



The Mindset of a Missionary  
The More You Delay  
I Rest in the Arms of God

**16 .... BLADE: HAPPIEST**

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**28 .... TOON FEATURE: DOORMATRIX**

KEYS PROMISE: THE  
KEYS OF THE KINGDOM ARE  
A MARVELOUS TREASURE,  
AND YOU WILL DISCOVER  
MORE OF THEIR SECRETS  
EVERY TIME YOU USE  
THEM. CALL ON THEM  
TO UNLOCK HEAVEN'S  
POWER  
AND MIGHT  
WHENEVER  
YOU NEED IT!

**Notable Quote:**

In these keys is a golden glow,  
And through these keys does My power flow,  
As you use these keys will the day dawn bright,  
And fill your soul with My healing light.  
—Jesus  
("Call On the Keys!" ML #3368;72)

For those of you who were  
wondering about the Story Feature...

...and whether it was going to  
continue ... wonder no more!



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# The Mindset of a Missionary

- How am I doing, Lord? I've felt this compelling urge to go through and continually get rid of any clutter in my life, to forsake it or give it away, so that I'm prepared for whatever this coming year of changes has for me. Do You have anything to say about that?



ART BY NYX

†  
B



(Jesus:) My Spirit is moving. It is loosening your attachment to the things of the world, to material things, and strengthening your attachment to spiritual things. I am faithful, and I do prepare My children, in the spirit and in the flesh, if you stay close to Me. ————— DON'T STOP HERE! TURN THE PAGE! —————>

notable

## CRAZY COUNTRIES

quote

(Dad:) Jesus is what we're all about! Jesus is what we're here for! Jesus is why we sacrificed our lives and gave away everything and gave up everything and forsook all and came to all these crazy countries with their crazy languages and their crazy traditions, etc. And they are crazy, let's face it! Maybe some are not so crazy. But we certainly wouldn't have done all that we've done merely for ourselves. I can't see what *personal* advantage there is. It's a sacrifice! Why were you willing to give up everything? What are you there for? You're on a *mission*, you're there for a *purpose*, you're trying to help *others!* ("Don't Pull Your Punches!" ML #2411:30)

blade



I am making your life easier by showing you to whittle down now, bit by bit, throwing this junk away, selling that, forsaking something someone else might need. I am guiding you to keep the mindset of a missionary, the mindset of one of My pioneers—ready always to go to new places where I might want you.



Part of this is staying on top of the little things that clutter up your life, the things that weigh you down, the things that consume your time by getting in your way or preoccupying you when you should be spending time with Me strengthening your spirit.

— DON'T MISS THIS WAY —  
COOL QUOTE

notable — quote

## EVERYTHING'S IN IT FOR US!

(Dad.) Everything's in it for us, of course! By forsaking all and serving the Lord and pleasing God, He'll give us almost anything, the desires of our hearts abundantly above all that we can ask or think!—Not only our *needs*, but our *wants*!—The desires of our hearts! *Everything's* in it for us!—If we will delight ourselves in Him and His will and His service and obedience to lay down our lives in love for others and for Him! If we'll obey Him and do His will and follow Him and serve Him and others and win souls, *everything's* in it for us! ("What's in It for Me? ML #2232:25)

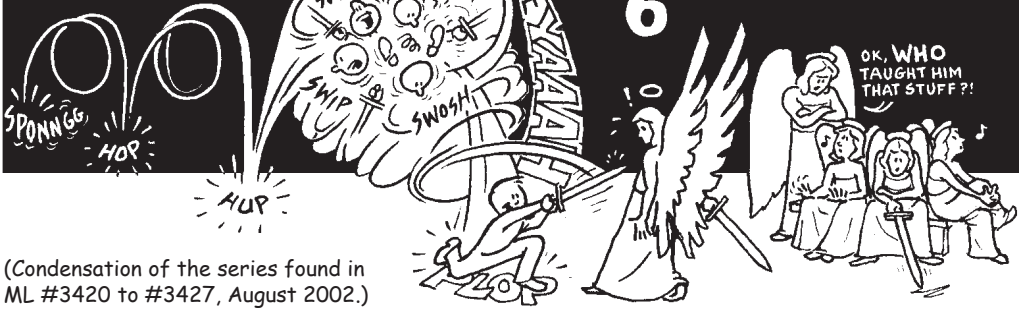


# SHARPEN YOUR SWORD

(Continued from Xn 29)

## PART 6

ART BY XNC



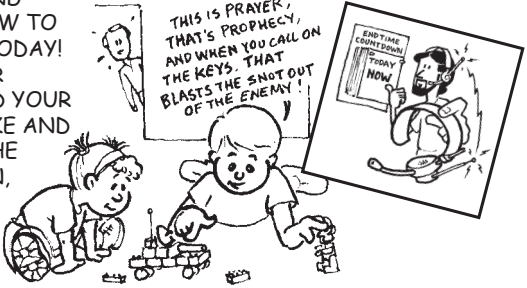
(Condensation of the series found in ML #3420 to #3427, August 2002.)



### DAD EMPHASIZED FREEDOM OF CHOICE IN MANY LETTERS

(DAD:) EVERY NEW DAY WE NEED TO KNOW AND LEARN AND FIND OUT HOW TO DO IT TODAY! AND FOR GOD'S SAKE AND YOUR CHILDREN'S SAKE AND

THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD'S SAKE AND THE LAST GENERATION'S SAKE, YOUR CHILDREN, FOR THE SAKE OF THE END, I HOPE YOU WILL NOT TRY TO LIMIT YOUR CHILDREN EVEN TO THE WAY YOU'VE BEEN DOING IT, MUCH LESS THE WAY I'VE BEEN DOING IT, BUT THAT YOU WILL LET THEM DO IT THEIR WAY, THE WAY GOD SHOWS THEM TO DO IT IN THEIR WAY AND THEIR DAY FOR THEIR GENERATION! ("NEW BOTTLES!" ML #251, JUNE 1973)



### WE BELIEVE IN VOLUNTEERS

(DAD:) I'VE ALWAYS BEEN STRICTLY FOR VOLUNTEERS! OUR WHOLE WORK IS BUILT ON THIS CONCEPT. WE HAVE NO FORCED LABOR ENSLAVERY—ONLY WILLING AND CHEERFULLY GIVEN VOLUNTEER LABOR! "THE LOVE OF CHRIST CONSTRAINETH ME!" (2COR.5:14). WE ALL WORK TOGETHER OUT OF LOVE FOR HIM AND EACH OTHER, IN LOVING AND VOLUNTARY COOPERATION. ("PERSONAL REPLIES!" ML #107, SEPTEMBER 1971)

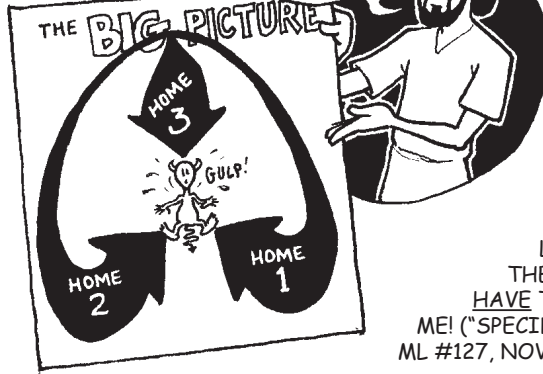


# EACH HOME MAKES ITS OWN DECISIONS



(DAD:) WHEN I MAKE A SUGGESTION FOR ONE

COLONY THAT MIGHT WORK THERE, IT DOESN'T NECESSARILY MEAN IT WOULD WORK EVERYWHERE, UNDER ALL CONDITIONS, SO YOU'VE GOT TO LEARN TO MAKE YOUR OWN DECISIONS, WITH THE LORD'S DIRECT GUIDANCE, INDIVIDUALLY, FOR EACH COLONY.



YOU CAN MAKE YOUR OWN DECISIONS ACCORDING TO YOUR OWN LEADINGS FROM THE LORD! YOU DON'T HAVE TO AGREE WITH ME! ("SPECIFICS!" ML #127, NOVEMBER 1971)



(DAD:) "BUT WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH MY

LEADERS?!" I'VE MADE IT CLEAR IN THE LETTERS THAT ALL OF OUR LEADERS SHOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER VARIOUS POINTS OF VIEW IN ORDER TO BASE THEIR DECISIONS ON GOOD, WELL-ROUNDED COUNSEL.

