



It's time to take action



In the carnal mind the task before you would seem like a "mission impossible," but I tell you again, there are no impossibilities to you. This is the new era.

As you step out to take action in this new era, all things will be possible to you. My Spirit in you cannot fail as long as you look to Me, stay focused on the vision I give, and don't give up. As long as you do your part by having a believing and yielding heart, all that I ask of you is possible. All you need to fulfill the vision I have given, all that I have promised to you in these Last Days—it's all possible.

My Spirit in you cannot fail as long as you look to Me, stay focused on the vision I give, and don't give up. As long as you do your part by having a believing and yielding heart, all that I ask of you is possible. All you need to fulfill the vision I have given, all that I have promised to you in these Last Days—it's all possible.

As long as you do your part by having a believing and yielding heart, all that I ask of you is possible. All you need to fulfill the vision I have given, all that I have promised to you in these Last Days—it's all possible.

All you need to fulfill the vision I have given, all that I have promised to you in these Last Days—it's all possible.

All you need to fulfill the vision I have given, all that I have promised to you in these Last Days—it's all possible.

All you need to fulfill the vision I have given, all that I have promised to you in these Last Days—it's all possible.

All you need to fulfill the vision I have given, all that I have promised to you in these Last Days—it's all possible.

All you need to fulfill the vision I have given, all that I have promised to you in these Last Days—it's all possible.

All you need to fulfill the vision I have given, all that I have promised to you in these Last Days—it's all possible.

All you need to fulfill the vision I have given, all that I have promised to you in these Last Days—it's all possible.

All you need to fulfill the vision I have given, all that I have promised to you in these Last Days—it's all possible.

seize the

THE keys

FEEEL

CRABAPPLES

THE RUSH

Table of Contents

3

INTERVIEW

SWEET TASTE OF INDIA

15

POSTCARD

FROM PORT HARCOURT

17

ZINETOON



AflowerR

For My Lady

An allegory on winning souls

By Richard

I was looking down a steep slope, when my eyes alighted on a beautiful lily. It stood out among the green shrubbery as if it were a jewel on a dark velvet background. Thinking what joy this lovely flower might bring to my lady, I started out to get it. Surveying the possibilities, I noticed that in between the lily and I stood dense undergrowth—thorn bushes, razor-sharp grass, and thistles. The final stronghold guarding this diamond of the forest was a poison sumac bush.

Is this lily worth going through all this trouble for? I wondered.

Then the answer came to me: *Nature guards some of its treasures well, only rewarding those who are courageous enough to battle adversity.*

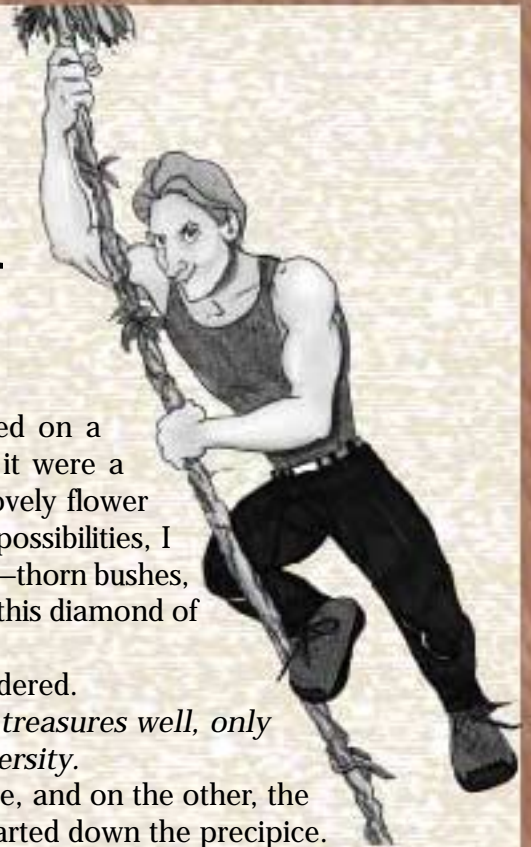
Weighing on the one hand the mishaps that might befall me, and on the other, the joy that it might bring my lady, my courage mounted and I started down the precipice. Clinging to vines, I struggled through the razor-sharp grass. Though I was cut, I persevered ever closer to my prize.

Reaching the sumac bush, I carefully laid my knife to the stem of the lily. As a conqueror carries back the spoils of victory, so I carried the lily that I had fought to capture. Coming to the top, I was exhausted, yet pleased.

I presented the lily to the one I love. And when I saw the joy and happiness that it brought to my lady's face and heard the deep gratitude that graced her lips, I realized the prize won had been worth every ounce of effort it had taken. Elegantly, my lady placed the treasure into a crystal vase by her bedside to admire.

As the sun's rays lit the flower in glory, I reflected on a passage from the Canticles (Song of Solomon):

"As the lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters. Thy belly is like a heap of wheat set about with lilies. My beloved has gone down to gather lilies."



Art by
Eyve

sweet TASTE

OF

INDIA

interview

A START

of India and curry
DO THE MOUNTAIN MAIDS NEED YOU?

Names

Karishma (17, of Andrew and Joy)

David J. (19, of Andrew and Joy)

Kathy (20, of Philip and Hannah)

Tim (20, of Steven and Samaria)

Michelle (21, of Peter, Samaria and Heidi)

John (21, of Jewel)

Beth (22, of Michael and Peace).

Intro

FZ: *Once again we enter the world of the missionary, this time coming from India. Have you ever written India off as a place that would not interest you? Think again!*

This interview shows you India through the eyes of other young people—from those who have been there most their lives and from the newer recruits.

FZ: Seeing as this is our first interview with you, can you tell us a little bit about yourselves? A little background on where you grew up and how long you've been together would help paint the picture for our readers.

Kathy: All of us, except for Beth and Michelle, grew up in India and have known each other from before the first *Childcare Handbook* was published. Tim, David J., John, Karishma and I were all together in a large school vision/demerit chart/Battle Hymn of the Revolution inspiration time/feeding the five thousand

for morning snack/100-man teams for capture the flag/triple and quadruple bunk bed bedtimes era several years ago. (Does that conjure up pictures of group bathroom runs?)

Scenario: "Announcement! Could all the Word Worms, yes all fifty of you, please report to toilet #21 in section B of Grandpa's Birdie Zone in the south part of the camp, for your five minute potty run. Please make sure that you don't walk too far to the right as you may end up in the Mountain Maids

Nursery group's only toilet. Since they have twice as many children as we do in our group, we need to prefer our brethren. If by the time your turn comes you find there is no tissue paper, please proceed to..."

We interrupt this narrative to reflect on and appreciate all our mentors from that time. An ode to

teachers comes to mind, but we'll save you our diction mistakes and "misspellings" and just leave you with our thanks for your dedication, and tell you we have warm remembrances of those instructional yet special times.

(Disclaimer: The above scenario is an exaggeration, of course.)

