



activated

CHANGE YOUR LIFE | CHANGE YOUR WORLD

6th Anniversary Issue—Favorites from Our First Six Years

PERSONALLY SPEAKING



For a wide range of books and audio and video productions to feed your soul, lift your spirit, strengthen your family, and provide fun learning times for your children, please contact one of our distributors below, or visit our Web site at www.activated.org

Activated Ministries
 P.O. Box 462805
 Escondido, CA 92046-2805
 USA
info@activatedministries.org
 (877) 862-3228

Activated Europe
 Bramingham Pk. Business Ctr.
 Enterprise Way
 Luton, Beds. LU3 4BU
 United Kingdom
activatedEurope@activated.org
 (07801) 442-317

Activated Africa
 P.O. Box 2150
 Westville 3630
 South Africa
activatedAfrica@activated.org
 083 55 68 213

Activated India
 P.O. Box 5215
 G.P.O.
 Bangalore - 560 001
 India
activatedIndia@activated.org

While discussing this sixth anniversary issue of *Activated* with some of my coworkers, we realized that we'd never written an official mission statement for the magazine. We still haven't, but we did come up with a few ideas that, as members of The Family International, sum up our approach to the magazine and, indeed, to life in general:

- ❖ We believe that people's hearts are the same the world over. Their heartaches and sorrows and longings for God and His truth, for joy and happiness and peace of mind are God-created and common to all, regardless of race, nationality, religion, or social standing.
- ❖ We believe that when people have problems, God has answers.
- ❖ We believe that those answers all have their roots in this simple truth: The love of God and genuine love for others, when put into action, can solve all of our problems.

It's been six years since the first *Activated* magazine was published. Over sixty-five issues and over four million copies later, some or all of the nearly 700 articles to date are now available in 23 languages. Those articles have dealt with about 100 widely diverse topics, but nearly all of them come back to at least one of those three principles—hearts are the same the world over, God can solve our problems, and love is the key.

We were only able to include 10 articles in this “golden oldies” issue, but hundreds more are posted on our Web site, so if you don't see your favorite here or want to catch up on issues you missed, visit www.activated.org.

May God bless and keep you and yours, may He help you find the answers to all your problems in His great, unfailing love, and may He help you pass on that love to others.

Keith Phillips

 FOR THE ACTIVATED FAMILY

VOL 7, ISSUE 1 **January 2006**
 EDITOR **Keith Phillips**
 DESIGN **Giselle LeFavre**
 Doug Calder
 ILLUSTRATIONS **Doug Calder**
 PRODUCTION **Francisco Lopez**

© 2006 Aurora Production AG
 All Rights Reserved. Printed in Thailand.
www.auroraproduction.com
 Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations in *Activated* are from the New King James Version of the Bible © 1982 Thomas Nelson, Inc. When other versions are quoted, some typographical changes have been made for the sake of clarity and uniformity.

BE DEBT free



BY MÁRIO SANT'ANA

A FEW YEARS AGO SERGIO WAS GOING THROUGH A SEVERE FINANCIAL CRISIS. He had gotten himself so deeply in debt that even if he could have sold everything he had *twice*, he still would not be able to repay all he owed. He had taken out a large loan in a foreign currency and, due to a sudden and extreme change in the exchange rate, his debt was now far greater than the original sum he had borrowed—and that was only a fraction of Sergio's overall debt. Sergio's main creditor was his father-in-law, who was a very wealthy old man.

One day the old man called Sergio and said, "I know you're going through rough times, and I want to help you. You don't have to continue the monthly payments on the money you borrowed from me. Actually, I'd like to forgive the debt altogether."

That would have given Sergio enough financial leeway to renegotiate his debt with the bank and keep his company afloat, but Sergio refused the offer. "I can't let you do that, sir. It's a matter of principle. I must pay back all I owe you."

The old man tried to reason with Sergio. "What you've been paying monthly doesn't even cover the *interest* on the money I loaned you. Besides, you happen to be married to my only daughter. When I die—and it won't be long—all I have will be hers and yours. This is not a matter of principle, but stupid pride."

