Choose Unity!

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By Maria 3642 4/07

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[Cover quote:] The brew I'm hoping to create out of My winning teams is a delicious blend of unity, one that will draw and captivate My searching sheep and lost souls!

Dearest Family,

1. The Lord asks a lot of us in our discipleship and our testimony and witness to the world, but nothing is as important to Him as love.

2. It's easy to forget that with all that is on our plates every day. Especially right now, as we're all working so hard to strengthen our Homes and prepare and train for the offensive, it's easy to forget how much value the Lord places on love, acts of love, sacrifices for love, and time spent loving.

3. But you know, in the end it is love that is going to win the lost. Jesus told His disciples, "By this shall all men know that you are My disciples, if you have love one to another" (Jn.13:35). Dad always said that it's love that the whole world is searching for.

4. It was love that compelled our Savior to come and live on Earth with us and ultimately give His life for us, taking our punishment so that He could forgive us and redeem us forever.

5. We're here in the Family because of love--because of our love for Jesus and because we want to help Him love as many as possible into Heaven. We live communally as a sign of our love, to support one another, to stand in unity together, to be stronger than we would be on our own.

6. Of all the things that we hope our children will be and become, I imagine most of you would say that you pray they will grow up to be loving, people who know how to give and receive love, and who are willing to make sacrifices out of love.

7. Love is at the heart of everything we do, everything we believe, everything we stand for.

Unity is one of the manifestations of love; it's one of the ways we show our love, prove our love, and fight for love. But unity can be elusive. It requires humility. It requires hard work. It requires sacrifice. And unity is an area where we really need to grow stronger as a Family.

8. If I had to pinpoint one of the biggest sources of sadness or discouragement that people write me about, and one which could in almost every case be avoided, I think it would be hurt or loss that stems from a lack of unity. Lack of unity can cause loneliness, hurt feelings, unfruitful Homes, frustration, lack of the Lord's blessings, feelings of isolation or struggling alone, physical needs not being met (such as a single mom or large family that doesn't have sufficient help or support in caring for their children), lack of camaraderie and godly support and fellowship, personal discouragement, or even depression--and those are just the first things that come to mind!

9. Recently when I was praying about one such sad situation that someone had written me about, the Lord laid it on my heart to receive some further counsel from Him about unity. He said He wanted to encourage and remind us how very important unity is, and what a vital piece of the puzzle it is as we all work so hard on our preparations for success. He impressed upon me clearly that **building unity is one of the very most important ways that we can be preparing spiritually for the coming offensive**.

10. I know you are all busy and working hard. I don't want to add to your workload, and the Lord doesn't want you to feel condemned or discouraged about this--one more problem that needs your attention. But we really do need to feel motivated to improve in this area, because unity is essential. Without unity, we might as well pack up and go home before we even launch the offensive. We might as well save ourselves the trouble and all the hard work if we're not going to be united. Because without a sample of love, and without strong unity, the offensive will not be successful. We will not have the Lord's full blessing. We will not be able to sustain the added pressures of an increased flock and responsibilities. We will not be worthy of teaching others about the Lord and His love if we're not a living sample of it in our Homes. We will not have the individual or collective strength that we will need. I'm sure you can think of many other reasons as well--and it might be helpful for you to stop and think about that for a minute.

11. The good news is, building unity is something you can do simultaneously with everything else you're doing. It doesn't require more money or personnel. It doesn't require big trips or fundraising pushes or moving Homes.

12. But, even though it's not costly in money or resources, it's very costly in terms of your pride and the sacrifices it requires. That's why unity is so elusive. That's why it's so difficult to achieve. That's why it's so **rare** to find strong, beautiful, all-inclusive unity.

Right versus wrong, or unity?

13. I think another reason that we as a Family are not stronger in unity is because we put such an emphasis on conviction, dedication, spiritual growth, upholding the standard, and following the Lord and the Word, that it's easy for some of us to overemphasize the importance of being "right" and forget how much importance the Lord places on unity and love.

14. Being "right" is often what stands between individuals when there is a lack of unity. Both parties think they are in the right, and neither wants to compromise their position. Or one party is convinced that they're right and they're trying hard to raise the standard in a certain area, and the other party is put off by their approach and stands their ground more firmly than ever. Often at the bottom of disunity is not only pride, but also the worry that by conceding on some points--which you have to do if you want to have unity--you're going to compromise, and that's going to be bad too. Or points come up in the Home that you feel very differently about--such as the discipline standard with the children, or the food that's served at meals, or the distribution of responsibility in the Home--and you feel so strongly about those points, feeling that they are not being handled right, or not according to the Word, or unfairly, or whatever, that it becomes an issue between you and others who feel differently. The points become more important in your mind than unity.

15. Most of the time, with the help of the Lord's Spirit and a lot of love and humility, if you're willing to do the hard work of communicating, you can find common ground. You can work through the issues and reach an agreement that works for everyone. But at least initially, if you would ask the Lord about it, you'd find that He would probably put love and unity **above** the need to have the issue handled in the way you think is best. Even if you **are** right, is that more important than love? When you can't see clearly that love is the most important thing, that means that there is some self-righteousness clouding your vision.

16. It all comes back to the question of love or the law. It's such a sensitive issue. That's why the Pharisees were in such an uproar over what Jesus did--He broke so many of their rules as He went about loving and healing people (Mat.12:1-14). That's why Cain killed Abel, because Abel exposed Cain's self-righteousness, even though Cain was doing everything "by the book" (Gen.4:1-8). Look at Jesus' beautiful interaction with the Samaritan woman, or Mary Magdalene, or the other harlots and publicans and sinners (John 4:1-30; 8:3-11; Mat.9:10-13; Luke 7:36-50). Love was certainly the most important thing to Jesus in those interactions--not correcting them for their sins or exposing their lacks or criticizing their past. And by His love, their lives **were** changed.

17. I think it is a topic worth meditating on--how very important unity is to the Lord, how much He values love above the law. In thinking about this and communing with our Husband on this topic, you might come to the conclusion that your priorities have really been off.

18. (Mama:) In emphasizing unity and love as more important than the law, I am not condoning contravening the Charter or the absolutes of the Word. But that is rarely the issue. If someone is in a Family Home, they're probably in agreement with the standard of the Word. Usually the issue is in the implementation, or in how to reach a certain standard. There are many ways to go about improving a situation or reaching a goal, and that's usually where the rub comes. So please do not take this as license to contravene the Charter, because you will find that the Charter rules stand, as do the consequences for breaking those rules.

19. It's the spirit of your obedience that you should look at, and how you reach the goals that the Lord has laid out. You can often stand to have more humility in your implementation, or more understanding for others in your presentation, or more flexibility in your application. That's where personal sacrifice comes in, and realizing that love is far more important than being "right" all the time.

20. In everything we do, it's the spirit that is most important. Love and unity are a part of the Lord's nature. They are inseparable from Him. A lack of love and unity denotes a lack of the Lord's Spirit--and His Spirit is what's **truly** right.

21. I think that if you would make unity your priority and factor that in to all the decisions you make, you would find that you don't actually have to compromise your principles all that often. More often than not, your pride can be what takes the hit, or your way of doing things. Because if you're truly humble and desperate with the Lord, if you're not pushing in your own strength and if you're putting the needs of the body, the need for unity, above any other personal agenda, the Lord will be pouring out His blessings and moving things in the spirit. He will be giving you ideas and solutions that work for everyone. So many of the issues that have been so troublesome will eventually get sorted out in a way that everyone is happy with. But that is never going to happen while everyone is "standing their ground" and wondering why the other parties involved are being so "out of it."

22. When I was praying about this, the Lord gave an interesting little touchstone. Of course, I expect you to take this and balance it with the preponderance of the Word that the Lord has given on this topic. But I thought you would find this little jewel helpful.

23. (Jesus:) You should be working toward full obedience to the Word, and you can try to raise the standard in areas in which you feel it's lacking. But if your attempts to do so are causing disunity, you can pretty much know for certain that you're either pushing too hard, or you're going about it the wrong way, or maybe you need to back off entirely and put more prayer into the equation first, praying

for Me to prepare the way and show you how to approach the situation. Because no matter how right you are or how wrong the situation is, disunity is never My will. So if something you're doing is causing disunity, well, two wrongs (in this case the wrong you're trying to correct, plus the wrong of disunity) do not make a right, and you need to slow down, reevaluate your methods and motives, and see if I don't have a better plan.