After the Charter, our families split into field Homes for a couple of years, and then, via God's chess game we wound up together again here in Bangalore. We've been in this Home for four years so far.

FZ: Could you more recent recruits to India give us a little insight into what it was that made you decide to go to India? Integration into a distinct culture like the Indian one can be challenging at times. Was it for you? And if you were to compare it to other places you've lived and worked in, what would be the most noticeable differences?

Michelle: Being on the field of India has totally "done me"! I don't think my life's ever been happier than living and working with the sweet people here. I find the Indians very open to things of the spirit and the spirit world, and extremely receptive. It has been very liberating for me to be able to pour out the Word in such abundance, in comparison to my home field of Australia.

I actually was not planning on coming to India at all. I had been duped by the popular yet highly mistaken rumor that India was a

through the dark! see light

get the picture?

dead-end as far as life for a young person was concerned. When I decided to leave Australia, my motives weren't completely pure. I was looking for a change, some excitement and a chance to dig in to a "real" ministry. So I plotted my course to Japan, and started raising my fare. But true to His nature, the Lord had other things in mind for me. To be honest, at the time, sacrifice, forsaking all, hard work and dedication weren't exactly part of the rosy picture of a star-studded future.

At a Teen/YA meeting, one of my dear friends "indoctrinated" me with the idea of going to India, and wouldn't let go of it until we'd brought it to the Lord and confirmed that indeed it was His will, and made definite plans to get to India. Maria, I am forever indebted to you for that! Three months later, in August '97, the two of us landed in Bangalore; I've been here ever since.

Becoming one is something that I am still working on, and probably will be as long as I am here. It's not an unattainable goal, by any means, and has more to do with getting rid of my spiritual baggage and hang-ups, than adjusting to "native life."

Physically speaking, I found it very easy to adapt to the way of life and the Indian customs. Indian people are very easygoing and surprisingly tolerant of foreigners. They actually look up to foreigners, and that gives you a lot of room to show our love for their country and people. I've had to learn a lot about working alongside the dear veterans here who have such a wealth of experience after their many years on the field. I have really questioned at times, whether or not I had the faith to keep going on here. Then the Lord would remind me that as long as I kept yielding to His will and letting go of my own will, He would pull me through. And He has each time. Being in the Lord's highest will is the greatest kick you can get!

India is very different from Australia, in that India is just begging for a witness. In my opinion, there isn't anything more exciting than witnessing



the band in traditional dress (L-R) Kathy, Karishma, David J., Michelle, Tim.

here—whether it's teaching orphans, feeding the hungry, singing in shows, teaching the kids at home or personal witnessing to young people. It's the hottest thing going and people in the world, young and old, envy our free and loving lifestyle. Here people respect and admire the Lord's Spirit in the Family, from the toddlers to the FGAs. They come to us looking for the Lord's direction and love.

Bangalore is the IT (Information Technology) capital of India, and one of the world's IT superpowers. There are tons of incredibly smart and wealthy people, companies and organizations here. We know some of the most important people in the city as well as some of the poorest. The successful, wealthy, and powerful people have told us time and time again that everything else pales in comparison to what we in the Family have.

Beth: I'm not copying the above, but for me India was the also last place on my mind, before I came here, that is. I was on my way to Africa, and lo and behold, without getting into too many details, like a flash in the night the Lord said to go to India and to check it out. So I did, and well, I've been here ever

hey to the man hey to the reality begins to strike

since—nearly four years later. Time does fly! I came when not many people were thinking of India. At that time, in all of India there were only three *new* young people (all the other young people here had been here since ... forever), so it was pretty freaky at times. Thanks guys for making me feel at home, and not too out of place. In fact, I like you!

A friend of mine once told me, "Culture shock comes in stages." I think it did for me. First, they say you supposedly don't have any sort of shock, everything is new and exotic, your body registers that you're on vacation or something. This stage lasts for about four or five months. Then reality begins to strike, the culture shock syndrome hits you, and you realize "Hey, maybe I missed the plane back home. Am I actually living here now?"

"Earth to Beth! Yes, you are living here now." So I faced the fact and realized that I was not on vacation and needed to get down to some serious business as to whether I was ready to make the changes necessary to find fulfillment here in India. It took some squeezing and going through a few real difficult and humbling spots to finally be able to tell myself that, come what

may, I believed I was meant to be here in India and that it was the Lord's will for me right now, so to hell with the Devil and his tactics of trying to fool me that I wasn't making a difference and wouldn't find fulfillment.

In the third stage you learn how to adapt. The culture shock fades slowly, and eventually, I started to think of myself as Indian. My adaptation was getting involved in more outreach and witnessing. I've been hooked ever since!

I stayed in the Rose Garden Home for about three years. I want to say "thank you" to each of you for being such wonderful friends. Not a day goes by that I don't think about all the fun and exciting times we had together. So now I have been here at the Service Home for almost one year, and whew ... it's sure a fast-paced Home, with lots of excitement and things going on. I'm glad to be a part of it in my small way.

FZ: In contrast to your new recruits—Beth and Michelle—most of you have spent the major part of your life, if not your whole life, in India. What is it like to grow up in India? Do you ever feel like there's a world that's beckoning you beyond the subcontinent? Or have you committed to staying put for now?



Kathy: My family moved to India when I was three, bringing me to a grand total of 17 years on this field! My earliest memories are somewhat vague, but if I recollect a few they would have to include building sandcastles in our front yard with the natives for recreation; having memory and review/school under the coconut trees on our makeshift school desk/dining surface cum table tennis table, etc.; living in beach cottages, roughly a couple centuries old; and our only mode of transportation being the ever-present and completely indispensable rickshaw-carriage, driven by whatever beast of burden was most readily available.

On account of that, I wouldn't say I have anything at all to compare to in relation to another field choice, except by hearsay. Nevertheless, life was definitely fun, as you never quite knew what adventure would rise unexpectedly.

To give some background: As a kid, I never questioned my parents' choice of field. Naturally, as I got a little older, into my OC and JETT years, the comparing really set in hard, and when our family had to leave to a nearby country due to a legal situation, I was no less than overjoyed! True, we were going east, but we were out of India, and for me that was all that mattered!

I had no real idea of what I wanted to do or where I wanted to go, but, as is often the case when peer-pressure sets in, the main thing that seemed to be going around, told me that India was not a cool place to be. That was to be my mindset for the next while.

A couple years later, however, we returned to India. After that life went on as usual. I joined a new group, re-made friends with my old ones, and eventually when the Charter came around I went with my parents to pioneer a city, and

Kathy

consequently we opened a new Home.

At the time I was 15 and this is when I really started to wonder where I was and why. My brother was already halfway to the States, and I started to do some serious contemplation as to the reality of my whereabouts. To make a long story reasonably shorter, a couple years and many trials later, after seriously taking up the big question of "Should I?" to the Lord (for the hundredth, or was it thousandth time?), He made it fairly clear where He wanted me to be regardless of where I *felt* I needed to be.