But Sergio stubbornly held on to his decision. He continued in his futile attempt to restore to his father-in-law what he had borrowed from him, but not for long. Soon Sergio became insolvent and lost his company and almost everything else he had—all because of pride!

Of course, we should pay our debts and do all we can to remain solvent. That is part of our testimony as Christians. However, Sergio's refusal to accept his father-in-law's pardon was foolish, since he was soon to become co-heir of all the old man had, including the meager amounts Sergio was repaying toward his debt.

Sergio was like many people who refuse the pardon God so generously offers humankind, who insist on trying to make restitution themselves. They try, through their good works, sacrifice, and self-denial to repay the unrepayable, when they could so easily turn a page and start writing a new story for their lives by receiving Jesus as their Savior and accepting *His* payment for their sins and shortcomings.

Jesus offers a pardon to every man, woman, and child on the face of the earth. All we have to do is say, "Yes, Jesus, I need Your forgiveness. There is no way I can make up for all my selfish and unloving deeds. The only way I can be free from this debt is by accepting Your sacrifice on the cross for my sins. Thank You for dying for me!"

MÁRIO SANT'ANA IS A FULL-TIME VOLUNTEER WITH THE FAMILY INTERNATIONAL IN BRAZIL.



The *WISE* and *UNWISE* leader

A GOOD EXECUTIVE IS NOT A BOSS—HE IS A SERVANT! Jesus wasn't just trying to teach His disciples humility when He said, "Whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant" (Matthew 20:26). A good executive simply is not a dictator! He listens to his employees. When the top people don't communicate with those under them, then of course they don't understand them or their problems. When that happens, they're headed for trouble!

Leaders at any level should listen to those under them. Leaders *are* responsible to make the final decision, but being a leader does not mean that you have all the ideas and do all the thinking and all the consulting just within yourself. A good executive will listen to others.

A good secretary knows more about her boss' business than he does—and she should! He shouldn't have to be involved with every little thing, but *someone* needs to be. A good boss understands that his secretary is more familiar with the extent of the work and the urgency of it, and he will respect that and usually take his secretary's suggestions.

When it comes to plans and goals and motivation and other overall aspects of the work, the leaders are supposed to be good or they shouldn't be the leaders. But when it comes to practical matters, leaders ought to listen to their helpers, because their helpers probably know more about it than they do. A good leader will listen to his workers' suggestions, discuss, agree with them on a course of action, and then



If you're going to be an effective team, every member
must work together with all the other members.

leave them alone to carry out the work, just checking now and then to see that they are producing and don't make any serious mistakes. That's really the job of the executive—to keep things moving. He should let his people recommend the work, initiate the work, and by all means carry out the work.

Nearly every king is surrounded by counselors that tell him what to do. Did you know that even God works that way? He calls in His chief counselors and angels and asks them, "What do you think we should do about this?" He listens to their suggestions and then has the wisdom to know who is right. If you don't believe that, read 1 Kings 22:19–22 and Job 1:6–12. And God not only listens to His heavenly counselors, spirits, and angels, but don't forget, He even listens to us and does what we ask Him to do!

If God Himself won't do all the thinking for us, then who are we to try to make all the decisions, do all the thinking, give all the orders, and carry them all out besides? A leader just can't operate alone!

Only a novice, only a brand-new, not-yet-dry-behind-the-ears junior executive tries to run everything and tell everybody what to do. They've never been in that position before and don't know what to do or how to do it, but they pretend to as they sit on their thrones, giving out dictums. It's a very foolish king or executive or leader who works that way.

A wise king, when he wants to get a certain thing done, calls in his counselors and listens to them, and then decides whose advice is best. And whom does the king appoint to carry out that job?—One of the others that had a different plan? Of course not! He gives the job to the one whose idea it was.

Any smart executive is going to pump people power! He is not going to try to be the pump, or the pump handle, or the water, or the bucket. He's merely going to be the guiding hand that takes hold of the handle and pumps. All he does is keep the pump in motion.

