

# GET 3

**GOD!** We believe in  
his love and his plan  
for us!!





# THE WILL OF GOD

Here are some Gen slogans that Chiara gave to us so that we can remember to always live in God's will and not our own.

Because God is our Father, it's not hard to abandon ourselves to His will even when we aren't sure where it will lead us.

God is like the sun. The rays of the sun are His will for each one of us. We have to go to Him walking along our own ray, without ever straying from it. If we leave it, we are in darkness. If we remain in it, we already walk in the sun.

A Gen equally loves joy or suffering, health or sickness, because what really matters to a Gen is to do the will of God.

What can we do about the past? Leave it to the mercy of God. And the future? Wait until it becomes the present, and then live it to the fullest.

When should we start? Now! St. Catherine said, "Don't wait for time, because time won't wait for you!"

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If you want it, Lord, then I want it, too. *(This is what Chiara Luce often repeated during her illness.)*

There is only one thing that is beautiful, lovable, attractive, useful and luminous: whatever God wants from you in the present moment.

Lord, help us to love you more every day, because there may only be a few days left for us to love. Help us to love you in every present moment with all our heart, mind and soul, by doing your will.

If we say "Yes" in the little things, we will get used to doing the will of God also in big and difficult things.

*Chiara*





On September 29<sup>th</sup>, at the celebration of Chiara Luce's life, prepared by the Gen and presented in the Paul VI Hall in the Vatican, Emmaus was asked about Chiara Luce. Below is her response.



## God did great things in her!

Anyone who asked Chiara where Chiara Luce's secret lay, she would tell them:

***"In having given her life for a great ideal, the biggest one: GOD! In having believed in his love."***

With this faith, Chiara Luce launched herself into a **divine adventure**, totally abandoned, moment by moment, to the will of God; and this is something that we can live too.

God also has a plan for each one of us, **his** plan, which is fulfilled like a **wonderful journey** that begins from eternity, from the design that God has on each of us, and is realized by going through the mysteries of life and death, suffering and joy, to then conclude in eternity, in God whom we finally reach forever.

One day along *her* journey, Chiara Luce met Chiara and this encounter changed her whole life. Chiara gave her the charism and proposed that she live it fully, without cutting any corners, including the total choice of Jesus forsaken. This allowed God to make of her that wonderful masterpiece that the Church is giving back to us today as a model, as a travelling companion, a witness and guarantee that it *is* possible to reach the **threshold of holiness**, as she did. (...)

3  
Gen 3

We have lived strong moments, very strong ones, and we have lived them together. Now we are leaving enriched and desirous of great things for our life. We have seen that **everything can change**: our relationships, our way of living joy and suffering, even when it comes unexpectedly and tragically.

We know that we can no longer be satisfied with little things, that we cannot give in to the world, that **a revolution is possible**, a revolution that can be expressed in one word: love, because God is Love and wants to see a world invaded by love. We know that we can bring this about. We know it because we have seen it.

Let's take off on this fascinating journey, let's continue to run, each one in the place that God wants us to be, but **all together**, all connected, giving each other support, stimulus, courage, consolation, strength and comfort, as Chiara Luce did and will always continue to do for everyone.

*Emmaus*

## Question ?

# COMMUNICATING IS AN ART

By Anna Lisa Innocenti

We are constantly bombarded by the media and all kinds of communication tools, which we ourselves use every day. But how can we learn to communicate well?

The word "communication" brings to mind many things: from a conversation among friends, in person or on our cell phones, to the media that reaches the whole world. All these things, and so much more, are examples of "communication."

To better understand how to communicate, we have to think of many elements.

Communication is always characterized and influenced by the historical, geographical and cultural setting in which it takes place.



1

Someone communicates ...

2

... a message ...

Messages are communicated by voice, telephone, TV or other means that pass through a channel - for example, the air is the channel for our voices, a website for Internet, etc.) using a code (speaking a language, using sounds).

Those who communicate always have an intention in mind, such as to inform, to convince and so on.



3

... to someone else.