Forgiveness: An essential element of being a true Christian

24. (Mama:) I recently read an article about a tragedy that happened in a small U.S. farming town which is primarily Amish. A man, who was not Amish, took ten Amish school girls hostage, and killed five of them before taking his own life. The article focused on forgiveness, which is a very strong tenet of the Amish faith. The reporter was detailing the way the Amish reacted to the tragedy; the way they reached out in their grief to the shooter's wife and children and family and set up a fund for donations for them; the way they refused to become bitter or talk negatively about the situation. The way the Amish community dealt with this tragedy was apparently a tremendous witness to many, and obviously supernatural, a form of Christian love that the world doesn't see very often. The Amish base their duty of forgiveness on the Lord's prayer, saying, "If we don't forgive, we cannot be forgiven."

25. The article also chronicled another incident that had happened around the same time as the shooting, where a young Amish boy was hit by a car and killed by a driver who had fallen asleep at the wheel. The young boy's family insisted on inviting the driver of the vehicle over to their house so that they could forgive her personally. The woman was so touched that she then attended the viewing and the funeral for the little boy. She was still charged with a crime by the police, but the Amish family refused to press charges or testify in court against her. They only wanted to forgive her and make sure she knew that they were not bitter against her. I'm sure her life was changed forever.

26. The article talked about how just because the Amish believe so strongly in forgiveness, that doesn't mean it's easy. They struggle with it too, just like anyone would. They experienced tremendous grief through the tragedies that their little village went through, but they made the decision to forgive. It's all very powerful, and a beautiful testimony. (See the article in the first set of Letter links accompanying this GN. See also "The Amish 9/11" in *END* 83.)

27. This article got me thinking, because, Lord help us, I don't think forgiveness is that strong in our Family. It really should be! If we were more quick to forgive, more willing to forgive--not just the little annoyances, like someone being too loud when you're trying to sleep, or taking your special drink from the fridge; but the bigger things too, like gossip or financial issues--I think we would have a lot less division and disunity in the Family. And we would probably be a lot more blessed, as well as a lot happier. Forgiveness is an aspect of unity that I'd like you to spend some time thinking about and meditating on, and see how you can grow personally in that area.

28. Our Husband understands that unity will cost you personally, but as you read His encouragement in this Letter, I think it will give you the faith and motivation you need to commit yourself personally to having a change in this area. If each of you commit personally, your Home will have a radical change. If we all commit personally, the Family will change.

29. The Lord has given a lot of practical counsel about unity already, identifying the roadblocks and giving us instruction in how to get over and around them, what steps to take, etc. Along with this GN there are two sets of Letter links containing some of the most outstanding counsel the Lord has given about unity over the years, including the importance of forgiveness, and you can take some time to reread it and study it.

30. In this Letter we're not going to get into the warnings and ugly side of a lack of unity--what we stand to lose if we don't strive for unity. I do encourage you to read that counsel, and it all holds true just as much today as it did the day the Lord gave it. But in this Letter I am going to share with you some encouragement from the Lord, a reminder of how He sees unity: as something so precious, so beautiful, so powerful, so important.

31. Read these messages from our Husband and be encouraged, dear loves, that unity is possible for you and your Home, and what is more, it's the Lord's will for you. It's reachable, attainable, practical, and wonderful enough that it's worth fighting for to achieve it.

Unity can be the Midas touch!

32. (Jesus:) I know that it's difficult to fight for real unity of heart, mind, and spirit. Sometimes it's hard enough to even **live** together in the same place. Even that physical proximity to one another and the logistics of communal living can be very taxing and contrary to the natural selfish inclinations of your hearts. But then to go over and above and not just be there in body, but to actually be there in spirit, yoked together with your brethren in the same mind and in the same spirit, well, that takes a lot of guts, humility, courage, love, sacrifice, and a very special connection to the spirit.

33. When you make that change and can enter the zone of true unity and oneness, the difference is amazing! You're so much happier, so much stronger, so much more motivated. Unity can often be its own reward. When you put in the hard work to make it happen, then when it finally does, you can see and feel the difference so clearly and it makes you so happy. It also makes **Me** happy and paves the way for so many heavenly blessings, including greater success in everything that you put your hand to.

34. When it comes to things that you are working toward as a Home--your outreach, your finances, success in the criteria, the training of your children and young people--unity could almost be called the "Midas touch," where everything that it lays its hand on will turn to gold. That's how it is in the spirit world. It's the missing ingredient, the magic potion that completes any endeavor and places the finishing touch of success on any effort.

The Midas touch, or the gift of profiting from whatever one undertakes, is named for a legendary king of Phrygia. In a tale from Greek mythology, Midas was granted the power to transmute whatever he touched into gold.

35. When you put aside your pride and your own will and ways in order to strive for unity as a group, then you've accessed the all-important key that will unlock all the doors of success that you're working so hard to enter. It takes away so much of the difficulty and you almost fly past your goals. It's just a magical rule of the spirit that I can bless those who are united in heart and purpose so much more than those who are fragmented and only looking after their own things. In unity is strength and in unity is blessing.

36. But something so costly won't ever come easily. And I know very well how tough it can be, and how many times you might think about how you want the idea of unity, the concept of all speaking the same thing, yet in reality there can be so much friction and so many people who do things contrary to the way you think they ought to do them, or act in ways that you feel make it impossible for you to fully bond with them and enter into a loving, workable partnership with them.

37. It takes so much sacrifice to lay down your own point of view, or to lay down your personal plans and to try to get into the other person's frame of mind and see things the way they see them and to meet them halfway--or even more than halfway. It's especially tough if you feel that the person is wrong and that their viewpoint is the totally wrong way to go about things. But if everyone stuck only to their viewpoints and their personal feelings, then you'd never be able to meet in that middle ground of unity where there is give and take and true humility.

38. Oh, those steps to meet the other person halfway can be so painful sometimes! I know this, My loves. I understand the blows your pride can take. I understand the resistance of your natural man. I understand how you feel when you think it should be the other person doing the sacrificing or the changing, and you wonder why you have to be the one to change everything and give up everything. I understand the difficulty of apologizing when you've been wrong, or taking the humble seat and letting

someone else take the lead. I know these things aren't easy, which is why I make the reward so worth it in the end.

39. The most valuable treasures are always the most highly guarded, and so it is with the blessings of unity. This touch of gold that can bring success beyond your dreams is guarded behind a thick, thorny forest that only those who are humble and yielded and lowly can pass through. Those who try to walk with their heads held high, forcing their way through with their guard up and their armor on, will never make it. They'll never get past the thorns, and the pricks and the cuts will force them to give up and turn back. They'll never reach the blessing.

40. Only those who are willing to stoop low, to flatten themselves in surrender to My will and the will of others, will succeed. There is such resistance to this in the heart of man. You think, "I don't want to stoop low or humble myself that way! I'll get stepped on by others." But the key to making it through this forest and reaching this treasure is that everyone must stoop down together. No one can step on anyone else if all are equally on the ground, doing their best to crawl past the prickly obstacles to reach the hidden treasure.

41. If everyone were to say, "I'll wait for him to lie down first, just to make sure he doesn't step on me," then where would you be? Would the goal ever be reached? No. The first steps have to be taken, and what love and humility and sacrifice it takes! My highest admiration goes to those who are willing to be the first to lay themselves down--to strip off their armor and their defenses and to be as lowly as possible so that they can avoid the thorny pitfalls that have turned so many back from this prize of unity.

42. You must stoop under the brambles of pride, and you must remove your hard shell of armor and self-confidence so that you don't get snagged by the thorns of self-righteousness. You must avoid the pitfalls of gossip and lack of love, and you have to extend hands of friendship and support to pull one another through.

43. When I see a group of people--a Home, a family, a steering council, or others--clawing their way through this prickly forest to reach the prize of unity, I admire them so much, and I give them the grace that they need to keep crawling and keep forging ahead. And I make sure that when they reach the end, the goal is worth every bit of the sacrifice. Every time they had to forsake their pride and throw themselves in the mud will be worth it. Every time they helped someone else rather than helping themselves will be worth it.

44. They'll receive the Midas touch of unity, and whatever they put their hands to will turn to the gold of key-powered success--as long as they stay united. They will reach their objectives so much quicker and their victories will be so much more outstanding. They will be strong and impenetrable to the inside attacks of Satan, and there will be no way for him to drive his wedges between them. Their shields will be strong and locked into place, the arrows of the Devil's attacks bouncing harmlessly off them, for no chink will be found.

