Want a Life?

BY LEA (SQA), RUSSIA

Have any of you ever been through a life-changing experience where you put the verse, “Give and it shall be given unto you” into literal practice? I’m sure you have. Of course there are different degrees of giving, but in all cases don’t you agree that whenever you do give—in whatever way, shape or form—the Lord NEVER fails in repaying you? Don’t you always feel happy once you do? Even if it’s something as simple as giving someone a hug, you feel happier in the long run, no? Well, my life radically changed recently and I’d like to tell you all about it.

This is a testimony about how my life turned happy after deciding to help out a friend by joining in to care for her baby—a parenting teamwork. It’s about how I gained a friend, a soul mate, a daughter, a family, plus a more fulfilling and happier life.

Here’s how it went: I was a happy, wild and free 21-year-old without a care in the life. I had the burden to reach Russia, where I had already been residing for a year. My dear friend, Genty, got pregnant, went to the States to give birth and returned June ’98 with a beautiful baby girl, yet fatherless, thus … a single mom. Of course we were all very happy to have Genty back on the team, and although she had the support of the home, being a single mom is rough … am I right? No matter how tough or strong you think you are, there’s nothing that can prepare you for raising a child on your own.

Upon her return, she started rooming with another girl, Christina (who was also pregnant). Christina was about to leave for the States with her boyfriend, Mike, to have their baby. Noting Genty’s future conditions and her hidden anguish of being alone with an eight-month-old baby, I nonchalantly and without much thought told her, “Genty, when Chris leaves, I’ll help you out with the baby, K?” Surprised yet a little doubtful of that ever happening, she thanked me.

Sure enough things went as planned. Chris left and I showed up in her room with all my stuff. —And that, my friends, is where my life changed!! I never anticipated everything that goes into raising a child … all the work! All the common free slots in my daily schedule were filled with me busying myself washing doo-doo diapers, cleaning up baby messes, sticking bottles in my baby’s mouth, learning how to put her to sleep, changing diapers, etc. But that’s not all. The best part is when the busy day is over, and you’ve worked good and hard for needed rest and it’s time to sleep—only to wake up to the reality that the sleep may be sweet but not necessarily in peace, if you know what I mean—especially if the baby is teething or sick.

You’re probably wondering what kind of “testimony” this is. I know, I know, all of this sounds encouraging—NOT. If you’re anything like me—independent, longing for adventure and fun, gotta have movement, change and excitement—the last thing you want is to be tied down or to be bound to something or someone, right? Truth is, folks, you can still have all that fun and more, plus … someone to do all that with!

I’ve been with Genty and Mikayla for four months and I’ve come to the realization that a child needs parents—in the plural form of the word. Okay, it was a little earthshaking shifting gears and difficult at first, but the key word here is “was,” because it’s not anymore. All that physical stuff is something I’ve made a habit of, and it comes just as natural as brushing my teeth, doing exercises, making my bed in the morning, eating, etc. It’s all “extra” work, but not difficult nor a trial. So it is with being a step-mom or dad. Man, I’ll tell you, the benefits sure surpass any burden you might feel it to be!

First of all there’s the mother’s gratitude for all your help and sacrifice in caring for her baby. Then there’s the best part … when you walk into the room and the baby starts crying for you. You take her in your arms and she starts kissing and hugging you. There’s also that sense of belonging that comes with it. You have a friend who thinks about you.—Someone you can spend Christmas, New Years and birthdays with, someone who cooks for you, and brings you your morning coffee exactly the way you like it, someone to pray and have Word time with, someone to share your heart with … sounds sorta like marriage doesn’t it?

Well, whatever it is we’ve decided to stick together until one of us falls under the “taken” category in life. But until that time comes, it’s … my sister, our baby and me! It’s like the story of the poor newsboy who had a crippled friend and the rich man asked him why he didn’t live alone. He answered, “Why, then I wouldn’t have anyone to live and divide with.”

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In Grapevine #57 it states Sean Ray was born on November 25, to Peter and Renee. However, Shawn Mark was born on October 28 to Peter and Renee. Sorry!
Have you ever wondered if fairies are real, and if so, where they live? What do they do? Don’t miss the fantastic “Fairyland” series coming your way soon in Heaven’s Library!

Fibrocystic Disease
—COURTESY OF GINNY, JAPAN

One year ago I began to notice my right breast hurt when people would give me tight hugs which put pressure on my chest. I could feel a small mass or lump in the breast, and after praying about it, decided to have it checked by a doctor. The possibility of breast cancer was on my mind, so I was relieved to find out it wasn’t cancer, but something called fibrocystic disease of the breast.

I learned that iodine deficiency is a common reason for developing the disease. Here in Japan the salt isn’t iodized, as it is in many countries, because the Japanese diet is naturally high in iodine from all the fish and seaweed they eat. However, the Homés I’ve lived in haven’t been able to provision much fish or seaweed, so as a result I’ve had very little iodine in our diets.

I don’t know for sure if that contributed to me getting this disease, but I’m now praying and faithfully eating seaweed!

The following is some helpful information on the subject from the book, “Prescription for Nutritional Healing” by James F. Balch, M.D. and Phyllis A. Balch, C.N.C.

“Upwards of fifty percent of adult females have fibrocystic disease of the breast. The Medical College of Pennsylvania states that an iodine deficiency causes a high incidence of fibrocystic disease. Other factors include hormone imbalance and abnormal breast milk production (caused by high amounts of the hormone estrogen).

“In fibrocystic disease, round lumps that move freely and are either firm or soft are produced. Symptoms include tenderness and lumpiness in the breasts. Pain is usually most severe before menstruation. The cysts may change in size after menstruation.

“In this disease, cysts become filled with fluid and fibrous tissue surrounds the cysts and thickens like a scar. The pressure can cause pain. Fluid is reabsorbed by the breast tissue when a hormone imbalance or abnormal milk production occurs. The milk-producing glands multiply and carry milk into the supporting fibrous tissue, resulting in fibrocystic disease of the breast. As a woman ages, it becomes more difficult for the lymph system to absorb this fluid completely. Fluid is trapped and results in cysts and inflammation of the breast. These cysts are benign.

“A cyst is tender and moves freely — it feels like an eyeball behind the lid. A cancerous growth usually does not move freely, is most often not tender, and does not go away. In a simple office procedure, the doctor will use a needle to diagnose fibrocystic disease. The needle is used to remove fluid from the cysts. A mammogram is usually taken to rule out cancer. (Note: In my case I was given an ultrasound instead, as I didn’t want to have an x-ray unless absolutely necessary.)

“There have been good results using primrose oil to reduce the size of the cysts. The diet below will also help.

Suggested Vitamin Supplements:
- Kelp - 6 tablets daily
- Primrose oil capsules - 2 capsules, 3 times daily
- Vitamin E emulsion - 1,000 IU daily for 1 month, or start at 400 IU and increase slowly to 1,000 IU
- Vitamin A plus beta-carotene - 15,000 IU daily
- Vitamin B6 (pyridoxine) - 50 mg, 3 times daily
- Thiamine (B1) - 50 mg, 3 times daily
- B complex - daily
- Vitamin C - 3,000 - 7,000 mg daily in divided doses
- High-quality mineral complex

Suggested Herbs:
- echinacea, goldenseal, herbal squash vine, mullein, pau d’arco, poke root, and red clover.

