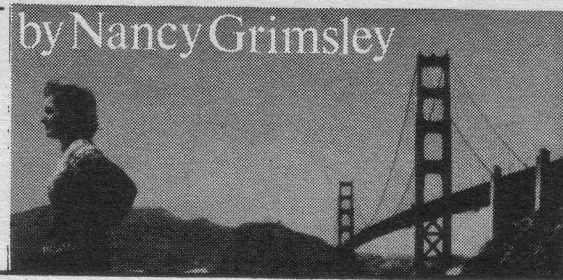


# FAMILY OF GOD DIARY by Nancy Grimsley

Fall '77 & Winter '78 Issue number 42



## TELEVISION

*We have two adventures into television to report.*

There is a fine old saying: "Opportunity seldom knocks at the unprepared door." David Kantor, heading our Multi Media Division, has been working steadily on productions, which now include the utilization of original slides (Penny Poole Oster, Beverly Wold, and David himself being excellent sources of good photography), original music (which David has also done himself so far), and of course original scripts (David and Sue Kantor, Jo Ann Eichmann, Jeffrey Wattles, and Vern being major contributors) so as to hold full title to the productions, rather than involving material to which we do not hold the copyright. An opportunity knocked, which David, who was prepared, diligently pursued to a successful conclusion: "Vision for an Advanced Civilization" was accepted as an Easter special by a Bay Area cable television station. TA DA!

FOG paid for the air time and for the production costs, and David spent half a day in the TV production studio with his equipment turning "Visions" into a half-hour video tape.

The program was run twice: Good Friday and Easter Sunday at 8 pm—excellent times. David made special arrangements for us to view the program at the TV station while it was on the air. As a result, some twenty people gathered on Easter evening to see this first venture into television—a full half-hour show written, directed, and produced entirely by David and associates in the FOG crew. This is an intriguing direction for development.

I'm reproducing here the advertisement that was run in the newspaper.

The Spiritual Renaissance Institute  
*presents*

A refreshing view of human potentials and the impact made by Jesus upon western civilization.  
*Good Friday 8:00 PM Easter Sunday 8:00 PM*

**AN EASTER SPECIAL . . .**

Vision for an Advanced Civilization  
The impact made by Jesus upon western civilization;  
A refreshing new vision of spiritualized personality

**CHANNEL**  
19

Last summer Vern was one of four guest panelists on the Jon Dosa program, a TV talk format similar to The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson. The subject was "Religion for the New Age," and the other guests were a Jewish Rabbi, a Catholic Priest, and a Mormon Bishop. Vern enjoyed the experience. Later we received a letter from Jon Dosa, a copy of which is enclosed.

("Vern enjoyed the experience," I wrote above, and then stopped to ponder my words. Enjoyed? Well, he did, of course, but a summer intestinal flu was making the rounds that month, and Vern caught it with a vengeance for the entire twelve hours before the program. He was SICK, and as he staggered out of the house (over my valuable protestations, but "the show must go on," you know), he confided to me that during a recent violent manifestation of his stomach flu he had sprung his jaw! So here he was, wobbling on his feet and none too well, setting off to a talk show with a sprung jaw. However, he summoned his iron will and reserves—believe me, he has them—and participated fully, without any appearance of illness.)

Bob Blackstock drove Vern to the studios, and took pictures of the live session. One of them is reproduced here.



### THE TRAVELS OF VERN

Vern is travelling more and more these days. His itinerary most often includes speaking engagements, regional conferences for readers of *The URANTIA Book*, or radio broadcast business, with most trips being a combination of these and other related activities.

