

Courage is fear that has gone to God in prayer.

“SAY* Yes to Jesus” Camp

By Meg and Chris White, for the SA JT board, South Africa

[Editor's note: An account of this camp was also included in GV #178. But we're including this as well, as it covers different aspects of the camp.]

As far as any JETT or teen is concerned, the most important role of the JT board is to host JT camps. Am I right, or am I right? It was a major goal of the SA JT board to pull off an area-wide JT camp during the renewal. Although we had hosted one the year before during our NAFM, as well as several mini-camps throughout the area, this was to be the first area-wide JT camp devoted solely to our fantastic on fire JTs. God bless Phoebe (regional JT chairperson) for finding and securing the venue which was perfect for the JTs—right by the sea! Fifty JTs travelled from five countries to Durban, South Africa, for this four-day camp.

What took the camp by storm were the inspirations! Our resident band of Chris, Noah, Christo (new YA disciple), Meg, and Frankie rocked the house with electric guitars, drums ... and a lot of noise. The Lord also showed us to put together a songbook of many of the older Family songs that made the Revolution. Chris and I have found through our travels that the art of these songs is becoming lost. The Lord laid a burden on our hearts to try to bring some of them back into use. Most of the JTs (and even some YAs and SGAs) had never heard some of these songs before, songs like: “Green Magic Carpet Ride,” “Three Cheers,” “War of the Spirit,” etc. The Lord's Spirit fell on the inspirations like we have never seen before! The JTs sang, jumped, screamed, and damned the System for hour after hour!

Each day, our skit team, which consisted of the inspirationalists and Carole, Sam, Steph, and Julia, would perform a skit on the theme of the Word class. The first skit being called “The Door Matrix,” which drew parallels from *The Matrix* to our being called out from the System, forsaking the comfort of the world, being on guard in the spirit, and using the new weapons. Another skit was called the “Elite Troops Endtime Train Ride,” and was along the lines of preparing for the Endtime. The Lord also showed us (at the last minute, mind you—thankfully we'd brought those extra costumes, whew!) to dress up as the spirit helpers the Lord has shown us in recent years.

Of course, we can't forget the many inspiring and challenging Word classes, the great evening activities, get-outs, fantastic meals and snacks, and lots of fellowship that made the “SAY Yes to Jesus Camp” unforgettable!

(*Southern African Youth)



The Door Matrix crew: (back, L-R): Meg and Chris, (front, L-R): Noah, Carole, and Christo



Con and Glo are ready for the Endtime train ride



Whereas Fez and Babs are not



“We have declared war of the spirit...”

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A New House for \$0.00

By Ezekiel (14, of Mary Hart), Mexico

We had been looking for a new house for quite some time, with few potential finds. We had found a big house (a definite must), which had a high standard and was in a good area. The drawback was that it was too expensive for our budget. However, the Lord led my mom to take pictures of the house to give our friends the vision of what we were looking for. Some time later, Mom went to visit Blanca, a friend of ours. During the visit, Blanca asked my mom, “How is everything going for you?”

To which she replied, “We can't seem to find the right house, for the right price.”

Blanca immediately said, “I know the perfect house for you!”

Blanca and my parents went to see this particular house and were shocked to find it was a dump! Mom pulled out the pictures of the nice house we had been looking at and showed them to Blanca. After hearing mom's explanation about what kind of house we were looking for she asked, “But don't you want to live with the poor so you can help them?” (Answer: NO!)

Mom then explained the *Reach the Rich* vision, after which Blanca began to see the light. She got on her phone and began making calls right away. Three or four days later, we received a call from her: “A friend of mine wants to loan you a house for free!” We went to see the four-story house which was in very good shape, had a pool and was in the nicest area of town.

The owner is a very sweet man who not only loaned us his house for free for the next four years, but he even agreed to fix the few broken things in the house, put in eight new air cons, fix the pool and put a fence around it. All that to say, the keys rule. The Lord gave us a new house without us even having to look for it—which just goes to show that if we let Him do the work ... life rocks!

Athena—and a Test of Faith

By Perla Renee (20), Albania



Perla (center) and two friends

En route to Houston, Texas from Albania, I took a ferry to Bari, Italy. After getting off the ferry I met and witnessed to a sweet Albanian couple and their 14-year-old son. They showed me around the city and helped me find my way to the train station, where they were headed as well. At the train station we waited four hours for

our train, so I spent the time witnessing more in-depth to them. We had coffee together, read a couple *Reflections* and then I prayed with them to receive Jesus.

Our train finally arrived and we were seated in different compartments. Once on the train I asked an Albanian-looking girl if she could help me find my seat. (I don't speak Italian but do speak Albanian nearly fluently.) We found my seat and sat together, and continued talking. I noticed another girl sitting nearby, who was watching us curiously. Then she also joined in the conversation. Her name was Athena, a 22-year-old university student on a scholastic tour of Europe. She had high dreams of changing the world through journalism. Our conversation ranged from eternal Salvation to right and wrong, man's freedom of choice to politics, children to microchips and the Endtime.

As we were talking I felt like I was "preaching" at her and coming across too strong. I was just repeating to her the basics that we in the Family have been taught from the Word all our lives. I got embarrassed a couple of times and stopped talking, only to have her encourage me to keep talking! All these things that I can tend to take for granted, from the simplest basics of God's Law of Love and salvation, were jewels to her. I gave her an *Activated* magazine and agreed to meet her after the ride.

However, after the train stopped and many people got off, I was unable to find Athena. I located the ticket office for the train to the airport, bought the ticket, and sat down to wait for my train. After a few minutes, Athena found me and told me she was wondering whether she should stay on her three-day long train itinerary, or stay with me and take the plane to her destination instead.

She decided to travel with me. She bought her ticket, and after desperately searching for this last train to the airport, we found that it had just pulled out of the station! Even though we ran as fast as we could, we just couldn't run as fast as the train. The next train wouldn't leave until 6 AM the next morning and my plane left at 10 AM.

Athena and I were strapped. She had no cash on her, and there were no ATMs in sight. I had only €25. It was getting late and the train station would soon close for the night. The taxi drivers insisted on €40 for a short ride, and the hostels requested a minimum €20 each. We were stuck.

Then Athena started to have bouts of strong nausea, and could hardly stand up. I got desperate. Here we were, two young foreign girls, who couldn't speak any Italian, alone in a train station in Rome at midnight, with no place to stay, and not enough money to get us anywhere.

Then it occurred to me that this was an Endtime scenario, similar to what we read in about *Heaven's Library* stories. I knew that we needed some very definite and obvious miracles to make it out of the situation. I was scared and excited all at the same time, realizing that now I was going to see a miracle.

Athena and I prayed together. I called the Home in the area, but because they were so far outside the city and none of their drivers were available, they were unable to pick us up at that time. I asked them to pray for us, as I was either going to try to provision a place or just insist on staying in the train station for the night.

Police and bums began bothering us, taxi drivers hassled us, and hostel owners were waiting for us to "give in and pay up the €40." I sat

down with Athena and told her honestly that I didn't know what to do, but reminded her of all we had talked about before—living by faith, miracles, prayer, our job and God's provision—and told her that we were now going to see an example of it. Our only hope was a miracle and we were going to ask God for one. I really didn't want to fail God or her. I had never been in as difficult or scary a travel situation as this one. I knew this had to be for a reason—and there had to be a way out.

So we prayed together and put God on the spot and asked for three specific miracles:

1) A place to sleep (inexpensive as I needed at least €10 to get to the airport the next morning).

2) Protection.

3) To be able to get to the airport in time to catch our planes.

After prayer I asked the Lord what to do next and He said, "You will hear a voice behind you saying 'this is the way, walk ye in it,'" and "Be not afraid of their faces, for I am with you, to deliver you, saith the Lord."

I remembered that earlier that evening one hostel owner had offered to help us. But being that he looked drunk and rather sleazy, I didn't consider trusting him. But soon Athena complained of needing a bathroom *badly*, and there was not a single restroom in the train station. As the train station was just about to close, I reluctantly agreed to go over to the hostel with the "sleazy" owner.