45. It's worth it, My loves. Having good, strong unity will be worth the effort that you have to exert to achieve it. It will noticeably improve your lives and you will be happier and more successful. I guarantee it. You won't have to wonder if it's making a difference in your lives; you'll know it. You'll feel it every single day and you'll be glad you made the necessary sacrifices.

46. Every time you held your tongue when you wanted to burst out in anger against something that rubbed you the wrong way, you'll be glad you did. Every time you spoke up and said what I put in your heart, even though it was so hard and you really didn't want to say it, you'll be glad you did. Every time you yielded to others and encouraged them in the ideas I gave them, rather than pushing your own program, you'll be glad you did. Every time you spoke the truth in love rather than getting huffy and self-righteous and storming out, you'll be glad you did. Every time you put effort into a new idea, even if it's not the way you personally wanted to go and you're not even convinced about it, you'll be glad you did. Every time you took the extra step to be loving, forgiving, humble, patient, understanding, welcoming,

friendly, accepting, giving, even when you might have felt just the opposite, but you prayed for My love and did it anyway, you'll be so glad you did.

47. You'll be glad for every sacrifice and struggle, because in the end you will have the blessing of living around those whom you can trust and who trust you. You'll be surrounded by unconditional love and understanding. You'll have the privilege of knowing that those you work with are your true mates in spirit, willing to fight for you, die for you, sacrifice for you, and do whatever is necessary to help you be happy and successful in your work for Me. And you'll know that you'd do the same for them. Success can't help but thrive in such an environment of trust and camaraderie.

48. Unity may not solve every problem you face, but it sure will make every problem seem a lot less hard to deal with. Even the battles and struggles that are yours personally to fight will be that much lighter and easier to bear when you can call on the backup and help, even if just in prayer, of your support team with whom you have sacrificed to develop an honest and loving relationship.

49. Unity can be a tough fight, no doubt about it. But after you put in that work you get something really useful, really wonderful, and really genuine. This isn't one of those blessings that you have to take by faith and can only see the results of once you get to Heaven or in the days to come. Unity is one of those things that will pay off big time here and now, and you will clearly be able to see a massive difference. It will be a **good** difference, and you'll wonder how you ever got along without it.

50. Unity is the way of Heaven, and as such it runs contrary to the ways of Earth. So anyone that can pull it off on this Earth, given all your selfish desires and inclinations, is very admired in the heavenly realm, very blessed, and it's a big deal.

51. Unity is a big deal to Me. It's something that is very important to Me, close to My heart. It is something that I was very burdened about with My first disciples, and I prayed desperately that they would have that unity of heart and they would be united with one another as I was united with My Father (John 17:11-23).

52. And it's the same for you. I love it when you strive for unity, because I know how important it is. I see that it's a tough fight, I know that it's a battle, and that makes Me admire you all the more for being willing to fight for it. I love to pour out My strength and My supernatural love that can help you push past your earthly limits and access the wonderful love and unity of Heaven. I love doing anything that will help you reach this goal because I know that it will be worth it.

53. Be encouraged if you're fighting for unity. It's worth the humbling and the scrapes and the pricks and everything that's painful and that makes you want to give up and run out on it all. Keep fighting! I see your struggle, I am noting your sacrifices, and I'm giving you full credit. Your efforts are not unseen and not unappreciated. The things you do that nobody else knows about, the things you say or don't say, the efforts that are hidden are not hidden to **Me**. I see each one and I will bless you for them.

54. It's worth the struggle, so keep at it. Just a little further now and soon unity will be yours and the fight won't be as fierce, and you'll be able to enjoy the fruits of the struggle. Keep at it! Keep fighting the fight. Victory is just around the corner. Don't give up!

You have what it takes!

55. (Jesus:) Unity is divine. Unity is one of the most beautiful things in the entire universe. Unity makes Me smile like nothing else can. Unity is balance, order, peace, perfection.

56. Unity is one of the defining characteristics of the spirit of David and the children of David. Unity is a spiritual gift that you have access to, My Endtime witnesses. Unity causes you to shine as lights in the world, because it is so rare, so special, so outstanding, so striking. Unity is one of the key drawing elements that causes those in the world who are seeking Me and My Spirit to find it in you, My

Family. It is vital to your operations, to your happiness, and to your fruitfulness. And, so, of course it is perfectly natural and to be expected that the Enemy will fight it.

57. (Jesus:) As I told My first disciples about their love being what all men would know them by, unity is one of your defining characteristics, My precious children of David. Unity is your sample, your testimony, the proof of the pudding that My words can be lived and that they work in this day and age.

58. The ability to live in unity is a gift that I have given you, and you have the means and power within you as individuals, as Homes, and as a Family, to live in unity. The Enemy cannot take that gift and power away from you. However, what he can do, and often does, is try to lie to you and deceive you and make you think that you can lose that power or have already lost it. He tries to conjure up a variety of obstacles, impediments, reasons, and excuses, to cause you to believe that unity is either too much trouble or downright "impossible." Yes, that's one of his favorite words and a tactic that is sadly so easily believed. The best he can do is lie and deceive. He has no power to take what is rightfully yours. Remember that, and let that spur you on to fight for unity, knowing that all that you need to build strong unity is yours--it is My divine gift to the children of David, yours to have. It is your right and privilege to live in unity and harmony with your fellow children of David.

59. You have to do your part to cause unity to flourish and grow. It is like a seed that is planted, which must be watered and tended. I have given you the gift of unity in the form of the seed, but the flourishing of the plant doesn't just "happen." You have to do your part and you have to work at tending it, but it is your destiny, and it is within your power, and you have the means. It takes some effort to keep unity maintained, or to restore and rebuild it if it has fallen into disrepair--which again would be through your neglect because you have heeded the lies and hopelessness of the Evil One--but it is more than worth the effort.

60. The power of unity is strong, including both the power and fruitfulness that it gives you as a Home or body, and the drawing power that it has to bring others to Me. Unity is a source of light and power that will become stronger and stronger as the world grows colder and colder.

61. I said in the Scriptures that one of the signs of the End would be the love of many growing cold (Mat.24:12); and so it is happening, and so it will be that your light of love and unity will shine brighter and brighter. It will become more and more of a draw, a "homing beacon" for My searching and seeking lost sheep. They will be drawn to it as moths to a flame--but this flame will not consume them, but warm them and care for them, and draw them into a happy and loving fellowship with loving and caring brothers and sisters with whom they can share their hearts, their lives, their dreams, their love.

62. Every effort that you expend in fighting for unity will be rewarded, and then some. When you have to "give in" on an issue for the sake of unity and it takes everything in you to do so, the result and fruit of the unity that is gained from that decision and sacrifice is significant enough that it could be what enables you and your co-worker or team to have the unity that it will take to survive in a life-or-death situation in the future. When there's someone who you naturally just don't like and can hardly abide and you have to desperately call on the keys frequently or daily to see them through My eyes and with My love, the resultant unity of spirit between you and that very person may be the key that later wins a disciple to Me.

63. Your choices have consequences, and communal living gives you many choices to make daily--choices to do it your way or someone else's way; choices to put yourself first or put someone else first; choices to go out of your way for someone else or ignore their need; choices to communicate and make things right or to be at odds with someone.

64. Every choice toward unity brings great spiritual power and growth into your life, and into your Home's overall spirit and its "unity force field," so to speak. The more often each individual is making choices to give, to sacrifice, to share, to care, to love, the more that force field is strengthened. And so, the more it shines and glows, and the greater is your strength, individually but especially collectively.

65. Unity is like a divine anointing, which transforms your Home into a beacon of light and love and truth, becoming in itself a witness and testimony of My power in dark times. Your unity will draw more and yet more to Me and to you, those who will be your brothers and sisters and who will dwell and work with you, within your happy circle of love and light and peace and harmony.

66. (Mama:) A few reasons for a lack of unity:

• **Pride**, plain and simple. Pride in not wanting to yield to others. Pride in not being able to confess your mistakes. Pride in sensitivity. Pride that resists unity and closeness to others. Pride that keeps you from doing the humble and loving things that build unity. Pride that seals you off from the Lord's Spirit. Pride that makes you think you're right. Pride manifested in not being open to shepherding.