At first, it was hard for me to accept. I felt there had to be something more to it all. Guess I figured I'd given over 15 years of my life to the Lord on the field, and now I deserved a little slack—or something to that effect. In the beginning, remaining in India was all by faith. But now looking back over my life in India, I can't say I'd do it over differently, ever! I mean, what better place could I be in, and definitely where else would I be happier besides in the center of His will?

True, life does have its inconveniences at times, such as the ever-present power failures, or sharing the jogging track with a herd of buffaloes. However, when compared to the eternal dividends, it seems a mere trifle, and is definitely worth it all!

FZ: Recently your Home was noted in the *Grapevine* with the second highest number of *Activated* subscriptions sold (GV #100). Are outreach and *Activated* your main Home focus? What other ministries are you involved with and how did they come about?

Tim: Yes, outreach and *Activated* are our main ministries! It's the lifeblood of our Home—inspiration-wise, as well as financially. No matter what we are doing on a day-to-day basis, our hearts' desire is to move full steam ahead with the era of action.

Kathy's ministry is childcare, and Karishma is responsible for the kitchen. Beth is a VS, and the rest of us are full-time outreachers. We're usually out five to six days a week. What's made this all possible is that everyone in our Home has a great commitment to witnessing—from the childcare personnel to the cooks—who put up with our running in and out of the kitchen and coming home to eat at odd hours.

David J.: To bring in some more details about our outreach, none of us were ever top-notch outreachers. But as *Activated* became a worldwide push, we put a lot more emphasis on it. I know for me, I didn't want to get left behind and not know how to shepherd the sheep as they started coming in closer.

We have a paid subscription goal to reach every month, which frankly, stretches our faith!



David J. at a CTP organized for Children's Day.

Every month we try to up our last month's number of subscriptions, and it takes some big "mustard seeds," but we are trying our best. In order to meet that goal, it's not a matter of whether it's possible or even doable, rather a matter of obeying what the Lord has told us to do ... **GET FOLKS ACTIVATED!**

Practically speaking, we have everyone in the Home, from JETTs on up, pray about their personal *Activated* goal for that month. Then we put that amount together and come up with our collective goal.

One month, we were in the middle of the busiest time of our lives. We had so many projects going on, our schedule was almost non-existent and everybody was giving in ways unprecedented. In the midst of it all, the alarm was raised by one of our shepherds that, "*Activated* is being left out in the cold!" We got together as a Home and read "For God's Sake Follow God" (ML #4, Vol. 1), had desperate prayer and prophecy, swallowed our fears about

the budget, the humongous projects, performances, etc., and agreed to lay off all else until we'd met our *Activated* goal.

The next morning we felt a little like Abraham, "going out not knowing whither we went." The burdens we had to entrust the Lord with were real-life deadlines which wouldn't go away. In the back of our minds, some of us were wondering how many days it would be till we'd meet our *Activated* goals, as the way things were going, even milliseconds were precious. As always, the Lord came through with such a miracle; we are still trying to catch our breath! By the time every single team came walking through the door, we had reached our entire month's goal of ...

60 ACTIVATED SUBSCRIPTIONS IN ONE DAY!

John: My main passion has been establishing a fruitful youth ministry. Over the last few years we've tried to get one going, but nothing concrete was ever



diwali lamp post

Tim and David J. with a traditional lamp post at a festival of lights.



festivals

Michelle

established. Since the era of action kicked in, and we're stepping out to try new things, our dreams are coming to pass.

Before, discussing the establishment of a weekly Church of Love (COL) and youth meeting was a topic that came up at every outreach meeting. It remained a "permanent" agenda point without ever developing. But now, as we've obeyed and stepped out—changed our schedules, made the sacrifices, and most of all humbled ourselves—it's happened, and it's great!

One of our dear friends gave us the use of his restaurant as the location. So once a week, 10:00 AM—1:00 PM, supporters, directors, and CEO's from prestigious companies around Bangalore gather to hear the Words of David. Then in the afternoon, from 4:00-7:00 PM we have a

youth meeting, where the topics are heavier and more for the younger generation.

All of these people are from severely non-Christian backgrounds. Six months ago, they only saw us as a social work organization. Now it amazes us to see them clapping along to the *Songs that Made the Revolution*, reading MO Letters, saying love words and praise kisses to the Lord, receiving prophecy and learning to witness!

The *Activated* mags and books have been a real hit. It's not unusual to walk downtown to the main hang outs and find one of our friends there, who quickly shows us his *My King and I* and *Apocalypse* in his pocket, which stay with him always.

In our classes, we normally sing songs together and then read a MO Letter. After

them—for an audience of hundreds of children, sponsors, and family members. The CTP teams provisioned buses to transport the kids. Also a delicious lunch, snacks, new clothing from leading fashion houses for each of the children, gifts, household maintenance hampers, and fully sponsored sets of our videos and tapes were given out.

We have now decided to continue projects like this on a quarterly basis, as many of our contacts and friends want to be involved in these projects. Several of the attendees of our youth classes came along, and they really enjoyed

themselves.

A couple of times, we've done CTPs with Homes in other parts the country, like once Tim and John went with the teams going to the cyclone-stricken state of Orissa this year (FAR #126). They planted trees and dug house foundations—lots of manual labor. We girls were dying to go, but changed our minds when on their return we heard that the 20 of them that went, slept on sheets on the bare floor with every kind of creepy insect climbing over them. God bless them. They also ate dahl and rice every night for 20 days!

People in India always seem to be extremely impressed when we, as young people, are out there helping others, as in many ways the western influence of "take care of yourself" has rapidly set in. Because of it, many business people are eager to get behind some young people who are *actually* doing something. Colleges will also ask us to give musical seminars to their students, and talk to them about what happiness it brings us to reach out to others.

and others came to stay. It's been a steady team of Michelle, Tim, David J., Karishma and me for the last three years now.

The places we perform at are extremely varied. India holds a wide assortment of people, traditions and customs, so many of our shows vary. Often they hold new and exciting challenges for us like having to learn a song in a local tongue we can barely pronounce the name of, or putting together a traditional dance, etc. A majority of our shows are performed for corporate

functions and lunches, some restaurants, clubs, private parties, and occasionally bigger concerts such as Valentine's Day, Christmas, and the host of traditional Indian celebrations. Then, every month, we try to organize at least one big CTP besides our regular weekly appointments, either as a Home or on a city level, in which we do something for all in attendance.

What we really enjoy are the shows for colleges and youth, because that's where we can truly burn free, no holds barred! *Activated* also opens up tremendous doors to get out the Word into the hands of the needy through our shows.

