

CHANGE YOUR LIFE. CHANGE YOUR WORLD.

activated

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CHANGE THE WORLD

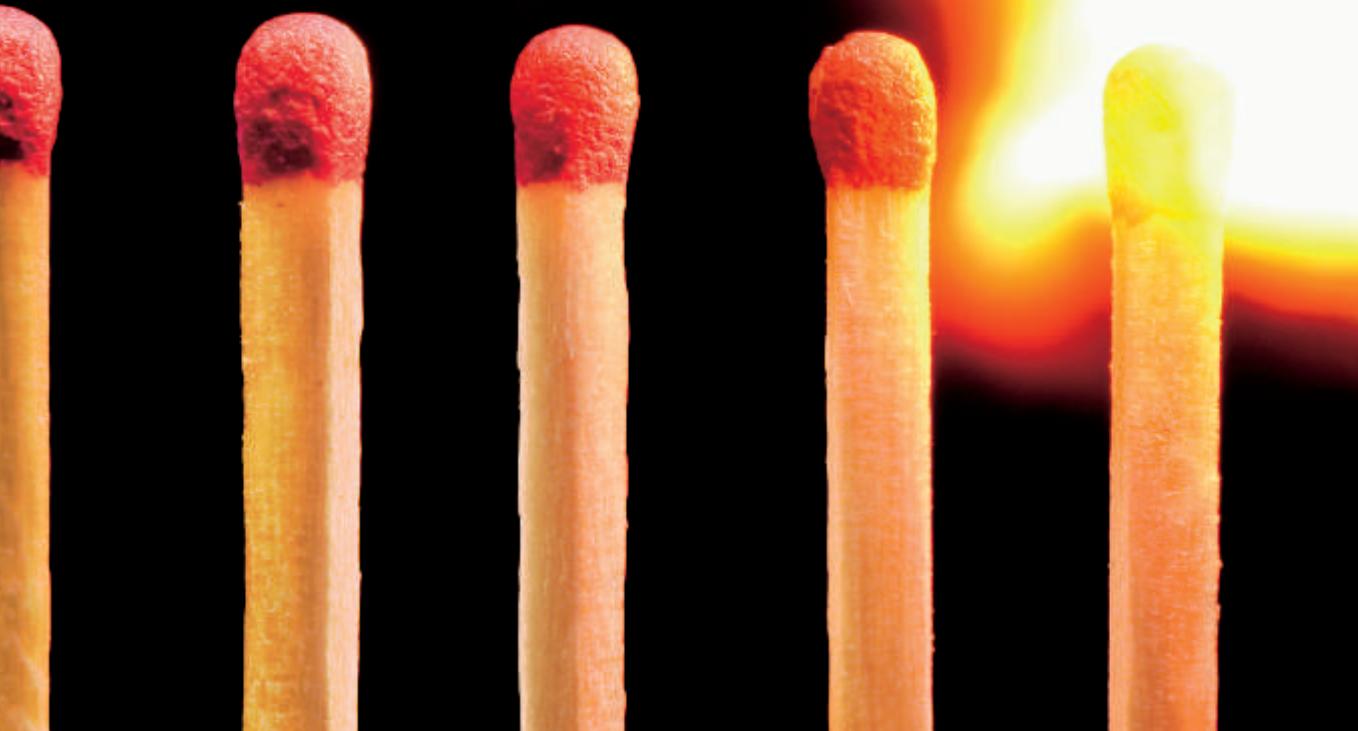
It can begin with you

Gain by Giving

How God's economics work

One Fine Day

Love makes all the difference





PERSONALLY SPEAKING

We've all seen cartoons of a person at a point of decision, with a guardian angel on one shoulder and a little devil on the other, each trying to persuade the person to do or not do this or that. The message is simple, clear, and often amusing, but what few people seem to realize is that there is also a lot of truth to those cartoons.

