

AN INSIDE HISTORY

SPIRITUAL  
RENAISSANCE  
INSTITUTE

VERN GRIMSLEY

Eagle House was a working all-men cooperative in Anchorage, Alaska owned and run by Tom Bischel. I rented from Tom after arriving in Anchorage in August of 1972. Bischel and I would have these great discussions on politics, religion, and the meaning of life in general. One morning in September of 1972 after just such a discussion Bischel, on his way out the door, tapped on a book in the book shelf while shaking his head as if to say wow. I went over and pulled the book out of the book case: it was The Urantia Book. It was LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT, so outrageous with its statements of being presented by one who long resided in Paradise and knows whereof they speak. I would laugh at the end of each paper, the content was so rich and illuminating and the authority of the presenter so adamant, it was wonderful and ridiculous, but on page 196 a shiver rippled down my spine as the realization of the authenticity of the book seized my consciousness: I was at a pivotal point! I had found something much larger than myself, something powerful and expanding; I could choose to embrace it or withdraw to a safe distance. I knew it would change me if I fully embraced it and that is the direction I chose. The events at the Spiritual Renaissance Institute in Clayton, California from October 1983 through March 1986 are 2 ½ Years of this journey: This is my memory of those events.







December 1982: Vern Grimsley receives message "This is it" concerning purchasing a private Catholic School located on the outskirts of Clayton, CA. It also had 25 acres of land connected to it and a care-takers house.

1981 Jaye Bartlett (study group leader in Soldotna, Alaska) travels to Chicago and meets with Christy (Emma Christensen was one of the original 5 members of the Contact Commission. Dr. Sadler had been alerted to watch for her in the emergency room of the Columbus Hospital and how to identify her. Christy was the secretary chosen to help transcribing the night session's material. She personally typed The Urantia Book three times with a manual typewriter before it was published). Christy and Jaye hit it off and Christy confides in Jaye that some of the contact commissioners were told to expect a teacher/leader at some point. This information rang my bell and I wrote Christy telling her my understanding and expectations from reading The Urantia Book (I had done a study on forerunners in the book). Her response to me is the enclosed letter (Doc. 1).

Spiritual Renaissance Spring Conference 1983, sponsored by The Family of God (FOG)-I travel down from Alaska to attend for approximately 3 days. David Gray (vice president of FOG) takes me for a drive to see the property and Institute. The actual physical sight of the Institute had a strong influence on me as if there was a sense that this was the place for me. The next day I walk and pray for direction. I decide to relocate: the Institute had the potential to be a great outreach center for spreading the basic teaching of Jesus as a spearhead for a spiritual revival of mankind. Vern is the only person I told of my decision, but I did write David Gray a letter attempting to describe my experience at the first sight of the Institute (photo included).

Spring and Summer- fix up the Sunrise lane property in Alaska: put in central heat, bring in a gas line, complete various projects, and finish my teaching in the apprenticeship school for the Carpenters in Alaska.



Third week in October 1983 I leave Alaska to relocate in the San Francisco Bay area. Tom Choquette (study group leader in Anchorage, Alaska) had a going away dinner for me before flying out of Anchorage. This was the most positive experience of leaving Alaska. I loved Alaska and the frontier life style.

I first heard Vern Grimsley speak in 1975 at an Urantia conference at Lake Eufaula in Oklahoma. The theme of his closing talk was completely consistent with my understanding of the core message of The Urantia Book: the teaching of Jesus must be restated in clarity and purity so that man more fully understands his relationship with God. Vern closed his talk with a story of a farmer who was on his way to town with his horse and buggy. The horse decided to sit down and refused to pull the buggy; the farmer tried to get the horse up but the horse would not budge. A country doctor came along and the farmer explained the obvious problem to the doctor and asked for advice. The doctor reached inside his coat pocket and brought out a bottle of white powder. He gave the horse a pinch of the white powder and the horse leaps up and tears off down the dirt road, buggy and all. The farmer gazes down the now dust filled road, turns to the country doctor and asks "How much do I owe you for that powder?" The doctor says "Two bits." The farmer pulls out his wallet- "Give me a dollar's worth for I have to go catch that horse and buggy". Vern states this is what we have to do in relation to the early promulgation of a religion about Jesus as opposed to the religion of Jesus. From this time on I supported the ministry of Vern and FOG from a distance while working in Alaska. It was obvious to me that Vern had a God-given gift of the ability to communicate the truths of The Urantia Book to a wider audience.