After talking with him for a while, he offered us a room at his hostel for only €12. *So in the end we will still have enough for a ticket and would be safe for the night!* I thought thankfully. The owner offered us a ride in his car to our lodging which was in a different location, and I told him about my missionary work and witnessed to him during the ride.

When the car stopped and he led us to a huge apartment complex, my faith was tried even further. I began to wonder if he was instead taking us to his own apartment and not a hostel room like he had originally said. But what a relief it was when he opened the door to a very crowded youth hostel.

While there, I was able to witness to an American soldier and his Thai girlfriend who were on vacation, as well as a young Swiss couple. I passed out a few tracts to those there. Athena and I were just so thankful for a hot shower and place to spend the night. It was a taste of Heaven at that moment as we knew that Jesus was taking good care of us.

The next morning at 5 AM before leaving for the train station, we gave the

hostel owner and his wife an Italian *Activated* magazine. Since our train tickets had expired the night before we needed to purchase another one, but the ticket booth was closed and the train was about to depart. All by faith, without valid tickets, we boarded the train anyway.

Once on the train Athena and I prayed together for a miracle that the conductor would not check our tickets. Then we enjoyed the ride, trusting and confident. City after city passed us by, and by the time we arrived at the airport, not a single person had asked us about our tickets!

At the airport, we prayed together that Athena would get a ticket for a good price, that my flight would be confirmed, and against her continued nausea. We met up after she purchased her ticket and miraculously enough it was unusually cheap, departing at the perfect time to her exact destination.

We spent the last hour waiting in a breakfast café and she told me she couldn't believe all that she had just seen and been through, and that her life would never be the same again. We exchanged email addresses and she prayed to receive Jesus in her heart. I also gave her an *Activated* mag and explained that if she wanted her faith to grow, she needed to feed it with the Word.

We talked for such a long time that I was afraid I would miss my flight. But she just had so many questions, and we had so little time together, that the Lord simply *had* to use this time to pour into her. Her mind was like a sponge—absorbing, soaking, questioning, and wanting to know so much.

Athena had never before believed in miracles. She was raised in a non-practicing Christian family and never had a chance to experience the “by faith” life before. When I first met her, one of her questions was, “What do you do when you're afraid?” Well, now she got to see that firsthand and was able to personally experience just how faith works.

It then dawned on me that this entire experience had been for the express purpose of bringing her to this state of spiritual hunger, and bringing her into Jesus' Kingdom. I once again got to see to what lengths Jesus will go to win a single searching soul to Him.

But the most beautiful thing I have ever seen, happened after we prayed the salvation prayer together. At the end of the prayer she began thanking

Jesus for all that we'd been through, for all the ways she'd changed, and asked His help for one of her friends. I could see that she'd discovered the truth and power of God and that she would use it in her life, because she had seen it work firsthand.

Athena was reborn in spirit. She took her first spiritual breaths. And there is no feeling like it! This person had been permanently changed, not through any of my own wisdom or strength, but just by my following the Lord step by step, trusting and putting into practice what the Lord and the Word have taught us over the years. That is one beautiful thing that I want to see happen over and over again. To me, any cost is worth it.

I had been on my way to visit my parents in the States, with my convictions not as strong as they should've been. But Jesus changed that. I want no other life than this one—all the rest pales by comparison.

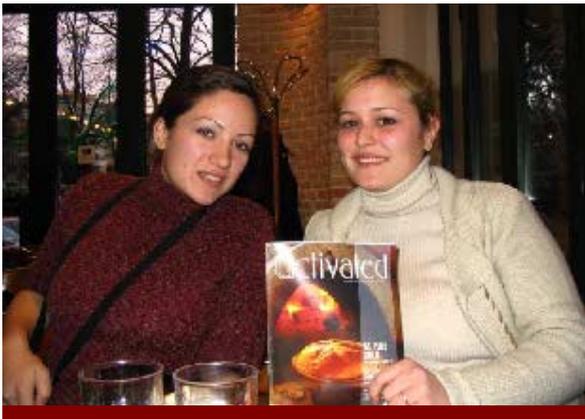
Here's an excerpt of something the Lord told me about Athena:

(Jesus:) As for Athena, she was one of My lost and wandering sheep, bleating in the briars and asking for My help, but not finding it, until now when I sent you to her. She had traveled much of the world looking for a “world vision,” but never knowing that the greatest “world vision” she would ever find would be in Me, there all the time.

The things you said and the love you gave, will continue to have the desired effect. For they are, and were, of Me. She's destined for greatness, My greatness, and though she's only just been born, she's on a good foundation and won't easily go astray.” *(End of excerpt.)*

All I can say is, Endtime—here we come! Era of action, fire away! Let it burn, baby!

Follow-up effects: Perla (YA, left) with Jonida (right), a university graduate and former agnostic, holding up the *Activated* magazine that she's now working on translating for us.



By Phoebe, Venezuela

During the renewal the Lord showed us that as an area we needed to focus on unity by doing things together to make those months special for our young people. He then led us to have each Home in the area choose a month from the five renewal months, and during that month that Home was in charge of planning an area activity or fellowship, as well as an activity for the JETTs, junior and senior teens. It worked wonderfully! Many young people commented that it was the best thing they remember from the renewal—that the Homes were united and working together to make it fun and inspiring for them.

With that having worked so well, the Lord encouraged us to keep up the momentum by continuing on the same program. It's amazing to see the good fruit

this is bearing in the JETTs' and teens' lives. We've noticed there is less gossip and much more unity between them. The collective sample of unity as an area is really inspiring too!

So now, every Tuesday we have seminars for the JETTs on up. We completed the Endtime Bible studies and we're now finishing the *12 Foundation Stones* classes, in order to help them in their witnessing. On Thursdays there is an activity or game night, a witnessing and *Activated* class, or an open forum where the latest GNs are discussed and we brainstorm ways to apply them to our everyday life, and have skits, and/or inspirations led by the teens. God bless them, as they have been working hard at learning the songs on guitar so we can have more variety. Some are even composing a few of their own songs, which

have been a real hit in the area. Besides it being a great opportunity to fellowship, it also helps the young people get to know each other better and form bonds of friendship around good peer pressure.

The seminars are open to anyone who would like to attend. This way it helps us to see which of our young former members are still interested in the Word. Those who come regularly can also attend the fellowships and monthly activities we do for the young people of the area. This has really strengthened our JETTs' and teens' convictions, and others see that they are becoming a tighter band of brothers! One of our teens commented to one of the former members: “If you're gonna hang out with us, you're gonna have to like what we like—which is to have fun with Jesus and others!”

We feel that the teens value their place in the Family so much more! It's a new day!

United We Stand

happenings

Words of comfort

By Fe, Mexico

I've been giving the *From Jesus with Love* booklet as a gift to some of our friends, and after reading it, they always want to order more copies for their friends and relatives. Everywhere I go and offer that particular booklet, people love it. One of my friends, who is a Christian, owns a big funeral home and has a personal copy of the FJWL. Any time somebody comes to his office who has lost a loved one, he reads to them from the booklet, and people burst into tears after hearing Jesus' words of comfort on the loss of a loved one.

The Best Stories

By Thaddeus English, Iceland

A lovely young 16-year-old girl came up to our display table with her friend. Sarah started witnessing to her friend when she interrupted, "Aren't you Sarah? You talked to me several years ago and gave me a paper about sowing seeds!" It turns out that she had received the Lord as a little girl, and we had given her the "Change the World" *Kids Komix* that we had translated and printed up by the thousands. She had not forgotten the impact it'd had on her. She is a high-class young lady from a very good family and wants to stay in touch.

A psychiatrist is using *Jimmy's Lamp* in her therapy sessions. A management executive is using *Needy and Greedy* to teach business ethics to his juniors. A university professor is using all the children's books in her classes. Kindergarten teach-

ers are also reading the books regularly to the children in their classes. They report that our books are the best, as the children listen in absolute silence to the stories—as opposed to the bored restless reaction when other stories are read.

We really have the best stories.

"What's His Name?"

