



Show Me the Money, Part I

Ten Pillars to Financial Success
Conviction versus Compromise, Part 9

Show Me the Money!—Part I

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Conviction versus Compromise, Part 9

By Maria

Maria #656 CM/FM 3462 8/03

Dear Family,

P**PETER and I love you and appreciate you very much!** We've said it many times before, but it can't be said too much—thank you for your faith, vision, loyalty, determination, and love for the Lord. Thank you for keeping on keeping on, even when it's tough, and we know it has been tough in many ways. We know some of you are facing daily struggles on various fronts, and that makes us admire you even more, because you're sticking with the Lord and the Family, you're holding on for dear life, and you're not buckling under the load of a full-time missionary that can be so heavy at times.

2. One thing that makes your lives a lot more stressful and even worrisome at times is the lack of money. There are many Homes that still struggle and have to fight monthly to make ends meet. That's difficult, and we're sorry that it's been like that for so long for many of you.

3. Throughout the years there have been some important Letters on ways to improve your finances, yet we find that there are still many Homes in which meeting your budget is a daily struggle. When you hear me and Peter talk about how to raise finances, you might think we present a poor argument, as you feel we're not really experts, and in fact, hardly have any firsthand experience at raising money as missionaries on the field. Yes, we and those in WS do receive the money we need from your tithes, and we can't tell you how much we appreciate it! We're very thankful for your continued giving, and it makes it possible for us to do the job the Lord's given us to do.

4. As we've communicated with you in earlier GNs, we have worked diligently to improve the services that WS offers you; we have tried to make sure

the output of those in WS is productive enough and the work ethic of each individual is what it should be. We're doing the best we can to use our time wisely and efficiently, to keep our priorities right, to stay close to the Lord and obedient, and to give you the very best service we possibly can.

5. But I'll be the first to admit that even though we often put in long hours, work hard at our computers, hold long meetings to discuss and pray about the needs of the field, etc., one thing we do not do is go out daily to raise money. It's true that we can devote ourselves full-time to our work, while knowing that we'll have food to eat at each meal, and we'll be able to pay our rent and utilities on time.

6. I have heard it said many times that we in WS and the area officers on the field “don't understand” the financial difficulties you face. If you mean we aren't in the same circumstances, yes, that's true. But I wouldn't go so far as to say that we and your area officers don't understand what it's like to live by faith or that we can't help you to seek the Lord on how to better raise finances, how to improve your financial

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base, and how to have a better cash flow. In fact, a pretty good case could be made that we might be in the very best position to counsel you on those things, because our faith for the Lord's supply has not been dampened or in many cases nearly extinguished through months or even years of struggling to make ends meet.

7. Instead of being weighed down with the lies and doubts of the Enemy, which are reinforced by uninspiring personal experiences and stories from others about their struggles and lack of finances, we are in a position to seek the Lord about how things should be, what's wrong, what's missing, and what He wants to tell us, without the Lord's answers being watered down or influenced through lack of faith and months or years of bad experiences. I know the Lord wants to supply abundantly, I know He has the answers, and I'm here to give you those answers.

8. You might not like hearing that I'm in a perfect position to pass on the Lord's counsel to you about how to improve your finances, and you may or may not think this is a very good argument, but it's something you need to hear, and not only hear but receive and believe. I've invested a lot of my time, energy, prayer, thought, and concern in preparing this counsel. Then many people in WS as well as your COs read this Letter and gave their input. Then we considered all their opinions, ideas, suggestions, and counsel and prayed about each suggestion and worked on it some more. It took weeks of work, and many, many people's attention and time. But you know what? All that won't change your financial situation one tiny bit, your income won't grow, and you won't find the solutions you need to raise more money if you don't believe that what I'm telling you now will actually work for you.

9. If you let the Enemy tell you that I don't understand, that I can't possibly help you because I live in a "supported situation," then you might as well stop reading right now. You can only benefit from this Letter and see your income grow if you believe that this is of the Lord. I know it is. I have no doubts, and I know the Lord wants to bring about huge victories and

change. He doesn't want things to stay the same, He wants you to have more money! He doesn't want you to have to struggle so or worry so much! I know and am 100% positive that our Lover is a faithful Husband, and He wants to pour on the money. Do you believe that?!

10. The point of this Letter and this series on finances isn't merely to get out more GNs. This isn't just another GN in the stack, for your information or devotional reading. This is meant to bring change. The Lord wants to give you answers. So, with the Lord's help, I and my helpers have done the hard work of analyzing, studying, getting answers from Him and new information, reviewing the counsel already provided, and then preparing a plan for you.

11. Of course, this is more than a series on finances or putting another fundraising plan into effect. When we were asking the Lord a question about this Letter, He said: "This is not simply a course on finances. This is also a course on discipleship, with many principles on commitment, yieldedness, obedience, unity, and love. Those who read it and obey it will be greatly blessed, as will those they minister to. Those who do not fully obey will not be as fully blessed." This affects your entire life for the Lord, dear Family, so please do read and study it carefully, and most of all, obey it prayerfully!

12. I realize how busy you are, and it would take hours and hours of your Word and prayer and prophecy time to really study the Word and get new information on what's wrong with your finances. You're smart people who can hear from the Lord, and if you had the time, you could probably come up with a lot of good direction on your own. You're innovative missionaries, creative visionaries, and hard-working folks who know what you're doing. But you're also very busy, and in some cases, your faith is at a low ebb, which makes it hard for you to seek the Lord, receive His counsel, and believe it.

13. So I and my helpers and counselors have done that hard work for you. That's my job, or at least one of my jobs. I am very burdened when I hear that some Homes and families are so short of money that making a little money each day

becomes the primary focus. I'm concerned about that and I feel sorry for you, but I also know that it doesn't have to be that way! I believe that with all my heart! I know our wonderful, caring, generous Husband wants to take care of you better than that!

14. There are times when all missionaries suffer from low finances. We all go through times when we have to cut back, economize, sacrifice recreation and luxuries, etc. It's not that I expect that we will constantly, at every moment, live the "abundant life." The Lord has made it so that we have times when we abound and abase; it's scriptural, and we can't hold it against the Lord if we're not always rolling in the dough. But neither should we always be so short of money that it's a constant, never-ending struggle just to put food on the table and pay the basic bills. That's a poor testimony, and if that's the situation you've been in for a while, then something is wrong.

Success Doesn't Just Happen

15. I don't want this counsel to get personal to where you feel offended, hurt, or misunderstood. I don't mean to imply that something is wrong with you personally or that you're not a good missionary. I definitely don't mean to imply that any of you are insincere. I know you're trying very hard. But raising money and making your situation such that the Lord can supply as abundantly as He wants to is also a very practical matter.

16. You're in business, God's business, and there are certain principles that need to be adhered to and responsibilities that need to be met if you expect to be in the black [having or making money, as opposed to being "in the red" —in debt]. All good, successful businesspeople have established good, reliable businesses because they've done things right, faithfully, consistently, and usually for a significant period of time. It's not an accident when a business does well. Success doesn't just "happen," with no rhyme or reason. For a business to thrive, things have to be done right. There is a method and a plan, and some principles are pretty universal.

17. A recent survey of business failures found on the Web said:

18. Entrepreneurs need to be aware that it takes more than a good idea for a small business to succeed. Small business entrepreneurs must plan for success. ... The old adage, "People don't plan to fail, they fail to plan" certainly holds true when it comes to small business success. The failure rate for new businesses seems to be around 70% to 80% in the first year, and only about half of those who survive the first year will remain in business the next five years.

19. All that to say, a successful, thriving business doesn't just happen. Just as it takes planning and hard work in the System, the same can apply to your work as missionaries. You're in God's business, and you are businessmen who have to do certain things if you expect your business to thrive. No matter how sincere, loving, kind, honest and trustworthy you might be, if you're missing it on some of the main pillars of good business, you will fail. It won't be because you aren't a good person or a sincere Christian, but because you just failed to do what's necessary to make things happen. It's very much a practical matter, as well as spiritual. Yes, there is the side of faith and calling on the keys, etc., but that's not enough. You also need to put feet to those prayers and act on that faith, and that's where the knowledge, skill, and wisdom in business come in.

20. That is what we'll be discussing in this GN. I want to review what the Lord has already said about how to have a successful "business" for God, as well as give you some new information that the Lord knows is relevant and crucial for today. Some of this counsel will be a reminder, but bear with me; you need it, and you might find that one of these pillars of good business is the very thing you've forgotten or let slide.