As far as getting in with the local fever, this is definitely a big part of each of our shows, and something that we've discovered is a tremendous key to winning our audience. In fact, we rarely perform a show without having some percentage of it being in the local languages. Notice I mentioned languages, that's because of the immense variety of languages in India, everyone usually wants you to perform something from their own back yard. For some shows we end up doing songs in seven or eight different languages—which, as you can imagine, calls for a fair amount of spirit help!

Starting our band was certainly not fair weather and sunny

FZ: From what we've heard, you have a band. We were wondering how your band went from the initial concept to become reality? What type of venues do you perform at?

Often bands in rather traditionally countries flavor their shows with well-known or popular numbers. Do you perform popular local songs? Starting a band usually requires a lot of prayer and work; how did that work for you? Do you have any tips for start-up Family bands?

Kathy: The band originally came into being about six years ago. Of course, we weren't really "a band." However, the Lord had opened up the doors for us to perform in quite a few places, from restaurants to outdoor concerts with thousands of viewers. We started practicing what little we knew and eventually it grew from there.

Initially, it was just four of us—Kathy, Karishma, David J. and Jono (David J.'s brother)—together with a tiny Casio keyboard, containing a maximum of four recorded beats and a variety of only ten voices to choose from. We also had a set of decorative Zulu striped congas, which served as our "percussion." As the years went our performance improved, as did our equipment, some of the original team moved on



a maximum of four recorded beats and a variety of... Tim on the guitar.

FLY FLY AWAY TO THE PLACE BEYOND

skies the whole way through. Each of us had to go through (and might I add, are still going through), our fair share of breakings and re-makings, before we got to the point where the Lord could begin to use us. Every decision that we make has to go through various shepherds, and of course hearing from the Lord about everything comes in first place. And now with the *Activated* vision in full gear, we're aiming to keep that our first priority when it comes to deciding on what shows we take. If there's an open door for doing a show where *Activated* is involved, then great! And if not, we make doubly sure it's what the Lord wants us to be doing it, as *Activated* is our focus point right now.

We don't consider ourselves quite in the position to offer professional advice as such, but one thing we do know is that you've gotta have a glory in the thing you do. Even if you don't think you have all that much musically, vocally, or even talent-wise, if you just go out there desperately praying for the Lord to shine through and give it your best shot, it's guaranteed He'll do some mighty things. And don't be discouraged if your dream of being a pro just doesn't seem to be happening, just keep plodding along faithfully and give the Lord and your talent some time to work; you're sure to get results!

And above all, as a team we constantly have to keep the main vision in mind of why we're a band and Who we're doing it for!

FZ: Do you find it necessary to make the effort to be more like the Indian people? Does it make a difference in your interaction with your contacts and friends?

Tim: In our outward appearance, it seems that although India is quite open in some places such as Bangalore, and most young people wear very western clothes, we have to remember Whom we represent. A lot of the time that means dressing in traditional clothes (which, by the way, I think look pretty neat when they are well made and a nice design!), or not wearing something that sends the wrong message. Most of the time it means testifying of our love for this country and the people. It also means using ethnic music and dance in our programs, and trying to learn the local language.

We have to be very careful not to come across in a condescending manner with the locals, as this would not only cause hostility, but I'm sure it saddens the Lord as well. A lot of times our friends or contacts ask us to compare India with our western home countries. It is a real witness when we are able to honestly point out the good points in their culture and the areas in which they have succeeded where others have failed.



Meet The Band



David J. on
the drums

If you're asking a question about our local bard,
Well, here is the answer, the whole nine yards.
In Goa as it were, many moons ago,
A family of musicians got up a show.
David, Karishma and Jono too,
Were dutifully playing under Daddy Andrew.
From there the vision has continued to grow.
Kathy came, then Tim, and Michelle also.
All piping and playing the best they knew how.
The Lord's using it as a witnessing tool now.
From corporations to kids, to witnessing meets;
We try to follow where the Big Man leads.
Maria, Ang, Aly and Jewel are the dancing team,
And the rest of us are the band
(or so we'd have you believe!)
It's a difficult ministry with plenty of pitfalls;
Not one of the least is pride, the worst of all.
Plenty of shepherding helps keep us in line,
As we're all just folks of the sinning kind.
At times we're on stage for thousands or more.
And at others we're singing with orphans
on a tiled floor.
But the Lord uses us as we give Him the room.
The dancers are "Heart Beat" and we're
"Harvest Moon."

—Michelle



David



Karishma on
the keys.

rare jewels rare jewels

We are honestly able to say that we don't support the money-minded, extremely selfish, cold cultures that the West promotes, in contrast with the simplicity and beauty of the Indian people and their culture. Our contacts and sheep are won over more and more by the love and care we show for their country, and every effort we make to become one pays off in many ways.

Folks here don't have a lot of the hang-ups and prejudice towards spiritual things that people in the West have, and they open up a lot more to the Lord and His

Spirit. In witnessing, the Lord has shown us to keep the message very personal and to stay away from coming across as a group, denomination, or whatever. The Indian people are very respectful of people's personal beliefs, so our witness comes across well when we share our personal testimonies about prophecy and the Lord working in our lives. This is probably good training for the Endtime, when we may not be able to rely so much on the name of the Family, but more on a personal testimony and connection with the Lord.

FZ: How does prophecy fit in with the daily run of things within your Home, personal lives, etc.?

Kathy: Prophecy is a growing part of our daily activities; we'd be clueless without it. With budgets to raise, *Activated* goals to meet, children to care for and the rapidly increasing list of responsibilities, we're finding out just how essential this new weapon is to our everyday work routines.

It's been real neat, and convicting at times, when an outreach team will come home and tell a testimony of how they didn't know what to do or where to go, and the Lord told them, and when they obeyed they met a precious person, or someone took tools, etc.

Of course, we still have light years to go and are by no means perfect—to the contrary. But with the steady stream of awesome input, counsel and instruction which the Lord, Mama and Peter are putting out to the Family, it sure makes living the prophecy life a dream!

Thank you also, Mama and Peter, for "Understanding Prophecy, Part 3!" (GN 913). It has helped each one of us!

FZ: Can you give us rundown of a typical day's work in your Home?

Shamond diamond

Michelle



Michelle & Kathy

Michelle & Kathy lending a touch of harmony to the atmosphere.

Tim: Being the reveille man, I have the unenviable task of waking the troops first thing in the morning. And slowly but surely folks eventually crawl out of the woodwork.

Michelle: After Home cleanup and devotions, we have private prophecy time. Dear Sam (FGA) gives us a 15-minute Hindi class. And after that it's pretty much every man or team to himself. During this time, you will usually see the kids in faithful search of their schoolbooks, lost pencils and erasers, and the teachers in hot pursuit of the kids. The outreach teams head out, or are on the phone making calls, ironing clothes, etc.

Beth: After devotions is a real busy time. I usually do my office work on a landing at the top of the stairs where I can hear and see everyone getting ready for outreach, making bribes to get to use the phone, etc. David and Michelle have been doing outreach together lately, and then there's Tim and John, who have been a team ever since I came to India.