AND THOUGH I BELIEVE IN UNITY AND LOYAL AND FAITHFUL OBEDIENCE TO LEADERSHIP IN THE LORD, I STILL DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THESE ARE TOTAL ABSOLUTES WHICH MUST BE PUT ABOVE REASON, RIGHT, SCRIPTURE AND PERSONAL CONVICTION OF GOD'S TRUTH!

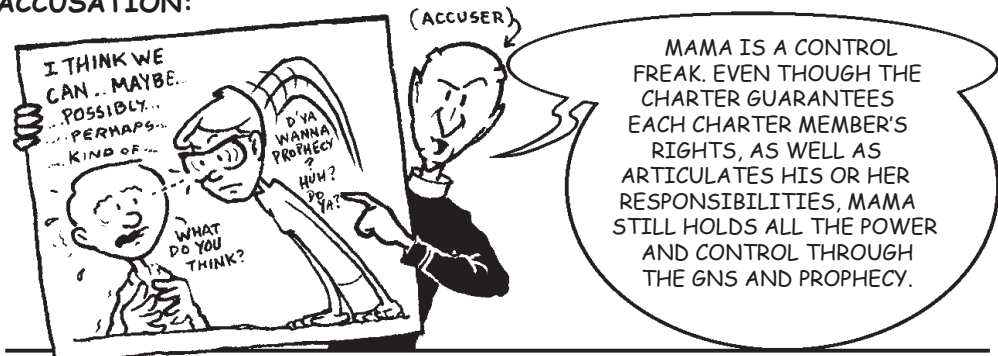


BLIND OBEDIENCE CAN SOMETIMES BE TOO BLIND, AND IT'S ALWAYS BEST THAT "EVERY MAN BE FULLY PERSUADED IN HIS OWN MIND!" (ROM.14:5). ("OBEY THEM THAT HAVE RULE OVER YOU!" ML #2417, FEBRUARY 1988)

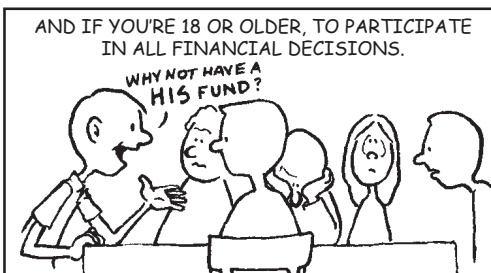
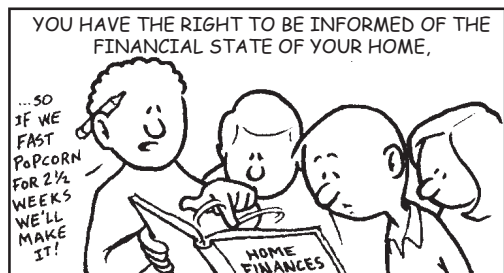
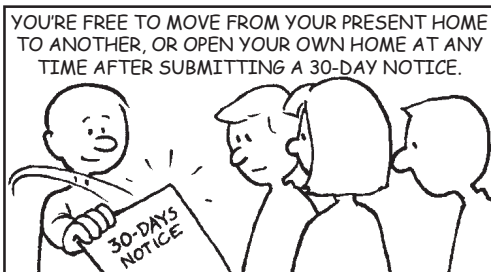
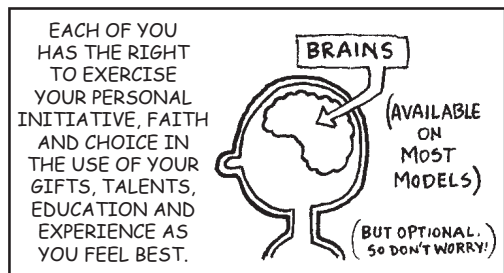
# "NONE OF THESE THINGS MOVE ME!"

(ML #3307, JULY 2000)

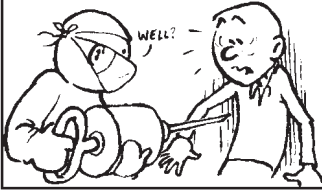
## ACCUSATION:



(MAMA:) THOSE OF YOU WHO LIVE ON THE FIELD AND USE THE CHARTER KNOW THAT THERE IS PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO BE IN CONTROL OF YOUR OWN LIVES, HOMES, MINISTRIES, AND DECISIONS.



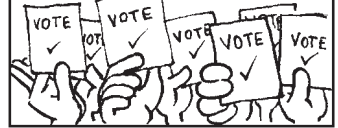
YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE ALL MEDICAL DECISIONS REGARDING YOURSELVES AND YOUR CHILDREN,



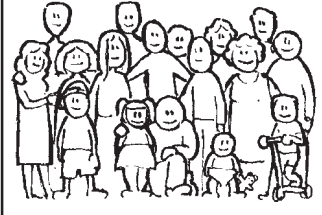
AND TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH YOUR AREA OFFICERS.



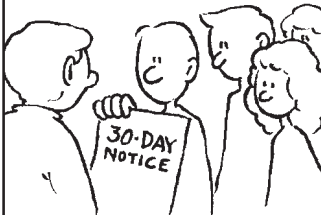
EACH FAMILY HOME HAS THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE ITS OWN OFFICERS, DETERMINE ITS OWN BASIC NATURE, GOALS AND OPERATING PROCEDURES—INCLUDING HOW YOU WILL SPEND YOUR TIME, WHAT YOUR OUTREACH METHODS WILL BE, AND WHERE YOU WILL LIVE.



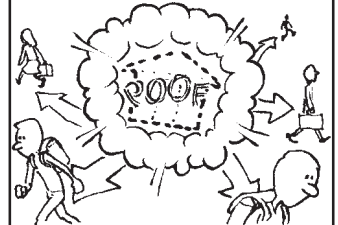
EACH HOME IS FREE TO DETERMINE ITS PERSONNEL MAKE-UP



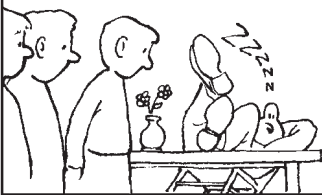
AND VOTE TO REVOKE THE HOME MEMBERSHIP OF ONE OF ITS MEMBERS,



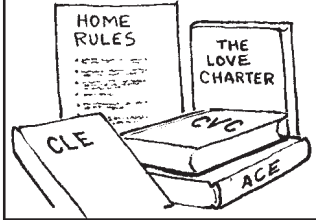
AND ALSO TO DISBAND THE HOME AT ANY TIME IT CHOOSES TO DO SO.



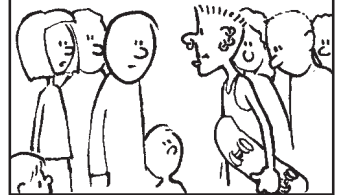
YOUR HOME COUNCIL HAS THE POWER TO RECOMMEND SOMEONE BE RECLASSIFIED OR EXCOMMUNICATED.



YOU DECIDE COLLECTIVELY HOW YOU WILL EDUCATE YOUR CHILDREN, AS WELL AS DISCIPLINE THEM AND ERRANT HOME MEMBERS.



YOU DECIDE IF YOU WILL PERMIT A NON-CM YOUNG PERSON TO LIVE IN YOUR HOME AND UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS YOU WILL DO SO.