By Heidi (of Dave), Czech Republic

We spent a two-week SWIFT in a Middle Eastern country, having found a great deal during the off-season at a hotel. Last year I ordered a small stack of *Motivated* mags from the local PC to send to a friend we'd met on our last tour. This year we took along what was left of that, and gave the mags to folks on the staff whom we'd met and befriended. One waiter liked the mag so much he asked where he might get it in bulk to give to his friends.

One day in a Mini Club center (children's activity room), I was witnessing to a couple of young Russian women, showing them Family-produced videos. One video was skillfully designed and put together by Mark (YA, of Stephen and Angela in Croatia). It contains Jason's rendition of "Outlaw" set to scenes taken from the recent movie *The Gospel of John*. The other is the music video of "Light of Your Love," with scenes from the *Jesus* (2000) movie. These are both such powerful tools to get out the message, especially through personal witnessing.

While showing these videos, a young national woman entered the room. The Russian women finished watching the clips and after a while left to carry out their various duties. This young national then turned

to me and asked who the Man was in the video, what was His name, where did He live, and what did He do. She had never heard anything about Jesus. So I slowly and carefully explained to her that He was a wonderful, loving man named Jesus, who lived 2,000 years ago. He went around making people happy, but some evil people had killed Him. Miraculously, He came back from the dead and now wanted to come into her heart and be her Best Friend. She repeated a very simple prayer, then asked, "What's His name again?" She was so inspired, she had me write down the salvation prayer so she could repeat it and memorize it.

Talk about a vacuum among some of the young people there, such as I haven't experienced in Europe in years! She was as fed up with her own religion as we were with churchianity back when some of us joined.

Sabers by Faith

By Faith, Australia

After our New Year's candlelight ceremony, we went to see the fireworks in the city. We found a parking spot only a few hundred meters from the site. (We found out later that half a million people had come to see the fireworks, so finding a spot right where we did was nothing short of an absolute miracle!)

Many spectators had fluorescent light sabers and halos, and of course our kids wanted some. I explained that we didn't have the funds to buy any, neither had I brought my provisioning album to try to provision some. Determined, seven-year-old Ben replied, "But Mum, in the great Tribulation, we won't have albums either, and since we can't buy or sell without the mark of the Beast, we'll have

to provision without them then." Point taken.

"Okay kids," I said, "if you want the light sabers, you are going to have to provision them yourselves. You can pray and ask the Lord to supply them and then we'll go over to the stall."

After claiming the power of the keys, nine-year-old Sophie volunteered to be the spokesperson. All five kids approached the stall by faith and met the sweet Sri Lankan man selling the sabers. Sophie explained our work and presented the children's request, and sure enough, he gave each child a light saber and then prayed to receive Jesus! It was wonderful to see the Lord do these things for us and our children as we claim the keys and His promises!

"Moses Says It's Okay!"

By Heidi, Czech Republic

It was two and a half hours before Pax and Jenny's departure from Germany for Africa. We went to check in at the British Airlines counter, but were told that they couldn't go because their visa was only for three months while their round-trip ticket was for one year. Even though they had no intention of staying in South Africa, but were only passing through en route to Namibia, any and all persuasion tactics were useless. The lady behind the counter refused to book them.

Finally, she sent us to see her supervisor. Same story with the supervisor. She flatly refused to book them. "The rules are the rules!" Meanwhile, everyone was in desperate prayer, claiming the keys for a miracle. Suddenly, the supervisor had a total change of heart and she smiled and sent us back to the original clerk saying, "It's okay. Just tell her Moses says it's okay."



Friends and sheep who attend our classes

tidbits

New FD/MM/FM members...

Joyanna (21, USA), rejoined in South Africa
Michael (23, German), rejoined in Germany



Jenny and Pax en route to Africa

this country asked Anthony to be part of their team by regularly uploading faxes onto their site. This site gets hundreds of thousands of hits a week and also has an e-mailing list in two languages. We just heard that they actually send out our "Fax of

Life" to 3,500 subscribers daily! That's over a hundred thousand a month!

We had no idea that it had grown so much and we're very inspired to hear that almost one and a half million Faxes get sent out by subscription per year, not to mention the additional hits and downloads the Fax gets. We also send the Fax to both the other Homes in the city, who in turn send it to their supporters, who then often pass it on to many of their friends and relatives. We know some friends who have their own mailing list of 70-100 other people. What started as just a little ministry of feeding our Home's friends and contacts has grown to a ministry of millions.

Successful Salesmen

By Paul Steven, Ukraine

While on outreach we were going shop to shop with *Activated*. We walked into a sports shop and started witnessing to the staff, and then offered them *Activated* and other tools. There were a couple of salesmen in the shop, along with the bookkeeper and secretary.

We were interrupted by the bookkeeper and the secretary, who said, "The way you are introducing your tools is so convicting and motivating! You have convinced us to help you." They then turned to the salesmen and said, "These are the people you need to learn from. Learn now while you have a chance." They proceeded to buy our tools and even offered us a job as salesmen in their shop.

Well, we know that it was absolutely nothing of ourselves, and only the Lord and His Spirit. But it is inspiring that others acknowledge us as professionals in what we do, even though we haven't had any System training in this area. All our training is from the Word. The training

we receive in the Family is the best you can get nowadays, and others see it clearly.

Picnic Plan

By Angel Heaven, Ukraine

After praying about other ways to feed our new sheep and how to bring them to know our other sheep and friends, the Lord gave us the idea to organize a picnic. It's one of the best ways to meet everyone in an informal setting and be able to get to know each other better so that we can attend to their personal spiritual needs and questions more.

Some of these young people already attend the Sunday English Club and Bible classes (organized by the Kiev Homes), but very few of them have met us outside of these activities. As the sample speaks louder than the sermon, we wanted to show them that the Family is much more than what they've only heard. Some of those who attended had met the Family ten years ago, then lost contact with us, and only a couple months earlier had met us again. Others are about to join full time. Some used to be our neighbors, and others are those who attend our English and Bible classes.

We combined our preparation efforts with another Home, and it was such an inspiring time of working together. We held the picnic on a national holiday, Victory Day, celebrating the end of WWII. It was a beautiful sunny morning when we left for our picnic spot. By the afternoon, everyone arrived, and we had a nice time fellowshiping, playing soccer, barbecuing our meal, and then enjoying it together. Later, everyone joined in for inspiration and communion. Some of the new sheep had communion for the first time. Some of them got saved right there.

This time spent together with our sheep and friends has brought them even closer to the Lord, the Family and each other. Please pray for the spiritual growth of each one.

Power in Our Music

By Fe, Mexico

One day I received an e-mail from the *Conéctate* desk asking me to follow-up on a lady named Mrs. Alma who had requested more *Fear Not* CDs.

kidbits

Gabriel Denith, born to Jenny and Paul on December 19.—Romania

I called her and she explained that she wanted the CDs to give as Christmas presents to her friends. However, the *Conéctate* desk had run out of those CDs, so I offered her the *Fear Not* tapes instead.

When I brought her the 10 *Fear Not* tapes she had ordered, she explained to me how the Lord was using those songs to not only strengthen her, but her friends as well. She told me that one day she had a check to call one of her friends whom she hadn't seen for a while. When her friend answered the phone, Mrs. Alma played one of the songs from *Fear Not* over the phone. Mrs. Alma said that when the song ended, she could hear her friend crying. Her friend asked, "Where did you get such wonderful music? That was exactly what I needed at this moment! That music is so anointed by the Holy Spirit!"

Mrs. Alma did the same thing with another one of her friends who was also going through a difficult time, and again the same thing happened where the lady broke into tears after listening to one of those songs. Mrs. Alma exclaimed that our musicians are really in tune with the Holy Spirit, and that she gets goose bumps whenever she listens to those songs.

God's Timing

By Robin, Uganda

After spending time ministering to Jakisa and team and following up on different friends, we returned home by bus. The next day we heard that the very same bus had been attacked, with 30 killed and 50 abducted. The miracle is that before returning Home we had seriously considered staying one extra day. When we asked the Lord about catching the bus the next day, He simply said, "No!" If we had stayed one extra day, we would have been on that very bus the day it was attacked.