• **Not trusting the Lord enough and His ability to lead others.** Feeling that things have to go your way or they're not going to be right. Sometimes we're not able to trust the Lord enough because we haven't been faithful to commit things to Him in prayer, so we're still feeling the full responsibility. Whereas if we'd give our concerns to the Lord in prayer, we'd know He was going to work it out, and we'd have a much better perspective.

• **Lack of communication.** Lack of willingness to work through the hard, thorny parts of communication that always come when you're fighting for unity.

• **Selfishness**. Having unrealistic expectations of how much others should be giving to you, or holding back from others because you feel they don't "deserve" your giving.

• **Lack of love.** Unity requires a lot of love to give and maintain. It requires a lot of the Lord's love--ours is simply not sufficient. Getting more love from the Lord, and being willing to give it freely and unconditionally, like He does with us, is vital to building unity. Without that kind of love, unity will never flourish. It will be strained, forced, fragile. With a whole lot of the Lord's love, unity can grow strong and resilient and withstand any storm. I want that kind of love and unity. Do you?

As an individual, where can you start?

67. (Mama:) To have true unity, it takes everyone. So you might wonder what you can do as an individual. Because really, if you wait for everyone, you'll never make progress toward unity. As the Lord said in one of the preceding messages, if you're waiting for "the other person" to lie down first, it will never happen. Someone has to be the one to start, and it might as well be you!

68. Here's some encouragement from the Lord about what you can do, as only one person, to build unity, even if no one else is doing anything.

69. (Jesus:) How can just one person build unity in the Home? Can one person actually make a difference and initiate change, or is it only possible to achieve unity if everyone starts to build unity all at once? If an individual can make a difference, then what steps should you take to do your part?

70. Well, building unity is a lot like planting a garden. You can't get to the end result without taking a lot of small steps in between. In a garden you need to plow the ground, plant the seeds, water and weed and take care of the plants if you want any fruit to be borne. You can't actually make the plants grow. That's up to Me and the forces of nature that I have put in place. But as you do your part, you set in motion the chain reaction of growth that enables the plants to grow and bear fruit.

71. The very fact that I use the term "building unity" indicates that it's something that you work toward. You've got to start taking the steps toward unity yourself, and that's like the plowing, planting, watering, caring, etc. Then, as you do your part, the spiritual chain reaction of unity building is set in motion, and as hearts are changed by your actions and My love, unity is built and spreads and grows.

72. One person can make a difference. Look back through the ages and you will note countless times where individuals made a huge difference by their actions. They changed their part of the world, but it happened one heart and life at a time.

73. The story of William Wilberforce is one example of one individual working to change the views of a whole nation through determination and persistence. The farmer in the story of "Change the World" is another example of one person changing the world--in this case the natural world. Many of the great missionaries of the past, both more recent ones like Adoniram Judson, Hudson Taylor, C.T. Studd, David Livingstone, as well as from millennia past, such as the apostle Paul, Saint Patrick, and Martin Luther, changed countless thousands of lives and hearts in their quest to win the world for Me. And they did this largely on their own, until they built up enough momentum that these changes, which had started small, grew exponentially as others took up the torch and carried on their ministries.

William Wilberforce (1759-1833), was a British politician and philanthropist who was prominent in the struggle to abolish the slave trade and then to abolish slavery itself in British overseas possessions.

The slave trade in the late 1700s involved thousands of Africans, hundreds of ships, and millions of pounds; upon it depended the economies of Britain and much of Europe. Few were aware of the horrors of the so-called "Middle Passage" across the Atlantic, where an estimated one out of four Africans died.

Wilberforce was aware, and he was deeply disturbed. In an October 1787 diary entry, he noted the need for "some reformer of the nation's morals, who should raise his voice in the high places of the land." He then summed up what became one of his life's missions: "God Almighty has set before me ... the suppression of the slave trade."

Later he reflected, "So enormous, so dreadful did the trade's wickedness appear that my own mind was completely made up for abolition. Let the consequences be what they would."

And consequences there would be--mostly in the form of a steady, unrelenting opposition to his goals.

In May 1788, Wilberforce introduced a motion to Parliament indicting the trade. But the motion was defeated. Planters, businessmen, ship owners, and even the Crown opposed the movement. Abolitionists were viewed as dangerous radicals.

Yet Wilberforce refused to give up, introducing another anti-slave trade bill in 1791, which was also defeated.

Another defeat followed in 1792. Another in 1793. Others still in 1797, 1798, and 1799. And in 1804 and 1805.

But gradually the public came to support the abolitionists' efforts, and in 1806 Parliament abolished the slave trade throughout the British Empire. Wilberforce wept in joy.

Not one to rest on his laurels, he next set his mind to the larger issue, the freeing of all slaves. This too required remarkable persistence. But in the summer of 1833, Parliament finally passed the Emancipation Act. Three days later, Wilberforce died.

74. If these and thousands of other great men and women of the past could make such a difference and change countless hearts and lives, don't you think you as one person can change your own habits and reactions, and eventually start a chain reaction of positive change in your Home as well? The answer is that you definitely **can**. You can start today, and if you have the determination, the patience, the love and the persistence to keep at it, you will achieve success.

75. So what steps do you take in order to do your part? One thing you can start with is

reviewing the Word on the topic, for I have given lots of specifics that will give you ideas and a vision for what you can do personally. In addition, here are a few more things you can do to generate greater unity in your home.

76. • Start with yourself. You have to make your heart right before you can change any other hearts. You have to be taking active steps in your personal life to overcome the things that cause disunity--such as pride, sensitivity, selfishness, lack of love, etc. You don't have to be perfect in these areas before you go on to the next steps, but you certainly do have to be fighting and attempting to minimize their effects in your life.

77. • Study My Word to see what I'm like, and try to be like Me. What am I like? I am love (1John 4:8). Pray for My love. Put yourself in others' shoes and do your best to see them as I see them. When you are faced with a choice of how to handle something, choose the path of love, humility and prayer, which solve all problems. Be willing to make any sacrifice in order to be loving in your interaction with others.

78. • Reach out to others in your Home and genuinely try to get along with them. Make it a goal to build friendships with those you live with. Get to know those in your Home in a deeper way.

79. Let Me tell you a little secret that not that many people have figured out, but those who have and who have mastered this have achieved great success in their lives. That secret is that you can get along with anyone if you try hard enough.

80. You can overcome any differences and learn to see someone as I see them if you are willing to keep asking for My love and My perspective, and work at changing your mindset. It can be done. It does take work, and the results may take a while to achieve, but nothing is impossible through the power of the keys of the Kingdom which you hold in your hands.

81. • Be an open book with others in your Home. Be honest with others and let them see your heart. Don't just do this with your friends or with those you already know well and trust, but show trust in others by being open with them. Let them see the real you, your desires and hopes and dreams and the inside of your heart. Honesty and openness engender love and unity and create strong bonds, so be more honest and open with those you live with. That's not always easy to do, and you have to be prayerful and spirit-led, but it's a step of humility that you can take that will build unity in your Home.

82. • Be a part of the solution rather than the problem. Life is all about the choices you make. Throughout the day you are often faced with numerous choices that have an effect on the unity within your Home. Choose the path to unity every time. It's not always easy to do, because it's usually also the path of sacrifice or unselfishness or humility, and the natural inclination is to make the choices that benefit you rather than the unity of the body. But what benefits the unity of the body is what benefits **you** the most, because of the happiness that you are rewarded with when you are living in a Home that has strong unity. Determine that you are going to do whatever is necessary to make unity your priority in your choices, and you'll see so many blessings as a result.

83. These are just some of the things that you can do. Ask Me more about what you can do in your present situation to build unity in your Home. Read the Word on the topic and ask Me how to apply it. If you do, and you obey the counsel that I give you, you will see results. And if everyone has the personal conviction to do their part regardless of what others are or aren't doing, the changes can happen very quickly.

84. Let's start a chain reaction of unity, shall we? Let's get the ball rolling and start making it happen today! If you can see the need and the problem, don't wait for someone else to fix it; get in there and do your part. And you'll be very happy that you did, because the results will come back to you and will give you tremendous personal happiness.

85. I love you. Thank you for doing your part to change your world!

86. (Jesus:) I know that it's easy to feel like giving up in your efforts toward unity if you don't see immediate results or if you feel alone in the fight. But every effort toward unity is rewarded. Every step you take to do the humble thing, to restore love, to encourage brotherhood will come back to you one hundredfold. All you can do is obey, take the steps, do what you know is right, the loving thing, the humble things, but as you do, I will do the miracle of causing those steps and choices of obedience to bring forth fruit. I will do the miracle of pouring My anointing upon you.

