

UPDATE

News From
The Family Of God Foundation

March, 1984

GOSPEL OUTREACH IN ASIA

(Co-Worker Mary Blessing reports on outreach activities in India)



C.E.Y. Asia

...spreading the gospel to tribal ladies and children...

Dear Rev. Grimsley,

I would like to introduce myself as director to Full Gospel Native Missionaries in India. Ours is an interdenominational faith ministry. Mainly we are working among hill tribes and forest area people. There are thousands upon thousands of people in India slipping into eternity without knowing their savior. When I see their situation of worshipping idols, trees, rocks and planets my heart is burdened with great compassion, zeal and enthusiasm to preach the word of God to those neglected people.

Recently we opened a Tape Library in India where millions of people can understand the English language. I want to present your wonderful messages; I hope after listening to your messages they will accept Jesus Christ as their Lord.

So Dear Sir, we need your help to continue this poor ministry. Please send your message in recorded cassette tapes, so daily hundreds of people will listen to your message...

In Jesus' wonderful name,

(signature)

F.O.G. has aired its Spiritual Renaissance Broadcast on the all-Asia service of RADIO SRI LANKA twice weekly for over 10 years, reaching India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, the Malay Peninsula and other Asian countries as well. One of the ministries developed by this extensive broadcasting to that spiritually rich country, India, has been continuous shipments of cassette tapes to religious leaders of Christian-oriented groups.

For example, the Christian Evangelical Youth Association is an orphanage which, in addition to ministering to homeless children, serves truth-seeking villagers throughout the province. For more than four years the director of C.E.Y. has shared our radio broadcasts on cassette tape with hundreds of youths and villagers. He has translated Vern's message into Telugu (the local language) and has recently begun a translation of Marvin Gawryn's book, REACHING HIGH.

Another pastor in India, who has been corresponding with us for about eight years, has developed a "Tape Lending Library," which utilizes our Spiritual Renaissance Broadcast tapes as one of its main resources. (We send our tapes without cost to these Indian ministers, knowing that the gospel of Jesus is shared openly and lovingly among these followers of Christ). Additionally, Pastor Yelchuri has translated our written tracts in Hindi for distribution among his villagers.

The religious gatherings developed by these Indian ministers consist of out-door "open-air" meetings, where the minister sets up his cassette player and speaker for all to hear, and uses Vern's talks as the basis for the service. After playing Vern's tapes (often one hour's worth) there is open discussion of the gospel with some impromptu translation of the message. Written tracts of Vern's messages are distributed, and questions are addressed. In conclusion, we are told by these ministers that many previously unbelieving passers-by stop to listen and discover that they truly do want to commit their lives to following the way of Jesus. Occasionally we receive letters directly from these spiritually refreshed individuals describing the joy of their "re-birth."

We thank the Father for the privilege of sharing His truths world-wide through the loving cooperation of His many spiritually growing children!

10TH ANNUAL SPIRITUAL RENAISSANCE CONFERENCE PLANNED

The 10th Annual Spiritual Renaissance Conference will be held on May 26 and 27 at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley. Details of the conference are being worked out and more information will be reported in the next issue of the UPDATE. Everyone is invited to attend this weekend of exploring the unity of ideals held by the world's 11 great living religions.



Representatives from the world's living religions discuss ideals and beliefs during a recent Spiritual Renaissance Conference.

BETTINA GRAY ATTENDS JEWISH/CHRISTIAN WORKSHOP

Bettina Gray, head of the Office of Interreligious Affairs and past President of the Berkeley Area Interfaith Council, was hosted by the Washington D.C. and Atlanta, Georgia Interfaith Councils during a recent East Coast trip to attend the 8th National Workshop on Christian-Jewish Relations. Bettina extended her visit to include interviews with Protestant, Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, and Catholic leaders in New York, Washington, D.C. and Atlanta, focusing on the topic, "The Personal Experience of Faith As Seen Through The Eyes of Many Different Religious Viewpoints". These taped interviews have been aired on her weekly radio show, "Spiritual Resources" and since that time she has lectured on the topic at The Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California. Bettina's outreach efforts include plans to develop a curriculum for use in adult classes and study groups using cassettes of the taped interviews along with printed study guide material.