You Never Lose by Giving

By Marie (of Philip), Philippines

While provisioning meat, the owner of the shop said she remembered me from five years ago. When she mentioned the restaurant where we met, I also remembered the occasion and how she had cheerfully donated lunch to my son and me. What I didn't know is that she had paid for the meal from her own pocket, and it was all the money she had.

But the Lord blessed her for it, because right after we left, she won 1,000 pesos from her lottery ticket. The Lord gave back to her more than what she gave to us. You can never outgive God! Now she donates meat regularly, which is an answer to our prayers.

Bugs on Blades

By Francheska Knight, Central Asia

On Caterina's fourth birthday, we had a fun idea to take the kids witnessing at the botanical gardens all dressed up as bugs—ants, butterflies, ladybugs, etc! On rollerblades, our troop of "bugs" happily passed out tracts to all those we met. It was very fun for the children. We explained to those we met that it was Caterina's birthday, which is why we were dressed up, so that they understood that we had a sane reason for our unusual actions, ha!

"Fax of Life"

By Talitha, KK, and Praise, South Africa

For over six years now, our Home has had a regular fax ministry, sending out "The Fax of Life" to all our friends and contacts on a weekly basis. Almost three years ago, the main Christian website in

The best gift given

BY MERCY HELPER, HOLLAND

One of our Turkish friends told us that after she gave her father in Turkey a *Mottos for Success* he told her: "This calendar is the best gift you ever gave me." He walked with the calendar under his arm the whole day, she told us. She herself carries all the things we give her in her handbag and reads them often. She feels she gets strength from the Word we have given her.

Even for early readers

BY CHRIS (SGA), PHILIPPINES

One of the ladies that I've been following up on is a single mom with an eight-year-old son. I have been giving her *Activated* whenever I visit her. Recently, she told me that all her mags have gone missing because her son takes them to read during recess in his school. She told me she is too busy to read them, but that now she's going to subscribe for her son so he'll have something to read during recess.

Meeting Brother Yun

BY DANIEL AND CELESTE, AUSTRALIA

Brother Yun (featured in *Xns* #15, 16, 18, and 21) recently spoke here in Sydney. I had bought the book *The Heavenly Man* as a Christmas present for my wife. We read it daily together. I had also bought extra copies for other Homes. We had just finished the book when another Home phoned us saying that Brother Yun was in Sydney. We'd been praying for him just that morning! Then the Lord did a mighty miracle. Celeste wrote a lovely letter in Chinese and we were able to give it to him personally. He's truly a "fireball" for Jesus, with many watching to see him burn, GBH.

Van + broken down = two subscriptions

BY DJ (SGA, OF FAYE), PHILIPPINES

One day I was trying to get some last-minute *Activated* subscriptions to reach our goal of 100 for the month. Our van just had an oil change

the day before, complete with a full check, however all of a sudden the van started acting strange, and the Lord showed us to get it checked. I could have taken it to the mechanic who originally fixed it, but the Lord showed me to take it to another shop closer by.

While at the mechanic, I met a Korean guy who was getting his tires changed. I found out he was a Korean missionary. When I showed him the *Activated* mag he was super enthusiastic and gave a generous donation for a subscription, and said he would come by to get CDs for his kids too. Then the woman in charge of the mechanic shop brought me the bill, and she saw the Korean man paying me for the subscription. She asked what it was, and I explained about the *Activated* mag, to which she also subscribed! Yet again, a victory out of seeming defeat.

Disappearing *Activated*

BY SCOTT (OF CELESTE), PHILIPPINES

One doctor at Makati Medical Hospital who subscribed told me he can never find his *Activated* mags because his coworkers always take them home. He then subscribed for another magazine to be sent directly to his home, so he can be sure to receive them.

Putting *Activated* first—The God factor!

BY MICHAEL (OF PRAISE), TAIWAN

One month, our Home decided to devote one of our two weekly outreach "attack days" primarily to getting *Activated* subscriptions. It was a step of faith as our tooling was already a little slow, and to devote one of our two main tooling days to *Activated* seemed like it would make our tools drop even more. But as a result of this our *Activated* monthly subscription stats have gone up from about four or five per month to about four or five per week! And by the third week of the month we noticed a definite improvement in the number of tools getting out. That month was significantly better than the previous months.

We also met several very potential monthly supporters in the course of our witnessing. To us it was a very clear demonstration of the God factor, that by obedience to the Word through using *Activated*, the Lord even caused our tooling to go better than before.

Filipino rapper in agreement

BY CHRIS (SGA), PHILIPPINES

One of our *Activated* members is Francis, a top TV personality in the country. He's the number one Filipino rapper, and is actually considered the father of Filipino rap. He subscribed a couple of months ago, and is very interested in prophecy. He said he never realized we were living in the time of the End until he read the *Activated*. He likes having Bible studies with us. He said he's had them before with other people, and they always talk about sin but don't give solutions. Whereas he appreciates the simple concepts we share like, "Don't try to chase out the darkness but let the light in."

He said our classes have helped him overcome his problems and have made him a lot stronger. He's started donating to us now too, and wants us to meet his wife, as she's been turned off by the churches. I explained how Dad was also disillusioned with the churches, so he started his own radical "Family" church. Francis said he's always been a rebel, and among the entertainment circles is considered the "bad boy." We discussed the different kinds of rebellion, and how it depends on what you're rebelling against. I told him that Jesus was a rebel too. To which he replied, "Yes, Jesus was the greatest Rebel of them all!"

Forever fresh

BY MICHAELA, SOUTH AFRICA

While out witnessing, we regularly hear wonderful responses from people who receive *Activated* on a regular basis. One lady said, "This mag is something you can leave out on your table and read again and again. People buy these other magazines

and just read them once and put them away. But this is something you can pick up any time and it will always have something for you. People should stop getting the other magazines and just get *Activated* instead!"

What's good for the boss...

BY MARY DEAR, INDIA

When following up on a subscriber, who is the marketing director of a company, the personal assistant wanted to know the purpose of the meeting. When she found out it was to renew her *Activated* subscription, the woman started raving about the magazine. She said that when her boss finishes the magazine, she takes it home, and her whole family reads it. Then they have a united meeting to discuss what they have learned, as they all have different reactions to what they read. Her husband, who is a man of principle, works at one of the top hotels in the city, and has won a lot of awards for "Honesty" for many consecutive years. Being a concerned father, he feels the *Activated* magazine helps to instill the moral values that he holds dear.

Without fail

BY TENDER, PHILIPPINES

Grace, an *Activated* subscriber I regularly follow up on, commented, "Every issue I receive is always just what I need for that moment." She then told me that one pastor had asked, "Why would you give to another church [us] when they're not feeding you?"

To which she replied, "It's because they *are* feeding me that I give to them! They feed me even if I don't give a regular donation. Every month they will faithfully send me the *Activated* mag. That shows me they're really concerned about my soul."

She's really sold on the written Word because of the first tract she ever received, "The Deal of a Lifetime," about Jesus being the fix-it man. She was having so many problems at the time and felt He was coming to fix her heart.



Thoughts on gossip

Gabe Fighter (FGA),

Asia: A while back a former member, who is still friendly and has been supporting me to some degree, wrote that she had "heard about me from somebody" in the Family, and then went on to inform me about the latest personal news of my life.

This particular former member has a large network of "friends" who are in the Family and whom she maintains contact with. She and her husband also regularly house and feed many brethren from all over the world. I think it would be wise when we visit, e-mail, phone, or write any such people (even those who are friendly), to not pass on personal details about other brethren.

As we fight for the survival of the Family, I personally think that the amount of gossip is quite an accurate barometer of our overall spiritual condition. If it is lessening, then we must be doing better and having more of a fear of the Lord. The opposite could also be true.

Speaking as someone whose heart and life has been quite devastated by occasional malicious gossip over the last ten years, I would rank gossip as practically the worst sin, and certainly one of the most deadly. One thing the Lord showed me about gossip is that if you ask anyone information about a brother or sister and you "hope" to hear something negative or "juicy" about them, then you are guilty of it. If we ever feel like that, it's a pretty sure sign we have the disease and need help.

Not "Anonymous, somewhere on Earth," but rather English Gabe Fighter (FGA), Indonesia PPC Home, Asia. (Maybe unbelievably to one or two gossipers, but, yes, still going for the Lord!)