21. (Mama:) Some of you may wonder, “What about George Mueller and others like him who didn’t rely on business or practical sense, but depended on downright miracles through prayer? And how do testimonies of ‘dimes from the sky’ and ‘living by faith and faith alone’ fit in with this?” Here’s what the Lord had to say when we asked Him this.

22. (Jesus speaking:) This Letter is to remind the Family of the basic principles for financial success. Many have forgotten all of the important ingredients that are needed to receive My blessings—such as being good stewards, living Acts 2:44 and 45, budgeting, and the list goes on and on. It’s not that I can’t and won’t do supernatural miracles of supply, as you’ve read testimony after testimony of. But many in the Family have gotten lazy, to the point of thinking that if they just “have faith,” even if they don’t put feet to their prayers, all of their prayers will be answered. It’s not usually as simple as that. I help those who can help themselves, as well as those who can’t help themselves. But I don’t feel like investing in people or Homes who can help themselves but won’t.

23. George Mueller was doing My will. His witnessing and service to Me was in caring for the children I placed in his care. He didn’t have the means to go out and “reach the rich” as you do, or to build a bigger or more diversified missionary work. So, yes, I

did great and wonderful miracles for him, and I brought the supply to his doorstep, because he was doing My work, he was living by faith, and he depended on Me.

24. For those who are doing all they can and are trusting Me to supply, I can and I will supply. But the problem with many Homes around the world is that they’re not doing all that they can. They’re overlooking important spiritual and practical principles. Maybe they’re being lazy or slothful in their witnessing, or disobedient, or not caring for what I’ve already given them, so I can’t bless them.

25. But even when you do have all of the pillars for financial success active in a Home or situation, there will still always be room for Me to do supernatural, miraculous, jaw-dropping miracles; in fact, My Family will see them even more! I will see to it that My Family is continually reminded that it’s not their own works of the flesh that save them, but that it’s all a work of My Spirit. Yes, they need to take the proper steps and they need to be obedient, but then the rest is up to Me.

26. “Dime from the Sky” stories will be much more plenteous when My Family is following Me closely in every area of their lives, because I’ll want to spoil them and treat them to miracles, and I’ll want to always ensure that they know that I am the One in control, the One pulling the strings, touching the hearts of others, and bringing in the abundant supply. *(End of message from Jesus.)*

A Brief Review

27. To begin with, as a review, here is a list of points of what we need to do if we expect to obtain the Lord’s financial blessings. This is from “God’s Financial Blessings,” from April 1992.

1. Obey God and His Word.
2. Follow God’s Word for today.
3. Tithe faithfully.
4. Live by Acts 2:44 and 45.
5. Be faithful to give to others.

6. Be faithful to witness and win souls.
7. Win and take care of kings and supporters.
8. Ask for referrals.
9. Pray in forsake-alls.
10. Give others the vision to tithe.
11. Pray for the sick.
12. Diversify your channels of support.
13. Praise, thank the Lord for what you’ve got.
14. Stay in unity and share the know.
15. Be a good steward.

16. Austerity.
17. Budgeting.
18. Have more Word-based faith.
19. Desperately pray and rely upon the Lord.

28. You can find out more about each of these points in that Letter (ML #2813, Lifelines 20), and I suggest you read it carefully and ask yourselves if you're really living each of those points, as each one will add to your financial success in the Lord's business. In addition, I want to discuss in more detail some of the main pillars to good finances that are a little more specific to where you're at today, taking into consideration the state of the Family at this time and the recent direction and emphasis from the Lord.

29. But before I do, I'm going to include a message Dad gave when I was preparing this Letter, reminding us that all of these pillars—together—are vital to financial success. It's not enough to do just one or two things and then expect perfect results. Each pillar is important, and each point is a key to financial stability and receiving God's full blessings.

30. (Dad speaking:) Being healthy financially is a little bit like being healthy physically. There's no one magic solution that will solve all of your financial problems, but there are a lot of key principles that, when enacted in your lives and Homes, bring the Lord's full financial blessings.

31. When you're working toward being physically healthy, there are a lot of different things you must do in order to stay in tiptop physical shape—you've got to eat well, sleep well, exercise regularly, and drink adequate amounts of water every day, to name just a few factors that contribute to a healthy body. You can't expect to just drink water and then be healthy, if you're not eating right, sleeping right, or exercising. And you can't expect to just eat right and be healthy, if you're not sleeping, exercising, or drinking water. You have to do all of the right things and obey all of the health rules in order to have good health; it all works together, right?

32. It's the same with being healthy financially. You have to obey all of the Lord's rules for financial stability, which are the pillars in this GN. You need to build a well-rounded missionary work, obey God's Word, ask for help when you need it, act like a professional, reach the rich, work hard, live Acts 2:44 and 45, be thankful for and take care of what you already have, be faithful with your tithes and generous with your offerings, and pray desperately. You can't expect to do only one or two of these things and then receive the Lord's full blessings. They all work together to keep you in the right position to be able to receive all that the Lord has to give you.

33. You can't just say, "Oh, well, I tithe faithfully and I live Acts 2:44 and 45, so I should be receiving financial blessings." If you're not going out witnessing, if you're not working hard, if you're not asking for help and reaching the rich, etc., you're missing some vital pillars. Similarly, you can't expect to be successful with just witnessing and praying, but not living Acts 2:44 and 45 or tithing. Each of these things work hand in hand. All of these pillars are vital to financial success and to your receiving the Lord's blessings—personally and as a Home.

34. I'm a little concerned that you might be confused when reading some of my writings from the older Letters that are included in this Letter—some of which are very specific, and I usually didn't expound on all of the conditions. For example, sometimes I just talked about the tithe, and told you that if you didn't tithe you wouldn't be blessed and God would withhold from you. But at the time I was expecting you would be doing all of the other things the Lord had asked of you—such as obeying His Word and all of the rest.

35. So when reading through these financial pillars, remember that they all fit together. Even if the older quotes are specific to a certain pillar and seem very strong on one side of the coin, remember that there is no one thing that is more important than another when it comes to the pillars of financial success. If you want God's blessings, you have to obey in each of these areas.

If you're obeying God in one thing but throwing all of His other rules out the window, then you're going to be sorry.

36. If you want good physical health but you're only obeying one physical health rule and disregarding all of the others, you're going to be weak and sickly and unhealthy. It's the same with your financial health. You've got to incorporate each financial rule into your life and obey all of the Lord's instructions, or else you'll find yourself financially unhealthy, lacking His supply, and wasting away spiritually and materially. So don't neglect any one of the pillars, beloved, because each is equally important, and obedience to all of them is how you receive the Lord's bountiful financial blessings. *(End of message from Dad.)*

▼ Pillar 1: A Well-Rounded Missionary Work

37. (Mama:) You're supposed to be missionaries. That's your pitch for raising money. Are you? Can you honestly say that your profession is that of a missionary? Is that what you spend most of your time doing? This point is absolutely fundamental to your success: Having a well-rounded missionary work means you have an actual missionary work. You're not just hanging around the house most of the time and then doing some fundraising on the side to raise the immediate money you need.

38. I can't emphasize this point enough. If you're going to win supporters, kings, and outside members who are willing to give and tithe to you, they'll need to see that you're missionaries. Missionaries have works. They do things that promote the Gospel which people can see, such as host Bible studies and Word classes, witness to unsaved people, help the needy, work with youth who don't know the Lord, etc. It's all about witnessing.

39. This is one of the first places you should look if you're consistently low on money. How is your missionary work? Are you witnessing faithfully, regularly? Are you ministering spiritually to the needy with the Words of David?

Are you following up on the hungry sheep you meet? Are you having Word studies? Are you promoting Activated? Do you have a consistent, organized follow-up program? Are you hosting seminars? Do you have a Church of Love? Are you ministering to the children of your friends and Active members, or opening the door for the children in your neighborhood? Do you have a prayer list for those you minister to, so you can seek the Lord for their needs in intercessory prayer?

40. Do you live like missionaries? Do you spend your time like missionaries? Or do you hang around, investing your time in other interests or even just wasting time, and then put in a couple of long days each week doing such things as ballooning, teaching English, clowning, etc., while you give out a few tracts, if that?

41. Ask yourselves: If you were a person with a full-time job in the System and you met someone like you, would you give to you? Would you take 10% of your hard-earned cash and give it to a Home and missionary work like yours? Would you feel you were giving to God's work if you gave to your Home?

42. Remember Paul's words that have ministered faith to many a diligent missionary for centuries: "If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things? ... Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? And they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the Gospel should live of the Gospel" (1Cor.9:11,13, 14).

