“An overrunning flood…”

BY BARZ (OF SARA), SOUTH AFRICA

As you all know from the news, Mozambique has been devastated by the worst floods and heaviest rains in 50 years. Some even interpret this as being the judgments of God on the corrupt rulers. One way or another, the poor and destitute were the ones that needed our help.

From where we live in South Africa to Maputo is around 200 km. Arriving at the border we were told we needed to turn back, as apparently our previously acquired visas had expired!

We came all the way back home, wondering why, apart from the Enemy fighting us, that the Lord had allowed this to happen. The next day we went into town to apply for a new visa. Usually you apply in the morning and get it at two in the afternoon, paying US$14 each. I was able to meet the Mozambican consul and tell him about our work, also explaining our predicament and why we needed the visas immediately. He was very sympathetic and gave them to us in half an hour, and charged us less too.

And so we made our way back to this needy and desperate land doing our part to help those in need.

It’s a bit frustrating not being able to do more for the people. The misery is appalling. The streets look like riverbeds—potholes, covered in mud and dirt. In some places they don’t even look like roads. Entering the city, one sees the straw huts by the wayside, children playing and living by stagnant water puddles that surround the pile of straw they call home.

Xai-Xai, a town near the capital, Maputo, was still submerged in water. There were even bodies floating in the water, some already decomposing. The people couldn’t return to their houses, which were either underwater or separated by a broken bridge. A young 20-year old university student who was helping to collect the dead bodies for burial collapsed after a couple of days and had to be taken away in a near nervous breakdown condition. There’s so much suffering. It’s so sad!

About 200 km. away from Maputo, refugee camps were set up to receive the flood victims. They are full of people who need everything, because they lost it all in the flood. We don’t have many people on our team, so what we can do is quite limited, but it doesn’t prevent us from doing what we can and expecting the Lord to do the rest.

Arriving at Maputo was fairly easy. We got ourselves settled with some of us staying in the Home there and the others in a friend’s house, ready for the attack! Our team was composed of one FGA, one SGA, a junior teen, and a JETT.

Our course of action was to give out the message through personal witnessing, then visit a school to distribute the clothes, shoes, and food we’d brought. The Family has been helping this school for one-and-a-half years.

The children are very well behaved, sweet and well mannered. These are sons and daughters of very poor and destitute parents, who have to eke out a living. More often than not, these parents—due to the great frustration, ignorance and oppression they suffer—resort to drinking and other unedifying and idle pastimes. Along with other things we distributed to the children, we gave them posters and tracts in Portuguese to feed their little souls. Once they received their shorts, t-shirt and shoes they started making their way back to the classrooms. Daniel and I then went from class to class and prayed with all 240 children!

If we could only do more! In four days, our team of four distributed clothes, shoes, and food to 240 children, won 333 souls, and passed out 4,500 posters!

Now that we are back we want to send out an appeal: Our team is in need of support to continue helping in these projects. If the Lord lays it on your heart to send something our way, we’re sure He will return it to you many times over.

Zimbabwe team evacuates – prayer request

BY ROBIN, JAPAN [WRITTEN APRIL 26]

The Zimbabwe team have decided to evacuate, as it’s become too dangerous because of the strong anti-white sentiment. They will be moving to South Africa. TTL that Jesus had told them ahead of time to pack their flee bags and prepare, so tonight they are moving out. They are heartbroken as they have had a solid work there for 8 years, and this team has been there for the last 4 years. They have had such an inspiring work with their many friends and contacts, the Shelter for the Destitute and all. Well, Jesus sure knows what’s best and He’s most certainly in control. Please keep them in your prayers.

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June UserID: June
June Password: watchout4666
“Special Features” needed for the New International Prayer List

We hope you’ve enjoyed reading and using the international Prayer List. It certainly shows that the Lord abundantly heals, protects, provides for and encourages as a result of your prayers.

Prayer is powerful, and we need more of it! With that in mind, we’ve decided to upgrade the Prayer List a little, making changes not only to the design, but content as well. The New International Prayer List, as it’s now called, will be coming your way soon. It will in part include the same type of prayer requests that have appeared in the past Prayer Lists, which have mostly been serious health requests, and occasionally requests for WS and major media battles, etc. Your local Continental Office will continue to publish their prayer list with requests for less serious illnesses, friends and contacts, local projects and others.

For your inspiration we’d like to augment the prayer requests in the international prayer list with a monthly special feature. This special feature will contain more long-term requests for a single project or Home that needs an extra concentration of prayer power. Examples of such Homes and ministries are Service Centers, the Activated ministry, Activated desks, a ministry to the blind or deaf, Homes who specialize in providing for humanitarian aid projects, and much more. We’d like to give you the opportunity to become more aware of the happenings in these special projects and Homes so that you know what to pray for. Each feature will consist of a short paragraph of explanation about the Home or ministry and then a list of their important and long-term prayer requests.

This is where we need your help! In order for us to publish this special feature section of the prayer list, we’re obviously going to need material to work with. If you or your Home is involved in a ministry that you would like the whole Family to pray for, then please send us a list of prayer requests, accompanied by a short paragraph or two of explanation about your Home and/or ministry. We’d love to hear from you!

Here are some tips and guidelines to keep in mind before sending your article:

Use long-term requests as much as possible

We can’t promise that your requests will be published as soon as we receive them, so please try to include requests that do not have a short time period attached to them. For example, say your Home regularly delivers humanitarian aid to Russia. If you ask for prayer for a shipment of powdered milk that is due to arrive in a week or two, it’s quite likely that your request will be outdated long before the Family reads it. Instead, stick to more general, long-term requests, such as the safety of teams bringing in the aid or against red tape at the borders. Or if there is a specific aspect of your ministry that will need prayer over the next several months, that would be acceptable.

Requests such as personal healing and others will be included in other sections

Specific requests for members of your Home that do not directly affect the ministry will probably not be included in the special feature, since there is already a provision for these in the other sections of the prayer list or in your local CRO prayer list. On the other hand, if there is an ongoing health problem that is seriously interfering with your ministry then this can be included. For example, say your Home houses a band that does presentations for orphanages around India, and your lead female vocalist was recently diagnosed with cancer of the throat, then by all means include a prayer request for her healing.