Upon arriving I move into Jeff Wattles' (FOG member) apartment and go to 1849 Arch Street in Berkeley, California (Vern's house and headquarters for FOG).

Marvin Gawryn (FOG member) meets me coming down the stairs and asks me if I have heard yet. I don't understand the question- heard what? Vern then comes down the stairs and asks me to



step aside for a short talk. He reads his notes on the war messages (Prepare for WW III, actively prepare), I am stunned and somewhat shell-shocked.

Once I settle into the apartment Jim Blessing (FOG member) lets me use his car until I can purchase one.

Within one week Jeff Wattles and I relocate to east Concord, near Clayton. Frank Baca (FOG member) also lived in the house; Frank and I rented rooms in Jeff's three-bedroom house. Several members of FOG bought houses in the Clayton area.

The original messages of Vern concerning the advertising of The Urantia Book and not splitting it up into smaller sections were well received by the trustees or at least they did not alarm them. There was a massive shift in attitude concerning the war messages especially by one member of the trustees. This individual might have felt that his power base was being threatened. This individual trustee later forced out the existing president of the trustees and seized the position of president of The Urantia Foundation. He then made trustees of those two individuals who collaborated in the attack on Vern, claiming they "stood fast in the face of rebellion."

There is growing resistance to Vern and his messages. There has always been some opposition to Vern's position of not advertising The Urantia Book and his close relationship to Christy. The Family of God has a group meeting at 1849 Arch Street in Berkeley, the letter removing Vern as a special representative for the Urantia Foundation is one of the main topics. The letter sent out from the Urantia Foundation revoking Vern's "Special Representative" status was sent to the general mailing list and this made the war messages a public affair. The general question as to whether or not Vern's messages are authentic is also discussed. At the close of this meeting Vern declares that there is not an "ultimaton of doubt in his mind as to the validity of his experiences."

There is a sense of MISSION associated with the relocation to California and joining FOG. Everyone seemed to share a common goal and we all were concerned with each other's welfare. There



is also a real sense of exhilaration with the move of FOG from Berkeley to Clayton and the Institute. This euphoria is short lived and with some FOG members it soon turns into constant criticism. Vern is coming under attack both without and within. I am mostly unaware at this time of the virulent attacks beginning to be mounted against Vern by those whom he considered friends.

November 1, 1983- Vern travels to southern California and has a meeting with 26 students of The Urantia Book and discusses his messages. Vern requests that no specific notes or recording of his speaking be made. Hoite Caston records Vern and later states he did not hear Vern specifically request not to be recorded. A generalization of the messages is: This is it (pertains to the choice of the Institute); no risk; the hour has not come to publicize the book, don't split up the book, don't publish in multiple volumes, you need the whole book to understand the parts; Be not anxious, fear not, but be prepared. Prepare for the Third World War, actively prepare for the Third World War. Tell the people you don't know when because we don't know when. Get maps of escape routes. Store food and water. Know where fallout shelters are, or build them as needed. This one will touch American soil. WW III message October 6, 1983. October 11, 1983-People in Chicago submit a list of questions: Is WW III inevitable?-"Yes, unless we decide to send an Emergency Son on an emergency mission. This is under active discussion." Is nuclear holocaust inevitable? "No." Should there be any specific organizational action taken by the Urantia Foundation or the Urantia Brotherhood? "Only what you have already agreed and discussed. You have been well led in your deliberations." Where in this country is safe? "The Institute in Clayton is projected to be in the top ten percent of functional/protectable locations given current data." What about Chicago? "533 Diversey Parkway is in the top ten percent functional but bottom ten percent protectable given current data." "Maintain the offices in Chicago and the Chicago mailing address, but make contingency plans for emergency headquarters at the Institute in Clayton." How broadly should this warning be spread? "Leaders only, they selectively inform others." Should this be an official notification by the Urantia Brotherhood to the movement? "No."



Will there be additional warnings? "We know the answer." "Be not anxious." "Fear not." "You may not know what the future holds, but you know who holds the future." "Drop the subject."--- Second session concerning questions: How much advanced notice will we get? "Maybe none. Study the news daily. Rely on radio over TV. Keep fresh batteries in cold storage and tube radios tuned to all news stations." "Concerning timing, as difficult as this may be to mortal comprehension, there is much that we don't know. Concerning many of these matters, we too can only speculate. So, we therefore repeat: You may not know because we may not know." "Be not anxious. Fear not, but be prepared. And we love you, all of you." "Proceed as if this were your final instruction."