Letters to the Editor

Re: Mama’s Christmas message

I read the message from Mama in Grapevine #55 commending all of us for our Christmas outreach and it was so sweet!! I was reaching burn-out stage, doing two shows every day with six small children which involves so many little details, as well as running the household, cooking, cleaning, etc. I was so touched to know that she understands the way it is in small homes at Christmas time, and that she brings us and our struggles to the Lord! Thank you, Mama, for being such a loving shepherdess.

—FE (OF VAL), USA

Re: Acronyms

One merry day we get a few notes in our office, one asking us for a GC of a PPM, another one with a message from the MSC and yet another one about some sort of FML. It wasn’t lunch time yet and we all sort of choked on this exotic alphabet soup. We tried to swallow it, but it didn’t digest. We thought maybe David Komic would know, but he was too far away to ask.

Request: Why not be temperate with these acronyms? If we have to use them, please let’s send definitions along with these awesome abbreviations. (Editor’s note: The proper way to use acronyms is the first time you use it in a letter or article to write out the words, for example, Prayer and Prophecy Meeting (PPM). Unenlightened folks just can’t decipher some of this scramble-jumble. No harm intended.)

—SPALIM (SPANISH LIM, JUST IN CASE, THOUGH WE DON’T EVEN KNOW WHAT LIM STANDS FOR, HA!

(Editor’s note: Neither did we! So we looked it up in the HomeARC and found that it stands for “Local Language Indigenous Mail Ministry” — the name given to the translating centers back in 1980 when they not only translated and mailed local language mailings to the Homes but also received and processed some Homes’ reports.)
It’s bound to happen sometime: Number One—and only—has to give way to the new brother or sister. Our own Kimby had that experience recently, and here are a few tips that I found helped make the transition easier.

**Explain it ahead of time:**
When I was five or six months pregnant, I started to prepare Kimby for the arrival of her new little friend. We talked about the baby that was in my tummy, and she thrilled over a full-color picture book of babies-in-the-womb. She wanted it read to her over and over. I’m sure she didn’t really grasp the concept of exactly what was to come, but at least it was getting her familiar with the idea.

**Create a bond:** Alec and I have had this thing of “naming” our babies while I was still pregnant. That is, coming up with a generic sort of nickname to refer to it as, until it’s born and we would find out whether it was a boy or girl. This was especially helpful this second time around, as “the Pixel” came to have a sort of personality before she was even born. (Though I’ll admit we thought it was a “he.”) Since we were always talking about the Pixel, I think it sort of helped Kimby in the process of gradually into the acceptance of the new member of our family.

One time we were sitting at the dinner table and I looked over to Kimby’s highchair and noticed that she was selecting individual grains of rice from her plate and very diligently trying to squeeze them into her belly button. I thought to myself, “Well, I guess it’s all part of early childhood exploration.” I figured I’d let her be for a while and see how it went. As I kept watching her, all of a sudden I heard her say, “Feeding the Pixel snack! Feeding the Pixel snack!” I remembered that when we’d looked at the picture book of the baby in the uterus, I’d told her about the umbilical cord and how it connected to the baby’s belly button and that’s how the baby got its food.—And she took it literally! (Also figuring, of course, that if Mommy has a baby in her tummy, so does she—after all, her tummy is pretty round, isn’t it?) Ha! I just laughed and laughed.

**Plan room changes in advance:** In our situation, we had Kimby sleeping with us right up until the time when the new baby was to come, at which time she was going to move in with the dear sweet sister who takes care of her during the day. We arranged to make this changeover a week or two before the baby was expected to come, in order for there to be a gap from the time that she moved out until the time the “intruder” would move in and take her place.—To have to contend with not just moving out of Mom and Dad’s room, but also to be replaced simultaneously might have been a bit too much to handle gracefully. As it happened, there were big room changes going on at the same time, so we moved into a totally different room, which probably made it easier as well. This way we were not having to move the baby’s crib right into the place where her bed used to be. Of course that wasn’t possible in all situations, but if Number One is moving out and you’re not having room changes, perhaps you could try moving around the furniture in the room at the time that you do the changeover. This way it gives the illusion of a “new room.”

**Presentation:** I read somewhere that it can help for Mom not to be holding the new baby when big brother or sister first comes to visit.—I guess it introduces them more gradually, as opposed to them coming and seeing this total “mommy and baby” unit, which could cause them to feel left out right from the start. On Kimby’s first visit, I came out of the room to greet her and then brought her in to see the baby who was sleeping in her crib. Having so long expected this little friend, Kimby went into immediate ecstasies upon seeing her. The first thing she did was dash over and pull out a couple of picture books and started “reading” them to the baby! After a while she looked at me and said, “Can I play with her now?” Ha!

**Offer an equivalent:** Another thing that I did before I had the baby was to get a baby doll for Kimby. I made a little crib for it, gathered up a few little clothes, and whatever articles I could scrounge from others or find cheaply: a little baby bathtub, toy bottle, washrag appropriated into a little towel, etc. After Kimby visited me and the newly born baby and it was time for her to go and let us get some rest, we presented her with her own “new baby,” which she just loved.

**Give extra attention afterwards:** Baby Lauren was born just a week before Kimby’s birthday, so this was a perfect chance for Kimby to get a little extra lavish attention and her very own special day. Besides that I also tried to do some special things with just her in the days and weeks following the birth—a special meal with just us three while the baby was sleeping; personal time and special activities together at parent time; stopping by to see her more often during the day; highlighting progress she’d made or cute things she did to others in the Home at dinner or other times when she was listening, etc.

The good news is that baby Lauren’s arrival was overall an easy change for Kimby. A couple times at the start I could tell she felt a bit insecure and would start doing tricks extra loudly to get noticed, but she was never resentful or hostile towards the little newcomer. And even that passed very quickly, and she loves her dearly. As she said this morning when she came into the room to visit her sister: “I want to see the Pixel forever!”

**Kidbits**

** wee ones ... **

Emmanuel Christian, 1st child, born to Priscilla and Francesco on October 8th.—Maalaea
Willy, 8th child, born to Joy and Jimmy on December 6th.—Japan
Helene Samantha, 1st child, born to Kerenina Sunshine on December 28th.—Kenya
Emmanuel Sebastien, born to Lydia and Michael on January 6th.—Mauritius
Christian, born to Tunde and Caba on January 10th.—Hungary
Kevin James, 1st child, born to Vanessa and Shad on January 13th.—Spain
Daniel Birdie, born to Maria, Stephen and Lisa on January 14th.—Gambia
Michelle Annette, 2nd child, born to Vanessa and Steven on January 15th.—USA
Baby girl (no name given), born to Vera and Daniel on January 22nd.—Europe
Card for Jesus
Chris, Celeste, Sonnet, and Caleb, Mexico:
Chris got the great idea to build a life-sized stable, with our children as Mary, Joseph and the shepherds. We set the stall up in a ritzy mall for the whole month of December, along with a table with tools next to it. We bought a Polaroid camera and took pictures of local families who would have their children dress up as shepherds and as Mary and Joseph. Our children, ages 3-19, went along to witness and win souls daily.

