



# THE FAMILY OF GOD JOURNAL

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

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Greetings Friend:

We at the Family of God Foundation would like to share the joy of our progress and some thoughts on spiritual growth with you, our radio listener. To do this, we bring you The Family of God Journal.

Our progress is directly related to your growth in the Father's kingdom of Truth, Beauty, and Goodness. Our joy is to witness the advance of the spiritual renaissance in the lives of personalities, such as yourself.

The purpose of this journal is to deepen the channels of communication among those who have found the Father, and desire to grow daily in His Will. It is our conviction that the Family of God encompasses the entire planet, even the entire Universe. Every person on this planet is a son or daughter of the Universal Father; and, the greatest of all mortal experiences is the joy of getting to know our brothers and sisters through service and friendship. It is our prayer that your growth will be facilitated by this journal.

Through this journal we will share with you the aspirations and ideals of other radio listeners, thoughts on spiritual growth from a variety of sources, responses to questions that are being asked by our radio audience, and the progress we are experiencing in bringing to the peoples of our planet the greatest truths that we mortals can hear: the transforming truth of the Fatherhood of God and the reality of the Brotherhood of Man.

This journal is for you, and we would like to hear from you. Your support is appreciated. Your resources, both spiritual and material, represent seeds which can only bear fruit by being planted. May the fruit borne by this generation be a spiritual renaissance!

Yours in the Father's Family,

Gard Jameson  
Editor

## OUR TASK

Just about the only way for family members to maintain ties when they live apart is to keep in touch. The same principle applies to members in the worldwide family of God. Our desire is to maintain ties with the family members who have been in correspondence with this radio broadcast, to keep in touch with each other. For we are all brethren. Human forgetfulness may obscure that fact; quarrelsome brethren may seem to belie it. But our Father—above and within—always and ever loves each of us and keeps the family ties intact no matter how severed filial ties may become. In this present venture our aim is more friendship than formality.

The Father God's far-flung family on this planet is immense and growing. Though we speak many different languages and follow many different occupations, we also share many family resemblances: we all respond to a smile, rely on the same sun and admire the same stars, value good health and seek to relieve pain. We share a life-long struggle to preside acceptably over the outer and the inner person. Life itself binds us all together. Our task is to understand our differences and to build on our similarities, as in a good family relationship. In any family there are differences, but family love can still grow. Mortal families haven't perfected the technique of loving yet, neither has the worldwide family; we all know this, but we all also know that some family have. It can be done.

If there is righteousness in the heart  
there will be beauty in the character.  
If there be beauty in the character,  
there will be harmony in the family home.  
If there is harmony in the home,  
there will be order in the nation.  
When there is order in the nation,  
there will be peace in the world.

We can share with the ancient Chinese sage who penned these words, the knowledge that they are true. Our family relationships are crucially important. For through increased love in the earthly family there will come increased love in the worldwide family of God. And love is the heart of Jesus' message.

Nancy Grimsley  
Co-Editor

## LETTER

"I am repeatedly reminded that as long as we are on earth, we would always be tempted; this fact seems to be greatly emphasized in my life by the temptations I have been encountering for the past week. Actually one temptation has been bothering me for a long time now. I have learned that prayer is a wonderful means of diverting our thoughts from temptation to God. I have also learned that our own efforts shall not bring us victory over temptation, but failure. And I have recently learned that when temptation comes, we need only recognize it as what it is and fall in love with values taught by our Master; this you told me. Although I know these things, I still find that I really do not know how to use them. For instance, I know that prayer is a mighty means in overcoming temptation, but once the temptation comes, I find it very difficult to pray to our Father, and find it easier to give in to the temptation. To tell you the truth, the impetus of temptation has been harder for me to overcome during these past few days. Actually during this past week, I've been trying to get closer to our Father by reading the Bible more extensively and books about religion. I am discovering that the closer we want to be with God, the more trials and temptations we have to encounter. But how do I actually

combine my weakness with God's strength especially in temptation? How do I subdue my passions using the strength of God through our Lord. I believe that God has given me a new life through Jesus, but how do I emphasize this when in temptation?

Now, it seems that I need your help more than before. You have aided me in experiencing the indwelling presence of God. And this I am doing well when out of temptation. But when in temptation the presence of evil seems to be more prominent."

A listener

## REPLY

Although I do not know the nature of the *temptation* you are now facing, I can assure you that what ever it is, God did not place it in front of you to "test" your love for Him. There are many things in this mortal life that are purely self-satisfying experiences. Participating in these experiences does not necessarily indicate that we are giving in to evil. If, in your prayers, the **Father** indicates that you should not be participating in a certain activity (that is, if you can without doubt know that it is the Father and not merely your social consciousness telling you), then, by all means, you should feel liberated from the desire of doing it because you then have the positive choice to do something else: i.e., to do the Father's will.

Prayer is a time of talking things over with God. It is very personal, and is simply the process of you opening your heart to the Father, sharing just what you feel or think about something and eventually coming to an understanding with the Father about your best course of action. God loves you and wants you to be happy and healthy. He knows that you are an imperfect child of God progressing slowly toward His perfection; He does not expect you to become perfect over night; He does not even expect you to become perfect by the mere wish to be perfect, no matter how sincere that desire may be. He expects you to gain perfection one step at a time. Thus, if you have a habit of a persistent "temptation" God would ask only that you choose sincerely to master your will and control yourself as best you can each time the desire comes. For example, if you smoke and want to quit you can pray each time you want a cigarette, asking for the strength to refrain from smoking that particular cigarette, and if you succeed in refraining you have come one step closer to mastering that habit. You may also have to give in on occasion, but do not think you have failed to quit smoking, because you will certainly have the opportunity to not smoke the next cigarette you desire.

