

FAMILY OF GOD DIARY

Spring 1979

Issue number 45



SPIRITUAL RENAISSANCE CONFERENCE

In May the fifth annual Spiritual Renaissance Conference was held; for the first time it was a two day event. The first day was held at Pacific School of Religion and featured speakers from each of the eleven major living religions of the world on the theme: "The Supreme Goal of Religion." Our plan was to invite a speaker for each of the religions who actually adhered to the faith, rather than a person who merely knew about the belief but was not practicing it. Jeffrey Wattles spearheaded this effort and was successful. Each participant was able to speak from first-hand experience; we heard speakers on Hinduism, Judaism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Zoroastrianism, Shinto, Jainism, Christianity, Islam, and Sikhism. This Conference, sponsored by THE SPIRITUAL RENAISSANCE INSTITUTE—the educational division of THE FAMILY OF GOD FOUNDATION—was open to the public.

The second day of the Conference—which was not open to the public—was sponsored by the San Francisco Bay Area URANTIA Society, and was attended by well over 100 students of The URANTIA Book coming from Florida, Oklahoma, Illinois, Oregon, Nevada, New York, Northern and Southern California. The theme of this day was "A Consideration of Evolutionary Religion from the Perspective of The URANTIA Book." We were very pleased to have three special guests participating. Jim Mills flew in from Florida to present a talk on "The Way of Mysticism: East and West." Carolyn Kendall came from Chicago and spoke on "Some Thoughts Concerning the Relation of the URANTIA Movement to the Religions of the World." Julia Fenderson of Los Angeles presented a multi-media talk on "My Visit to the Holy Land." Members of our own group spoke on the following topics: "The Dawning Spiritual Renaissance," by Vern Grimsley; "The Eastern Traditions," by Gard Jameson; "The Western Traditions," by Jeff Wattles; and "How Epochal Revelation Interacts with Evolutionary Religion," by Marvin Gawryn. Francyl Streano Gawryn provided music, and the day ended with a remembrance service.

Chris Baetge and Nancy Sullivan took on the task of preparing lunch for 100 people, and provided a great meal.

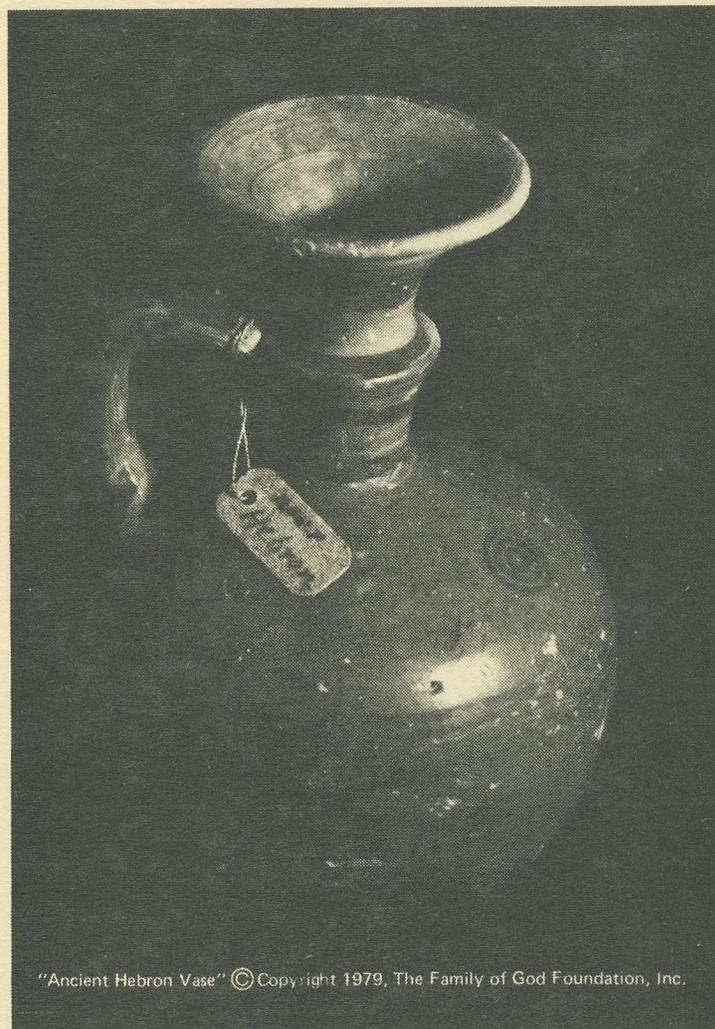
One of the other highlights of the second day was an exhibit which was loaned for the occasion by the Palestine Institute of Pacific School of Religion; the Palestine Institute owns and maintains an excellent collection of archaeological artifacts from the Holy Land. They lent to us a fascinating selection of material in use in ancient times in Palestine.

