balm of the Spirit of love will soothe it.”

“The keys of the Kingdom overcome anything that confuses your mind or heart. Call on the keys of clarity, and the clouds will be replaced by the clear skies and light of the Word.”

As I started to claim and memorize these key promises, His light finally broke through that darkness. My heart started to heal, and I felt the first ray of joy after many weeks. After I started to read the key promises, hour by hour strength came back to my body. I was able to get out of bed and from one day to the next the sick feeling in my tummy was completely gone and I was able to eat again normally! Every time I said a key promise, it was like medicine both physically and spiritually. It was such an awesome and beautiful experience to feel the power of the keys, as they flooded all the darkness of the Evil One with His light.

After He brought me back to full health and I experienced that He alone was enough and could make me completely happy as He promised, He started to give me back the things He had taken away and much more. He opened the door for my son and me to move to my present Home. He gave me ministries I always wanted to be involved in. He surrounded me with very precious people with whom I share very close friendships. My son is also very happy here and has many friends.

But the thing that brings me the most happiness is that after all these years I finally yielded to the Lord and let Him have full control in my life. It brings me so much peace, joy, and happiness, and also allows Him to bring many beautiful things into my life in His time and way. I’m still marveling at what a difference it is to live like this. I pray that He will help me to stay yielded, so He can keep forming me, teaching me, and making me the vessel He wants me to be.

I know that it’s a miracle that He bought me through it all; I would never have been able to make it on my own. Thank You, my precious Savior and Husband!

Beauty and the Keys
By Sara (of John), Thailand

Recently I read the key: “Claim the keys of beauty and you will radiate with Heaven’s power.” As I’m nearing my 47th birthday and live in Thailand where I’m surrounded by beautiful Asian girls, which makes me feel a bit lacking sometimes, I decided to claim this key. It
also appealed to me because I wanted to be beautiful in the eyes of my partner as well and by claiming this I was also asking for an inner beauty.

Then within a few days I started to get lots of comments from our friends while out, some from people who’ve known me for years, others from people who were meeting me for the first time.—And they were all telling me how beautiful I was! Amazing, even at my age when I’m also somewhat overweight, have a typical English pear shape, wear glasses, etc!

In particular one woman who has known me for a few months came up to me and started examining my face asking me what I’d done. Had I changed anything? I think she thought I’d had plastic surgery or had bought some very expensive cosmetics! So I’m sold on the keys, but know that I have to continue to glorify Him and acknowledge that it’s only Him. It opens up another avenue for witnessing too!

**Staying in the Hot Water**
*By Mamtta, India*

There were times in my life where I thought my personal goal when trials came along was to be able to bounce back right away. I got to the point where I started being fairly resilient, and I finally felt like rising above was becoming a reality, at least in my life. However, I started being fairly resilient, and I finally felt like rising above was becoming a reality, at least in my life. However, I recently I was hit with an emotional trial which I wasn’t able to get a complete victory over, and when I prayed about why the Lord allowed it He gave me a very eye-opening answer.

He said that the resilience factor is good, but in some ways it was actually making me self-righteous as I would sometimes wonder why others couldn’t start manifesting quicker victories in their life as well. He went on to say that some of the most beautiful lessons come from breakings, and that sometimes I need to stay in the “hot water” long enough to actually get purged, be melted, and become a different vessel altogether.

I had missed a lot of the different lessons before when the Lord sent trials or battles my way, as I was so “quick to get over them.” But this has been the hardest lesson to learn, to let things break me, soften me, and serve their purpose. To leave myself open and vulnerable is something that is not easy for me to learn, and I’d rather harden myself to it, or be known for having a tough spirit that can “take it,” but I’m learning that the kind of humility the Lord requires can only be obtained by going through battles the way He wants us to and actually being willing to be broken.

**Winners on All Levels!**
*By a large family, Earth*

We are a Home that fits exactly into the “mom and pop shop” category, as it just does not jive for us as a big family to operate any differently at this point. Recently we moved to FM status, the reason being that it would be very hard for us to adjust to all the changes that are taking place with the restructur-ing of the Family at this point. I must say, we were hurt at the time. But then again, we are fully behind the new rev-olutions, and if the Lord chooses to use us as helpers from a more relaxed type of situation, may He do what pleases Him!