Even a lot of people who believe in God don't realize how real the spirit world is or what a major part it plays in their daily lives. Numerous passages in the Bible make it clear that God and His angels on one hand and the Devil and his agents on the other are constantly trying to influence us—and they do it largely through our thoughts from the unseen spiritual realm. "We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."¹

In modern terms, God's Spirit is like a radio station and our minds are like radios. God's broadcasts inspire faith, hope, love, wisdom, truth, instruction, and other positive thoughts that inspire positive actions. The Devil is like another station. He deliberately tries to flood the spiritual airwaves with his lies and propaganda and time-wasters—anything to occupy our minds and distract us from receiving and following God's messages.

Whose voice are you tuned in to? Who guides your thoughts and thereby controls your time and actions? This issue of *Activated* could change the way you look at your thoughts, which shape your life.

Keith Phillips
For *Activated*

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Activated Ministries
PO Box 462805
Escondido, CA 92046-2805
USA
Toll-free: 1-877-862-3228
Email: info@actmin.org
www.activatedonline.com

Activated Europe
Bramingham Pk. Business Ctr.
Enterprise Way
Luton, Beds. LU3 4BU
United Kingdom
+44 (0) 845 838 1384
Email: activatedEurope@activated.org

Activated Africa
P.O. Box 2150
Westville 3630
South Africa
+27 (83) 556 8213
Email: activatedAfrica@activated.org

Activated India
P.O. Box 5215
G.P.O.
Bangalore – 560 001
India
Email: activatedIndia@activated.org

Activated Philippines
P.O. Box 1147
Antipolo City P.O.
1870 Antipolo City
Philippines
Cell: (0922) 8125326
Email: activatedPI@activated.org

Activated Australia
+61 2 8011 4345
Email: info@activated.org.au
www.activated.org.au

EDITOR Keith Phillips
DESIGN Giselle LeFavre
PRODUCTION Jessie Richards

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¹Ephesians 6:12 KJV

THE ANT AND THE GRASSHOPPER

[RETOLD]

AT A PRIMARY SCHOOL, during their weekly class on morals, some first-grade students were asked to finish the story of the hard-working ant and the lazy grasshopper in the way they thought would be best.

Most of us know this story—one of Aesop's fables—of how the Grasshopper wasted the summer months playing his fiddle while the Ant labored hard storing food for the winter. When cold finally came, the industrious Ant and his friends were all safely tucked away with all that they would need, while the Grasshopper was left to search for food and found himself dying of hunger.

The six-year-olds were asked to draw a picture of and rewrite the ending of the story in any way they would like, but it needed to involve the Grasshopper asking the Ant for help. About half of the first-graders took the general view that since the Grasshopper was undeserving, the Ant refused to help him. The other half changed the end to say that the Ant told the Grasshopper to learn his lesson, and then he gave the Grasshopper half of what he had.

Then a little boy stood up and gave this version of the tale: After the Grasshopper came to the Ant and begged for food, the Ant unhesitatingly gave all the food he had. Not half or most, but everything. The boy was not finished, however, and cheerfully continued, "The Ant didn't have any food left, so he died. But

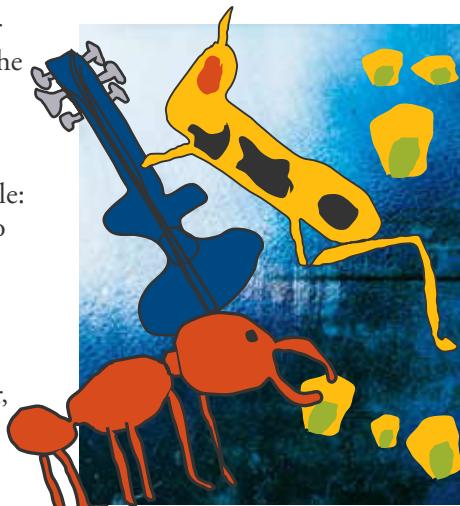
then the Grasshopper was so sad that the Ant had died that he told everyone what the Ant had done to save his life. And the Grasshopper became a good Grasshopper."

Two things came to mind when this story was related to me. First, it reminded me what giving meant to Jesus. He didn't go halfway for us, and He didn't say we were "undeserving," but He gave His all so that we could learn to "be good." It was only through His total sacrifice that we were able to receive the gift of eternal life. It was just the way the Ant died for the Grasshopper in the six-year-old's retelling of the classic tale. And for us it should also not end there. In gratitude, we should follow His example and give our all to tell of the wonderful thing He did for us.

