

FAMILY OF GOD DIARY

Summer & Fall 1978

Issue number 44



INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING

We have some big and exciting news—on December 3 the Family of God Foundation radio broadcast began covering much of mainland China! This has been a goal and a dream of ours, and it is a dream that has long been shared with our friends at Celestial Seasonings. Perhaps tea drinking created an affinity with the Chinese? At any rate, Mo Siegel and John Hay have been interested in the Chinese peoples for years, and they have been instrumental in making it financially feasible for us to take this big step.

Several factors were involved in the timing of this decision. The question of language was an important one to be researched. In recent months it was reported that domestic flights inside China (patronized mostly by Chinese nationals) now have flight announcements in two languages, the second of which is English. During the fall China stopped jamming the Voice of America broadcasts, and VOA said their mail requests for an English language course pamphlet leaped from 3-4 per month to 50-60 per day! Since English is also taught as a second language for many Chinese starting in grade school, our research indicated that our English-language broadcast could do well. As a result, it is now begun, with the openings and closings being read in both Cantonese and Mandarin on each broadcast. Gard Jameson arranged for the translation which we provided to the station. The language is written the same way, but pronounced differently for Mandarin and Cantonese.

神愛您因為您是祂的兒女
所有世人都是上帝家中的兄弟姊妹
誠心信神會使您永生
如果您喜歡閱看靈糧讀物我們當即免費贈送
歡迎來信索取 請用下列通訊地址

Translation of text to be read in Mandarin and Cantonese:

God loves you, for you are his child, and all people are your brothers and sisters in God's family. Believing this wholeheartedly brings you eternal life.

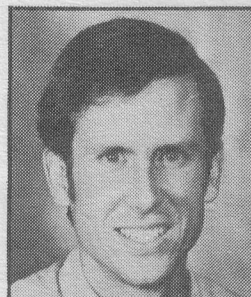
Consider this: our venture into China began in the early part of December 1978; in mid-December the President of the United States made his surprise announcement that diplomatic relations were officially established between our countries. It appears to be an excellent time to have begun a broadcast from the United States into China.

SPECIAL FEATURES

RICHARD KEELER, though not resident in Berkeley, is a very integral part of how this work is accomplished, and has been from very early days. The dream of some kind of cooperative association between Vern and Rich and me to further the spiritual renaissance on this planet goes back a long, long way. After graduating together from the University of Kansas, Richard went back home to Oklahoma while Vern and



I went home to western Kansas. Three months later, just before Vern and I moved to California, Rich made a special trip from Oklahoma to see us, the express purpose being to talk some about how and when and where we might end up working together someday to spread the truths to which we already had pledged ourselves. At that time we weren't at all clear in our minds. We knew it was important, and we knew that we had the desire. But how? when? where? We were setting off in different directions for different experiences—Rich into graduate school, Vern into graduate school, and I went into a position that became a career job in university administration. Fifteen years have passed since that visit, those hot August days in Kansas when we swam together and talked together, and the questions that puzzled us when we were in our early 20's have long since been answered. For the past ten years Richard's steady and unwavering efforts have been an important and strong underpinning of the growth of this work. His genius is in the financial area, and he has used his resources and know-how unselfishly and very quietly. We gave him an official title some years ago: Executive Investment Manager. Richard, being the kind of person he is, keeps forgetting exactly what that title is! He is a dear friend, and we all love him.



GARD JAMESON has been part of our group for the last several years, during which time he also completed a graduate school degree in business and passed the CPA examination. He is now employed with Touche Ross and Company. Gard brought his training into immediate applicability here at FOG and has moved into the position of Funding Executive. In recent months, for example, he prepared a funding report to financial supporters and generated new flows of financial support. In addition he prepared the enclosed document titled "Making Out Your Will." In the FOG work Gard spent many months in the Tape Mail-Out operation, and has recently moved to a new desk in the office that deals with financial affairs. On his desk there sits a plaque with the following motto: "Everything cometh to he who waiteth so long as he who waiteth worketh like hell while he waiteth." A curious fact about Gard, little-known outside our FOG group, is that he owns a very unique radio—it only plays big band music of the 30s and 40s! (At least none of us have heard it playing anything else.) He brought it with him to the new office, where I also have my desk, and made himself twice welcome with me because I share his delight in the big band sound of another era.