"REACHING HIGH" TO BE PUBLISHED IN INDIA

A New Delhi publishing company has agreed to publish an inexpensive Indian edition of Marvin Gawryn's book, REACHING HIGH: The Psychology of Spiritual Living. The first edition, in English, is expected to be available within the year. The book has been translated into Hindi (the major language of India) by Rajan Chauhan, and the Spiritual Renaissance Press is actively exploring the possibility of publishing a Hindi edition in the near future.

SEMINAR ON "LISTENING SKILLS" PRESENTED



Dr. Jean Lebadun

Dr. Jean Lebadun, nationally known lecturer on management techniques, led FOG coworkers and volunteers in a workshop on developing listening skills at the Institute in December. Jean met Vern during a professional speakers conference and after talking with him about his career and broadcast ministry, she asked to visit the Institute to learn more about the work which is carried on here.

The workshop was sponsored by SRI in conjunction with its stated purpose of developing teachers and leaders who can effectively spread the gospel message of Jesus throughout the world.

REVIEW OF RADIO BROADCASTS COMPLETED

A comprehensive review by coworkers and volunteers of the "ON CAMPUS" and "SPIRITUAL RENAISSANCE DISCOURSE" radio broadcasts has been completed. FOG members listened to each of the approximately 200 shows during the daily KFAX (San Francisco) broadcasts and evaluated each show on the basis of gospel content, timeliness and general quality. Using his new studio at the Institute, Vern has produced new broadcasts to replace those pulled from the series.



Vern edits a new broadcast in his studio.

SRI SPONSORS COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Spiritual Renaissance Music, headed by Francyl Gawryn, is coordinating a series of outreach programs in retirement homes and convalescent hospitals throughout the local community. Jeff Wattles, Chappell and Dave Holt and Marvin and Francyl Gawryn have participated in programs featuring music, gospel messages and personal conversation with residents. Plans are being made to integrate other methods of sharing spiritual truth with these neighbors in special need.



During their performances, professional musicians Dave and Chappell Rose Holt entertain residents with music to uplift spirits and spread spiritual truth.

BROADCAST MINISTRY GROWS IN 1983

Thanks to the untiring efforts of our Media Relations Department, 47 domestic radio stations and 1 international station (Radio Nicosia) began programming the ON CAMPUS or SPIRITUAL RENAISSANCE DIS-COURSE series during 1983. 22 stations cancelled the broadcasts due to management and format changes, leaving us at the end of 1983 with a net gain of 25 stations.

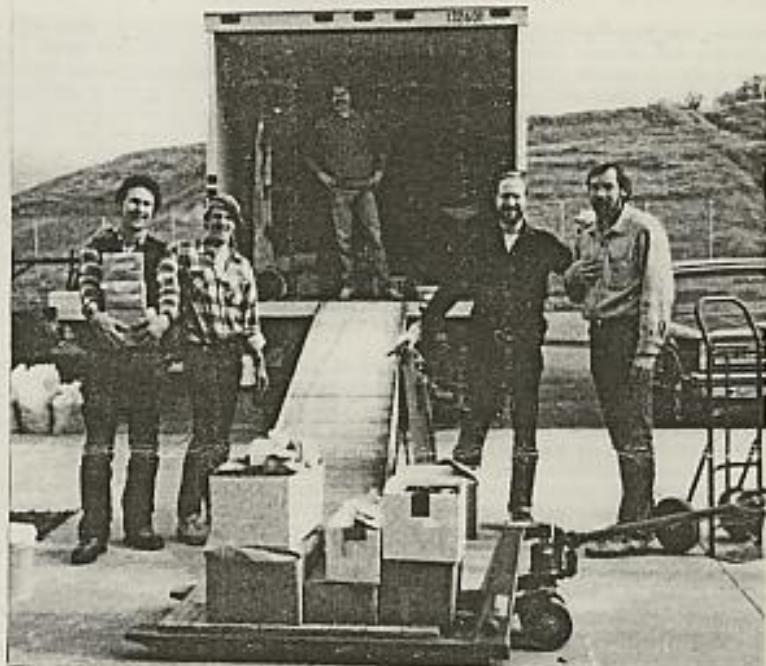
VERN TOURS U.S. AS GUEST LECTURER, BANQUET SPEAKER

Vern began his annual speaking tour in late September as the opening speaker for the Missouri Bar Association's 1983 meeting in Kansas City, Missouri. Vern lectures at conventions, banquets, colleges and universities each year as a part of his commitment to spread the good news of Jesus' gospel to secular audiences across the nation. Other guest appearances during this year's winter/spring tour include speeches in 11 states, including Florida, North Carolina, Colorado, Oregon, Texas, Missouri, Kansas, and Montana.