Nowadays it's hard to stay home when any of us need to, as we all cherish our weekly attack days, which everyone participates in.

Kathy: At the end of the day when everyone returns, we have dinner together. And after dinner, it's not unusual to see the dining room turned into a table tennis venue.

John: Home meetings can actually be a lot of fun sometimes. There are opinionated people, but everyone is trying real hard to be prayerful and all. It's colorful, and we actually find out a lot about each other through them.

Usually we'll ask the Lord about whatever it is that

dining room turned into a tennis venue

give us a rundown of a typical day's work in
It's been real neat, and convicting at times,

it's the hottest
it's the hottest

thing going
this going



Kathy

we need to make a decision on, and if it's a real mindbender we'll have a committee check in about it more in-depth. The next step is to bring the prophecies before the Home, and then we vote on the subject.

Michelle: The era of action GN series has revolutionized this! It's the biggest thing going; we have all these schemes set up to make sure that we are getting with the times. A lot of this has meant big changes for the Home, but the best part is that it's brought a lot more unity into our Home.

Kathy: The boys are talented actors, and if we ever have any activity you can be sure they have a skit up their sleeve. And early Sunday morning at breakfast we get entertained with their skit preparation for the COL,

which normally they figure out about five minutes before the COL starts. It's pretty funny watching it come together and we have some good laughs.

Beth: We have a big house—four bedrooms and three makeshift rooms. The boys sleep in whichever rooms they can find. Actually they've slept in the living room for the last three years and their belongings are in other rooms, as they have so graciously given the preference to others.



Karishma

We have 32 people in our Home. Nearly half of our Home is made up of young people—14 in all. There are eight FGAs and ten kids.

John: Our Home is a bit different in its make-up, as the six India VSs live here, and the ABM office operates from here as well. We get a lot of up-close-and-personal shepherding, and we've come to appreciate it. It helps us to be a lot more fruitful and to grow and progress.

Since the *Activated* push, we've put together different ways to get the whole Home involved in witnessing and *Activated*. It's helped to boost the unity of the Home in general. For example, some of the things that we are beginning to put into practice are: the parents taking their kids out witnessing on Family Day, inviting our sheep over for Sunday fellowships, having united Family Days with our sheep and their children, inviting young people to our Home devotions a few times a week, getting the outside young people to set their *Activated* goals and inspiring them about witnessing.

Kathy: When we have visitors over, we've been trying to get everyone involved rather than just the outreach folks. The kids' singing troupes perform for them, the band does some acoustic witnessing songs, the preschoolers display what they've been learning for school such as reading, or quoting poems, and somebody will share their personal testimony, etc.

We try to have a lot of united activities in our Home when we can. We all love dancing, some of us like games or at least organizing them for others to participate in, snacks, and fun for everyone. All of it helps to gel us together and enjoy each other's company. We've been trying to have heart-sharing as well, and though it's pretty humbling for all of us, I must say for me, it's helped me to see everyone with more compassion and understanding. We're all in the same boat, striving to do our best for the Lord.

Karishma: With a big Home and lots of people, we have to make regular pushes on the Home cleanliness, which is one of our main NWOs. We've tried different methods, and we continue working on it.

David J.: We also try and have a Home vacation once a year, with about a week off for everyone to rest, read, and get refreshed for the year ahead. Last year we went to Goa and the Lord worked it out for us to stay at a beautiful place. We went to the beach, performed for

the resort as well, and came back re-envisioned to tackle the mountains ahead!

FZ: What do you find most intriguing about India and its people? If you were to give advice to someone planning on going to India, what would it be?

Beth: India in itself is intriguing. I've walked out of the house and come eye to eye with a cow roaming the streets and sidewalks. I've walked on claiming I won the stare down only to step into ... well, you know ... you've heard the stories of India. (I heard once that there is this famous local temple praise that goes something like, "Be glad cows do not fly!") I walk away from there wondering if I am on the right part of the planet. But this question does not last long when I meet up with a young person waiting for her class, with her list of questions to ask the Lord about and get prophecies on.

A noticeable thing in India is the contrast of wealth—there are the multitudes of the poorest of the poor and starving people, but there are people who are rolling in the dough. You find many extremes—in the way that people live, and even their traditions. You have a very Christian state, Kerala, in the southwest where many of the Catholics come from. In the north, there are places like Punjab and Gujarat, which are traditionally Hindu and quite conservative. Main cities, like Bombay and Bangalore have more of a Western influence, with software companies coming to set up here, and stuff.

Before I came to India, I remember thinking that the Indians were pretty simple-minded, and you have to "talk on their level." But that isn't true—there's a whole generation of very intelligent Indians, who probably speak English better than I do, and many of them are computer whizzes and programmers. People can come across a bit ignorant at times, but are really checking you out to see if you are for real. They can almost sense sincerity, or the lack of it, as there is a lot of corruption in the government and in the society, so obviously people like to know where you're coming from and what is the real purpose for what we do.

Indians love a story—if you can tell stories of the children you helped bring a smile to, or tell them an anecdote from the *Good Thots* about almost anything, they sometimes ask you to repeat it while their secretary types it out, and in a minute or two they have it plastered on their office wall.

I guess what I would say to anyone coming to India is: Be ready for anything, and be adaptable. Speak from your heart and get involved in witnessing and follow-up. I was happy to be in India, but I didn't find real fulfillment until I got involved in outreach and witnessing. When I started having people I was responsible to feed and meet with regularly, that's when I knew India was the place I wanted to be.

FZ: What are your future plans as a team and Home?

David J.: DISCIPLES ... ASAP! To build a solid

DISCIPLES ASAP!

structure of support and a lasting work!

Tim: India *Activated* as common as D' Spicy curry!

John: Network of young people, live-outs, and catacombers who can help us do our job!

Michelle: To grab ahold of the era of action with both hands and feel the rush!

FZ: Do you have any closing words for our readers?

Kathy: If you've made it through this article, you have got the qualities needed for the field of India—stick-to-itiveness, endurance, longsuffering, etc. We do love you guys. India is a fun place; you have to be here to really understand.

Mama and Peter, thank you for *Activated*, for receiving the vision and not giving up on us even while going practically bankrupt. After all this talk, we know that we'd be lost if it weren't for you! You are our heroes! We are sorry about all this flack that you have been getting from those who are without, and we want you to know that we're right beside you as your flock and will do our very best to keep going on for the Lord and receiving the Words that He gives through you.