We are taking care of the same folks day by day, one of them my elderly mother (86 years old) who lets us reside in her house. We are running the show according to the way we see the need for our kids—there are nine of them between the age of still-in-the-tummy and 17 years old—it would be really hard to do things differently right now. Five of our adult children are not living with us anymore. Together we have ten grand-children (though not residing with us). Our kids attend System school, but they also witness and pray. They love the Lord, but may want to learn a profession rather than join the Family right after school is done. We also have another YA (son to precious missionaries in Africa), who is taking time to study and finish exams. His parents write and tell us just how thankful they are to know he is within a Family Home with a loving atmosphere.

We have a functioning foundation where we, among many other activities, send humanitarian aid to Romania. In March 2004 we’d already sent out a fourth shipment for that year. The aid is mostly medical and gets distributed to needy hospitals in diverse towns by Family members.

Here is an e-mail we received from a brother in Romania:

We really thank you and your Home for all the effort and work that you put into doing this for us! I know that you do it for Jesus but we know the work that it involves and really are thankful for having brethren like you to help us in our work here. We have been doing a lot here with Activated and you could count yourselves a part of that. I will try to take as many pictures and try to get as many top officials as possible involved with this project. Send our love to all there and thank you for all your prayers!

I would like to share an excerpt of a message Mama’s secretary sent us, in response to a letter of desperation I sent Mama.

Mama loves you very much, and wanted me to send you her love and to thank you on her behalf for the letter you sent explaining your situation. We understand your situation is different and at times can be very trying. We are proud of you for going for the gold and being a mother to 10 children, and are praying that your delivery of number 11 goes smoothly. God bless you for your fighting spirit, and “stickling” to the calling the Lord has for you. It is hard for us at such a distance to give you specific advice on your situation and the different questions you had, but we know the Lord has all the answers and will show you, if you ask Him. We also pray that as the year progresses, there will be more options for you in your service for Him. We love you and appreciate all that you do for the Lord, as well as your many labors of love. Thank you for being a faithful servant in the Lord’s Kingdom and being willing to sacrifice your wants and desires to do what the Lord has called you to.

“With My power within you and the keys of the Kingdom in your hands, every new year will be better than the year before.”

Much love, Ashley (for Mama)

You see, no matter what the name or status, it is the joy that matters! The joy of the Lord will make us FM winners, and we are not ashamed of it.
Will You Help Us Reach Palestine, While We Still Can?

By the Family in the Middle East

In Grapevine #149 (February 2003), a short message from Jesus was published about the seriousness of the situation in Palestine and the extreme suffering that many endured at that time. The Lord said: “My Family, for the most part, enjoys peace and plenty. Though they have their battles, though they sacrifice a great deal on many fronts, most do not know or even have a clue of the extent of the sufferings of some, such as those in the Middle East, who are persecuted so cruelly by the world. So how can My children pray for them as effective-ly and as desperately if they don’t know, if they are unaware of what is really happen- ing? The Family has to be told and made aware of the seriousness of the situation. ...” (End of excerpt.)

As we are sure you have heard on the news, with President Arafat’s passing, Palestine is presently going through a time of great crisis and uncertainty. President Arafat was the father figure of the na-tion, and had been a stabilizing force in Palestine. Despite what you may have heard in the Western media, he was a key figure in keeping the peace, as even those who do not necessarily agree with his poli-cies deeply respected him.

Because of all that is happening now, and the uncertainty of what might hap-pen, the words of comfort and promise on the Someone Cares tape, which we pre-pared for the people of Palestine in 2003, are needed more than ever. The people, whose suffering and plight are now worse than ever, are desperate and need the as-surance of the Lord’s words that no matter what happens, He cares, and that ultimately He will restore their homeland to them.

The response we received to our previ-ous requests for sponsorship of this tape has been overwhelming, and thanks to the many gifts we received from the Family we have been able to distribute over 30,000 Someone Cares tapes to the suffering Palestinian people throughout the Middle East region!

We would like to be able to distribute many, many more of these tapes at this time, however we’re presently out of stock, and we do not have the wherewithal to dupe more of them!

Can you, dear Family, help us reach Palestine like never before? Can you help us by giving once again towards this project, so that we can flood the area with these words that are so need-ed while we still can?

Only God knows whether we will be able to continue to get out the message as freely as we have been these past few years, so we desperately need your help to work the works of Him that sent us while it is still day, for we know that the night will come when no man can work!

Thank you, dear Family, for respond-ing to this desperate plea! Thank you for your love for the lost, and for your des-perate prayers for our efforts in the region. We love you and know that whatever you spend to reach out to the Palestinian people “on the road to Jericho,” like the good Samaritan did, the Lord will more than re-pay! You can send your gifts via your TRF marked, “Palestinian Tape.” Thank you so much.