43. Another part of a well-rounded missionary work is promoting Activated. The Lord has attached very strong promises of supply to the Activated program, but those promises are useless if you're not doing all you can to make Activated a reality in your Home.

44. (Mama:) Having sufficient income is one sign of the Lord's blessings, but not the only one. After all, many people who don't work for the Lord at all work hard at secular jobs and bring in plenty of money to support themselves. So you can't judge your success as a missionary solely by your income. Missionaries, as I said, have works.

45. As I mentioned earlier, many of the COs read advance copies of this Letter while we were working on it. One CO who read this commented on this point:

46. This Letter stresses the point that having a well-rounded missionary work is fundamental to our success, and I wanted to "amen" this point.

47. Establishing a fruitful or successful missionary work seems to be somewhat relative to each person or Home's perspective. It really shouldn't be a matter of personal opinion, though, because we've had so much Word poured out to us that we are without excuse.

48. The spiritual aspect of our missionary work, that of preaching the Gospel, has been somewhat lost in personal interpretation. I believe this part of the Letter will help our Homes to change their perspective from what they think their missionary work should be to what the Lord expects it to be.

49. As you said, "Missionaries have works. They do things that promote the Gospel which people can see, such as host Bible studies and Word classes, witness to unsaved people, help the needy, work with youth who don't know the Lord, etc. It's all about witnessing."

50. I don't have anything against Homes that balloon, as long as there is a balance in other areas of fundraising or outreach. But there are still Homes who major on ballooning a couple of days a week as a means to raise funds, and do very little actual witnessing during the other days that they have free. They sometimes have a few people over each week and do a few CTP trips a year to distrib-

ute clothes and other items, but other than that, they really aren't witnessing during the week, winning souls, getting out *Activated* or other Family tools, or teaching their friends the meat of the Word.

51. When the stats come in each month, such Homes usually have little or no lit out and no souls won, so it would seem that they would be having a difficult time financially. But on the contrary, some of these same Homes are not doing all that bad financially. I imagine it's because they work hard to raise funds and the Lord is blessing their efforts because they are working at their support.

52. However, I should also say that although some of these Homes have what would seem to be financial blessings, most of the time they're not doing all that well spiritually. Their standard of discipleship is usually lacking, which is manifested in uninspired teens, a poor childcare standard, and other areas.

53. How do we show these Homes that just because they have good financial support, that's not always an indication they're on the right track and not in need of help? Someone recently told me that when they tried talking to a Home shepherd about some problems in his Home, his comment was, "We must be doing okay, because God is blessing our finances." In actuality, though, this particular Home was having some significant problems and really did need to have some changes.

54. You can be losing God's blessings in your life because of not obeying in some area other than finances.

55. (Mama:) Having a good income isn't necessarily a sign of the Lord's blessings. You can be doing well financially and still be lacking spiritually, dear Family. But if you have a well-rounded missionary work and are following the ten pillars to financial success mentioned in this Letter, then you'll be blessed both financially and spiritually, and you'll be a blessing to your mate, your children, the Lord's work and the lost of the world!

▼ **Pillar 2: Obedience to God's Word**

56. Are you being obedient to the Lord's Word in all areas, personally and as a Home?

Are you following the general direction in the new GNs? Sometimes the Lord has to dry up His financial blessings because you're disobedient. He loves you and is trying to get through to you, He wants you to wake up, and He's hoping that if He puts the squeeze on you financially, you'll finally get so desperate that you'll be willing to ask Him what's wrong and hear His instruction.

57. If your Home has been consistently broke, He's probably already been trying to alert you to some sin or disobedience in your life or Home. He's probably already tried gentler methods, as He prefers to supply abundantly rather than to have you just scraping by. He'd rather be loading on the benefits and opening the windows of Heaven and sweeping out that gold dust by the bucketfuls to fill your needs to overflowing. But sometimes He has to let the supply lines dry up in order to get your attention, to make you desperate.

58. So think about it. Are you disobeying the New Wine and the general direction the Lord is leading for today? Is there sin in your life or Home in the form of compromise, murmuring, division, withholding tithes and offerings, etc.?

59. It's important that you get this sorted out, because until you do, things won't change regarding your finances. People blame the Family for lack of supply, as if there's something fundamentally wrong with the Family. But the problem is not the Family and it's certainly not God, but it could very well be you! If you're sinning, disobeying, lying or being dishonest in any way, living in division, etc., then God cannot bless you.

60. A lack of money doesn't necessarily mean that the sin is directly associated with finances. Well, it could be, if you're not tithing fully or you're wasting the Lord's money through extravagance or bad stewardship. But

it could also be the result of such things as not being honest with your contacts, maintaining an ongoing unfruitful relationship that is hurting others, engaging in ungodly activities or pastimes, failing to diligently care for the goods and equipment the Lord supplies, wasting time and not having the right priorities in your life and Home, etc.

61. Lack of financial supply could be the result of any number of disobediences, whether personally or as a Home, whether secret sins or more open ones. There are no secret sins or disobediences with the Lord, and He sometimes takes them pretty seriously (see Joshua 7). If you're not obeying the overall direction in the Word in all areas to the best of your ability, by God's grace and through the power of the keys, then you certainly can't expect the Lord's full supply.

62. It's up to you to find out what's wrong, if anything, and to correct it. Peter and I can't tell you exactly what the problem is in your life and Home, but the Lord can.

63. Maybe there's nothing wrong as far as actual sin in your heart or Home; maybe the Lord is testing you or there's some simple oversight or practical adjustment needed. But before you casually conclude that all is well in your Home and your walk with the Lord, I want you to really examine your life, attitudes, priorities, actions, and habits, to make sure the Lord is pleased with you in these areas. If you know you're obedient to the Lord to the best of your ability, if there are no "cigars" in your life, then you'll have a lot more faith for the Lord to do the miracles to bring in the money you need and help you to establish a flourishing missionary work.

(Dad:) I remember a story about the famous singing evangelist Mordecai Ham, who worked with Dwight L. Moody for a while and later won Billy Graham to the Lord. He smoked big fat cigars, but he said that every time he got down to pray, "That big cigar would come up between me and God as big as a telephone pole! It condemned me and was coming between me

and the Lord because I felt guilty about smoking.” So he quit smoking! “Whatsoever is not of faith is sin” (Rom.14:23). (From ML #604:1–2, Vol.5.)

▼ **Pillar 3: Ask!**

64. You have to be willing to ask for the money and provisions you need. Ask and you will receive! This is a biggie. I talked about this extensively in “From Poverty to Plenty,” ML#2929, published July 1994. But there’s a lot more to it than just basic counsel to “ask for what you need.” How do you ask? When do you ask? What makes someone want to give? I’m not going to cover all these details of this financial pillar, but I do suggest you ask the Lord about the questions I just posed, and also consider having some workshops, Home council meetings, and even citywide brainstorming sessions to seek the Lord’s answers to those and other practical questions related to presenting your work and asking for support.

65. I don’t want to simplify this asking principle with the idea that you just ask, and presto change-o, the money or provisions flood in! Of course, there are disappointments when you do ask, and sometimes people are offended—maybe their pride is offended, or they act defensively because of selfishness, or asking in an unwise manner could trigger an offensive reaction—or they make promises that they don’t keep. But still, the fact remains that if you don’t ask, most people will not give. Even very dedicated friends and outside members, those who love you dearly and consider you their church, will often not give if you don’t ask.

66. It’s the nature of man to be selfish, to want to hold on to his money and things. Most people like money, they like to buy things, so the Lord has to convict their heart and really prick their conscience before they’ll turn loose any of their hard-earned cash or goods. You need to make a pitch, and it pretty much needs to be one that they can’t refuse. That takes faith, skill, wisdom, and a good missionary work to back up your request. (Note: There is more on this later in this Letter.)

▼ **Pillar 4: You Are a Professional!**

67. It’s very important that you realize that you are doing professional work and there’s nothing wrong with expecting people to pay you for it. Many of you missionaries feel it’s your duty to be poor. You have somehow accepted the idea that not having money or plenty or a high standard of living equals being a real missionary. That’s not true, at least not for us in the Family. Perhaps missionaries in other groups, denominations or Catholic orders can be content to live in need and suffer with the poor. That might be their way of serving the Lord. But that’s not our calling.

68. We’re not like some religious orders that have taken a vow of poverty. I don’t see the advantage of that when it comes to reaching the world. Others feel led differently, and that’s fine for them. But poverty is not going to help us accomplish what only we can do. We in the Family should live in convenience, with a standard of living that is high enough that we can minister to the most spiritually needy—the rich and educated.