Please include all your information

Don’t forget to include all of your Home name and/or ministry’s vital information, such as Home name, country of residence, the name of your organization or band, the names of those involved, and whatever else you can think of. It would also be helpful for you to specify somewhere in your message or TRF that the article is for the “Special Feature” section of the prayer list. This may help it get to us more quickly.

Be specific about information you’d like us NOT to include

Also, if there are certain aspects you would like us not to publish because of the particularly sensitive nature of your country or ministry, please specify. If in doubt you may want to pass your article through the CRO office with specific instructions for them to look it over before sending it to us.

We can’t publish everything we receive

Due to time and space constraints, it’s unlikely that we will publish every article we receive. However, some of your requests may appear in other sections of the prayer list and it’s even possible that we will publish your explanatory paragraph in the Grapevine or another publication. And we in WS do a lot of praying for you on the field, so you can be quite sure that your requests will be prayed for at least by us, whether or not they are published.

Thank you all for continuing to send in your prayer requests, and for your help with this project. We love you and will continue to bring your requests before the Lord as we hear of the many mighty miracles He is doing through you!

PS: If you have a serious prayer request that you would like the Family to pray for on an ongoing basis, please write “long term” next to your prayer request. When your request is published we will specify that it is long term, so that the Family knows to continue praying for it, even if it does not appear on next month’s Prayer List. We’ll also regularly publish a list of these long-term requests to refresh your memory. Because of space constraints, we will most likely only publish long-term requests that are of a serious and ongoing nature. Examples of these are cancer and other long-term illnesses or a natural disaster that will affect the Homes in your area for months to come. And don’t forget to let us know when your request has been answered! It’s always inspiring to hear of the miracles of answered prayer the Lord is doing for us regularly.

Video Grapevine update!

BY SILAS, THAILAND

Issue #1 will include footage from Chile, India, ME, Myanmar, Turkey, Cambodia, Vietnam, Hungary and Russia. Issue #2 will be mostly the Jeremy Spencer concert from India, and behind-the-scenes activities that were filmed and taken from TV clips during the concerts. We’ll also add a few adverts and clips of the upcoming Video Grapevines and some fun ideas and other clips, ads, etc. David Komic will be helping with the VJing.

These two videos are more or less finished and should be ready to send off within the next couple of weeks, Lord willing. The Lord has also supplied the means for us to be able to continue to upgrade our video studio equipment, which has been a blessing as well.

Steamy sex survey

BY WS

We’ve heard from a couple of sources about a survey that’s going around via e-mail, asking Family young people to reply with a variety of information about their personal sex lives. It has been referred to as a “Loving Jesus Survey” or “Steamy Sex Survey,” etc. For the record, we want to let you know that this survey was not sent out or sanctioned by WS or any Family leadership. If it comes your way, you’re of course not expected or obliged to fill it out or pass on any such personal information.
Pray for our Missionaries in Hungary
BY EURCRO MEDIA DESK

(Taken from a news article March 13th)
The government newly in power is pushing to change the laws on religion. A factual article in a Budapest paper (Nepszarbadsag) on March 13th explained that the first law they proposed was along the lines of the Russian law: that a religion could not be registered unless it had been in existence for 100 years and had a total of 10,000 members. This proposal was not accepted by the Opposition party, and since they need a two thirds majority in Parliament for it to be passed, it did not go through.

(By Hannah, 29/04) [A friend we have from an NRM] told us that in meeting with some of the lawmakers of the government he has felt a high degree of “impatience” towards NRMs. It is not the public’s sentiment, as they continue to be quite religious-freedom-minded, as before. He feels that it is more a very small group that is in power at the moment who is propagating this sentiment.

We asked him if there was any known time frame for this law change that they are pushing for. He said some members of Parliament told him that if the slander campaign goes well, then the program will go quickly.

It seems they are pushing a media campaign against two groups in particular: The Faith Group (a Protestant NRM numbering 10,000 to 40,000 members, is the largest NRM in Hungary, who are also being hit in the press), and Scientology. There are 10-15 government examinations of the Scientology church going on at the moment.

Anonymous man creates positive Russian Web site on the Family
BY CELESTE, EURCRO MEDIA DESK

A month ago we received a message from Tim in Moscow letting us know of a Russian Web site about the Family. We did some research, and this is what we found out.

The address is http://thefamily.chat.ru.

Message goes out via radio
BY ABE AND MERCY, TAIWAN

Mercy was invited to give another childcare class on Taiwan’s public radio. This program reaches the southern half of the country, and the moderator was very open-minded and supportive, and explained several times to the listeners that we were Christians and preached the Gospel wherever we went, and how one of our goals was to train our children in such a way that they can be a blessing to others. During two breaks in the program we were able to play some Chinese songs from the UnchartedCD.

In the last part of the show Mercy was able to give a meaty message about instilling Godly values in children. Finally the moderator set aside a few minutes at the end for people to call in with questions. The reason she only left a little time for that was because usually hardly anybody calls in. But the phone started ringing off the wall with desperate parents asking questions. The program had to go overtime and Mercy continued talking with concerned parents on the phone even after the show went off the air.

One mother said, “I listen to this program every week, but I have never heard such useful and meaningful counsel as yours. Can you please be on every week?” Another person said, “This is the first time I listened to a whole hour of radio without switching channels—and I don’t even have children myself! The last part of the program made me search my own heart!”

Most people emphasized how much better they liked Mercy speaking in plain language as a mother of nine with real-life experience than those so-called childcare experts with their fancy language that the program usually features and who bore people. Family education and training is certainly tops and leaves the System way behind!
[Movie: Music of the Heart]

James, Ruth and Zena, India: Over the last few years my sister has worked in the movie industry as a costume designer. I never much liked the idea of her living in that worldly atmosphere; nevertheless, I committed it into the Lord’s hands and prayed for her. Recently, I found out from my mother that she was working on a movie called “Fifty Violins” starring Meryl Streep. I felt led to pray for its production, that it would be a good testimony or glorify the Lord in some way. Now the movie has come out under a different name, “Music of the Heart.” I was pleasantly surprised to read the summary in the Grapevine, where the Lord says, among other things, that the movie is “inspiring and uplifting.”