The biggest attraction in this display was very difficult to obtain, and Vern succeeded only after much personal diplomacy, certifications of safeguards, promises of security arrangements, and great persuasiveness. They were hesitant to let it leave the museum, but we really wanted it. Vern first noticed it in the museum archives 16 years ago. This precious object is a vessel which was used for oil, probably in special ceremonial rites, and is decorated on the front with **three blue concentric circles**. After all these years the color and distinctness of design still last.

When Vern brought the exhibit here to be unpacked Carolyn Kendall was already on the scene, and she and Vern worked to-

gether to arrange the display. The special little vase was labelled as a piece of Cypriot pottery, well over 2000 years old. After they had admired it and determined the best display location, Carolyn discovered a tiny identification tag showing where the vase had been found. There were two words: "Near Hebron." She and Vern stared at each other in total silence for several seconds. He told me about it later. Carolyn said, "Isn't Hebron where Abraham maintained his headquarters during the times of Melchizedek?" "Yes, I'm sure of it," said Vern. They checked, and were correct.

We are reproducing a photo of this vase, which David Kantor took while it was on display.



"Ancient Hebron Vase" © Copyright 1979, The Family of God Foundation, Inc.

Among the many out-of-town visitors for this conference were two from several states away: Harry McMullan attended from Oklahoma and David Glass flew in from Florida. Numerous good friends drove up from the Los Angeles area.

PUBLICATIONS

In the last year, two different publications have been developed from the initial ideas to accomplished facts. *The SPIRITUAL RENAISSANCE Herald* is designed as an enriching forum for sharing ideas and experiences for furthering the dawning spiritual renaissance on this planet. The staff consists of Marvin Gawryn, Editor; Joy Brandt, Assistant Editor; Jeffrey Wattles, Assistant Editor; and Terry McCade, Graphic Arts. The content will consist largely of contributions by the readers.

in touch—spiritual perspectives on family life is designed as a journal for the exchange of insights and experiences on parenting and child culture. The staff includes Gayle Eash, Editor; Mary Echlin, Associate Editor; Jane Rolnick, Production Manager; Bob Blackstock, Circulation Manager; Mary Beth Rapisardo, Art Director; and David Kantor, Typesetter. Readers will again provide the major content.

Reproduced here are the front pages of the first issues of each of these publications.

in touch



Volume 1, Number 1 Summer 1979

WHAT FAMILY LIFE MEANS TO ME

In Retrospect

Stephen has borrowed my typewriter, that's part of what family life means to me. It's something that's open ended. Even when the nest is empty and the chicks have gone out to scratch for themselves, family life—the life of our relationships—goes on. An old friend says to me, "How can you stand it? Don't you miss them terribly?" "I'm too busy," I tell her. But it's more than that. I don't miss them because I've internalized them. They're always with me, no matter what distances come between us. I take great pride in their independence, as well as in the respect and love I know they have for me. But I feel good all over that the deed is done and that we're all so well-equipped that we can move on under our own steam.

Another friend says, "I can't believe they're all grown up! The time goes by so quickly! They're babies one day and you turn around twice and they're gone!"

It wasn't like that at all. It was a long haul and there were days and sometimes weeks and even years when it seemed that childhood lasted forever and that I would never get out from under the load of being a single parent to four. But mixed in with the hard work and the problems and the scarcity of money was something else; a fierce joy in living through each day, reaching out to the children with determined patience mixed with love; that made the whole thing possible. It was somehow like going to battle and emerging victorious! Each day there was some pay-off, some reward. I grew, and I became so much more than I ever could have been without them. We were synergy in action.

"We have them such a short time!" Aunt Emma says. Again, I don't agree. We have them a long time, and we have no end of opportunities to share with our children, day in and day out, fantastic discoveries about this universe and speculations as to a thousand things we don't know. Every day is an adventure in trying to figure out the Father's will, in trying to keep social relationships within a brotherhood pattern, in accepting responsibility with groans but with pride as well.