69. We’ve heard reports that many Family members have the idea that part of their testimony is to give almost without limit of their time, effort, resources, manpower and even tools to those who request their help, without expecting financial remuneration. To serve without expecting anything in return seems to be the motto of many Family members. That is unnecessary and in some cases actually foolish. Even the System is often surprised at the lengths to which we’re willing to go, the sacrifices we’re willing to make, without even so much as expecting our expenses to be covered, much less an additional payment of hard cash for our services, time, expertise, and efforts.

70. In the System almost no one does anything for free. Those in the System realize that, and therefore they’re usually willing to pay for services rendered. But if you’ve gotten the idea that you’re only being real missionaries when you give everything you’ve got and don’t get paid, then of course they’ll be happy to let you

do that. They're not going to say, "Oh really, you should let me give you this money. You should let me pay you. I insist. It's only right, only fair, after all you've given!" No, they're going to think, "Fine, if you're willing to do this for free, all the better. More money for me!"

71. This mindset ties in with not being willing to ask, and it's a mindset that you'll need to ask the Lord to help you get over. You don't have to feel guilty when you say, "Yes, we'll be very happy to help you host your seminar. But we'd need to have our travel and lodging expenses covered for our team, and also, since we won't be doing our regular missionary fundraising, we'll need to charge a fee of X dollars." Your hosts will expect that, and if they want you there bad enough, they'll be willing to pay or to help raise the money that you need. They're used to paying for every speaker and all the musical entertainment they've ever booked, and they'll not think it's strange if you charge for your participation in their project. That's the way of the world, and there's nothing wrong with you making some money for your time, help, and whatever you'll contribute to the event.

72. Remember, almost everything in the System is about making money. So it will not seem strange at all to the people you're working with and helping if you want to receive some compensation for your part in the event or project. They know you need it, and it's not unusual or unethical, even for missionaries, to expect to get paid.

73. When working on the Letter "Reach the Rich," I had various people on the field proof-read the rough draft so they could offer suggestions on the presentation or bring up questions or other sides. One FGA woman who is talented in presentation and provisioning shared a point of view that was very interesting. Maybe you've had the same experience. She said:

74. The System often uses our dedication and concern for the poor, and I might say our craving for acceptance at times, for their own ends, taking advantage of us, soliciting our help for their own CTP pro-

jects, at great expense of our time, and sometimes even our finances, while our System friends pocket the donations and the recognition themselves. These friends are not necessarily ill-intentioned, but the impression that we give them—that we are wholehearted volunteers, full-timers, eager to help and participate in humanitarian-type projects—influences them to use us that way.

75. I know someone in the Family who heads a high-profile CTP work and who has been working with a System man who has a big project with orphanages. This man has used our time, warehouse and contacts for years now, while pocketing most of the credit and all the donations for himself. I have seen this in other situations too.

76. We in the Family are so dedicated, hard-working and eager to participate in something that has immediate, physical, visible results, that we are easily taken advantage of. System people know how to give cosmetic [superficial] credit, which doesn't amount to much, while they receive the big money for their projects and the real recognition from their peers. (*End of FGA's comments.*)

77. (Mama:) I'm sure there's a balance in this, and there might be times when you will provide your services for your friends and contacts free of charge. This doesn't mean you can't ever help people or be there for your sheep without getting paid. But the point is that if you've developed an attitude that is similar to that "excuse me for living" mentality, where you think people are doing you a giant favor by allowing you to participate in some event as singers, counselors, helpers, staff, entertainment, etc., then you probably need to ask the Lord about that and adjust your attitude somewhat.

78. The Family brings a very unique and valuable contribution to any and all events, whether through performances of our meaningful and beautiful music, or through faithful, com-

petent, willing help as staff and organizers. Rather than thinking someone is doing you a favor by allowing you to be involved in whatever they're doing, you need to see it as a give-and-take situation. While you're using your contact's situation or project as an open door to witness and get out the message, they're also using you to provide something that they obviously can't get anywhere else.

79. It's not wrong for you to expect to also receive something in return, and I'm not just talking about good PR and getting to know people. When you do something for those who can afford to do something for you, then you should at least be able to sell your tools, or ask that participants buy an *Activated* subscription, or pass the hat, or request a cover charge for the entertainment, etc. There has to be some way that you can cash in on something more practical than just "making friends." Or, if nothing else, you can follow up on some of the attendees later and explain your work and needs to them in more detail, and ask for help then.

80. Time is short and you need to value the time, effort, and expense that you put toward all the projects that you're involved in. There is absolutely nothing wrong with your being aware of and letting others know what it's costing you. You, just like everyone else in the world, have to make a living, and it's perfectly natural to be thinking about what you'll receive in return. Believe me, everyone in the world is thinking about that; in fact, that's about all they're thinking about!

81. If you need to be paid for your services, that's not being selfish—that's just being realistic! If you have a hard time with this concept, then I suggest you ask the Lord about it, as it might be that you're a bit too concerned about the opinions of man, and you're trying to work your way into positions and opportunities that make you feel more "accepted" by the System, even at the expense of letting them take advantage of you. I'm sorry, but that's too high a price, if you ask me!

▼ Pillar 5: Reach the Rich!

82. It is imperative that you follow the Lord's counsel to reach the rich and educated, those who can afford to support you. This has been covered in detail in "Conviction vs. Compromise, Part 7," but this list of main pillars would not be complete without this point. It is absolutely crucial to your financial stability that you're ministering to those who can afford to help you. You might be doing very well in all the other points on this list, but if your main ministry and association and work are with poor people, you'll not have what you need, because they'll not be able to help you. They can't give you what they don't have.

83. No matter how much the poor love you, they'll never be able to be regular cash supporters. They can possibly help you with some of their time, and they can pray for you, which is good, but right now we're talking about raising the cash that you need to pay your bills. That can only come from those who have it to give.

84. It is possible that the Lord will not allow your financial situation to improve and become more stable until you're giving proper attention to ministering to the spiritually needy—the rich and educated. In order to do that, you'll need to get over the pride that holds you back and the fear that they'll think you want their money. Of course you want their money. That's not the only thing you want, but that's part of what you want. And there's nothing wrong with that.

85. Do you get critical of the salespeople who wait on you in the stores? When they're selling you on the benefits of their product, do you think, "Oh, that's terrible, this person wants my money!" Of course you don't! When the waitress is very sweet and accommodating to you, do you think, "How rude, she just wants my money in the tip!" Of course not! When you watch commercials on television or read ads in magazines or newspapers, do you get up in arms thinking, "This is so wrong! They're after my money!" No, you don't. This bizarre reasoning

doesn't come to mind because you've accepted the fact that this is the way things work.

86. Well, it wouldn't hurt for you to apply that same reasoning to your work for the Lord.

You are a professional too, and you have a very specialized trade or skill or service to offer. Just like everyone else, you are trained; you are educated. You know more about your field of expertise than they do. You are unique, and the people you're helping should be willing to pay for what you have to offer. That might sound rather cut and dried, but it's the truth (1Cor.9:11). People expect to have to pay their doctors, lawyers, teachers, psychiatric counselors (or shrinks, as they're often called), maids, mechanics, nannies, and everyone who does them a service! They know they're receiving something they need from those people, and they pay for it. It's simple, straightforward, and expected.

87. If you can see how this applies to what you offer the folks you minister to spiritually, then you'll realize that it's crazy for you to be expected to do everything for free.

The people you minister to don't start out expecting to get whatever you offer for free, but you can quickly change their mindset and expectations if you never ask and are content to always be there for them without making your needs known. If that's the case, then pretty soon—very quickly, I'd say

—a new pattern is established and they're very happy to be getting something for nothing, and it is much more difficult to ask later, because then they think, "Hey, what's the deal?! You've never charged me before!" And instead of their being happy to give, then they feel they're getting ripped off or cheated. That's no good! You see, it's much better to teach people to give from the beginning, to set the stage and build a good foundation of giving, sharing, and mutual cooperation right from the start.

88. But again, the faith to do this comes from your own perception of your work and yourself. It's a matter of faith and confidence. If you're convinced that what you have to offer is worth more money than they could possibly give, then it will be very natural for you to expect to get paid for your services. But that attitude comes from within. It's a matter of your personal faith, how you see yourself, how much you honestly feel your work and the spiritual riches you're providing are worth. You have something no one else in the world has. You have the corner on the market. You have a guaranteed-to-succeed business! But it will never come to fruition unless you have the faith to promote it and sell it. No one ever succeeded in business by giving their product away indefinitely.