I’m happy to see that the Lord is using my sister, in a roundabout way, for His glory. She has been working, for the most part, on movies that are more edifying than most. And the Lord is using her as a link to stir me up a bit and pray for some of these movie people and their productions. I don’t intend to be “bragging about my prayer life,” but I thought it would be interesting for people to know how this particular movie, “Music of the Heart,” is connected to us through prayer power. Although it doesn’t have the typical Hollywood blockbuster appeal, nevertheless it has a deep and thoughtful message and theme that we in the Family are very familiar with: teaching music to our children.

[Deaf Reach training center]

Gideon (of Heidi) for the Karachi Home, Pakistan: We began the training center for the deaf project last year when some office space was donated to us. It blossomed with upwards of 65 students enrolled and being trained. The Lord then told us to “enlarge the borders of our tent to make room for Him to work” and we discovered that some office space adjacent to our center was available for rent. We now have an additional classroom.

We have hired full-time teachers to help us.

One of those teachers is Paul, a live-out disciple we have been training over the past years. He had a great burden to learn sign language from us and is now a fully qualified teacher. The other two teachers are deaf men who are skilled in computers and English. Not only have they landed a good job, but they can turn around and teach others as they have been taught over the years! This is all a fulfillment of what the Lord said in the beginning of this ministry, that it would snowball and touch and change many lives. We will now be opening five days per week with two sessions each day, and will be able to accommodate 45 students per session, or 90 per day.

In order to furnish the center, and especially the new room, we made a prayer list of needs and sent it to local businessmen and friends. It’s miraculous what the Lord has recently supplied through contributions—thousands of dollars worth of the following material!

Six Pentium computers (making a total of 12); free networking of all the computers; 15 new computer stations and chairs; tables and chairs for the new classroom (enough now to accommodate 100 students); large-screen TV and VCR; new 2-ton AC; 4 large bookshelves with glass covers; wall and ceiling fans; all the needed lighting; 100 hours of free internet service per month; laser printer; scanner; 2 telephone lines (very difficult to get here!).

We still have quite a few needs, but know that He is going to do it all in His time and way. Most exciting is to see the happiness, eagerness and joy that lights the faces of students who attend the classes. They are thankful for the input and all the attention, as well as the good equipment. It is a touch of the Lord’s love for them in their lives and it makes them feel special!

[Cannons, take note!]

Phil, Marie, and Mercy, USA: If you go canning, you’ll appreciate the following tale: We were canning, and we happen to be located at an intersection in front of a big shopping mall. We have six guys and gals out there all day, going up and down the median, passing out tracts, collecting donations, big and small! Some of our guys started giving out tapes and CDs if the donation was bigger than usual!

Soon, up comes a policeman in his police car and he gives one of our pretty gals a $5 or $10. She smiles and hands him a tape, too. “Hey!” she says. “This is for your family and kids!” The policeman drives away happy and content.

Then! Just a short while later, she spots another patrol car coming up, only this time his lights are going. No siren—just lights! “Oops!” she thinks aloud. “Did I do something wrong?!” The patrol car pulls off the pavement and stops right in front of her. The policeman rolls down his window and says, “Hey! Is this where I can get a music tape for my family?” (SHOCK! GASP!) “Why sure!” comes the reply, while our happy witnesser heaves a silent sigh of relief. The policeman gives her a $20 for the cause and rolls off with a CD.

“By the way!” the policeman yells. “I heard about you and these tapes on my radio. The other officer who came by here just a short while ago radioed me and said I should go by and get one!”

[Saved by a tract]

Abel (of Angel), Japan: A 26-year-old girl who got a To You, With Love tract from Abel at a video store during the Christmas season held on to it for months and finally got the courage to call us after reading it over and over again. She visited our house and prayed to receive the Lord. She also attended our Easter Fellowship. The power of the Word even through a “little tract” was exhibited again before our eyes and gave us even more faith to get out more tracts as well as other Word and tools wherever and whenever we can.

Another girl came over for Easter and also received the Lord. It was the first time she’d ever heard of Jesus’ resurrection! It goes to show there are so many sheep here in Japan who don’t know the truth about Jesus and need to be told it by us!

backtracking

In Grapevine #86, page 5, there’s a testimony from Dan and Abi titled “Mottos for Success: A Success with Business Community.” This testimony mistakenly places Dan and Abi in the USA, but they’ve been on the field of India for the last four years. God bless you, Dan and Abi!
But yogurt is still anathema, no matter what it is mixed with, sweetened with or disguised under—she can recognize it even when it’s made into a milkshake. So for some time I had been praying for the Lord to bring up some pleasant way to work on this area with her. One day, when Kimby was about 2½, I had a bright (if somewhat devious) idea. I had happened to obtain one of those nice blended fruit-yogurt cups—a treat, to be sure; I thought to myself, “Perhaps I should see if I could trick Kimby into trying it!” I was certain she would not realize it was the enemy—perhaps she could even be cured of her yogurt-hating.

So with notable fanfare I announced: we had a “strawberry pudding-type-thing” for snack. She was delighted, of course, and dug in with no problems. I sat there watching her, grinning from ear to ear, and trying to decide when to break the big news to her that she was in the process of consuming her arch-enemy. I was going to wait till the end but I couldn’t hold out. So finally, about halfway through, I confronted her, “Hey, did you know that this yummy pudding is actually disguised under—she can recognize it somehow?”

Of course she couldn’t, so I started to sound it out for her, as a clue: “Y-y-y-yo-yo...”

Goofy girl that she is, whenever I do the priming thing, she always makes up some non-existent word, so she went, “Yono?”

Finally I just broke down and told her, “It’s made with yogurt! Isn’t that funny? You thought you didn’t like it but you didn’t know it could be so tasty, did you?”

Kimby just sat there for a minute looking at me, and then she started to laugh. She said, “But it’s pink!” As though somehow that made it okay.

Well, I was really riding high, and while Kimby kept contemplating that thought, I couldn’t help but relate the whole story to a couple people as they passed through the kitchen. At first she had seemed okay with the idea, but perhaps hearing the repeat tale caused some further reflection; after another minute she hopped off her chair and handed me back the container, saying, “I’ve had enough now, Mommy!”