Farewell to all. Until we meet!

the girls Indians love on the girls farewell



The girls—Karishma, Kathy, & Michelle.

adaptable

intriguing

responsible

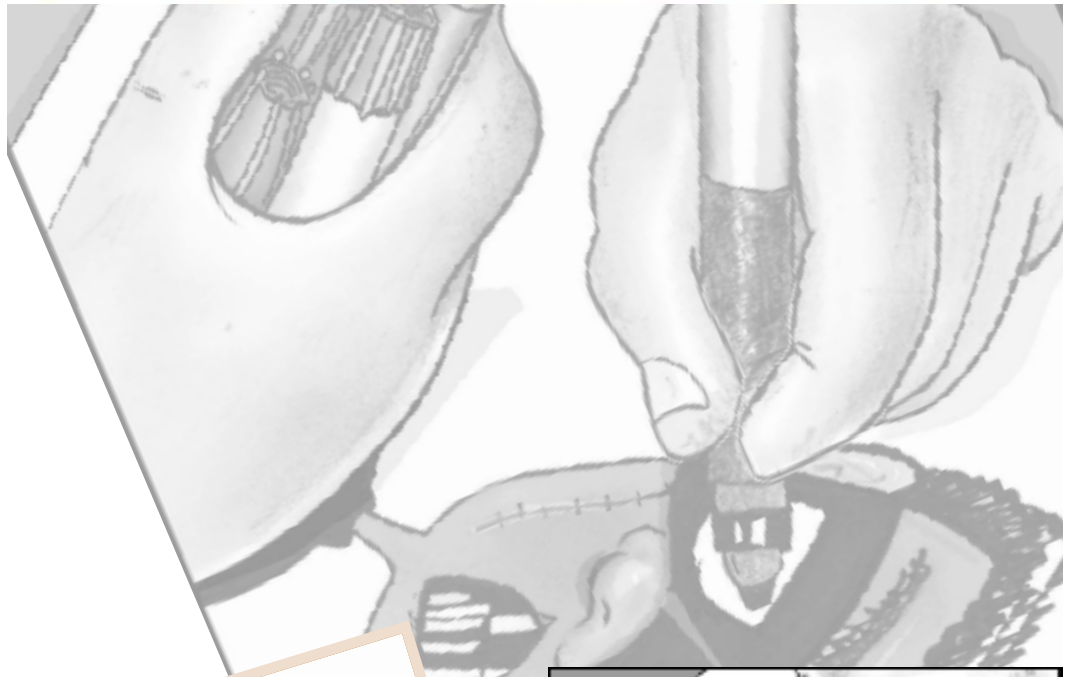
POSTCARD

from port harcourt

In the wee hours of Sunday, January 23rd, 2000, I was lying on the upstairs floor of the Family Home in Lagos, listening to the sound of armed robbers breaking into the house downstairs and praying that the robbers were simply breaking in. Then suddenly, I remembered a cartoon I'd seen in a local paper a few weeks before. It had made fun of a couple of armed robbers called Shrapnel and Broken Bottle, so named either to conceal their true identity, or in recognition of the fact that they had been very ugly babies. The joke had once seemed funny to me, but I did not find it very amusing under the circumstances, and I immediately rebuked the Devil and swore I'd never laugh at armed robber jokes again.

Now you, in remembering the accounts of some of the robberies that have taken place here in Nigeria which appeared in *The Grapevine* and the Africa GNs, would probably agree that such situations are not a laughing matter. But it does say in "Be So Happy" (ML #159, Vol. 2), that what a missionary needs most is a good sense of humor and the ability to laugh when he feels like crying. It goes on to say that a good laugh, even "under the almost unbearable tension of the most frightening circumstances can save your life and your nerves." So it could have been the Lord who reminded me of that joke.

As you read this, I beg you to bear in mind that I am simply trying to look at such incidents in light of the above quotes, and do not mean to undermine the seriousness of the situations or the counsel given on the subject. But I would have to say that both of



The light side of the dark side

By Tim E. (22)

the robberies I've experienced so far would fall into the category of "most frightening circumstances," and therefore warrant a laugh or two, however belated. When looking at it that way, my second robbery experience, which took place in June here in Port Harcourt, seems especially funny.

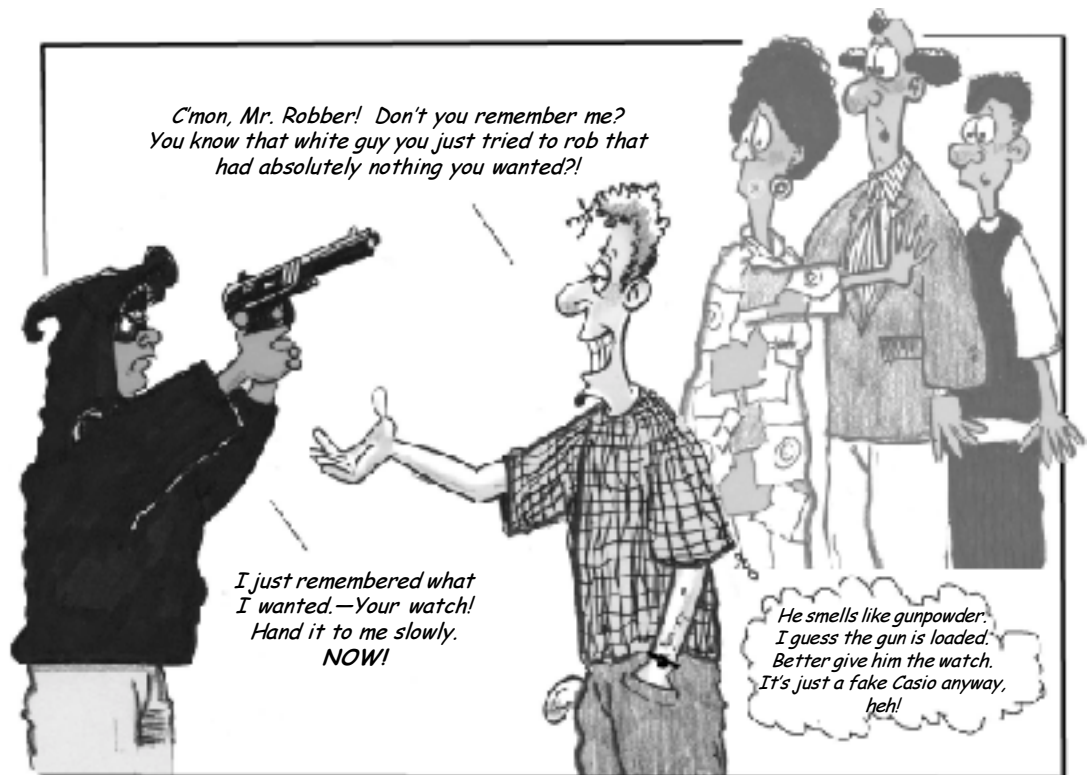
The night that robbery occurred, I happened to be drawing armed robbers of all things (I don't have time to explain here exactly why I was doing that, but I can assure you I had a good reason). I don't recall the robbers stopping to admire my artwork, but I haven't seen my pink eraser since.

The Lord had given me a check the day before the robbery took place, to position the envelope containing my foreign currency in my bag in such a way in that its contents would not be immediately obvious should I have to open that bag at gunpoint. At the time I thought I was just imagining things, but heeding that check proved vital to the preservation of my money, as when I did have to open that bag at gunpoint the next night, the robber didn't see the money. PTL!