#### SPEAKING TOURS

Vern has been very active as an after-dinner speaker this year. He has, in the last six months, been the featured speaker at community banquets in one or more towns in Montana, Idaho, Texas, Oregon, Washington, California, Iowa, North Dakota, Wyoming, and Colorado. These engagements are turning out to be a rather unique opportunity: these groups of civic leaders meet on a regular basis to hear a variety of speakers (most recently the Ambassador from Ireland has been one of the speakers; Will Durant speaking on history is also on the same circuit). Most religionists out on a speaking tour are scheduled into churches, but in these banquet tours, Vern is having an opportunity to speak to general audiences. He talks from the psychological angle of cooperating with one's inner spirit guide, and ends with the message of Jesus—the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. Response to the speech has been very positive; many people in this world are spiritually hungry, and when a spiritually satisfying message is presented, it does find a ready reception. Many, many people have said as much to Vern after one of these speeches, in a variety of ways. "Exactly what I needed to hear," is a regular type of response. Jesus said the message was life-saving, and it is. One woman told Vern her life was quite literally changed by the speech.

There has also been more and more newspaper publicity—interviews and feature stories—about Vern as a speaker and as a religionist. In a growing number of cases, radio listeners of many years standing (or sitting, as VBG commented) have read about the speaking tours and have attended.

As a result of the travel to these communities, Vern has also visited many radio stations and gained new outlets for the broadcast.

These tours are rather exhausting, and often a next-to-impossible travel schedule is required, but the results in spreading the message make it worthwhile.

At one of the Colorado speeches, a member of the audience, who had no prior acquaintance with or knowledge of Vern came up and queried, "Do you, by any chance, read that big blue book?" He chortled with delight at Vern's nod of acquiescence. He had recognized the ideas as clearly as if Vern had used direct quotes.

(An aside from me: VBG has been travelling so much, the little matter of clean laundry for him has been a bit difficult. It may actually become necessary for him to have *two* tuxedos—to those of us who know and love the tall blond "cowboy" that idea boggles the mind!)

Vern's most recent jaunt was to Alaska. He spent several days with the group there. The marriage ceremony of Ron Craig and Enid Martin, which Vern performed, was a primary reason for the trip, together with a conference the next day. Vern said it is genuine frontier country up there; the wedding was held in a log cabin church which is shared in

common by the whole community.

The Alaskans took him up a mountain—on foot and bundled up—and fed him moose meat, reindeer sausage and Patsy Hayes' home-grown zucchini (in Alaska!). He had a fine time.

This is a photo of Vern and Patsy Hayes on the mountain.



#### EAST COAST TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

When Vern is on the road, he never stops moving and as a result accomplishes a great deal. When he flew to the East Coast to participate in the Connecticut Conference, he also did other business. He summarized the trip for me, calling his comments "East Coast Trip Highlights." His style is so decidedly his own that I decided to reproduce his comments as he gave them to me. Herewith what Vern calls "Highlights."

First I flew in to Boston, drove to Cambridge, and inquired of a gas station attendant, "How do I get to Harvard?" His reply was a classic line, delivered with a straight face, "Study hard in high school." I made five broadcasts from Harvard, studied nights in the Harvard theological/philosophical libraries on world religions; lost a contact lens in the rainy dusk and 40 Radcliffe women helped find it, drove to New Haven, Connecticut, made four broadcasts from Yale, studied nights in the Yale Library (researched UN member nations' resolutions regarding religion), introduced *The URANTIA Book* to one Yale student who was a case study in the "life after life" series—he is on the broadcast with me discussing life after death (his dad is chief counsel for the association for the separation of church and state). . . .drove to Clinton, Connecticut, visited with the Scalzos three times; Meredith and I spoke at the East Coast Conference for readers of *The URANTIA Book*; I met with a person from the U.S. State Department in Washington, D.C. who wants to help with the French translation. Drove to New York City, went to ABC, NBC and CBS—they still insist on "exclusives" for their programs on network, so I left press packets and order forms at the network affiliate stations; in New York it was cold and rainy—5½ inches in one day, winds gusting 55 to 60, dead umbrellas all over the sidewalk. Contacted three of the major lecture bureaus from Boston to NYC—the American Program Bureau, Inc., Podium Management Associates, Inc., and the