I immediately felt terrible, wishing that I had waited till she’d finished—and definitely wishing I hadn’t sounded my victory so loudly. So I told her, “Why don’t we just call this ‘yono’ instead of yogurt? That’s a better name.”

She seemed to like that idea, and—while I prayed quietly in my seat—after a few minutes she snuck back over and finished off the little container. Whew!

It was an important step forward for Kim—though I won’t say the battle of yogurt has been won. But I have a feeling that I was the one who the Lord taught the biggest lesson that day: Letting a child save face, apparently, is every bit as important to their growth and progress as helping them take the step forward to begin with.
warm greetings once again from all of us at “RadioActive Productions” in Uganda, East Africa! Since we last wrote, the size of our team has more than doubled with the arrival of Gregg (Simon Setfree), his wife Ruth, and their family, as well as Ken and Celly (both 20), who all arrived from Japan.

Studio news

Andrew V., who has been “definitely” leaving a number of times, is still here! We’re so thankful that he has been able to stay a little longer, as it has enabled him to produce some more “Africanized” songs, using local talent. He finished producing “Soldier Boy,” recorded by local singer Titan Takibu, which is now playing on the major FM stations here. Andrew also produced “Do My Best,” a R&B/Hip Hop style number sung by Isaac Jazzin Matovu, as well as an upbeat number called “The Spirit of Africa,” sung by Richard Kawesa. And finally we re-recorded a clearer version of “Cry of a Continent,” sung by Rachel Adiyre. Andrew has also written a new song about AIDS called “Forever Free,” which is quite a hot topic here as many people have had close relatives or friends die from this disease. In fact, our landlord died of AIDS a few weeks ago.

New songs needed!

Calling all music producers! We desperately need more of the kind of music that Africans can relate to and enjoy. If you write the lyrics and record the music track, we can add the vocals here. We’d like to put in a plug for more “black” music: R&B, Soul, Gospel and rap. There’s a certain style of music that’s typically African, called “African Zook.” Andrew has been recording some of his new songs in this style. You have to hear it to get the idea of what it is, and we’d be happy to send you a sample if you’re serious about recording songs for us.

Radio dramas

Julie and Sims have completed four radio dramas—the latest ones being “The Selfish Chief” and “Who Will Help Me?” which is an African version of “Henny Penny,” and plan to produce “The Camel’s Nose” and “The Blind Men and the Elephant” very soon. Including “Trudge and Zippy” and “The Greatest of Them All,” as well as “The Tailor’s Secret,” that will complete the first CD of children’s dramas that we plan to make available to the Family.

These dramas will be used in the Kid’s World radio show, which Gregg is going to produce. To help make the voices for these African stories more authentic, we tried using some local talent for the various parts. Through Isaac we met Michael and his show troupe of young university graduates. We went over to their place and recorded them in their living room. Working with local talent has been a great witnessing opportunity to reach cream of the crop young people and involve them in our work.

More studio news

Simon has been working on a batch of 12 NuBeat shows. These shows have the best of all the great music that our musicians have been recording over the past 5 years. Also, there’s so, so much Word to draw on. This, combined with the receptivity and spiritual hunger of the African field, results in a lot meatier shows than the old MWM shows were. Each show is on a different topic. For your interest, see the sample show script (posted on the MO site!). At Mama’s request, Simon has also been working on ML readings, like “Prophecies on Yieldedness” and “Let Jesus Bear the Weight.” This series of 12 GNs, when completed will be put on the Family Web site for downloading.

Launching the shows!

The fact that we’re foreigners setting up a professional recording studio is big news in this country. No foreign music producers have ever come to Uganda to record local talent before. Consequently, we have been invited to appear on major TV talk shows and radio shows, as well as give newspaper interviews to explain our vision. We were just about to use this wave of publicity to launch the NuBeat Show when the recent tragedy happened in Uganda. This caused us to delay the launching of the program until after this dark cloud has passed. However, just before this incident, a reporter for the biggest local newspaper called “New Vision” came to our home to listen to “Soldier Boy” and do an article about us.

Bunny Big word arrives in Africa!

The director of the most popular TV station here is very interested in broadcasting all 28 episodes of the Treasure Attic series. When Gregg mentioned the possibility of acquiring the services of the actual rabbit to both introduce and promote the Treasure Attic on television, they were flipped out! So, Bunny Big word arrived in Africa, via Kampala Post Office!

Here’s the cute email we received about his departure: “Just wanted to let
you know that Bunny took off for Africa a few days ago. He was packed neatly and carefully and sent off with tears and sorrow—Peepers has been laid out all week. We have bought him other bunnies—all kinds—even the magazine kind, and he refuses to be comforted. Take care of him, please. Also remember that Bunny may be a bit sensitive at the beginning, so we tried to explain what Africa is like. Remember he eats carrots and needs plenty to read. If you have a picture of Peepers to place next to him, he’ll be comforted. We didn’t have his clothes here so he may be a little embarrassed when you unpack him (make sure everyone turns around). I guess you can find him something native to wear. We didn’t have his clothes member he eats carrots and needs comforted. We didn’t have his clothes here so he may be a little embarrassed when you unpack him (make sure everyone turns around). I guess you can find him something native to wear. Anyway, you know him best and I’m sure once you both come in contact he will come alive.” Ha!

Trip to Kenya, jeep and container

Soon after the new team’s arrival, Gregg and Nathan went to Mombassa, Kenya to pick up the jeep that the Japan SC had so generously donated. GBT! The people at the forwarding agency told them they were crazy to go there themselves, but the Lord told them otherwise. So, going on the strength of His Word, they had a wonderful trip and were able to secure discounts on the clearing. They even had a chance to do a safari on the way back and got chased by an angry bull elephant—exciting! Now that the jeep is here, the Lord did another miracle in helping us to save about $800 on taxes. The container should arrive at our door any day. Besides some needed household items and supplies from Japan, it also contains the video editing equipment to begin working on an African CTP video.

At the end of last year, Gregg and Richard (of Peter and Esther) traveled with Aaron throughout West Africa, filming various CTP projects going on there: medical projects in Nigeria, operating a small school in Ghana, working with ex-child soldiers in Sierra Leone, to name a few. Hopefully this will be a blessing to the work to have something in video format to show friends and contacts. Also coming in the container is the audio equipment to set up a second audio studio.