Above my desk is a photo of four little kids. Every day I look at it, flooded with good feelings: Love, gratitude in huge amounts, joy, and triumph.

I rejoice. "God! I made it!"

Annis Walsh Western Springs, Illinois

Family

Family is two people who if they love each other will make a child. Now that child alone is called a only child. Now if that child is the only one you can still make a family.

Some people think family is yucky, but the way I see it it's really not bad at all.

It's fun. It's laughter. It's fun and it's not plain, not dull at all. It's not just for one. It's for all. Family is fun!

Rachel Hagan, Age 10 San Jose, California

Some Reflections

Commitment—to one another, to God; a beginning strengthened by the very fact of commitment; to purposeful growth from tolerance, to acceptance, to love; which develops on a far larger scale with our earthly family. Our immediate family is a training ground to ready us for larger family—the family of God.

Birth—my husband being actively present and helping at the birth of each child. The immediate togetherness of the family as each new member arrives. (Compare this to arriving on the mansion worlds. What a tremendous feeling of awe, love, and unity!)

Joyous times—just little smiles between one another that provide an invisible network, a frame for the foundation.

Patience—a place to learn patience; the freedom to grow; the freedom of acceptance even after errors in judgment.

Strength—I remember when the baby came very close to being fatally ill. We had strength in togetherness, in keeping all the family together in strenuous circumstances. This taught us all FAITH, and how love and prayer strengthen and unite.

Sharing—Sharing with others less for

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MULTI-MEDIA

David Kantor has initiated the Multi-Media Bulletin to chronicle outreach in that area.

Recently we held a multi-media evening here at FOG headquarters with a potluck dinner to give our local group an opportunity to see three of the productions.

In May Julia Fenderson brought her presentation on child-rearing to our group. She has developed quite an excellent program on this topic. Julia is an amazing woman and a tremendous spiritual leader.

Also part of the program was "The Nurturing Father," a production by Sue Kantor's company, Media for Childbirth Education.

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1

SPRING, 1979

The SPIRITUAL RENAISSANCE Herald

In order to assist in the dawning spiritual awakening, *The SPIRITUAL RENAISSANCE Herald* offers a forum to serve individuals and groups everywhere who wish to become more effective communicators of spiritual truth.

OUR CHALLENGE
CHRISTY
(E. L. CHRISTENSEN)
Chicago, Illinois

We know from our study of the origin and nature of human personality that we are the material and evolutionary children of a God of love. We also know that this God of universal love is a God of infinite wisdom. In accordance with his love and wisdom, God has confronted us with the material fact of human imperfection at the same time placing within the human mind and heart a spark of divine perfection—a spirit guide or monitor that individualizes for each of us the living love of the everlasting God. This fact of creature imperfection and this inner presence of the gift of God present man's personality with the great challenge, the Heavenly Father's supreme mandate: "Be you perfect, even as I am perfect."

There is a great moral issue placed in this life before the free-will of the personality of man. This is the issue of matter versus spirit—the things of this world versus the spiritual values of this world and the worlds beyond. If the goal of man is solely material, temporal, and self-seeking, then has that man, in effect, prostituted his God-given freedom of choice to the narrow service of self. In the last analysis, such a self-serving human being is very close to being a self worshipper. For as Jesus truly said, "Where your treasure is, there will the heart be also."

If a man's treasure is spiritual, even the doing of the will of God, then has such an enlightened person embarked on the long, long trail of the pursuit of the ultimate spiritual value—a pursuit that can end only when the personality of the perfection-hungry creature stands face to face with the God of Perfection at the center of all things. As the supreme moral issue is drawn in this life, it is as between matter and spirit, between the will of God and the will of man. Let us first take cognizance of the fact that man is indwelt by a bestowed spirit nucleus (the Thought Adjuster). Second, that the mind of man is an intellect system designed to work around this spirit nucleus. Third, that the mind of man is designed to function in, and to exercise dominance over, the physical body and, to a certain extent, the material environment. Its real purpose is to provide the mechanism for making decisions in conformance with the will of the personality either to follow or not to follow the Adjuster's loving leadings, the path of eternal life. Real trouble or lasting disappointment—in other words, spiritual death—can come only if self-assertion should presume fully to displace the governing power of the central spirit nucleus, thereby disrupting the cosmic scheme of personality identity.

