

PROYECTOS DE LA FAMILIA INTERNACIONAL

UN ESPASO

REMIENDO EN LOS
LA PERDONES




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For contributions to *Link*, please write us at:
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whenever possible. We look forward to hearing from you!



Cover: Simon and Pilar at the first national retreat in Spain. (See "Spanish National Retreat November 2005" on page 31.)

3

Outreach Focus

8

Living Word
Positively Positive, Part 1

17

LinkBack

19

The News with Heaven's Views

23

Feature Story
From Black Magic to Gold Magic

31

This 'n' That

Link, Issue 9, April 2006

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International — AM

From Jesus with Love



My precious bride, you are so special to Me, like a rare and precious gem of great price! You are a gem whose rarity makes it valuable and expensive. I love you as you are, for you do not have to be perfect to be loved by Me. But I say to you, you are perfect to Me. I do not see all those things that seem bad or ugly to you!

A jewel that has true worth will only become more beautiful with each buffing and cutting and polishing. You are that gem, and I smile as I work on you, for I know that it is increasing your value, and that you shine more and more with each passing stroke. You sit there peacefully in My hands, in full assurance that I, the Master Craftsman, know full well what I am doing. And as I smile on you and polish you, you reflect My smile and My love to those who come in contact with you. You sing through the cutting, through the buffing, and through the polishing, knowing that all things that come from My hand are for your good. I'm so glad you let Me bring out your beauty, My precious gem!

The Mulago Project

By Nyx Martinez, Philippines

Uganda has imprinted on my heart so many fond memories—of places, people, and experiences that I would never trade. If every day of living there were to be written in a book, there would be too many tales to tell.

One of the chapters of that book might be called, “The Mulago Project.”

Mulago Hospital is the main government hospital in Kampala. Its huge compound and maze of wards are historical grounds. My first visit to Mulago was shortly after the opening of my art exhibition at the Kampala Sheraton Hotel in aid of the Ik tribe. I’d been telephoned by a couple of American women doctors from Health Volunteers Overseas. They were stationed at Mulago and tended to the children in the pediatric ward.

They asked if I could come down to the hospital and see how the conditions could be improved, perhaps through simple murals for the children. They didn’t have enough funds to actually hire a painter for this job, but when I told them I was a full-time volunteer and would be willing to do it free of charge for the children (provided they could sponsor the paints and materials), they were overjoyed.

That same week, I and my co-worker, Tina, visited the pediatric ward with the doctors. It was as I’d expected—the air was putrid, and as many cribs as could be squeezed into the ward lined the rooms. It was a big ward, stretching all the way down a

long, dark walk. Parents and caretakers of the sick children lay on mats on the floor in between the cribs. Some huddled over their babies, trying to quiet their screams. The piercing cries coming from the little bodies who were attached to IV drips soon blended into one big noise.

We were introduced to Sister Caroline, the head nurse in charge of Firm A. She greeted us with a very warm hug. Later, the doctors explained to me that this dear woman had been praying for two years for someone to come and brighten up the ward with artwork, and when she’d heard we were going to do it, she was speechless.

“I don’t know what to say,” she said gratefully, still hugging Tina and me. “There are no words.”

Thus began the Mulago Project. It was to be a once-a-week adventure, which went on for some months. There were so many walls to paint, and as many hands make light work, I called up different friends who had been interested in doing some hands-on volunteer work. The calls usually went as follows:

“Hi, ever painted before?”

“Um ... like, what kind of painting?”

“We’re painting murals at the kids’ ward in Mulago this Thursday! Wanna help out?”

“Well, I’ve never picked up a paintbrush in my life!”

“Oh that’s okay—it’s easy! Meet us at Firm A on Thursday. It’ll be fun!”



Volunteers at Mulago with Sister Caroline

And it was indeed great fun. Some of the volunteers were artists, some were not. That didn't matter. The project took on a life of its own as we all came together in a united team effort to change this little section of the ward.

I did the initial drawings in pencil, then each volunteer chose a wall and decided on their own color schemes. After the paints were filled in, I would do the final black outline to complete the artwork.

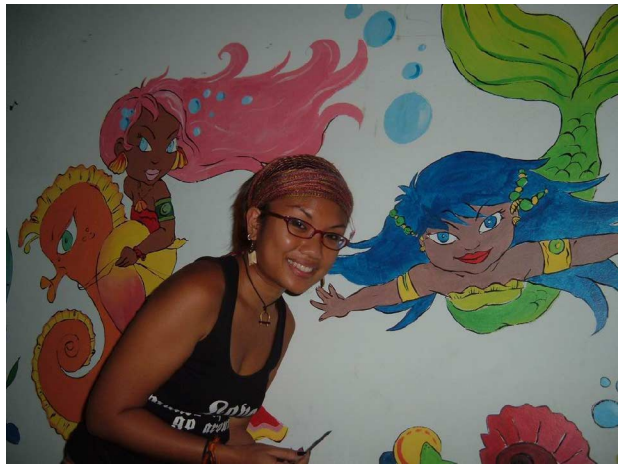
On the first day of painting the white base, we had to clean the ward. Used needles, soiled cotton buds, and other things were swept out of the way. I was literally painting over dried blood on the walls. Holding my nose and mentally blocking out the endless sound of crying as I worked, I just knew that this little project was going to be the start of something unique in its own way.

I went home that night and started writing a journal about the Mulago Project. (For more accounts of the Mulago Project, go to www.livethecreed.com.)

One day while painting, someone tapped my shoulder and asked to speak to me. He was a young man in his twenties. He explained that he was also an artist and wanted to help us paint.

He was a father of one of the children—a four-month-old, malaria-stricken baby girl. The mother was sitting on a small mat under her cot, and the baby was asleep. The father explained that he wanted to do something to help, and that seeing us work had inspired him.

Well, I was the one to be inspired just then. I felt a wave of happiness sweep over my heart—this was what it was all about. Passing the inspiration from one heart to another, and feeling it come back to you a thousand times over!



Nyx



Tina, Dar, Shirley, Nyx, Celly, and John



Volunteers painting



Robin



Nyx with a patient



Mother and child patient in front one of the murals

I offered him one part of the wall that needed to be painted—the angel’s wing. It was very large, taking up almost half of the entire wall. He was more than happy to put his artistic talent to that, and it came out very well. Later on, we prayed for his little daughter and the continued recovery of her tiny body.

It was an exhilarating feeling to see the volunteers all hard at work. Each was doing what they could—not that they all were artists, but that didn’t matter. It was a project that was as invigorating for us as I hoped it would be for the ward occupants.

One of my friends, Daniel, was excited about helping to paint. He’d been away from Uganda for over a year, and I was surprised to meet him at an Irish pub one night. He congratulated me on a recent newspaper article covering our efforts (included below), so I invited him to come and help us with the project that week. He brought along two other friends—wealthy young men educated in London universities. These boys, although half-Ugandan, had never even seen as much of the country as I have, much less been to the poorer parts. The sights of the hospital freaked them out at first.

They walked the corridors nervously, and I had to stifle a smile at their nervous reaction. “Aw man, I gotta go,” one of them said to Daniel.

I interrupted. “But you just got here. Leaving so soon?”

“Yeah, I got stuff to do ... you know,” His eyes darted across the room.

But I insisted they stay for at least five minutes and help out. They protested that they’d make a mess of the wall, so I gave them full permission to do so. A corner with penciled

turtles and butterflies was waiting for them. It was sort of amusing in an endearing way to see them get to work.

Just as I'd expected, after an hour, they were still busy painting. And after two hours, they didn't want to go home!

"So this is reality, dude," they were saying. "All these poor kids ... wow! This is the real stuff." They were intrigued by those of us who had dedicated our lives to full-time missionary volunteer work, and we were able to talk with them about the benefits and joys of this lifestyle.

"We're definitely coming back next week!"

By the end of the day, they were grateful to have been a part of a life-changing experience.

It was a team effort, all the way. I want to list here the individuals who helped out with this unforgettable adventure in art, and whose work with the brushes and paints will no doubt leave somewhat of a legacy on the walls of Mulago.

Thank you Robin, Kathleen, Kirsten, John, Mary, Tina, Shirley, Celly, King, Darlene, Nicole, Sofie, Becky, Viv, Daniel, the Twins, Brian, Kevin, Chris, Desire, Rose, Elizabeth, Ham, all the Rotarians and Rotaracts who helped out (thanks, guys!), Charles, Ben Cable, Brian, everyone else who helped out after this article was submitted, and my friends Gaida, Paula, and Josephine, whose efforts to secure sponsorship of the paints were what began the Mulago Project.

And finally, the credit goes to the Lord, Who led from one miracle to the next, and brought me to Uganda, where so many of my dreams came true, and where countless memories will forever be reminders of His wonderful love.

The Healing Touch of Art

By Steven Ssenkaaba for New Vision (reprint of news article)

After her recent art exhibition for the displaced Ik minority ethnic group in Karamoja, Nyx Martinez, a Filipino volunteer and Christian missionary, has mobilized friends and fellow artists to do murals in the Jelif Children's ward at Mulago Hospital.

With assistance from Health Volunteers Overseas Organization, the young volunteers have, for the last month, painted the walls of the children's ward with bright and beautiful animated images, changing not just the face of the ward, but also uplifting the spirits of ailing youngsters and their caretakers.

"This is very refreshing. God bless these young people for their generosity. These pictures have a healing effect on our children. They are relaxing," said Christine Karungi, sitting by the bedside of her six-year-old grandson who was admitted two weeks ago with severe malaria.

Staring down on Karungi and her sick grandson in bright colors is a newly painted mural by Martinez and her colleagues.