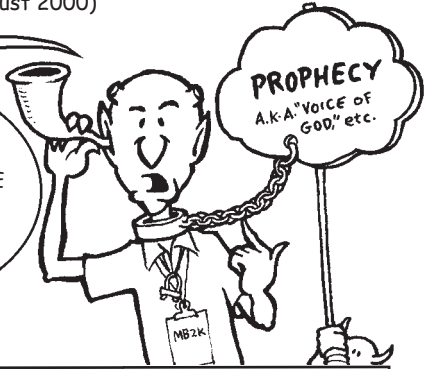
PETER AND I HAVE VERY LITTLE TO DO WITH THE DAY-TO-DAY RUNNING OF YOUR HOMES. YES, PETER AND I LEAD THE FAMILY SPIRITUALLY AS GOD'S APPOINTED SHEPHERDS. BUT PRAYERFULLY DETERMINING THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTION FOR THE FAMILY AND RECEIVING THE LORD'S FRESH WORD FROM HEAVEN IS NOT SYNONYMOUS WITH "CONTROL"—BECAUSE YOU ARE VOLUNTARILY IN THE FAMILY. YOU SIGNED THE CHARTER MEMBERSHIP CONTRACT OF YOUR OWN ACCORD, THEREFORE YOU WILLINGLY DECIDED TO OBEY COUNSEL PUT FORTH BY THE LORD VIA THE GNS. THAT'S YOUR CHOICE, NOT CONTROL.



# "THE WAY THINGS REALLY ARE IN WS!"

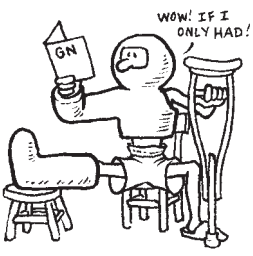
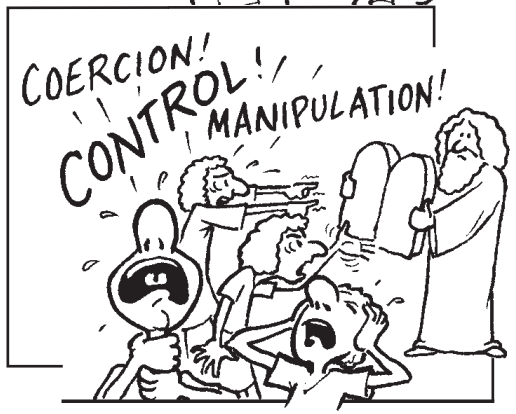
(ML #3309, August 2000)

**ACCUSATION:** I BELIEVE IN PROPHECY, AND I BELIEVE GOD DOES SPEAK. BUT IT'S GONE TOO FAR TO THE POINT WHERE IT'S CONTROLLING OUR LIVES.

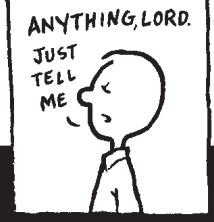
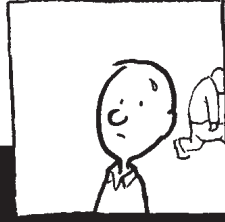
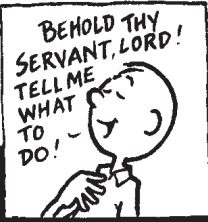
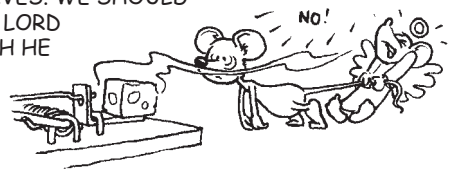


(MAMA:) GOD'S WORD DOES HAVE VERY DEFINITE THINGS TO SAY ABOUT BEHAVIOR AND BELIEF, AND THOSE WHO DON'T LIKE GOD'S POINT OF VIEW OFTEN CRY "COERCION," "CONTROL," "MANIPULATION."

GOD IS VERY DEFINITE ABOUT RIGHT AND WRONG, ABOUT SIN, ABOUT THE THINGS WE SHOULD AND SHOULDN'T DO. HE WANTS PEOPLE TO ACT IN A LOVING AND UNSELFISH MANNER. HE DOESN'T WANT US TO HARM OURSELVES OR OTHERS. HE ALSO WANTS US TO GROW SPIRITUALLY, AND SINCE WE'VE MADE THE CHOICE TO SERVE HIM, HE WANTS TO INSTRUCT US IN HOW TO BEST DO SO, WHICH HE DOES THROUGH HIS WORD.



AS CHRISTIANS, AND ESPECIALLY AS CHRISTIANS WHO HAVE DEVOTED OUR LIVES TO SERVING THE LORD FULL-TIME AS MISSIONARIES, WE SHOULD WELCOME THE LORD'S INTERACTION IN OUR LIVES. WE SHOULD WANT TO DO WHAT THE LORD WANTS US TO DO, WHICH HE CONVEYS THROUGH HIS WORD, THE BIBLE, THE GNS, AND IN PERSONAL PROPHECY.



IF WE DON'T WANT TO FOLLOW WHAT HE TELLS US, THEN WHY ARE WE SERVING HIM?



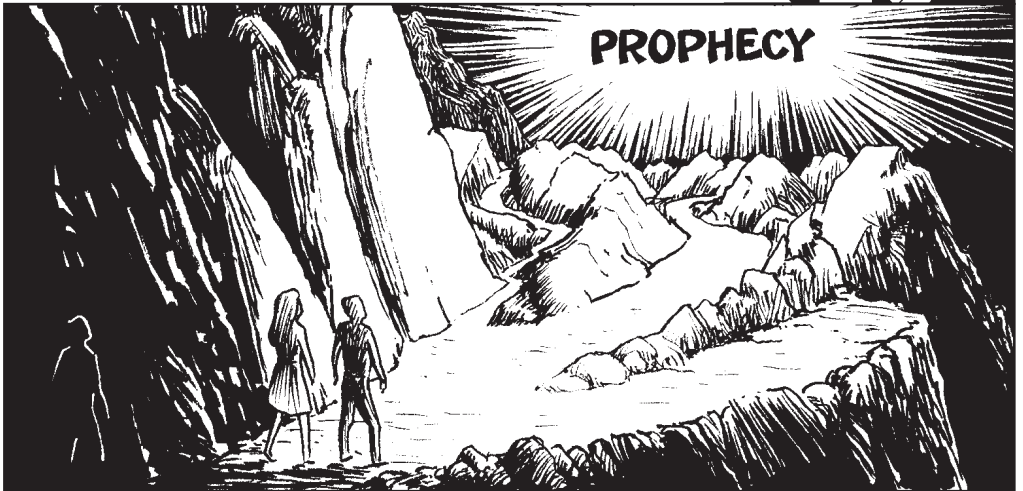
IF YOU LOOK AT PROPHECY NEGATIVELY, THEN YES, IT COULD SEEM TO YOU LIKE PROPHECY IS DICTATING WHAT YOU SHOULD AND SHOULDN'T DO. BUT IT'S NOT JUST PROPHECY. IF YOU LOOK AT THE BIBLE NEGATIVELY, THE SAME COULD BE SAID OF IT. FOR THAT MATTER, IF YOU LOOK AT SOCIETY'S LAWS YOU COULD SAY THE SAME.

ANY RULES OR GUIDELINES FROM ANY SOURCE—BE IT THE WORD OF GOD, THE CUSTOMS OF SOCIETY, THE LAWS OF A COUNTRY, OR THE BYLAWS OF A COMPANY—CAN SEEM RESTRICTIVE IF YOU DON'T CHOOSE TO FOLLOW OR OBEY THEM.

AS I SEE IT, PROPHECY HAS HELPED THE FAMILY IN NUMEROUS WAYS. IT'S GIVEN EACH OF US A DIRECT AND CLEAR CONNECTION WITH THE LORD.

NATURALLY, THE APPLICATION OF [PROPHECY IN] THE GNS MAY VARY DEPENDING ON THE SITUATION. EACH HOME AND AREA NEEDS TO BE SPIRIT-LED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THOSE GNS WHICH GIVE SPECIFIC INSTRUCTION.

PROPHECY ISN'T MEANT TO CONTROL YOUR LIFE OR THE FAMILY AT LARGE; IT'S MEANT TO BE A LIGHT, TO BE A GUIDE, AND TO GIVE YOU THE ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS, THE SOLUTIONS TO YOUR PROBLEMS. IF YOU'RE GIVING YOUR LIFE FOR THE LORD, WHY HESITATE TO TAKE THE HELP THAT HE OFFERS? IF YOU REALLY WANT TO GO ALL THE WAY WITH THE LORD, THEN YOU SHOULD GRAB ON TO PROPHECY AND NOT LET GO! ...



IT'S FOR YOUR BENEFIT, NOT TO BOG YOU DOWN OR HINDER YOU. LATCH ON TO IT!