You must remember that the Father loves us. He sees our intentions and knows what our true desires are. He is our best friend, and will support us in all attempts to better ourselves, but He does not abandon us when we fail to meet our own expectations for ourselves. The desire to overcome evil is a good first step toward ultimate perfection, and you should not be too hard on yourself when you are faced with your imperfection. I am sure that as a youth Jesus was also faced with the confusing emotions and desires of growing up as a mortal on this planet. Jesus reached perfection while in the flesh because He shared his concerns with his Father in heaven, and because he maintained an inner personal communion with God at all times.

There is much spiritual ministry to be done to individuals each day on this troubled world—give yourself to these lost souls and you will be relieved of many inner tensions.

Remember, God is your eternal Father!

Yours in God's family,  
Mary B. Blessing  
Co-worker

## THE FAMILY OF GOD FOUNDATION: A HISTORY

The Family of God Foundation was established in 1967 to proclaim the worldwide brotherhood of man beneath the sovereign Fatherhood of God. The principal activity of the Foundation centers around its radio broadcasts. A 1967 prospectus projected two broadcasting goals: radio coverage in all fifty of the United States by the end of 1975, and global coverage by 1980. These goals were ambitious; but the first has now been realized with over two hundred radio stations carrying the broadcast in North America. The second goal—global outreach, is being approached well ahead of schedule, with the broadcast being beamed from a number of radio outlets around the planet: Asia, Africa, Australia, Europe.

The broadcast is divided between programs consisting of spontaneous question and answer sessions originating outdoors on university campuses, and discourses on the teachings of Jesus by Foundation President, Vern Grimsley. The programs are edited to specified lengths, duplicated, and sent to the Mail Room where they are inventoried and distributed to stations. Hundreds of tapes are shipped and received weekly in a systematic mailing procedure.

Listeners from around the world write to the Family of God Foundation requesting free literature and counsel concerning their personal spiritual questions. Workers in the Correspondence Counselling Department answer each request with a personal letter, and respond to thousands of such inquiries each year. Personnel in the Media Relations Department keep client stations informed about listener response and other aspects of the development of the broadcast. This group is also responsible for the promotional efforts which add new stations to the broadcasting log.

The Foundation crew gathers for work purposes several nights a week. Individuals work additionally on departmental projects as their schedules permit. Foundation associates also participate in weekly classes and seminars on world religion, philosophy, and personal ministry. Other activities include personal work with students on campus, productions of multimedia presentations by our Multi-Media Division, preparation of publications, spiritually oriented musical performances, speaking to campus and community groups around the country, as well as working with the educational division of the Foundation, The Spiritual Renaissance Institute.

All people involved with the Foundation support themselves, reside independently, and volunteer their time for the spiritual work; no one receives payment for any of the services performed.

The Foundation's base of financial support is wide; by far the most frequently received donation is the small contribution from listeners to the broadcast. This remains true in spite of the deliberate lack of appeal for funds over the air. However, the organization's major financial support is provided by the less frequent but larger gifts from individuals and institutions who are interested in the progress of the spiritual renaissance. All money received is channeled toward the overarching goal of reaching increasing numbers of people around the planet with the message of the Father's love for all of his spiritual children.

The growth continues. The Family of God Foundation is dedicated, with all the faith and energy of its participants, to the inauguration of a global spiritual renaissance: all men, women, and children, living together in peace and love as members of one worldwide Family of God.

The Family of God broadcast is sponsored by the Family of God Foundation, Inc., a non-profit, non-sectarian, non-denominational organization established for the sole purpose of proclaiming the teachings of Jesus—the Fatherhood of God, and the brotherhood of man, the worldwide Family of God.



### THE FAMILY OF GOD FOUNDATION IN 1979 A LOOK AT LAST YEAR Vern Bennom Grimsley President

1979 was a year of exciting growth and progress for the Family of God Foundation, Incorporated, and for our several divisions and publications.

Our broadcasting division, the Worldwide Broadcasting Network (WBN), proclaimed the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man over hundreds of stations located in all 50 of the United States, as well as in Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, and—beginning December 3, 1978—into China via Radio Macau.

Last year our broadcasting syndication service sent out a total of *seven thousand, three hundred and eighty-six* radio programs for broadcast over many powerful stations in our network from coast to coast and around the world. And *new* stations were added to our growing radio network at a rate of *one every two weeks* this past year.

We received thousands of letters from broadcast listeners around the world. Some listeners have requested literature to translate, print, and distribute to the peoples of their lands. We look forward in the future to being able to fund such projects.

Our Multi-Media division has expanded superbly, and will begin making films within another year or so.

Our Music Publishing Division, Publications, Cassette Studio, Correspondence Counselling Department and Education Division—The Spiritual Renaissance Institute—continue to progress as well.

We now have a total of 21 separate departments and divisions in the Family of God Foundation, and 25 trained administrators in charge of a separate corps of superb volunteers and part-time helpers.

It is our purpose to proclaim the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man to the entire planet in our generation. We profoundly appreciate your interest in and support of this tremendous task!



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