We weren't winning so many souls as we don't speak Spanish well, so we made a huge sign for Jesus' birthday with the prayer inside. People would read the little introduction, pray the prayer and then sign the card. We won over 100 souls in the last two days this way! Then we gave the card to Jesus for His birthday.

Shows and souls
Tirza, Guatemala: Together with the children and teens of the other Home in the area we did seven shows in some of the most popular malls in the city. Our last show was at a military base for 250 soldiers and officers. They all received Jesus into their hearts and were absolutely turned on! From one of our shows we just might have our Home's first Guatemalan disciple or very serious catacomber!

Over 5,000 tapes
Samuel, Crystal, Clara, Clair and Tiago, Brazil: A company whose CEO we've been ministering to for four years has been a great help in our CTP ministry, by purchasing 5,330 tapes and Christmas booklets. This enabled the message to get out to all the employees of that company, and generated the funds for us to buy a much-needed van. Special thanks to all those that made this sale possible, especially the brethren at BSC and John!

On prime time
Elimelech, Esteban and Maria Clara, Venezuela: The children did a presentation at prime time on December 24th—at 9 P.M. on our local TV station. There was a live manger scene, and they performed nine songs. The show was broadcast in three states and more than five major cities! The programming director was so pleased that she wants us to work with her throughout the whole year with our skits and singing!

Feeding Africa!
Joan Livingstone, Nigeria: We had previously done a program for one of the biggest oil companies in Nigeria where we acted out the “Rock in the Road” drama. We got such a good response that they asked us to do it again for Christmas. The children gave it their best shot and let their lights shine—performing for more than 10,000 children and adults!

Radio Rivers of Nigeria has been playing our Word tapes to about five million people in Rivers State of Nigeria.

Party broadcast on TV
Peter, Tender, and Priscilla, Philippines: By teaming up with two other Homes here in Manila, our kids and young people (aged 11-20) performed for a popular TV show on December 26.

We had a Christmas party with our catacomb members at the Correctional Institution for Women, and invited 40 other women who don't have relatives here in Manila. The Lord provided nice donated cosmetics and perfumes, which we were able to give not only to our catacombers but to the other women we invited.

While in the middle of our party, lo and behold, a TV crew came in to the Conference Room. The rest of our party was filmed—the games, the giving of the Christmas goodies donated by AVON, our “Let the Whole World Know” number, performed by our singing team and the closing remarks of the party. It was truly the Lord’s setup and became a wonderful testimony.

Tong of shoes
Micha, Merry and Faith, Japan: For the last four years, a shoe manufacturer has annually donated a couple hundred pairs of shoes to our local center. We have faithfully followed up on this company, even when the management changed hands. Last year they donated...
5,000 pairs of shoes which we sent to Siberia.

After we had successfully gotten those shoes off to Siberia, we asked the manager if he might have any more shoes we could send as humanitarian aid. After some weeks he called us and asked us if we would like another equal amount of shoes. We got together and the Lord showed us to take them. It’s one thing to accept the offer, but it’s another thing to figure out where to put it, as each pair of shoes comes in its own box and takes up a lot of space. We knew we could store 5,000 pairs because we had done it before, but we weren’t ready for what happened next. At noon, the manager called back and told us there were 10,000 pairs of shoes, not 5,000. We prayed again and decided to take them, even though we didn’t know where we were going to put that many. Then at 6 p.m. he called back again and told us that they had decided to donate 30,000 pairs, which later turned out to be 40,000, and that they would need to be picked up within three days. We knew that we needed to be on our guard, but when we prayed, we felt that we should accept them. During the next three days we breathed, slept, dreamt and moved shoes. One big miracle was when our number one supporter sent eight of his workers and a 10-ton truck for a day to help us load and unload shoes.

How to move a mountain of 40,000 pairs of shoes? The Lord had told us that He wanted us to make these shoes a witness. We had hoped that one of the Homes in Siberia would want the shoes, but it turned out to be a closed door. We also had a burden to see these shoes go to Cambodia, but that fell through as well. So we were left wondering what we were going to do with this mountain of shoes, while our shoe king was waiting to see what we were going to do with the shoes he had donated.

We visited our local prefectural office overseeing donations to institutions, and after some idea sharing, they offered to send out our offer over their network to over 200 institutions. A total of 44 institutions with a total of 1,500 people in their care sent back the necessary paperwork. We provisioned some event tents from the girl scouts, and set up on our tennis court, where we sorted the shoes by size, to make it easy for the institutions attending to pick shoes. For the grand opening, our teens sang “Walk a mile in his shoes.” We went house to house giving out info and letting our neighbors know why there was a mountain of shoes in our tennis court. We got a lot of good out of this event, with some of the media wanting to do follow-up stories on sending the remainder of our shoes to SE Asia.

Recently, this same shoe company manager told us that he had sent news about us to the other regional offices drumming up more shoes for our humanitarian aid project. He later told us that he was able to get us 500,000 pairs of shoes-half a million pairs! We weren’t ready for them at the time, but he gave us advance notice that there may be another big donation of shoes in June. Any ideas?

Christmas Reeboks Tim and Mercy, Korea: We made a few visits to a small school for troubled teens in the mountainous countryside of east Korea. The first visit was to prepare a meal and play basketball and soccer with them, as a get-acquainted time. One of our friends responded to the boys’ need for get-out shoes, and offered to spend almost $1,000 to get good quality Reebok shoes for each of the students and staff, which were presented to them on Christmas Eve.

Mercy was also featured on a radio show that focused on the volunteer work of the Seoul International Rescue Corps, of which the Family has been charter members—part of the leadership structure.

TV witness at Christmas Jonathan and Mary, Ukraine: On Christmas Eve, our children were aired on TV doing a dance to “Happy Smile” and singing “Ding Dong Ding” in Russian, which reached 150,000 children. A few days after Christmas our show at an orphanage was televised. On Russian Christmas News they broadcast our dinner for the poor, and interviewed Mary and Ben.

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**Goings-on**

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**CLE price changes/new materials**

(From cover of new CLE Order Form:)

ANNOUNCING SUNRISE EDITION

Our new and developing curriculum now has a name: Sunrise Edition. For more information, check page 52 in our 1999 catalog, or ask for a free sample LightUnit. Sunrise courses in this booklet are marked with an “S”.

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**CHANGES TO TAKE NOTE OF:**

Old Language Arts 200 and Social Studies 200 will be available until Spring of 2000 for those who need them. Order on page 10.

(Note: When ordering, please note the above changes in the curriculum on the front cover of the order form, as if you order only Lightunits from the new Sunrise Social Studies, your old Answer Keys will not coincide with the new Sunrise Lightunit.)

**Price Changes**

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The prices of many High School Electives on the right column of Page 9 of the Order Form have gone up, but since so few are ordered, we’re not listing these changes. (See the new order form for more details.)