It is the personality that must choose between the service of self and the selfless service of God. This desire to serve the Father in heaven—to do his will on earth—is the only possible way in which we may obey that inspiring invitation of our Master that has rung in Christian ears through nineteen centuries of time: "Follow me."

As we follow this Master of men in our daily lives on earth, our hearts bow with him in worship and adoration of "our Father who is in heaven." We are as one with Jesus of Nazareth as we enshrine the name Father, Heavenly Father, in our hearts. And as we work in our everyday tasks, we work not only for ourselves but also, with Jesus, for God, that his kingdom may come on earth with all of the glorious splendor wherever it is manifest in heaven.

In our seeking for a livelihood, in our quest for the bread of this world, we should be ever mindful also to feed our souls with the bread of life. And in our contacts with our fellow men, in our dealings with our brothers in the flesh, we will show forth mercy and loving kindness even as we expectantly hope to receive these good things from the Heavenly Father himself. And always, as we work and serve, as we labor with material things and seek for spiritual values, will we be mindful that it is God's kingdom, God's power, and God's glory that we seek. And these things which we seek shall abide, even forevermore.

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ABOUT FOG PEOPLE

Bettina Gray is now serving as President of the Berkeley Area Interfaith Council and Sara Blackstock is the head of BAIC's Committee on Education and Programs. The work they are doing in this connection is varied and will be covered in detail in the next Diary.

Chris Baetge and Norman Hetland, two of our well-loved associates, were married on July 22 in an outdoor ceremony performed by Vern.

On July 21 Vern performed the memorial service for Florence Bedell. She and Clyde were partners for 53 years in a marriage dedicated to advancing spiritual teachings and creating a better world. Marian Rowley, representing headquarters, attended from Chicago.

Rebecca Suzanne, daughter of Fred and Susan Shupp, arrived in May and has taken her place in the growing nursery population.

There are three new faces in the FOG crew. Charles Arterburn moved to Berkeley after 17 months in Germany. He was a student in one of Jeffrey Wattles' classes when Jeff taught as an Instructor at Western Kentucky.

Tom Galarneau is now living and working in San Francisco after spending three years in Taiwan. Becky Marshall, who with her husband Kent, recently moved to the Bay Area from Chicago.

FAMILY OF GOD DIARY

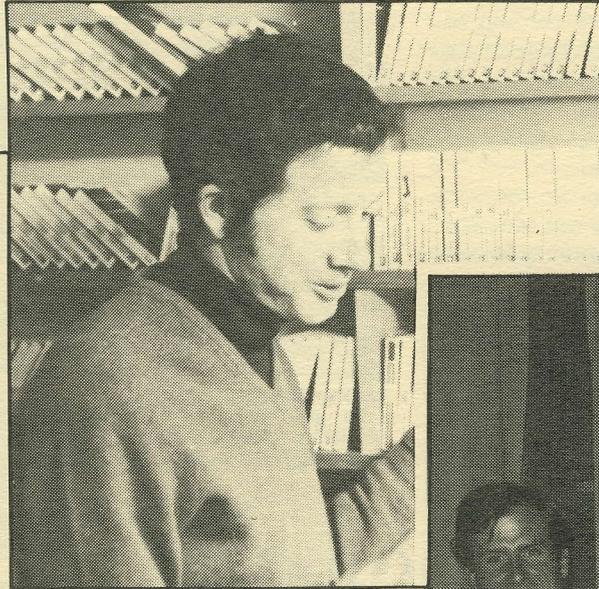
RECORD OF THE FAMILY OF GOD FOUNDATION, INC.

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Photography: DAVID KANTOR,
TERRY McCADE and VERN GRIMSLEY



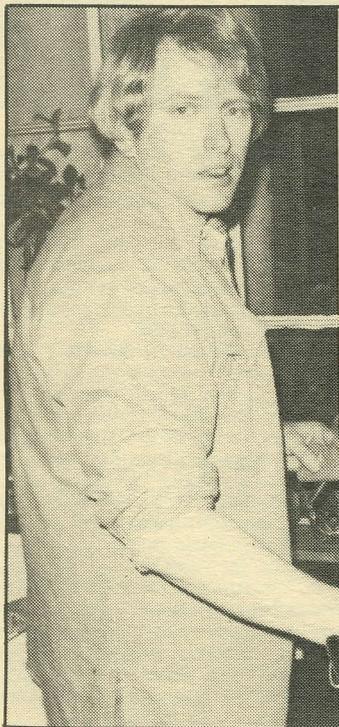
Every Monday evening we have a meal and meeting together to keep up-to-date on plans and developments.