It shows an angel protectively watching over a sick child, who is lying on a hospital bed, surrounded by his family. The angel's strong wings depict protection while the boy's widely open eyes portray hope.

"As an artist, I feel compelled to do work that will bring about positive change in society and restore hope to those who need it," Martinez said.

Hope is what this kind of art is all about. ... Its power to heal and console the young cannot be underestimated.

(Robin, Uganda:) Our ongoing mural-painting project at Mulago has grown in impact. Apart from generating a number of news articles, it has also helped us to become known as a positive influence in our community. A group of young people have begun volunteering to help us with this project, as part of their community service requirements.

So in addition to ministering to the dear sick children and their parents, these young up-and-coming boys have started to be affected in a very positive way too. Many others joined us, including a group of Rotarians and Rotaracts (the junior Rotarians). All would leave the hospital feeling a sense of fulfillment after the day's work. One young man commented, "Who knows? One day the future president of Uganda might be in this hospital, feeling terrible, and might look back on this time and think how much our art work cheered him up and gave him the faith to fight to live another day!"

A Rendezvous ... with Jesus!

By the Delhi Activated Home teens, India

Each year the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), India's premier engineering college, hosts Rendezvous, an intercollegiate cultural festival that is attended by thousands of students from all over India. We have found this festival to be an excellent opportunity to introduce many of these young people to Jesus. This year a 10-member team, mostly teenagers, attended.

(From David, 24:) Our goal was to share Jesus' message of love and hope with as many as possible. Our method was to pair up in teams of two and approach students starting with the simple question of whether or not they believed in God. Then we would explain that Jesus is our personal Friend and He wanted to be theirs too—Someone to confide in, talk with and pray to, and get answers from. If they expressed an interest in meeting this Friend, we would show them from the Bible how simple it is to make contact with God's Spirit. We found most to be very interested and receptive to the message we shared.—Even some of those who at first said they didn't believe in God.

On one occasion we were at the hall where preliminary rounds for a western music competition were in progress. We thought how powerful it would be to perform one of our Family witnessing songs for the entire audience! So we prayed and asked the Lord if we should go ahead, and after receiving His confirmation, we presented our request to the event's organizer. "Impossible," was his cold

response. "We are booked a year in advance. You'll have to wait till next year."

We were not impressed with this impossibility, and prayed for the Lord's will to be done nonetheless. A few minutes later, the Lord gave me a check to witness to a certain young musician. When I was talking with him, another young man approached and joined in our conversation. It turned out that this second young man was the top man who was organizing this event, and when he heard about our desire to perform, he said, "I'll give you a slot right away!" Talk about God's perfect timing! We got on stage and sang two songs.

When singing "Bend in the Road," I noticed a girl in the front row had tears streaming down her face as she listened. After our performance, we witnessed to her, and she hopes to attend Bible classes with us in the future. Another musician duo invited Jesus into their hearts, and then called their girlfriends over and asked if we could please tell them about Jesus too. They all took copies of *Activated*.

(From Deepti, 17:) I offered *Activated* magazines to three girls who told me, "Sorry. We don't believe in God!" But when I said that I'd like to introduce them to my best Friend, Jesus, Who talks to me and helps me with my problems, they

continued on page 30...



(L–R:) Deepti, Usha, Keren, and Nick, posing with a brand-new keyboard. One of our friends was very inspired by their witnessing testimonies and soon thereafter bought them a keyboard to use in their Christmas shows.

By Maria

ML #3581 12/05

Dear Family,

1. In this Letter, and probably a few more in the series, I'm going to talk about a subject that many of you may be quite familiar with—**negativity**, and specifically when it comes to our opinion and perception of ourselves. But when thinking about what to title the Letter, I didn't want it to have a negative spin, because, after all, the point of talking about negativity is to rid our lives of it and replace it with positiveness and praise!

2. **Sadly, the Enemy attacks a lot of you with negativity.** And although we know that the solution is to be positive, to be praiseful, and to use the new weapons—and I shared some wonderful material on praise with you in *Link #1*—it's still helpful to delve into negativity and dissect it a bit. Not for the purpose of dwelling on the negative, but for the purpose of being able to recognize what negativity is and why it's so devastating—which will then give us the impetus to fight the darkness of negativity and strive to walk in the light of positiveness and praise.

3. **So that's the purpose of this Letter—to help us all to begin to be more positively positive, aka (also known as) praiseful!** I'm only exposing the negative in order to bring in the positive, to have the ammunition to be able to fight the negativity the Enemy hits us with—whether it's regularly or only occasionally—to be reminded of what powerful spiritual weapons we hold in our hands to defeat him, and so that we can suffer much, much less of his influence in our lives.

4. **Although there are a lot of ways that negativity can be manifested—such as being negative toward others—we won't go into the details of each form of negativity.** We'll focus mainly on negativity toward oneself, which is very closely linked to discouragement, so there will be some information on that topic as well. My hope and prayer is that as you make an effort to transform any negative thoughts you have toward yourself into positive ones, that the positiveness and spirit of praise will spill over into every other area of your life as well.

5. **The power of praise and positiveness is contagious. So be a carrier!** If you've been negative about yourself in the past, turn over a new leaf in your life and ask the Lord to transform you into someone who is so praiseful and positive that you'll be able to influence others' lives for the better. It is possible. You can change—and not just slightly, but you can change drastically. What was once your weakness can become your strength! I know it's possible, because I've personally seen some incessant negative thinkers overcome their nature with the will to change and the Lord's unfailing help.

6. **One key promise I always claim when I need to make changes in my life is,** "The Lord can change your heart, your mind, your desires, your very nature, if you'll just give it all to Him." That's a promise you can claim too, if you need a positive change in your nature. That's all it takes—giving your all to the Lord, asking Him to transform your life, and He will.

7. Dad was a great proponent of fighting the Enemy, so I'm also going to include some of his quotations in boxes throughout this series, from the classic Letter he wrote in the early days of the Family—"Dumps!"

That's a good Letter to review from time to time, and if you who are new to the Family haven't read this Letter yet, ask someone to provide you with a copy. It's one you won't want to miss! (Note: This Letter can be found in *Greater Victories*, a *Mountain Streams* book, and online at: <http://www.thefamily.org/word/mls/index.php3?letterid=90>)

Negative or positive?

8. First I'd like to share with you a message that the Lord gave about the difference between the definitions of negative and positive. He also makes the connection between positiveness and faith, and says that by being strong in faith, which comes as a result of our time in the Word, we will be better able to fight the Enemy's attacks of negativity.

9. (*Jesus*:) There is one rule of thumb that is helpful to remember in fighting negativity: **Positive anything is better than negative nothing.** Anything you do that is positive is going to be better than the nothing good that comes from giving place to negativity. Take the word "negative" and overwrite it with the word "positive." They both have the same number of letters, but the results of putting them into action are worlds apart.

10. Check your dictionary for the definitions of the word "negative."

Bad: unhappy, discouraging, angry, or otherwise detracting from a happy situation.

Pessimistic: or tending to have a pessimistic outlook.

Opposite to positive.

Logic: opposing: denying or contradicting a statement, proof, or argument.

Biology: moving away or growing away

from a source of stimulation, for example, heat or light.

Something or somebody undesirable:

something or somebody who is bad, undesirable, discouraging, or otherwise detracts from a pleasant situation.

Synonyms: unenthusiastic, unconstructive, unhelpful, pessimistic, downbeat, disapproving, off-putting, discouraging, depressing, bad, undesirable, adverse, harmful, damaging, destructive, deleterious (with a harmful or damaging effect on somebody or something).

11. (*Jesus continues*:) There just isn't anything good about being negative, as you can see. It's the opposite of everything that I am. Now look up the word "positive" in the dictionary and read the definitions and words that describe it.

Sure: certain and not in doubt.

Law: irrefutable: conclusive and beyond doubt or question.

Optimistic: confident, and focusing on the good things rather than bad.

Beneficial: producing good results because of having an innately beneficial character.

Affirmative: indicating agreement or affirmation.

Encouraging good behavior: encouraging behavior.

Not negative

Biology: showing response. Indicating growth, response, or movement toward a stimulus, for example, light.

Synonyms: sure, certain, clear, convinced, assured, confident, irrefutable, definite, explicit, clear-cut, conclusive, categorical, decisive, unquestionable, confirmed, certain, optimistic, confident, constructive, helpful, encouraging, affirmative, progressive, upbeat.

12. (*Jesus continues:*) **Don't these descriptions sound a lot like what faith is all about?** Faith is knowing. You have no doubt. Faith is seeing the good and possibilities that others cannot see. Faith grows as you use it. Faith believes even when circumstances and conditions point to the opposite. Faith stands no matter what. Faith continues on even when something "negative" happens in your life. It shines, and is at its height when you live the principle of the Letter, "But If Not!" (ML #313; can also be found in *More Than Conquerors*, *Mountain Streams*.)

13. **Grow in faith, My loves.** The way you grow in faith is through the Word—not just reading it, but receiving it, believing it, accepting it and applying it. If you will be doers and not just hearers, calling on the keys of receptivity, faith, acceptance, and application, you will overcome the negativity in your life. The more negative you tend to be, the more you need to make My Word a part of your life. If you receive, believe, accept, and apply My Word as much as you can each day, you will be changed for the better. (*End of message.*)

THE Devil can really tell you a lot of truth about yourself that's horrible, not to speak of the lies he tells you. So if you start listening to the Devil, there's no end to it, because you're bad enough as it is; and if you listen to him he can make you sound even worse! (ML #33:3)

Effects of negative thinking

14. (*Mama:*) **If you're a negative thinker, chances are it has become a habit for you.** So breaking your negative habit and replacing your thought patterns with the positive, will require quite a bit of faith, determination, willpower, and effort on your part. It won't be easy to train the new positive you—though, of course, it will be much easier if you cry out to the Lord for His help, and use the spiritual weapons, and all of the spirit help available to you.