P.S.: And those of us in our wonderful Family who hate gossip and its evil fruits, let's declare war on it.

The Parable of the Coins

Mercy (of Byron), Europe:

One day Jesus was sitting in His penthouse looking through His 3D TV at a Home on Earth. That Home was a busy Home doing much for Him.

How can I pour extra blessings on this Home? He thought. Then a little idea entered His mind. "I know," He said to Himself. "That's a cute idea."

The next morning as each Home member woke up, there was a small coin on their bedside table.

As Jesus watched from Heaven, He smiled as He looked to see what each person would do with their coin. Some didn't notice it. Their mind was too busy with other things like problems, work, or just getting to devotions on time. Others saw it and casually put it somewhere. Some felt it was not worth keeping as it was only a small coin, and threw it in the nearby garbage can. Yet some put it carefully in their wallet.

The same thing repeated itself daily for one year. The coins appeared at different times of the day, sometimes early in the morning, sometimes during PE, other times before the evening activity. Some people regularly made sure to put the coins away. Others didn't care that much, though.

At the end of the year, the Lord came to visit the Home and discuss what to do with the coins.

"By now," He said, "you should have a nice little sum to use for something special. Let's put it all together and see how much it comes to. Then we can decide what to do with it, whether send it

to some needy missionaries, give it as an extra gift to WS or Mama and Peter, or use it for a special project, or maybe a bit of all."

There were a few embarrassed smiles in the group and some shifted uneasily on their seats. As the Lord called each one to put their savings in a pile, some eagerly brought the coins they had saved, but others looked ashamed as they brought their meager sum. "I'm sorry," they said to Jesus. "I didn't think it was so important. After all, it was just a small coin and didn't seem worth saving."

"I forgive you, dear ones," said the sweet Lord. "But please do better next year."

Another year went by. Everyone, having learned the importance of saving, carefully put their daily coins aside. Then the Home got together and gladly laid at the Lord's feet a tidy little sum which turned out to be a blessing to some needy mission field. The recipient Home, having heard of the way the gift was gathered decided to apply the same

principle. The story went around and many other Homes decided to do the same. Very soon everyone remembered the old adage that "a penny saved is a penny earned," as well as a new principle that "a penny given is a penny that can be given to a needy missionary."

Moral: (*Jesus:*) After reading this story, you may think: *That's a cute story, but I don't get a coin a day on my bedside table.* My Loves, I say you do. Every time you turn off a light you don't need, every time you save on water or toothpaste, every time you live by the principles of saving in little ways, you earn a coin a day. It may be small, but I will bless you for it, and multiply your coins like the handful of meal and the drops of oil. "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much."

Just a thought: By saving 20 Euro cents worth of electricity, water, etc., per person per day for one year, a Home of 15 could send a gift of 1,095 (about US\$1,420) to a needy Home.

Need Ideas?

BY MARY LOVE, TAIWAN

Are you running out of material to teach long-time Active members who've already received almost everything you've got? Do you need to give a class on the spur of the moment, and when you don't have time to plan? Would you like to give someone a class on an unusual or upbeat topic, tailor-made for their specific needs?

Idea: There are some wonderful Bible classes in the recent *Activated* mags (from the 2003 and 2004 *Activated* issues). Classes are listed under "Feeding Reading," usually towards the end of the mag. Most of these haven't been translated yet into Chinese, but they're quite easy to give even in English, because they are straight Bible verses. We've found that if we use a Chinese dictionary for some of the key words, "presto!" we have a feeding, meaningful class! Some of the interesting topics contained in these issues are:

- Changing for the Better! (January 2003 Issue)
- First Place (February 2003 Issue)
- Cure for Negative Thinking (March 2003 Issue)
- Bitterness (June 2003)
- The Bible and True Science (July 2003 Issue)
- Secrets to Success with People (August 2003 Issue)
- Simplicity (October 2003 Issue)
- Motivation (January 2004 Issue)
- The Law of Christ (February 2004 Issue)
- 8 Steps to Healing and Miracles (March 2004 Issue)



As Jesus watched from Heaven, He smiled as He looked to see what each person would do with their coin.



you speak

How the keys became more real to me

By an FGA, Europe

Since the revelation about the keys, I have been calling on the power of the keys in my prayers, and doing my best to memorize the key promises. I used to enjoy memorizing Bible verses, as it was easy for me to do so. But now, being that I am older, it has been difficult to memorize the key promises. Though the language is easier, somehow it was difficult for me to retain the keys in my mind. To me, the Bible verses were more direct and the words were easier to memorize and claim.

I knew the Enemy was fighting me in this area, so I asked for prayer that I would be able to memorize the key promises. Though it was a bit easier after that, it was still a fight. I continued to claim the keys in my prayers, but I didn't "feel" a difference, so it was all by faith. I knew the keys' power had a lot to do with my yield-ness—and of course, as the Word says, the keys work according to the Lord's will.

Then I began to go through very strong battles with fear, which were different from anything I had battled before. It was in those times, when the battles would hit very hard and fast, that the only thing I could do to counter them was to call on the keys by their names, such as, keys of faith, keys of peace, etc. There was nothing else I felt I could do! I remembered that the Lord had promised us that in times of great distress or need, sometimes the only thing we'd be able to say is "the keys" and it would be enough. (See ML #3472:51–56, GN 1060.)

During this time of battles in my life, I found myself doing this frequently. Even just using the one word—"key"—was extremely helpful and powerful, and often the only resort. I could literally *feel* each key shooting out like a weapon to blast away the Enemy.

This revelation is still very much by faith for me, and I know how much I see the results of using the keys is conditional on my obedience and my faith. But these trying experiences have strengthened my faith in the keys being spiritual swords with similar and even greater power than the Bible verses! I now appreciate the key promises much more and have a greater hunger to read them and claim them for myself and others. They hold a deeper meaning for me because I've felt them come alive in my life.

One thing that makes the key promises so different and special compared to the Bible verses is that they are the fresh Word of prophecy—the direct Words of Jesus to us! They are more intimate, and therefore so much more powerful. Definitely the weapon we need for today.

Facing challenges with the keys

By an FGA male, USA

When I first started memorizing some of the key promises, I put them on thick colored paper, cut them, and started memorizing the ones I liked the most, or that I thought I needed most. But after having more than ten key promises memorized, it started to be difficult to review them. The Lord gave me the idea of getting a small notebook to copy these key promises into. I put about four key promises on each page (depending on how long or short they were), and I started adding key promises to my notebook on different subjects.

So far I have filled 21 pages of my notebook with key promises, and I have memorized already the first 18 pages with a total of 89 key promises on different subjects. It's easy for me to review them now, because I can review the promises by page.

On the first page, for example, I have four keys promises, and on top of each key promise I write—in a word or two, or in some cases more—a reference or subject for that key such as "revelation," "tests/trials," witness/miracles," "faith," etc. Sometimes I use the title of the category I've taken the key from, other times I use a word that helps to remind me what the key is all about, and I have found that this method is working for me.

While reviewing the key promises, sometimes I keep reading the ones on the pages that I have not memorized yet. So when the time comes for me to memorize those, some of them come quite easy, and the others—if they are a little bit longer or somehow difficult—well, I am already familiar with them.

The keys have been—and still are—a great spiritual weapon to help me make real progress in my life lately. Faithfully using the keys and key promises in my life daily has been a challenge in helping me go further for the Lord in order to do His will. The keys are one of the things the

Lord has used to stir me into action and fight against my shortcomings and spiritual weaknesses, and I am experiencing some real progress in these areas, and some real changes in my life.

The keys—Tried and proven many times over!

By Faith PI, Pavilion Home, Thailand

I had had some similar questions as those brought up in "The Mysterious Keys" GNs during Feast 2004. Despite the questions, I had decided to embrace and use the power of the keys, figuring that I had a lot more to gain by doing this instead of analyzing. In accounting, my former profession, what matters is the bottom figure—the end result. Is it profitable? In the Bible, this principle is brought out in the verse, "By their fruits ye shall know them" (Mat. 7:20). Also, having witnessed the positive results and tremendous spiritual growth of those people who wholeheartedly embraced our new or strange doctrines in the past has made me eagerly anticipate the yet bigger and more wonderful positive results in store with this new move of the Spirit. I've seen many miracles done through the use of the power of the keys, whether it's of healing, spiritual victories, changed hearts, supply, etc., but here's one testimony I wanted to share.