MAIL OUT

When people hear Vern speak, hear Francyl sing, or see the Multi-Media presentations put together by David Kantor, they are seeing visible examples of the work being done by the FOG crew. But there is a great deal of invisible work that is also being done. A mortal body needs a sturdy heart in order to function, and mortal organizations need the same. If I were asked to put my finger on the heart of the FOG organization, I would have to say it is a multi-hearted operation. Without any question, however,



MAIL-OUT CREW (left to right): Chris Baetge, Marilyn Nelson, Nancy Sullivan, Mary Beth Rapisardo (with son S.D.), Jane Rolnick, Susan Shupp, Bob Eash, Diane Elder, Marvin Gawryn, Fred Shupp

one of the most important centers of activity is the unit we call Mail Out. The mail out crew is responsible for mailing tapes to the various radio stations over which the broadcast is heard, and this is no simple task. A very careful system of checks and balances has been evolved over the years in order to assure that tapes go out expeditiously. For each individual station to be mailed a member of the crew performs twenty separate operations, and a separate member of the crew does a complete double check. Without enumerating all twenty steps in detail, let me just mention that it is necessary for the mail out crew to have the calendar coded so that tapes are sent on time, to have records clear so they can know which tapes in the series have already been sent, whether the station is running a mix of campus and discourses or just campus material, how many times a week the program is run, and whether the programs carried are the two minute series or the 15 minute series. Doing accurate work is absolutely essential or the whole broadcast log would be lost to us. Not only do they handle the log as it now exists, but must continually add to their work-load the new stations that are being added at the rate of several per month. This group under the leadership of Chris Baetge (replacing Sara Blackstock who has recently moved out of Mail Out and into Correspondence) does a mighty and marvelous job.

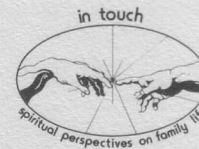
IN TOUCH—SPIRITUAL PERSPECTIVES ON FAMILY LIFE

That title is one chosen for the parents newsletter which has been organized in the months since the Lake Geneva Conference. There was much interest in something of this kind discussed by parents at Lake Geneva, and the interest continued among parents here at FOG upon our return to California. This interest has been focused and directed into producing a regular newsletter designed to enable parents to exchange insights and experience. The first issue of IN TOUCH is expected during the spring of 1979. Anyone who wants to be on the mailing list (being a parent is not a prerequisite, interest in the project is sufficient) and who has not already so indicated, need only let us know.

Gayle Eash is the Editor, Mary Echlin the Associate Editor, Bob Blackstock the Circulation Manager, Jane Rolnick the Production Manager, Mary Beth Rapisardo the Art Director, and David Kantor the Typesetter.

Gayle, who was at Lake Geneva with her three little ones, came back with several sheets of names and addresses of parents who would be interested in a newsletter. The idea was only sketchily in her mind at the time she said later, but when she

noticed the interest among parents in her many conversations, she promptly started collecting addresses.



Mary Beth spent many, many hours developing the IN TOUCH logo, which appeared on the initial letter of announcement sent out in November.

MULTI-MEDIA

Our major project at the present time is getting our programs into distributable form. Two slide presentations are available for showing by interested groups: "Genesis," the story of biological evolution up to the times of early mankind, and "Quest for Perfection" are both available as single projector-cassette programs. The Multi-Media Division can also provide the necessary equipment for showing the programs. Also available is a cassette of the section on Jesus which appears in "Vision for an Advanced Civilization." Contact David Kantor if you are interested in any of these.

Progress is continuing on the film studio, and work on our first film is underway. It deals with the teachings of Jesus, alternating between rich illustration of his parables and some of the material written by Vern for his sermon on "Jesus of Nazareth," portions of which appear in our Multi-Media presentation "Vision for an Advanced Civilization." The full-color, 16mm film is scheduled for completion by spring of 1980. We are also beginning to work on establishing a distribution mechanism.

A new children's cassette! This is an improved version of Francyl's first cassette. It contains the same songs but is greatly improved from a technical standpoint, and also has some additional casting—Myrtle Moose, Fanny Finch, Henrietta Hummingbird, Chicky and Chatter Chipmunk all join in the fun and make the cassette a real treat for the children.

ABOUT FOG PEOPLE

In November of this year the FOG crew gave a great shout of joy when the results of last summer's Bar Examination were announced. The name of our own Robert Blackstock appeared. Bob told us that he and Sara drove over to San Francisco the day the results were posted. They walked up to the building. They found

the list and located the B names and went down the list. "It is there, Sara," said Bob. "It is there, Bob," said Sara. A wonderful moment for them, and for us. Bob said he thanked the serephim for their guidance and patience, and also his own "Saraphim" for hers.