Second, I learned what it means to give your all. It is not true giving unless it hurts, but when you do truly give, it will be multiplied many times over. "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone." But it doesn't end there. Here is the bittersweet promise that makes it all worthwhile: "But if it dies, it produces much grain."¹ ❁

TOMOKO MATSUOKA IS A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY INTERNATIONAL.

¹John 12:24





CHANGE THE WORLD

BY DAVID BRANDT BERG



Change your life, your home, your family, and you've changed a whole world—your world!

BACK IN 1913, a man about 20 years of age took a walking tour in the rural province of Provence, in southern France. Provence was a rather barren and desolate area at the time, as it had been almost totally denuded of trees due to overcutting and too-intensive agriculture. The soil had then been washed away by the rains, as there were no trees to hold it in place. The whole region had become barren and dry.

Little farming was being done now because of its poor condition. The villages were old and run down, and most of the villagers had deserted the countryside. Even the wildlife had fled, as without trees the protective undergrowth had thinned, food was scarce, and few streams remained.

The hiker stopped one night at the humble cottage of a shepherd, who, although gray-haired and in his mid-fifties, was still very stalwart. The young man spent the night there, enjoying the shepherd's hospitality, and ended up staying several days with him.

The visitor observed with some curiosity that the shepherd spent his evening hours sorting nuts by lamplight—acorns, hazelnuts, chestnuts, and others. He very carefully examined them and culled out the bad ones, and when he finished his evening's work, he put the good nuts in a knapsack.

Then, as he led his sheep to graze the next day, he would plant the nuts along the way. While his sheep were pasturing in one area, the shepherd would take his staff, walk several paces, and then thrust the end of the staff into the ground, making a small hole. He would then drop in one of his nuts and use his foot to cover it over with earth. Then he would walk several paces more, push his staff into the dry ground, and drop in another nut. He spent all his daylight hours walking over this region of Provence as he grazed his sheep, each day covering a different area where there were few trees, planting nuts.

Watching this, the young man wondered what in the world this shepherd was trying to do, and he finally asked him.

"I'm planting trees," the shepherd replied.

"But why? It will be years and years before these trees ever get to where they could do you any good! You might not even live long enough to see them grow!"

"Yes," the shepherd replied, "But some day they'll do *somebody* some good, and they'll help to restore this dry land. I may never see it, but perhaps my children will."

The young man marveled at the shepherd's foresight and unselfishness—that he was willing to prepare the land for future generations, even though he might never see the results or reap the benefits himself.

Twenty years later, when in his forties, the hiker once again visited this area and was astounded at what he saw. One great valley was completely covered with a beautiful natural forest of all kinds of trees. They were young trees, of course, but trees nevertheless. Life had sprung forth all over the valley! The grass had grown much greener, shrubbery and wildlife had returned, the soil was moist again, and farmers were again cultivating their crops.

He wondered what had happened to the old shepherd, and to his amazement found that he was still alive, hale and hearty, still living in his little cottage—and still sorting his nuts each evening.

The visitor then learned that a delegation from the French Parliament had come down from Paris recently to see this new forest of trees, which to them looked like a miraculous new natural forest. They learned that it had, over the years, been planted by this one shepherd, who day by day as he was watching his sheep, diligently planted nuts. The delegation was so impressed and grateful to this shepherd for having reforested this entire area single-handedly that they persuaded Parliament to give him a special pension.

The visitor said he was amazed at the change, not only in the beautiful trees, but also in the revived agriculture, the renewed wildlife, and the beauti-



You may not be able to change the whole world, but you can change your part of the world

ful lush grass and shrubbery. The little farms were thriving, and the villages seemed to have come to life again. What a contrast from when he had visited there 20 years before, when the villages had been run down and abandoned!

Now all was thriving, just because of one man's foresight, one man's diligence, one man's patience, one man's sacrifice, one man's faithfulness just to do what one man could do, day by day, day in and day out for a number of years.