# "BACKSLIDERS!"

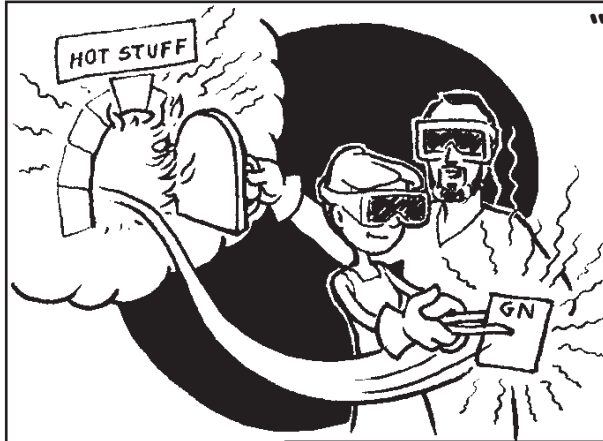
(ML #140, NOVEMBER 1971)



(DAD:) WE PERSONALLY HAVE NEVER EVEN APPROVED

OF TRYING TO PERSUADE ANYONE TO STAY IN ANY WAY WHO EXPRESSED THE SLIGHTEST DESIRE TO LEAVE OR RETURN HOME!

ANYONE WHO HAS JOINED OUR GROUP SHOULD ALREADY KNOW ENOUGH REASONS WHY HE SHOULD STAY, WHICH WERE THE SAME REASONS FOR WHICH HE JOINED, SO HE SHOULD NOT HAVE TO BE TOLD ANY MORE WHY HE SHOULDN'T LEAVE!



# "BE TRUE TO THE REVOLUTION!"

(ML #3364 SEPTEMBER 2001)



(MAMA:) I HOPE YOU REALIZE THAT WE'RE TRYING TO HELP YOU MAKE AN EDUCATED DECISION BY CLEARLY STATING THAT PETER AND I WILL CONTINUE TO PUBLISH WHAT THE LORD SHOWS US. WE HAVE NO INTENTIONS OF DOING AWAY WITH THE RADICAL DOCTRINES WE NOW HAVE, OR THE ONES THE LORD MAY REVEAL IN THE FUTURE.

IT'S NOT LIKE PETER AND I ARE "FORCING" YOU TO PREACH THE MEAT OF THE WORD; WE'RE SHOWING YOU REALISTICALLY WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT IF YOU CHOOSE TO REMAIN A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY. AND OF COURSE NO ONE IS FORCING YOU TO STAY IN THE FAMILY.



# EACH OF YOU NEEDS TO MAKE A DECISION!

## TO DO THIS YOU MUST:

1) PRAY ABOUT WHERE YOU STAND. TAKE INTO SERIOUS CONSIDERATION THAT THE FAMILY IS NOT BECOMING MAINSTREAM, AND THE MEAT OF THE WORD WILL BECOME KNOWN EVENTUALLY.



2) DETERMINE WHERE YOU WANT TO SERVE THE LORD—IN THE FAMILY AS

CM,

FM,

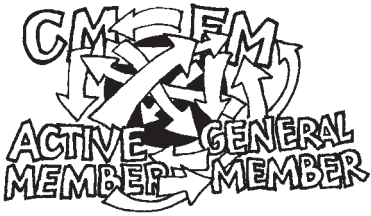
OR  
ACTIVE  
MEMBER,

OR PART OF  
OUR GENERAL  
MEMBERSHIP,

OR IN THE  
CHURCH OF  
YOUR CHOICE.



3) MAKE WHATEVER CHANGES YOU NEED TO MAKE.



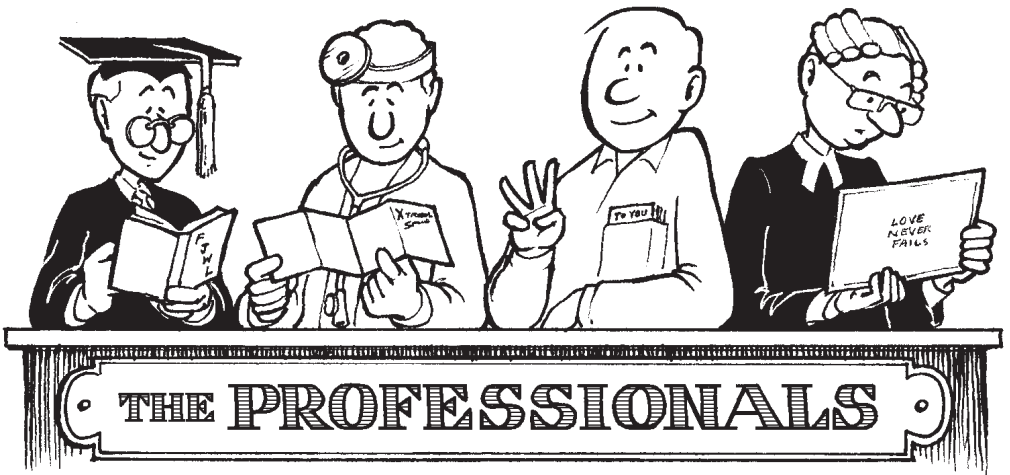
THAT COULD MEAN A CHANGE OF YOUR CLASSIFICATION IN THE FAMILY, OR NO LONGER BEING PART OF THE FAMILY AND BEGINNING A NEW LIFE IN THE SYSTEM.



4) IF YOU DECIDE TO CONTINUE AS A CHARTER MEMBER,

YOU'LL NEED TO RID YOUR LIFE, HOME AND WORK OF THE COMPROMISES THAT WILL ONLY HURT YOU AND OTHERS, INCLUDING YOUR TONING DOWN, IGNORING, OR DENYING EITHER THE RADICAL DOCTRINES OF THE FAMILY OR THE FAMILY NAME.





(ML #3399, APRIL 2002)



(PETER:) THERE ARE A LOT OF REQUIREMENTS INVOLVED IN BEING A PROFESSIONAL CHRISTIAN, A DISCIPLE IN THE FAMILY. A LOT IS EXPECTED OF YOU. IT'S OFTEN DIFFICULT, IT'S SACRIFICIAL, BUT IT'S WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A DISCIPLE, AND THAT'S NOT GOING TO CHANGE.

NOT ONLY HAS THAT BEEN THE FOUNDATION OF THE FAMILY FROM THE BEGINNING, BUT IT'S RIGHT THERE IN JESUS' OWN WORDS IN THE BIBLE.

HOWEVER, I THINK A MISCONCEPTION THAT MANY HAVE—ESPECIALLY, BUT NOT ONLY, THE YOUNGER FOLKS—IS THAT YOU HAVE TO LIVE THE LIFE OF A FULL-TIME DISCIPLE TO BE IN THE FAMILY. THAT'S NOT TRUE.

YOU CAN BE A FAMILY MEMBER WITHOUT BEING A CHARTER MEMBER DISCIPLE. YOU CAN LOVE THE LORD, LOVE OTHERS, AND LIVE A LIFE OF SERVICE IN THE FAMILY WITHOUT HAVING TO DEAL WITH THE DIFFICULTIES OF BEING A FULL-TIME DISCIPLE. HOW DO YOU DO THAT? BY BEING A FELLOW MEMBER.

IT BUGS ME WHEN PEOPLE OUTSIDE THE FAMILY SPEAK ILL OF THE FAMILY, AND IT BUGS ME WHEN PEOPLE IN THE FAMILY SPEAK ILL OF THOSE WHO DECIDE TO LEAVE. FOR MANY IT'S A DIFFICULT DECISION TO LEAVE THE FAMILY.