The person who receives the message reacts in some way (by listening, by learning something).

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4


Communication requires you to watch out for any obstacle, interference or misunderstanding that can make it difficult or impossible for your message to reach the other person.



COMMUNICATION IS A CONTINUAL PROCESS THAT ALWAYS DEPENDS ON HOW, WHEN AND WHY IT OCCURS.

We don't communicate only with words, but also with

- GESTURES
- EYE CONTACT
- IMAGES
- MUSIC
- SILENCE



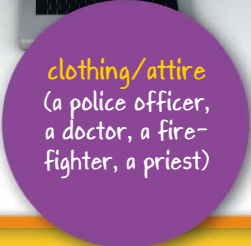
When we go along the street in our cities, many things speak to us and communicate an idea or a message. For example:



billboards



architecture  
(a house, a church, a store)



clothing/attire  
(a police officer, a doctor, a fire-fighter, a priest)



conventional languages (the color of the stoplights or street signs)



symbols



Let's stop and think for a second how many things in our day communicate something to us. We are continuously in communication with everything around us! And so, to use all of these opportunities to communicate so that they become a way to build a united world, we need to allow love to enter into everything that is said and into everyone who enters into communication with us: when we speak and when we listen, when we write an e-mail or make a video, when we use the internet or a cell phone.





Let's try to apply the **art of loving** to our world of communication. We will discover that it acquires particular characteristics, because the person who loves:

- **experiences that communication is essential.** The desire to love the other person as we love ourselves brings us to share our life with other children our age. Communicating out of love means doing so in such a way that every aspect of our life, every conversation, verbal and nonverbal, **"tells"** others who we are and **"speaks"** of universal brotherhood.
- doesn't think only of self, but **tries to live the words "make yourself one,"** so that the person who receives the message feels loved, and taken into consideration, and then the communication becomes a dialogue and an opportunity for mutual exchange.
- **strives to underline the positive,** convinced that emphasizing what is good is constructive.
- **shows interest in individual persons, and not the means of communication,** so that these instruments become precisely that, a *way to serve*, to build a more united world, both when we receive a message and when we communicate one.

In addition to these general characteristics that we can start living right away, the art of loving can be applied when we use any kind of media, each of which has its own language and characteristics. We'll continue this discussion in the coming months ... see you then!





# TWO QUESTIONS FOR:



Valentina, you chose the career of being a film director. How did you come to this decision?

When I was little I never stopped talking!

I really loved getting to know about people and things, and interacting with everyone! So in the end communication became my job! Then when I understand how important it is to communicate well, I tried to learn as much as I could about it. Chiara set my heart on fire with the ideal of a United World and she showed me the way to use the media as one of the best ways to accomplish that goal.

## Tell us how you work in this field.

I work for a TV station and I was asked to do a show on the illegal immigrants entering Italy at the ports. I got in touch with a center for immigrants where I met many young people whose stories sounded like a horror movie! I invited



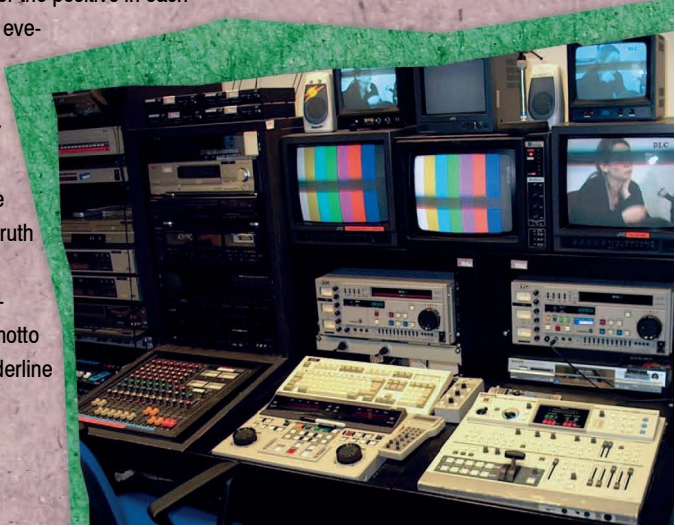
them to be on the program. Before the filming started, my manager gave me a list of points that he wanted included in the interview. It would have been easy just to do what he asked for, but that was not my idea of communicating... Chiara had taught me to start every interview by listening carefully to the person in front of me. I