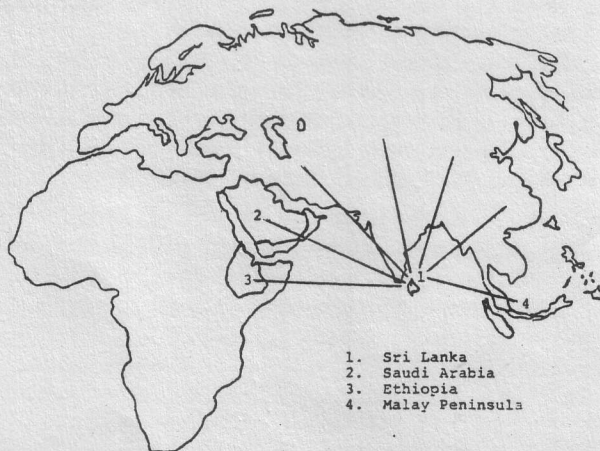
Robert Keedick Lecture Bureau—all of which may be important contacts for our speakers, musicians and audio-visual programs. Then I went to Union Theological Seminary and studied world religions, then to Columbia University, then to the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, where I was able to schedule a meeting with Dr. Neil Gillman, Dean of the Rabbinical School of the American Jewish Theological Seminary, and among other things we talked about getting him out for a Spiritual Renaissance Conference next year or the year after, and how to explain a religion so that lay people could understand it. I discovered an Argentinian restaurant which gave you 1½ pounds of great broiled meat for \$5 including scrumptious black sausages. After the meal I said, "What was in the sausages?" The waiter said "Ees blood, man." Then, listening to WWDJ at 6 pm Saturday in Connecticut, I heard two stations at once, one playing Jimmy Webb's "Up, Up and Away" and the other one with me saying "the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man." I turned a waitress in my NY hotel on to the broadcast.

All of this Vern related to me just the day after he got back from the East Coast. The next morning after telling me, he flew off to Butte, Montana, to give his speech and to pursue our activities there.

Vern could provide scenarios like the above for every one of his trips. He is a busy creature. In January and February of 1978 he was out of town more days than he was here, and when he was at home he didn't rest, but worked!

## INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING

The Spiritual Renaissance broadcast is being carried by several international stations. One of them is Radio Sri Lanka, located on Sri Lanka (formerly called the Isle of Ceylon) off the lower tip of India. The power of this station is quite amazing; in the last two months we have had letters from Sri Lanka listeners as far away as Ethiopia and Saudi Arabia. This outreach is so impressive to me that I have included a line drawing to illustrate the vast distance this one station reaches.



Our broadcast started on Radio Sri Lanka in March of 1973. Soon after, some supporters who were as excited as we were by the prospect of India coverage pledged the requisite monthly sum to add a second 15-minute broadcast per week. Thanks to their generosity, coverage to India doubled per week, and has remained at that level. And from

that one station we have received mail from all over India, from Malasia, and now from Ethiopia and Saudi Arabia. Several Asian broadcast listeners have also become students of The URANTIA book through our introduction.

In comparison to the amount of the globe spanned by one Sri Lanka broadcast, the cost is rather small—\$38 per broadcast or \$152 per month. International broadcasting is really a veritable bargain: the monthly cost for Swazi Radio in Africa is \$295 and for Radio MANX on the Isle of Man \$86. The opportunity exists to begin coverage in other parts of the world as well, at equally reasonable rates.

A spin-off from these India broadcasts is interesting. We have, from time to time, sent out copies of the letters we receive from India listeners. Phil Rolnick, who, with Jane, has served as our representative in Australia, has been working patiently and diligently with contacts in Mackay. Last Fall while Vern was out of town, I received a telephone call from Australia! Phil and Jane were calling with news that he had finally succeeded, through the above-mentioned patience and diligence, in getting the program accepted as part of a 13 week series.

He told me the story of the last meeting, 1½ hours in length. One bit of that story I want to pass along to you. He had worked through point by point with them. One of the possible objections raised was that the program might be too intellectual for the Australia audience. Phil said that he simply picked up his copy of the India letters and read a couple of them aloud. The strong implication, he chuckled to me over the phone, was "did they really think that the Indians as a listening audience were more intelligent than the Australians?" They didn't, and the program did go on the air in Australia. The two-minute show was used several times daily for thirteen weeks between records in the rock and roll programming.