**New Item Prices**

| 7.95     | 822126 Happy Hearts Reader (for LUs 201-205) |
| 5.95     | 822225 Happy Hearts Teacher’s Guidebook |
| 5.95     | 725202 Language Arts 200 Teacher’s Guidebook |
| 5.95     | 725802 Social Studies 200 Teacher’s Guidebook |
| 3.95     | 821814 Living Together Map Packet |
| 15.00    | 821815 Living Together Maps—Masters |
A CIVIL ACTION (1998)
Brad Pitt, Anthony Hopkins
Drama/love story about the angel of death who, on assignment to Earth to escort an elderly man to the afterlife, wants to partake of human experience and falls in love with the man’s daughter. Not an accurate representation of the workings of the spirit world, but otherwise an inspiring and uplifting movie.

WHAT DREAMS MAY COME (1998)
Robin Williams, Cuba Gooding Jr., Annabella Sciorra
Drama about a man who dies and goes to Heaven, but whose great love for his wife causes him to try to help her from the spirit world. Although some of the representation of the afterlife is not scriptural, it could be a good springboard for witnessing discussions. Be sure to read the accompanying prophecy to get the Lord’s and Dad’s view on it!

Movies Rated for Senior Teens and Up

Meet Joe Black

(Jesus speaking:) There are truths here that I would not withhold from My little ones, but I say to pray for discernment, for under the outer layer of truth there are also lies that, if left unchecked to grow in your mind, will become doubts. Be on guard, for although the spirit world they paint is supposedly a benign one, it is a spirit world without Me, a spirit world in which all may do as they please. I want you, My elect, to understand, so that you may instruct many. So watch this movie with your eyes open. Ask Me to show you the truth and I will. (End of message from Jesus.)

What Dreams May Come

(Jesus speaking:) This movie is not the pure waters of My truth. It is not a source of feeding, nor should My Family base their doctrines or beliefs in Heaven or the spirit world on it. But, for those who already know My truth, this movie and the topics and questions brought up in it could be a helpful springboard for witnessing. On one hand it is a sham of reality, because I am the way, the truth and the life, and no man could be the Father but by Me. On the other hand, it portrays much truth, because it shows that there is an afterlife, a Heaven, a Hell, and that there is a God. It is a milky message compared to the truth you have, but milk is what people must start with before they are ready to receive meat. (End of message from Jesus.)

At First Sight

(Dad speaking:) These movies about the spirit world are a little tricky; you can’t just watch them for entertainment’s sake. You have to be on guard. If some are sensitive to the negative images, they should pray beforehand and ask the Lord if He wants them to see it. Those who don’t have a tendency to be affected negatively also need to pray that they will be able to choose the good and eschew those things that aren’t the Gospel truth.

This movie is going to make people think and wonder how things really are. That’s good, because Jesus said ‘seek and you shall find’. It’s going to cause a lot of people to ask questions, and Jesus will make sure that somehow they find the answers, at least what they need to know and can understand. Even the hardest heart and the most analytical mind can’t help but wonder if there really is something more than just what they can see and feel. That’s why these movies about the spirit world and angels and demons are so appealing and so intriguing.

Normally people put their questions about the spirit world on the back burner. They don’t know the answers, and they figure that they’ll never know, so they assume, ‘What’s the use?’ But when they sit down for long enough to watch a movie, especially something like this that’s so graphic and emotionally-charged, it grabs them, and they can’t help but ask themselves those questions again: “Is there a God? Is there a Heaven? And if so, what do I have to do to get there?” So, if by seeing something like this, it makes them hungry enough or curious enough, or even scared enough to ask themselves these questions, then the Lord will somehow get them to the answers that they’re seeking.

This movie could and should have been better. Even the most beautiful place in the universe would not be Heaven without God and His love, and that was the saddest part about this movie. They didn’t include God. The closest thing there was to God’s supernatural love was that typical Hollywood-type romance, the strong undying love of this poor man for his wife, his ‘soul mate.’ But at least it gets some people to thinking. The Lord will use this as a way of getting people to think more about Him, even if it scares them into wanting to go to Heaven. (End of message from Dad.)

A Civil Action

(Dad speaking:) This movie is a good portrayal of the ups and downs of love. It is realistic and has an interesting plot line. But the outstanding thing about this movie, which would make it of greatest value to My children, is that it shows the path of true love. The course of true love never runs completely smooth, especially when those involved are trying to pour each other into a mold, or have them be a certain way that they think would be better. If they would accept each other the way they are, complete with faults, failings and imperfections, then they could have a beautiful love that could rise above whatever hindrances or problems it encounters, and be a tremendous blessing and sample to others as well.

Your life in My service is not without its hardships, but if you can endure and rise above those petty little details of everyday life, you’ll find your life transformed into one that is more caring, concerned, and able to show My love to others, in all of its truth and fullness. (End of message from Jesus.)

TIDEBITS

Nathanael (21, of Jonathan and Sara) and Clare (21, of Silas and Gypsy) were “hitched” January 30th, 1999.—USA
Chris (21, of Ester) and Lisa (21, of Josias and Maria) tied the knot on January 31st, 1999.—USA

Members Only
Password—www.familymembers.com
April UserID: april
April Password: +donkey+

At First Sight

(Dad speaking:) This movie is a good portrayal of the ups and downs of love. It is realistic and has an interesting plot line. But the outstanding thing about this movie, which would make it of greatest value to My children, is that it shows the path of true love. The course of true love never runs completely smooth, especially when those involved are trying to pour each other into a mold, or have them be a certain way that they think would be better. If they would accept each other the way they are, complete with faults, failings and imperfections, then they could have a beautiful love that could rise above whatever hindrances or problems it encounters, and be a tremendous blessing and sample to others as well.

Your life in My service is not without its hardships, but if you can endure and rise above those petty little details of everyday life, you’ll find your life transformed into one that is more caring, concerned, and able to show My love to others, in all of its truth and fullness. (End of message from Jesus.)

A Civil Action

(Dad speaking:) This movie is an action-packed thriller; it isn’t your typical lawyer movie where everything turns out just peachy. The story is a little more realistic and true to life, because it’s based on a true story. It’s a good movie, good for entertainment, but it’s certainly not high impact.

Through the whole vein of the movie, you see once again, that so many people out in the world live for nothing but money. It’s a cutthroat society; everyone looking out for number one, and not giving a damn about anyone else. It’s not a fictional story, and crimes of a far, far greater magnitude are happening out there every day. (End of message from Dad.)

Meet Joe Black

(Jesus speaking:) There are truths here that I would not withhold from My little ones, but I say to pray for discernment, for under the outer layer of truth there are also lies that, if left unchecked to grow in your mind, will become doubts. Be on guard, for although the spirit world they paint is supposedly a benign one, it is a spirit world without Me, a spirit world in which all may do as they please. I want you, My elect, to understand, so that you may instruct many. So watch this movie with your eyes open. Ask Me to show you the truth and I will. (End of message from Jesus.)
**[Chickenpox bet]**

Simon, Thailand: Here’s a funny conversation which took place with my daughter (age 11) the other day. Our Home has had some cases of chickenpox, and after initially trying very hard to contain it and keep it from spreading, we had somewhat loosened up on our quarantine after quite a few more children came down with it and we realized that everyone was quite exposed.