15. **I've found that often when the Lord asks something difficult of you, it helps to know the reason why you're going to all the trouble.** What will the effects be if you continue on with your negative mindset? How will it affect your life, your well-being, your happiness, your interactions with others, and all the rest? If you know where that road leads, it can give you a lot more determination to not allow yourself to walk it, and to get desperate with the Lord for the change that you desire.

16. (*Jesus:*) **The effect of negative thinking in someone's life is nothing short of devastating.** It robs that individual of the potential that I have created within them, and hinders Me from accomplishing all that I wish to do through them. Negative thinking, as it is commonly termed in the Family, is really just old-fashioned pessimism.

17. **A negative outlook on life is so different from the optimistic, positive outlook that I wish for My children to have.** It is the antithesis of faith. I have called My children to a life of faith, but negative thinking is a life of doubt. Negativity is manifested in different ways and in varying degrees in different people, but the result is the same. Negativity brings real pain into people's lives.

18. **So many people want to do great things.** So many people dream of being a person who changes the world through some great work written, a great deed of courage performed, or great acts of compassion rendered to those in need. But the negative feeling of "I just can't do it" robs people of that chance to make good on their dreams. It's the Devil's ploy to make life miserable and unfulfilling.

19. **So many people know that they can do great things, but do not have the courage to step out and try** for fear that their attempts will be subject to ridicule by others, and because they fear that they will fail. (Of course, there are many more reasons that cause people to be held back by negativity; this is only one example.) The world is full of negative thinkers who lack the courage to step out and do things that will make a difference.

20. **Negative thinking cripples a person's life to one degree or another.** It robs people of

the opportunity to live up to their full potential and of achieving their greatest desires and aims. In the world, it condemns many to the rat race of mere survival—drudgery day after day—because they don't think they can achieve anything more. It brings depression and other mental disorders, and that in turn leads to physical disorders.

21. I call My children to rise above negative thinking in their lives. For I know if they do, the happiness that they will find will far outweigh the loss of pride and other hurts that are incurred as they step out to try something different. The it-can't-be-done attitude hits at the very core of My children's faith, that they can do all things through Me and that nothing is impossible for Me (Philippians 4:13; Mark 10:27).

22. There is so much to be positive about! If My children lack self-esteem, it would help to look at things this way: I died for them. I, the Son of God, died for them. They are so valuable in My sight, and in My Father's sight, that it was worth My while to go to Earth and die for them. That should raise people's self-esteem, their self-value, if they realize that they are so valuable that I died for them. Think on that for some time; dwell on that. Really think about it.

23. Further to that, with My children in the Family, I not only died for them, but I have given them the privilege of being My intimate brides. Of all the people in the world, I have chosen you to be one of My brides. Don't look around at the others. I have chosen you to be My bride. Think of that. It is a great honor. So the problem of low self-esteem should be nonexistent in My Family because of the great honor I have bestowed on each Family member.

24. If I have chosen you for such an honor, then why should you think negatively about yourself? "Well," you say, "I think I know myself better." But what you are really saying when you say that is that you know better than Me. Now you know that simply isn't true. So if I know better than you, then you'd better fight to accept and believe the good. Imagine what your negative thinking is robbing you of because you will not accept that there are many positive things about you that I love. And the negative? Well, that is washed away with My blood, and I

don't even consider it. How can you think negatively now?

25. The sinful nature of man has given rise to pride, and pride manifests itself in several ways. Two ways in particular have to do with negative thinking. Some people who think negatively of others are so proud and so obnoxious that people can't stand to be around them. On the other extreme, some people who think negatively of themselves are so proud and timid that they can hardly stand to be around themselves. Both of these things war against My purpose in My people's lives.

26. Negative thinking often results in shyness and timidity. Because it binds people so much, negative thinking takes away the wonderful joy and feeling of usefulness that I wish to give them. Some of My poor children have this negative thinking so ingrained in them that they walk about as half the women and men of God that they could be.

27. Negative thinking reinforces the feeling of worthlessness and so reinforces the negative effects of pride. When you're thinking negatively about yourself, feeling worthless and unworthy, then you allow pride, usually in the form of shyness, to hold you back. So fighting negativity can also keep you from falling into pride through shyness and timidity.

28. Look at the great men and women in the world and what they have done. When I speak of great men and women of the world, I don't necessarily mean that they are great in My eyes, but they have risen to great positions in the world. Some through pride, of course, but others because they refused to believe that they couldn't do it, and so they stepped out and did it.

29. Now, I'm not saying that you should strive to be some sort of leader of the world. You are not called for that. Whatever your form of membership, you are called to be a leader and a feeder of My sheep, to share My love with others, to be a missionary in one way or another. You are called to the greatest life there is. The fact that you are a member of the Family shows that you had the gumption and the faith to step out and start living for Me. So tap into that same positive will that first got you into the faith life, that in-

spiration of knowing that you were going to step out and do it; even if you failed, you were still going to try. Remember that faith you had, that positiveness, and tap into that and use it in your daily life. When challenges present themselves, once again step out to accept the challenge.

30. Don't stay a spiritual cripple! You do not have to be! Think positively as you focus on Me, think positively about yourself, and also think positively about others, because the negative effect, the discouraging effect you have on others is another dreadful repercussion of thinking negatively.

31. Negative thinking results in negative, destructive criticism, which results in destruction. Destruction is a strong word, but that is what it results in, because the potential that has been there for good, for greatness, or for success has been destroyed.

32. Probably the best example of a negative thinker in the Bible is Judas. He doubted that My mission would succeed. He doubted that he could carry it on. He didn't think it was right for Me to do some of the things that I did. So deep was his negative thinking that on that crucial day he sold Me out. His negative thinking then became so intense that, contrary to everything he had heard Me teach, he thought there was no forgiveness for the crime that he had committed, and so he hung himself (Matthew 27:3-5). His negative thinking resulted in My death and in his death. I don't say that to make you think that you would be a Judas if you have an inclination toward negative thinking; I'm simply explaining to what a fatal degree the results of negative thinking can extend.

33. All that to say, My children—have faith. Have faith in Me and in My Words, and faith in yourselves, that I knew what I was doing when I chose you to be My servants, to be My brides, to be My missionaries, and members of the Family. Live up to your full potential by not giving in to the negative thinking of the Devil and the sinful nature of man. Look up, for your redemption draweth nigh! (*End of message.*)

Tips on how to fight negativity

34. (Mama:) Now that we've heard some from the Lord about why negativity is so detri-

mental in our lives, we need some tips on how to fight it. Here's a message from the Lord to get you started in the right direction.

35. (Jesus:) The first step to pulling out of the downward spiral of negativity is to recognize that it's not you; it's the Enemy. I know this is easier said than done, and you definitely feel like it's you, but it's not.

36. One way that you can actually do this is to think of someone you know who is very negative about himself. I'm sure you know someone, or know of someone, who falls into this category. When you listen to someone explaining why they can't do this or that, or why they fall so terribly short in some area, more often than not it doesn't really make sense.

37. One of the ironies of being negative about yourself is that often the very area you're complaining about is your most gifted area, or one of them. That makes it more obvious that it's the Enemy trying to steal away your talents and cause you to bury them instead of using them for My glory. Whoever you are, no matter what your job or place of service, you'll usually find the people you compare negatively with are those who are gifted in areas similar to you, who have some of the same talents and are in the same, or a similar job.

THE Devil always tries to find the weak spot in your strongest point, and strike at that!" (ML #74:22)

38. Think of the most negative person you know, and then think carefully about the types of things they feel so negatively about. It's pretty easy to see that they're not seeing things clearly, that they are truly talented in some way, and that they're obviously voicing their negativity because they have been listening to the wrong side.

39. Now, as hard as it's going to seem, ask Me to help you to realize that what you're doing in thinking, and, likely, voicing the way you feel about yourself, is equally as unreasonable.

Ask Me to help you to step out of the chains of negativity for a moment to see it in someone else, and then ask Me to give you faith to believe that it's possible that you're doing exactly the same thing, because you are.

40. I have given you everything you need to make it in My service, and more. I have given you unique gifts and talents to contribute to My work and My Family, and to reach and feed My lost sheep. Pray desperately, claiming the keys of heavenly perspective, and ask Me to give you faith to believe that it is possible for you to overcome, and for Me to give you total victory. Ask Me for the faith to make a serious commitment to overcome this evil attack of negativity step by step.

41. Once you do that, I'll give you the faith you need to start walking the road of change and renewal. Then immediately go to work taking steps toward victory. This is a battle you cannot fight on your own, so the next step is to ask Me who you should ask for help. I may show you to ask your shepherd, or a close friend, or your husband/ wife, a parent, sibling, or someone you look up to. It's extremely important to ask Me, though, because I'm the only One Who knows which person or combination of people will be able to best help you, and I may have a very different idea of who that is than you do. So give Me a chance.

42. If you're a chronic negative thinker, chances are you've already exhausted your every resource in trying to win, so now it's time to step back and let Me do it for, with, and through you—My way. You'll be surprised at how I may tell you to do something that will seem completely illogical to you initially, but once you take the plunge and follow through, you'll find that it's that very path that leads you to victory.

43. Now you must go to whoever it is that I've shown you to ask for help and explain to them very honestly what you're up against. Chances are, they probably already have a pretty good idea of at least some of the battles you're facing, and will be more than happy to support you in your commitment to change—both in prayer, as well as practically.