With much love and appreciation,
Your Family in the Middle East

[Editor’s note: Please refer to Grapevine #147 for “Mama’s Plea for Prayer for the Palestinians.”]
help wanted

My name is Jonny (17, of Luke and Catherine). I’ve been living with my family in the Middle East for the past eight years. I’ll be moving to India to help in the Activated Home. Our Home has been a little strapped for finances, so that and the fact that the Middle East isn’t one of the best places for fundraising, leads me to ask for your help in an hour of need.

If the Lord touches your heart to help me with my fare to India, please send to the Middle East ALP Home addressed to Jonny. And may your reward be great in Heaven! Thank you.

My name is Priscilla Joy. I’m from the Philippines and have been working in the ME for the past couple of years. I have a special request that I wanted to ask your help with. My mother is quite ill and has asked me to come and visit her for what will likely be the last time before she passes away. It’s been 33 years since I last visited, and so I wanted to ask you, dear Family, for help.

Just to explain my background, I am involved in doing full-time CC work and helping to look after and teach the kids of one of the resident RSSs in our Home, thus enabling them to do their job. Due to the nature of my ministry, and due to medical reasons, I am not able to go out fundraising for this trip to the Philippines.

I’d like to ask if you’d consider helping me and my daughter to make this trip. My Home and ministry have been able to provide half of my fare, but I am still in need of US$900. Thank you ever so much for considering my request. Your help will go a long way. Please mark it as “Priscilla Joy at ALP Home, Middle East.” Thank you.

My name is Richard (17, of Stefan and Joy). I was born and brought up on the mission field of Pakistan, where I’ve lived almost all of my life. Now, I have an invitation to join a Home in the Philippines, which I’ve accepted. The only problem is that I am not able to fund-raise in this country. I wanted to ask if there would be anyone interested in helping with something towards my move. I would need around $750 for the tickets and visas, so any contribution would be greatly appreciated.

Please send any contribution via ASCRO to PK06 (Lahore, Pakistan) towards Richard’s travel fund. My address is: fampak@pol.com.pk. Have a great new year.

Much love, Richard

We, Jeremy, Angel, and our 10 children, have been in Thailand for 16 years and are so thankful for the time here. The Lord is now leading us to move to Indonesia (Angel is Indonesian), to open a new Home there. This is a big move for us and we are so thankful for this opportunity. We hope to leave in the first few months of the New Year.

We wanted to ask if anyone would be able to help with a gift towards our move. As you can imagine, there are a lot of expenses involved, especially as we’re having to pioneer a new Home at the same time, with tickets, rent and deposit, vehicle, etc., and we would so much appreciate any help. Thank you so very much.

Any gifts can be sent to ASCRO and designated for Jeremy and Angel. Or, if you would like to contact us, our e-mail address is: austindo@operamail.com

Love, Jeremy, Angel, and family

Activated Subscription Sponsorships

By the India Activated Desk

We wanted to send a big thank-you your way for all the funds we’ve received towards our Activated subscription sponsorship program. We were able to get over the hump and clear the backlog of subscriptions that were pending, waiting for funds.

Following is just one of many letters we receive from recipients of sponsored subscriptions:

Dear Madam, I was very excited to receive your heart-touching letter which has given me a lot of comfort, happiness and joy. I was touched that you are sponsoring the monthly magazine Activated for me. I haven’t been doing so well financially and couldn’t afford the subscription. I had failed in my Senior High exam and had to quit studying so I could take up jobs and start helping my family.

I am very thankful that you are helping me to strengthen my faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. I think I can learn more about Jesus Christ from your magazines and they can help me explain about Him to others.

Your loving brother, V. Rama

We received letters such as this, it makes us so happy and thankful for all of you who send us funds, making this possible! If you would like to help towards our Activated subscription sponsorship, please send your gifts via the TRF marked “Activated India (IA77) subscription sponsorship.”

Subsidized Activated magazine distribution: Another area in which we require financial help is in the subsidizing of Activated magazines to the Homes. In order to get the Word out to the hundreds of millions of people in India, we as a Desk have been subsidizing the price of the magazines so that the Homes in India can order in greater quantities. We are currently ordering an additional 4,500 magazines every month for distribution by the Homes. Many young people are able to distribute these at colleges, hostels, etc. Some also go out in school programs where it is not always feasible to request a donation.