A good leader will try to keep everybody happy, because everybody has a right to be happy and to do the work he likes to do and wants to do if he's qualified.

If you're going to be an effective team, every member must work together with all the other members—not just one, not just a few, not even the majority, but all. You must learn to work together, listen to each other, counsel together, agree together, decide together, and then work it out together.

As in the human body, you can't say that you have no need of even one little member. You need every fingernail, every cell, as well as every organ and every limb (1 Corinthians 12:14–17). Every member is needed and everybody is important, from the lowliest to the mightiest, from the most insignificant to the seemingly most important. Everyone has his job, everyone is needed, and all must work together in unity and harmony and cooperation.

Talk together, discuss together, counsel together, agree together, decide together, do together, bear together, care together, grow together, work together, and enjoy the fruits of your labors together. Then and only then will you be a wise leader and a good executive.

DAVID BRANDT BERG [1919-1994] WAS THE
FOUNDER AND LEADER OF THE FAMILY.

SHOCK ABSORBERS



OH, THAT DITCH AGAIN! I was driving home and—as I had done every day for months—had to drive very slowly over a dip in the road to avoid a bone-jarring jolt.

My car was due for a general servicing, so I took it to the mechanic I regularly go to. As he got behind the wheel to pull it into his shop, I was feeling pretty good about myself for having remembered to have my car serviced. He had moved it only inches, however, when he stepped on the brakes, turned to me with a look of surprise, and asked, “How can you drive your car like this?! Your shock absorbers are gone!”

My reflex reaction to the instant diagnosis was to question the mechanic’s motives. How could he be so sure, so quick? But since the car was 10 years old and my past experience with this mechanic gave me no reason to mistrust him, I asked him to check the shocks and replace them if necessary, which he did.

Oops, that ditch again. As I was driving my newly serviced car home, my mind was somewhere else and I didn’t think to slow down for the familiar dip until it was too late. I braced myself for the inevitable impact—tailbone to floor and car body to wheels—but hardly felt

that old ditch. The mechanic had been right. I had gotten so used to driving my car with no shock absorbers that I had forgotten what it was like to have them.

If you drive only on good roads you hardly need shock absorbers, but when the road gets rough or you come to one of those bone-jarring dips or potholes, it’s a different story. Isn’t life a lot like that? Most of the time, thank God, the ride is pretty smooth. But what about when we lose someone close to us, or suffer a business failure, or an injury shakes our lives? What if there is a power failure and we are stuck in an elevator for hours, or we find ourselves in an earthquake or other disaster? What kind of “shock absorbers” can help us make it through incidents like these in one piece?

Ask the Man who walked the rough and rugged road to Mount Calvary and gave His life there for you and me. He should know—and He does. “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28). “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world” (John 16:33).

So many people drive through life with absolutely no shock absorbers,



BY MATTHEW NANTES

carefully trying to avoid every bump and hole in the road that could give them a jolt. They try to only drive on the smoothest roads because they know they're not prepared for any sudden bumps. They don't have the peace that Jesus offers—shock absorbers for their earthly vehicle. Maybe they don't even realize they need shock absorbers, or how much wear and tear these things can spare them.

There are going to be bumps on the road of life. That's inevitable. But with Jesus' loving hands underneath you, you'll hardly notice them. You can just relax, enjoy the ride, and arrive safe and sound at your final destination.

Put yourself in His hands, and see the difference it makes.

MATTHEW NANTES IS A VOLUNTEER WITH THE FAMILY INTERNATIONAL IN GREECE.

“He will keep in perfect peace all those who trust in Him, whose thoughts turn often to the Lord” (Isaiah 26:3 TLB).

FEEDING READING

RESTING IN THE LORD

The Lord promises His people spiritual rest.

Exodus 33:14
1 Kings 8:56a
Hebrews 4:9

Psalm 138:3
Isaiah 30:15a
Isaiah 41:1a

Resting in the Lord brings complete rest—rest of body, peace of mind, contentment of heart, and spiritual well-being.