87. Not one step is wasted, My loves. Fight for your unity, and I promise you, you will gain more than you ever thought you would. Unity is just that beneficial. It's a combination code to the storehouses of Heaven. And when activated--when unity is activated in your Homes--the code is set and the doors fling open, ready to pour out upon you blessings of every kind.

88. Why wait any longer when these untold blessings await you? Activate this code through your obedience and watch as I abundantly bless and provide for you. I love you, My beautiful, beautiful brides. I await your obedience. I stand eagerly at Heaven's doors, waiting to see the combination codes click in as you fight for unity. And no one will rejoice more than Me to see the blessings and goodness that will pour out upon you in return!

The blend of life

89. (Jesus:) It's sad that many people think that unity means there are no problems, no difficulties, no conflicts, and no disagreements; that unity is perfect harmony without any hardships, the pearl created without the gritty grains.

90. That's why it's so easy for some of you to give up on your unity, because when problems arise or personalities clash or disagreements come up, you lose hope in yourself and in those around you, and you lose hope in the vision of unity for your Home.

91. But the unity of your Home is not some heavenly aura that will descend on you without a fight. It's a lot more like a delicious brew of coffee that takes roasting, grinding, "passing through the waters," and melding together as one before there are results!

92. Look at your unity as something that you not only have to work toward and build daily, but also as something that grows and blossoms even through the difficulties and the tough times. Of course, you have to allow the difficulties to strengthen your love and your bond of brotherhood. You can do that by keeping an open heart toward what I want to show you through that difficulty, by having the humility to ask for forgiveness when you are wrong or to forgive when you've been wronged. As you do your part to turn difficulties into stepping stones toward unity, I will do My part to bless your efforts, to strengthen your unity, and enhance your bonds of brotherhood.

93. When you know that you are in the location that I have called you to, and when you know that you are involved in the ministry that I have asked you to do, and when you know that your Home is the place I want you in, then it's so important for you to do whatever it takes to fight for the "blend of unity."

94. That's the brew I'm hoping to create out of each of My winning teams--a delicious, invigorating blend of unity and brotherhood, one that will draw and captivate My searching sheep and lost souls, one that will pour into their spirits the strengthening, life-changing waters of My words, one that will draw many to Me and get them addicted to Me and My love.

95. But too many of you give up just before the brewing process begins. Each individual is like an individual bean of coffee. The beans of coffee are no good in themselves; they don't nourish or feed anyone. They have to be roasted in the purifying fires of testing and trial. They have to be

ground--and ground together. They have to be put through hot waters, waters of strengthening and purging. Then they have to be strained and wrung dry of themselves, so that only My Spirit is seen through them and poured out from them.

96. All that heating, grinding, boiling and straining is what goes into the process of making that strong, invigorating brew. Without those steps in the process, there is no great blend. If you just put each individual bean in the percolator and run water through it--the water of daily living and the trials of daily life--I can assure you that there'd hardly be color in your brew, much less flavor and life.

97. And that, My loves, is why it is so important to do whatever it takes to strengthen your unity--to be willing to go through the purifying, strengthening process of building your winning team--because the result will be a strong blend of unity, one that I can use to win many to Me.

98. I can't use the individual beans that much, those that refuse to be ground and blended together--those who refuse to fight for their unity. I might be able to make a weak brew from those teams and Homes, but that won't be the drink that My lost sheep thirst after and search for. It won't be the blend that will draw many to Me and get lost souls addicted to My words. You just won't be nearly as useful to Me and to My Kingdom, and I won't be able to advertise or offer your brew very much.

99. But blessed are those who agree to the blending and the grinding, the boiling and the straining, for theirs is the blend of life!--The blend of unity, the blend of brotherhood, the blend of love, the blend that will draw many to righteousness!

100. I tell you now, My loves, you cannot enter the winning offensive without this brew!--Or not at least without this brew **in the making**.

101. This blend of unity is essential to the fruit and progress of the winning offensive. And if you haven't made the effort to go through the grinding, and haven't diligently fought for your unity by refusing to give up just because the going got rough, then you won't have the brew of unity as a result, and thus you won't be able to call in the many lost and searching souls and disciples that I have ordained for you to find. That's the sad news.

102. But the good news is that it's never too late to begin working on your unity, or to continue strengthening it if you've already got a good thing in the making. If you decide to hang on and fight it out--love it out--until the blessing of unity and brotherhood is given to you, if you make that effort, believing that it's never too late for love, then I promise you that the blessing of unity is yours to have!

103. To those who this day determine that they desperately want this blend of unity, and they are willing to fight for it--not only individually, although that is a good start, but also together as a Home and as a winning team, and even as an area--then I promise something very special to you! I promise to enhance your every effort, giving your unified beans the unique flavor of Heaven, and spiking your unity blend with an extra zest and pizzazz of My Spirit--something that will make your drink of brotherhood and unity even sweeter to the taste and more strengthening to the spirit. That, My loves, is the special reward that I will add to all of you who desperately determine that you will fight for unity at whatever the personal cost so that you will be ready for My witnessing offensive. I promise to enhance your efforts many, many fold, and I promise that the end result will be increased happiness, sweeter fellowship, stronger unity and camaraderie, better understanding, deeper friendships, and guess what else?--More disciples!

104. Is that worth it or what? Unity is not just something good to have, but it's pivotal to My Family of today and My Family of the future. It's pivotal to the future offensive. Unity is like the hook on the fishing pole, and without that hook you will have no bait and no means by which to catch any fish. It's just that important.

105. The unity of your Home and winning team will directly affect the part you play in the offensive and the days to come. A unified Home and team I will mightily bless. I will pour out the answers you seek. I will supply your needs. And best of all, I will bring the sheep to your doors and to your folds. It might not happen instantaneously, but it will happen. Your unity will make this possible.

Steps toward unity that you can take today

• Giving unselfishly and without measure.

• Forgiving unconditionally.

• Making things right even if you weren't wrong.

• Loving more than your share.

• Loving even when the other person is acting unlovable.

• Loving through mistakes, sins, faults and hurts.

• Asking the Lord for more love when yours runs out.

• Never giving up.

• Extending your hand of friendship.

• Inviting others to get to know your heart.

• Sharing what little you have, even if others seem to have more.

• Caring more about others' needs than your own needs.

• Praying for others as if they were your child or your husband or wife or best friend.

• Making room for others in your life.

• Appreciating others for their gifts and strengths.

• Telling them so.

• Being a support to others in their times of weakness.

• Looking past someone's words and seeing their beautiful heart.

• Finding something good in everyone you meet.

• Determining that you're going to get along with your mates and co-workers, no matter what it takes.

• Stopping yourself from saying anything bad about anyone.

• Giving others the benefit of the doubt.

• Imagining that others have your best interests at heart.

• Believing that they do even when it seems otherwise.

• Communicating, especially when it's hard.

• Letting go of the past, even if it's not all settled or fair.

Our Intercessor prays for us

106. (Jesus:) Glorious Father, I thank You for Your love that I constantly feel and that constantly surrounds Me, binding My heart together with Yours. My closeness to You is My very life and is the source of all My happiness and My strength and My power. Through the oneness of Our hearts We are made perfect in love and perfect in power.

107. I ask You for this same love to be in the heart of each one of My brides. I ask that You will extend this special bond that We are so privileged to share, and that You will equally unite the hearts of every member of My Endtime Family.

108. I have called and chosen them all. I have selected them and taken them out of the world. I have taught them and trained them. I have showed Myself to them and given them My words. Father, I have loved them with My everlasting love.

109. But it is needful not just that they love Us but that they also love one another. Help them to see in one another an extension of the love they each share with Me and be drawn to one another, knit in heart and spirit, united and one, just as We are.

110. Make them of one mind and one love. Remove the differences and the obstacles so that love can flow freely through all of their hearts, tying them all together in an endless and eternal chain of love.

111. Release the Spirit of Love, Who is part of Us, to fly and to flow and to anoint each one's spirit with a double measure of love for their fellow mates. Send Her to them as You have promised. Empower Her with Your love.

112. I know that You are the source of all love and that it is your endless, boundless love that has made this universe, has made the world, and for which I came into the world. Your love is the beginning and the end of all that there is, and there is no limit to Your love. Therefore dip again into Your boundless reservoir and pour a fresh measure of love onto My brides that they may learn to love one another as You have loved them, and as I have loved them.

