

*The following is a personal letter we began writing to Rick & Laura in Korea to fill them in on what is happening here in Texas with the Star Family. We felt it would be good for some of our close friends to read as well --so here is **Behind the Scenes with the Star Family Jan 2001***

Jan 10, 2001

Dear Rick and Laura,

You can always tell when you are getting behind or things are moving fast when you find several days or even weeks in your diary blank and you say, I wonder what happened then?? Well, this morning we got up early to take the children to school and scooted over to our favorite little morning hang-out? La Madeleine, to write this to you.

First of all we want to thank you for helping us have such a nice Christmas. Your love gift along with a few others really carried us through the New Year as from the enclosed letter you will notice Adria is no longer the Children's Pastor at her Korean Church. It was kind of a shock to her as it came so suddenly without notice, in fact, she was informed on Christmas Eve that her services would no longer be needed. Of course, Christmas Eve was the big performance for her children and even through many tears Adria made it one of her best. Those children standing straight and tall singing with all their little hearts were such a contrast to the unruly, noisy bunch she first encountered 3 1/2 years ago! It was a glorious time, but it wasn't until the next

Sunday, New Year's Eve, that she was able to inform the children she would no longer be coming to teach them! God Bless her! She was only to be temporary help and part time until a bilingual Korean Minister could be found, but you know how hard it is to find dedicated qualified children's workers! Of course she was very close to all those dear children whom she had taught and nurtured for so long...but we could see the Lord's hand in it all. In fact, a precious brother named Mr. Kim had been sitting under her ministry there for almost a year and was quite capable of handling things. He was so distraught over the fact of Adria's departure he said, "We believe in team teaching, we are a team! I think I will resign in protest, then what?? He is so precious and loves the Lord and the children so much. He is one of the few Holy Ghost filled children's

pastors we know that is bilingual and has a genuine call on his life to children's ministry. Of course we encouraged him to stay. So with gratitude and thanksgiving with (as to be expected) a twinge of remorse we bowed out gracefully and see it all as a promotion of Miss Adria. She is needed in so many areas. She will continue to help Mr. Kim from time to time with outreaches and outings, but will be freed up to help the Hide the Word in Your Heart Club even more. Praise the Lord. Romans 8:28 Continue to pray for her as she makes this transition, and for us as well as we take some cut in our monthly income. We know He is faithful and will supply! (Ph 4:13, 19)

We had come on a Thursday the week before December to sing on the beautiful red and green stage provided by the Galleria Mall, (you may remember the one in front of Macy's) and at about 10:30 AM we wondered who would be around to listen? Well,

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lo and behold, there were about 200 Elementary School Children waiting with their teachers to load 3 School buses which were late...so....we began with "Super Duper Christmas, C'mon Ring those Bells", and then the teachers sat all of the children on the carpet to listen to the 30 minute program. What a thrill to bring Christmas to such precious children. I wish you could have seen their faces! But the biggest surprise was when we tried to get them to sing Christmas Carols with us. The only one they all knew was the last one, "We Wish You A Merry Christmas." How could this be?? We thought. This is America!? Yet even Silent Night Holy Night got only a moderate reaction. Perhaps 10 out of the 150-200 children sang it with us! Oh what a mission field we have here in the government schools of America. Lord send forth laborers and we say with Isaiah, "Here am I Lord, send me." (Isa 6) Let us lift up our hands for the lives of the little ones...(Lamentations 3)

New Year, NO MORE Older Programs!?! That's the word from Channel 22 Station Manager Nathan Williams and the pressure to produce is applied! Our first New program was a Christmas Special called "Journey to Bethlehem" Two months before, we took the Bounder Motor Home to San Marcos, Texas (where Faith attends school) to visit Faith on her 19th birthday. We visited a friendly church that Sunday named Hill Country Church. We found they were planning a grand re-enactment of the town of Bethlehem with live sheep, camels, donkey and all. We felt perhaps Channel 22 would like to film such an effort. Brother Lovell Banks and Phillip White ("Flip", John O's friend) came up on Nov 30th and filmed the entire production complete with the Star Family Singers on stage in the midst of "Bethlehem." It is quite an interesting and unique program which aired Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve here in Houston. We hope to get a copy off to you soon. There was a Potter's House where we watched and learned spiritual lessons about the potter molding clay. There was an open air bakery with children baking Barley cakes from scratch, even to the grinding of the grain by hand with a stone grinder (no electricity). Then there was the Candle Shop where children learned to make candles from a string by dipping it "Fast in the Wax and slow in the Water!" The children assembled a wooden camel on wheels in the carpenter shop. We also interacted with the Wise Men and saw Joseph and Mary with Baby Jesus in the Manger. It was quite a wonderful experience. Faith joined us there as well as Nicholas and Sharon Cuoco from San Antonio. We were graciously hosted by some members of the church there in a Bed and Breakfast House called, "Forget Me Not River Inn" in Martindale some 8 miles southeast of San Marcos.