Psalm 23:2–3a
Psalm 55:18a
Psalm 116:7
Isaiah 28:12a

Resting in the Lord means giving our cares and concerns to Him and letting Him carry them.

Psalm 55:22
1 Peter 5:7
Hebrews 4:10

There is one condition for receiving the rest the Lord promises: “Come to Me!”

Matthew 11:28–30
Hebrews 4:11a

Resting in the Lord means taking time to meditate on the Lord and His wonders.

Genesis 24:63a
Job 37:14b
Psalm 104:34
Psalm 143:5

We cannot do the Master's work without the Master's power.

2 Chronicles 20:12b
Psalm 20:7
Psalm 84:5a
Psalm 127:1a
2 Corinthians 3:4–5
Isaiah 40:29,31

Resting in the Lord means humbling ourselves before Him.

Psalm 46:10
Isaiah 57:15
Micah 6:8

To get the Master's power, we must spend time with the Master.

2 Corinthians 4:16
Psalm 105:4

Take time to be holy—wholly His.

Luke 10:38–42
Psalm 27:4
Psalm 84:10a
Proverbs 8:17
John 14:21b
John 16:27a
James 4:8a

Love

is the most important thing!

ONE YEARS AGO WHEN I WORKED WITH TWO SECRETARIES, LAURA AND ANNE, WE discovered together an important lesson in human relationships. Both Laura and Anne were hard workers—really tops in their field, the best at what they did. When it came to their work, they were diligent and efficient and got the job done. But there was often friction in the office.

Sensitive Anne was hurt because of Laura's rather snappy attitude. Laura thought it was all Anne's fault for being too sensitive. Laura was partially right; Anne *was* sensitive and needed to improve in that area. But when I talked with Laura about the problem, we realized it presented her with a wonderful opportunity for personal growth. Laura was good at her work, she was good on paper, but was she willing to learn to improve her relationships with people? Why had God put her in the position of working with Anne in the first place? Might He be working in Laura's life to help her learn to get along with others better?

We could all stand to improve in our relations with others, and the

Bible has lots of helpful counsel for us on that subject—how to work with others, how to treat them, how to be loving towards them, and so on. It talks about patience, longsuffering, love, unselfishness, and giving. In all the passages about these things, the Lord is talking about relationships between human beings, not about our work or the relationships we have with things—our papers or computers or machines. He's talking about *people*. You may work great with your computer, but you're not going to grow much spiritually unless you learn to have loving interaction with other people—and that's not always easy! It takes patience, love, and humility.

If we're going to grow and mature in spirit, then we've got to grow in love, not just in diligence in our work. The Bible doesn't teach us that diligence is the most important thing; it teaches us that *love* is the most important thing! "The greatest of these is love" (1 Corinthians 13:13).

You may do your work well and accomplish a lot, but if you haven't learned how to work with others and treat them with love, then you're missing one of the main lessons we're here on earth to learn! We





need to learn to love people, and to do that we need to also learn that people are different and we can't treat them all the same. The Lord wants us to treat people differently, according to their needs. Jesus was very mindful of people's human weaknesses and didn't require the same from everyone. The apostle Paul also instructed, "Uphold the weak, be patient with all" (1 Thesalonians 5:14).

What is the most important ingredient in our relations with each other? What did Jesus say proves we are His disciples?—Love! "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35). How can you love God whom you can't see, if you can't love the people you live and work with all the time? How can you say you love people whom you haven't seen, if you don't love your brother or sister whom you see every day? (1 John 4:20). It's clear that as Christians, we are really erring if we don't love each other.

Laura was an excellent worker, but even if she were perfect, even if she spent 18 hours a day on the job without making one mistake, she'd still not be pleasing God if she did not show a loving attitude toward the people she worked with.

In our office there was obviously a problem between Laura and Anne, and resolving it was part of their job. It wasn't easy, because one of the hardest things to learn is how to work with other people. That's a lot harder to learn than how to operate a machine that doesn't talk back! It's a lot harder to get along with people and handle them lovingly and get them to love you—but Laura learned and we can too!