The FOG broadcast had a birthday. December 12, 1964 was the first broadcast, and December of 1978 marks 14 years of continuous and ever-expanding outreach.

Most of us went to Yosemite the first week-end in December. A total of 43 of us were there, and on Saturday evening we all fitted ourselves into one cabin and reminisced. We had a wonderful time; we laughed a lot, and cried a little (happy tears).

Matthew and Mary Beth Rapisardo, who began working with us in the spring, remembered David Gray's early invitations to them. Mary Beth said they had known of this group and had been interested since before they moved to California from Kansas City, but it wasn't until the third time David quietly mentioned that they were welcome to come visit some Monday evening dinner and meeting that they suddenly realized they were being given an opportunity to come join in if they wanted. They came, and they have been coming and working ever since. Their two-year-old son, S.D., has joined our growing population of little ones.

Philip and Jane Rolnick returned from their two years in Australia. They have settled in the area and are regular workers. Rebecca Rolnick is also a smiling cherub in our midst, being now nearly one year old. Philip gave us some fine reports of the status and potential of the spiritual renaissance in Australia.

Dale Lugin moved to California in September. She has become a regular on our work-nights, and is settling into life in the Bay Area. Kansas City was her home before moving here; she and Mary Beth Rapisardo are sisters.

Nancy Sullivan also has become a regular on our crew. She is a native Berkeleyan (a rare creature) who has recently moved back after living in Oregon for many years.

Michael Daily is yet another addition. He is a student at the University of California in Berkeley, but is finding time to attend all the worknights as well as study (no easy feat).

Julia Fenderson went to Israel last Fall. It will surprise no one who knows her to learn that she made contact with radio stations in Amman, Jordan and in Athens, Greece, while she was there.

Vern, as is his habit, has been busy. He performed three weddings in the last months: Chick Montgomery and Ellen Bishop in July, Andrea Nelson and Ken Barnes in November and Bill Sherwood and Corlin Renn in December. In October he flew to Chicago to perform the memorial service for Katherine Jones. He attended the Atlantic Coast Conference organized by Peter and Susan Sarfaty, giving the closing address. During this same trip he spent time in Washington, D.C. selecting some fine professional equipment for the Multi-Media Division made available by Harry

McMullan. It was shipped to California, checked out in minute detail by David Kantor and pronounced GREAT! Vern has given speeches this autumn in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Colorado, Alabama and Texas.

SWAMI VERTEBREAKA

Our FOG group had a Halloween party a year ago during which we put on original skits. One of these skits has gone on to bigger and better things. Swami Vertebreaka was part of the program when we went to LA last Spring and again at Lake Geneva this summer. The Swami is a partnership consisting of Bob Blackstock and Terry McCade. In some partnerships there is a visible front man who does the talking and a silent partner behind the scenes. Bob and Terry do it a little differently: there is a visible top man and a silent partner on the bottom! Bob, our quiet and reserved resident lawyer, has shown a flair for . . . how shall I phrase this? . . . perhaps I will just say that beneath that dignified exterior lurks a ham! Once introduced, the Swami proceeds to illustrate the source of his name (say it to yourself slowly) with a variety of contortions the mortal body should not be able to do. It might be appropriate to mention at this point that Terry was a top-notch gymnast in his high school and college days, and has not lost his elasticity or disciplined muscle-control.

It is rather difficult to get a satisfactory action shot of the Swami, but this photo shows an action shot of the Swami's audience.

(A footnote: during our jaunt to Yosemite recently some of us whizzed down snowy inclines on innertubes. There was, unfortunately, one casualty. It was Bob, who hobbled to a physician for attention after our return. He had a report for us at the Monday meeting: it seems that Swami Vertebreaka vertebroka! Bob did, in all seriousness, crack a couple of his vertebrae, but he is recovering well.)