So if you're sometimes discouraged with the world the way it is, don't give up! We read that great empires and governments, armies, and wars change the course of history and the face of the earth, so sometimes we're discouraged and think, *Who am I? What can I do? It all seems so hopeless and impossible! It looks like there's nothing that one person can do to change things for the better, so what's the use of trying?*

But as proven by this humble shepherd, over a period of years one man can change the world! You may not be able to change the whole world, but you can change your part of the world. You can start with your own heart, your own mind, your own spirit, your own life, through receiving Jesus into your life and reading His Word and putting its principles into practice in your life. Change your life, your home, your family, and you've changed a whole world—*your* world!

Then you and your little family can start trying to change your neighbors and friends and the people you come in contact with from day to day. You can make a special effort to reach lonely, hungry, needy hearts who are seeking love, seeking truth, seeking they know not what, but seeking happiness—desperately seeking to satisfy their yearning hearts that are empty and barren and desolate for lack of the water of the Word and the warm sunshine of God's love.

You can start individually, personally, just you or your little family, planting seeds, one by one, in heart after heart, day by day, by doing loving deeds for others and telling them about Jesus. You could also give or recommend Christian materials to those you meet, to help them understand God's Word. Patiently plant the seeds of the truth into that empty hole of an empty heart, and trust the great, warm, loving sunshine of His love and the water of His Word to bring forth the miracle of new life.

It may seem only a tiny little bud at first, just a little sprig, just one insignificant little green shoot. What is that to the forest that's needed? Well, it's a beginning. It's the beginning of the miracle of new life, and it will thrive and grow and flourish and become great and strong, a whole new "tree," a whole new life, and maybe a whole new world! So why not try it?

If you're faithful to plant seeds of God's truth, like the old shepherd that the government rewarded for his efforts, God is going to reward you one of these days when you finally come to your reward! He's going to say, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord."¹

You can change the world! Start today! Change your own life, change your family, change your home, change your neighbors, change your town, change your country. Change the world! *

(EXCERPTED FROM DAVID BRANDT BERG'S ORIGINAL ARTICLE BY THE SAME TITLE. THE FULL ARTICLE AND OTHERS ON A VARIETY OF THEMES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE BOOK *DARE TO BE DIFFERENT*.)

¹Matthew 25:21

ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS

Q: How can I cope with the extreme loneliness that I feel?

A: IF YOU'RE LONELY, you're not alone! Many people today are lonely—especially in cities, where life has been aptly described as “millions of people being lonesome together.” Just living in the middle of a lot of people won’t necessarily relieve loneliness, because loneliness comes from being insulated from others, not only isolated. And sad to say, it is often self-inflicted. People build walls around themselves instead of bridges. So what is the cure for loneliness? Loving others. Consider this true story:

There once was a very lonely woman who was always seeking a new lover, but never finding one that satisfied or lasted or that relieved her loneliness. Why? Because she was always seeking to *get* love, to be loved! Then one day a friend suggested that per-



haps she needed to learn to *give* love unselfishly for the benefit of another. After years of searching, this thought struck the woman as an entirely new idea. She went out and tried to find someone to make them happy, and soon found what she had been looking for all the time—true love!

So that’s the key, the simple solution to loneliness: If you give love, you’ll get love! If you’re sincerely concerned about others and show them love, they’ll be concerned about you and show you love. As Christians we can also share with others the love of all loves from the Lover of all lovers, Jesus Himself, who alone can satisfy that deepest yearning of every human heart for total love and complete understanding.

Jesus even satisfies that empty, lonely feeling that we all some-

times feel, no matter how many friends or loved ones surround us. The Lord has created a special place in our hearts that only He can fill. Although the body is of this earth and is satisfied with the things of earth, the human spirit, that intangible personality of the real you that dwells in that body, can never be completely satisfied with anything but utter union with the great and loving Spirit who created it.

Jesus wants us to love and be close to others, but first He wants to fill that aching void with His own love. Even when we have someone dear and close to us physically, there will always be that certain deep feeling inside that can only be satisfied by giving Him our whole heart and drawing close to Him! 