My husband, Paul, and I have dreamt for a long time of having our Home's Word and inspirational songs projected on a big screen so that everyone could follow from there, thus enhancing people's concentration and participation. Equipment like that could also be very effective in promoting the Word and our tools in schools and institutions when we show the *Treasure Attic* videos, and other tools.

So, having our faith just recently boosted considerably with the miraculous supply of a donated vehicle by wielding the power of the keys, our Home then proceeded to once again wield this magnificent power for the big screen we needed. Our Home prayed for it, we claimed the keys by faith, presented the idea to a company, and presto.—A couple of months later a 48-inch TV, complete with a DVD and karaoke player, was delivered to us!

So I can testify that if we'll only give the keys a chance by accepting them and using them, we'll soon see that they really

work! For me, even though some aspects of the keys are still unclear in my mind, if using them brings good results, why, I'll certainly go for it and concentrate my efforts more on learning how to use them to bring more and more good results. It's so profitable in every way, spiritually and physically. I know I will never ever fully understand every aspect of this phenomenon, or any spiritual phenomenon for that matter, so why would I even try to understand it all? Why not just learn to use it to the best of my ability?

Since receiving the gift of the keys, I feel like I possess a magic wand that brings about incredible results. Having said all this, I still would like to thank those who presented the various questions that were answered in "The Mysterious Keys, Parts 1 and 2," because the answers have strengthened and encouraged my faith even more, and most likely that of many other people's too. To present questions with the attitude of wanting to get answers so that one may understand is definitely better if someone has difficulty accepting a new revelation immediately. However, for me, I've found that the best way to tackle a new revelation is to just try it right there and then, by faith, and I've found that the Lord *always* blesses it with amazing results!

I'm enjoying the power of the keys in many ways, and I want others to enjoy and have fun with them too, and feel more confident with this mighty power in their hands.

Midlife victory ... the keys work resurrection!

By Paul (of Lilac), Guinea

Before coming to Africa three years ago, my body started to feel weak, with pains in my bones and other little weaknesses. In my youth, both before and after joining the Family, I used to be a ball of fire, with a lot of energy. Since I am 54 years old now, I figured that my body was quite burnt out, and that "old age" was creeping up on me.

After being in Africa a little while, I began feeling weaker physically, and I had to rest more. Malaria and other sicknesses started to be regular companions, to the point that at certain times, I literally felt myself ready to give up, and almost passed out due to extreme exhaustion. I suppose many others can relate to the great discouragement that overwhelms you when you feel you are useless, you are getting old, and you cannot accomplish your duties and the simplest responsibilities as effectively as you used to. The Enemy discourages you with feeling that

there's no future for you, and that God's plan for you on Earth has seemed to come to an end. Through my afflictions I was learning the strength of weakness, and by the grace of God, I was nevertheless able to keep fighting every day, and most of all, through these times draw closer to Jesus.

After several years of battling with my health, the GN "Praise Your Way to Victory" (ML #3449) came out. After reading this Letter the Lord gave me a dream. In the dream, I was climbing a mountain so steep that it was a total miracle to be able to stand and walk. I was with my wife Lilac. We were climbing so fast and effortlessly up this mountain. We didn't feel our hearts beating furiously like when you're gasping for air; to the contrary, it was so easy and we found great happiness and pleasure in climbing. It was a real joy!

Behind us, I suddenly noticed someone, younger, who was climbing with great difficulty, slowly and completely exhausted, almost ready to stop, and sweating profusely. This young Family person could not believe that we were climbing so fast and easily, almost effortlessly, and yet we were "old folks"! That was the dream! A few days after the dream I had the time to study "Praise Your Way to Victory" a second time, and one quote that stood out to me said: "Claim the keys of *commitment*—commitment to keep fighting this battle in the spirit, no matter how weary you feel" (par.75).

So I claimed the keys of commitment.

The following day I went on follow-up with my 15-year-old daughter, Eve. Usually I don't walk more than one mile, and use public transportation as much as possible, because it would usually take me one day of rest to recover after a day out.

But that day, I walked for three miles without noticing anything. I felt such a good sensation throughout my body, bones, and spirit. I started to enjoy walking faster and faster, to the point that I wanted to walk more and more. At the end of that day, my daughter was wiped out, while I was still fresh physically. My daughter saw this big change in me, as did my wife and other people.

That day was a complete miracle, a complete renewing of my body. I could sense the Holy Spirit in my body, like an electrical current. It's difficult to describe. I wanted to shout, to jump, and to dance in the street because I had so much energy! I was bursting with inner supernatural strength, and I almost couldn't hold it or handle it. What a joy!

I'm still rolling with this heavenly strength, and I wanted to share the testimony of this miracle with you, dear Family! I know the Lord can use me in spite of my age, and soon older age. This process of getting weak is not irreversible. The keys and Jesus can give us new life, a new start, and new strength if we desire it to do His will.

This new energy and strength does not mean that now I don't have to rest, but He's given me strength to do more than I was able to before. Now, this blessing of being renewed compels me to adhere more closely to the health and spiritual rules. Most of all, I've come to experience that getting closer to our dear Husband will ensure the unending pouring out of His strength. In His Word there's always the answer.

"The Lord will give strength to His people" (Psalm 29:11). "The Lord is the strength of my life" (Psalm 27:1). "It is God that girdeth me with strength" (Psalm 18:32).

Letter to the editor

How I had wanted to express myself...

By Eliseo, Italy

I want to share something about the issue covered in "Shooting Straight, Part 3," (ML #3501) called "WS Prophecies Inaccurate." Some time ago, I sent in a testimony with a prophecy that was later published in a *Grapevine* issue. Since it's not my native language, it's a struggle for me to write anything in English, especially testimonies. Often I worry about whether I'm expressing myself clearly, or making grammatical errors, or using the right adjectives, and so on. After writing this particular testimony, I wasn't very happy with how it turned out—even though it was a good testimony. I didn't think I had written it well, and perhaps it was even a little confusing, but I decided to send it in anyway.

After reading it in the *Grapevine*, I was just amazed! The dear brethren certainly did some polishing on it, but the amazing thing was that it was worded exactly as I had wanted to express myself but couldn't. It was as if they had experienced that testimony firsthand. That was sure proof to me that they must have been really in tune with the Lord!

Pray!



Healing key: Are you in need of healing in any form? Call on the keys of heavenly health and strength and I will come and touch you with My healing hands, to replenish, repair, revive, restore, renew, refresh, and make you every whit whole.

WS

Chloe: Against pneumonia and Sjogrin's syndrome (a dryness condition that causes arthritis, dry mouth, and in my case extreme weight loss). Usually pneumonia can be cleared up with antibiotics, but the antibiotics made me very sick and my body didn't tolerate them after a while. So we're trusting and believing the Lord for His healing through the power of the keys.

Terry (of Paul Theophilus): She urgently needs a miracle of healing for her kidneys and for various levels of blood components to return to normal. Thanks for continuing to claim the power of the keys for her health.

Asia:

Michael (10, of Zorin): He fell headlong from a second floor and has been in a coma. He suffered multiple fractures of the skull. The doctors had to remove his spleen and one kidney. His arm is also fractured in two places. Specifically pray for Michael to come out of the coma; for his body to stabilize; for there to be no permanent damage to his brain whatsoever; and for full recovery from this accident.

North America:

Grant (of Sharon): Broke both bones in his right calf; for quick and complete healing, and against the excruciating pain and subsequent sleeplessness he's been experiencing.

Justin (9 mos., of Mike and Anaik): Eczema on back, arms, and legs.

South America:

Jennifer (12, of Luna and Gabriel): Underwent surgery due to peritonitis (inflammation of abdomen lining); the surgery was successful, but please pray for her continued and complete recovery.