89. (*Jesus speaking*.) When it comes to actual services—like hosting shows or seminars, for example—the Family should expect to be paid something (at the very least their expenses), or else ask to be allowed to get out their tools. Many Homes continually offer to do things such as shows and seminars, which are very definitely "services," for free, when they could be at least covering their expenses—and oftentimes receiving over and above that.

90. Of course, when you're first witnessing to someone or feeding them spiritually, it can take a while for them to realize that what you're giving them is worthwhile, that it's something they need, and that it's worth more than money can buy. It can take some time

before they realize that they really want and need what you're offering them—spiritual counseling, support, prayer, the Word, and more. You wouldn't usually, upon your first interactions with someone, ask that they "pay you for your services." This wouldn't go over well, to say the least!

91. When it comes to spiritually feeding the sheep, you must wait until they're sure they want what you have to offer, and then once they know that what you're giving them is worth more than money, they will be happy to help you in some way if you make your needs known. Once they've experienced the riches of the spirit you're giving them, they will want

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to help you because they'll know you're "servicing" them.

92. What you ask for and how you ask depends on what type of outreach you're doing. If you're doing a show for a hospital and you're going ward to ward cheering up the patients, for example, this is an immediate service, and the Family should be able to upfront ask for some sort of donation or at least something to cover their expenses. Or if you're hosting a party for a king, this is a service and you

shouldn't be afraid to ask for financial help. But when it comes to personal witnessing, the one you're witnessing to won't immediately think you're doing them a "service" until they reach the point where it starts to make a difference in their life—they start to feel happier, more at peace, their problems grow lighter, etc. So in that case you wouldn't be able to say immediately, "This is the service I'm offering you. Can you help with a donation to support me?" You must be spirit-led and judge each situation on its own merits. (*End of message from Jesus.*)

▼ Pillar 6: Work Hard! Put in the Hours!

93. To have a successful work, you must also have a willingness to work hard and put in the hours. Some Homes and Family missionaries aren't successful financially simply because they don't work hard enough at it. Any businessman or salesman realizes that success comes with putting in the hours. It doesn't matter how gifted, smart, educated, talented, or skilled the person might be, if they don't work, they won't make any money. If they just casually sort of play at their job, showing up to work whenever they feel like it, not concentrating or focusing on their production, not requiring themselves to work at least the minimum of 40 or 50 hours a week, then they'll not get rich. In fact, they'll make very little money and probably get fired or their business will go belly up.

94. I don't know how so many people in the Family got the idea that their workday should be so short. Many Family missionaries get out witnessing late in the morning or even in the afternoon, and they hardly devote any hours to the actual job of witnessing, and then they wonder why they're broke. In fact, we've had plenty of people leave the Family—well, mostly young people—who complained about living "hand to mouth" in the Family. But then they go out to the System and are willing to put in many more times the hours of actual work, so of course they make a better living.

95. In the System they sacrifice, wake up early, work late, and hardly have any time at all for recreation, sleep, exercise, hanging out with friends, chatting on e-mail, etc. There's hardly time for anything at all but work, as they're tied to a very rigorous and stressful schedule for their new System boss. Now what I can't figure out is why people are willing to put so much more into their work in the System than our Family members are for the Lord.

96. Sometimes a lack of money is a simple mathematical equation. It goes like this: Very few hours working equals very little money. Just as that's true in the System, it's also true in your service for the Lord. If you expect God to support you, you have to work for Him, and hard.

97. I suggest you take a look at your schedule. How much time are you actually on the field, ministering to others, witnessing, pouring out, giving classes, praying with people, selling tools, doing follow-up—being a professional missionary? I'm not talking about your travel time. I'm not talking about the time it takes to maintain your Home, like JTs, required meetings, cooking, etc. I'm not talking about the time it takes to maintain your own spiritual life—Word, prayer, prophecy, etc. No one in the System gets credit with his employer for driving to work or for anything involved with taking care of himself as a person. You get paid for working. Well, the same

can be said for your missionary work. You get paid by the Lord for the time you're pouring out to others, witnessing, and being a professional missionary. Everything else is your personal life or your communal life, but it's not your missionary work!

98. This is a principle we have worked very hard the last year in WS to help our workers to understand. Explained simply, it goes like this: Because we live communally and our schedule is fluid, and because we work at home, there is the tendency for our personal life and our work life to become intertwined. The result can be wasted time, unfocused work, and an overestimation of the time someone is actually working. Say you work at a computer, and in between your various work to-dos, you also chat with a few friends, write some personal e-mails, etc. Well, you've been sitting at your computer, but you haven't been working, at least not full-time, and it hasn't been focused, uninterrupted work. Obviously that's not efficient, and if that keeps up, you can begin to get a rather inflated idea of how much you're working. That's extremely inefficient.

99. The same could be said of your missionary work. If you go out witnessing, but then you stop for a coffee, and then you have to do some banking, and then since you're in the area you return the pair of jeans you bought that don't fit, and you run into your girlfriend so you go for another coffee, and you make a few phone calls.... Well, you get the point, I'm sure. You're out of the house, but you're not doing focused, uninterrupted, quality missionary work.

100. If this happens to you, and I'm pretty sure it happens to many of you, then you might want to consider adopting some kind of policy like we did in our WS Homes. Peter met with the shepherds and heads of all the WS units and departments for a series of meetings. They discussed every detail of WS work. They came to the conclusion that our lives consist of four arenas: Spiritual life, personal life, communal life, and work. Then there was much prayer put toward defining what was expected of each person per week, taking into consideration the non-

work time that would be allotted for maintaining their spiritual lives and keeping a good balance in their communal and personal lives.

101. It was determined what would be considered a productive work week, meaning quality work—not work where you stop to do your laundry, take a shower or make your bed; not work where you stop to chat your friend on computer or write personal notes or letters. We instituted detailed work reports to be done daily, and strict oversight of work hours and priorities.

102. Each person in your Home should also be accountable for his time, and should be working hard. People can't just lounge around, waste time, shoot the breeze, sleep in, hang out, and then complain because the finances are low. Your schedule should be reasonable and workable, but also enforced, efficient, and productive. Being diligent with your time and working hard are part of being faithful missionaries, good stewards. (When I talk about working hard, I mean each person should be working hard within the limits of their abilities, as I hope you understand I'm not necessarily including those who are sick or infirm, pregnant or nursing mothers, and others whose age or health don't permit it.)

103. Of course, some people in your Home probably have the ministry of teaching the children, in which case they couldn't be expected to put in so many hours on the field witnessing. They're professional teachers, so their required work hours would be fulfilled as they teach the children, prepare the materials, and keep the homeschooling records. The same principle of diligence could be applied to those Home members who work mainly in the Home. For example, the teachers shouldn't think they're teaching the children if they're really just plopping them in front of the TV while they goof around or do some personal project.

104. This is all about quality work and it's about working hard, putting in the hours, no matter what your ministry. I talked about witnessing hours specifically because we're talking about being professional missionaries. Your Home needs to have a balanced enough ministry and schedule, and each member needs to be

putting in enough quality work hours so that you do have a good, solid, well-rounded missionary work! Having professional teachers, professional handymen, professional shepherds, etc., is not enough. You must also, together as a body, put in enough hours so that you have a missionary work with people outside your Home! And if your Home is one which provides services to other missionary Homes and you can't devote as much time to witnessing as you'd like, then you should be working hard to help those other missionaries help others.



105. One second-generation CO who read an advance copy brought up the very important point of involving your kids in the witnessing. That multiplies your witness, teaches the kids to witness, helps to overcome any boredom they might be feeling, and might multiply your income as well. She commented:

106. Witnessing, and especially witnessing with our children, seems to be a lost art in the Homes that I've seen. I think this GN series will be a call to return to our commission of being instant witnesses, in season and out of season. I don't know if the problem of witnessing with our children is due to a lack of faith to get the kids out or maybe a lack, especially on the part of our SGA parents, in knowing where to start or how to incorporate their kids into witnessing.

107. When we were growing up as kids, our parents put the Word to the test and put us kids out there on the front lines as the witnesses, and it bore fruit. Nowadays you don't see much of that in our Homes. Many don't witness at all with their kids, and it seems that the fundraising that the adults do on weekends is what is counted as witnessing.

108. If these GNs can inspire more emphasis in getting back to our main job of witnessing, which in turn is putting God on the spot, and being out there for the sheep, which is giving God a chance to do miracles

and to open unexpected doors, we'd be getting back to looking more like the Family we used to be.

109. Granted, paying the bills is a very real thing and not to be ignored, but I think in many cases we've put God in a box. We've limited Him by what amounts to working jobs through either weekend ballooning or canning rather than making the goal of each day to get out witnessing and see what the Lord does.