I came into my room where my daughter was having some free time, and she commented that she was very happy that she was not going to get chickenpox. I told her that I would be surprised at this point if she ended up not coming down with it, as she had been very exposed. She continued to state quite confidently that she wouldn’t get it, so I said that I would bet her 100 baht (3 US$) since she seemed so sure about it.

At first she accepted, but then after thinking about it for a minute, replied that she would first need to hear from the Lord about it. If He said she wasn’t going to get it, then she would bet her money. I thought this was a very good reaction even though the situation was a bit humorous. She really had faith that the Lord would be surprised at this point if she ended up not getting chickenpox. I told her that I was a bit humorous. She really had faith that the Lord had told her that it wasn’t worth it as she was probably going to end up losing her money. Ha! I guess the Lord has indirect ways of saying things sometimes. Sure enough she did get chicken pox, so the Lord had prepared her beforehand. I was thankful to see that the new weapons are becoming a part of our children’s lives.

**[Not easy, but good]**

Ahlia, USA: We just had the unusual blessing of visiting with or meeting Family members from 16 different Homes spread out from the East Coast of the USA to Mexico in the months of November, December and January, because of our tour in Mexico. It seems everywhere we go folks are talking about what a year it has been—not an easy year, but how thankful they [we] are to be getting the kind of training and testing we are getting right now. There is much open appreciation for the new weapons, and people are practicing them more. We notice particularly prophecy on the Home level is fast becoming a way of life, TYL. I know we would be lost without it.

Another observation is the noticeable difference in inspiration level, challenge and contentment of the young people and kids, and just general overall “happiness” between the Homes that have really tapped into praise, loving Jesus and being comfortable with talking about it, loving others and definitely prophecy—and those Homes (or folks) that haven’t quite clicked into it yet. They are trying, but for one reason or another haven’t quite grasped the big picture of where we’re going with all of this or clicked into that it is THE LORD Who is wanting more of our love and more of us—period. There is a significant difference in freedom of spirit, faith level, the Lord’s blessing and supply and even in little ways like the countenance, too.

**[The mouths of babes]**

James and Joanie, Sri Lanka: About two years ago, we got together as a team and asked the Lord to show us His vision for us for that time, and also for the near future. Our daughter Angela (10 at the time) had a dream in which she saw a house on a hill, by the beach, with plenty of coconut trees around, and she said that a man had given us the money to get there. This was a little hard for us to believe, as we don’t have much in the way of home support and didn’t know any man that would help with such a large amount. Also at that time, we thought that the place was Africa, as that had been the place we were thinking about moving to.

So when the Lord later showed us to come to Sri Lanka, it was a bit of a battle accepting it. But going through the prophecies that had been received for us from different people, we decided to put our all on the altar and go ahead. To make a long story short, we have a house in a place called Mount L..., it’s a three-minute walk to the beach and there are coconut trees everywhere. And the man did give us the money to come here! The dear brother who sent us the funds probably didn’t even know that he was helping fulfill prophecy when he decided to help us with the whole amount for our tickets here! PTL!

**[Hanshin earthquake — 1995]**

David, Freya, Japan: On Jan. 17, the cities in the Hanshin area held memorial services to remember those 6,000 plus souls who died from injuries sustained in the Great Hanshin Earthquake of 1995. Most of the damaged infrastructure and buildings have been rebuilt, but about 5,000 families, mostly elderly people, still live in temporary housing units. Our volunteer organization, known as Family Kobe, were co-sponsors and co-hosts of a seminar called “1/17; The 21st Century and Message.” It was an all-day seminar and one of the main topics of discussion was what we, as volunteers, have learned through our experiences in helping others. Two newspapers also wrote little articles about this seminar as they had reporters there from the Kobe and Asahi newspapers.
All this to say that after reading the Law of Love series, we were very encouraged that we had followed the Lord in letting Him put us together instead of doing it “our way.” We are very happy and know that we are each other’s “mate.”

—FGA WOMAN

This series has been very necessary, with all the little rules and considerations. It served as a guide for me when visiting a Home where a single sister asked if she could share with me. I said I’d love to but I hadn’t talked about it with my wife yet, but that I’d be delighted to once I was able to consult with her. I did check with her and it was fine, so we shared. In the past I probably would have gone ahead and shared without consultation with my wife, as was the case many times. But this series gives us a guide that covers every detail and helps us avoid confusion and problems.

—FGA MAN, VENEZUELA

After reading part #9, it gave me vision and faith for myself again (ha!), as I am personally looking at myself—old, wrinkled, and with white hair. I had virtually stopped taking care of myself and thought that sharing was not for me anymore, only for the young people. But after reading that GN, I started feeling sexy again and putting a little make-up on, and I started “hearing” about the difference as others were seeing it. TTL for the New Wine!

—FGA WOMAN, SOUTH AMERICA

My mate and I stopped sharing outside of our marriage after the Charter as I was very possessive, and have gone through lots of intense jealousy battles and have been hurt deeply. But being overly possessive and not wanting to share my mate led him to have relationships on the side. This caused a lot of heartache for all the ones around, to where my mate stopped giving affection to other girls.

During the past two years we have had time to strengthen our marriage and regain trust in each other. Now we can start off on the right foot, all over again, having the full counsel of these beautiful GNs, and being able to talk about it. Praying over everything and hearing from the Lord has liberated me! I want to open up my life again and reach out to others. I’ve always been the “goody goody” type, and never had in love feelings with anyone outside of my marriage; I always did any sharing the “right” way. So I felt that a lot of the counsel in these series was not for me, but for my mate. Thank the Lord, He is faithful! Just before reading part nine of the series, I fell head over heels in love with someone from another Home. My emotions ran wild and I have been battling for a few weeks now, having a hard time keeping my emotions under control. This has been very humbling for me, as I like to think I am in control of everything I do. I only watch videos once in a while, only drink tea, coffee or wine occasionally. In short, I would make sure to do everything by the book. I would get up early every morning and hear from the Lord, push praise time, prayer vigil, prayer day, and was very self-righteous about it.

But now I feel totally devastated after reading part 10. It hit home, especially about the benefit of shepherding, and how humbling it is to share such intimate details of your life with others. It’s very scary for me as I can see that the Lord has many lessons for me to learn. He wants me to grow in areas that I have been stagnant in for a long time. I pray that I can be yielded to what the Lord has in store for me and to gain the needed victories in my life.

—FGA WOMAN, INDIA

One of the main things that stuck out to me from the Law of Love series is how a key to avoiding a lot of our past mistakes when sharing is doing it in teamwork. It’s not just me sharing with a sister but my mate and I sharing. When we pray about it together and hear from the Lord, then we both have a real peace that we’re doing the right thing. Even if there are some for-sale-all thingies, it doesn’t affect us so much because we are both in agreement. I think it’s a good idea if the person wanting to share asks the mate of the person they are going to share with first if it’s okay. This again brings the couple into your circle of love instead of just the two doing the sharing.