44. There are many steps you can then take together that will get you going in the right

direction, and later on, help you to stay on that path. Once you've talked with whomever I've showed you to talk with, you'll need to pray together and hear from Me together to get your specific battle plan. Each person and situation is different, and it's imperative that you get specifics from Me for your particular situation. Once you've heard from Me together, it would be helpful to write or type out the plan I give you. I'll give some general ideas here that you can choose from and confirm with Me if you like. (Note: Some of these ideas will be more feasible than others in your situation, especially in the case of those who don't live with other Family members.—Pray and ask the Lord how to apply this counsel, which of these points are important for you, and how you can achieve them.)

45. ▶ Help each other to hear from Me every so often by trading personal prophecy questions—as in you help the person you're teamworking with (in this case, specifically teamworking to overcome negativity with) to hear from Me about a question they'd like help with, and they hear from Me for you. This is especially helpful when you need to hear My encouragement, which is often difficult to do on your own while battling heavy negativity. (The person you're teamworking with doesn't necessarily have to be battling negativity. Maybe they're battling something else that you can support them in prayer for, or assist them in.)

46. ▶ Have Word time together as buddies, including some times when you specifically choose to not read anything related to your weaknesses or problems, but simply enjoy My Words together. Read testimonies, cool old Letters, or even spirit stories.* Ask Me specifically what Word will be most inspiring and enjoyable for you personally, for that occasion, and you may be surprised at how much fun you can have in My Word. That will boost your spirit tremendously. (*Note to AMs: If you need ideas, input, or resources to find such materials, please ask your shepherds.)

47. ▶ Set goals—little tiny ones at first—and then celebrate when you reach them. Even

if your first goals are very small, and all you can do is stay positive and praising Me for one morning, that's progress, and progress is worth celebrating! Choose something beforehand that you like to do, and decide that you will do that together once you've reached your first goal.

48. ▶ Keep a log. Logs can be extremely encouraging and helpful. Start a special file or notebook where you keep records of your progress—everything from the day you first decided to take a renewed stand against this inroad of the Enemy in your life, to your first goals, when you reached them, your next goals, praise quotes and promises that help you, etc. That way, when you later slip and are tempted to fall back into the horrible pit of negativity, you have actual documented evidence of your progress, and it will encourage you to keep striving for even greater victories.

49. ▶ Ask Me for a plan of how you can actively reach out to help, encourage, and go out of your way to make at least one person's day significantly better every single day. This is very important. There's nothing that will lift you more and bring on positiveness than when you're actively brightening someone's day. You can't do that without forgetting yourself for at least a little while, and happiness thrives when you're not thinking about yourself.

50. ▶ Set a daily time to praise Me together (whether in person, or if applicable, over the phone or via instant messaging). Take this time to specifically turn all your worries, burdens, cares, and fears into praises. Even if you're having

EVERYBODY'S influencing somebody—even when you seem to be all alone! Sometimes just a word or a glance or a smile can make a big difference—how you look or sound or seem! If it's not cheerful and victorious and uplifting, it's bound to hurt somebody and pull them down with you! (ML #33:9)

a terrible day, you can always think of ways things could be worse, and praise and thank Me that they aren't.

51. ▶ Ask Me for a picture of what the victory will be like, so that when things get rough you can keep your eyes on the goal and victories.

52. If you're the one someone has asked for help from:

53. ▶ Ask Me for an initial message on how you can help that person. Realize that you have an opportunity to help someone change their life for the better. Ask Me for the vision, the determination to help them pull through and not get discouraged when setbacks hit, the faith and patience and love needed for the task, a spirit helper who has expertise in this area, and all that you'll need to be a good spiritual support.

54. ▶ Ask Me for specifics on how to best encourage the one you're trying to help. Ask Me for new ideas of things you can do, or get others to do, that will mean the most to them personally. Ask Me how I want to show My love for them through you, and then follow through with whatever I show you.

55. ▶ Add that person to your personal prayer list, and faithfully pray for them every day. You can even ask Me for specific key promises to claim for them.

56. ▶ Write up and give the person a list of what you feel are their good qualities and strong points. Or hear from Me about what should be on the list. Choose or ask Me for a key promise to put at the top of the page that they can claim every time they're going to read the list, to help them to believe and accept it. You may actually want to write out what you think first, and then hear from Me about it. That way, it's obvious you see good qualities in them, and sometimes the personal touch is easier to understand and accept. But then also make sure to hear from Me, because I know so much more and can give the Words that will be most helpful in the long run.

57. ▶ **Pray and ask Me for the gift of active encouragement, and then stay open to My voice.** I will show you practical ways to encourage and uplift the one you are trying to help, and everyone else around you in the process, including yourself. Taking your time to help someone else is a win-win situation all around, and you'll be surprised at the tangible blessings I'll give you in return. For those battling chronic negativity, it's very, very difficult, and it's much more difficult for them to overcome on their own.

58. **In unity there is great strength, and one of the great strengths of unity is to be able to support each other in overcoming your weaknesses.** Never underestimate the power of unity when it comes to breaking bad habits. Having two or more people working together on it will bring the extra strength and power of spirit needed to break the bonds of negativity. (*End of message.*)

Preventive measures

59. (*Mama:*) **Next, I have a good message to share with you, received by someone who had battled on and off with discouragement and negativity.** This person has gained a lot of victories over the years, but still has to guard against this inroad of the Enemy and remain proactive.

60. (*Jesus:*) **To be forewarned is to be forearmed, but only if you do something about it, only if you're on the lookout for the Enemy's attacks.** You must be on the lookout, My love, because I tell you that things in your life will never be perfect. Things will never be exactly as you desire them to be. There will always be disappointments that will come your way, or things the Enemy will use to knock you out and beat you to the ground. That's how he attacks you; that's how he fights you.

61. **It doesn't matter what triggers the discouragement, because it's always going to be something a bit different.** But what you have to start doing is recognizing when the discouragement has been triggered and go on the attack against it. Don't let the chain reaction of discouragement set in. It almost always starts with one little thing—one thing that bugs you, one thing

you feel bad about, one thing that isn't going your way, one thing that makes you feel bored or unchallenged, one thing that makes you feel negative about yourself, one thing that isn't going as you had planned, or one failure. But then when you accept feeling discouraged or negative about that one thing, it leads to more.

62. **One thought of discouragement leads to two, then three, and then more.** Pretty soon you feel like you're surrounded in a haze of discouragement, and that dark clouds are overhead and there are no blue sunny skies at all anymore. That's because you didn't rebuke and resist the discouragement when it first set in.

63. **The truth is that you feel like you deserve to feel discouraged.** When something doesn't go your way, or you feel negative about yourself, or something isn't happening as you had planned, or you feel unloved as a result of something someone else has done, then you feel like you have every reason to be discouraged. And it even kind of feels good to have the "poor me's," at least in the beginning. And it's true, many times you do have every "right" to be discouraged, but that doesn't mean you should be discouraged!

64. **Feelings such as discouragement and negativity and jealousy are natural, inborn reactions to things that happen in life—difficult situations or things that go wrong.** These kinds of reactions are part of the nature of man, which the Enemy plays on and enhances and uses. So what you must do is pull out and destroy the wiring of your human nature and ask Me to help re-educate you to not react naturally but supernaturally.

65. **That's what rising above is: It's a supernatural reaction.** It's not natural to rise above. When something goes wrong, or you feel unloved or unneeded, or whatever the particular battle is, it's natural to get discouraged. But what you must do is will yourself into doing the supernatural thing and rise above. You must make the decision to fully yield and surrender yourself to the power of My Spirit.

66. **It's not something that's going to happen overnight, but it is something you need to work on.** You need to recognize when the

Enemy is trying to get you to resort to your human nature that leads to the depths of discouragement, and then fight to live in the realm of your supernatural nature that leads to victory.

67. Victory and happiness don't come when everything in your life is peachy. Victory and happiness are the blessed results of living more in the realm of the supernatural than the natural. You're happiest when you choose not to allow the things of this Earth to get you down, when you choose to rise above.

68. It's like you're walking on a divided pathway. One side is the negative, the other side is the positive, and you choose by your decisions which side you're going to walk on. Regularly there'll be an obstacle in the way that you have to overcome. And once you hit that point in the road, you must decide which side you're going to walk on. Are you going to let the disappointment or difficulty make you negative and discouraged? Or are you going to say, "Praise God!" and then go on to walk in the positive lane?

69. You must learn to walk more in the positive lane. Where you sometimes get off track is when you hit an obstacle, or something comes up that makes you feel negative or discouraged. Then so very often you drift to the negative lane instead of making a conscious decision to fight for positiveness and the gifts of My Spirit that give you the power to rise above.

70. The more you can recognize when you make these negative decisions, the easier it will be to choose to walk in the positive lane of life.

LET'S talk about Jesus! Let's get positive! Let's talk about the Word! Let's talk about the needs of others! Let's talk about the good things! "Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things!" Speak evil of no man—even yourself! (ML #33:29)

Praise power

71. (Mama:) As I said earlier, praise is an important antidote to negativity. Using the weapon of praise is probably the most important thing you can do if you're barraged with negativity. Even if that's the only spiritual weapon you use, I guarantee you'll give the Enemy a beating in the spirit.

72. (Jesus:) Make a continual and consistent effort to fill your mind, heart, soul and spirit, and even your body—your eyes, your ears, and your mouth—with fervent, sincere, and liberating praise to Me. If you only praised more, and used the weapon of active praise to Me, you would not struggle as much, for the Enemy would not be able to enter in with his lies and deceptions when you are fully occupied with praise and love for Me.