The *UPDATE* is published by Spiritual Renaissance Press, a division of The Family of God Foundation, Inc., Box 347, Berkeley, California, 94701.

Editor: Rebecca Marshall
Assistant Editors:
Marvin Gawryn, David Gray
Graphics:
Rebecca Marshall
Photography:
Nancy Grimsley, Sue Kantor

SRI GETS A PRESS!



Tery McCade, Chris Heimer, Dan Verner, Marvin Gawryn and Ron Craig unload press and paper supplies from the truck.

There are a multitude of ways to spread the good news of Jesus' gospel, and the printed word is one of them. In January, FOG purchased a printing press, along with typesetting and bindery equipment, from Dan and Frieda Verner, students of *The URANTIA* Book living in Ashland, Oregon. Dan and Frieda delivered the press and other equipment to

the Institute and spent three days with us, helping to organize the pressroom and training us in typesetting and printing techniques. Many thanks, Dan and Frieda, for your enthusiasm, hard work and thorough training sessions as well as a substantial donation of paper stock for use with the press!

JAGAGHRI, INDIA

Respected and beloved brother in Jesus Christ,

Greetings. By the grace of the living God and by your prayers I am doing and keeping well over here. Thank you very much for your kind letter and the literature which you sent. I have just received your letter of 15 October, 1983. Really, it has given me courage and strength and wisdom. Brother, your literature is very good to me and has helped me a lot for my spiritual growth. I need your literature for my friends. I am serving in a hospital with a School of Nursing and I want to give them the same literature. Will you please send the following literature...(list). I shall be very thankful if you do. Please pray for me and my evangelical service among non-Christians in the hospital? Thanks.

Your brother in Him,

(Reply)

THE SPIRITUAL RENAISSANCE INSTITUTE
BOX 347, MENA, CALIFORNIA 94701

19 December 1983

My dear brother

It is a pleasure to read your kind words and to realize that another relationship is springing up between brothers in Christ who have not seen each others' faces. Faith is indeed the foundation of relationships.

I am glad to send you extra literature; and I hope it will serve you well in your efforts to bring new brothers and sisters into the family of life. On this planet so scarred by doubt and sin, there is nothing more important than saving lives--the eternal potentials of the wondrous personalities whom we meet each day.

Our experience on this planet is one of soul-making. We can learn to be in constant communion with the Father's indwelling spirit and to enjoy the same quality of happiness whether or not events appear to favor us. Gradually we approach the mountain that Jesus pointed to: "Be you perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect."

When we actually relate to each man as a brother and each woman as a sister--then the gospel becomes real. Just knowing intellectually that God is our Father does not enable divine transformation to occur. The mind can explore truth profitably only on the basis of faith.

You are a son of God, and absolutely nothing should be able to shake your confidence in the Father's loving watchcare and your hope that his purpose will eventually prevail on this planet. There is a growing network of men and women dedicated to bringing forth a spiritual renaissance, and each individual who becomes supremely dedicated to that enterprise will find significant opportunities and responsibilities. Consider well as you make and confirm the decisions that will shape your earth career.

I pray for your ministry in the hospital; truth is expanding, and you will discover growing truth as you serve, as you listen, as you speak, as you interact with believers, and as you worship the eternal God!

Your brother,



Jeff Wattles

BEIRUT, LEBANON

Dear Sir,

Thanks for the literature you send me; may God bless you always and help your institute.

I am realizing day by day our need for a spiritual renaissance, especially in Lebanon after 8 years of war and miseries. The people over here need to listen to the word of God, and I am hoping brotherhood and peace shall prevail in this country and all the countries of the world. Your missionary work in serving God's will is a good evidence towards reaching the ultimate peace and brotherhood all over the world.

Yours truly,

BANGALORE, SOUTH INDIA

Dear Brother,

I heard your broadcast over Radio Sri Lanka. Please answer these questions and send me any books that will help. I am poor and I cannot pay for anything. My age is 38 and I am married with two children.

Who and what is God, Jesus, reality, giving, Spirit, Soul and who am I? What is faith, eternal life, and what is the meaning of eternal life? How many are in the Christian Godhead? What is the Summum Bonum of human life? Please reply immediately. Also, what is science and spiritual values and education? How do we progress in the spiritual realm? What does it mean to worship in spirit and in truth? Ok, Brother, if you are keen in helping me in regards to these doubts, please do so immediately before it is too late.