Gain by Giving

YOU MAY HAVE noticed the contented aura, even radiance, of people who make it a habit to give. Whether it's time, money, help, friendship, or encouragement, they always seem to not only be content themselves, but to have enough to share with others. Jesus explained how this can be so: "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap."¹

If we give to others, yield to their wishes to make them happy, or put their needs above our own, we can sometimes feel like we're losing out. But we're not really. God sees such unselfishness, and He will reward it. You never lose by giving.

THE TRADE UP

A story is told of a well-to-do lady who had become a Christian late in life. One day she was walking along a city street accompanied by her granddaughter. When a beggar approached them, the lady listened to his tale. She then took a bill from her purse and placed it in his palm. At the next corner a Salvation Army volunteer was waiting, and the lady dropped a gift into her kettle. Her granddaughter looked at her with curiosity and then said: "Grandma, I guess you have lost a lot since you became a Christian, haven't you?"

"Yes," said the lady, "I have. I have lost a quick temper, a habit of criticizing others, and a tendency to spend all my spare time in frivolous social events and pleasures that mean nothing. I have also lost a spirit of greed and selfishness. Yes, indeed, I have lost a good deal.

"And what I have gained is invaluable!—Peace of mind; power in prayer; a Friend who is always with me, who knows, loves, and protects me; fulfillment and richness in life that I never knew existed; faith that allows no room for fears; a promise of a wonderful heavenly home when I'm through with this earthly one—and much more! Yes, I'm happy about what I've lost, and what I have gained is priceless!"

COMPILED FROM THE WRITINGS
OF DAVID BRANDT BERG

¹Luke 6:38 NIV

THE BANK OF HEAVEN

“Take this to the poor widow who lives on the edge of town,” the old German shoemaker told his young apprentice, handing him a basket of fresh garden vegetables. The shoemaker worked hard at his trade and cultivated his little garden patch to make ends meet, yet he always seemed to be giving away what little he had.

“How can you afford to give so much away?” he was asked.

“I give nothing away,” he said. “I lend it to the Lord, and He repays me many times. I am ashamed that people think I am generous when I am repaid so much. A long time ago, when I was very poor, I saw someone even poorer than I. I wanted to give something to him, but I could not see how I could afford to. However, I did give, and the Lord has helped me ever since. I have always had some work, and my garden grows well. Since then I have never stopped to think twice when I have heard of someone in need. No, even if I gave away all I have, the Lord would not let me starve. It is like money in the bank, only this time the bank—the Bank of Heaven—never fails, and the interest comes back every day.”

God may not always reward you in mere dollars and cents; His reward may be in the form of protection from accidents, misfortunes, or serious illnesses that would have cost you a hundred times more than anything you may have given. But in whatever way it comes, He will reward you.

GIVE, AND IT WILL BE GIVEN UNTO YOU!

According to legend, there was once an abbey which had a very generous abbot. No beggar was ever turned away, and the abbot gave all he could to the needy. The strange thing was that the more he gave away, the richer the abbey seemed to become.

When the old abbot died, he was replaced by a new one with exactly the opposite nature—he was mean and stingy. One day an elderly man arrived at the monastery, saying that he had stayed there years before and was seeking shelter again. The abbot turned the visitor away, saying that the abbey could no longer afford its former hospitality.

“Our monastery cannot provide for strangers like it used to when we were wealthy,” he said. “No one seems to make gifts towards our work nowadays.”

“Ah well,” said the stranger, “I think that is because you banished a brother from the monastery.”

“I don’t think we ever did that,” said the puzzled abbot.

“Oh yes,” was the reply. “And he had a twin. The one you banished was called ‘Give’ and his twin was ‘It shall be given unto you.’ You banished ‘Give,’ so his brother decided to go as well.” *