Tery McCade told me that a meeting was held between Vern and approximately twelve members of FOG (probably those considered inner-circle) on October 12, 1983 and it was discussed how broadly to announce these messages, all except Tery wanted to broadcast them outside of FOG, Tery stated that nothing said here should leave the room. Tery's advice was rejected. I was in Alaska at the time. I have talked to Nancy Grimsley about this meeting, she does not specifically remember this meeting and what was said but she does think it is consistent with Vern's decision style and Tery's decision style. She did say if that meeting took place that only Tery would object to disclosing the messages outside of FOG.

October 12, 1983: Members of FOG asked to sign a secrecy pledge not to divulge the WW III messages.

November 1983-Over the next couple of weeks we move FOG from Berkeley to the Institute in Clayton.

The second half of November FOG is holding meetings at the Institute. Dolores Nice and I are voted in by FOG membership, before this I had not realized that individuals were voted on for membership in FOG. There were approximately 40 members of FOG at this time. During one of the early FOG meeting at the Institute Vern tells everyone that he personally went into each



room of the Institute prayed and dedicated it to the spread of the teachings of Jesus. There is growing criticism of Vern and some of FOG question the validity of his messages. Vern mentions in a FOG crew meeting to at least wait until the end of the year--1983. Meredith Sprunger (minister and Urantia Book scholar) and I exchange letters during this time frame. We had communicated with each other the year before concerning his coming to Alaska to speak about The Urantia Book. Meredith was critical of my decision to relocate to California and volunteer with FOG; he believed that the major decisions in life should be determined by using "Rational Evolutionary Wisdom" and I expressed the philosophy that the major decisions in life are determined by a battle between Faith and Doubt. Debbie Foster (a friend and Urantia Book reader from Alaska) writes me a letter offering to buy me a return ticket back to Alaska.

November 1983 Vern converts the liquid assets of FOG to gold; Rich Keeler who was FOG's financial adviser (a very good one) resigns. In Richard's letter of resignation dated November 20, 1983 he states it is his disagreement with Vern's activity of preparing for WW III and not the liquidation of the FOG commodity account that is the reason for his resignation.

November and December of 1983 several of the FOG members worked full time on preparing the Institute. I was part of that staff, being in charge of the shop and building projects. The staff for the Institute: Tery (locksmith and lived in the caretaker's cottage), David (clean floors, multimedia and ordered medical supplies), Sue (David's spouse did landscaping and she had nursing background), Rebecca (secretary and receptionist). These individuals were paid a monthly amount basically enough to simply maintain living expenses. Nancy was still working for the University of California at Berkeley. Keys were a big item at the Institute. There was a graduated key system just like in most schools or colleges. David Kantor, Tery McCade, Nancy Grimsley, and Vern all had grandmaster keys. Rebecca had a bunch of keys, but not the grandmaster. Marvin had access to Vern's area on the second floor so he probably had some kind of a master key.



Vern is the only one who stayed at the Institute full time, he slept there. His area was the 2nd floor east wing. Marvin would come in each morning and go directly to Vern's 2nd floor; I tended to think of Marvin as a kind of intelligence officer who would consult with Vern each morning. I have no idea what they talked about; Nancy later told me that this activity would bother Vern, but he did nothing to stop it. Sue Kantor had a key to the landscaping area and I had a key to the shop and later a master key to the lower area. Everyone had entry keys.

December 1983 the FOG crew prepares the Institute for WW III: food is stored-- wheat, beans, sugar, flour, can goods and more are carefully packed in 5 gallon plastic containers with dry ice and stored in 55-gallon drums. The idea is to be able to supply food for FOG and others in case of world war and social breakdown. We cut and squeegee Mylar sheets to the large glass windows in the dining room; this was done to reflect the heat from the sun, which was intense in the summer. Martha Bredemeyer was particularly good at this, it required a hand-eye coordination that was difficult to execute without leaving wrinkles in the Mylar. Sandbags are also filled, the idea is to help protect in case of radiation fallout. Most of the sand bags were placed on the lower level against the rollup door to the shop; this made the shop a fairly secure area from radiation. The unintended consequence of the sand bags in that location was that the rollup door could not be used. This phase was basically complete by early 1984. Vern states that the preparation for the Institute is basically done.

Philip and Jane Rolnick were the first to resign in December of 1983. Early in 1984 more individuals resign from FOG or simply drop out. Vern does not attempt to stop anyone from leaving or resigning from FOG. Criticism of Vern grows and Hoite Caston is writing a lengthy paper on Vern. Hoite will call this "The Vern Grimsley Message Evaluation". Hoite Caston was a fraternity brother of Vern at Kansas University and Vern preformed Hoite's wedding. Hoite had a close relationship with Martin Myers and following Hoite's lengthy paper demeaning Vern's character Hoite was made a Trustee of the Urantia Foundation.