"Am I my brother's keeper?" (Genesis 4:9). Well, the answer is obvious. Of course we are our brother's keeper,

and we need to remember that some people need to be "kept" even more lovingly and tenderly than others. To be successful with people, you have to learn that people are different and need to be treated differently.

The Lord put certain people in your life, whether you like it or not. Whether you like to be with these people or not, He has placed you with them and it's your responsibility to love them. If you can't get along with them, He evidently knew you needed to learn to or He wouldn't have put you together. It must be possible, or He wouldn't have put you in that situation.

We don't grow or learn unless we have a challenge, so look at this as a new challenge in life. "What can I do to grow in my relationships with other people?" Part of the answer to that is growing in our relationship with the Lord. If we're growing in the Lord, then we'll be more loving toward other people—and that's what it's all about. That's the whole purpose for living, to love God and others. That's the most important thing! And if you love God, you'll love others, too, because loving others is one way you show love to the Lord.

You can read the Bible all you want, but if it you don't live it in love, it doesn't do any good. You can make all kinds of other sacrifices, but without love it is nothing. You can have all the other gifts of the spirit, but without love it is meaningless (1 Corinthians 13:1–3). You can be the tops in your field, but if you don't manifest God's love to others, then it's all in vain. If you don't have love, you don't have anything! *Love* is the most important thing!

MARIA FONTAINE IS THE CO-LEADER OF THE FAMILY INTERNATIONAL, ALONG WITH HER HUSBAND PETER AMSTERDAM.

YOU ARE unique!



He loves you the way He made you,
and you're beautiful in His eyes.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

You could have made me perfect by my standards or someone else's, Jesus, but You didn't. Instead, You made me just the way You wanted me—perfect according to Your standard. To doubt that is to doubt Your love, but to realize that is to find perfect peace, security, and rest in Your love. Take me now, just as I am, into Your heart of hearts. Amen.

DO YOU KNOW WHO THE HAPPIEST PEOPLE ARE? Those who accept themselves the way God made them, who learn to be happy with what they have and are not overly concerned about what others think. Struggling to live up to what you think others expect of you puts a real weight on you, but there's freedom in humility.

If you were honest, I think you'd admit that you really admire people who have the courage to just be themselves, rather than try so hard to be something they're not in order to fit in or impress others. Of course, those who make such decisions and take such stands often face loneliness and a feeling of isolation from others around them, which is sad.

You know, when I was young I didn't like the way I looked. I thought my nose was too big and that I was too skinny and ugly. I had quite an inferiority complex about that, and it took me a long time to get over it. Part of it was my pride, and part of it was comparing. But then as I grew older, I realized it really didn't matter. I understood that the Lord made me the way He wanted me,

and that He made me that way because He loved me.

He loves you the way He made you, and you're beautiful in His eyes. We're all unique and special. In His eyes there is no ugliness, no matter what we look like.

Building self-esteem often has a lot to do with your relationship with the Lord. The closer you draw to Him and the more at peace you are with Him, the more content and at peace you'll be with yourself, the happier you'll be, and the more relaxed you'll be. When you're living close to the Lord, you're handsome or beautiful because His love and His light shine through.

I have a suggestion for you: Sit down sometime and let the Lord speak to you about yourself. Or ask someone else to pray and ask Him to tell you how He sees you, what your inner beauties are, what your inner strengths are, and what gifts and abilities He likes to bring forth in you, that He likes to see shine for others. Let Him encourage you, and you'll find that you can actually be quite happy being His unique creation. ■

questions

Sometimes I feel like I'm being overcome with worries. What can I do to stop worrying so much?

WHO DOESN'T WORRY SOMETIMES? We worry about what's going to happen in the world. We worry about failing in school or in our work. We worry that we won't be able to make ends meet financially. We worry about losing the ones we love. We worry about our future. We worry about so many things!

Most worries come down to one of two things: fretting about past failures and situations gone wrong, and fearing the future.

