

# They Shall Come from the East

## An International Family Night

Service July 2003  
Captain Virginia Bermeo  
Eastern Territory

### Decorations and Refreshments

Decorate with flags from every nation and items associated with the countries that will be presented during the program. Your refreshments should be typical of what would be served in those countries.



### Program

Assign three groups to prepare material featuring a different country, their customs, family life, music, native dress and foods. Allow five to ten minutes for each group's presentation. Ideally, there will be three women with an international heritage who could be helpful in putting together the material. Set up tables to display arts, crafts, instruments and food indicative of each country.

### Program Outline

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Song # 829, "Tell Them In The East  
And In The West"\*

*Presentation of the First Country*

Song # 824, "Whosoever Will  
May Come"\*

*Presentation of the Second Country*

Song # 170, "They Shall Come  
From The East"\*

*Presentation of the Third Country*

### Devotional—Time with My Family

Time of Prayer and Thanksgiving

Closing Chorus "I'm so Glad

I'm A Part of The Family of God"

Benediction

\* Salvation Army Song Book

### Service Project

Fill baskets with herbs, spices and other products that typically represent the countries that you are featuring in your program. Auction off the baskets with the proceeds going to World Services.

### Spending Time with My Family

"The Lord says, 'At that time I will be God to all Israel's family groups, and they will be My people.'" (Jer. 31:1). I like this version of this verse, which is taken from the Youth Bible, New Century Version, because it speaks about the unity of the family. I have found that some of the best times of my life are those hours that I spend with loved ones. One of the songs from "The Sound of Music" talks about "my favorite things." My favorite thing is spending time with my family. Whether we're at the beach, watching a video or just playing a game, there's something about that closeness that is comforting and makes me feel safe and secure. With your family, you can be yourself. They love and accept you as you are.

God is our heavenly Father and one of His favorite things is spending time with His family you and me. God says, "I will be God to all Israel's family groups." You might say "my family isn't from Israel; I'm not Jewish, how can I be part of God's family?" Galatians 3:26 29 tells us, "You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." All those who accept Jesus Christ as their Savior have the right to become His children. God is an all inclusive God. He is the God of Israel, the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the God of you and me. He included all of us in His divine family. He has adopted us because He loves us and wants to spend time with us. Do we take the time to be with Him?

I remember when I was little I always wanted to be with my mom. As I grew older, started going to school and making friends, I wanted to be with my friends more than my mom. One day when I was eighteen, she became very ill. She was rushed to the hospital with a ruptured ulcer and had a stroke on the operating table. The doctors weren't sure she would live, and at that moment I wished that I had spent more time with her. I prayed to the Lord and He heard my cry. My mom lived for another ten years and I took advantage of every moment that I could to spend time with her. I realized that school and work were important, but not more important than time with my family.

If we have accepted Christ as our Savior, we are part of God's family. But do we take the time to be with Him? He wants to be our Father. "I will be a Father to you, and you will be My sons and daughters", says the Lord Almighty" (2 Cor. 6:18). If God is our Father, then He should be the one we tell our joys and our troubles to, and the one that we look to for guidance. He should be the head of our family. We need to take the time to seek, talk and to listen to Him. Our communion with God comes through the reading of His Word, through prayer and meditation. It is through this communion that He speaks and guides us.

In this hectic world, don't forget what's important: our families our natural family and our spiritual family. Take the time to tell them how much you love and care for them. Demonstrate that love with your actions. In order for the family to be united, Jesus Christ must be in the center. It is through Christ that we are given the privilege of becoming part of God's family. Remember also to spend time with your heavenly Father every day.

Close with a prayer of thanksgiving to God for the opportunity He has given each of us. Pray for our natural and spiritual families.