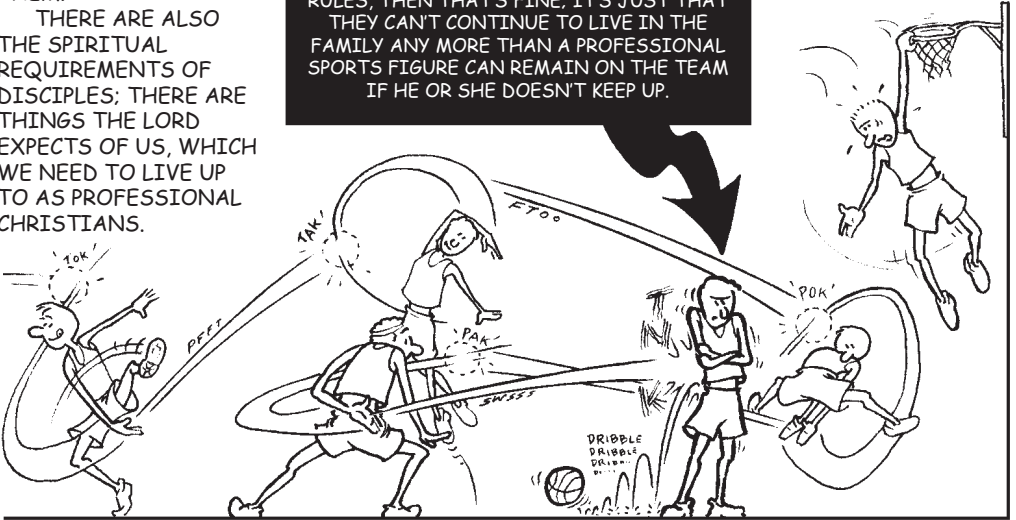
WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO HELP THE FAMILY UNDERSTAND THIS AND FOR THE MOST PART IT SEEMS THAT FAMILY MEMBERS HAVE CHANGED THEIR MINDSETS ABOUT THOSE WHO LEAVE.

IT IS A SHAME THAT SO MANY YOUNG PEOPLE CHOOSE TO LEAVE THE FAMILY. HOWEVER, NO MATTER WHAT GOOD CHANGES COME ABOUT, WE WILL STILL HAVE PEOPLE DECIDING TO LEAVE THE FAMILY IN THE FUTURE. THAT'S NATURAL AND TO BE EXPECTED, SINCE PEOPLE NEED TO MAKE UP THEIR OWN MINDS, AND SERVING THE LORD IN THE FAMILY JUST ISN'T FOR EVERYONE.

IF YOU WANT TOTAL FREEDOM TO DO WHAT YOU WANT, WHENEVER YOU WANT, AS MUCH AS YOU WANT, THEN THE FAMILY IS NOT FOR YOU. IF THAT'S YOUR GOAL IN LIFE, THEN YOU SHOULD REALIZE THAT YOU WILL NEVER BE HAPPY IN THE FAMILY, BECAUSE WE DO HAVE RULES AND WE'RE EXPECTED TO LIVE OUR LIVES IN COMPLIANCE WITH THEM.

THERE ARE ALSO THE SPIRITUAL REQUIREMENTS OF DISCIPLES; THERE ARE THINGS THE LORD EXPECTS OF US, WHICH WE NEED TO LIVE UP TO AS PROFESSIONAL CHRISTIANS.

IF SOMEONE DOESN'T WANT TO TRY TO MEET THOSE EXPECTATIONS, IF THEY DON'T WANT TO LIVE ACCORDING TO THE RULES, THEN THAT'S FINE; IT'S JUST THAT THEY CAN'T CONTINUE TO LIVE IN THE FAMILY ANY MORE THAN A PROFESSIONAL SPORTS FIGURE CAN REMAIN ON THE TEAM IF HE OR SHE DOESN'T KEEP UP.



**THE DECISION ? is YOURS**  
(Mama...)  
 The Lord puts all **HIS POWER** on your side and He's willing to do anything at all **• WHATEVER IT TAKES** to help you make it —so it's just up to you and your will, **AND THE DECISION IS YOURS.**

**WHO'S DECISION ? ("So You Want to Be a Disciple?" ML #3458:120) YOURS**

**notable quote:**  
**miracle workers IN THE END!**

**→ ANYBODY WHO WANTS TO BADLY ENOUGH CAN MAKE IT!**  
 You don't have to throw away everything the Lord's invested in you and go back to the **BEGGARLY** elements of the world. YOU CAN GO FORWARD AND ← FAR WITH JESUS AND BE ONE OF HIS →



# choose your HOUSE

Each individual is being put to the test. Each one will make a choice. Many will choose the house of David—the house of My living Words and the Spirit; some will choose the House of Saul—the house of the former, the old, the arm of the flesh, the house of self and all that would oppose and stand in the way of My Words entering, deeply penetrating, motivating and possessing the heart and spirit.—Jesus (“Feast 2003,” ML #3434:69)



## House of Saul:

1

Luxurious mansion with sand foundation. Beautiful view overlooking ocean of reminiscence. Spacious attic, ideal for storage of relics from the good old days. Stylish cellar providing plenty of space for hundreds of bottles of old wine. Gym, fully equipped with arm-building exercise equipment. Property includes several pre-built “bigger barns.” Feel safe with a state-of-the-art alarm system, sure to keep out intruding shepherds and peers. Security complemented by thick stone walls for added protection against penetration of convicting Word.

Don't be delayed by prayer and prophecy — act now! Accepting down payment of several compromises, with full payment to be negotiated at leisure. For details call: 1-800-HAIRY-ONE.



## House of David:

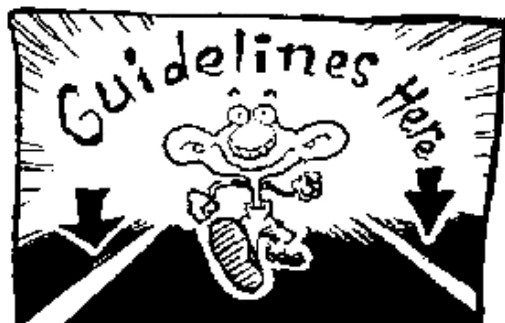
2

Simple cottage with rock-solid foundation. Large natural property providing plenty of room for renovation and expansion. In walking distance of Lake Strange Truths and Fruitful Tree Grove. Wine cellar has limited space, so residents must drink new wine on a daily basis. Security system consists solely of “Hounds of Heaven,” trained to help keep out worldly influences.

No down payment accepted. Must give all heart, soul, and mind immediately after signing blank contract. For details call: JEREMIAH-33-3.



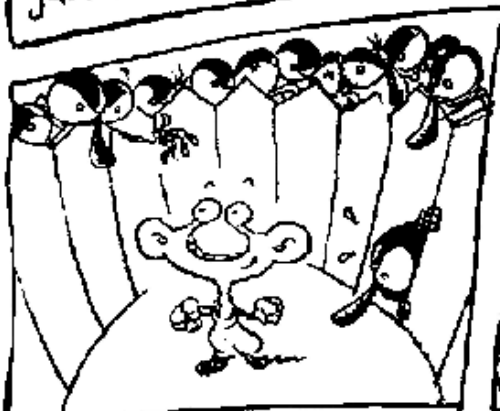
# HAPPINESS



[Jesus Speaking]  
The happiest people are  
those who have learned  
to live within the  
guidelines of My Will.



You will be too when you  
learn to see the boundaries  
NOT as fences to keep you in...



...but as barriers to  
keep unhappiness  
OUT...



...and to protect your  
serene and peaceful  
environment.

NOTABLE QUOTE: (JESUS:) EACH STEP THAT YOU MAKE WITHIN MY WILL IN ORDER TO PLEASE ME WILL BRING YOU CLOSER TO YOUR OWN HAPPINESS. (FJWL #2:215)



story feature

# WHEN LOVE STRIKES!

(You can find the final chapters from the previous episode in *Xn 25*.)

## Chapter 1: Message to the Needy

The second floor restaurant of the Global Madison Hotel was ringing with clattering plates, silverware and happy chatter, to which the members of the Luna band made no small addition. They had been enjoying a meal of spaghetti, spare ribs, and asparagus, and it was now time for dessert.

Following the show, they had spent at least an hour talking with people, and gathering names and addresses for follow-up in the future from many impressed and inquisitive youthful members of the audience. The dismantling and loading into the van of the musical equipment had taken a further three-quarters of an hour, after which, with the exception of Kyra, who had been duly nourished at Justin's concerned prodding, they were famished.

"Do you think Mer's eating the same thing we are?" Abner asked.