God bless you,

CHICAGO, IL

Gentlemen:

I listened to your broadcast on WMAQ quite by accident

ADCAST LISTENERS

IMOLA, CALIFORNIA

Dear Sir,

In Jesus' sweet name God bless you. Please pray for us as you've never prayed before. Please send us what you have on prayer.

(patients at State Mental Hospital)

(Reply)

THE SPIRITUAL RENAISSANCE INSTITUTE
PO BOX 97, BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94701

February 11, 1984

Dear

It was just wonderful to receive your letter. Our group did pray for you and I requested the privilege of writing in response to you.

The battle that you are fighting at State Hospital is one of the toughest battles in life. You know that eternal life is promised to all in faith, you know that God is all loving, all knowing, all understanding, all merciful. Your sincere spiritual request indicates to me that you have begun the majestic adventure that leads to your coming into the personal presence of Jesus and the Father in heaven. Never let discouragement about your progress keep you from enjoying the trust in your eventual triumph. You will be raised. Continue to believe and rejoice.

The task of mental health is to confront reality in a balanced and stable way. Those who are one-sided materialists are considered sane by our society, but they are cosmically insane. One-sided, extreme spiritualism can also be impossible to live out, for it puts all the emphasis on the inner life, and does not help such a misled believer to develop adequate contact with the material reality that was put here for us to use. Despite the fact that we live in a culture that is not spiritually mature, very much of good is to be found in the world, and there is very much to participate in that is worthwhile. There is no need to fear anything.

Part of mental health is physical. Proper nutrition, exercise, and recreation is essential. Some people's physical-mental systems can function for a fairly long time with an improper balance of these ingredients, but in a certain way, it is a blessing to have a system that is so sensitive that we cannot function well unless we take care of these basic needs.

Part of mental health is social. Learning to feel relaxed about oneself and with others, strangers and intimate friends of both sexes, is a long project for some of us, but God will lovingly lead us through whatever steps of growth we may need.

Much mental health care today is centered on helping individuals to understand their problems, often going back to difficult events in the past. This type of reflection can be very illuminating, but it is important again to remember balance. The religion of Jesus was one of self-forgetting service: paying attention to God and to the needs of others. When we look for the opportunities in the world to contribute, then we escape from the trap of excessive self-concern. Most of the time Jesus prayed in the plural--our Father. Only in the great crises did he pray for himself, as in Gethsemani. Your time in the hospital is designed to be a temporary fixing, a tune-up, a needed separation from worldly pressures, a time when you have the opportunity for conversation with some specialists, for supervised activities. It is a time to go through a gradual process that no human being understands perfectly.

Go through this period with grace, and come forth reborn to new life, responsible to every dimension of reality--material facts, intellectual growth, and spiritual friendship. I believe in you, each one of you. And I look forward to the gradual process of your triumph in this life and the next!

Peace and good cheer,



Jeff Wattles

and I am so excited about the few minutes when I heard your program that I cannot tell you how thrilled I am. Never, never have I heard such a wonderful message for all of humanity. Please send me whatever material you can. I am 77 years young and have studied everything I could find and have endeavored to live the truth to the best of my ability, and spreading the words of truth to humanity is one of our greatest services. God bless you.

Sincerely,

TRANSVAAL, SOUTH AFRICA

Dear Sir,

I have been following your teachings on Radio Swazi. I get very moved by your words but my sins overcome me. I am not afraid to reveal myself as a sinner; I know it, I sin everyday.

I have tried to go straight but it's all in vain. The more I sin, the more I try to loosen myself from sinning, the more the devil is clinging on to me.

Please pray for me, for I am lost without Jesus Christ. And I ask you please to send me your free booklets.

Yours faithfully,

BARTLETT, TENNESSEE

Dear On Campus,

I have been a new listener to your show for the past two months and I have greatly enjoyed Mr. Grimsley's philosophy. I am not what you would call a firm believer in God, but recently several incidents in my life have made it very hard to deny His existence. Your show's modern approaches have intrigued me more than any church I have frequented. I would greatly appreciate it if you would send me all of Mr. Grimsley's writings.