113. Help them to chase the Wild Wind of Love and to be willing to put forth the effort to pursue true unity with one another. Break down the pride of life and the obstacles to love. Break down bitterness and resentment and let the Wild Wind clear away the hurts of the past.

114. Empower all of us here in this realm to give them extra assistance and to help them be willing to go beyond their human means. I know that We can't make up their minds for them. I know that We are limited, but I plead with You to release power that will help them to make the right choices and to make them desire what is good.

115. There is nothing more pleasant and assuring than to be united in love. My closeness to You and My oneness with Your heart is what gives Me My very being, and without which I would not exist. I want this same connection for each one of My brides on Earth, that they may feel a part of something greater, that they become one body and become aware of their need for one another and their dependence on one another.

116. Though the Enemy tries relentlessly to bring schism and to divide My brides and set them at enmity against one another, Your power is greater still.

117. For each spirit of dissent and division that he sends against them, send two more of love. For every word of hate and strife that he whispers in their ears, let Us send three words of love. Let Us overwhelm the battlefield this day and overrun it with an outpouring of love. Release Heaven's power and allow Us to do this.

118. They still must make the choices of love, the choices to yield, the choices to humble their pride. But when they do, I want Our love to overwhelm their hearts, My Father, so that they feel Our love and blessings pouring over them and it rewards them more than they could have dreamed possible.

119. There is so much more that the Family could accomplish through true love and unity. They have come far, but there is further still to go. You who can see all know what days are ahead and how greatly their hearts are in need of a true, sacrificial spirit of brotherhood, a willingness from each one to lay down their lives for the others.

120. Let Us bring this unity to their hearts and bind them together with Ours. Let Me unite the single threads that run from each one's heart to Mine into an unbreakable cord. Then instead of loving Me only, they can love one another with that same deep and passionate love, and together we will all be united and we will be strong.

121. I thank You, Father, for the love You have given Me, and for the love of My brides. There is no joy like this love on Earth or in Heaven, and when we are all united at last and Your great plan is complete, then all of our joy will be full.

122. But until that time, allow our connections to be stronger than ever. Though We are separate from these We love so dearly, let their connections to Me and their connections to one another hold fast and become ever more powerful. In the name of Your power which holds the universe together, also hold our hearts together, and bind each one to Me, and to You, and to one another. Make us one in Thy eternal name, and the glory will forever be Yours. Amen.

People are unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered. Love them anyway.

If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish ulterior motives. Do good anyway.

If you are successful, you will win false friends and true enemies. Succeed anyway.

Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable. Be honest and frank anyway.

The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.

The biggest people with the biggest ideas can be shot down by the smallest people with the smallest minds. Think big anyway.

People favor underdogs but follow only top dogs. Fight for some underdogs anyway.

What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight. Build anyway.

Doing the right thing anyway, in spite of opposition or your own feelings, is the making of great men and women; it's the path to success.

(Credited to Mother Teresa; quoted by Mama in Feast 2006.)

ADDITIONAL COUNSEL FROM THE LORD AND PROMISES TO HANG ON TO

Moving Homes to find the perfect team is not the answer

123. (Jesus:) The answer to most problems is open, honest communication, and outgoing, loving concern for each others' needs. Each member of your Home must have a way to express their needs. Some will always be more intense in expressing these than others, but how will you meet their less than perfect delivery of what is on their heart? Will you meet it with harshness, lack of communication, anger, sensitivity, defensiveness, or labeling? Or will you meet it with honesty, humility, acceptance, and heavenly understanding, looking beyond their words into their heart and wanting to meet their need?

124. I want you, My loves, to realize that the tactic of running to a new Home as a solution for problems is not the answer. It has been used by many and has hindered your spiritual growth. It often makes the problems worse, because when you run away from a problem, you don't usually realize your part in it, and thus you don't grow and learn and progress, and neither do the other parties involved. This must change if you are going to be able to handle the influx of disciples in the offensive.

125. Any time a Home parts ways in a state of disunity, it is truly a defeat for the Family. My goal is to build bonds of unity within each Home, and then, as there is movement and some move on to other places, to build more bonds there, continually bringing more and more unity, and more ties of love. But sadly, too many in the Family have fallen prey to the same trap as the churches--a trap of squabbling, being divided over petty matters, gossiping or cutting down others, and splitting when they cannot agree, rather than turning with courage to the avenue of deep, open, honest, and loving communication to heal the wounds and resolve the issues and find common ground.

126. Each time a Family Home splinters because of disunity, division, hard feelings and bad blood between its members, it is weakening the Family and hindering Me from pouring out My blessings. If you have allowed your selfishness or your pride to hurt your relationship with your brothers and sisters, your mates and co-workers, if you have allowed petty things to keep you from finding unity and maintaining it at all costs, then the bottom line is that you are helping Satan in his attempts to destroy My Endtime army. It's time to reverse that trend, and through communication, love, unselfishness, and humility, defeat Satan's schemes to divide and conquer.

127. There are a few extreme cases where someone is so far gone because of the choices they have made against Me that they cannot be allowed to continue in a Home. But by far most cases of division and disunity that I see in your Homes could be reversed and even turned to strong unity if you made a wholehearted, humbling effort to truly live My Law of Love: to love each other as much as you love yourself.

Two ways to achieve unity

128. (Jesus:) The best and easiest way to achieve unity is to commit to truly going the extra mile, reaching out in love to one another, seeing each other with the eyes of mercy, compassion, and loving care that you want others to look on you with--and putting that love into action to build unity.

129. The other way this can be achieved is by My bringing circumstances into your lives and Homes that will drive you together--just as sheep, at the sight of wolves attacking other sheep at the edge of the flock, will close ranks for protection, or huddle close together as the lightning and thunder shakes the earth around them. This is not My favorite way to bring unity, nor My highest will, but if you, My fighters, will not put all your heart into finding unity, out of love for Me and others, then I will drive you into each other's arms through outside means. Your unity is essential to your making it through the times ahead, and without it you won't survive.

The past doesn't matter

130. (Jesus:) I don't count the past as grounds for disunity in the present. I don't even count the offenses of yesterday as an excuse to allow disunity today.

131. Each of you, regardless of age, who have had years of experience in living communally, are very accountable when you yield to your pride and allow the mistakes of others--or even what might have been intentional hurts--to stop you from unconditionally working for the unity of My Spirit with all in your Home.

Loving with My love

132. (Jesus:) What I am asking of you is a freewill choice to fight for full unity in spirit, based on My Law of Love.

133. Love is a moment by moment, freewill gift that you give to one another, whether you feel it is deserved or not. It has nothing to do with personality, looks, or any other physical attribute or personality trait. It is loving **Me** in one another, completely, unconditionally. It is literally fulfilling My commandment to walk as I walked (1John 2:6).

134. While I was on Earth, was My concern only for those who fit the image of what I liked? Was My love based on whether or not someone treated Me the way I liked to be treated, or whether they said things in attractive terms or in bold, brash and even harsh ways? Did My love hinge on whether I liked their personality or not?

135. I gave all of My heart and love to the unlovely as freely as to the lovely--to a poor, filthy, blind beggar, or to a hated tax collector, or to a leper, or to a ruler of the synagogue like Jairus, or to a Roman centurion. I had as much love and patience for the brash Peter or the older Matthew or the sometimes arrogant Sons of Thunder, as I called them, as I did for the innocent John.

136. Loving with My love means learning to see in the spirit. It goes beyond the flesh and your natural likes and dislikes. You know the spiritual principle that the more you **give** out of love for Me, the richer you become. And it's another spiritual principle that the more you **love** someone unconditionally, in spite of the flesh and personalities or any other factor that bothers you or that you wish you could change in yourself or another, the more that person will change and become beautiful.

137. Trying to force needed changes by focusing on the negative, or running from problems by putting others out of your Home, or running off to a new Home yourself because you feel that unity is impossible or too hard to attain, is like hoarding your spiritual money. You'll never become rich in spirit that way. The more you hoard your spiritual riches, the poorer you will become.

138. But as you step out by faith to love unselfishly, as you give what little you have, you'll find that I multiply it--not just in your life, but in other lives too. You will find yourself becoming richer, having more to give. That is a principle of the spirit.

139. As you put your all into seeing each other as I see you, My love and Spirit can help to refine each of you. The more you love and give without partiality--even when you are giving to those who your natural mind would say are least deserving--the more your giving brings change in their lives that could never have happened in any other way.