## DOMESTIC BROADCASTING

There are 19,000 radio stations in the world; the U.S. has 7,500 radio stations. Each average household in the United States has 5 radios. These are 1977 statistics Vern researched with a prime source being Robert L. Hilliard, Chairman, Federal Interagency Media Committee. 85% of U.S. teens and adults turn the radio on at least once a day; 95% of U.S. cars now have radios. Entertainment is 88% of U.S. radio time while 12% is information; we fall into that 12%. In 1952, when the heavy impact of TV began, Americans owned about 105 million radios. Today the figure is 383 million radios—nearly four times the number of radios people owned during the "golden age of radio" before TV. There are now 29 million portable transistor radios sold each year.

Jeffrey Wattles, of our Media Relations Department, has prepared an up-dated list of stations in our U.S. network as of January 1, 1978. I have enclosed a copy, together with a covering letter which he has prepared.

Julia Fenderson (alias Wonder-Woman) went to Salt Lake City in 1977. As is usual after one of her forays into radio-station-land, orders for the program and for audition tapes showed a pattern of her progress from station to station.

## MULTI-MEDIA

The Multi-Media Division, directed by David Kantor, has been active all year. I have already reported the big venture into television. For several years David has been steadily acquiring production skills and equipment; most recently he has been developing a system which uses a computer to synchronize a number of different slide projectors simultaneously; this gives us the capability of approaching animation and other film effects in the productions. We are discovering that it is then a simple matter to convert the material to video tape, which eliminates the need for expensive video equipment, and this, in turn, makes television as a medium much more feasible. (Evolutionary growth is an exciting experience!) We are also happy to announce that Francyl Streano Gawryn will be working closely in music development for sound tracks. We have the facilities of a local electronic music studio as well as the efforts of a number of people from the FOG crew who are pursuing musical studies, all of which should lead to increasingly professional work.

There have also been a number of performances in the past months. Multi-media and music have been presented in a number of settings: a church in Sunnyvale devoted one Sunday evening to the event; an alternative night club in San Francisco, sponsored by the United Church of Christ, scheduled two separate performances and publicized them; the Berkeley Area Interfaith Council sponsored a Spiritual Arts Festival in which we participated. All these performances feature live music by Francyl Streano as well as the media presentations, and have been extremely well-liked. Most recently, David and Francyl were both in Southern California where a music and media performance, arranged by Dick and Cheryl Prince, was given at their Pacific Beach church. Dick reported afterwards that he was hearing very fine reports of appreciation for some days thereafter.

This past winter there was also a public performance in a commercial theater in Southern California. Rich Keeler and Barrie Achartz arranged this one in San Diego. Well over 200 people were there, and response was very positive.

After each of the multi-media performances, we receive reports about people who have experienced changes in their spiritual outlook as a direct result.

Some of you may have noticed that we are not employing the name "Cosmic Pilgrim Productions." As the work has developed and grown, we have evolved into a usage which clearly indicates the unity of the various tasks which we undertake; as a result "The Multi-Media Division of The Spiritual Renaissance Institute" is the official name of the unit. (The Spiritual Renaissance Institute is the educational Division of the Family of God Foundation.)

## PEOPLE

We have some newcomers to our midst. Joy Brandt moved to Berkeley from Oregon last summer, bringing "joy" to our group quite literally. Bob and Gayle Eash, who are natives of the Bay Area, began joining us on work nights, thereby adding to our toddler population with Joshua, three, and Maryellen, nearly two. In February their youngest, Lara, was born.

We actually have a room designated and beginning to be outfitted as a nursery now. Beside the Eash youngsters, we have two bright-eyed nine-month-old babes: Jennifer, daughter of Mary and Terry Echlin, and Zachary, son of Marilyn and Larry Nelson. Heather Kantor, another baby in our group, is nearly two years old now. All together, they make a merry nursery on work nights. Nathaniel Blackstock is a veritable elder statesman; he is now all of seven years old.