FEEDING READING

God’s miraculous supply

Meat for a month

Numbers 11:18–23, 31

The Lord pays a widow’s debts

2 Kings 4:1–6

Manna in the wilderness

Exodus 16:12–15

Water from a rock

Exodus 17:1–6

Fed by ravens

1 Kings 17:4–6

The barrel of meal and cruse of oil

1 Kings 17:10–16

Jesus feeds five thousand

Mark 6:34–44

A few of God’s many promises of supply

Matthew 6:33

Philippians 4:19

Psalm 23:1

Psalm 34:10

Psalm 37:25

Matthew 7:7–11

Romans 8:32



One Fine Day

BY STEPHANIE KELLY

JUST ONE MORE DAY. JUST ONE MORE DAY, I kept telling myself as I made my way down a dusty path to the hospital entrance. It was still early morning, but I could feel the sun beating down on the back of my neck. My arms ached from the weight of the large box of medicine and other supplies I was carrying. It was the fifth and last day of a free medical project in a rural area of Nigeria, where other members of the Family International and I were assisting a team of volunteer doctors and other medical professionals. After four very long days on my feet and with little sleep, I was irritable and ready to go home. Walking past the long lines of people who had come for treatment—many having arrived before dawn—all I could think of was taking a shower and getting a good night's sleep in my own bed. *Just one more day. I can survive one more day.*

Inside, while setting up for the doctors, I was oblivious to the looks of hope and expectancy in the eyes of mothers as they

patiently held and comforted their sick children. I also didn't notice the grateful smiles of patients who had been helped on previous days and had returned for further treatment. All I wanted was to get the day behind me. I rushed around flustered, hurried, annoyed. I knew what my job was, and I was going to do it. *Just please, everyone, stay out of my way!*

Lord, I prayed, my back is killing me, and my feet feel like they've been put through a meat grinder. Please, please make this day go quickly! ... Where are the doctors? Their tardiness was putting a damper on my double-time mode of operation.

As I stepped outside to see if any of them were in sight, Jesus spoke to me in that ever so loving voice I often hear in my mind. *Stephanie, what does it say in 1 Corinthians chapter 13?*

Gulp! Without love, our good works are nothing, Lord, I answered.

Exactly! He said. *You're helping people physically, but they also need healing for their spirits. They need to see My love shining through you, and they need to feel it, too. You need to be My face and hands and feet, showing them My love. Without love, all your hard work and sacrifice are for nothing.*

I was working long hours—“giving my body to be burned”¹—

but I'd forgotten the most important thing. I'd forgotten to *love* those I was there to serve. *Jesus, please forgive me,* I prayed.

After that reminder from the Lord, everything seemed to change for the better. He helped me slow down and take time to connect with each patient.

A short while later, I noticed that the patients waiting for general surgery all looked scared or worried, so I grabbed a stack of tracts and passed them out, starting at the head of the line. The first man read the title out loud—“Why Worry? You Are in God's Hands”—and everyone started laughing as they realized they weren't just putting themselves in the doctors' hands, but ultimately in God's hands. Surely *He* could take care of the situation! I found myself laughing with them, and suddenly my back and feet didn't hurt anymore. The sky seemed bluer, the heat not as intense. I wanted to both enjoy the day and spend every minute of it well, giving all I could to these people who had so little. Instead of wanting it to end as quickly as possible, I wanted it to last as *long* as possible so I could give as much love as the Lord had given me. *♪*

¹1 Corinthians 13:3

Miracles Happen!



Her doctors couldn't promise that she would live from one day to the next

Debbie, who one month ago prayed with me to receive Jesus as her Savior, is overcoming a supposedly incurable disease—hepatitis C. Her condition was complicated by more than 10 years of heroin addiction. Her doctors couldn't promise that she would live from one day to the next. Since I prayed with her for her healing, her blood has normalized to the point that her doctors have discontinued her medication. When I first met her, she couldn't make it through a short conversation without nodding off a few times. Now she's a picture of energy! She gets up at 5:45 each morning, takes her little girl to school, makes it through the entire day without a nap, and does many other things that were impossible for her before.

—TERRY RONDELL, USA

A policeman who was given only six months to live

A couple that my husband and I have known for a few years asked us to pray for a friend of theirs, a policeman who was diagnosed with incurable cancer and given only six months to live. At that time the man had already been forced to leave his job and was being sedated because of extreme pain.

We prayed together for his healing, and the Lord answered! When the man went for his next checkup, his doctor told him that "something very unusual" had happened. Six months later, the man has returned to the police force and all those who knew of his illness are calling his healing a miracle.