—FGA MAN, TAIWAN

When it comes to intimacy and emotion my husband and I are opposites. My preference is for the security and stability of a cozy relationship, being “the only one” in my husband’s life; he is attracted to and appreciates the close friendship of many other women. When we read the Law of Love series together I found myself only hearing selective portions of the letter,

To all the FM, CM, and outside members who have been encouraging and loaning resources to us: João and Clara, the Greenhouse (SP), Martin and Amy, Ivec, Luz and Ricardo, Matt and Joy, the BBC, the Oasis (Rio), Ana (of Dave), Isabel, Barney and Joanna, the DC Home, and our sweet Mark. It takes a lot of love, help, and prayers to get to the mission field!

Thanks forever!

—ABAI AND STEPH (NOW ON OUR WAY TO TAIWAN)

To the dear team at the Lake House: A big thank you to Michael and Joan, Aby, Sally, and all for your kindess and giving to every team that has passed through over the past several years. Even when they were “up to their eyes” trying to get ready to move out, they still took time for us and helped us with needs. food. etc. We think they are WONDERFUL!! I’m sure that there are many who would second that! WLTSweetLakeHouse

—JONATHAN AND MARY AND TEAM IN UKRAINE

I wanted to say how very thankful I was to have the very warm and loving hospitality of the dear Family in Sydney Australia, where I went to have a family reunion. A very big thank you to James, Jasmine, Lamb, Mark, Keita and all for going so far out of your way to make my visit so smooth—by helping me to and from the airport, bus stations, and allowing me to stay with you, taking me to some of the Homes of the precious brethren I’ve known for years and allowing me to
namely the guidelines to keep my husband’s relations with others in check.

Around the time that the Law of Love series came out, my husband crossed the sexual affection rules that resulted in his being put on partial-excom. To others it could have been perceived as a small slip as she was only just out of his age range, but to me, it meant so much more. He had been attracted to this young woman for many long months, and with each month my concern grew, knowing what the possible fallout of one mistake could be. I told him of my fear to which he asked me to trust him, further assuring me that “she’s under age.”

She was young, and unwise in her interaction with my husband and around me. Sure enough, one evening when I was with the children the mistake was made and, perhaps to spare himself from my wrath, he hid it from me and I learned of this incident through someone else. He had betrayed my trust and been dishonest about it, and I spared no words letting him know. True, they had made a mistake that had hurt and embarrassed me deeply, they’d broken the Law of Love, and they deserved the correction. But the horrible thing about it was that I was guilty of— I refused to completely forgive him, and I became bitter against her. I buried the hatchet, but I left the handle sticking out and within reach. I felt the love I once had inside of me turning to anger and resentment. It drove a wedge in our marriage and I ended up hurting us both.

I went back and reread the Law of Love series in a different frame of mind—this time not seeing what boundaries it was giving my husband, but what I could do to more fully live the Law of Love, and I realized just how useful this series in a different frame of mind was. I was more of the opinion that it was just a matter of preference and opinion. My word against my wife’s. I figured my wife was just pushing her side of things and not being “open.” Boy, was I wrong!

One clear example was the point about the “One Wife” vision, and putting the greater marriage first. I was of the opinion that if I put too much into my marriage and time with my wife, I wouldn’t be pleasing the Lord and would also be looked down upon by others. But it was so extreme that I was fearful of cutting off from work on time or going to bed too early, to the hurt of my wife. I was actually minimizing my wife and my family, which made it a bit difficult for our marriage. But thanks to this series, I see things in a new light, and Heaven knows I desperately needed it.

—SQA MALE, EUROPE

I really like that this series is spelled out in black and white. I’ve been married for a few years, and I tried to put what I thought was the Law of Love into practice in our marriage. I was actually more pushing for it in the wrong way (if you know what I mean). During the first year I really messed things up. I went through a lot of the wrong scenarios that the series talks about, so much so that it almost sounds like parts of this series could have been addressing me specifically. Because things weren’t so clearly laid out, like they are now with the “Law of Love” series, I have the time to fill up on all the New Wine before returning to my field of Thailand.

Also a very special thank you to the SGAs and senior teens who really made me feel welcome and were so sweet and loving! What a wonderful precious Family.

—GIDEON, THAILAND

A heartfelt THANK YOU to Mary (18), who came to our Home to help Diamond with the care of the children and the many household chores when Diamond was about to have our sixth baby. She was always willing to do whatever was needed, prepare nutritious food, school the kids, clean up after us, etc. And that with a cheerful heart, a good sample to all! Hats off to YOU Mary. We love you and we wouldn’t have made it without you. We are proud of you!

—DIAMOND AND DUST, ROMANIA

Regarding marrying someone who you don’t feel is your “perfect soul mate,” I have some experience with that. I married someone when I was young who had some serious spiritual problems, for which he was excommunicated more than once. Then I had a very sweet and romantic relationship, where I was mated for about a year, which also broke up. This left me pretty bitter and at the time, I didn’t really want to even think about a mate. I thought I could just make it on my own with my two kids.

Then the Lord brought this sweet brother into my life, who fell in love with me. I was thankful for his care, but in my natural reasoning he was two inches shorter than me, two years younger than me, and balding at that! But he kept after me! When I finally prayed about it, the Lord told me that I shouldn’t be so picky, but should be thankful that someone is willing to put up with me and my idiosyncrasies and take care of me and my two kids. I finally made the decision to yield and make the commitment to get mated to him. We have a very wonderful marriage and are going on 19 years now!

Yes, we had to work at it, but so does everyone. There were times when we really had a hard time, but we learned to report on each other, correct each other, get lots of counsel, and we tried to be open to counsel. In return, the Lord has made us a wonderful united team and I am so thankful for my marriage. I wouldn’t trade it for anything! My husband is my most precious treasure—outside of the Lord, of course.

We may not be “romantically” perfect for each other, but that’s the wonderful thing about the Family—the Lord has also given both of us, at different times in our lives a sweet romantic relationship with someone for a short time. This filled that small part of our hearts that wasn’t the perfect match, and satisfied the need for that kind of thing. But I would never trade the marriage that I worked so hard at for a romantic relationship that is based more on feelings. We feel that the love we have for each other and the years we have spent in building our marriage is a lot more real and worth a lot more than some “bubbly” feelings that usually pass with time anyway.

—ADULT WOMAN, USA

Although my wife and I share with others occasionally, it has been kind of like driv...
The Law of Love was meaty and there were parts that were a little hard for all of us to digest. Certainly I can see the Lord's wisdom in focusing on responsibility and marriage. Thinking back over the years we have believed and lived the Law of Love, I realized that we have always been led to base our decisions on the needs of our children. Even during times when my husband and I have gotten into "hot and heavy" emotional relationships, we have always come back to the reality of the children and their needs, putting them first. This has always been the correct decision, and even though we went through some heartbreaks as a result, they were good for us, taught us many lessons and helped us to grow.

At this point in our marriage, I feel that if my husband was to have a sweet, close, even emotional relationship with someone else, I would be very happy for him. I love him enough to realize that I can't be everything for him, and he is so wonderful and special that he deserves the love of others too. This attitude is reciprocal, too, and has encouraged me in sharing with someone else, not just when it was sacrificial, but also when it was a little extra blessing in my life.