David Gray with the tape library; 7,386 radio programs were shipped in 1978.

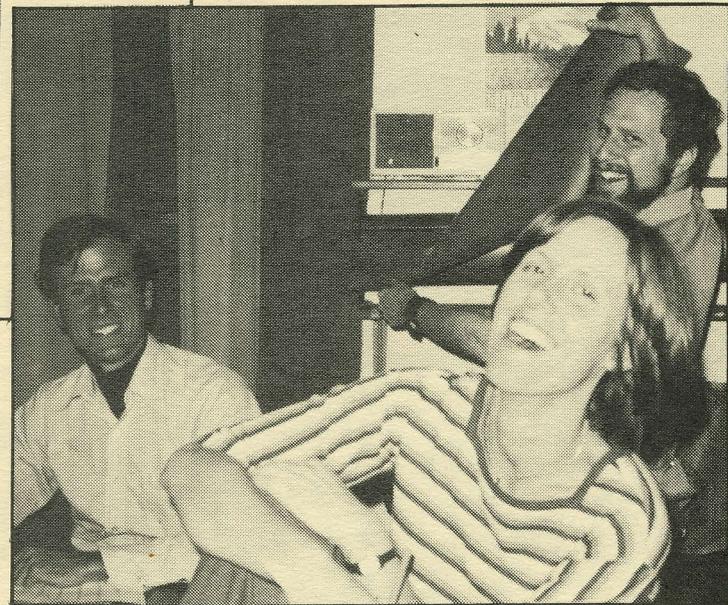


WORK NIGHTS AT FOG

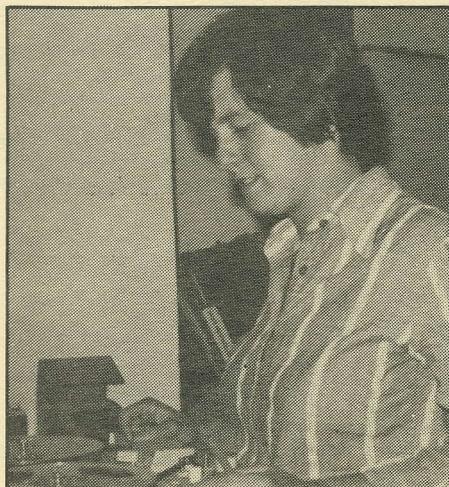
We work hard together, and we play hard together. In my opinion, that combination can't be beaten. This page is an assortment of pictures taken over the past several years.



Vern slaving over a hot stove for a Monday meal.



Gard Jameson, Chris Baetge and Marvin Gawryn work and play



Mary Blessing in the cassette studio.



Bettina Gray with some mail



Connie Aller editing a tape

SPEAKING TOURS

Vern continues to travel and give speeches. In the last months he has spoken in Oregon, Washington, California, Texas, Nebraska, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, Wyoming, Alabama, Montana, Iowa, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Florida, Illinois, and Maryland. Besides the speeches, we have been doing more in the way of media coverage, with Joy Brandt in charge of the project. Several very satisfying articles have been the result. The content of these articles is usually message-oriented, rather than just "Vern-oriented," which is precisely how we like it. We are reproducing two examples.

Vern's travel schedule is usually hectic, and sometimes nearly impossible. One of the more dramatic examples occurred this Spring when he was scheduled to speak in Amarillo, Texas, one night and the next night in northern Nebraska. Airline connections were so bad that the most efficient and sure method of making the second speech on time was for Terry McCade to fly to Texas and meet Vern and for the two of them to drive all night, crossing Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming, and then into Nebraska. They left Texas near midnight, and were due in Nebraska by 5 p.m. the next day. They made it, managed to visit one newspaper, which printed an article, and one radio station which accepted the broadcast and was added to our syndication network, and then the two of them changed into dinner clothes and went to the banquet for Vern's speech.

While in Oklahoma City for a speech this Spring, Vern was "booked" onto a television feature interview and a radio telephone talk show by the indefatigable Berkeley Elliott. Vern says jokingly that she is so good at it he wishes he could hire her as his agent and road manager. Vern also enjoyed his visit with the Oklahoma Society while he was there.