"Dunno. But whatever she's eating," said Kyra, "it comes with the responsibility of sitting with the

president of Mexico. Want to be in her shoes?"

"She's been there a long time," said Clay. "Lord, bless and help her to be a good sample."

Justin raised his glass. "We claim the keys of ... um ... witness!"

"Wisdom," said Kyra.

"And love," said Javier.

"Hey!" Clay exclaimed upon seeing Mer approaching their table. "We were just claiming some keys for you."

"You're just in time for the dessert," said Justin. "Lemon meringue pie."

Mer sighed and patted her stomach. "I couldn't. I'm like, ... *stuffed*."

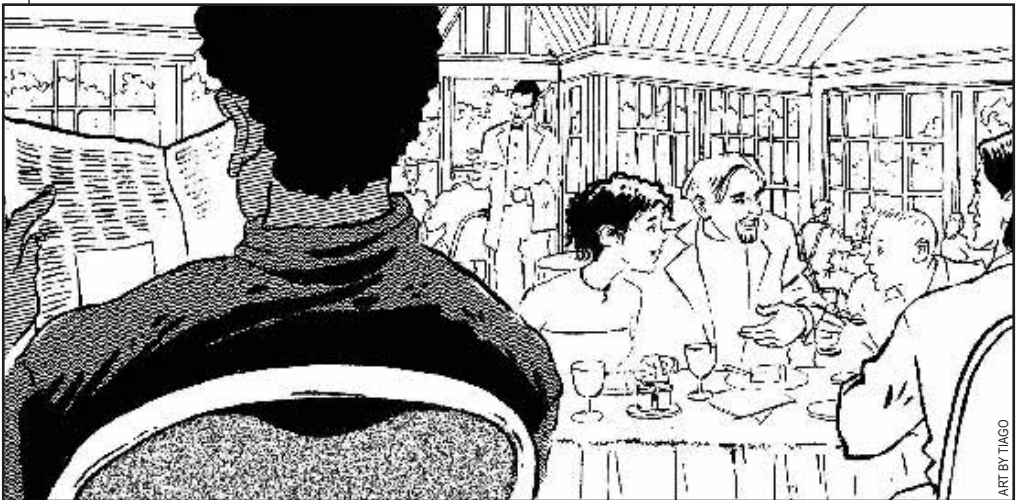
"How did it go?" Clay asked, hastily pulling up a chair from the adjacent table.

"Great," said Mer as she sat down beside him. "The Lord did it."

"No chopsticks in the hair?" Clay whispered.

"We ate Italian."

"So, how did it go?" Kyra asked.



"She was wonderful!" said Gabriela, who had just arrived at the table and was quickly ushered by Javier into a seat next to him.

Gabriela nodded approvingly as she continued. "Very impressive. She blends in like a chameleon. You can feel perfectly at ease introducing her to these rich big shots and the next minute letting her shoot the breeze with a couple of gangland teens at the club."

"*Maravilloso*," said Javier. "It's a gift!"

"And all with such poise and grace," Gabriela added.

Clay turned and smiled proudly at Mer who rolled her eyes. "It's only Jesus," she said.

"So, how did it go with the president?"

"He didn't say much," Mer replied. "Very piercing eyes. He kept eyeing me from across the table."

"I don't blame him," said Justin. "You did look pretty ... er ... *pretty* tonight. Don't you think, Honey?" he added, turning to Kyra, who forced a smile and nodded indifferently.

"I was like, *plonked* in front of him," said Mer. "It was just a matter of placement."

\* \* \*

President Escalante, after scrutinizing his young guest with a mixture of wonder and curiosity, had commented on the conviction with which Mer had sung "Saint Francis' Prayer."



"I assume that this manifest dedication is true of your life also?" he added.

"I hope so, Señor," said Mer. "By the Lord's grace. Why?"

"I once had the honor of meeting Pope John Paul II, and also Mother Teresa when I visited Calcutta, a year before she died," the president explained. "I saw in those two people something very similar to yourself, in their eyes, and in their"—he paused and gesticulated as if searching for the word—"their *demeanor*. I am of the impression that it is a deep religious devotion."

Mer smiled. "It's true that, like them, I have a special love for Jesus," she said, timidly. "Although I don't imagine myself to be ranked with such ... *saints*, would you call them? But we—my friends in Luna and myself—do engage in a similar ministry to the poor and needy as Mother Teresa did. Feeding and clothing them, helping them spiritually."

The president slowly nodded. "Wonderful! Wonderful!"

"But we also see a great, ... possibly even a *greater* spiritual hunger and need in the eyes and lives of those more 'fortunate,'" Mer added.

At this the president cleared his throat and went quiet for a few minutes before launching into a discussion with one of his nearby aides about the next day's public relations campaign in Guadalajara.

The meal being over, Mer stood forlornly by the banquet table as the president said his goodbyes to others. She was still remorsefully mulling over

her final comment to the president, when she was approached by one of his aides. He was an older, refined Spanish gentleman who, in an impeccably European manner, introduced himself as Humberto Castellano.

"If it is not too presumptuous of me to say so, Miss," he said, "I could not help but overhear your conversation with the president. I was particularly impressed by your last comment."

"My last comment?"

"Where you so succinctly summed up our state."

"Your state?"

"We, so 'fortunate' in life, having so deep a need. We are, as one of your old English writers put it, spiritual paupers. Tell me more."

"I don't exactly know what to say in regards to your particular circumstances, Señor," said Mer, hesitantly. "I don't want to speak out of turn. ..."

"Truth is a rare commodity these days," Señor Castellano interjected. "Especially when it comes to the purchase of it for the benefit of one's own soul. 'Buy the truth and sell it not,' as the Scripture says."

At this point the president walked up and whispered something in Señor Castellano's ear before bidding Mer a cordial farewell, accompanied by a further remark about her spellbinding performance.

"And keep up the good work," the president added. "My country needs you."

"Regretfully, I have to say *buenas noches, señora*," said Señor Castellano, handing her a business card. "But if you should need anything, don't hesitate to call me. Please keep this address and number confidential. It's been a pleasure talking to you."

\* \* \*

"I think I'm bowing out of the band," said Kyra from the bathroom of one of the Global Madison's suites that had been reserved for the band's overnight stay in Mexico City.

"Come again?" said Justin, kicking off his shoes and lounging back on the bed. "Did I hear you right?"

"You heard me right."

"Bowing out of the band?"

"Mmmm hmmm."

Kyra's lips were tightly resolute as she returned to the room where she began folding her show clothes and putting them in her suitcase.

"Aren't you going to hang those up?" Justin asked. "Let them air?"

"They're not fitting anymore. Probably be the last time I'll wear 'em."

"Am I missing something? What's with all this?"

"All this,' Honey, is that I look like a *whale* up there, and no one's interested in my musical contribution to the band. The best thing for me to do is get out of the way before I show too much more, and let Mer take over."

"Mer? Why her?"

"She's all people talk about. The rest of the band might as well not exist."

"Phew, Babe. I don't see it like that. You get most of the attention most of the time. True, when Mer sings 'Saint Francis' Prayer,' it's pretty ... er ... *riveting*, but 'Scaling Up' is a showstopper every time. I can't explain it, but that number has a heavy spiritual effect on people."

Kyra fidgeted and scratched her neck. "Okay, but ... I just think that..."

"Look, Babe," said Justin, taking her hand and drawing her to the bed, "while you're battling with comparing up there on stage, I'm fighting a battle royal with jealousy seeing all those guys in the audience lusting after you."

He slipped his hands under her silk kimono and gently caressed her stomach. Kyra sighed and let her body relax.

"You may think you look like a whale," he continued, "but they obviously don't, and neither do I. I guess it's like those GNs on envy."

"Which were those?"

"You know, 'Victory over Comparing?'"

"Can't say I remember that series specifically," said Kyra.

(Jesus:) When you start feeling down and discouraged about yourself, just reach up for My encouragement. I have lots of love and encouragement for you, and it's not just *words*, but it's real. When I tell you that you and your work are important, you have to believe it; then you'll be able to receive My encouragement. But if you brush it off and don't listen and think that's not the answer, then you won't be able to receive My help and you'll continue battling on your own. You have to believe Me when I tell you that I want to continue to use you mightily, that you're loved, important, and needed. Reach up for My hand of encouragement and let Me lift you up into My arms. ("Victory over Comparing, Part 1," ML #3327:7)

## Chapter 2: Additions

It was a breezy, sunny spring morning and almost everyone was up late, due to their engagement at a club the night before. Mer was rubbing her eyes and waving a fork as she sleepily explained to Javier a problem that had occurred with the timing of one of her songs.