Last June Francyl Gawryn, the Grays, and Vern went to Chicago for the wedding of Barbara Newsom and Mark Kulieke. Francyl sang and Vern performed the ceremony. In August there was another wedding: Penny Poole and Jeff Oster were married in her parents' garden. Once again, Francyl sang, Vern was the minister, and David Kantor and Mary Echlin provided organ music.

Bettina Gray and Sara Blackstock are active participants in the Berkeley Area Interfaith Council; they both hold leadership positions on the Council, serving this year as Vice President and Secretary respectively. For your general interest, the BAIC newsletter listing the members of the Executive Committee and their various organizations is reproduced here.

### BAIC ELECTS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 1978

At the Annual Meeting of the Berkeley Area Interfaith Council on Jan. 26, an expanded Executive Committee for 1978 was elected and installed. The 24-member committee includes the following:

- Pres. - Martin Choate (Scientology)
- V. Pres. - Bettina Gray (Family of God)
- Sec'y - Sara Blackstock (Family of God)
- Treas. - J. Morris Forbes (Baptist)
- Finance Chair - Dick Boeke (Unitarian)

Members at large: Leo Abrami (Jewish); Kay Brownell (Church Women United); Cliff Crummey (Methodist); Gus Davis (United Ch. of Christ); Farid (Sufi Islamia Ruhaniat); Pat Frey (Scientology); Brian Godfrey (Baha'i); Peter Haynes (Episcopal Church); Jeanne Hendricksen (Baptist Church); Tom Holahan (Roman Catholic); Newton Ishiura (Jodo Shin Buddhist); Gerald Jones (Latter-Day Saints); Shakti Singh Khalsa (Sikh Dharma); Richard Lewis (Unification Church); George Neuzil (Sufi Order); Javan Reid (Presbyterian Church); Louise Stoltenberg (Disciples of Christ); Kafri Williams (Ruhani Satsang); Mary Williams (Presbyterian).

One of the annual events sponsored by BAIC is an Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. This year Sara was the coordinator of the service, and Bettina was in charge of music. The FOG banner made by Susan Shupp was used again this year during the "Parade of Banners" in the service.

Brian Cox works for a local advertising paper, FAMILY FAIR. He inserted a notice about the printed material we have available, and we have received some responses to the ad. Listeners and non-listeners alike seem to respond and request our printed materials.

**FREE BOOKLET! Unrehearsed conversations on campus with Vern Grimsley. "Questions University Students Ask". Questions and answers about religion, God and dealing with life. No obligation, no one will call. Box 347, Berkeley, Ca. 94701. Write today.**

Jim Blessing told an interesting story one Monday meeting. He was headed to Chicago for a business conference and his boss from Stanford Research Institute, the well-known scientific center, happened to end up sitting beside him on the plane. They fell into conversation. Knowing that Jim worked with some group in extracurricular activities, he inquired "just what was this group?" Jim told him some of the things he believes and some of his experiences that led up to his association with FOG. After describing a bit of what we do, his boss said, "Have you ever heard this fellow on the radio Sunday evenings who talks to students outdoors on campus?" Jim mentioned Vern's name—in fact, he mentioned all three of his names—and his boss said, "That's the fellow." To which Jim responded, "Well, that's the group I work with." His boss was quite interested, and went on to tell Jim that he often had to make a fairly long commute on Sunday evenings, and would deliberately delay his departure in order to listen to our broadcast when he was driving. He and Jim went on to talk for a couple of hours all the way to Chicago.

### BITS & PIECES

We've had many visitors from around the country, and enjoyed them all. To name a few: Lynne Kulieke and Jim Maynard; Scott and Carol Forsythe; Cheryl, Dick and Christine Prince (before Laurel's arrival), and Mo Siegel and Wick Hay spent a night in our guest quarters.

Laura Kendall—spoken of with affection by the FOG crew as our "mascot"—came for a visit last summer. We hear from her with great regularity (she is a prolific correspondent; I wish we could shake her up in a bag with six of us—we would profit, and I doubt she would notice any very serious drop in her productivity). We started hearing from her when she was a sophomore, and last January she graduated from high school.