73. Force yourself to praise Me more out loud. Praise Me privately and praise Me publicly. Don't be ashamed to lift your arms in love and honor of Me, and praise Me with all of your heart. Praise Me at every opportunity and praise Me even when all seems hopeless and you feel defeated, discouraged, and fearful. Memorize key promises on praise and let them fill your heart and run through your mind constantly. Sing songs of praise to Me; give Me your kisses and your caresses in the form of loving and adoring Me at every opportunity.

74. Remember, you don't have to feel inspired to praise Me. In fact, praising Me is something that you should do all the more when you don't feel like it. If and when you feel resistant to praising Me, know that the Enemy is really attacking you, because he's about to be defeated. So when you feel like that, it's a serious indication that you need to praise Me even more vigorously and fervently. (End of message.)

75. (Mama:) If you'll begin today to take at least one of the steps the Lord has laid out in these messages, your life will significantly change for the better and you'll be on your way to a positive, praiseful new life!

Positively yours,
Mama

From our *Link* readership

RE: “AN ALL-OUT MISSION FOR SALVATION” (ML #3564, IN *LINK* ISSUE 4)

By *Dusty, USA*

I was deeply moved by how serious the Lord is about soul winning this Christmas 2005 after reading this message. I got an email recently from a friend and supporter, who is one of those more radical Christians and loves the Word that we are so blessed with in the Family. Two years ago, as her Christmas gift to Jesus, she handed out 5,000 “Somebody Loves You” tracts, one for each member of her town. She is a deacon in her little church of only twelve members, all whom love the Lord sincerely. They received a message from the Lord this year about the need to really reach and win souls this Christmas, that it was the time to do so and it was urgent. Just after that, she went to a nationwide Australian revival, and they were passing out the same message about getting out there this Christmas and winning the world for Christ. It seems the Lord is trying to get through to all Christians to redeem the time this year—trying to get any and everyone to do the job.

“This is the year, My dear ones, to bring the most souls into Heaven; it’s the year to have a soul-boom for Me! It’s time to be more fruitful and win more of the lost to Me than ever before. I’m calling on you, each person who reads My special Christmas message to you, to do the job I have sent you to do with all your might, so that many thousands might be saved this Christmas” (ML #3536:44).

After reading the Christmas message, I was really desperate to do more, to give Jesus the gifts He desires at Christmas—but

how? I am a stay-at-home-mom, and I don’t live in a Home with others, as I am helping to care for my daughter who is no longer in the Family. It is very difficult to go out witnessing and that is often discouraging. But the Lord always has an answer. After reading this message, I claimed the keys and the spirit helpers outlined in *Link* #4, as well as miracles from Heaven for souls to be reached. I asked the Lord to show me what steps I could take to put feet to my prayers, and asked Him to open doors that I could not. Well, He sure answered wonderfully.

The Lord showed me to use the “Tommy* method,” and to use my “window” to the world (Windows XP) to reach out to folks via the Internet. So I sent out *Activated* mags, *Reflections* and numerous feeding materials online to those on my mailing lists, then I put together mailings for the inmates I write to in foreign jails and those on death row here in the USA. There are only a few prisons that I can send magazines or *Mottos* to, as books are forbidden unless ordered through a distributor. The Lord gave me an idea to send out a Thanksgiving mailing and to put all the *Mottos* quotes and *Activated* articles into an attractive Word document form and send them in that way. It worked, every piece passed through, and now I have a new way to feed these desperate people. Next, the Lord led me to put together a healing message with a pretty floral border design from the *Reflections for Quiet Moments* booklet of prayers, with a healing prayer and a poem—it is a very simple prayer that anyone of any religion can pray to receive Jesus and His healing. So far, not one person has refused it. (*See *Activated*

article, “Love Finds a Way,” on the Web at: <http://activated.org/magazine/articles.php?id=14.5.39>)

Then the phone became very busy with telemarketers.—The Lord was bringing the sheep to me. As these salespersons tried to get me to purchase mortgages, debt-eradication programs, and newspaper subscriptions, I in turn, was able to offer them Jesus, the greatest Debt Remover, and get out the Good News instead of the gloomy worldly news. Not one person has refused to pray so far. Several have even broken down in tears and shared that their hopes were renewed. Others told me that this was the greatest gift that they have ever received, and that it was worth way more than any sales.

Jerry, from Hyderabad, India, got saved recently, and now calls for prayer almost daily. He has also put two of his supervisors on the line with me, and after witnessing to them, they too received Jesus. Jerry is going to hand out the salvation message that I sent to him to all 50 of his co-workers, as well as to his family.

I have a good Internet mail ministry and prayer support group, and my profile is on the Internet. Just recently, this profile has gone public for some reason, complete with photos of my daughter and me. This was something that I did not initiate and have no idea how it came about, but it’s turned out to be another answer to prayer. Quite a few men have started to message me, with Oh, honey, won’t-you-be-my-baby-type of jargon, and after I’ve kindly explained who I am, what I do, and how I would love to introduce them to Jesus, several have gotten saved right then. They are respectful and hungry for the Word. Two men from Nigeria and an editor from Morocco prayed with me and now read *Activated*, and another man from Spain is staying in touch and is hungry for the Word.

In just a short space of time—less than a fortnight—the Lord has helped me to get out 4,500 pages of lit, pray with 12 souls, and do plenty of follow-up via phone, mail,

or IM. It is very encouraging and I am expecting greater miracles and more feeding as a result of this Christmas. Jesus answers prayer; He sure does want souls, and He’ll use anyone He can get to do the job. Sanbahd-mahl* and all the crew are rocking and the keys rule! (*A spirit helper who is “the warrior of the witnesser and defender of lost souls.” ML #3522:170)

Merry Christmas, Jesus! You’re sweeter than hot chocolate, more intoxicating than brandied plum pudding, smoother than eggnog, and You sure light up my tree! Happy birthday!

RE: “PRAISE = ANSWERS, SOLUTIONS, PROGRESS, POWER, AND VICTORY” (ML #3539, IN *LINK* ISSUE 1)

By Angie, Mexico

Thank you for the *Link*! It is so inspiring, and wow, the new Letter about praise was just what I needed right then. It’s great to have this new pub, and knowing that it is reaching an even wider level of membership is so inspiring!

By Andrew, Ireland

The Letter on praise and the importance and effect it has on our prayers was so well explained. It’s so beautiful to see these wonderful principles of the spirit getting passed on to more people.

RE: *LINK* ISSUE 1

By Renee, Canada

I wanted to comment on the article about the Homegoing of dear Liberty. It was beautiful! I cried tears of both sadness and joy to read about her passing and her life story. The picture of Liberty on page 26 was so bright and full of joy! I don’t know when it was taken, but it surely looked like she was already in Heaven, she shined so

continued on page 30...

Some Ways to Prepare for the Worst

For James and Maureen Halderman, life started over at 4:30 one July morning in 1992. A huge earthquake sent their house in Lake Arrowhead, California, plummeting 20 feet. The couple's three children were trapped for four hours. Finally freed, they jumped in the car, still in their pajamas. As they drove off, the house blew up.

Their new life began in Cleveland, where they stayed with Mrs. Halderman's brother. For Maureen Halderman, as for others who lose everything, one of the biggest challenges was replacing important papers. "That was terrible," she says.

"Birth certificates, Social Security cards, my nursing license—everything. I tried to get a driver's license, and I couldn't prove who I was."

Today she keeps a metal lock box under the bed for important documents. Her brother stores copies in another lock box.

The couple also devised an emergency plan. They staged fire drills so the children would know what to do. They also store canned food, bottled water, and powdered milk in a basement room. Other emergency

supplies include three sets of clothes per person, a camp stove, candles, and oil lanterns.

Halderman concludes that "you wouldn't wish this on anyone, and you can't ever say you're glad it happened. But if you're open to it, there is opportunity even in tragedy. It's an opportunity to look at life in a different way and be grateful for what you may have taken for granted. The best first step you can take toward recovery is being grateful for what you have instead of being bitter for what you lost."

Although the Haldermans, like others who have survived disasters, are well prepared for the next one, many experts recommend being well prepared in the first place.

Disaster seems unlikely to strike Rexburg, Idaho, but that does not stop residents from preparing for the worst. In the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita, many Americans have begun to ponder how they would cope with major disaster. But many of Rexburg's 22,000 residents—roughly 90 percent of whom are members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints—have followed a decades-old Mormon

Compiled from articles by *Reuters*; *U.S. News and World Report*; Peter N. Spotts and Marilyn Gardner, *The Christian Science Monitor*; Damon Darlin, *NY Times News Service*

practice of storing one year's supply of food for each family.

Storing emergency supplies is linked to a church doctrine by founder Joseph Smith: "If ye are prepared, ye shall not fear." Additionally, Mormon leaders say persecution of early members of the church, established in the 19th century, helped create a tradition of preparing for emergencies.

How can you prepare for an emergency of your own, whether it's an earthquake, hurricane, flood, or other natural disaster? Here is a distillation of advice from emergency-preparedness experts from across the spectrum:

WATER. If you take nothing else away from this article, at least heed this advice: stock up on water. It is cheap, it has a long shelf life, and, most important, you cannot live without it. Most of us can do without food for days. But dehydration is a very real and life-threatening danger after a calamity.

Though you drink half a gallon (2 liters) of water a day,

you should store one gallon (4 liters) of water per person per day. Assume you will be cut off for at least three days and store as much extra as you have room for in a cool, dark space. The International Bottled Water Association says jugs of water can be kept indefinitely, though they may pick up an off-flavor from the plastic after a year or so. But it is pretty easy to rotate the stock every couple of months.

If you have the room, store some of the water in the freezer. When the electricity goes, you'll have more ice to preserve the food in the refrigerator for a day or two longer.