really wanted to get to know these youth – they had suffered a lot both because of wars in their own country and discrimination in ours. I felt very strongly that I had to protect them from superficial curiosity or even false pity on the part of viewers, which would defeat the purpose of getting to know them. When we got to the studio, I had made up my mind. I would treat them like new friends I was getting to know. During the interview, I completely forgot about being the one to lead the interview, and instead they spontaneously told their own stories, mentioning even very delicate moments in their lives or legal injustices. At the end of the program, they thanked me because they felt they hadn't been judged nor treated like specimens to be looked at, but free to express themselves with dignity. My manager didn't like the interview because he wanted to arouse more burning issues and arguments, and yet the program got high ratings from the public.

## Do you have any other secret?

Yes, I learned from Chiara that we need to look for the positive in each person and in everything that happens, and that you really communicate when you give the greatest Truth which is God, present everywhere. Your motto has to be "underline the positive!"

For example, last year when there was that terrible earthquake in Aquila, for months and months the TV and newspapers showed scenes and stories of anguish – everything about death and destruction! I too participated in those painful moments and I was tempted to think that God had closed his eyes on Aquila the night of the earthquake. Instead God was really there! In fact, I got many emails from the Youth for a United World who live in the region, telling me about their very painful, but very positive and profound, experiences, results of many, wonderful gestures of love. Thousands of humanitarian projects began throughout Italy immediately after the disaster, which seemed to me a confirmation of the great love of God hidden in those ruins. I then forwarded all those beautiful stories to my colleagues and to other news agencies, proposing that they publish some of those experiences that were so full of life and hope.





*The very first school for the Gen 3 boys who are assistants for the Gen 4 was held at Castel Gandolfo! It ended with the Gen 4 Congress. Back in 1976, Chiara told the Gen 3, "I place the Gen 4 in your hearts!" During this school, we understood what those words meant. The Gen 4 really entered into our hearts, and they'll stay there forever!*

# THE GEN 3 FOR THE GEN 4

**Ciro:** "We learned so much from Chiara and her writings, and from the way she interacted with the Gen 4! And we understood how we should treat the youngest ones: 'To be love for everyone, especially **to be Jesus with Jesus.**' On Christmas 1974, Chiara told us: 'May you pour out your love on many, many Gen 4. (...) They have

Jesus we built together! Just look at **the joy** on my face and you'll understand what we lived."

**Ciro:** "Our first task was to declare Jesus in the midst, then go in depth with Jesus and share our experiences.

Silvana; meeting Matthias from the Gen 4 Center, and also Walter Kostner. We also met Irde,

who was the very first Gen 4 Assistant for all the Gen 4 of the world and who entrusted to us the Gen 4 regulations. Then we got an idea: to spend some time with Jesus, and each one wrote on a small piece of paper a motto we wanted to live that day. During the Gen 4 Congress, we played a game where we swapped those pieces of paper with each other to give us a chance **to renew the Pact** among us and to help us be more united and ready to love. And Jesus in each one of us and in our midst was always in action!"

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been entrusted to you, and I want you to see many little Baby Jesus' in them."

**Dario:** "This school helped me to grow a lot, because it wasn't me, as an older Gen, relating to them as little children, but rather a relationship of **Jesus to Jesus.**"



By living like this, I felt something indescribable in my heart. During this school, there were many important moments: the visit to the Center of the Movement; talking with Emmaus, Eli and

The Gen 3 Boys from the Gen 3 Center

**Stefano:** "I learned about the kind of love that doesn't expect anything in return. My personal **relationship with Jesus** and his presence among all of us gave me the energy to love like that."