—PATRICIA LISON, CHILE



WORKPLACE WORLD CHANGERS

TAJANA BANDERA;
RIJEKA, CROATIA

I'm a dentist, and many people come to my office every day. You would be surprised at how many of them are quick to tell me about their problems. They really need someone to talk to, someone who will listen. So I listen for as long as needed and then try to comfort and encourage them. Of course God can solve their problems a lot better than I can, so I always try to bring Him into the conversation.

If they tell me about sickness in their family, for example, I encourage them that God is the best doctor and give them a few examples I know of when He has helped and healed. I also tell them about situations where I have seen Him help others or change lives.

Sometimes the thought crosses my mind, *What if this person doesn't believe*

The gifts
God gives us
are not for
us alone



what I'm saying or won't accept it? When that happens, I remind myself that I still should do my best to help and encourage others, no matter what they think. I believe that the gifts God gives us are not for us alone but are meant to be used to help others, and that He has given me the gift of encouragement. I often don't know what results my efforts will have, but people keep coming and telling me their problems, so I'll keep doing my best to help them.

DJURDJICA AHAC;
RIJEKA, CROATIA

Since learning about God's love from members of the Family International and seeing how they live it in their everyday lives, I try to do the same. I own a hair salon and work there myself, so I have contact with a lot of people. I have found that I can understand their needs, and



I try to give them Jesus and His love to help them through their problems. My own life isn't problem free, but it is richer since I found Jesus and His love, and I want to help others find that same quality of life, and not only for themselves, but so they can improve the situation in their homes, families, and surroundings. It's not easy nowadays to find a place where you are not just a number, but where you really count as a person. We try to make our hair salon just that. It has become a beautiful atmosphere. We don't argue, gossip, or complain, and people notice. I always loved my job, but never imagined that I could find even greater fulfillment in it by also helping people in a spiritual way.

LILI BACEK;
CAORLE, ITALY

When I went through an extended period of illness and medical treatment, my husband began to view me as more of a problem than someone he loved who needed his help, and he found a way out of "the problem" through a relationship with another woman. We divorced after 22 years of marriage, sold the house we were building, and my two daughters and I moved into a borrowed apartment until I could get back on my feet. Some "friends" offered me a partnership in some boutiques they were opening, but in the space of 24 hours they robbed me of the

I want to
help others
find that
same quality
of life

The neediest
people
are not
those who
have little
materially

little money I had. I told God to either rescue me or take me from this world.

A few days earlier, two people from the Family International had come into my shop, and I had bought one of their CDs and prayed with them to receive Jesus into my heart. When my world collapsed, I phoned them and arranged to meet again because I felt they had something more than this world could offer. That is when my transformation began. All my inner fears vanished as they taught me God's Word and I learned to communicate with God through prayer.

I moved from Croatia to Caorle, a small fishing town on the coast of Italy, where I met a man who I led to receive God's love in Jesus, and he was also transformed. We have since opened a restaurant together. I've found that the neediest people are not those who have little materially, but rather those who outwardly appear successful but lack the things that make life truly meaningful. Our restaurant is a place where they can come to be refreshed in body and spirit. *



The “Mark of the Beast”

THE FUTURE FORETOLD, PART 5

By MICHAEL ROY AND SCOTT MACGREGOR

THE COMING CASHLESS SOCIETY

“He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on [in] their right hand or on [in] their foreheads, that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.”¹

This prophecy is remarkable. Think about it: Nearly 2,000 years ago the apostle John, who prior to meeting Jesus had been a fisherman by trade and had been called an “uneducated and untrained” man,² predicted that a global economic system will one day be instituted in which everyone will be forced to receive a *number*, without which no one will be able to buy or sell. Only in this era of computers and electronic commerce could this prophecy be fulfilled.

There are currently a number of methods commonly used for purchasing items. You can use

cash, you can write a check, you can use a credit card, or you can use a debit card that instantly deducts the amount from your bank account and deposits it into the account of the merchant.