How can we keep such fears from affecting us? One good answer can be found in a most unexpected place—modern ocean liners. They are constructed in such a way that in case of fire or serious leakage, watertight, fireproof steel doors can be closed to seal off the damaged compartment from the others and contain the problem, so the ship can stay afloat.

So it should be in the “ship” of our lives. In order to make the most of today and best prepare for the future, we have to learn to seal ourselves off from worries about yesterday with its mistakes and failures, as well as from needless fears about tomorrow. Otherwise our worries may cause us to go under!

Jesus said, “Do not worry about tomorrow. Each day has enough

trouble of its own” (Matthew 6:34 NIV). Have you ever noticed that it's the things that never happen that seem to worry us the most? Like the writer and humorist Mark Twain said toward the end of his life, “I am an old man and have known a great many troubles, but most of them never happened.”

One businessman drew up what he called a “worry chart,” where he kept a record of his fears. He discovered that 40% of them were about things that probably would never happen, 30% concerned past decisions that he could not change, 12% had to do with other people's criticism of him, and 10% were unfounded worries about his health. He concluded that there were valid reasons for only 8% of his worries.

As Christians we don't have to fear or worry about anything, because we know that “all things work together for good to those who love the Lord” (Romans 8:28). The famous evangelist Dwight L. Moody (1837–1899) used to say, “You can travel first class or second class to Heaven. Second class is, ‘What time I am afraid, I will trust’ (Psalm 56:3), and first class is, ‘I will trust, and not be afraid’ (Isaiah 12:2). So why not buy a first-class ticket?” ■

Worry is like a rocking chair; it gives you something to do, but it never gets you anywhere.

A WALKING MIRACLE

FROM FRANÇOISE CORTICELLI

TWO YEARS AGO, NIVO, ONE OF OUR NEIGHBORS WHEN WE WERE LIVING IN MADAGASCAR, started suffering excruciating pains in her back. Local doctors prescribed heavier and heavier doses of painkillers after vaguely diagnosing “some problem” in her back. When we took her for a thorough checkup in one of the city’s best hospitals, she was finally properly diagnosed: advanced bone cancer!

The head doctor recommended that Nivo start radiotherapy treatment immediately. Even with that, he only gave her

a few months to live. But Nivo told the doctor that she believed her life was in God’s hands—that He had allowed this to happen to her and that He could heal her if He wanted to. And if she only had a short time to live, she wanted to spend it at home with her 10 children, she said.

Soon Nivo was in so much pain that she was unable to walk and had to be helped anywhere she went. In addition, the biopsy had left a large wound on her spine that soon got infected. Nivo’s condition was getting worse.

We prayed about her situation again and suggested she reeval-

uate her decision regarding radiotherapy. We also assured her we would do our best to help her, whatever her decision. She again chose to leave her life in God’s hands, but reminded Him that her children were still small and needed her, so she needed to be healed. We continued to pray desperately for her healing.

One day not long after this prayer, Nivo needed to get out of bed to go to the bathroom, and nobody was there to help her. So she prayed for strength and went ahead and got up by herself. She was so happy that she was able to get up and walk on her own that she went to her front door. One of her neighbors saw her and spread the word. Soon all the villagers surrounded her humble abode, shouting, “Thank You, Jesus! It’s a miracle!” It was quite a sight!

Little by little, Nivo regained strength and got back on her feet. She started to get around with two walking sticks, then with one, and eventually without any. The wound on her back also healed completely.

We met her doctor a few weeks later, and he was surprised to hear that she was still alive. “Is she paralyzed then?” he asked. When we told him she was up and about and caring for her children, he was speechless.

Today, two years after the pain started, Nivo takes care of



Tiny woman, giant faith! Nivo (second from right) with 9 of her 11 children and Françoise in front of Nivo’s house.

TRUE values



her children, tends her garden, washes her large family's laundry, and gets around like anybody else in the village. Sometimes we have to chide her when we see her carrying heavy loads on her head, to which she replies with a laugh, "*Ça va bien! Merci Jésus!*" ("I'm fine! Thank You Jesus!")