**Michele:** "Sure, we're tired, but the tiredness will pass! Instead what will remain is the beautiful relationship with



# THE GEN 4 REACH HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE

Chiara entrusted the Gen 4 to the Gen 3! We help them whenever we can, especially in their project to give Baby Jesus to people who might have left him out of their Christmas celebrations. The Gen 4 use all their imagination to find ways to do this. Here are some examples from Houston and San Antonio in Texas and in Canada, but we know that all over the world they did many projects to offer Baby Jesus to the world.

## THE LIGHT IN THE HEIGHTS!

This year the street where the women's focolare is located in **Houston, Texas**, was chosen as one of three streets to be part of the city's project called "Lights in the Heights" (their neighborhood is called "the Heights"). Each family is asked to decorate the outside of their house with many lights. The street is closed for the occasion and **thousands of people from all over the city come to see the lights and decorations.**

The Gen 3 and the Gen 4 helped the whole community to decorate the Focolare house and its front yard in the most beautiful possible way, setting up a **life-size nativity scene**,



The gen 3 and Gen 4 were very enthusiastic!



The Gen 4 offered Baby Jesus to everyone

and of course a table to offer Baby Jesus to everyone who came by. They sang Christmas carols and acted out the story of the birth of Jesus. **Many people wanted to take photos of their children inside the stable!** So instead of a picture with Santa Claus, they had a picture with Baby Jesus! One lady had a picture of her whole family there, and she said, "This is the most beautiful Christmas gift I could have! I **don't need any other present!**"



A real live donkey arrived in time for the play!



Children having their picture taken with Baby Jesus

The biggest surprise is that we won the prize for the "Best Religious Theme." It was the triumph of Jesus in our midst, because *he* really was THE Light in the Heights!



All the children wanted to see the nativity scene



*To everyone in the community of Houston ,  
I received the beautiful news and pictures of your  
Christmas event, "Lights in the Heights." My  
thanks to all of you, but especially to the actors!  
My wish is that you will always be a continuous  
fountain of joy for others, because of the presence  
of Jesus in your midst.*

*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year full of  
graces!*

*Emmaus*

*"Where two or three are united in my name, there am I in the midst of them."  
Exactly like two thousand years ago when Jesus was with Mary and Joseph.*

Chiara

## GEN 4 ON RADIO

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In San Antonio, Texas, the Gen 4 were invited to announce the project of Baby Jesus on the radio! They were very enthusiastic! While some of the Gen were making the figurines, others prepared the questions that they wanted to be asked, and then also wrote the answers! So the whole text was really "Gen 4 style", in their own words.

When they went to the studio, they were instructed how to proceed. After their prepared text, the reporter started asking other questions, like, "What are acts of love?" The gen 4 answered very well. One of them said, "An act of love is when you do something good for someone else. For example, when our parents ask us to do something and we don't want to, we think for a minute and say, 'This is for you, Jesus' and then we do it!"

The reporter asked for other experiences and the Gen were ready! They even invited the children



who were listening to the program to start doing acts of love, too. One of them said, "I realized that gifts and toys are not that important at Christmas, because the most important thing about Christmas is Jesus." Another added, "We want to make Jesus really happy, so that's why we do lots of acts of love." They really took the opportunity to tell everyone about the birth of Baby Jesus and how we can make him live again in our lives.