Kika (3, of Zeb and Kristy): Painful headaches and urinary tract infection; against it affecting her kidneys; for the antibiotics she is taking to be effective with no side effects.

reactions from subscribers

There was a time I was depressed and troubled in my heart and I needed an answer to an issue. That same day, when I was in the office of my doctor, I picked up an *Activated* magazine. As I was flipping through the mag, I read something there that really settled my mind as far as the issue that was bothering me at that particular time (though I cannot remember the title of that particular article now). I was relieved and happy. Since then I've made up my mind that as soon as I have the opportunity, I will subscribe to the magazine.

—Lara, Nigeria

I have been receiving *Activated* since August 2004. I find the magazines quite interesting, and read them from the first page to the last page. Two of my friends, who I had subscribed, also liked your magazine. I am sending money for subscriptions for five people who are

leaders in different prayer groups. Please pray for me, that I can devote more time and attention to serve Jesus.

—Albert, India

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 magazine. I had failed in my Senior High exam and had to quit studying, so that 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 learn more about Jesus Christ from your magazines, and I can explain about Him to others.

—Rama, India

Thank you from the depth of our hearts for being kind to freely send your published

magazine to our Christian library. Your magazine is a very rich source of spiritual blessing to many of us regular readers. It is motivating and strengthening many spiritually. Thank you once again.

We are sincerely and regularly praying for you, your families, and for the ministry you are involved in. Many readers share my love and respect for you. Closing with much gratitude, your co-laborer in the harvest.

—Dr. C. James, India

I've known the Family for the last 10 years, and since then I have always tried to stay in touch with you somehow. I subscribed to your Internet service, but would like to receive copies of your regular magazine that I can read at any time. The truth is, I feel that everything the Family has is for me. I discovered some pictures of Dad, which I love. Please pray for me,

as I feel a need for my spirit to grow and also the call to follow the Lord. I work at a mall, but I don't want my legs to get all afflicted with varicose veins just to fill the pockets of the rich. I'd rather get varicose veins trying to save souls.

—Claudia, Chile

I want to thank you for sending me the *Activated* mags. They have changed my life, and I am most grateful to you for sending them to me. This month I thanked God for the healing tips that were in the mag. For the last two months, my mum was sick and I kept on praying for her, but along the way I somehow got discouraged, but now I have got more strength to pray for her healing since reading your magazine. I request that you also pray for her healing. She is diabetic, but I believe God is our Healer of all our sicknesses, and He is able.

—Florence, Zambia

grapes of thankfulness

For months I have wanted to write this thank-you.

In 1983 through 1984 **Black Amos** in São Paulo, Brazil really helped me by taking me into his Home. I am most thankful for that, dear Amos, and I would like to hear from you. At that same time in São Paulo, I want to thank dear sweet **Mary Kay**, now living in South Africa. Thank you for being so sweet to me. I would like to hear from you too.

I would also like to thank dear **Lily** from our time in Jaipur and Jodpur, India (1986). A big thank-you to **Mary Meek**, whom I've known for the last ten years, for your patience with me. **Dust and Maria**, thank you for your hospitality and the time we had together. God bless you all. Any of all of you who I forgot to thank, you are welcome to write me at: TT, P.O. Box 91, 13.2500 Lier, Belgium.

—*Tim Lovbridge (a.k.a. Ti-no Smile)*

This is just a little note to give honor to whom honor is due!

A couple of months ago we had regional board meetings in Colombia, and the sweet **Family in Bogotá** gave us so much love! I miss you guys—all of you!

Everybody went out of their way to make us feel welcome and comfortable, going the extra mile, hosting our meetings, giving us rides, feeding us delicious meals, taking us to fun places, organizing a party and fellowships, forsaking their rooms for us, inviting us to their witnessing outings and classes, making hidden sacrifices that we may never find out about until we get to Heaven, and making our stay there a wonderful time!

I have the fondest memories of all of you and pray for you often. You are a Family to be proud of! Your sample in witnessing and feeding the sheep speaks very highly of

you and the dedicated disciples you all are. It makes me want to follow that sample.

Thank you again for everything, I know the Lord will bless you a hundred times over for all you do for Him and others. It was a privilege to get to know some of you, and see others after so many years.

I thought about naming everyone and mentioning the loving things you did, but I don't trust my memory, and would hate to hurt someone with my forgetfulness. But in my heart I know who you are and what you did—and so does the Lord! ILY!

—*Pandi*

Tons of grapes of thanks to **all those who wrote, sang, composed, etc., the songs on Stay by Me**. I was going through a very tough time of needing to completely forsake some things and turn them all over to Jesus at the time when we received it. I listened intently to all the words on this CD, and tried to apply them in my own life and relationship with the Lord, and it helped tremendously. I felt a lot of peace and tranquility and a renewed ability to rest in Him. I pray that each of you can also have that beautiful relationship that each song sings of.

—*Catherine, Brazil*

Dearest **Philip and Gentleness!**

Our special thanks go to you for everything you did for us while we were working together. We deeply cherish our days together with all the battles and victories that we shared. Thank you for helping us, even when you yourselves are in need. We miss you and love you!

—*Your Odessa team*

To **Alisa and Josh** (Bayside Home), **and Rose** (PACRO):

Thanks so much for your contributions. I pray that the

Lord repays you a hundred-fold. You don't know how much your help is appreciated as raising funds here is difficult. I love you.

—*Melo*

This is Gloria, the one who asked for help a few months ago to visit her mum, and here I would like to give thanks to the ones who helped me financially, and to all of you who prayed for me.

Here are the names: **an SGA couple in WS, CN 636, CN 611, CN 608, JA 001, IA 879, and JA 006**. My dear ones, it is such a blessing to have all of you around and to be able to count on your help physically and spiritually. One more time you've been a great help to me and a big testimony to my mum.

I haven't visited her yet because of the changes, as we are moving to a new field so I had to wait a little bit. But I'll visit her this year for her birthday. I have a hard time expressing my thankfulness to you. Just want to tell that I love you very much and thank you so much. My mum is joining me in thankfulness and appreciation to all of you. You are great!

I would also like to thank my best friend, **Vicky** (Russian) who is serving our dear Husband in the Middle East now. I want to thank her for everything! We haven't seen each other for a long time but I always can feel her love and prayers. Thank you so much, sweet Vicky, for all your love, prayers and inspiration. Thank you Lord for such friends!

—*Gloria, Russia*

We recently passed through a new country that none of us had been in before—New Zealand. We had been assured that friends in NZ could help us with a place to stay, and it seemed like this would be the case, almost right up to our sched-

uled arrival date. However, these contacts and "friends of friends" fell through, which is why we want to thank **Michael and Christine and their family** for being such a tremendous help!

They collected us from the airport, made room for us in their house, drove us all around, gave us provisioned food and clothes, and were invaluable when it came to suggestions of how to best do things—everything from shopping to outreach. They made us feel at home, and were a model example of hospitality in every way.

When we offered a donation to help a bit with costs, they only accepted a much smaller amount than we were offering, because they wanted us to have as much left over for the field as possible.

God bless you, Michael and Christine! We pray that if any team in the future should arrive on our doorstep, we can be as good a sample as you were!

Also many thanks to **Zach and Melody and family**, who were also a great sample of hospitality when we passed through their Home on the way to the field.

—*Peter and Susan, Fiji*

Hi, I'd just like to say a big thank-you, and send lots of love, to all the wonderful and very sweet people who helped me to make my dream and calling of coming to Brazil come true.

Thank you, **Michael and Pietro, Gabe, Honey and Michael, Stephen and Heaven, Faithy, Joan and Mark, and Victor**.

What touched my heart the most is that many of the gifts were from people I don't even know. What a wonderful Family we are!

I love you all so much and am keeping you in my prayers.

—*Rachel, Brazil*

Living and Believing the Word

—Reactions to recent MLs

➤ Mama's Visit to Central America (ML #3509, Post-it GN #14)

James, Philippines: I was very touched by Mama's love and concern, not only for the FD members, but even for the small FM family living nearby. Her example of a true shepherdess speaks louder than her words.