THE LIGHTER SIDE

For the Lake Geneva Conference last summer a tremendous amount of audio-visual equipment was transported from California. David Kantor packed nearly the entire Multi-Media studio to provide the sound system at the conference and to present the Multi-Media productions. He numbered the cases and assigned one to any member of the FOG crew who had an extra hand to carry another piece of luggage. Many of the group were on a charter flight from LA to Chicago. To eliminate the potential for luggage loss between Berkeley and LA, Joy Brandt drove her truck, with Chris Baetge, and transported all the precious cases to Los Angeles. At the airport in LA the cases were handed out and the group began to check in for the flight when a problem with weight limits per bag was encountered. Some of them were too heavy! Was this set-back insurmountable? By no means! Back to the side-

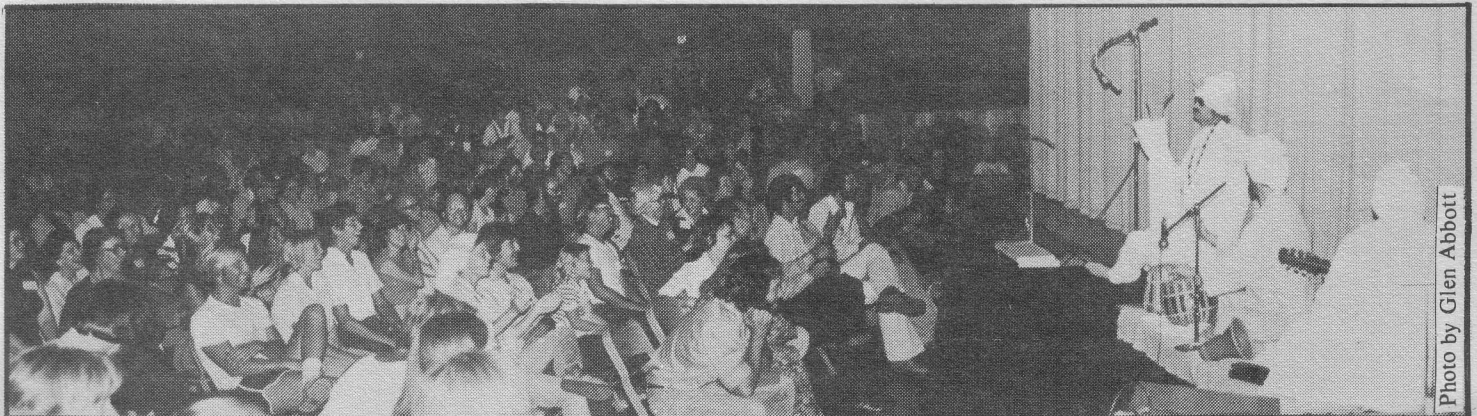


Photo by Glen Abbott

walk the group trouped and, opening their own individual suitcases as well as the electronic cases, stood back while intrepid David Kantor set to work and swiftly rearranged portions of twenty cases right there in front of the terminal in the foggy early morning at the bustling Los Angeles International Airport. Microphones, patch cords, and various pieces of electronic paraphernalia were removed, rewound and repacked. Then the group collected the cases, sailed through the check-in and flew on to Lake Geneva. I wasn't there, but my imagination can conjure up that scene, and it brings a grin to my face every time I think of it.

LETTERS

[From a man in Pennsylvania]

January 12th, 1979

Dear Rev. Grimsley,

I have listened to your "On Campus" program often for the past month or so, and I must say that I have received great insight and inspiration from your faith. My skepticism is disarmed by the informal conversation held with students that express doubts and questions similar to my own, and I find joy rising in myself when you speak of the spiritual revolution that is taking place. My doubts still cloud this joy, however, as I am discouraged by the greatness of the steps yet to be taken to achieve a complete brotherhood of man. I would like very much to read your publication

"Questions University Students Ask" and also the are concerned with fear, and I will continue to listen to your broadcast for daily inspiration.

Thank-you for reaching out to those of us whose way is not yet seen so clearly,

The following letter from a listener is being reproduced under the lighter side of things because we laughed *with* the woman who confided in us about her plight on Sunday mornings.

On Campus
Box 347
Berkeley, California 94701

Dear Reader:

I thoroughly enjoy your program even though it requires me to make the unparalleled sacrifice of rising at 6:00 A.M. Sunday morning. I find that so many of the questions asked of you are the very ones asked of me. I, however, am not so articulate in my replies and would thus appreciate any publications that you have.

I hear your program on the radio station KBFV here in Bellingham.

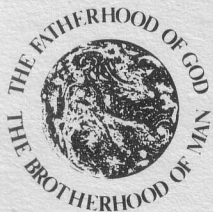
Thanks in advance.

Sincerely,

FAMILY OF GOD DIARY

RECORD OF THE FAMILY OF GOD FOUNDATION, INC.

Author: NANCY GRIMSLEY
Photographer: BOB BLACKSTOCK
Graphic Art: TERRY McCADDE



THE FAMILY OF GOD FOUNDATION, INC.
BOX 347, BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94701