And that's not all! Nivo recently gave birth to a beautiful baby girl—her 11th child. The delivery was difficult because the baby was in the breach position, but otherwise it went well, despite Nivo missing some vertebrae in her lower back. When the Lord does miracles, He does them well!

FRANÇOISE CORTICELLI IS A FULL-TIME VOLUNTEER WITH THE FAMILY INTERNATIONAL IN RÉUNION, MASCARENE ISLANDS.

If you haven't yet met the Miracle Man and Great Physician, you can right now by praying a prayer like the following:

Dear Jesus, I know I've done wrong and don't deserve the blessings You want to give me, but I accept Your sacrifice on the cross as payment for my sins, and I receive Your love, forgiveness, and salvation now. Please come into my heart, give me Your gift of eternal life, help me to get to know You, and let me experience Your miracle-working power in my life. Amen.

Nothing truly valuable arises from ambition or from a mere sense of duty; it stems rather from love and devotion towards men.
—ALBERT EINSTEIN

We must understand spiritual truths and apply them to our modern life. We must draw strength from the almost forgotten virtues of simplicity, humility, contemplation, and prayer. It requires a dedication beyond science, beyond self, but the rewards are great and it is our only hope.
—CHARLES LINDBERGH

The greatest use of life is to spend it for something that outlasts it.
—WILLIAM JAMES

Happiness is not so much in having as sharing. We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.
—NORMAN MACEWAN

Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants. We know more about war than we know about peace, more about killing than we know about living. We have grasped the mystery of the atom and rejected the Sermon on the Mount.
—OMAR N. BRADLEY

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt within the heart.
—HELEN KELLER

Life becomes harder for us when we live for others, but it also becomes richer and happier.
—ALBERT SCHWEITZER

Jesus said, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses" (Luke 12:15). Living, the real thing, doesn't consist of things at all, because things cannot truly satisfy. They may temporarily satisfy the body but they can never satisfy the soul or the spirit that cries out to God its Father for the joy and happiness and the eternal fulfillment that only God can give.
—DAVID BRANDT BERG



CASHLESS SOCIETY

BY JOSEPH CANDEL

All these happenings will make people desperate for change. Eventually they will be ready to toss out the old and embrace the new.

ENDTIME INSIGHTS

NEW TECHNOLOGY FOR A CASHLESS SOCIETY IS MARCHING RIGHT IN STEP WITH OTHER MOVES TOWARD THE COMING ANTICHRIST WORLD GOVERNMENT. We often hear about the “New World Order” and the “global community”—buzzwords that are helping prepare the world for a new international financial and political system, a society controlled by networked computers containing a database of information on nearly everyone—as Revelation chapter 13 appears to have predicted nearly 2,000 years ago!

The switch to electronic commerce has been slow and gradual. People like the speed and convenience of electronic commerce, but they are also comfortable with the way things have been all their lives. For hundreds of years, the world has operated on cash—bills and coins that are tangible and give people a sense of truly possessing. In that respect, the world hasn’t changed much in thousands of years, since coins were first minted. Many people are still uneasy with the idea of a computerized card or chip linking them to their invisible wealth. Cash is still the way.

As the time draws nearer, the Antichrist must speed up the move toward a cashless economy by proving to the world that it needs his “mark of the Beast” or “666” financial system (Revelation 13:16–18). To do that, he will use crisis after crisis in the nations of the world. One will be a nearly global economic crash—the recession of all recessions. He will use this crash to overcome the inertia of the status quo. Without such radical intervention, people change their ways too slowly to suit his purposes and fit his time frame.

Other factors and developments will also make this new economic system seem necessary. Governments will embrace it as a means of cracking down on crime and cutting government spending by cutting bureaucracy. Businesses will embrace it as a means of instant payment and automated inventory and accounting, cutting their expenses and thereby increasing their profits. The masses will embrace it for its speed, convenience, security, and ease. There will be many apparent advantages.