Thanks very much,

SPIRITUAL RENAISSANCE INSTITUTE READY FOR EXPANDED OUTREACH MINISTRY TO COMMUNITY AND WORLD

On page 1738 of *The URANTIA Book**, referring to the need for building a sound moral and intellectual foundation upon which to support one's personal character, Jesus instructs his followers, "...do not make the mistake of the foolish carpenter who wastes valuable time squaring, measuring, and smoothing his worm-eaten and inwardly rotting timber and then, when he has thus bestowed all of his labor upon the unsound beam, must

reject it as unfit to enter into the foundations of the building which he would construct to withstand the assaults of time and storm."

The material objects of our planet also need a solid foundation upon which to withstand the material assaults of time and storm. Built in 1965 of concrete and steel, the new Institute is in excellent condition and in need of only minor repairs. Work is currently focused on the construction

of interior and exterior maintenance facilities and the completion of those repairs which will guarantee a solid and long-standing material foundation upon which we can build a world-wide spiritual outreach center capable of serving the planet well into the 21st century. Listed below are a few of these projects:

Projects Completed:

- 1,200 square foot carpentry shop built and fully equipped for interior construction and maintenance, including electrical and plumbing systems.
- Major repairs on caretakers cottage.
- 20,000 sq. feet of roof repaired, tarred and graveled.
- Refrigeration units in the kitchen repaired and kitchen equipped for full operation.
- New energy-saving institutional dishwasher system installed.
- 5 acres of irrigation system repaired and in operating condition.
- Childcare and socializing area equipped with furniture, childcare materials, barbeque and picnic table.
- Repair or replacement of valves and fixtures on 53 sinks, 36 toilets, 23 showers and 3 bathtubs.
- Fence installed around building.
- Fire extinguishers and safety systems brought up to code.
- Construction and installation of book and storage shelves in Vern's broadcast studio and office.
- Exterior terrazzo deck resealed and resurfaced.
- Ceramic tile in all baths and showers recaulked.
- Cracks in driveway and parking lot repaired and entire area resurfaced.
- Well drilled and installed on property.
- Trees and flowers planted at front entrance.

- 15 furnaces serviced and repaired.
- Exterior lighting installed around building.

Projects In Process/Scheduled for Spring, 1984

- Building exterior waterproofed and painted.
- Installation of internal communication and building security systems.
- Major electrical rewiring for broadcast and recording studios, graphics, multi-media and other related facilities.
- Construction of multi-purpose recording studio.
- Installation of complete color-slide film processing facility (for multi-media production) and installation of darkroom facilities, including a precision vertical camera for graphics reproduction.
- Installation of video training and production facility.
- Major upgrading of computer services to serve Mail-In, Mail-Out and Correspondence Departments.

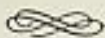
The carpentry shop, organized and supervised by Ron Craig, has allowed us to complete many of the necessary construction and repairs utilizing the expertise of several of our coworkers and volunteers (plus the invaluable services of visitors such as electrician Bert Cobb from Jerome, Idaho and Thomas and Cassandra Orjala from Coeur d'Alene, Idaho). The ability to make improvements and repairs on the building without having to pay outside professionals has enabled FOG to apply several thousands of additional dollars toward the growing spiritual outreach ministry.

NEW CO-WORKERS AND VOLUNTEERS AT FOG



Back Row (left to right): Mark Turin, Emmanuel Desurvire, Ron Craig, Chris Heimer; Middle Row: Nathaniel Blackstock, Sally Flanagan, Heather Secord, Frank Baca; Front Row: Mike and Janet Harman, Hagiko Ichihara, Dolores Nice.

After a year of volunteer service with the Family of God Foundation, Frank Baca, Chris Heimer and Heather Secord have become co-workers. We welcome them as new members of the Administrative Council and look forward to sharing many years of service and teamwork with them. Frank has recently been named as head of the Mail-Out Department and Chris is overseeing the activities in Mail-In.



Dolores Nice joined FOG last summer after completing work toward a Masters degree in Administration (while employed full-time as a classroom teacher and program specialist for a local school district). She spends much of her time working in the Correspondence Department and, being fluently bilingual in English and Spanish, she has expertly translated several poems and essays into Spanish for distribution among our Spanish-speaking brothers and sisters.

Ron Craig arrived in the Bay Area from Sterling, Alaska on October 17, 1983. A charter member of the Anchorage, Alaska study group (circa 1974), he decided to move to the Bay Area and join FOG because of a growing interest in the ministry work. Ron is a professional carpenter and has been invaluable to us during our move from Berkeley into the new Institute. Aside from being a master with his carpenter's tools, Ron has delighted us with truth-teaching stories and parables constructed from his many and varied experiences in the Alaskan frontier.