110. I'm especially concerned for our kids who don't know how to witness or who don't know that witnessing is one of our primary reasons for being in the Family. Instead, our kids are home with one or two adults getting their minimum of Word and school and then getting a megadose of videos to keep them occupied. (Obviously this isn't true in every case, but I'd venture to say it's fairly normal.)

111. I'd like to see more of an emphasis put on making our kids the witness, the proof of the pudding, the shining lights and assets that the Lord promised they would be and which proved to be true with the first generations in the Family—of course, not to the neglect of their schooling and spiritual feeding, but in conjunction with that. That would give them a sense of purpose for what it means to be in the Family and to be a witness.

112. (Mama:) Witnessing with children not only helps them but has the additional blessing of helping you, dear Family. As Dad said, "Children are one of the biggest assets you've got! My children practically put me in business, and yours can do the same for you if you train them right and if you get them out witnessing and litnessing. My kids finally were supporting me!" (ML #688:51, Vol.5).

113. I'm sure many of you have had practice in witnessing with your kids in the earlier days, or live near someone who has—or, if nothing else, can read up on it in the many pubs we've sent you on that topic over the years.

Here are just a few you might want to check out if your memory's rusty:

- ❑ "How to Have a Happy Home!" ML #2956:124–136, Lifelines 21.
- ❑ "Finances and Fundraising, Part 2," the sections majoring on children and witnessing, FSM 262.
- ❑ "Educating Our Children," FSM 263.
- ❑ "Growing Up Witnessing," FSM 303.

▼ Pillar 7: Living Acts 2:44–45/ Communal Living

114. One of the greatest testimonies of our Family lifestyle has almost disappeared. We are no longer living communally as we once did. In our earlier days this was one of our most powerful witnesses. The hippies of the late '60s and '70s had tried, to no avail, to have successful communes, but they just couldn't get it together. Other Jesus People groups had tried to live together, but their efforts crumbled. And even practical-minded people who were just trying to make ends meet by sharing expenses in a communal situation couldn't pull it off. And yet in the Family we managed to live in huge colonies or Homes where we shared everything.

115. It was beautiful Christian socialism, and it worked! Not only did it work, but it was a tremendous testimony of the reality of a living God of love, because we not only managed to share what we had and pay the bills, but we loved one another and were happy together.

116. That's why we so often would tell someone who was resistant to the witness, "Come and see!" We knew that if sheep were turned off to the Bible or they'd had bad experiences with the churches that made them not like Jesus, if we could just get them to come visit, their whole perception of Jesus would change. That's one of the things that made our sample so powerful—our communal lifestyle, unity, and having all things in common like Jesus' disciples did. That really proved we meant business; and we would often feel such satisfaction and pride in the truth when we could honestly say, "We live like Jesus and His disciples lived."

117. Not only was this an extremely powerful testimony of love and brotherhood, but it was also very effective financially. It doesn't take much skill in math to realize that it's much more economical to live together in a bigger house where you can share the rent, utilities, other bills and expenses. If you live together and co-op your time and talents, if you teach your children together, if you watch movies on the same video player and drive the same couple of cars, if you share the same Internet connection and swim in the same pool or your children play in the same yard, it just makes sense that you'll be saving money.

118. But the pattern in the Family today is that so many people now only want to live in either single-family Homes or very small Homes with just a couple of other people, preferably singles. They want their own things, their own car, their own equipment, their own house—which translates to their own bills!

119. Whatever happened to communal living? Whatever happened to Acts 2:44 and 45? Whatever happened to disciples forsaking all to live together? These are questions you need to seriously ponder and seek the Lord about.

120. Living together, sharing all things, bearing one another's financial burdens, forsaking all to live together, and trusting the Lord to supply, are foundation stones for the Family's economic System. Have you let them go in favor of a lifestyle that looks just like everyone else? That is so boring! That is so ineffective! And that is nothing even remotely similar to the way Jesus' disciples lived. But I suppose that's the true question—are you a disciple? If you are, then you'll take advantage of the marvelous and workable financial plan that Jesus gave His disciples. It still works today; it's just that so few people are willing to truly live it.

121. When I talk about communal living I mean you share all things, you have all things in common, no one has so much while others have too little. Are you still living in the land of not too much, the land where everyone has enough? Or have you moved to the land of selfishness, where you're hoarding and guarding your things, not willing to share?

122. Granted, as Peter brought out in the videos to the Family in Brazil, there might be those of you who have gotten “burned” because you gave of your finances or things, and then you got ripped off by other Family members that you trusted. That is very sad, and if that’s the case, I’m so sorry! These things ought not so to be! I only pray that you’ll have the faith to once again step forward to give, share, and trust the Lord. I pray you’ll find brethren to work with who also have a heart to give and share, who aren’t just looking for what they can get, but who are also seeking to lift another’s load, to take from their own closet, fridge, or purse, and give to someone in need.

123. Please try to make it work. Successful communal living requires a large measure of unselfishness and trust from all parties involved, as one CO mentioned when he read the advance copy of this Letter:

124. One reason people hesitate to live Acts 2:44 and 45 is, sadly, because they don’t really trust others. They are afraid that if they do live communally with others, they would need to share their contacts, share their finances, maybe even move into a bit bigger, nicer house where there’s actually room to live comfortably with another family at a good standard, and that this will eventually end up meaning that this other family will take their contacts and thus their support and income, leave the Home and leave them holding the bag with a big house and a big rent to pay while living on their own. In the end, they feel they will lose too much and the chance is too great to take. So they hesitate to take the step to venture out and live with others and get set up in a nice housing situation, sharing all things, including friends, contacts and supporters. Quite sad.

125. (Mama:) Communal living is built on giving by everyone involved. It’s not possible if your hearts are selfish and greedy. It must be a work of God’s Spirit. While it’s complicated to

live together and share all things, if you’re truly seeking to improve not only your financial base but also your sample to those you witness to, I sincerely ask that you pray desperately for a team that you can work and live with communally, following Acts 2:44 and 45. It’s good business, it will save you tons of money, and it will improve your witness by giving you a supernatural, fascinating sample to offer to those you minister to. Then you’ll be able to say, “Come and see!” and your communal Home will be a picture of Heaven on Earth to unbelievers.

▼ **Pillar 8: Appreciate and Preserve God’s Blessings**

126. The Lord is a wise Investor! He gives the most to those who are thankful for the blessings He’s already given them, and who show their appreciation by praising Him regularly, being good stewards of His material blessings, practicing austerity with the funds He gives, and not becoming familiar with His generosity. No benefactor would continue giving aid to someone who isn’t faithful, who doesn’t take care of what he already has, and who lets things deteriorate or go to waste. So what makes you think the Lord is going to give you His blessings of supply and provisions if you’re an unwise steward and/or aren’t thankful for what you have? He won’t bless unfaithfulness, wastefulness, murmuring, or familiarity.

127. This is a real problem in many Family Homes around the world. You aren’t thankful for what our Provider has given you, and you aren’t praising Him for His bountiful supply. You aren’t taking care of your Homes, your vehicles, and your equipment like you should, so of course the Lord doesn’t feel like giving you upgrades if He knows you’re just going to let them go to pot like the rest of your possessions. You aren’t thankful for the provisioning you do get, and you even murmur and complain and become familiar and wasteful, so of course the Lord isn’t going to increase the supply lines.

128. When our Husband sees that you’re taking good care of what He supplies, that you’re

being good stewards, and are thankful and praiseful for His blessings, that moves Him to want to supply even more—over and above even your basic needs. He wants to spoil you. He wants to give you His financial and material blessings in abundance. But He’s not going to let His riches and blessings go down the drain or land in ungrateful laps. His Word says, “It is required in stewards that a man be found faithful” (1Cor.4:2)—faithful to appreciate and care for all the Lord’s blessings, and to invest them in His service wisely. As the parable of the talents and the wise and unwise stewards in Matthew 25 shows, you who care for what He gives wisely, prayerfully and faithfully, will receive more and be blessed.

129. While we’re on the subject of being good stewards of the things the Lord blesses us with, let’s also remember to be good stewards of our brethren’s belongings and the Home’s goods. This is something that’s often sadly lacking in our Homes, and it’s not only a sad reflection on our faithfulness and diligence, our love and consideration for others, and our sample to outsiders, but it tears down Home unity and tends to encourage selfishness. One CO who read an advance copy of this Letter commented:

130. One reason for people not wanting to share things is bad stewardship. People tend to be careless with communal items. And some people are careless with personal belongings as well, so it’s difficult to trust them with expensive equipment such as computers, cameras, etc. It’s not a distrust of their motives, but of their ability to handle the equipment with care. I’m sure many people have this concern, having seen many communal items or loaned items damaged by mishandling, or even totally misplaced and lost. So then you wonder why you should let them use the equipment when the Lord doesn’t bless bad stewards.