Having gone through years of battles with the monster of jealousy, it feels good to be secure enough in our marriage that we can each encourage the other to reach out. That doesn't mean that we love each other less. That doesn't even mean that we aren't satisfied with what we've got. It just means that our love is steady and mature enough to not just believe the Law of Love, but to want to practice it as well.

—FGA WOMAN, NORTH AMERICA

Before I turned 21, I had always been about as single as a single can get—no boyfriends, no affairs. So it seemed to me that I could count on one hand. I figured I believed in the Law of Love and that it sounded like a good thing, but having been behind the scenes for years and having had zero experience with the emotions that go along with it, my entry into the "adult world" of sharing and relationships was a little unsettling for me.

I started having regular dates with a couple of guys, one of them being a married FGA who I work with. We had always gotten along well—he's a darling man—and somehow I wasn't too surprised when, within a few months, I realized I was falling in love with him. He wasn't too surprised either, and neither was his wife, who, fortunately, I was also already friends with. They've both been so incredibly considerate, understanding, giving and patient all along, it just amazes me.

I was more than surprised, though, at some of the other feelings and emotions that I found myself having at the same time. Almost from one day to the next I was completely besotted myself with jealousy every time I knew he was having a date with another girl, or even just chatting with them, giving them a hug, or anything. It was even hard for me to see him and his mate together, and for awhile I tried to avoid them somewhat as I would just start weeping almost any time I'd see any affection or "special" interaction between them, or if they had gone out together, etc. I was just so envious of what they had, and was so busy looking at the "hole" of what I didn't have that I often failed to see the "whole" that I did have—sweet fun times and a close friendship with someone I love dearly, and who cares about me too.

For a few months I was basically an emotional wreck, and I didn't quite know what my problem was or what to do about it. It was hard for me to admit I could be so "evil," but I eventually realized that what I wanted was to have as much of him as a wife would—and that just wasn't reality. He's been very straightforward with me from the beginning, that although he loves me and likes to spend time with me, he doesn't feel the way I do; that his first loyalty and responsibility is to his wife and what we have is what we have.—Unless I want to back out altogether; which, while I've thought about it a good many times, I always come to the conclusion that that's not what I want. Over the last couple of years we've continued sharing and having a sweet relationship, and while I've had ups and downs, my in-the-vic times and my out of it times, I thank the Lord for the blessing. He's given me in having a part of his heart and life. He's had to remind me from time to time about our little "contract." As much as I want to do the right thing and not hurt or pressure anybody, emotions can be overpowering things, and I've come to see that I need help from others at times to keep on the right track and not lose focus of how things should be.

When I finally came face to face with reality—with the help of my sweet friend's honesty, my shepherds' wise counsel, the Word and personal prophecies—and decided to accept my situation and "get happy" about it, somehow I stopped being so miserable and started to enjoy life. I had this major revelation somewhere along the way: When you look at the good and all that you are convinced God has given you, there's nothing to be everything for. When you are content and you appreciate what you have, you begin to have a lifestyle and not hurt or pressure anybody. emotions can be overpowering things, and I've come to see that I need help from others at times to keep on the right track and not lose focus of how things should be.

A quote from the Law of Love GN part 3 sums up what has been the key to victory and happiness for me: "The receiver must trust Me that what I am giving them through others is what I wish for them to receive, and they must be content and happy in this." I believe this relationship was the Lord's will and His plan, because He didn't just say it and because none of us went out of our way to make it happen, but it did. Through this sweet relationship He's blessed me both by allowing me to be part of this wonderful couple's lives, and by teaching me, and them as well, many precious and worthwhile—though sometimes difficult—lessons through it.

The long and short of the matter for me is that while this may not be my ideal "dream relationship," and while I don't expect things will even always be the way they are now, I have to say that my life is a lot better because of the Law of Love and this precious couple who is willing to live it. I had nothing before. I have something very special now.—I'm a satisfied customer.

—GA

—AUTHOR UNKNOWN

Did Jesus use a modem?

Did Jesus use a modem At the Sermon on the Mount? Did He ever try a broadcast fax To send His message out? Did the disciples carry beepers As they went about their route? Did Jesus use a modem At the Sermon on the Mount?

Did Paul use a laptop With lots of RAM and ROM? Were his letters posted on a BBS AtPaul@Rome.com? Did the man from Macedonia Send an E-mail saying "Come"? Did Paul use a laptop With lots of RAM and ROM?

Did Moses use a joystick At the parting of the sea? And a Satellite Guidance Tracking System, To show him where to be? Did he write the law on tablets, Or are they really on CD? Did Moses use a joystick At the parting of the sea?

Did Jesus really die for us, One day upon a tree? Or was it just a hologram, Or technical wizardry? Can you download the Live Action Video Clip To play on your PC? Did Jesus really die for us, One day upon a tree?

Have the wonders of this modern age Made you question what is true? How a single Man, in a simple time, Could offer life anew? How a sinless life, a cruel death, Then a glorious life again, Could offer more to a desperate world, Than all the inventions of man?

If in your life, the voice of God Is sometimes hard to hear, With other voices calling, His doesn't touch your ear. Then set aside your laptop and modem, And all your fancy gear. And open your Bible, open your heart, And let your Father draw near.
in a respectful way. I have since received from him a willingness to do the things and jobs he doesn’t normally like to do as well as respect towards me. I guess you could say that I’ve been to him over the last few months a “fun father figure” and we’re going to miss those times when we leave. I’ve never had this type of friendship even though it’s in the mailings with the “side by side” vision. Trying it has given me the faith to try to reach out more, especially to those without a dad.

[Honesty vs. lashing out]
Anonymous, Africa: Honesty is an integral part of our lifestyle. Honesty gives us the opportunity to live communally, understand and communicate with each other. It takes a lot to be truly honest, and all of us slip from time to time. It’s hard to have everything you think and feel openly laid out to others. However, when a lack of it starts interfering with the running of a Home or causing unnecessary feelings to come up between Homes, then I believe something has not been said, or what has been said is not entirely correct.

Have you ever gotten off the phone and felt terrible? —Every kindness or word of encouragement spoken to someone else seems to have been turned against you, and you wonder if you’ll be able to reconcile the ill feelings? When it comes down to it, what sort of standard are we uplifting when we phone up another Home in utter anger? Anger to the point you cannot communicate and sort problems out in the proper fashion. It’s sad to lash out at anyone, whether in our Homes or phoning, but on the phone your privacy may not be respected. Your counterpart may not even know the story that has led to the explosion, but if you’ve left something to their discretion, asking them to pray about an issue, don’t lash out at them when they have the faith to do something you don’t necessarily agree with.

For the sake of love and what we stand for in this Family, don’t later lash out in anger over phones; wait till you can control yourself and pray and discuss the matter in an appropriate manner and come to a mutual agreement. Give yourself time to relax and let the anger subside; it may help you see things as the other person may have seen it. You may be exploding over a misunderstanding that could easily be solved.