If worst comes to worst and you run out of water while your community's water supply is contaminated, turn off the water supply to your house and drain water from your water heater or scoop it from the toilet tank. It must be purified by boiling it for several minutes or by mixing in two drops of old-fashioned bleach—not the scented varieties—to each quart of water.

FOOD. You don't want to spend a fortune buying and storing food. If you have a pantry or basement with a decent supply of canned foods and bottled juices, you should do just fine for several weeks.

Given that in most emergencies—floods, earthquake or fire—you may have to flee, it is smart to keep a 72-hour mobile kit. That's a three-day supply that you can easily carry out to the car at a moment's notice. The crucial concept here is high nutrition in a small amount of space. Freeze-dried foods would be perfect, except you'll need clean and heated water to reconstitute those products. Don't forget baby formula if you have an infant.

CASH. If you get a warning, head to the nearest cash machine. The time to raid the ATM is before the disaster, because when the electricity fails, you won't find one that works. Take out as much as you can because you may need it to buy supplies at post-disaster inflated prices, and credit cards won't work if there is no electricity or computer networks are down. When the disaster has passed, you can put the money back in the bank.

COMMUNICATIONS. In almost every disaster, cellphones have proved remarkably useless. Old-fashioned landline phones hold up much better. But you might be able to use your cellphone if you have a nonelectrical charger of some sort.

EXTRAS. You cannot do without a first-aid kit, a radio and lots of batteries. The new flashlights that use light-emit-



"Stock up on water. It is cheap, it has a long shelf life, and, most important, you cannot live without it."

ting diodes will help you conserve juice.

Camping gear—butane stoves, coolers and lightweight tents—easily doubles as survival gear. What else? An adapter that turns your car’s cigarette lighter into an electrical outlet for any appliance could be a lifesaver. Stash all this stuff in a plastic box that can serve to float things out to safety.

DOCUMENTS. Pulling together documents you need on the run may be the hardest thing to do. Prepare a book with copies of birth and marriage certificates, adoption papers, key identification numbers, copies of bank statements, deeds, titles, credit cards and insurance policies as well as passwords to online accounts. Keep it in a secure place and grab it on the way out of the house.

GUNS. Some survivalists recommend a gun for protection. But if you haven’t used one regularly, don’t know how to store it safely and haven’t made the moral decision that you could shoot a person, forget it. Someone is just going to get hurt and it will probably be you. Your best protection is banding together with neighbors—and sharing that food all of you stashed.

LOOKING OUT FOR YOUR NEIGHBOR. In emergency preparedness, one element shouldn’t be overlooked, experts say: the critical role individuals and families play through their personal readiness and commitment to looking out for their neighbor.

Fostering that kind of attitude can have a marked long-

term effect on preparedness, says Ann Patton, an emergency planning consultant in Tulsa, Oklahoma. “The best defense against disaster is a close-knit community of people who care about each other and take care of each other,” she says.

Getting down to specifics, here are the sort of emergency supplies you and your family may find helpful in an emergency, as well as a three-step plan for preparedness:

1) GATHER YOUR SUPPLIES

Bottled water (1 gallon per person per day; three-day supply ideal)

Cash (ATM and credit cards may not work or be accepted by businesses)

Cellphone (with nonelectrical charger, such as a car charger or AAA battery pack)

Clothing and underwear
Phone numbers of friends and family

Documents (driver’s license, passport, birth certificate, etc.) in a waterproof container

Eating utensils (plastic or disposable)

Emergency numbers: local, state, and federal

Financial inventory (a list of bank and investment accounts, mortgages, and loans, including account numbers and location of original documents)

First-aid kit

Flashlight with extra batteries
Food (canned goods and other nonperishable items that don’t require cooking)

Masking tape, duct tape

Medical information (list of your medications, any chronic

conditions, and medical history)

Medications (three-day supply of all daily medications)

Paper towels, toilet paper, and sanitary products

Plastic sheeting

Radio (battery-operated) with extra batteries

Scissors

Sleeping bags or blankets (one per person)

Toiletries (soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, etc.)

Tools (can opener, knife, pliers; a Swiss Army knife may suffice)

Trash bags

2) CREATE A PORTABLE SUPPLY KIT

In case you have to evacuate your home, it is good to put the supplies you think you would need the most in a portable container.

Some people try to fit all of the supplies listed above in a large rolling cooler. Another option is to store the items in several small coolers or boxes.

Think about what supplies you need, what you can reasonably carry or store in your car, and how many people will be available to help you transport the supplies.

3) DEVELOP AND PRACTICE AN EMERGENCY PLAN

All the planning in the world won’t do much good if you don’t practice ahead of time. Not only does this enable you to go through your plan while you’re calm and thinking clearly, but it also enables you to fine-tune it before you have to put it into action.

Identify emergency evacuation routes in your community and near your workplace.

Decide where family members should meet if you are separated in an emergency.

Identify a backup location to meet at, in case the first location is impossible to reach.

Identify a point-person who will serve as the central contact to call in case of confusion.

Choose an out-of-state friend or relative to serve as a backup contact, in the event that local lines are tied up or out of service.

Practice the plan at least once a year.

David:

It's better to be ready years

too soon than a day too late.

Foresight is much more helpful than hindsight when an emergency strikes, as is preparation beforehand. After all, you live in a hazardous world in uncertain times, and you never know when you'll have to move suddenly, or stay put and try to survive in the aftermath of some sudden calamity.

What if your house or apartment building caught on fire, or the nearby forest was ablaze? What if a sudden deluge caused flooding in your city or neighborhood? What if an earthquake suddenly hit, or a hurricane or typhoon roared through your area? Or what if that dormant volcano nearby turned out not to be so dormant after all? It never hurts to expect the unexpected, and to think about what you'd do if

it happened—not with a spirit of fear, of course, “for God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind” (2 Timothy 1:7). We're simply to watch and pray—watch for signs of impending calamity, and pray about how to best be prepared.

Prayer is really the best preparation, both before and during the calamity. If you ask the Lord, He can tell you whether to go or to stay, to evacuate or to hunker down and ride out the storm or disaster. He can tell you what to do, when and where to go, and the best course of action to take in any situation, besides preparing you beforehand. If you're tuning in to Him regularly, then His “early warning system” will be activated in your life, and it will be easier for Him and His angelic helpers to get through to you with hints or even direct warnings of things to come, or advice on what you need to do. Maybe He'll remind you that you need to get your vehicle maintenance done because it's overdue, or He'll draw your attention to a sale on camping gear or survival food. Who knows? He does, and so will you if you ask Him!

Besides helping you to be prepared physically, keeping in touch with the Lord also helps you to be prepared spiritually, which is just as important.

Many people, when their world begins to crumble around them, either get shocked and uncertain about what to do, or they panic and do something stupid. But knowing the Lord and staying in touch with Him can give you

more peace and faith, not to mention protection, direction and guidance. You can call out to Him for protection, claiming His promises in the Bible and the keys, knowing that He loves you as His Own child and that even the hairs of your head are numbered. And, if He should choose to take you home, you can have perfect assurance that Home is in Heaven, where you'll dwell with Him and your loved ones forever. “The world passeth away, but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever” (1 John 2:17).

Preparing for emergencies ahead of time also reminds us that “here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come” (Hebrews 13:14). If you have to leave your house or city suddenly, you may be able to take very little with you. It's a reminder that all God's children are “strangers and pilgrims on the earth, who desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared for them a city” (Hebrews 11:13,16). It's a wonderful city, I'll tell you, and a wonderful existence! You can't bring anything with you, but you can send it ahead through the deeds of love and kindness you do, the witnessing you do, the message you distribute, the souls you win, your faithfulness to the Lord and His work.

So prepare for emergencies ahead of time, dear Family, and prepare for eternity all the time by your work for the Lord and for others! If you do, you'll be happy both now and forever!

From
Black Magic
to
gold magic

I WAS BORN a simple Russian girl in a family of atheists. The funny thing is that I believed in God, though there wasn't anyone to tell me about Him. It's a mystery to me as to how I knew about Him. When my parents found out about my beliefs they became very worried. "Who told her that nonsense about Christ?" my relatives would ask.

BY mia (17, 12 Bridges Student), Ukraine

When I was four or five I started to hear a voice speaking to me. Since I was so young, I figured that it was an imaginary friend. However, at the age of six I understood that it couldn't be my imagination, because this Friend seemed too real. How could He know my future and how could He always say that He loved me? I didn't know what real love was. I received some love from my parents but it was not much and very seldom. So how could somebody that I couldn't even see love me? But this Somebody not only loved me, He showed me dreams of my future and made it possible for me to grow up living happily.

One night I woke up cold as my blanket was on the floor. Suddenly I saw the ghost of a fisherman near my bed. I

thought it was a dream, but later I understood that it wasn't. The fisherman covered me with my blanket, warmly smiled, and then became very serious and said: "This is your last chance." I didn't understand what this meant, but from that time on I started only feeling God, but not hearing His voice.

Years passed and I forgot about my childhood experiences with God. I eventually came to the conclusion that there was no God. I thought, "How could I have been so stupid as to have believed in this fairy tale?" My parents were on cloud nine that their daughter finally had some common sense.

At the age of eleven I started learning black magic. In a dream a man in black appeared and spoke to me. I couldn't see his face as it was shadowed in the dark. I felt power from him and I respected him. I was very surprised when he said that he needed me, and that with my help he could do great things. I agreed to serve that dark guy! He became very close to me and I would often feel his presence and even feel as if he was touching me when he would come to me.