My watch was stolen when the guy who had just ordered me to lie down on the ground after going through my stuff changed his mind and demanded I get back up, tell him where I lived, give him my money, etc. His gun was a real antique—not too intimidating—but he smelled like the night air on Chinese New Year, which indicated he'd been handling gunpowder, so I assumed the gun was loaded.

As is customary when one is being robbed, I told him I didn't have any money, and reminded him that I lived in Nigeria, and that he had already accosted me once that evening, at which point he settled for my watch and went away.

Back on the ground I listened as someone in the next room was trying to convince one of the robbers to accept the Deutsch marks they were trying to give them. It reminded me of the story of the pastor trying to convince



Mrs. McKintrick of the true value of her "pretty pictures."

"These are bank notes! This is money," they explained.

Eventually, the robber did accept the money, which he took along with an old broken radio that was sitting on the same shelf as a newer, functioning one, which he did not take. The same robber refused to take the heavy-duty SLR camera he was offered, but someone else took a fancy to my beloved little automatic (sob!). I guess they only recognized the kind of stuff they were familiar with ... junk!

My flashlight was taken, but apparently discarded later. It's not a very common design and the "on" button is on the bottom end and not easy to see, so they probably couldn't figure out how to switch it on and decided to leave it behind. I understand the same thing happened to someone's bra in one of the Lagos robberies, although I'm not sure why. Perhaps it was also of an uncommon design. ("What the heck? Blanche will never figure out how to put this on!")

They didn't take the TV or the computers, but they did take the TV remote control, possibly mistaking it for a cellular phone or some other fancy gadget. ("Blanche will flip when she sees this!")

They also took a gold-colored buckle from someone's shoe. These particular robbers were not too bright!

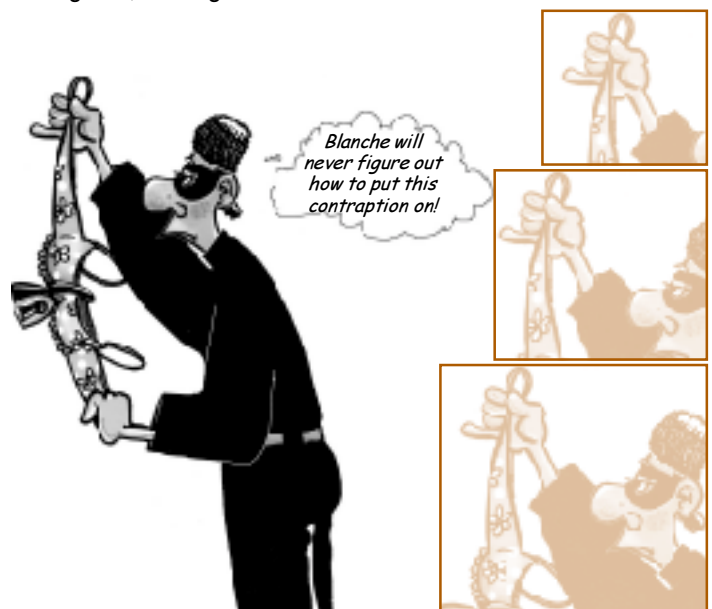
The happy ending is that I'm here to tell the tale. I am very thankful for that, as it could have been worse. Besides the bumps some of us received when one of the thugs went down the line and bopped us each on the head with his gun for no reason, none of us were seriously hurt. TTL!

I think we would all agree that although we suffered the loss of some of our stuff, the Lord was with us and He gave us all the grace to make it through the ordeal with dry pants. Had He given us any more grace, we might have

thought we had dying grace, and begin to worry about that.

Now whenever I'm tempted to get down about such incidents, or any of the other trials or tribulations that are part of life here in Africa, I remind myself of all the things the apostle Paul went through, of which he said: "None of these things move me!"

When I compare my troubles to his, they really don't seem too bad. I haven't been stoned once, much less twice. Nor have I been shipwrecked, beaten with rods, or in peril on land and sea, or in danger of the Jews, so I guess I haven't seen anything yet! But then again, I'm just getting started!





the Introduction

(ENGLISH: Introduction)

Many, MANY of you ZINE-READERS have written in ASKING: "When is the 3rd and final installment of 'The [U] files going to come out?" Well, actually, none of you ZINE-READERS have written in ASKING: "When is the 3rd and final etc etc & so on & so forth" but we KNOW that you've ALL wanted to. Badly. We KNOW that you ZINE-READERS have just been very, VERY busy and we admit you for that. SO let's just pretend that you wrote it, so we can all just leave this little episode behind us & well, get on with our lives. Agreed? Agreed.

[clears throat] Hmm Hmm. We now bring you, by popular demand, ... →

Special
USER-FRIENDLY
Computer Supplement.

Fonts Used On This Page

- Times Roman Wobbly
- Hairy Caterpillar
- Courier Knotted Rope
- Shish Kebab
- Ariel Inverted Trousers
- Wiener Shmitzel Scorched
- Ravie Shabby Script
- Bucket Bold
- Chubby Checker Chunks
- Bits of Furniture Symbol

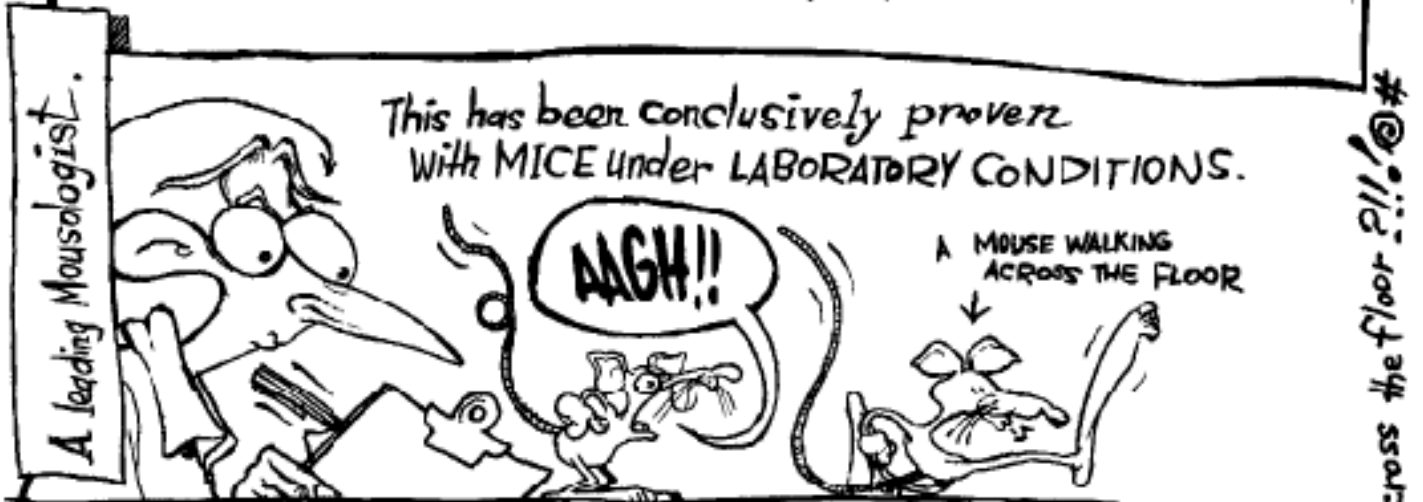
SEE NEXT PAGE

The BU Files! oops. I mean The BU Files!