Vern Grimsley Speaks At Panhandle Forum

Vern Grimsley, well-known broadcaster, will be the featured speaker at the Alliance Panhandle Forum meeting on Friday, April 20.

Grimsley has been featured on the CBS network, Radio Free Europe has beamed his commentary behind the Iron Curtain in six languages, and he has done daily talks on numerous work-wide facilities.

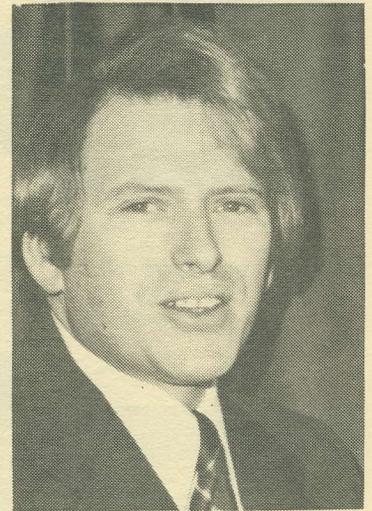
His thought-provoking broadcasts are heard by millions in all fifty states of the U.S. and on many stations around the world, including Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, Canada and mainland China.

Grimsley also is director of the Spiritual Renaissance Institute, an educational center for the advanced study of philosophy and world religion.

He is a former psychology researcher for the National Science Foundation in Washington, D. C., and is a Phi Beta Kappa in psychology and philosophy.

Grimsley predicts the dawning of a global spiritual renaissance, culminating ultimately in a unified world philosophy: "the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man - the worldwide Family of God."

He also foresees a growing convergence between the fields of psychology and religion. He contends



Vern Grimsley

that the scientific study of psychology has led researchers increasingly into considerations of philosophy and theology.

"For instance, the human psychological needs for meanings and values are quite intense," he says, "but these lie very much in the realms of philosophy and religion.

"Without feelings of meaning and value, people become emotionally crippled, psychologically disabled.

"Psychology also has discovered a profound craving in the human mind for faith, hope and love, for truth and beauty and goodness," Grimsley says.

"Yet psychology is largely unable, by purely scientific techniques, to understand or explain these phenomena.

"Or consider belief in God," Grimsley says. "Countless of the most dynamic personalities in human history have been tremendously motivated by their personal religious experiences, yet psychology has found it enormously difficult to analyze and explain such motivations." He foresees an ultimate interrelationship between science, philosophy and religion in the unified approach to man's material, intellectual and spiritual questions.

"My conclusion is that the love of God and humanity constitute the two most dynamic principles of psychological health known on earth," says Grimsley. "And for thousands of years these have been known as the two 'great commandments' of Judaeo-Christian religion."

Philosopher in spotlight

International broadcaster and psychology researcher Vern Bennom Grimsley, San Francisco, will speak to the Lower Valley Knife and Fork Club when it meets at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Keene-Riverview School cafeteria.

He predicts the dawning of a global spiritual renaissance, culminating in a unified world philosophy: the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man — the worldwide Family of God.

"The human brain," states Grimsley, "is capable of storing 12 billion bits of information. It would require computers the size of skyscrapers to achieve the functions which the human brain can carry out, and even then such a computer would lack will, personality, a sense of aesthetics, and character. Human beings possess incredible potential. But if this is true, both mentally and physically, imagine how much more there is to man spiritually!"

There is an unseen dimension to existence, Grimsley believes, "which can energize man to new experience and endeavor; and



VERN BENNOM GRIMSLEY
... psychologist here

these unseen potentials are released by faith.

"The more you exercise a muscle," he notes, "the stronger it becomes. This principle is psychologically and spiritually true as well. What you use, in-

creases. The more you love, the more love you'll have. The more you live in faith, the more confidence and joy you'll have."

Grimsley has been featured on the CBS network, Radio Free Europe and the American Forces Radio network. A former psychology researcher for the National Science Foundation, he now heads the Worldwide Broadcasting Network and is director of the Spiritual Renaissance Institute.

"One cannot always choose the situations one encounters," he admits, "but one can choose the attitude with which one encounters the situations. And that attitude can either be hope or despair, either faith or fear, and that decision is of immense importance.

"There is an extraordinary liberation in the realization that your personal value as an individual is utterly independent of anything else on earth. Man belongs here. Man's place in the cosmos is as planned and assured as the place of the sun and the stars, because humankind are sons and daughters of the infinite God."