"That's the only song we do with a click intro," she was saying. "But for some reason, it felt slow."

Javier shrugged. "*Pues, no se*. That was the speed we'd agreed on at rehearsal. Had you drunk one espresso too many?"

"I hardly drink coffee," said Mer. She then took a bite of French toast.

Justin, whistling indolently, shuffled into the kitchen, raised a hand of acknowledgement and tied up the garbage bag. "It's Monday morning. That's when they do the pickup, right?"

"Two hours ago," replied Mer.

"Ho hum, ho hum," sang Justin to the tune of "Hi Ho, Hi Ho."

*It's back to the old humdrum.*

*Same old, same old, same old hum.*

*Ho hum, ho hum.*

Mer groaned. "Very funny, Jus. You make things sound so routine with jokes like that. Like we're living in Bored City or something. Is Kyra up?"

"She had a rough night," said Justin. "She says the room is getting too hot and she would like to make that room change soon, to have the advantage of the bathroom."

Mer snorted. "You guys have a bathroom right across the hallway. You should try living in *my* room and having to go pee in the night."

"It's also 'cuz it's downstairs and nearer to the kitchen," said Justin.

"So many things have come up, Jus," said Javier apologetically. "We just haven't gotten around to it."

"Anyway, she's getting pretty antsy about it," said Justin. "I mean, isn't it normal for a mother to want to set up her nest?"

"I understand," said Mer, "and I'm happy about the baby and all, but she isn't due for another four months, right?"

"Right," said Justin. "She just wants to get adjusted. Maybe you should talk with Kyra about it. I'm fine with whatever."

At that moment Clay entered, and sensing a tense atmosphere, asked what was up. Justin said nothing and looked at Mer, who began buttering another piece of French toast.

"There's been a discussion about the room change," said Javier. "You know, Justin and Kyra taking the room you and I share."

"It's been so busy lately," said Clay. "I'm sorry. But we got an e-mail in late last night that might throw rooming plans back onto the drawing board."

"Let me guess," said Justin. "Someone's asking to join our Home."

"Someone, together with three other someones."

"That should take care of the 'same old, same old,'" said Mer. "Who is it?"

"It's Amy, a single mom with three kids. Two younger ones, Jessica who's eight and Carol, five. And a junior teen

boy, Tim, who's a bit younger than Abner. Is Abner up? It's way past time even for a sleep in!"

"Haven't seen him," said Justin. "Kyra usually makes sure he's up in the morning."

"That's four additional people, ... and two of them being kids," said Justin, staring at the floor. "Well, I guess the teen guy can help pull some of the load."

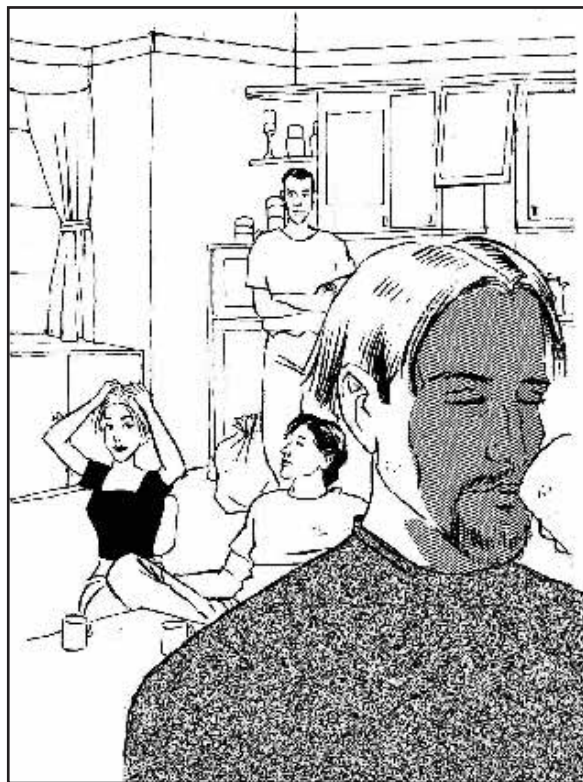
"And Amy could be a blessing," said Clay. "According to the résumé sent from her Home teamwork, she's an excellent cook, and has top-class secretarial abilities. She worked in an office situation in the past, but she prefers to be in an outreach Home so that her kids can go out witnessing regularly."

"But do we want to commit ourselves to this, seeing that we are in a pioneer situation?" Justin asked.

"I don't think we can call ourselves that after two years," replied Clay. "It seems we're pretty well established with contacts and support."

"Although we have been falling down on our mail follow-up lately," said Javier. "So it's great that she's a secretary."

"I guess you're right," said Justin. "But it doesn't look like we have the room."



story feature

"Unless we forsake the idea of turning that side room into a gaming den," said Javier. "We'll hardly have time to use it anyway."

Clay yawned and lit the stove. "I have my own personal feelings on this," he said, pouring some oil into a frying pan. "But we still need to hear from the Lord."

"Get ready for an 'enlarge the borders of our tents' message," mumbled Justin.

"As a matter of fact, that's what I got when initially praying about it," said Clay. "You're in tune!"

"Well, it could mean that we are to look for bigger housing," countered Justin.

"The contract's not up 'til the end of the year," said Javier. "And we can't break it. Not without losing a *lot* of money."

"I think it'll be good for us," said Mer.

"To lose money?" said Justin with a chuckle.

"No. To have some new blood around here. It has been getting a bit of the 'me, thee, thou and no other' rut type thing ... like your silly song this morning."

"I agree," said Clay. "And it's quite a heartbreaking letter from Amy. She's desperate for a Home to join, and says she's willing to put her heart into any ministry, wherever the need is."

"How old is she?" asked Javier.

"In her thirties. Okay with you?"

Javier shrugged and got up from the breakfast table.

"I think Jav has another interest," said Mer with a Cheshire cat grin.

"Oh yeah!" added Justin. "Isn't she coming up from Mexico City in a couple of weeks?"

"Uh-huh, for more ... er ... classes with Javier," said Mer with a wink. "She seems to find every excuse to come to Puebla on business."

Javier coughed nervously and said nothing as he washed his dish. It had been a long time since he had experienced "feelings" for anyone; in fact, since he had joined the Family, having spent the first year or so getting over breaking up with his wife in the System. His fervent disposition, however, enabled him to bury his sorrow by channeling his energies into outreach. He had developed an unquenchable fire for soul winning which adequately replaced any need he thought he had for a soul mate.

But he *was* looking forward to Gabriela's visit.

\* \* \*

With the exception of one or two clauses stressing that it was, of course, ultimately their own choice in the matter, their collective prophecies unanimously indicated that the Lord was in favor of bringing Amy and her children into their Home. They were to arrive in a couple of weeks.

Kyra cheerfully agreed to remain where she and Justin were, and to let Amy and her two younger children take Clay and Javier's room, and the two boys offered to take the side room.

Although Kyra expressed concern—which was allayed by prophecy and reassurances that the situation was going to be carefully monitored—circumstances seemed to dictate that Timothy was going to have to temporarily share a bunk bed with Abner in the maid's quarters.

"In here?" grunted Timothy, a self-assured, robust and handsome dark-haired youth, as he set his bags down in the hallway.

"That's right," said Kyra, firmly. "But stick around, things could change!"

"Cute," Tim observed, after Kyra had executed her diligent procedure of showing him where he could set up his belongings in the closet, informing him of a few house rules, and leaving him with an invitation to let her know if there was anything he needed. "Is she like your overseer, shepherdess-type thing?"

"I guess," said Abner. "She's on the teamwork."

"Looks like she runs a tight ship."

"She does."

Tim winked. "Ah, no problem. Whenever ya need some space, I know how to play that kind of card just right."

A puzzled frown creased Abner's forehead.