Smart cards take this several steps further. They look like an ordinary credit card, but there’s a big difference: They have a tiny computer chip embedded in their plastic. These electronic marvels not only give you instant access to your bank account, but they can also contain (or access) your passport information, your medical record, driver’s license, photographs, biometrics, credit history, and other data. Hundreds of millions of smart cards are in use across Europe in the form of health cards, SIM (Subscriber Identity Module) cards, which turn your phone into a smart card, and ePurse cards. Smart cards are at the heart of the eEurope initiative. Germany ran full trials of their electronic health card in 2006. Other European states and regions already have an equivalent card program in operation.

We are well on the way to eliminating cash. Advocates of a cashless society have many compelling reasons for it. A primary one is that cash is the mother’s milk of drug smugglers and is used to fund international terrorism. With no cash, the sale of illegal drugs and other kinds of criminal activity would be greatly hampered.

YOUR OWN PERSONAL MICROCHIP IMPLANT

A cheap and workable solution would be to take a chip similar to those used in smart cards and place it under the skin of each man, woman, and child. It wouldn’t even have to store all your personal data, but just a unique identifier. All your data could be stored in networked databases that your identification code would access. Once the chip is implanted, it could be read by an inexpensive scanner, similar in function to the ones that read bar codes in your local grocery store.

¹Revelation 13:16–18

²Acts 4:13

You would then become your own smart card!

A global cashless society is in the making. Fiber optics, satellites, and computer databases have the potential to control the world in a way that boggles the imagination. Many governments and private corporations worldwide are pursuing policies to eliminate cash and checks, while many other countries are testing various methods of doing business without physical currency. For the first time, the hi-tech means of fulfilling the chilling vision the apostle John received nearly 2,000 years ago is here.

THE POWER BEHIND THE THRONE

The Antichrist, the coming world leader who will demand the world's worship, will be empowered or possessed by Satan himself. "The dragon [Satan] gave him his power, his throne, and great authority."³

Satan has always wanted to be God. This is why he fell in the first place. The prophet Isaiah wrote, "How you are fallen from Heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! ... For you said to yourself, 'I will ascend to Heaven and rule the angels. I will take the highest throne. ... I will climb to the highest heavens and be like the Most High.' But instead, you will be brought down to the pit of Hell, down to its lowest depths."⁴



WATCH OUT FOR 666!

What Satan is really after when he causes the Antichrist government to set up the coming global financial system is to gain control over the people of the world and to get them to bow down and worship him. The book of Revelation states six times that worshiping the Beast and receiving his mark leads to damnation. There is a definite link between the two, though at this point in time it is not clear exactly what that will be. At first glance, it would seem the Mark is simply an economic and identification system, but from what the Scriptures indicate, it can lead to much more. Beware!

So when you see a world government arise and its leader demands your allegiance and even your worship, don't fall for

it. Regardless of the economic incentives offered or the retribution that threatens those who refuse his mark and number, give your love and worship to the true God, your Creator, who loves and cares for you and has promised to see you through the days ahead if you put your trust in Him. The Bible says, "The people who know their God will be strong."⁵ ❁

(EXCERPTED FROM THE BOOKLET *THE FUTURE FORETOLD*. 3RD ED. AURORA PRODUCTION AG, 2008. FOR MORE ON THIS SUBJECT, SEE *THE RISE AND FALL OF THE ANTICHRIST*, ALSO FROM AURORA PRODUCTION.)

³Revelation 13:2

⁴Isaiah 14:12-15 TLB

⁵Daniel 11:32



Spend time
with Me, and
I will teach
you to love

FROM JESUS WITH LOVE

Be a Vessel of My Love

Do you think you can pour love out of yourself? If you try, you will soon find that your own love falls short. True, unfailing, self-sacrificial love does not come from yourself, by your own power, or through your own efforts or habits or your own knowing how to love. But as you fill up on Me and My love, you will have this kind of love—and more than enough. This love will then pour out on everyone you meet.

First, you must let Me fill you up. A vessel that is moving or stopped up cannot be filled. You must be an empty vessel with an open mouth, and you must hold still and wait for Me to fill you up.

Spend time with Me, and I will teach you to love. Then My face will shine on your face, and those who see you will know that this love does not come from you, but from Me.