131. (Mama:) When you’re poor stewards, it also discourages others from giving to you. Outsiders notice such things, as another CO commented:

132. Rich people observe a lot more than we think they do, and if they come to our Homes and see us be wasteful, careless, reckless and negligent with what we already have, you can be sure they will know right away that we are not a good investment. Not only will we miss out on the financial help that they would be to us if they saw a sample of diligence and faithfulness with what we already have, but the greatest loss will be in their lives. The Lord won’t be able to bless them for their giving, and we won’t be able to give them the riches of the spirit that they so desperately need.

133. (Mama:) Please, dear Family, be good stewards of each other’s belongings and treat them as you would your own! That’s part of loving others as yourself, the Law of Love. “Moreover, it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful” (1Cor.4:2).

▼ **Pillar 9: Tithe and Give Offerings**

134. Over the years, Family members have periodically sent in questions about various aspects of the tithe. Usually the questions revolved around what needs to be tithed and what doesn’t need to be tithed. It’s not bad to ask these questions, of course, and we always pray about the answers and check with our Husband, keeping in mind the financial situation of the Home as much as we can. The basics of the tithe principle for today can be found in the Word and the Charter.

135. However, a different type of question has surfaced recently regarding the tithe. Some complaints about WS expecting Family members to tithe have appeared on ex-member sites, and some of you in the Family are echoing the same things, wondering if maybe there isn’t a better way for the Family to finance our publications and other administrative costs. Some think the tithe is just an Old Testament practice, that it’s unfair for WS to require it of Family members.

136. Peter and I addressed the question of tithes in more detail earlier in this series. To

sum it up, you must remember that tithing is absolutely crucial to your having the Lord's blessing on your finances. You can't rob God of the tithe due Him and then expect Him to pour on the money and blessings. It just doesn't work that way. Giving your tithe is the minimum, it's your duty to God as disciples, and it's not unique to the Family. There are many church members who tithe to their church, and believe me, they get a whole lot less for their money than you do. In fact, you really shouldn't expect anything in return for your tithe, but Dad organized the Family in such a way that the tithe, in large part, goes directly back to the Family, back to you on the field. But even if it didn't, giving your 10% is your responsibility to the Lord as a Christian.

137. Though in many of the year-end GNs Peter has touched on how important your tithes and offerings are, and how you benefit directly through the many services WS provides as a result, since Dad's passing we haven't written much about the spiritual principles behind tithing and how crucial it is to receiving the Lord's blessings. But during Dad's days on Earth, if you'll search the HomeARC, you'll see that he was often teaching us the importance of tithing and supporting our work—the Family. Without the tithe, the Family wouldn't exist. Why is that? Because the tithe supports WS, and WS supports the Family, not only through its missionary giving and its administration of the Family, but more importantly through the spiritual food and products that keep the Family growing spiritually and moving ahead in the spirit, as well as supplying the spiritual food and the message from the Lord for the Family to distribute to the sheep everywhere.

▼ **Pillar 10: Beseech the Lord in Prayer**

138. I have mentioned a number of practical financial principles, and each one is crucial to your financial success. All of these factors dovetail; they all support one another. You can't disregard any one of these points or you'll suffer loss and things won't go so well. I want you

to seriously consider each of the points brought out thus far, and what I'm going to say now doesn't minimize these practical pillars. We must, however, also remind ourselves that ours is a spiritual work. We live in the spirit, we serve a living God, and we can't only depend on the practical. Our organization, hard work, communal living, and active missionary efforts are not enough. We must also have the full blessing of the Lord, and we must walk in humility before Him.

139. The foundation of our financial base is the Lord's blessing, His giving, His miracles. While we must give regular, consistent attention to the points listed thus far, we will never find the abundance we are looking for without humbly asking the Lord to supply. We must pray. Our Husband is eager to spoil us with good things, He loves to see us happy and He wants to dote on us as a devoted Provider, but His hands are tied until we ask. We must ask! We must show ourselves in need of Him. We are not sufficient in ourselves, and even if you did every single thing perfectly that you've read thus far, it wouldn't be enough unless you pray and ask the Lord.

140. Jesus wants to give, but He also wants the glory as your Husband, Shepherd, King and Savior. That's where desperate prayer, seeking the Lord, claiming the keys, and giving Him praise for every bit of supply comes in.

141. This might sound unbelievably basic, but from all we've heard and the reports we've received from those who have traveled to field Homes, it's pretty surprising how little some Homes pray, and how distracted and haphazard your prayer vigils are. Prayer should be your first line of defense. Prayer is step one. Asking the Lord and claiming the keys of miracles and supply should be your first reaction whenever you have a need.

142. Now ask yourself honestly, how much are you in the habit of praying? How much is it your nature to pray, to commit your needs immediately and regularly to prayer? If your prayer habit is so weak that prayer isn't the first thing that comes to mind when you have financial needs, then please, please work on that.

The Era of Accountability

143. Now that I've touched on the ten pillars, I would like to go back to each one and share more Word on it. Before I do that, however, there is something you need to understand, because otherwise the rest of this Letter will seem very repetitive to you. You'll probably get bored and tune out. Please don't do that. You need this review, because if there are aspects of these pillars that you've been ignoring, you absolutely must see that and remedy it!

144. We are entering the era of accountability. What that means is that the Lord is holding you responsible for what you've received in all areas of your life, including the training, opportunities and instruction related to building a financial base for your Home and future. It's not that He is cranking up His expectations to a much higher level. He's not expecting you to do a whole lot of new things that you've never heard of, but He is expecting you to do what He's already asked you. That's important to understand, because otherwise you may feel that it's just too much, that it's not fair, that you can't possibly do it. Instead, you should accept the fact that a lot of your troubles today are rooted in disobedience, in not holding yourself accountable for the truth you've been given.

145. Your overall situation today is the result of the millions of choices you've made over the years. Those who've read the Word and have taken it as meaning exactly what it said and have obeyed accordingly are in a much more blessed position today. But those of you who have ignored the many pleas from the Lord to promote Activated, to build a missionary work, to work hard at living as missionaries, to follow up and minister to long-term supporters, to win new disciples and Active members, etc., are now suffering the consequences.

146. Bad things don't just happen out of the blue. It's not that you're broke and struggling for no reason. Those difficult circumstances are the result of the sum total of your decisions, the many, many decisions you've made each day. But because there isn't usually immediate loss or consequences that make it obvious that some-

thing was a wrong choice or a bad decision, it's very easy to regularly make wrong choices until they become habits. And then later, usually much later down the road, your life, Home, relationships, kids, or ministry are not doing well, and you wonder, "Wow, what's wrong?"

147. What's wrong is that you're reaping the fruit of many wrong decisions and habits, which were rooted in disobedience, lethargy, laziness, lack of the fear of the Lord, and not heeding the Lord's warnings and instruction. This is the concept of accountability. The Lord has been faithful to give you the truth, you have the tools, you have the means. But if you don't hold yourself accountable, if you don't require a high standard of obedience from yourself and others in your Home, then you suffer loss. This is an enduring spiritual principle.

148. Because this concept is rather foreign to the Family, as was brought out in the Brazil GNs and videos, to the point that many of you feel there will never be punishment, now when you're told you're accountable, you feel overwhelmed or as if you can't do it.

149. Holding yourself and others accountable to obey and do what's right is a day-by-day process. It's all about those millions of little decisions that all add up eventually. You can turn things around in your lives and Homes, but it will take a very desperate effort to abandon that lackadaisical approach to life that tells you that you can pretty much do whatever you want and everything will continue as it is without things going haywire or getting bad. That's not true.

150. If you day by day, week by week, month by month ignore the Lord's counsel on any subject—and we're talking specifically about finances here—then your choices to disobey, compromise, or just not care about the Lord's Word on the subject will eventually all add up to disaster. Being accountable means that you are educated, you know some truth, and you will either be blessed or suffer loss according to your choices to obey or disobey that truth.

151. You hold your own future in your hands. You literally "control" the Lord's hand of blessing by your choices. It's not that things are go-

ing to happen to you and your Home while you're a mere innocent bystander who can't do anything about it. You decide if you'll fail or succeed!