The Antichrist will also prepare the world for it in other ways—through wars, civil disorders, and fears of such things as

terrorism and epidemics of new, incurable diseases. All these happenings will make people desperate for change. Eventually they will be ready to toss out the old and embrace the new. It's already happened in a big way in the area of technology, and is now happening with commerce.

The Antichrist will introduce a new monetary system, whereby he will profess to fix the world's economic woes. Those who want to be a part of his new economy and society will be compelled to receive the "mark of the Beast" in their hand or forehead—probably in the form of a tiny computerized chip bearing all their personal, financial, and medical information. Big Brother and the New World Order will thereby be able to monitor everyone's every move.

In fact, a few people have already taken the step of receiving computer chip implants. Chipping of people began quietly in the U.S. in May 2002, with the chipping of the Jacobs family. This otherwise normal family of four and several other volunteers had unique identifier chips—VeriChips— injected under their skin. The VeriChip, produced and marketed by Applied Digital Solutions, is about the size of the tip of a ballpoint pen and can be read by a handheld VeriChip scanner. How long will it be till this chipping of people becomes the norm and widely used to facilitate daily business such as shopping and banking?

One thing is certain: A global cashless economy and a totally monitored and controlled society are 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 already pursuing policies to eliminate cash and checks, while many other countries are testing various methods of doing business without physical currency.

The town of Swindon, England, started to go cashless in July 1995. In a joint venture, the National Westminster and Midland banks and British Telecommunications test-marketed a plastic/silicon cash substitute. This system uses Mondex cards that are similar to ATM cards, but contain sophisticated computer chips. Monetary transfers can be done by phone or by a small wireless device called a "wallet."

France moved one step closer to a cashless future with a nationwide launch in 2003 of computerized "smart cards," dubbed Moneo. The idea behind this new breed of microchip-embedded plastic card is simple—to dispense with pocket change and speed smaller transactions.

In Japan, 650,000 electronic purses known as Edy cards are in circulation and can be used at about 2,100 stores, mainly in the Tokyo area. The plan is for these cards, which store the bearer's financial information,

to eventually be used anywhere. What makes these different from credit or debit cards is that they do not need to be swiped through a card reader and the bearer's identity doesn't need to be verified by a cashier. All the bearer has to do is hold the card up to a sensor that reads the information.

A similar card system is required for all public transportation and parking in Taipei, Taiwan.

Prosperous Singapore is planning to do away with "old-fashioned money" by 2008.

"[The Antichrist's government] causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on [or *in*] their right hand or on [in] their foreheads, and 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" (Revelation 13:16–17). For the first time, the hi-tech means of fulfilling the chilling vision the apostle John received nearly 2,000 years ago is here!

Are you ready for these great and final events of the end? You can get ready now by receiving Jesus into your heart and taking time to study what the Bible has to say about Endtime events, including the coming Antichrist world dictatorship. Then you won't be caught by surprise when they happen, or duped into following the Antichrist.

JOSEPH CANDEL IS A FULL-TIME VOLUNTEER WITH THE FAMILY INTERNATIONAL IN HUNGARY.

WHEELS OF PROGRESS

There are cycles in life—times in which everything seems to go well, and times when things seem to go badly. I want you to learn to hold on to Me through each phase of the cycle.

When you are faced with a new obstacle or problem, don't let it discourage you and don't worry that you and I together won't be able to overcome it. We will, but you must pass through this low phase of the cycle in the process. Problems cause you to exercise your faith as you rise up to meet them, and that brings the next phase of the cycle: You call on Me for help, and you fight and you win and you make progress. It's like a wheel as it turns: As the top goes down, the bottom comes around to the top and the wheel carries you forward.

Each time you face a new test, you must fight once again. You take up the challenge, call on Me for help, and once again overcome and make more progress. More tests bring more victories. But if at any time you don't seek Me for the solution, if you don't take up the challenge or don't fight through to victory, you stop the cycle. You remain at the low point and there is no forward motion; you go nowhere.

So don't look at the low points in your life as defeats, but as opportunities to make forward progress. I know it's often difficult to go through these cycles, but you must in order to keep moving forward, so keep at it!