Witnessing

We continue to win lots of souls every time we go out. People here are very receptive and hungry. We’ve been witnessing in our neighborhood and helping people around us. We have our first clown show booked at one of Uganda’s biggest correctional institutions for young criminals. Recently we got involved in teaching at a nearby primary school. It breaks your heart to see the primitive conditions with which these kids have to learn. By comparison we have so much! Kathleen went for the first time last week and taught a class of 25 children about Easter, using the new “Africa Project” material.

We really appreciate and need your support! As our income is still around $1,500 below our expenses, we will be sending a team back to Japan to fundraise during Golden Week. Our expenses will shoot up even higher once we launch the radio shows Africa-wide (DV at the end of May). Then we’ll have the additional costs of supplying program CDs to stations, as well as running the resultant mail ministry. Like we mentioned before, we plan to give a free Activated magazine to everyone who writes in. All that to say, we really appreciate any gifts you can send and especially any regular pledges that could help us bridge the gap between income and outgo.

Dearest Mama

It was a wonderful surprise to receive a prophecy from you at this time—“for no reason”—but how timely and encouraging it was! Thank you so very much for taking the time out of your very busy schedule to receive this message of guidance and encouragement for me. It was a special sign of God’s love, at a time when I very much needed a boost. It makes me so grateful for my loving shepherds on Earth, who have always been such a reflection to me of my Great Shepherd in Heaven. Just like when Dad got a name for my daughter out of the clear blue when we were spending time together, this came to me as an astounding supernatural manifestation of His love for me, in a way and at a time when He alone could have known what I needed!

I read the prophecy the night I received it. (After I saw it was a prophecy for me, I decided to wait till “all was said and done” to be able to read it in the peace and quiet of the night, to get what it said and enjoy it.) But after the first reading, I didn’t get so much out of it, except the encouragement that you and the Lord gave, feeling that the Lord has a very merciful and idealistic way of looking at us, and that feeling of “Is that you?” The next morning I picked up the prophecy again and got such a rush as it contained so much that I had missed at my first reading, keys and clues to things I had been burdened about that you couldn’t have known about.

This is something I have noticed with prophecy, I often only get a little of its meaning at the first reading, but, just like the Bible, it reveals its full meaning when you take time to study it. When I hear people say that the new Word is samey, I think it is often those who read it only once and “get the gist” who feel that way. I always get so much more when I reread, mark, study and underline. I seem to only get to the depth by digging! You’ve got to work the mine to get the gems. You have to dig to unearth the jewels which you would not see at first glance.

Prayer requests

- For the Lord to make a way for us to build up a bigger library of songs that relate to Africans.
- For us to get the Web site up and running.
- For the Lord to show us the perfect timing as to when to publicize and launch the radio shows.
- That we can get together a good, meaningful clown show for CTPs.

Radioactive Productions

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May 15

Margie (CRO), Japan

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**[More feedback to WS?]**

Jonathan and Mary, Hungary: Our daughter Kristen is an artist in WS and recently visited us. One thing that surprised her was all the good comments she has gotten from the Family here in Budapest about her art. It seems she doesn't hear much of that kind of feedback on a regular basis. I guess people don't think to pass on compliments, don't have the time to write in, etc. I think it's kind of like forgetting to thank the cooks for all the delicious meals they cook because we take them for granted.

It was a bit sad for us to hear that for the most part the folks in WS have in many ways a thankless job and generally hear very little from the Homes in the way of compliments on all the top notch work they are doing. In fact, a YC/MC girl here told our daughter how much she liked the Fairyland pictures and Kristen said it was one of the nicest comments she had ever heard. Granted, YCs don't usually write in to WS, but it seems that we should somehow try to generate and pass more of the thanks on to these folks in WS who do all this pubs work. It would probably make their very demanding jobs a little easier and more fulfilling, knowing that it is truly appreciated even if mainly by the kiddos.

**[Watch those taxis]**

From a Home on the Ivory Coast: This month we borrowed a nice tape recorder from a nearby Home, and when the brother in our Home was taking it back in a taxi, he had to get out to double check his directions and the taxi driver left with it in his car. We ended up paying the sister for the price of the tape recorder, as she was moving out of the country the next morning and we didn't have time to try to provision one for her.

Last month we had a cellular phone stolen, and also a camera that was left in a taxi. We had good prayer about it and gleaned many good points. Some of the things the Lord spoke to us about were:

- To be more faithful going two by two.
- To take more time together as a Home to love the Lord, and to read the new Letters together.
- To hear from the Lord together daily and not let our work get us in too much of a hurry or too busy.
- To be more careful with things that we carry in taxis, to double check before we get out that we have everything and that nothing is left behind.

Since this incident we have had more meaningful fellowship and Word times together. We get up a little earlier in the morning to ensure that our time together doesn't get choked out or set aside. There were also personal lessons for each team or person that these incidents happened to, such as not getting too into our fundraising and letting that get above other avenues of witnessing.

**[W&R days switch around]**

Lisa, Africa: In our Home all prefer and have voted in to have two rest days in a row every third week, and half rest days on Sundays, rather than one full day off weekly. The main argument is that to really enjoy and get into the Word and not to just look at it as another duty, it helps to have a day off first— to relax, sleep, have a complete break from the regular routine and then get into serious Word and P&P time on the second day. It's not that they don't have Word time on this first day, but it is more for unwinding. Then everyone finds it easier to settle down to apply themselves to really digging into spiritual things when more refreshed. Perhaps this idea would be helpful to some.

**[CVC a wealth]**

Peter N., Thailand: Being a FGA, when the CVC program first came out, I didn't take much interest in it. I figured it wasn't for me. Mistake! A few weeks ago I started to look at the CVC book and I found it to be very interesting. I was very encouraged to see how much of the material it talked about I already knew. I decided to try to get some of the diplomas myself. The first ones I was interested in were Photography, Computer Applications and Teaching English as a Second Language.

I sat down with the CVC book and wrote down the different things I needed to do and read to pass the tests. Within the day I had read through most of what I needed for two of the diplomas. (I'm sure most adults and teens in the Family have different areas where they have been working and where they have most of the practical experience it takes to pass the test.) The most inspiring part of doing this was the CVC, how detailed each subject is and how many subjects are covered. There's plenty for everyone's interest. It's at least as thorough as many other System courses. But the greatest difference is the way the Word is incorporated into it all and how the Word gets promoted all the way through. I'm going to continue to work on getting a few more diplomas in different areas.