I started to do terrible things. I became cruel. I thought I was a wizard, and in some ways I was. I could do many evil things and I liked it! I felt power in me

that nobody else had. A lot of my friends who understood what was going on with me didn't like me anymore, but some of them liked it and even asked for my help. I was very satisfied with my power. This went on for five years. My soul was crying, but I didn't confess to myself that I really needed help; I didn't realize that I was dying spiritually. Sometimes I had a feeling that Someone was trying to break through my evil protection, but I didn't allow Him to come in, as I was too self-confident and dependent on evil.

But the Devil had forgotten that I'm God's daughter, that I'm His creature. I was human and wanted to be loved and taken care of. Sure, I enjoyed my powers, but I wanted to be truly happy. When I turned 16, I started to realize that I couldn't live like I had been. I hated my life, myself, and I started to hate that "guy" who made me so miserable.

One August night I started talking to the "high powers". I was crying and shouting at them, saying that I had no reason to live. I asked them why my life was nothing and why I wasn't happy. For two or three hours I was in this hysteria and then suddenly I said, "God, if You are somewhere, please speak to me, I need Your help!" At that moment I felt what seemed like a kick. It was the Devil, but that was the last time that he ever touched me. I felt warmth and I again had this feeling I'd had in my childhood. I heard this lovely voice that I had never expected to hear again. It was Jesus! "At last!" He said, and tears of happiness flooded from my eyes. I asked Him never to leave me again and He said that He hadn't, but that it was I who hadn't wanted to take Him.

I was afraid at that moment that I would lose our connection so I gathered all the faith, love, and hope in my heart and promised to myself that I wouldn't lose my God again. I also asked Him to give me something in my life to show

me His love. I needed some strong encouragement, so I asked the Lord for it and He promised that He'd give me such love and encouragement, but that I should wait a couple of months.—And He was very punctual!

A couple months later, in October 2004, I was taking my English course at school. At the end of the lesson a guy from my group said that he'd invited two American girls to our lesson so that we could talk to them and practice our English. When I saw these girls (Ang and Jenny) I didn't think that they'd be the ones that Lord would send to me, but then they started talking about how they belonged to the Family, that they were missionaries, and believed in Jesus. I began paying attention. Something told me that I should meet them again and talk more, so I swapped cell phone numbers with them. I started to go to their home every week and I really enjoyed it, but the Devil was still trying to get me as I was used to my "normal" way of life. Even after I left the Devil and his black business, there was still a lot of work for the Lord to do on me.

A problem arose when my parents found out about me going to the Family Home every Sunday. My mom cried and told me that they're a sect and that they would hypnotize me. My parents forbade me to go to the Family Home, so I would say that I was going for a walk with friends when I went for the Sunday *12 Foundation Stones* classes. I started to realize what real love was. I don't remember how or when I changed, but I did! Everybody noticed it; my friends and even relatives. When my mom found out that I was still visiting the Family I was surprised that she didn't argue with me about it. Instead, she became very interested and even came with me to the Home to get to know whom I was visiting.

Amazing things happened one after another, and my mom even started wor-

rying when I wouldn't go to the Family Home for a while. She had begun liking the Family because she liked the new me! My life had real purpose to it now. I started receiving gifts of the Spirit and I was very happy as I now knew the truth. Sometimes I couldn't find the time in the midst of all my studying, exams, and courses to go to the Home and I'd get very upset, but I had no doubt that the Family would always be there for me, any time that I was able to come over.

I once again learned how to communicate with the Lord. Jesus told me that He had allowed me to get into the dark side because I had to try it and see how bad it was, so that in the future I would never be tempted with it again. He said that He's got a very serious plan for me and that I need to be absolutely devoted to Him.

One day I asked Jesus, "Lord, is the Family that gift that You promised to give me when I cried and asked You for a sign of Your love that summer night?" He replied, "What do you think? You've received love and encouragement, you've received joy and happiness, and you understand what you are living for." Yes, He was right! He certainly gave me everything that I asked for, and more!



Mia (left) and Lena (right) at Mia's 12 *Foundation Stones* graduation celebration



One of our youth Bible studies

A Wish Come True

By Angelina Leigh, 24, Eastern Europe

In my life in the Family, especially in my younger years, I often wondered what it would be like to win a disciple. Growing up in the very large Homes that were the norm at the time, disciples weren't being won much, and the extent of my witnessing experience came from personal witnessing and soul winning, and some door-to-door distribution of Family products. This went on until I was 19. I tried to do some follow-up here and there on people I'd witness to, but for one reason or another I was never met with the kind of fruit I dreamed of—meeting someone who would be so hungry for the Word that they would come over to see me of their own volition because they wanted me to feed them the Word!

On my 21st birthday the Lord said that I could make a wish that He would fulfill, and I wished that I would be able to win a disciple! Soon after that, I moved to the Ukraine where I was going out personal witnessing almost every day. Disciple winning was our main focus and it was awesome!

How we met Mia

One day I was out personal witnessing with James. We'd been out all after-

noon and hadn't yet met that "someone" whom we'd really made a spiritual connection with, who'd wanted more than to just pray with us. The sun was beginning to set and we were tired. We thought maybe we should go home, but decided to ask the Lord before we did, and to our surprise the Lord told us that we should stay out for half an hour longer.

We walked on down to the waterside where we got a check to approach four young teenagers. I pulled out my guitar and asked them if they wanted to hear a song, and then proceeded to witness to and pray with them. At the end of our conversation, one of them said his mom was a teacher at an English school and that it'd be cool if we could come and visit once the school year began. We swapped phone numbers and kept in touch. Two months later I got an SMS from him telling me we could come over to their school on Thursday, and that was where we met Mia! Had we not asked the Lord what to do at that crucial point that afternoon out witnessing, we would have gone home when we were tired and not have met those boys, thus never going to Mia's school. I'm so thankful for the Lord's direction; it was all His doing!

After we spoke and sang some songs at Mia's English school, she asked for our phone number, and a few days later Jenny and I arranged to meet her in town. She seemed like an average young girl with not that much potential as she didn't have a lot of questions about spiritual things, and we mainly ended up chatting about her family, background, and whatnot. We did give her an *Activated* mag and invited her over for our *12 Foundation Stones* classes. It took a while for her to start coming over regularly, as school for a teen her age is quite rigorous.

A key

Mia has black hair, and was always dressed in black, with black nail polish—

the works. She'd come over to our place a couple of times for classes with a school friend of hers who seemed full of questions and hungry for the Word, whereas we noticed that Mia seemed a bit uninterested. The Lord showed us that we should show her the *Final Stand* Endtime music video the next time she came over, as she seemed to have a keen interest in the Endtime. The next week, she was the only student to come to our class, so we delved into watching the songs on the *Final Stand* one by one and studying the corresponding Bible verses. This lit her fuse and the whole Endtime scene intrigued her. From that point on she started absorbing more and showing much more hunger for the Word on other topics as well. An interesting thing is that her friend who had seemed much more interested outwardly didn't really pan out in coming regularly to the classes, and after a few months didn't come at all. It went to show that we really can't go by "first impressions" or how outwardly "interested" a person may seem. The Lord works in their hearts, and it's totally a matter of the spirit.

It was often still a struggle for Mia to come over on the weekends, and I'd have to call or SMS her every Saturday to see if she was going to be able to make it, and oftentimes she wasn't. But as time went by she came more faithfully, often being our sole student.

A chain reaction

After several months of reading the Word and having classes, Mia grew closer and closer to us, coming over not just for her classes, but for get-togethers we'd have in the Home, or to help out in giving classes to others her age, joining in on our Christmas shows in orphanages, etc. I was seeing my dream become a reality! The Lord had worked in her life through the Word to such an extent that she was quickly becoming a teenage Family disciple right before our eyes! One day she told

me, “Ang, I’d like to invite Lena [a friend of hers from school] over to the house; she’s a potential disciple!” Lena turned out to be just that, and has become just as on fire as Mia! God bless her!

Another friend of hers, Nastia, came down to visit Mia for the summer from a city in northern Russia. She didn’t speak English, and when Mia prayed about how to feed her, the Lord told her to go ahead and give the *12 FS* classes to her herself. I was surprised when one afternoon Mia told me that she had just finished giving the whole course to Nastia over the past two weeks—she gave her a class a day as time was running out, and Nastia needed to return home!

Nastia also started coming over to our Home to read the Word, and one day she and Lena casually told us that on the way over to our house they’d won a couple of souls on the bus! Not long after Nastia returned to her hometown, we heard that she’d prayed with her mom and several of her relatives and friends and was now going through the *12 FS* classes with them! God bless those who translated the *12 FS* into Russian—it’s spreading like wildfire and changing so many lives!

Changes

I think the biggest turning point in Mia’s life since she met us was when we had the classes on the gift of prophecy. When we gave the second class on prophecy we got quiet and heard from the Lord together as the class suggests you do. It was so neat to see how she concentrated with her eyes closed, really joining us in the spirit and taking hearing from God very seriously. Later on that week we invited both Mia and Peter, another of our *12 FS* students, to Pearly’s birthday party which we were going to celebrate in the Home. The party plan included hearing from the Lord together for Pearly.

A couple of weeks later it was Mia’s birthday, so we also had a party for her and heard from the Lord together for her. It was then that the Lord said that as a birthday present He wanted to give her a new name, but said that He would give it to her Himself later on! For the next two weeks she asked the Lord every day what her new name was, but the Lord was telling her other things, not her new name. It seemed the Lord wasn’t telling it to her right away so that she’d keep coming to Him regularly, ha! This helped her build a good habit of hearing from the Lord right at the start.