[A big trial]
Female, Brazil: My daughter is turning 10 and a new horizon comes before us as parents. As you know, we have a lot of bad influences that come from the States and other 1st world countries. For me, as a Brazilian national, it’s a big trial that some of these attitudes—worldliness, dress code, way of talking, etc.—that are common in our young people, seem at times to be bigger and more worldly than in our “local” System. It almost becomes a cultural question.

When I visit my relatives who live outside a big city, in some aspects my kids’ cousins seem more simple and sweet than some of our kids. They wear simple jeans and clothes, are not crazy about every movie that comes out, and weird styles, don’t know all the actors’ names, etc. They watch Brazilian novelas, yes, and may know about our national “stars,” but it doesn’t seem so “wicked,” if you can understand me. I don’t want to generalize, as in so many other areas our children are so superior. But I can’t avoid the concern that my daughter will also fall into this “Americanism” as she grows older, because it’s all around her. And I can’t totally isolate her.

Back to the question: I’m very thankful for Dad, all he taught us and the Christian input I got from America. But that’s it—I don’t want their culture. But the American culture is so strong in the Family, and worst of all, many young people are proud of it. As nationalists we forsake our cultures and were happy to have God’s input, to leave it all behind for something much more—the Lord and His Family. All I want is for my kids to grow up with Family input and not to be worldly and assimilate a culture that is worse than mine was.

So although we are a group that originated in the States, I wish we had less of America’s spirit in our way of life. I enjoy the company of young people a lot and for the past ten years have basically lived in teen Homes or big Homes with lots of young people. So it’s not that I’m an old-style person, but I can’t help but feel this burden. I think the young people should feel free to be young, but their fascination for the bad also saddens me. Can’t they also be expected to “forsake” some things to be disciples?

[Low letters]
National at heart, Japan: I like to call myself a Japanese national, though I am not, because I have been here in Japan for a long, long time. I consider this my home more than any other place and I love the culture and the people.

Some of us were talking about some comments we have heard, either in letters from other places or by word of mouth, about how Japan is not a mission field but rather a home field, and anyone who is still here should feel more or less about it. A relative of mine, in the Family, received a letter from someone across the world strongly suggesting that we are not in the Lord’s highest but because we are here. It bothers those of us that are still here, and I am very excited that they are coming along so nicely.

Japan has its share of loafers and, yes, those are the ones that should pray about moving. But I’ve recently traveled to some other countries, as well as heard the testimonies of returnees from poorer fields, and I’ve realized once again that you can be a loafer anywhere you go if that’s all you want to be. Just moving to a “poor field” doesn’t make you a missionary. As a matter of fact, those of us that are still here feel pretty lonely at times. For some people it’s even a sacrifice to stay because it’s easy to feel like the new visions around the world would be much more exciting. But we stay because somebody has to stay by the stuff.

I admit, I have been guilty of passing harsh and unjustified judgments on some other fields—we all do it sometimes. But just remember that somebody on the other side of the world may think just the same things about you as you’re thinking about them! Does this help us to be unified? My request is to please not write or say unloving or judgmental things about those left in Japan, the States or anywhere else. It’s the Lord’s business to take care of the burdens and the changes!

[Fun father figure]
Matthew, Poland: It’s really nice to have had the experience of working close to one of the JETTs in our Home. I’ve spent fun computer time with him, not just playing games but editing photos and creating art—challenging him to make the photos different yet tasteful. Also involving myself in his activities and at the same time allowing good open communication and keeping him in line so to speak,
Q: In preparation for the big change that will take place in my life, I watched the video “Natural Childbirth” and I found it fascinating. The parts about the breathing techniques I watched about four times, as they were totally new for me and I wanted to learn them. After a while I think I got the hang of it. Later I went to the Childcare Handbook, Vol. 1, and they explained the breathing techniques and the exercises differently. It somehow looks the same, but it is different, and it would take a lot of effort if I had to learn these ones, too. Plus I don’t know if I really need them. I was thinking the video ones might be the right ones, since they were published later, so I suppose they are an update, but then again, in the “Nutrition and Exercise in Pregnancy” it says that the Childcare Handbook Vol. 1 still contains all the information you need. Maybe they are all good and it doesn’t matter which ones you are practicing, but I would like to make sure.

—PRISCILA FISHER (OF FRANCESCO ROMANIANI), MOLDOVA

A: Concerning the two breathing exercises, you’re right, they’re different. The ones in the video are called the “Bradley Method” and the ones in the CCHB Vol. 1 are called the “Lamaze Method.” Neither one is better than the other—just different strokes for different folks. The whole purpose of the breathing exercises you learn and use is to help you relax in labor, so it doesn’t really matter which breathing technique you use, and there are more than these two. You can even make up your own, as I’ve seen mothers do naturally in labor. Whatever works for you is what is best. So don’t worry, you don’t need to learn both.

—MARY, UKRAINE

Personal time solution

I’ve found it hard to find personal time to spend with each of the children (in our busy small home) but know it is vital and necessary. A solution I have tried a few times and want to be more consistent with is to simply eat dinner together with one child at a time in a separate room. It really helps our communication and makes them feel more special. It helps me to not just herd them all around together every day, but to get more in tune with them individually. It’s especially fun when I light a candle and round up a simple dessert and we pretend to be in a restaurant together.

—MARY, UKRAINE

Cute kids

Jay (2) was wanting to wear my shoes and be Mommy. “Okay,” I said once he had them on, “what does Mommy do?” So together we talked about what mommies do. “Cleaning, laundry, dishes, cooking, etc...” after which he paused, looked at me thoughtfully and said, “I’ll wear Daddy’s shoes. Then I can just play!”

—JOAN (OF STEPHEN), HUNGARY

Fun

The chief rabbi of Israel and the Pope are in a meeting in Rome. The rabbi notices an unusually fancy phone on a side table in the Pope’s private chambers. “What is that phone for?” he asks the pontiff.

“It’s my direct line to the Lord!”

The rabbi is skeptical, and the Pope notices. The Holy Father insists that the rabbi try it out, and, indeed, he is connected to the Lord.

The rabbi holds a lengthy discussion with Him. After hanging up, the rabbi says:

“Thank you very much. This is great! But listen, I want to pay for my phone charges.”

The Pope of course refuses, but the rabbi is steadfast, and finally the pontiff gives in. He checks the counter on the phone and says: “All right! The charges were 100,000 Lira ($56).”

The chief rabbi gladly hands over a packet of bills. A few months later, the Pope is in Jerusalem on an official visit. In the chief rabbi’s chambers he sees a phone identical to his and learns it also is a direct line to the Lord. The Pope remembers he has an urgent matter that requires divine consultation and asks if he can use the rabbi’s phone.

The rabbi gladly agrees, hands him the phone, and the Pope chats away. After hanging up, the Pope offers to pay for the phone charges.

The chief rabbi refuses to accept payment. After the Pope insists, the chief rabbi relents and looks on the phone counter and says: “1 Shekel 50!” ($0.42)

The Pope looks surprised: “Why so cheap?”

The rabbi smiles: “Local call.”

—BY ROSE, USA