I will take this moment to report on myself, too. I recovered from surgery very well, and soon returned to all my activities, including tennis. (Among the tennis-nuts of the FOG crew, I am one of the more rabid, though by no means the only one. Vern said he thought we ought to follow up his note about my approaching surgery by running an action tennis picture with the caption: Nancy has returned to a life of "love" and "service." We resisted the temptation, however.)

I took this opportunity to mention my recovery, though, because among all the greatly appreciated notes and calls I received was a missive from Laura. She provided one of the many bright spots by sending the following limerick before my hospital stay:

There was a young man with a hernia  
Who said to his doctor, "Goldernia!"  
"When carving my middle,  
Be sure you don't fiddle,  
With matters that do not concernia."

I thought it was great; I recited it to the resident assisting my doctor when I was admitted. He was a shy fellow, but after he recovered, he laughed.

Bettina had her own bout with surgery in January; she had very sudden emergency (the redundancy is for empha-

sis) surgery for a ruptured cyst; she, too, has recovered with healthy rapidity.

Just recently Bettina and David were in San Diego where Bettina gave a talk to the study group lead by Richard Keeler and Barrie Achartz.

### CONFERENCES FOR READERS OF THE URANTIA BOOK

IRVIN. Many of us went to participate in the FUSLA Conference over Labor Day weekend. Serving as leaders in the study groups or work-shops were also the following members of our group: Bob Blackstock, Sara Blackstock, Cheryl Davis, Francyl Gawryn, Marvin Gawryn, Bettina Gray, David Gray, Gard Jameson, Terry McCade, and Jeff Wattles.

"Quest for Perfection," a multi-media presentation produced by David Kantor was included on the program, and Vern gave a speech. Francyl presented music.

WENATCHEE. Bettina, Francyl, Marvin and Vern travelled to Washington for this conference, and all of them participated. Francyl sang; Bettina, Marvin and Vern all gave talks.

CONNECTICUT: Vern flew to the East Coast and attended the conference there, participating in the sessions and giving a talk.

ALASKA: Vern flew to Anchorage and participated in the conference with a talk, a question-and-answer session on the URANTIA Foundation and Brotherhood, and by special request he also gave his "Humor in The URANTIA Book" material. He said a group of about 50 gathered for the sessions, which were great.

### THE LIGHTER SIDE

Newspaper reporters writing an article often ask for a black and white photograph. One of the shots we provide shows Vern with a microphone prominently beside his face. He gave this photo to the Boulder, Colorado paper. In many areas of the country radio stations and newspapers are in hot competition for the advertising dollar, and have a mutual policy of avoiding all reference to the other. This principle was implemented in the Boulder article. The picture of Vern appeared, with the microphone neatly cut out! A copy of the article is enclosed.

I mentioned earlier how much Vern has been travelling this year. During one of our regular Monday meals and business meetings, Gayle Eash leaned towards me and whispered, "Who is that fellow at the next table in the red and black jacket?" I glanced casually around to make the identification in a discrete manner, my eye searching for the stranger. . . . it was Vern! Only then did I perceive her mischievous twinkle.

After the report David Kantor gave us about the multi-media presentation in San Diego which Rich and Barrie arranged, he told this vignette. As the audience was gathering prior to the screening, the theater manager, who had known Rich for some time, was beside David and gazing rather fixedly at Rich. "You know," he said to David, "even if this show turns out to be mediocre, it will have been worth it just to see Keeler in a coat and tie!"

At the end of one of our Co-Worker meetings we were having a moment of quiet. Vern had said something to the effect of "Let's take a minute to get in touch with the Father." Silence had descended for a short time when suddenly a strange and formal male voice boomed out from a nearby unoccupied room: "This is a recording." The telephone, which had been off the hook so our meeting would be uninterrupted, suddenly came alive. You will recognize, of course, that we had a situation where we were trying to reach the Father, and we got a recording. Needless to say, the moment of silence broke up in riotous laughter, in which I happen to think our unseen friends joined.

Nancy