Early in 1984 Nancy Grimsley begins full time work at the Institute, she had been working full time for the University of California in Berkeley. The Grimsley house was located between where I was staying and the Institute. Driving back to my room in Jeff's house I would often go by Nancy's house and one day I noticed she had a flat tire. I stopped to change the tire and Nancy and I struck up a lifetime friendship. We were kindred spirits and our minds function in a very similar manner. Nancy was the real backbone of FOG. Vern was the spokesman, a man of spiritual insight and depth with a God-given ability to communicate to large groups of people, but Nancy is the one who did everything else to keep FOG functioning. She would work 8 hours a day at the University of California in Berkeley and then come home to a house of 15-20 people all wanting her to solve some problem. What Nancy did was to free Vern's time and she was the real breadwinner in their partnership.

February 8, 1984 Vern Grimsley has a voluntary Psychiatric Consultative Examination with F. C. Newsom M.D.-the diagnosis: No mental disorder (Doc. 2). Dr. Newsom had a psychiatric practice for many years in Wichita, Kansas. We learn of this visit some months later.

Several readers from different areas come to visit the Institute and some request residency in case of an attack.

January through June 1984 was a time of work on the Institute. I built a recording studio that David Kantor designed. I liked working with David, trusted him, and appreciated his sense of humor, which was somewhat caustic. David was prone to shooting from the hip. He would draw a general design for the lay out of the walls and I could make adjustments to fit existing conditions. The butterfly walls were filled with sand to provide radiation resistance if needed. In one of our group meeting David described my activity as building a beach on the 2nd floor. Since that time I have been in a couple of professional recording studios and the one designed was very similar. We worked to develop a plan for gardens and also I got involved in putting in a new water



well which proved to be a difficult task. We finally hit water on the third hole and it was in a location that was near the care-takers cottage and remote from the Institute. This would mean laying a future water line of approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile. I surveyed and we leveled a short landing strip which could have been used in an emergency for small planes like a Cessna 180. FOG had leased a Cessna 180 which Bob Blackstock could pilot. I don't think Vern ever had a ride in it. I also did shop work like building tables and work benches. The Institute had four 40' by 40' open rooms, two on the 1st floor and two on the 2nd floor, these were great work spaces. I built L-shaped tables 6' X 8' in the shop only to realize that they could not be removed from the shop in one piece (I was not a happy camper at this realization). The sand bags in front of the rollup door to the shop made removal impossible except through a 3' man-door which was located in an inside corner. I had to cut the tables down and join the sections with toggle bolts used to join L-shaped counter tops.

Early in 1984 Vern went on his last public speaking tour. He had already been booked for speaking engagements and he was determined to keep them. I was watching him leave to fly out on the speaking tour, he traveled with a couple of metal Haliburton suitcases and as he hurriedly left the Institute one of the metal suitcases hit the glass entry door and shattered it. Vern did not even look back but went directly to his Lincoln and drove off. Rebecca Marshall cleaned up all the glass and the door was replaced in a few days. This incident I believe is an insight into Vern's sense of direction and purpose. This speaking tour was approximately two to three months in length.

Late in the winter of 1984 I see Gard Jameson pulling a rolling dolly down the long terrazzo hall on which was his stored food supply. He was leaving the Institute and this was not a good sign. Gard was quiet but to my mind a person of obvious depth and common sense. This was an ominous sign of events to come.

When Vern returned he was making broadcasts every week and often more than one. The broadcasts were reviewed each week



by the whole FOG crew and voted up or down. At first they were listened to in Vern's study on the second floor and once the studio was finished they were listened to in the new studio. Vern would turn the volume up very loud for us to listen to the new broadcasts, we often complained and Vern turned the volume down some but not very much. FOG meetings were held once a week. We discussed some of the on-going conflict, read the mail, and listened to new broadcasts. We also had one person who reported on "study the news." Jeff Wattles reported on the news at first, his reports were fairly academic and later David Kantor took over this project. There were times in which his news study was humorous. David once reported on how a story can be twisted in a particular direction: the story is reported as accurately as possible but one critical fact is tweaked in the direction desired, this was the art of deception.