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**JETT meetings in Brazil**

BY PHIL, JERE, CELESTE AND LEILA, VSS IN BRAZIL

The JETT meetings we just held (for Sao Paulo and Rio’s 37 JETTs) were inspiring and thrilling! The Lord did miracle after miracle to make these meetings possible, and to show the dear JETTs how much He loves them. GB our provisioning Homes who offered to provision food and supplies for these meetings.

The Lord poured down His Holy Spirit in great measure. When we got together to hear from the Lord about the meetings, He showed us that it would be a time of using the new weapons that He’s promised for this new era of action. The Lord told us to come before Him several times a day to seek His direction and to ask Him about the classes and activities that we had planned—and that we would need to be open to new, radical ideas.

Here are some of the classes and activities the Lord showed us to do with the JETTs that made this time special:

- He gave us a keynote message in prophecy, with encouragement for the JETTs, and He talked about how He had called these meetings to pass out special gifts and presents to each one. (He surely did this, as many of the JETTs received the gift of prophecy and other gifts of His Spirit!)
- A time to ask for prayer and empty ourselves of besetting sins, to make room for these exciting new things the Lord had for us.
- Inspiring classes on the Holy Spirit, the new weapons, the special calling the Lord has for us, love for the Lord and one another, and why the Family?
- Jere shared his testimony of how he came to join the Family and his experiences being a doctor in the System.
- A time to sing and love the Lord.
- A dance and game activity night, after our afternoon class on the importance of love and including each other as well as breaking down any System attitudes or barriers.
Kids are indispensable! Think about it. What would our Family Homes be like if there were no children? Can you even imagine a world without those cute brown curls and peanut butter-encircled lips?

Besides the obvious reasons that children are essential to the continuance of the human race and the washing machine industry, there are many more that we sometimes overlook. Here are two such examples.

1. The house and garden would be a great deal more cluttered without children.

Proof? Next time you go for a stroll with the 2-4 year olds, check their pockets. Little boys in particular are more proficient at fitting masses of small objects into a very small space than the most skilled electronics engineer at Intel's computer processor division. Sure, after years of careful study and experience, a team of computer and electronic engineers can fit millions of transistors into only an inch or two of space, but try fitting this into only two or three inches of pocket:

- A bag of marbles
- Hundreds of crumpled leaves
- A frog
- Paperclips, rubber bands and a variety of office supplies
- Cookie crumbs
- More than 20 different species from the insect world
- Peanuts and raisins (of both the chewed and non-chewed variety)
- Unwanted bread crusts
- Daddy's brand new screwdriver collection
- All 24 tops to the new set of colored markers that recently dried up
- Sister's make-up collection (great for camouflage when hunting dinosaurs)
- A pair of adorable puppies
- More sand and dirt than can be found in the Sahara
- Enough shiny rocks to build a small bridge
- An arsenal of weapons made from twigs and string
- Last Christmas' manger scene
- Last Christmas' Christmas tree
- A small, interesting-looking envelope that was once on Daddy's desk with the word "rent" written on it
- The lawn mower

Eat your heart out, Silicon Valley. You must understand, though, that this is by no means stealing. By putting all of that in his pocket Johnny has the purest of motives—to keep the area clear of unnecessary clutter and most importantly, to store it all away for the Great Tribulation. Just think how delighted we'll be when we're running through the wilderness from futuristic looking tanks marked “666” and find 30kg of peanuts and raisins in the front pocket of Johnny's overalls. Puts a new twist on the verse, “The people who know their God will be strong and do exploits.”

2. System influence would abound in our Homes to a much higher degree.

Take the example of 16-year-old Charlie, and Joe JETT. It's difficult to sidetrack teen Charlie, especially when in the middle of a highly mature and educational activity, such as holding down teen Sue in the living room and tickling her with his chin. That is, except when he hears a large horrific crashing sound coming from the direction of his room, followed by the noise of several smaller objects bouncing around on the floor.

Charlie jumps up and dashes towards his room. However, he's greatly relieved to discover that the noise actually came from the room next door. “Johnny! Johnny! Johnny!” he calls as he wipes his brow and walks back to the living room to continue where he left off. “Looks like little Johnny's getting into your stuff again!”

“What?!?” Joe replies with a wide look in his eye. After firing up his JETT engines and leaping over a refrigerator, couch, and Charlie and Sue in a single bound, Joe comes parachuting in to his room (tastefully decorated with a colorful selection of yet-to-be-put-away laundry) to find three-year-old Johnny holding what appears to be the mangled remains of his secret collection of System music tapes.

Slowly and with extreme caution Joe extends his hand toward Johnny, "Hey, Johnny, ol’ buddy ol’ pal! Remember that time I gave you one of my French fries?" Joe says wearing a large plastic smile. "You owe me one, ol’ buddy ol’ pal. Why don't you just hand me back those..."

Big mistake. Joe doesn't know much about childcare as of yet, but he's about to find out once and for all that 1) kids are particularly unaffected by insincerity and, 2) they just can't pass up an opportunity to be chased around the house by their older brother at outrageously high speeds. With a pure, fun-loving smile and the box of tapes under his arm, Johnny turns his head to the right, lifts his elbow to the left and after a momentary pause darts off. The chase begins.

As Joe pursues Johnny through each room of the house he desperately tries every trick he knows. "Johnny! Wait! Stop! Come back! Want to wear my baseball cap? Want my magnifying glass? Want to play with my survival kit? Nice boy! Roll over! Play dead! Polly, want a cracker?"

However, no matter what Joe says or how powerfully he fires up his JETT engines, he's no match for a three year old who is having a load of fun. Finally, after an hour of hot pursuit Johnny is nowhere to be found. More than 10 minutes pass before Joe hears unusual splashty noises coming from the bathroom. Stealthily he creeps up to the bathroom door, takes a deep breath and bursts in with an exhausted but victorious "Aha!"—only to find a dozen or so tapes amphibiously transporting Lego men from one end of the bathtub to the other.

