

# Austin Statesman



Staff Photo

**VERN GRIMSLEY**  
"Man of peace"

By **LASH LASHBROOK**  
Staff Writer

Grimsley, the president of The Family of God Foundation, Inc., a non-profit, non-denominational non-sectarian religious organization has appeared twice on the University of Texas campus for rap-sessions with students and hopes to complete negotiations with at least one local radio station to air his 15-minute daily program, "Family of God," as a public affairs broadcast.

The organization, which was started in 1967 with his wife, Nancy, is an outgrowth of his soap-box orations started in 1968 on the University of California campus at Berkeley.

In his rap-sessions with students, Grimsley brings "the simple message of love for our brothers."

He believes in the "Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man."

"This basic family analogy has come out in my talks with thousands of young people," he said.

Grimsley was on the UC campus during the height of the disturbances several years ago and as he debated religion and philosophy with the students he took on adversaries and hecklers in a "no holds barred" verbal arena.

Over the years he has met with thousands of students and non-students alike in discussion situations and in personal counseling.

He has put together many tapes of these meetings and today domestic radio stations carry his "Family of God" programs throughout the country. In addition, it is beamed to members of the armed forces overseas. It is carried in England, Scotland and Wales and also into India, Malaysia, Bangladesh and Ceylon.

The 15-minute program has received enthusiastic comments from listeners all over the globe. Comments like, "It's exciting radio." "The most fascinating and unusual religious broadcast I've ever heard." . . . "It grabs your interest and doesn't let go." and "I like it."

Grimsley said that 70 per cent of the comments come from people under 30.

Today, Grimsley and his wife are aided by seven others who help put the show on the road and on the air.

As Bill Fenderson, a columnist for the Culver City Evening Star-News, remarked, "Believe me he is no sissy, he is a man of peace."