Every month we need an additional US$300 to cover the subsidized rate. We had one donor who helped faithfully for years with part of this, but has not been able to help for some time now. If you would like to help towards this worthwhile project, please send your gifts via the TRF marked “Activated India (IA77) subsidized magazines.” Thanks so much again.

This is Victor Italian (Matteo). I’m looking for Olivia and family who were in Hong Kong in 1984, and who I last heard were in Taiwan or Canada. I would like to get in touch with you or with your parents. Also, New Zealand Johanna, I know you in Singapore in 1980 and Malaysia in 1983. I still have good memories of you! Please write me at: vichaiters@yahoo.it.

Hi this is Kristi (of Clay and Brook) I’d like to get in contact with Phil of Sarah Swiss). We lived together in Porto Alegre, Brazil, in 2002 and then you moved to Zurich, Switzerland. Please write me at: knock_oul@pop.com.br.

Peter, would like to communicate with Hosea and Faithy (Dad’s children). Does anyone have their e-mail address? My e-mail is: peterluz@pop.com.br.

David and Liberty in South Africa and Peter, Peace, and Almond in India, I can’t contact you. Please write me, Barnabas at barney_bus_2002@yahoo.com. POB 216 Taipei 25199, Taiwan

former friends —seeking contact

I am trying to hook up with my former mate of many years ago. He used to call me regularly, but I haven’t heard from him in a long time. His Family name is Peter Sails. He is originally from Kentucky, USA. He could be there if he’s not in Japan. His wife’s name is Claire. He is American Caucasian, she is a Japanese national. His Family name used to be Matthew Sails. My name was Dawn. His System name is Lawrence W., mine is Shawn LePore. I really would like to get in touch with him. I changed continued on page 16...
reactions from subscribers

This is the first time that I encounter your Activated magazine. I read the first of the three issues of Activated. I want to express my gratitude for all the articles that were published. I read from cover to cover. I love the prayer on the back cover. As I read it I was in tears. I know deep in my heart that He doesn’t forget me and forsake me, that there’s a God—that’s the way I feel. Please continue writing prayers, I love to read them all, and I love all the wonderful stories. Congratulations on your Activated magazine. I’ll continue reading it.
—Virginia R., Australia

I was so very happy to read that I have brothers and sisters somewhere in the world who pray for me and are thinking about visiting me one day. The magazine Activated is such a lifesaver for me and for many others too. I have been forming a little group of friends to study this document. I am taking charge of teaching the ministers of the prison and we have spent three days studying the magazine, which was really wonderful—especially the letter from our Father on the last page, “My Love for You.”
—Michel, a prisoner in Cameroon

Praise to Jesus and God for those God used to spread your magazine, Activated! I am a Nigerian living in Mumbai, India, and I received your magazine. The edition I got was “Your Personal Guide Through Life.” I was blessed by it and it helped me to teach others as well. Thanks for the effort you have made in getting the magazine to me and others. I would now like to receive it on a regular basis. I am born again and was saved in 1995.
—Solomon, India

I received your warm letter with a very inspiring message [Reflections]. The next day I received two Activated mags by post. I am so very happy to get them. These magazines are just great and I don’t know how to thank you enough for them. I feel God’s love through them, and am so thankful. I always wanted to serve God in my own way. I need your help and prayers.
—Kim, India

[Note from the India Activated desk: We receive many letters of thanks from people who are recipients of the sponsorship program. Following is a letter we received from Dr. James, a pastor who runs a small mission in the state of Andhra Pradesh. We sponsored his subscription and he writes in faithfully every month thanking us for the magazine.]

I am writing to thank you sincerely from the depths of our heart for being kind to send your published magazine freely for our Christian library. Your magazine has been the right spiritual food—the good wholesome, nourishing, faith-building, uplifting, encouraging, and inspiring truth of the Word of God. I cannot find the proper words to express adequately my appreciation and gratefulness.
—Dr. James, India

---continued from page 15
my phone number awhile back, and that may be part of the problem.

My son Abner (who he really close to) is ill and I know he would be very concerned for him, as he loved him very much. The last I heard, he was in the Family full time with his wife Claire and their children in Japan. We had always remained in touch and on loving terms. If you could somehow help me to get back in touch, or at least let him have this letter and let him know I want to communicate with him I'd appreciate it. Thanks!
My address is: Shawn LePore, 201 Jackson St. W. #605, Hamilton, ON, Canada L8P1M2

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, Ausserrüstrasse 2, CH – 6319 Allenwinden, Switzerland. E-mail: gv@wsfamily.com Copyright © 2005 by The Family International — FD/MM/FM

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