After lifting his lower jaw off the bathroom floor Joe turns around and slowly saunters off to the living room where he finds Charlie and Sue engaging in the same educational activity. “Uh, Charlie? Sue? I need something to listen to. Where does the Home keep the collection of FTT CDs?”

Little does seafaring Johnny know that his newly discovered fleet of transport ships has set Joe JETT back on board the boat of edification. What would we do without our kids? The Lord works in mysterious ways.
American Beauty

(Jesus:) This is not a movie to watch just for entertainment. All should pray before they consider viewing it, as I will tell many not to, because it’s not worth their time or they don’t need the message. Yet it will be helpful to some. If they want to watch it, that’s their choice, but they will need My perspective on it. I’m not endorsing it as good, but as a clear showing of the bad.

There are many hot issues addressed in this movie: the generation gap, sexuality, homosexuality, drugs, discipline, comparison, communication, self-image, pride, and so on.

If you choose to watch this movie, you should have an attitude of alertness. Pray afterwards for cleansing and protection against bad influences. It is heavy emotionally and if you’re not prayerful you can develop misconceptions or views that are out of line with My Word. Ask Me about the things you wonder about, that leave you with a heavy or confused feeling.

Many things contrary to the Word are portrayed in the movie because the people involved are not living according to My Law of Love. So My children should not take any samples from the movie or apply anything to their own lives. (End of message from Jesus.)

(Dad:) This movie is the story of American beauty—what looks beautiful and fine on the outside, but inside is full of misery and sadness—like white sepulchers, but full of dead men’s bones! No one in this movie was happy; everyone was miserable. Even the character who seemed relatively happy proved to be just as sad as the rest.

The movie isn’t happy, because it’s very close to the reality of most people’s lives in the System—those who don’t have Jesus and don’t have anything to live for. Even those who try and put on a happy front aren’t really happy. Inside they’re miserable, just like everyone else. Even those who think they have it all really have nothing.

The only good thing that this movie would do for the Lord’s children is to make them thankful for the wonderful life they have in the Family and all of the blessings that we have. It should also make them see the futility of life in the System and how unsatisfying life is without Jesus and a real purpose for living. But it also has a lot of negativity that you have to wade through in order to get these points—very basic points of our spiritual lives.

This movie also has a lot of other subtle messages to beware of, and a lot of dandy bad examples ranging from wrong attitudes regarding marriage and love and sex, to showing extremely strained inter-generational relations as normal, to its twisted portrayal of homosexuality.

The world is a melting-pot’s living really “suck,” as they say, and the American dream has become a nightmare. Nobody’s happy, nobody has what they really want. People are screwed up, confused, twisted, and they don’t even see it. The ones that do see it sometimes become all the more miserable because then they are overwhelmed with hopelessness. There is so much misery, depression, fear, bitterness and hatred in people’s hearts. It’s pitiful!

The people in this movie were all a bit eccentric. No one had his or her head totally screwed on straight. Each one’s mind was a little messed up—or a lot messed up. It’s a messed up world full of messed up people. Some people at least see things somewhat as they are.—They have the right questions, but they still don’t have the answers. They know what’s wrong, but they don’t know what’s right.

Where there is no love, there is no life! Where there is no hope, there is no life. A lot of people are in a slow death, and they don’t even know it—or if they do, they don’t know what to do about it. Or even if they think they do, they’re stuck in the System and they can’t completely break free on their own if others around them don’t also change, and especially if they don’t have the Lord.

Watching something like this ought to break your hearts for the world and those who are trapped in a dead-end existence. Even more than that, it should make you so very grateful for what you have! You have lives with meaning, and you have Someone to turn to in your troubles. You have faith and the power of prayer, and you have peace of mind.

God help us to reach as many as we can and show them the truth, give them hope, and hook them up to the only One Who can solve life’s complicated problems and help people break out of the awful entangled webs that their lives have become. (End of message from Dad.)

Rules of Engagement

(Jesus:) This movie illustrates an underlying frustration that members of the military face in many countries. Many times they are called upon to support their countries’ interests and the unwritten rule is, “Do whatever you need to do, and we’ll take care of you.” Often what happens, though, is that these people are left to take the rap for actions that they are encouraged to undertake on behalf of their country. The sad part of this story is that it’s true and has been played out throughout history.

This movie has many lessons. Granted, like any movie, there is some gleaming to do in order to find the good, and you’ll have to wade through some parts that show the sickening hypocrisy of the System, but that should cause you to become stirred up! There are many good parallels in this movie to you, My children. So when you watch this movie, don’t only think about what’s going on in the movie, but try to see the different ways that you can compare this to your lives. (End of message from Jesus.)

Erin Brockovich

(Dad:) That girl sure had spunk! I love stories about fighters like this. Who says you can’t fight city hall and win on your own! It’s a great testimony of how someone as seemingly unimportant as she was could stand up with the simple truth of showing concern for others and turn the big money boys on their heads! I think it’s great! Good parallels to what our people have to face, and will face more and more as the days grow darker. If He could do such things with one who had so little of His power, imagine what He’s got in store for you, His powerful chosen of His Spirit for these Last Days! She sure had her share of faults and failings, and the movie makers gave a very true-to-life view rather than the typical Hollywood-sanitized heroine image. I don’t like bad language, but this is one case where it was needed to clearly portray the character. (End of message from Dad.)