We extend a warm welcome to Emmanuel Desurvire from Paris, France. Two years ago Emmanuel visited FOG and, determined to come back to join in the ministry efforts, he finally arrived in November after completing his doctorate in fiber optics. He is currently doing post-doctoral research at Stanford University and is dividing his time between job, volunteer work in the Correspondence Department and discovering what life is all about in California, USA.

In the last issue of the UPDATE, we reported that Hagiko Ichihara had returned to Japan after completing her studies at a local college. Since that time, she has decided to return to the Bay Area to continue her studies and become actively involved at The Family of God Foundation. A special "welcome back" to you, Hagiko!

At 12 years of age, Nathaniel Blackstock (son of co-workers Sara and Bob Blackstock) has become the youngest volunteer at FOG. Nathaniel spends many hours cheerfully supervising the younger children and we are proud to have him on the team!

Mark Turin and Sally Flanagan have recently returned as Volunteers and we are happy to have them back on the team! For several years Mark has generously supplied the Mail-Out Department with boxes for mailing tapes to radio stations. In recent months he has been contributing to the landscaping and outdoor construction efforts utilizing his expertise as a heavy equipment operator. Sally, a preschool teacher with 2 active children of her own, is currently working in the Mail-Out Department.

On February 23, 1984 our newest volunteers - Mike and Janet Harman - arrived from Kansas City, Missouri. Their move here marks the end of a 2-month tour of the western U.S. which they undertook for a variety of reasons, including a search to find an avenue of service for the Father. We are delighted to welcome Mike and Janet -- their skills (he's a carpenter and she's an executive secretary) will be greatly valued as the outreach ministry continues to expand and grow.

Is this your own copy of the Family of God UPDATE? If not, and if you would like to receive your own copies of the Family of God publications (The Spiritual Renaissance **HERALD**, **IN TOUCH** (Perspectives on Family Life), Nancy Grimsley's **DIARY**, and the **UPDATE**), please send us your name and address.

Would you like to know more about the Family of God radio ministry, which currently broadcasts in all 50 states as well as throughout the world over 10 international stations? We would like to send you a cassette tape containing 6 new **SPIRITUAL RENAISSANCE** Discourse broadcasts (Brotherhood, Understanding, Faith & Courage, War and Peace, Love, Worship) which have recently been added to the mailing library. Send \$3.00 (includes postage and handling) for this high-quality, 90 minute cassette tape to: The Family of God Foundation, Box 347, Berkeley, CA 94701.

JEFF WATTLES ATTENDS WORLD CONGRESS OF PHILOSOPHY

Jeff Wattles traveled last fall to Montreal, Canada to attend the World Conference of Philosophy. Jeff went to this international event to meet philosophers who might be interested in constructing with Jeff "a new and appealing philosophy of living out of the enlarged and exquisitely integrated modern concepts of cosmic truth, universe beauty and divine goodness." (p. 43, *The URANTIA Book**). Jeff reports that he met and shared ideas with representatives from The People's Republic of China, Japan, Hong Kong, Bulgaria, Poland, Nigeria, the U.S., and Canada. Jeff's trip was highlighted by a visit with French-speaking students of *The URANTIA Book* at the 1983 Regional Conference (Province of Quebec).

CHRIS AND HEATHER MAKE WEDDING PLANS



Chris and Heather

FOG co-workers Chris Heimer and Heather Secord have decided to make permanent a partnership which began almost 2 years ago when they met at the home of a mutual friend.

Says Chris, "We want to work together in God's garden, and with a triune relationship between ourselves and the Father, we hope to create for the world a bouquet of Truth, Beauty and Goodness."

The bouquet created by Chris and Heather, working in partnership with our Father, will no doubt be a fragrant one which will inspire all of us in the coming years! Their wedding celebration will be held on Saturday, May 12.

* © 1955, URANTIA Foundation. All rights reserved.

Yes, I would like to be on The Family of God mailing list.

Please send me _____ cassettes containing the **SPIRITUAL RENAISSANCE** Discourse broadcasts mentioned above. I have enclosed \$3.00 per cassette.

(Name)

(Address)

(City)

(State)

(Zip)

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF BROADCASTING THE GOSPEL OF JESUS

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



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Berkeley, CA
Permit #561

Jeralie Scanlan
1508 SE 47th PL.
Oklahoma City, OK

73129