The KEY to the whole UNITY/DISUNITY ISSUE can be found in the QUOTE:

If you don't love somebody, they can't even walk across the floor without your finding fault with the way they do it!

Mop 2, 78:35



I myself have personally driven certain UN-NAMED persons into a state of UNCONTROLLED Walking-Across-The-Floor Criticism FRENZY (but I prefer not to dwell on THAT particular episode.)



Special Famous Quotes Supplement

1 Was it not the great ROBERT BURNS who said:
 "ACH NA GLAE 'N' OCH AN OOWANAGH WAE NAE HA MEAT AN OCH IT" ?
 Ed: No, I don't think it was.

2 "Please pass the salt, dear"
 William Shakespeare (1564 - 1616)
 great English Playwright, Enlightenment and Exercise-wright.



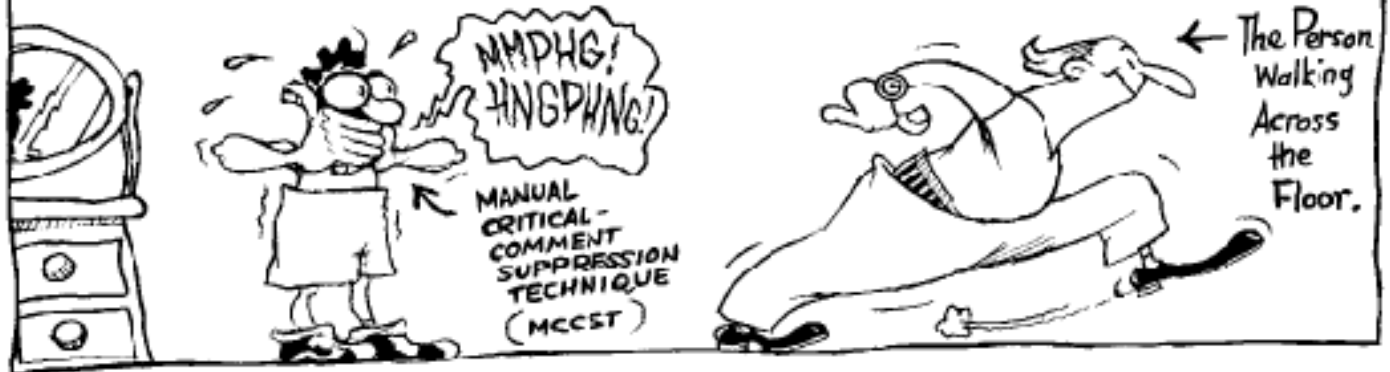
Ed. We don't know FOR SURE that he said that but the chances are VERY HIGH that he WOULD HAVE said it SOMETIME during his life.

So, Therefo:::RE, in that case...

If someone's WALKING-ACROSS-THE-FLOOR is a PROB for you, then here's the SIMPLE Step-by-Step Solution to your UNITY Disorder.

- #1 Locate the person with whom you are experiencing a UNITY-BLOCK.
- #2 Have that person walk across the floor IN YOUR PRESENCE.

#3 No matter how strongly you will feel the URGE to CRITICIZE, FIND-FAULT, QUERY, QUESTION or CRITIQUE the person's manner of Floor Crossing, DO NOT-- I repeat-- DO NOT do so AT ANY COST!!!



#4 Once the person in question has safely reached the other side of the room without any lexical flack from you, you will have gained a clear victory AND, as a well-deserved BONUS, you may have found a new LIFELONG friend.

Ed: While you, the Zine Reader, have been reading this Zinetoon, the ZINEREADERS Board of Examiners' (ZRBOE) has been looking over your RESUME (R). Let me tell you, they have NEVER laughed so hard their whole lives. No, seriously (well, as close to 'seriously' as we can get) they were IMPRESSED with what they saw and have decided that you are now ready to tackle AUBDT

'Famous Quotes' continued...

③ "Necessity is the mother of a lot of cute little baby" Necessities

Johann von Goethe, Blacksmith who, remarkably, had the same name as Johann Von Goethe (1749 - 1832), the great German poet, novelist & playwright.



④ "호호호"*

Lee Park Daewoo Samsung, the great Korean philosopher and electronics genius.



* Ed. Sorry, we can't read Korean either.

OT?...
 ↓
 (GO TO NEXT PAGE)
 ↓

The ADVANCED unity-BLOCK-DEMOLITION Technique.

AUBDT is a far more EFFECTIVE method than MCCST (see previous page) yet will (as with ALL THINGS IN LIFE that are EFFECTIVE) require more EFFORT on your part. But please bear in mind that if anyone can pull this one off, it's **YOU!**
 SO LET'S GET RIGHT TO IT THEN...

AUBDT involves your actually saying something **POSITIVE, ENCOURAGING** and **UPLIFTING** to the **TRANS-FLOOR Pedestrian**.

Below is a selection of TIME-TESTED sample comments.

- (A) Choose one that best suits your situation.
- (B) Be sincere in your praise.
- (C) Proceed.

Sample Comment #1



How do you make that **FANTASTIC 'SHLUP! SHLUP! SHLUP!** sound when you walk? You **MUST** have **PRACTICED!!** All I can get is this sterile-sounding 'CLIP! CLIP! CLIP!' sound. Could you walk **BACK** across the floor **ONE MORE TIME?** I've just **GOT** to learn how you do that!...

Sample Comment #2



I couldn't help noticing the way you walked across the floor just now. Like, how you totally **STOPPED RIGHT BEFORE** you got to the wall. That was so **COOL!**

Sample Comment #3



Hi, **DREAM-WALKER!** That was **AWESOME!!!** Was it as good for you as it was for me? Would you mind if next time I walk across the floor **WITH YOU?!**

Ed: Just don't overdo it.

Knock! Knock!
 WHO'S THERE?
 LETTUCE EAR!
 LETTUCE EAR!
 LETTUCE EAR WHO?
 LETTUCE EAR THE CONCLUSION OF THE WHOLE MATTER!
 Ecc. 12:13



...and the conclusion of the whole 'U Files'!

John 15:18 says it all!

Let's Get It On!

So, COME ON, ZINE READER! BE the kind of person that ANYONE would be proud to walk across the floor in front of!!!
 eouf