Atlanta



Miami



Boston



Santo Domingo



## IN THE SUBWAY

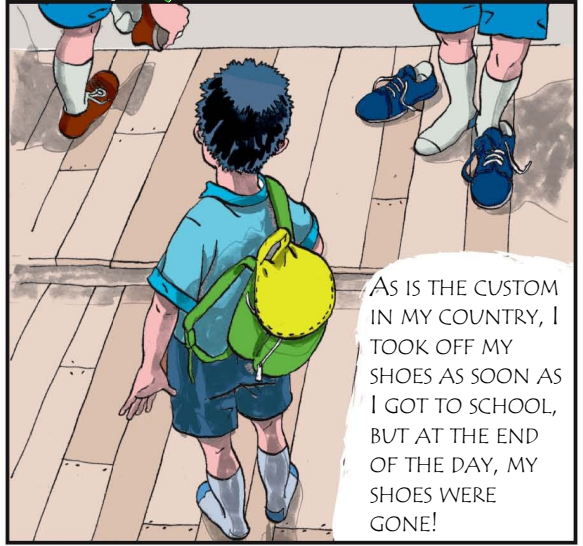
The Gen 4 of Toronto in Canada went to the subway to offer Baby Jesus to people getting on and off the trains! It was a nice warm spot and people could stop and talk to them. One man watched the Gen for a long time. He was there because he was advertising for a bank and offering people a chance to join. Finally he came over and said, "What you are doing is much more important than what I'm doing!" The Gen 4 told him that the money they made would go to Pakistan, and he was really moved because that is his country!

Another lady (in the photo at the top) said that the money shouldn't go to Pakistan because there are terrorists there, but the gen 4 answered, "We are children and we want to help the children there!" She was convinced and donated to the cause.



# Finding shoes and a friend!

I GOT A NEW PAIR OF SHOES, AND WORE THEM TO SCHOOL RIGHT AWAY.



AS IS THE CUSTOM IN MY COUNTRY, I TOOK OFF MY SHOES AS SOON AS I GOT TO SCHOOL, BUT AT THE END OF THE DAY, MY SHOES WERE GONE!

A FRIEND SUGGESTED I GO ONLINE TO A WEBSITE WHERE USED THINGS ARE SOLD. I DID, AND SURE ENOUGH, THERE THEY WERE! THE SELLER'S CELL PHONE MATCHED A CLASSMATE'S NUMBER. I WAS SHOCKED AND DISAPPOINTED! THAT NIGHT I COULDN'T SLEEP BECAUSE A FRIEND HAD BETRAYED ME! WHAT SHOULD I DO?

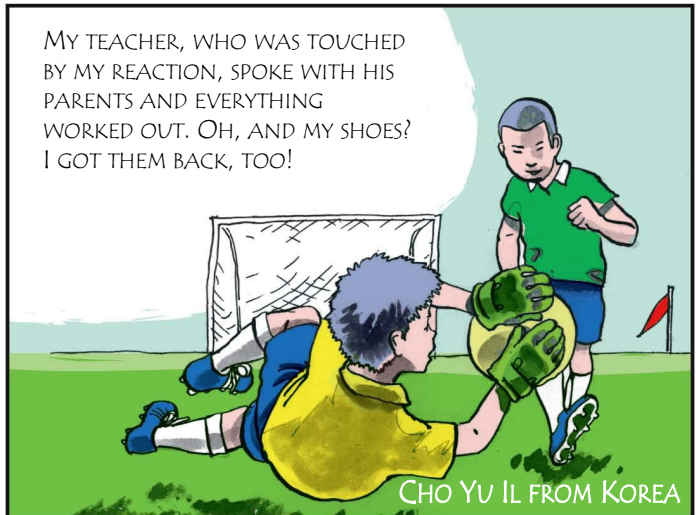


THEN I THOUGHT, "I WANT TO LOVE HIM AND I BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS IN HIM, TOO! THERE MUST BE A REASON WHY HE WOULD RESORT TO STEALING!" SO I MADE THE DECISION: I WOULD FORGIVE HIM.

MY PARENTS AND MY TEACHER AGREED THAT I SHOULD SPEAK WITH THAT CLASSMATE IN PRIVATE.

HE CRIED AND APOLOGIZED, SAYING HE NEEDED MONEY FOR A SCHOOL EVENT HE REALLY WANTED TO ATTEND. WHEN I TOLD HIM THAT I WASN'T ANGRY WITH HIM AND THAT WE COULD CONTINUE BEING FRIENDS, HE WAS SO HAPPY!

MY TEACHER, WHO WAS TOUCHED BY MY REACTION, SPOKE WITH HIS PARENTS AND EVERYTHING WORKED OUT. OH, AND MY SHOES? I GOT THEM BACK, TOO!



CHO YU IL FROM KOREA