"Ya just play along 'yielded,' like," Tim went on. "Agree, don't push it and don't let it get to ya. Quote 'em a couple of keys promises, and pray a good public prayer. Impresses the heck out of FGA women and cute chicks like her, especially when ya give 'em the eye and play the innocent puppy dog along with it."

Abner felt his heart beating rapidly, and something akin to anger rose up within him. He liked Kyra, and hearing this slick patter reinforced how much she meant to him.

"She ... she's cool," he stammered. "Really cool."

"Okay, dude," said Tim as he surveyed the room and with disdainful non-chalance examined Abner's knick-knacks that included a couple of framed photographs of his family and Ivana. "But whatever, we need to make this place *happen*."

\* \* \*

"And you and the two younger ones will be staying in here..."

Javier, standing amid wood shavings and plaster dust, turned around from putting his hammer in his toolbox, to be introduced to the trio. There was Amy, a slight, fair-haired woman of medium height; Jessica, a bubbly, brown-eyed girl with long black frizzy hair; and Carol, a pale and shy reflection of her mother.

"Javier's been putting up the wall divider for the kids," said Mer.

"Just finished," said Javier. "I'll have this mess cleaned up in no time."

"I could show you the rest of the house in the meantime," Mer said to Amy. "Unless you want to get set up a bit. I could take the kids and show them around."

"Actually," responded Amy, "I'd appreciate getting freshened up—take a shower—if that's okay."

"No problem."

Mer left the room with the excited children. Amy began to unpack a few clothing items, and absentmindedly removed her shirt. Surprised by this sudden incongruity in Amy's shy mien, Javier nervously turned away and busied himself with a slight but unnecessary sanding of the divider.

"Jessica looks Latin," he ventured.

"Tim as well," said Amy. "Their father was, ... is Mexican."

"Mexicans make good fathers, and produce beautiful kids," said Javier with a good-humored grin as he inadvertently turned and caught her eye. His heart quickened.

Amy smiled bashfully.



"I should take that shower," she said.

*To be continued*

## THE MORE YOU DELVE

Question: Lord, how can I make Your Word more a part of my everyday conversations?

**B** (Jesus:) One of the benefits of delving more into the Word and making the Word revolution a part of your life, is that the more you delve into the Word the more you see there is to delve into. Your curiosity is then aroused as you begin to notice



mysteries in the Word and secret clues you never noticed that can lead you to even more discoveries in My Word. Then a key is to tell others about these discoveries, for example, when you find a link from a new revelation in the New Wine to something that Dad said in the older Letters, or something in the Bible, this is an inspiration and something you can share with others.

That's just one example, and as I said, as you delve more into the Word, you will discover more, and also as you allot more time to the Word, the Word will be at the top of your thoughts so that when you open your mouth, more often than before what comes out will be about the Word and discussing the mysteries, beauties, and wonders that can be found in My Word.

# "I REST IN THE ARMS OF GOD"

(Courtesy of *Voice of the Martyrs*.)

Name: Nadejda Sloboda

Location: USSR

Time period: Circa 1960s

ART BY SABINE



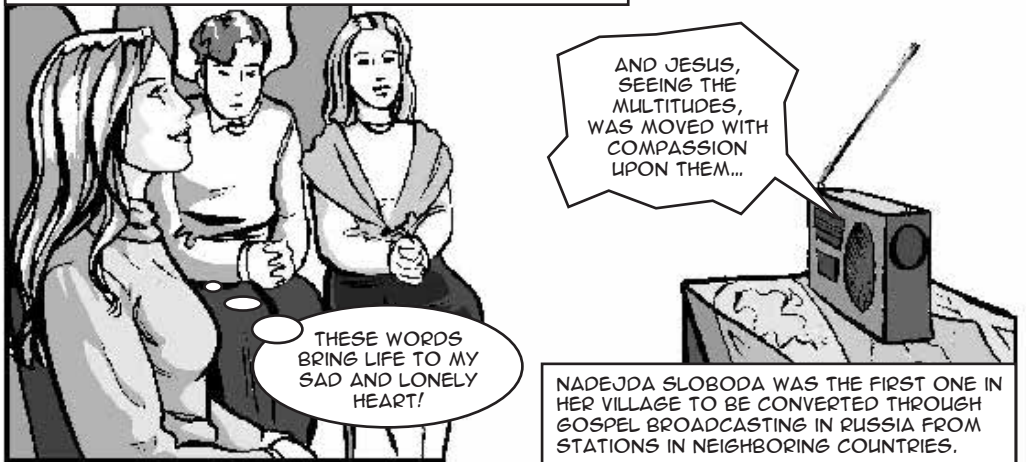
YOU MUST COME TO MY HOUSE TONIGHT AND LISTEN TO THE RADIO WITH US.

I HAVE NEVER HEARD ANYTHING LIKE IT BEFORE. A MAN IS PREACHING GOD'S WORD FROM THE BIBLE.

I DON'T KNOW HOW IT HAPPENED, BUT THESE BROADCASTS HAVE CHANGED MY LIFE!



THAT NIGHT, NADEJDA SAT WITH FRIENDS AND LISTENED...



AND JESUS, SEEING THE MULTITUDES, WAS MOVED WITH COMPASSION UPON THEM...

THESE WORDS BRING LIFE TO MY SAD AND LONELY HEART!

NADEJDA SLOBODA WAS THE FIRST ONE IN HER VILLAGE TO BE CONVERTED THROUGH GOSPEL BROADCASTING IN RUSSIA FROM STATIONS IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES.



SOON, HER LOVE FOR GOD AND HER ZEALOUS WITNESS BROUGHT OTHERS TO CHRIST.



AS TIME PASSED...

THAT TROUBLEMAKER NADEJDA HAS SPREAD HER CHRISTIAN BELIEFS SO FAR AND WIDE THAT NOW WE HAVE TO SURROUND THE VILLAGE TO KEEP PEOPLE OF THE NEARBY COLLECTIVE FARMS FROM COMING TO HEAR THE GOSPEL MESSAGE!



I HEAR SHE IS BEING TAKEN TO COURT. MAYBE THAT WILL SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS!

...FOR THESE CRIMES, YOU ARE HEREBY SENTENCED TO FOUR YEARS OF PRISON.



IN PRISON, NADEJDA TOLD OTHER PRISONERS ABOUT CHRIST.



WOMAN! YOU ARE INCORRIGIBLE! THE WARDEN HAS ORDERED YOU BE CONFINED TO AN UNHEATED, ISOLATED CELL.

THEN MAYBE YOU WILL BE TOO COLD TO THINK ABOUT JESUS!



I'VE HEARD IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO SLEEP IN SUCH CONDITIONS!

I'VE BEEN IN THERE MYSELF. THE FLOOR IS TOO COLD TO EVEN SIT ON. THE ONLY WAY I MANAGED TO GET A LITTLE SLEEP WAS BY STANDING UP WITH MY FOREHEAD AGAINST THE WALL.



HEH, HEH! THIS TROUBLEMAKER IS DONE FOR! THE LACK OF SLEEP, COMBINED WITH THE HARD LABOR,...

... WILL COMPLETELY RUIN HER HEALTH AND BREAK HER RESOLVE TO STAND FOR HER FAITH.

BUT CONTRARY TO THE WARDEN'S HOPES...

NADEJDA!  
HOW CAN YOU  
ENDURE IT?

YES, THEY HAVE KEPT  
YOU IN THAT CELL FOR  
TWO MONTHS NOW, AND  
YOU ARE STILL ALIVE, AND  
STILL SHINE WITH THE  
LOVE OF JESUS!



I FALL ASLEEP ON  
THE COLD CONCRETE  
FLOOR TRUSTING IN GOD  
AND IT BECOMES WARM  
AROUND ME.

I REST IN  
THE ARMS  
OF GOD.



THE END

**KEYS PROMISE:** ALL THOSE WHO  
PUT THEIR TRUST IN THE KEYS OF THE  
KINGDOM AND MY WORD WILL BE SAFE.

**NOTABLE  
QUOTE:**  
THE ETERNAL  
GOD IS THY REFUGE,  
AND UNDERNEATH  
ARE THE EVERLASTING  
ARMS (Deuteronomy 33:27).