Last Friday Jan 5th we spent from 2PM - 5PM in the studio taping another Bible Alphabet program called "God's Man Gideon." We have 3 more slated for this month.

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Pray for us in this effort. The children did so well. Evie and Mary, Amy, Melody, Mercy, John, Miracle, Paul are the children participating with Mom and Dad in the show. Afterward, the Lord gave us a super deal on some of the best PIZZA you could imagine! Nothing He won't do for those who continue to put Him first! Amen

We have been asked for some footage to put on the Internet over a Christian Network called I believe, sam-tv.org. That way something from the Star Family will be airing all the time. Wouldn't it be nice if we could put children's programs over our web site 24 hours a day! It would win souls while you sleep. How about that? Could it be some of the "greater works than these shall ye do?" (Jn 14: 12) A worship group called Singspiration based here in Houston is asking to air segments of our programs over the Internet. Pray for this outreach. Now is the time to go forth with the gospel by all means possible. TV, Radio, Internet, Magazines, Tracts---Go Go Go as Arthur Blessit says. Have you seen his web site? Blessit.com (I think)

Have you looked at www.heartclub.com lately? Paul has been updating it periodically. Paul wants to live in China and teach English while working for his Master's Degree. I'm sure glad he's not in China at this moment as his services to his family and the ministry here are invaluable. As you know he does a big outreach to inner city kids each Saturday called "Fired Up" where from 25-40 kids are brought in.

Paul always has a good video to "hit em between the eyes" as well as anointed worship and preaching and games. The kids are growing and making progress. He just returned from a camping trip with about a dozen of them. They went up to the hill country around Austin and canoed etc. Someone has just sponsored about 15 of them to go to "Acquire the Fire" from Jan 29-30. So they will get "Fired Up" there.

Amy is making plans for her second mission trip in February and I'm sure Paul would like to return once again to China this summer. Meanwhile they are an unspeakable blessing here.

Paul has done several new soundtracks for our new CD. He has also done some children's tracks for the Bible Alphabet TV Series. We just recorded "God's Man Gideon" and John 12:24. He really has a gift for making music. On Saturdays he has spent time at Gary McClatchy's finishing up the songs for the CD. We are thinking of calling it "Blessed" or "Blessed of the Lord" as that is the theme song, Psalm 115. Gary says we are ready to put vocals on about 5 songs! We hope to get Faith and Gina to help us if possible. If not we have Evie, Mary, Amy, Melody, Mercy, John, Miracle, Paul, Mom and Dad (and we can double all these voices--Ha! is that enough?)

Another surprise is Maurice Sklar may put some violin on the album!

Remember him? Probably the world's greatest solo violinist--definitely the most anointed. He travels often with Benny Hinn. Years ago he exchanged tapes with us

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at a conference and before he was so well known said he would be glad to put any violin on any song projects we did. Well, he called the other day in response to our request and said the offer still stands. Please keep this album in prayer as it is the first endeavor of this kind since 1992 when we did "Cry Out and Shout." It's almost like the return of the Star Family or 10 years after! Selah! We only want to glorify Jesus, lift up His Name and Put His Word in the Hearts of His Children everywhere. Everything else to us is just a "meanwhile." (But you know meanwhile can be a long time, so you'd better learn to appreciate and thank God for even the desert times) As the saying goes, "Journey is as important as Destination ." So let's not be in such a hurry we forget to enjoy the ride!

We figured out to keep the status quo afloat here at Star Have requires about \$2,500 a month. That's just rent, utilities on the two houses, gas, vehicles, car insurance, and tuition at Christian School. If we want to buy any clothes or take the family out to eat or have dental work etc. it's about \$3000 a month.