Being FM myself, many times I have felt unworthy of the care, love, and attention of my shepherds and brethren of the FD Family. Thank you, sweet Mama, for looking at the heart of your sheep and not just at their outward appearance. You love us all the same. You went with a broken heart to seek out, heal, and strengthen your flock. Thank you for doing all you could to repair the bridge that separated the Family, and for making us one in spirit again.

➤ Getting Stronger—Part 2 (GN 1109)

Stephen Kind, Croatia: I am very happy with the new plan of training shepherds. We have found that this is just what is lacking in our own Home. After the Charter came out, it seemed that shepherding was looked on by most as "old-fashioned"—but it is absolutely essential. The only way to have a winning team is if we are correcting and shepherding each other when needed, from the Teamwork on down.

In our Home we have majored on the spiritual side of shepherding, and placed less emphasis on the administrative running of the Home. But now with these two arms of teamworking, we should be able to cover all areas.

I believe this new training, along with the handbooks from each of the boards, is just what the Family needs.

What a Simple Tract Can Do

In the life of a tract

By *Mari, Mexico*

On a normal day out witnessing, we met two businessmen. We offered them our tools and they bought three CDs. When they turned to leave, we quickly gave them both a Christmas tract. One of the men paused and stared at the tract for a while.

"You know," he said, "ten years ago while I was in the States, a guy gave me a tract like this." We weren't sure if he was referring to one of our own Family tracts, as there are other Christian groups who pass out tracts. We just told him that Christians are all over the world and it could've been anyone else who might have given him that tract. He then pulled out his wallet and took out this little wrinkled piece of paper. He handed it to us, and to our surprise, it was the "Con Cariño Para Ti" ("To You with Love") tract!

We told him that this is definitely one of our tracts, and he excitedly told us that this tract really touched his heart. He had shown it to his son who liked it so much that he gave it as a speech in his school and then translated it into English and sent it to his grandfather. Later he wrote it down and had it framed and hung on his bedroom wall.

This was a real encouragement to us to see how far our Family tracts can go. What is also wonderful is that he now tells everybody this testimony, which interests others to want to read the tract too! Thank the Lord for these wonderful tracts that change lives. Help us to never underestimate the power even a little tract can have.

Another little tract

By *Daniel, French Polynesia*

While we were on outreach we met someone who bought a *Mottos for Success* calendar and we also gave this person a "To You with Love" tract. To our great surprise, she remembered that she had already received that tract two years before. She took it out of her purse to show it to me, and told me how this tract has done so many positive things in her and her husband's life. It has been a great encouragement to them in difficult times, and they often read it before they go to work.

VIDEO SHINERS FOR JANUARY 2005

Angie/Isaac/Ruth, SEA	54	272
Isaac/Joi/Jonas/Lisa/Lisa/Luke/Tab, UK	33	457
Jonas/Maria/Michael/Paciencia, Chile	26	204
Amor/Angeles/Joaol/John, Portugal	25	203
David/Lea, Venezuela	25	50
Charity/Daniel, Brazil	13	25
Maria/Mary/Micah/Sam, Taiwan	12	117
Andrea/Andrew, USA	11	33
Phoebe/Timothy, Brazil	10	41
Aaron/Elena/Francis/Iona, Taiwan	10	82

QUARTERLY SUBSCRIPTION STATS BY DESK

Activated Desk	November	December	January
Brazil	1,043	185	122
Chile	5	10	13
Colombia	57	79	25
EE and Russia	86	105	106
Europe/Africa	175	165	148
India	879	677	243
Italy	34	22	84
Japan	79	115	29
Mexico/C.A.	251	411	97
N. America	26	15	N/A
Philippines	121	73	127
Taiwan	67	81	32
Total	2,823	1,938	1,026

SHINE ON—JANUARY 2005

TEAMWORK	Per Adult	Total
SOUL SHINERS FOR JANUARY 2005		
Josue/Maria Fiel, Mexico	1,976	11,858
Samuel/Rosita, Mexico	1,167	3,500
Charity/Happy, India	842	3,368
Timothy/Windy, Colombia	500	1,000
John/Pandita, India	438	875
Andrew/Rejoice/Ruth/Stephen, India	273	3,000
Matthew/Mercy, Taiwan	268	803
Fe/Filippo, Bolivia	250	500
Faithy/Lalo/Robyn/Ruth, Mexico	240	1,438
Melanie/Pawel, Brazil	203	406

TRACT SHINERS FOR JANUARY 2005		
Alcides/Heber/Stephen, Peru	3,700	18,500
Steven/Tabitha, Japan	2,250	4,500
Dulce/Matthew, Brazil	1,800	9,000
Tim/Priscilla, Venezuela	1,667	5,000
James/Josiah/Joy, USA	1,500	6,000
Aneta/Ben/Christy, Botswana	1,429	10,000
Maria/Philip, Germany	1,333	4,000
Mercy Trust, USA	1,100	2,200
Anne/Dan, Canada	1,033	3,100
Abner/Claire/Esther/Shamini, South Africa	1,000	10,000

ACTIVATED DISTRIBUTION SHINERS FOR JANUARY 2005		
Gabriel/Luna, Chile	616	1,232
Analuz/Daniel/Maria/Tiago, Brazil	517	5,686
Carol/Lily/Peter, United Kingdom	458	1,375
Rose/Shine/Timothy, USA	444	4,438
Claire/Iris/Letizia/Luca, Italy	330	3,300
Angie/Isaac/Ruth, SEA	225	1,126
Ruth, United Kingdom	202	404
Aneta/Ben/Christy, Botswana	171	1,200
James/Josiah/Joy, USA	161	642
Dawn/Peter, USA	146	732

ACTIVATED SUBSCRIPTION SHINERS FOR JANUARY 2005		
Dan/David/Faith/Faithy/Steve, Philippines		42
Prem/Ruth/Sharon/Simon, India		40
Byron/Chris/Marie/Tender, Philippines		31
Andrew/Angel/Deepa/Hosanna/Steven, India		31
Peter/Praise, Philippines		30
Elisa/Simon/Tommaso/Vicky, Italy		26
Elias/Miguel/Peter/Sara, Guatemala		25
Ivan/Joy, India		23
Claire/David/Tirzah, Guatemala		20
Anita/Jewel/Josiah/Lily, Nepal		19

POSTER SHINERS FOR JANUARY 2005		
Steven/Tabitha, Japan	1,600	3,200
Tommy/Serena, SEA	1,435	5,740
Clare/Peter, Japan	1,001	2,001
Samuel/Rosita, Mexico	1,000	3,000
Mercy/Michelle/Phil/Shiloh/Valerie, Ukraine	467	4,200
Gabriel/Luke/Melody/Mercy, Philippines	448	5,373
Dust/Jeremiah/Mary/Rejoice, Japan	428	2,994
Jonathan/Martin/Mercy, Mozambique	273	1,639
Esme/Esther/John/Rose/Steven, Holland	273	1,908
Charity/Happy, India	258	1,030

TAPE/CD SHINERS FOR JANUARY 2005		
John/Marc/Meekness/Theo, ME	166	1,326
Jonas/Michael/Paciencia, Chile	128	1,026
Aneta/Ben/Christy, Botswana	107	750
Rut, Colombia	100	300
John/Rose/Sarah, USA	94	374
Carol/Lily/Peter, United Kingdom	88	263
Peter/Susanna, United Kingdom	83	250
Pedro/Maria, Colombia	75	150
Emanuel/Maria/Paul, Peru	75	300
Esperanza Fiel, USA	73	145

BOOK SHINERS FOR JANUARY 2005		
Charity/Hannah/Matthew/Sara, India	330	3,963
Joaol/Clara, Brazil	217	650
Lily/Samuele/Simonetta, Italy	160	1,599
Cedro/Consuelo/Jeho/Laura, Chile	154	1,692
Aneta/Ben/Christy, Botswana	100	700
Philip/Meekness, Namibia	100	199
Chris/Daniel/Joy/Shayna, India	98	980
Sarah, India	89	178
Felipe/Marcos/Paulo/Vitória, Brazil	81	566
Almond/Jonathan/Tamara, India	75	300

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 © 2005 by The Family International — FD/MM/FM