The Color of Courage

(Jesus:) This is a story about conviction and compromise and standing up for what’s right. Although those who stand up for what is right may not be received well in this world, they will not go unrewarded in My Kingdom. This is a heart-touching true story with good lessons. (End of message from Jesus.)
now that’s funny

No communication

A judge was interviewing a woman regarding her pending divorce, and asked,
“What are the grounds for your divorce?”
She replied, “About four acres and a nice little home in the middle of the property
with a stream running by.”
“No,” he said, “I mean what is the foundation of this case?”
“It is made of concrete, brick and mortar,” she responded.
“I mean,” he continued, “What are your relations like?”
“I have an aunt and uncle living here in town, and do my husband’s parents.
“Do you have a real grudge?”
“No,” she replied, “We have a two-car carport and have never really needed one.”
“Yes, both my son and daughter have stereo sets. We don’t necessarily like the
music, but the answer to your questions is yes.”
“Ma’am, does your husband ever beat you up?”
“Yes,” she responded, “about twice a week he gets up earlier than I do.”
Finally, in frustration, the judge asked, “Lady, why do you want a divorce?”
“Oh, I don’t want a divorce,” she replied. “I’ve never wanted a divorce. My hus-
band does. He said he can’t communicate with me.”

kibbits

Carole Chiaki, 1st child, born to Hopie and
Makoto on November 22.—Japan
Micah, 1st child, born to Peace and Clive on
January 3.—Norway
Andrew David, 12th child, born to Praise and
Manasseh Firstborn on January 16.—Greece
Reina Mae, 2nd child, born to Tirzah and Daniel
on January 18.—Japan
Carmen Nicole, 2nd child, born to Joanna and
Sharif on January 18.—Nigeria
Daniel, born to Maria and Paul on January 22.—Romania
Shawn Cairon, 1st child, born to Nadya and
John Paul on February 8.—Italy
Dominique Leonard, 2nd child, born to Pauline
and Sonny on February 18.—Russia
Adrian Kyle, 1st child, born to Meeky and
David on February 27.—Mexico
Alba, born to Mary and Esdras in March.—
Spain
Lindsey Nicole, 1st child, born to Jessica and
Reuben on March 2.—USA
Christina Heart, 2nd child, born to Joy and Sam on
March 4.—England
Peter, born to Julia and Aaron Fruitful on March 6.—
UK
Renée Angelique, born to Estor and Nathan on
March 7.—USA
Jasmine Liana, 3rd child, born to Joy and Andra
on March 8.—Mexico
Veronica Overcomer, 1st child, born to Daniela
Chilean and Stefano on March 15.—Italy
Dan, 10th child, born to Joan and David on March
21.—Japan
Veronica, 3rd child, born to Jana and Oleg on March
23.—Ukraine
Michelle Livingstone, 3rd child, born to Meekness
and Ben on March 23.—Botswana
Charles, 8th child, born to Honey and Tim on March
25.—Japan
Julia Florence, 2nd child, born to Victoria and
Jonathan on March 27.—PACRO

The news and views from Family members published in the Grapevine are not intended to 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 shepherd’s discretion. The Grapevine, PO Box 4939, Orange, CA 92863 USA e-mail: grape@ibm.net Copyright © 2000 by The Family

Personals

Indian Heidi! Faithful would like to hear
from French Mark whom she was
writing while she was in Hyderabad. I have
lost contact with you and would
love to hear from you again, Mark. You can
reach me at:
irish77rose@yahoo.com or; Family
Services, c/o MMBC SCO 122-123
(Basement) Madhya Marg, Sec. 8-C
Chandigarh, India 160018.

Diamond would like to get in touch with
Sofia (of Patrick) and Maria, her
sister as well as Suzy (of Byron) and
Riosi (I knew you in Macau),
Josh and Laura and Heidi and any
others of you I have lost contact with.
Write me at DmdRA@yahoo.com

From Rose Garden Home, Bangalore, India:
We’re sorry our e-mail address
closed down suddenly. We don’t want
to lose touch with all who you were
writing to us or planning to write us.
We would also like to invite anyone
who is interested in receiving monthly
news from this exciting and fruitful
field to e-mail us! The need is great and
the results are thrilling! Look forward
to hearing from you at our new e-mail
address: rosehome@vsnl.com. With
love, Hosanna and MaryAnn, Andrew
(Abe) and Rejoice (Nepali) Peter
Posterer, Timothy, Abner O. (Asher),
Angel, Rahul, Vico, Michael and all!

This is “crazy” Sam Cunningham! I would love to hear from any of
the great people from the Peru Teen
Combo, and anyone else I know! Do
you need someone to (or should I) E-
mail: Sam1Cunningham@AOL.com.

David Newheart and (German)
Gabriella, Angelina and Sharon would
like to get in touch. Please write to:
familycare@inntnet.qg. Waiting to hear
from you after ages.

Jasmine G. (Solomon’s daughter)
and anyone who knows where she is,
please contact Sharon (of Daniel and
Vessel) at familycare@inntnet.qg.

James Paradiso (formerly James
Delight/Italian) is looking for friends
old and new. I was in Bangladesh
and Nepal in 1987-88. Please contact
me at e-mail: bunnfree@fisicalnet.it

Franky (of Paul and Vida) would like to
get in contact with Dito (of Zach and
Maggie, last heard of in Colombia) and
Mariana Wild Wind. E-mail:
goldendrak@yahoo.com. Add: Cx
Postal 649, CEP, 60001-970, Fortaleza-
CE.

Dear Danielle and Jordan, please get
in touch with us (Narcisa and Simon)
ASAP! We have tried to e-mail you
several times but no response. We
have a urgent letter for you. We need
to send it to you but we don’t have a
snail mail address to forward it to you.
e-mail: Simon@t-turner.fsnet.co.uk.

Esther (Fr) is looking for Francesco
(Lith) and Ruth E. Lived in Lith
together. E-mail: Batff@wanadoo.fr.

The New Yitz

David Kovic

Prophecies Made to Order
Reasonable Rates
where we are

USA/Canada
CM population 1,064
FM population 768
total population 1,848
% of Family 15%

Mexico/Central America
CM population 730
FM population 327
total population 1,057
% of Family 8.5%

South America
CM population 2,082
FM population 658
total population 2,740
% of Family 22%

Africa
CM population 573
FM population 18
total population 591
% of Family 5%

Indian Area/Mideast
CM population 870
FM population 48
total population 918
% of Family 7%

Eastern Europe/ The CIS
CM population 1,415
FM population 224
total population 1,639
% of Family 13%

South East Asia
CM population 691
FM population 111
total population 802
% of Family 6%

The Far East/Pacific
CM population 1,415
FM population 224
total population 1,639
% of Family 13%

The CM/FM Family currently has Homes in 106 countries!

Family statistics

时间 in the family
(CM-age 16 and up only)

2k related

1st quarter 2k witnessing stats

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*or were born into The Family

1971-80
-80+84
66-74
75-79
80-84
85-89
90-94
95-00
0-5 years 60-10 years
11-15 years 16-20 years
21-25 years 26-31 years
720-15% 191-4%
346-7% 1556-33%