140. Living My Law of Love takes time and faith, but it does work, and it will bring results.

141. Only in living My Law of Love to the full, day by day, can you become the invincible miracle workers of these Last Days. Your power isn't going to be based on your talents and skills. It's not going to be built on your personality or personal charisma. It's not going to be built on **you** at all. The defining force that will enable you to become so powerful, so unique, so beyond Satan's ability to hinder, much less stop you, is My Spirit dwelling in you. And what is My Spirit? It is love.

142. Can you take this step with Me? Will you take this challenge to do all you can to give Me your heart **that** fully?

143. Fighting for unity is not a new concept, so you know from experience that it's going to be rough going at times. Carving a path through the jungles of personal feelings and fleshly and carnal faults isn't easy. But maybe you haven't tasted the full rewards yet because you haven't gone quite far enough. I guarantee you that once you taste the results of this beautiful, heavenly unity, you'll agree with Me that it was worth every sacrifice.

144. If you could see each other's lives and hearts as I see them, your own heart would break at the sacrifices each person has made in love for Me. As you take the step to reach out to each other and serve one another in love, you will become a strength to one another.

Cultivate an atmosphere of faith

145. (Mama:) In one of the messages for Peter's birthday this year, the Lord gave the following beautiful description of the fruits of faith and love and understanding, and it goes along so well with this message on unity and how worthwhile it is to fight for it. Each one of us contributes to the "atmosphere" of our Home. We can all play a part in cultivating this atmosphere of faith and bringing out the best in others.

146. (Jesus, speaking to Peter:) Thank you for cultivating an atmosphere of faith that has been an encouragement to others, an atmosphere where individual differences are appreciated, mistakes are tolerated, humanness is understood, communication is open, and preferences are flexible. Thank you for encouraging an atmosphere of tolerance and understanding, where the frailties of the individual are overlooked while seeing the potential and the possibilities and coaxing those out. That's faith, real faith, great faith, patient faith. That's the kind of faith and atmosphere that is found in a nurturing family.

From some of the great generals of the past, on our preparations for the offensive

147. (**Hua Mulan:) When you go into battle, it's important to have a strong bond and friendship and camaraderie with those that you are fighting beside,** those who watch your back and those who you will be laying down your life for and who will be laying down their life for you. You must know those beside you, and to know them you must have taken time to bond with them, to work out any differences, to break down any walls so that you have honest communication.

148. When soldiers find out that they need the others next to them to make it, when they realize that the stronger the one next to them is, the stronger they are; when they realize that the progress of the one next to them affects their own success; when they realize that it's not to each his own, but that their success lies in the success of everyone as a whole, then they are willing to help their fellows in their weak areas, and truly understand what it means to put the needs of the team above their own needs. That is when they can truly begin to fight as one, move as one, and are a strong team.

149. Right now you in the Family need to find this strong bond of connection with your fellow soldiers. The one who stands next to you in the battle is your responsibility. To care for the one next to you, to know the one next to you, is your responsibility. You must realize that it's not to each his own, but that it's to each other that you must turn to make things work, in order to become a success and to be able to survive in battle.

150. You've heard many times that a chain is only as strong as its weakest link, and that means that the strong links can't think that it's not their problem if another isn't performing as well, or a team member is weaker in an area. What is one person's weak point will be the whole team's weak point. In anything done as a team, each team member must realize that it's not in how well they perform on their own, or how they personally reach their requirements, or how well they feel they are doing, for when it comes to the team, it's the weakest point that the team will function at.

151. So you must learn to know those next to you, to cry with each other, to see the needs

of others, to be honest with yourself and your teammates, to seek help, to be open to others trying to help you. You cannot function as many individuals, but as one, each one bending to meet the needs of others, each one filling in so that others might do the jobs that are needed, or get the extra training that they need for a specific job that will benefit the whole, each one sacrificing for the greater good.

152. A twig on its own can be snapped, but many twigs bound together, though small and fragile on their own, become unbreakable. There is never a soldier who wins the war on his own. So must you realize that your Home's survival depends on your unity, togetherness, camaraderie, and the willingness of each member to lay down their life for their brothers and sisters in arms.

153. I know that you all know this, but it is not put into practice enough. Many of you are still in the mode of not fully committing to your team, and many of you have a backup plan, something to fall back on if your current Home doesn't pan out. Or you have the mentality of caring for just yourself or your family, but not really thinking of yourself as a part of a greater whole. Those who stand next to you are your brothers and sisters, your mothers and fathers, your sons and daughters, your husbands and wives.

154. In battle, together we win, alone we die. Challenging assaults must be met by a unified force, not by random, scattered attacks. Each Family member is needed, and each one must look upon the other as a vital player, as the person who covers **your** back, as someone you couldn't do without.

155. In order to achieve this kind of togetherness, it has to be worked on. You have to go through things together. You have to think as a team, function as a team, and fight as a team.

156. When someone is a team player, and that is their mode of operating, they will always be united with those around them, even if they end up moving from one team to another. When each Family member becomes a team player, then when changes happen, they will retain that attitude of togetherness and they will easily be able to meld with a new team. Those who cannot adapt to this team lifestyle will get picked off. It's always the hotshot or loner who ends up not making it, because he decided to go it alone, and no matter how strong he is, he's still just one twig that is easily snapped.

157. So all Family members must become team players.

* A team player thinks of his teammates whenever he makes a move, and he makes decisions according to what is better for the team, not just himself.

* He makes sacrifices that enable the team to move forward.

* He helps others in their weak areas; he also receives help in his weak areas and does his part to change them.

* He gives help and he also receives help.

* He trains with those next to him, because he knows that when he fights he needs to be able to fight as one with his team.

* He takes time to fellowship, to laugh, to cry, and to enjoy those things that those on his team enjoy, so that he might understand and know the hearts of his team members. Thus when he fights he will be fighting for the one next to him.

* He keeps his eye on the goals of the team and is not distracted by personal goals or personal objectives. He focuses on the goals that the team has.

* He knows that on his own he is nothing, but that as a part of a team he becomes unstoppable. He knows that he needs others and relies on others, and cannot do it alone.

* He gives his best to those around him and does not keep his best for himself or for his own.

* He does not hold things against those on his team or allow dissension, bitterness, envy, strife, or criticism to corrupt the strength they have as one.

* He realizes that what is one person's struggle is his; what is one person's unfinished work is also his.

* He's willing to do the jobs that are needed and willingly volunteers, and jumps in to help another when he sees that someone might have too much.

* He's sensitive to the needs of others, takes it as his responsibility to cheer someone up, to help them with their wounds and to support them in their pushes.

* Most of all, he is led by the voice of the Lord; he's receiving his instructions from on high and he's focused on the goal, and is committed to doing the hard work of reaching it.

158. The Family team that bonds together will stay together. The squadron that fights together will win together.

159. Together is the key, and in having one mind and one heart is strength found. You must join together and move forward together and fight together. In this lies an unbeatable force and an unstoppable strength, and not only that, but those who are a tight team are the happiest and they have the best time. They are always looking out for each other, and so each one feels loved, needed, important, and cared for. The many problems of today will vanish as each person becomes a part of the whole.

160. The Family must reach for this, must fight for this, and individuals must let go of their own "identity" or "style" of doing things, and become a part of the team. They must hold back nothing, thinking of others and putting others and the work above themselves. This will make the Family strong, tight and unbreakable.

161. This is what I have experienced in my years fighting, and this is a known recipe for success for any fighting force. Make yourselves of one heart and one mind, become a team, and victory is assured.

Hua Mulan was a legendary Chinese general made famous in the West by the 1998 Disney movie. Chinese traditions disagree on when Mulan lived; varying accounts put her exploits sometime between 467-618 AD.

Mulan was the middle child in her family. She had an older sister and a younger brother. Her father was a reserve officer. Popular tradition holds that Mulan was trained in the art of war since an early age and was an accomplished martial artist even before joining the army. This was highly likely considering it was a common practice for ancient and medieval Chinese military families to train their daughters in the arts of war.

Hua Mulan distinguished herself in battle and was promoted up the ranks. Eventually she became a general known for her brilliant military strategies. Throughout her 12-year military career, no one ever found out that Hua Mulan was a woman.

According to tradition, when the war was over, the emperor asked General Hua what reward "he" would like. General Hua said he had no use for high official positions and only asked for a speedy horse to take "him" home to his parents.