Well, Mr. Steve being part time brings in \$1200 a month from his church while Paul brings in \$800 a month which mostly goes to his ministry and needs. So it turns out each month we are required to believe God for an extra \$1000. It's people like you that make the difference! May God Bless You and Prosper you! III John 2

Last week Amy was going over our monthly budget and no matter which way you stretched it, cut it, or altered it she could see we needed an extra \$600-\$1000 each month! As we went to pray that evening the Spirit of the Lord began to move upon her like I haven't seen in a while on any child. As Paul played Worship music on the piano she began to weep and call out to the Lord for each member of our family. They were fresh in her mind as all were just here for Christmas. My, her tears and heartcry humbled all of us as we sat and wept with her for the needs of her brothers and sisters those present and those away! I wanted to find a tape recorder to catch it as we sensed this was a rare and holy moment. It must have been too holy to record as I could not find one! But it is burned in our hearts forever. Such intercession for God's children. She laid her hand upon John and Mercy, Melody, me and Adria as well. We were so blessed to be bathed in the presence of the Lord for more than an hour.

One thing the Lord spoke through her was that "Money is nothing. It is 'itsy bitsy' with God. He has plenty and He is going to send us some even now is it on the way!" This was so encouraging as we were facing some major changes with our drop in income and were going to have to take all the children out of Christian School for a start! Somehow after that prayer we knew all would be fine. One week after the prayer Miss Adria received a gift from her former church for \$1200 (two month's salary) A local church called on us to minister for 4 nights straight and gave us a good love

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offering and guess what? The last night of the crusade the visiting evangelist prayed over us as we fellowshiped together after the meeting. His wife was moved to give a word over us, "I see prosperity and promotion coming your way soon!" Well, we really received that! And for "signs following" the evangelist handed me a large wad of bills. They were not \$1's or 5's or 10's either! God is so Wonderful and Awesome, He knows just what we need and when we need it. Luke 6:38

We were reminded that only a few days prior we had made a special trip to give a needy family a \$100 bill that we had just received for Christmas from our church. Didn't you need that \$100? Sure we did, but we not only needed \$100, we needed \$1,000! So... I couldn't do anything with \$100-- it was not enough to meet our need...so...so...sow... why not make it seed for a bigger harvest. We took it clear across town Adria and I both. Laid hands on it--prayed over it and rang the door bell at 11PM, waking up the wife to sow this seed. She knowing our need with a dozen children and was reluctant to receive it from us. However, God had spoken to us and it is useless to argue with Him. So we drove away as some may think \$100 the poorer. No, we felt rich and knew God would never forsake His own who trust in Him and as David said, "I have been young and now am old, yet have I never seen the righteous forsaken nor his seed begging bread." Ps 37:25 and Luke 6:38, "running over shall men give into your bosom."

Answered prayer is the biggest witness of His existence. We often tell children, "You can argue Theology, but you can't argue in the face of a Miracle." All the children saw "signs following" their desperate prayer for a financial miracle. I believe its not over yet, for any of us who will just step out and believe Him. Sometimes a budget--you can't Budget It, but God doesn't live on a Budget and He's always got a gold coin in some fish's mouth somewhere if we just believe and obey Him!

We forgot to mention what a blessing it was to have all the children home once again for Christmas. Ginger and Aaron drove straight through from San Diego as Aaron only had a 7 day leave from the Navy! We had such a great visit together and time of sharing our hearts. Ginger wants to go to Massage Therapy School to become a Massage Therapist. She plans to attend school this January. It is an 11 month course! Aaron is scheduled to do a "West Pack" in March. That is 6 months out to sea docking occasionally at ports in the Pacific, such as Australia, Malaysia, Hong Kong and other Asian countries.

Gina came with her kind boyfriend Armin to bring gifts for all. Our heart overflowed with gratitude as we looked at that huge Christmas Tree laden with gifts from one to another. It took almost 2 1/2 hours to open the gifts in order from the youngest to the eldest! We remember the times years before when we had no money

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for gifts. God was always faithful to send along someone or something to make it happen even if it was small. Even this year the money to buy a small gift for each child came at the last minute. We thank God for the lean times and we thank God for the green times. Like Paul said, "Abase and Abound." We came to this country 20 years ago after being gone for 10 years overseas with four children (a fifth on the way--Faith), two suitcases a piece and 500 French Francs (about \$100) and today we stand in awe of His Mighty power and provision of 12 precious children all in good health and blessed in our endeavors. We can only say "To God Be The Glory". (PS: We still have the 500 French Francs!)