152. To expound on this concept of accountability, of how you will reap the results of your actions, here are some excerpts of an interesting news article called "The Formula for Failure and Success":

Failure is not a single, cataclysmic event. We do not fail overnight. Failure is the inevitable result of an accumulation of poor thinking and poor choices. To put it more simply, failure is nothing more than a few errors in judgment repeated every day.

Now why would someone make an error in judgment and then be so foolish as to repeat it every day? The answer is because he or she does not think that it matters.

On their own, our daily acts do not seem that important. A minor oversight, a poor decision, or a wasted hour generally doesn't result in an instant and measurable impact. More often than not, we escape from any immediate consequences of our deeds.

If we have not bothered to read a single book in the past ninety days [in the Family's case, of course, it'd be more appropriate to substitute "Letter" for "book" in this example], this lack of discipline does not seem to have any immediate impact on our lives. And since nothing drastic happened to us after the first ninety days, we repeat this error in judgment for another ninety days, and on and on it goes. Why? Because it doesn't seem to matter. And herein lies the great danger. Far worse than not reading the books is not even realizing that it matters!

Those who eat too many of the wrong foods are contributing to a future health problem, but the joy of the moment overshadows the consequence of the future. It does not seem to matter. Those who smoke too much or drink too much go on making

these poor choices year after year after year ... because it doesn't seem to matter. But the pain and regret of these errors in judgment have only been delayed for a future time. Consequences are seldom instant; instead, they accumulate until the inevitable day of reckoning finally arrives and the price must be paid for our poor choices—choices that didn't seem to matter.

Failure's most dangerous attribute is its subtlety. In the short term those little errors don't seem to make any difference. We do not seem to be failing. ... Since nothing terrible happens to us, since there are no instant consequences to capture our attention, we simply drift from one day to the next, repeating the errors, thinking the wrong thoughts, listening to the wrong voices and making the wrong choices. The sky did not fall in on us yesterday; therefore the act was probably harmless. Since it seemed to have no measurable consequence, it is probably safe to repeat.

But we must become better educated than that!...

Just like the formula for failure, the formula for success is easy to follow: It's by making the future an important part of our current philosophy.

Both success and failure involve future consequences, namely the inevitable rewards or unavoidable regrets resulting from past activities. If this is true, why don't more people take time to ponder the future? The answer is simple: They are so caught up in the current moment that it doesn't seem to matter. The problems and the rewards of today are so absorbing to some human beings that they never pause long enough to think about tomorrow.

But what if we did develop a new discipline to take just a few minutes every day to look a little further down the road? We would then be able to foresee the impending consequences of our current conduct. Armed with that valuable information, we would be able to take the necessary action to

change our errors into new success-oriented disciplines. In other words, by disciplining ourselves to see the future in advance, we would be able to change our thinking, amend our errors and develop new habits to replace the old.

The real magic of new disciplines is that they will cause us to amend our thinking. If we were to start today to try harder, and in every way make a conscious and consistent effort to change subtle and deadly errors into constructive and rewarding disciplines, we would never again settle for a life of existence—not once we have tasted the fruits of a life of substance! (*End of news article.*)

153. (*Mama:*) I'm not usually so keen on including System material in the GNs, as I prefer to go with the Lord's Words. I feel He says it the best, and when He says it, we know it's 100% right. But in this case, this author sheds some light on the concept of accountability from the perspective that you are building your future today. If you make the right choices—which in our Family means if you obey the Lord and the Word—then you'll be blessed. From the perspective of finances, that means your financial base will improve and the Lord will be able to do miracles of supply. But if you become deceived, thinking that wrong choices, bad decisions and disobedience don't matter, then eventually you'll find yourself in a mess. And the reason you'll find yourself in a mess is because the Lord won't simply let it pass, He won't let it "not matter," because you know better. That's the crux of accountability.

154. Here is something from our Lover on this subject:

155. (*Jesus speaking:*) My dear ones, I am your Husband. I am your Lover. I am a faithful Provider and will never fail you. What is more, I love to supply for you. It thrills My heart to do those miracles that provide your specific needs. It really makes Me happy when you fulfill the conditions attached to My promises and then claim them in faith. There's nothing I love more

than to see you have your needs met, to be able to manifest My love for you in physical, practical ways—ways that make you consciously think, "Wow, the Lord really loves me!"

156. By the same token, it makes My heart ache when I see you have very big, real, important needs, yet My hands are tied and I'm not able to pour out My blessings upon you because something is blocking the way. The channels that I would use to pour out on you are blocked, either through your lack of obedience, lack of faithfulness to witness and get out the meat of the Word, lack of sharing and sacrifice, lack of willingness to work hard for Me, or whatever the case may be.

157. Especially now, when time is so short and there is so much to do, there are so many who must be reached before even greater darkness falls upon the world, I long more than ever to give you all that you need to do the job! I long to shower you with abundant supply—not just the bare necessities, but whatever you need to make your work easier and more fruitful.

158. When I have to withhold My blessings for some reason, I do it with great sorrow and heaviness of heart, because I know that it not only causes difficulty and greater pressure for you as you struggle to make ends meet, but the end result is often loss to My work because you're so busy trying to survive that you're not as effective in reaping the harvest.

159. You could be working much more effectively to reap your fields, to cultivate lasting works, to train disciples, but you're so busy trying to keep your heads above water financially that you let golden opportunities slip right by you, because you just don't have time to take them. Souls are not saved, hearts are not reached with My love. Some are, yes. You do what you can. But you could be doing so much more if I was able to open the windows of Heaven to bless you fully!

160. My loves, you need to realize that you are accountable. You are accountable because of all the Word I have poured out to you over the years. You are accountable because of the wealth of training—including practical, down-

to-earth application of spiritual principles that David, Maria and Peter have patiently imparted through Letter after Letter after Letter: Letters on how to have a fruitful work. Letters on how to have a well-balanced Home. Letters on how to live in unity, give, and open yourself up for My blessings. Letters on how to have the faith to ask for your support. Letters on how to train your children so that they are an asset, a testimony, a part of your witness. Letters on stewardship, balancing your budget, keeping your tithe to Me sacred. Letters on how to use the keys. Letters on putting Me first. Letters on the spiritual principles behind My supply.

161. My loves, you are so accountable. For years I have been training you, pouring into you, repeating things over and over. But when it comes down to it, can I bless disobedience? Can I bless it if you put other things before Me? Can I bless it if you're not a good sample of the children of David? Can I support that kind of work or lifestyle? No, I can't.

162. Just as I am speaking to you about your accountability in living the life of a disciple, and I am meting out punishment and chastisement for those who have not been obeying, even so have I begun to withdraw My blessings in the area of supply and finances, and you will feel the effects more and more as the days pass. If you want to continue to receive My blessings, if you want to be able to "live by faith," if you want to have what you need to continue doing your missionary work, you're going to have to live by the Word I've been giving all these years. You're going to have to dig it out, read it, study it, see where you need to improve, and then do it, or you will feel the effects drastically.

163. This is all part of My love for you, My children. I'm going to make it easy for you to work on these areas that many of you have felt were lacking for years, but you weren't strong enough in yourselves to improve. That's nothing to be ashamed of—it's just human nature. But now I'm helping you. I'm putting some bite to the bark, and you'll find that it's impossible to coast along any longer. If you want My bless-

ings, My financial supply, you must fulfill the requirements.

164. If you're not able to make ends meet, if you don't have what you need for the job I've asked you to do, there's a reason. There's something I want to teach you, something I want to get through to you about. Yes, there are always difficult times in the life of a missionary. There are times you don't have every single thing you want. But you should always have what you need. And so, if you don't have what you need, there's a reason.

165. Take stock of your Home. Take stock of your personal life. Own up to the disobediences, the lacks, the compromises, and do something about it! Make a decision! And then prove My promises; see if I will not open the windows of Heaven and pour out such a blessing that there will not be room enough to hold it! (*End of message from Jesus.*)

166. (Mama:) I want to draw particular attention to the last two paragraphs of that message. The lesson here is that if you don't have enough money to do the job, if you're really struggling (especially on a long-term basis), something is wrong! There is a reason, because normally the Lord will supply well. You might not have every single desire of your heart, but you will have what you and your families need to be comfortable, healthy, and good testimonies of the generous God you serve.

167. If your Home is not doing well financially, which many are not, then it's time to take stock. I'm going to help you do that as you go into the next section of this series. I'll review the pillars of financial success again, and will include some assignments for you as individuals and as a Home.

168. Please take time in your next four required Home council and outreach meetings to discuss these points. This is an official request from me, your queen. Please do not neglect to do this. Remember, the Lord will hold you accountable.

Continued in Part 2