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162. (Ishton:) You have been placed in a war to fight a foe that is greater than you. You may be in a Home with people that you do not connect well with, but the fact of the matter is that these are your brothers in the fight. You must all work together and fight together if you are to win. With time, as you work together you will find that those same people you had a hard time getting along with will become the ones that you would gladly lay down your life for.

163. This is the bond that must be developed at all costs! It is not simply enough to be "okay" with a person or to not have a problem with them. You must be willing to die for them. The Enemy will try to attack your unity more than almost any other area, for your unity is not only what will draw down power from Heaven, but it will also be what will draw others unto you.

164. Just as many in the world have been turned off to Christianity due to the lack of love they have seen, so too have some been turned off or not drawn to you because they did not see the proof of what you were preaching. This can no longer be the case.

165. Become a tightknit team, those who work together and fight together to defeat the Enemy. Let not one say that he is mightier or a more powerful warrior than another, but rather in humility lift another up. Support those who are weak or fearful, helping them to have courage to fight on, through leaning on the only one who can make it through you: Jesus! You can make it and you **will** each make it as you pull the load together, fight the battles together, and let the Enemy know that you will not be separated! Together you stand!

Ishton. Although Ishton doesn't show up in the history books, he was apparently a relative of a famous general of the past, and thus learned a lot about the art of war. He helps us from time to time with advice and counsel from beyond.

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166. (Nzingha:) I want to explain to you the importance of your unity and love for each other. To be the strong winning teams you need to be, you must stick together like a marriage--through the good and bad, through thick and thin, no matter what. Each and every one of you must know that the person standing next to you will give his or her life for you. You must be fighting for the same goals, the same purpose. All good soldiers know that they are nothing without strong fellow fighters. The Enemy also knows that you are weakest when alone or divided. Satan will pick off the ones who are left behind, the ones who aren't in the huddle.

Nzingha. Brilliant military strategist, charismatic leader, and a true warrior queen, all of these terms aptly describe the remarkable character of Queen Nzingha of Angola (1583-1663).

Nzingha's rise to power occurred during the early 17th century in the kingdom of Ndongo, which is now Angola, in southwest Africa. She lived during a period when the Atlantic slave trade was steadily growing, a time marked by the increased intensity of slave trading by the Portuguese in her region.

Nzingha went to war with the Portuguese, defeating them in many battles. A brave general, she was known to personally lead her troops into battle.

One of Nzingha's greatest acts as queen occurred in 1624 when she declared all territory over which she had control to be Free Country. All slaves reaching it from any region were forever free. This was to have a monumental impact, as thousands of slaves deserted Portuguese-held areas to head for Nzingha's land.

She valiantly fought and held off Portuguese control of Angola for over thirty years. The eventual conquest of Angola followed her death, as none of her successors possessed her indomitable spirit. But to this day, her memory lives on among the oral traditions of the Angolan people who have not forgotten their Great Warrior Queen, Nzingha of Angola.

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167. (Pope Joan:) A great hindrance to unity, love, trust, and good communication is the "me first" attitude of selfishness. Another great hindrance is a lack of forgiveness, or the justification that if someone has wronged you or been selfish toward you, you are justified in being that way with them too.

168. This selfishness and the backlash from it is a great hindrance to progress. The spirit of selfishness has crept into the Family, and with it a backlash of a lack of trust and continued unloving behavior on the part of those who have been hurt by selfishness, who have now turned to selfishness as well to protect themselves. Selfishness could be one of the biggest hindrances to the offensive not working if it is not remedied.

169. To counteract this trend, all that is needed is for some brave and courageous disciples to pray down Jesus' selfless love, and start sharing, giving to their own hurt, and doing the right thing and having a loving attitude in spite of what others may be doing. But instead of being hurt by their giving, He will see to it that they are rewarded abundantly. Instead of falling into the vicious cycle that it's okay to be selfish with others if they have been selfish with you, think about what is good for the overall work, and start a new trend of seeing who can give the most, and make the most room for Jesus to pour out His blessings.

Pope Joan was a legendary female pontiff who reigned, under the title of John VIII, for slightly more than 25 months, from 855 to 858.

From Ellya on unity

170. (Ellya:) As the dark days ahead arrive, Jesus' power through unity and the keys combined will make what seems impossible now to become almost a part of daily life to you.

171. There will come a time when you will not flinch or hesitate. You will know that if you ask, He will call fire down from Heaven, raise the dead, heal the sick, move mountains, or anything else that is needed to enable you to reach a lost soul or protect His little ones. The word "impossible" will lose its meaning for you in those days. The more unified and one in spirit you become, the more the unlimited power of the keys will become a reality before your eyes and the eyes of the world.

172. It's going to take some work, some sacrifice and some time to grow into it, but if you want it more than anything else, even more than being right or justified, even more than your own ways and will, then it's there and it's yours for the taking.

P&P question

173. Please ask the Lord:

How can I become more of a promoter of unity?

What things do I do, or think, or say, that break down unity?

Is there anything from the past that is holding me back from having full unity today?

Are there any "wrongs" that I am still hurt by because I haven't yet forgiven and moved on?

How can I make others feel more loved and accepted and understood and appreciated?

What should I start with now, today?

174. (Jesus:) I am interested in your continual growth. It is very unlikely that I will ever put you with a team that is "perfect," where everyone just naturally "clicks" as far as their personalities and ways of operating. I much prefer you to be in a place where you can grow and stretch, learning to wield the weapon of brotherhood--thus growing and maturing in spirit, till that "imperfect" team becomes bonded together in the white-hot fire of My love, and all experience that joy of being one with each other and Me.

Letter Links

The need for love and unity / The blessings of unity

* News article on the Amish: "A New Start"
* "Love Is the Most Important Thing," ML #1793:2-4, 10-11, 14-16, 21, 25-27, 33, Vol.15
* "Libby's Homegoing," ML #2936:6-9,12-24, DB 12
* "A New Day of Love," ML #3011:6-12, 51-54, 148-154, 158-159, Vol.22
* "Keynote to the 1998 Birthday Feast," ML #3158:32, 37-38, 62, 64, 65, 78-81, 84-85, Lifelines 24
* "Do the Humble Thing," ML #3251:6-15, 109-113, GN 853
* "Show Appreciation," ML #3254:106-114, GN 859
* "The Endtime Series, Part 4," ML #3305:23, 25-30, GN 931
* "The Family's Future and Expansion Program," ML #3308:80-86, 88, GN 908
* "More on the Keys: What the Future Holds, Part 3," ML #3354:85-103, GN 947
* "The Dangers of Division," ML #3362:69-71, 81, 158-159, 190-198, GN 958
* "Show Me the Money!--Part 3," ML #3462:367-368, 373, 386-394, GN 1049
* "Shooting Straight, Part 5," ML #3503:103-108, GN 1091
* "The Art of War, Part 1," ML #3532:134-148, 156, GN 1123
* "Training Winning Teams, Part 2," ML #3552:14-23, GN 1145
* "Training Winning Teams, Part 3," ML #3553:2-5, 29, 31-34, 130-138, 221-224, GN 1151
* "The Art of War, Part 6," ML #3590:82, 86-89, 95-98, GN 1173
* "Training for the Winning Offensive," ML #3630:85-86, 88-94, GN 1200

The fruit of disunity / warnings

* Various verses and quotes
* "Alice and the Magic Garden," ML #290, DB 5
* "Problems and Solutions, Part 4," ML #3072:9, 16, 19-21, 23-25, Vol.23
* "Goals for 1998," ML #3160:124-125, 134-135, 139, 141, 144, 147, Vol.24
* "The Day of Renewal," ML #3164:96-101, Vol.24
* "Do the Humble Thing," ML #3251:62-70, GN 853
* "Self-righteousness--The Great Barrier to Uniting the Generations," ML #3293:117-123, GN 897
* "The Dangers of Division," ML #3362:39, 24-30, 32, 34-37, 136-137, 139, 141, 182, GN 958
* "Keep Fighting!--Conviction versus Compromise, Part 6," ML #3366:55-56, GN 969
* "How to Be On Guard Against the Selvegion," ML #3403:4-10, 27-29, 37-44, Post-it GN #5
* "Training Winning Teams, Part 2," ML #3552:7-10, 49-59, 61-63, 87, 89-93, GN 1145
* "Training Winning Teams, Part 3," ML #3553:114-121, 124-128, GN 1151

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