A new name and a dream

A few weeks later I got an SMS from her saying, “Ang, I got my new name! It’s so amazing! I’m coming over this afternoon to tell you about it!” She recounted to us that the previous night she’d had a very strange dream. In the dream she’d awoken and seen that there was a word engraved into her arm. She felt like it was for real. Seeing this word engraved in her arm was very shocking and she wondered what on earth it meant. She then woke up from her dream and asked the Lord what it meant and the Lord told her that He would show it to her in time. Her parents weren’t home, so after tidying her room she decided to go and hear from the Lord on the computer. She typed out the prophecy she’d gotten and showed it to us. In it the Lord said that He was now going to tell her what her new name was, and began spelling it out to her letter by letter, M-I-A-L-I-T-A. After the message ended, she went over and read it and was shocked to remember that “Mialita” was the exact same word that she’d seen engraved on her arm in the dream that had been so vivid!

I think hearing from the Lord together as a Home showed her how much a part of our lives it is, and how the Lord can be involved in every aspect of our



Mia with some boys she led to the Lord

lives. From that point on she's been hearing from the Lord for herself very often, having praise times before she gets out of bed in the morning, praying whenever she gets the chance to, on the bus, at the beach, at home etc.

Witnessing road trip

A few months later summer time came around. We'd planned to go to a music festival up north, accompanied by some JT board members and almost all the pre-teens and teens in the area, so we invited her to come. She'd witnessed with us before here and there, but this music festival really set her on fire. With the wonderful sample of those witnessing alongside her, she caught right on. The second afternoon of the three-day festival she came back from witnessing for a couple of hours with Jan of Eva, and had won 40 souls! I was amazed. We saw her grabbing the hands of a group of guys she'd been witnessing to, asking them all to hold hands in a circle as she led them to the Lord.

She joined us as we sang and danced, lifting our arms and praising the Lord right next to the main promenade, she gave out tracts right and left, and got up early for extra Word and praise time. She noticed how different the Family young people were from her System counter-

parts, and was very impressed by their sample of loving the Lord and not caring about what others thought of them.

You don't have to wait till Heaven

Mia recently completed the *12 Foundation Stones* course and we had a graduation evening for her where she shared some beautiful things about how meeting us in the Family, studying the *12 FS*, and getting to know us has changed her life. She went on to give Renee, Kevin, and I (those of us who were her main teachers) little slips of paper with sweet personal notes, one of which I will share on the following page.

I believe that in Heaven each of us who've won souls will be swimming in notes such as these, which give such a warm feeling of fulfillment and happiness, knowing that we took that extra step for the Lord, did what was difficult for us, loved that lost soul, went out witnessing that day when it was freezing cold, rainy, or torridly hot, made that phone call when we didn't feel like it, stepped out of our pride to witness to that good-looking guy or girl we were feeling too shy to approach, or pulled out the guitar to sing for someone even though it was uncomfortable to sing to a complete stranger, or got up in front of a crowd of university students when we'd never had a knack for public speaking ... and the list goes on.



Witnessing at a music festival



Kevin and Mia reading together on a Russian train on the way to the music festival. Peter (on top bunk, Active member) also redeeming his time studying the Word.

But we don't need to wait until Heaven to find out about at least some of how the Lord is using us to accomplish His purpose! It's possible to see the fruit right now if we just keep plugging along, following what the Lord tells us to do, and being faithful to follow-up and take care of the sheep He sends our way.

Dear Ang,

You're the one who taught me the most important things about Jesus. It's you who gave me a new breath of life. It's you who taught me to know the difference between good and evil. I was so inspired with your songs. I'm so happy that the Lord gave me you in my life. Now I'm happy to be living and I have some sense in being on this earth. I know why I'm here, and gratefully it's because of you. I love you very much. Even when you leave, you'll always be in my heart and I'll be praying for you all the time.
Your devoted student,
Mialita

I keep this note in my log book and it reminds me of how the Lord can use us to change a life, and turn what was once a helpless tool in the Devil's hands into a mighty, hot, powerful, and two-edged sword in the Lord's, who will stand up with us in the Endtime performing miracles by our side, and is even now lighting the path of many more souls to bring them into Heaven.

A couple months ago the Lord showed me to move on from the wonderful field of the Ukraine, but I told Mia that I'm counting on her to win the souls for me since I'll no longer be there. I know she will! She's now in full swing of the *12 Bridges* course with the wonderful Home that's still there, and I pray for her daily that she'll continue to grow and make the right decisions and fulfill the Lord's highest will for her life.

I wasn't a good follow-up teacher when this all began, but I learned as I went (I'm very thankful for Kevin—my main partner in teaching—and the *12 FS* course which sped me along the "learning path"). Plus, it was a Home effort and just goes to show that the Lord can use anyone, but especially when we're united together and put reaching the lost first. The Lord is answering that birthday wish I made when I turned 21!



Angelina

...continued from page 7

agreed to give Him a try. When they opened their eyes after praying a salvation prayer, one after the other said, “That felt so nice! Thanks so much!” You can’t automatically quit when people profess atheism!

(From *Keren*, 15:) Every time I go witnessing, it makes me appreciate all that I have been blessed with! I’ve grown up in an atmosphere where people are kind, concerned, and, well, *real*! It seems that so many people nowadays feel that they have to put up a front and act differently around others. I really saw this at the Rendezvous festival. We met and interacted with a lot of young people, and one thing I noticed was that at first glance they all seemed happy-go-lucky and carefree, but when I got to talking with them, although they looked like they had it all, they were pretty lost, and desperately searching for the truth. My heart went out to them!

I talked to one of the girls participating in the music contest, and before 15 minutes were up, she had prayed with me to ask Jesus into her life. I explained, “Jesus will never leave you or forsake you.” She said, “Thank you so much for this precious gift! You don’t know how much it means to me.” I took her phone number and promised to stay in touch.

(From *Usha*, 15:) It’s always amazing to me how we can walk up to complete strangers and start talking with them about deep topics like God and the meaning of life—and they’ll actually stop and listen! It goes to show that people are searching. It’s not always the “coolest” thing to do in the eyes of the world, but whenever I put my self-image aside and tell people about Jesus, their reaction makes me so glad that I did! I was able to witness to nearly 30 people at this festival.

(From *Nick*, 15:) I can’t think of anything else that makes me happier than knowing that I can offer one more person the wonderful gift of salvation through Jesus. I don’t think I’ll forget those two days of witnessing at Rendezvous for a long, long time! We hit the IIT music festival with guitars, *Activated* magazines, and a prayer in our hearts for the many other young people who are searching for meaning in life. The response to the *Activated* magazine is terrific! It’s an amazing tool to introduce Jesus to these young people.

Can I be satisfied with only reaching a handful with the Lord’s love? Absolutely not! Telling people about Jesus and seeing them change is such a thrill! The more I do it, the more I want to do it!

...continued from page 18

much. I looked at her for a long time.

Simon Peter, your testimony from Uganda and your radio show is fantastic! I read it to my kids and we all flipped at how receptive people are and how much you’re doing to feed their hearts. We would like to know how we can listen to the radio show if we are at a different time zone from Uganda. My kids are super eager to listen to your show! I think you may actually get many extra listeners not from Africa, ha!

Last but not least, thank you for the Letter on praise! We always need more of this to help us keep it up and not grow stale in using this weapon and wonderful way to thank our Lord!

RE: LINK IN GENERAL

By John Phillip, England

Link is a great development, a wonderful tool to unite all Family members whatever their level of discipleship. I really like the way some of each aspect of Family doctrine, news, and testimonies are brought together in a bright, handy, and easy to digest format that offers something to everyone—a truly unifying pub.

By Rosa Amanecer, India

Abig THANK-YOU!! to all those who worked on putting this new mag together, as well as to those who sent in their write-ups and testimonies. The new material is much appreciated and is super inspiring!

Spanish National Retreat, November 2005

By Maria on behalf of the Iberian CGO board

"I can see the map of Iberia spread out in front of me and, inside it, little flames that have been ignited. El Cid is riding his horse all around Spain, pleased to be warmed by the fires of brotherhood. It's dawn."

The Lord supplied a four-star hotel in Salamanca (a few hundred kilometers away from Madrid) for the event, with excellent standard, food, services and price.

Family friends came all the way from the Canary Islands, and brethren arrived from Portugal and Italy, Barcelona, Madrid, Valencia, Basque region, and all over Spain.

This was the first event of this caliber in Spain, and only one or two of us had any previous experience preparing and organizing these kinds of events. For most of our friends, this was the first time they had been able to fellowship with so many Family brethren. One friend, who has traveled all over Africa and is an extreme sports fan, commented that this was the first time he'd felt so much trust and love in a group of people. He was impressed by

our brethren being honest and humble enough to share their stories about intimate experiences that had drawn them closer to the Lord.

It was hard to leave when the retreat was over. After many heartfelt thanks and promises of staying close to each other and participating in the next retreat, we parted. Here are some of the beautiful reactions from the attendees:

This retreat has been something very special in my life, because I received something that I can't hold back, I need to give it away, and it's A BIG BATH OF GOD'S GREAT LOVE! I love you very much!—Javier

I would like for these retreats to be longer.—Juan

It has been strengthening to my spiritual life. I learned many things and I felt closer to the Lord.—Juan

I would like to know which Family projects I can participate in.—Manu

Very positive and a beautiful fellowship! Thank you! My heart is with you! A thousand thanks, it was wonderful!—Andrés

Now comes the time to follow up on the progress that has been made, and as we do, the Lord promised us that the little fires are going to start all over Spain! Our next retreat is going to be in Portugal.



The inspiration team: Sheryl, Adam, Ready



Victoria giving her testimony on how the Lord is helping her through her battle with cancer



Focused attendees during class



Maria, Filipe, and Sheryl acting out a skit about Martha and Mary



Enjoying a meal together



Andres and Inma (long-time Family friend)



Group remembrance photo