Faith came home from College in San Marcos with a sturdy wooden hobby horse for our littlest blessing. Her name was painted boldly on the side of the wooden horse, Miracle Rose. We marvel how the children all love and care for one another, especially how the older children spend their last penny to bring joy to their younger siblings. For this we are most grateful. "This is my commandment that ye love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:11-13) This is a gift that cannot be bought. Thank you Jesus for the most wonderful children in the world! Each one!

The Lord blessed Regina with another car, a 1984 Audi in excellent condition. She really needed something to replace her old VW! We thank you Lord for our friend who helped us find this good deal.

Faith also has a nice car, a 1992 Jeep Cherokee, a wonderful deal from a sweet couple in the church, Mark and Juri. She had prayed for a Jeep for a long time and cried to the Lord when it seemed she wouldn't get it!...she did for which we are thankful.

Now we are believing God for a nice dependable vehicle for Evie. She turned 17 and with all the extra curricula activities such as dance lessons, outreach, visits to friends and youth group etc. the need for another driver is valid! Paul has 160,000 miles on his 1992 Toyota Camry Wagon while Adria in less than 3 years has put 87,000 on her Sienna Van. (Almost exclusively taxiing around Houston. God Bless her.)

The old Red Van 1984 is still faithfully pulling the ministry trailer while the "Red Rooster" (1989 Mazda Truck) picks up hay and feed for our mini-farm. Then there is the ol "1987 Toyota Tercel which was totaled then resurrected on which our teens all learn to use a stick shift. Besides Dad's ol'1978 Suzuki 550 Motorcycle we have a horse named "Shy Anne"and 3 goats, "Lil Turk," "Gracie"and a new baby boy goat that is not named yet, along with a dozen chickens who haven't been laying much lately (too cold?) Not to mention our ever faithful "Angel"golden retriever (that's all she ever wants to do, retrieve the ball!) Just grab the old soggy, dirty, slimy, salivaed torn tennis ball out of my mouth throw it and I'll fetch! Angel seems to think "Play Fetch" is all we have to do out here! Also 3 cats--two pure white and their black mama!? Oh yeah--we

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have a parakeet that goes off when the clock does (our battery bird clock that isn't supposed to go off from 10PM to 5AM but only goes off when we sleep! We haven't had time to remedy that yet, but I think a few more cuckoo nights and that clock's gonna disappear!

Oh we forgot to mention our two home schooled (or home "soiled") creatures--John and Miracle--Ha! What a joy to watch them interact with one another! John is so observant and Miracle no less than he! Together they don't miss a thing. The other morning Mommy came back from the 7AM school run to find Daddy snoring away with one ear open in case they needed him, while Miracle and John were entertaining themselves in the kitchen. John said, "Don't worry Mom we fed Miracle!" "How and what?" Mom asked. "Oh, I just took out the baby cereal and poured it in my hand and she licked it up!"

Another great victory is Mother Jane has been visited by her children and grandchildren and great grandchildren. I took a picture and there were 40 or so present and this is only 1/2 her family--Wow! Some she had not seen in a while, others never. "I will bring thy sons and daughter from afar." Isa 60 -- A promise to her years ago now fulfilled. Time and space would fail me here so I'll let her tell that story. (My hand is tired. 16 handwritten pages--Praise the Lord.)

Paul's birthday is January 25. He will be 28. On Jan 28 we are planning an ordination ceremony for him into the ministry at Bob Park's church, New Life Baptist Church. Pastor Hong Sit, David Sawyer and Bob Park will officiate.

Well there's some of our news and a little more! Hope you enjoy it. I got inspired when I sat down to write you. We have taped the new programs off of the TV and will send you a copy. Thanks so much for your Christmas Card it was really pretty and we loved the picture. Laura sure is talented in art. I'm sure, Laura, you will enjoy seeing Melody do the Craft Corner on the newest program!

God Bless and keep you. Will you be staying on in Korea? What are your plans? How is everyone doing? We look forward to hearing from you. We love and miss you.

Love,

Stephen & Adria