Vern brought Jean Lebanon in to speak to the FOG crew after he returned from his tour. Jean was a fellow speaker on the speaking circuit and lectured on management problems. She gave a talk on how to take criticism and use it constructively, a subject very relevant to FOG members at the time. She came to the Institute twice, once in the spring and once in the fall of 1984. The second time she gave us a test or questionnaire to fill out, the subject matter as I recall was how to manage problems. Your response to this questionnaire grouped you in different categories on how to approach problems, the over whelming majority of the FOG crew (75 to 80 percent) approached problems from wanting to know the "big picture" first. This response surprised Jean because of the lopsided grouping of the FOG crew. I do not recall all the options for approaching problems but another one was from an emotional approach as to how people feel about the problem.

Hoite Caston continues his work of publishing a lengthy paper denouncing Vern. He sends copies of it to FOG to be reviewed. Marvin Gawryn reads the manuscript and makes a response that it is filled with half-truths, innuendos, and flawed conclusions. The manuscript is available for anyone in FOG to read and analyze. FOG responds to Hoite and asks that the manuscript not be published,



warns that it could be libelous. Hoite ignores these responses and publishes June 17, 1984. The main point of Hoite's paper is that Vern is a fraud and a fake, he is delusional and a prevaricator. Years later Nancy Grimsley will write a refutation of Hoite's paper in which she documents Hoite's distortions of Vern's character and his accomplishments (document included in appendix).

Spring 1984 we learn that Vern had an appointment with Dr. Carter Newsom MD and a psychiatrist with a practice in Wichita, Kansas. Rich Keeler had told Vern he would consider returning if Vern consulted with a psychiatrist. The diagnosis was "no mental abnormality" and Vern was younger in appearance than his age reflected and of superior intelligence (document included). Rich Keeler did not return as a financial adviser for FOG. Dr. Newsom also wrote to Vern a letter which Vern read to FOG and in it Dr. Newsom made a prescription for the members of FOG, and that prescription was: "Lessons from the Cross" found in Paper 188. In 1986 after the collapse of FOG I meet with Dr. Newsom and asked him if he stands by his previous diagnosis of Vern: Dr. Newsom tells me that he cannot discuss the details of his consultation with Vern because of professional standards, but he does stand by the diagnosis: No mental disorder. We talk for about an hour. The three main points of this general psychological discussion are: 1-People are threatened by favorable change. 2-Individuals will develop naturally and normally if there is not some definite interruption. 3-Die with your boots on. To this day I value this discussion with Dr. Newsom.

June 17, 1984-Hoite publishes his 238 page paper which included an appendix of approximately 50 pages.

Summer 1984 Greenlake Urantia Conference in Wisconsin. Four of us fly out to the conference in FOG's leased Cessna 180. Bob Blackstock is the pilot; Dana Bredemeyer is in the co-pilot seat, Enid (my first wife from Alaska), and myself. It is a two-day flight each way. The first day we fly over the canyon lands of Utah and off in the distance we see a gray cloud under which is falling rain, Dana mentions to Bob "Let's wash the plane." I protest loudly



and Bob avoids the rain. Enid would later describe my general demeanor as sitting in the back trying to hold the plane together. Going we stop over in Wyoming (it takes forever to get off the ground at that altitude-thin air); coming back we hit rain and fog and make an emergency landing on a dirt road somewhere around the Mississippi River. A farmer plowing the field comes over and gives us a ride to his house. We call for directions and then take off again. We did not make any radio contact concerning the emergency landing. The Cessna 180 was not equipped with instruments--it was a visual approach only aircraft. When you can't see in a small plane that has no instruments and you are in bad weather, it is a big deal. FOG members were somewhat ostracized at the conference and Vern was not very public. He later said he had several talks with people, but I met some people who did not find him accessible. Vern was subject to a great deal of criticism and he was an easy target for he did not respond. His reaction to this was to somewhat isolate himself, no one enjoys being constantly attacked. While at the Greenlake conference I walk into one of the buildings and see Mo Siegel with his family, from a distance of about 6 feet Mo turns to me and says "This too shall pass." I might add no time limit was mentioned.

Late summer and fall of 1984-Everyone with FOG was feeling isolated and somewhat under siege. There were no new messages and we just kept trudging along. The financial condition with the Institute was deteriorating and the Institute was considered critical for the long-term goal of bringing about a spiritual awakening through the proclamation of the true teaching of Jesus. I would observe David Gray and Nancy Grimsley going for periods of prayer and meditation in the hills of the Institute's property. Rebecca Marshall was working as the receptionist with an office next to the front glass entry door. Nancy Grimsley occupied the office across from Rebecca's and Tery McCade had a key shop close by. David Kantor office was located down the long terrazzo hall at the other end of the Institute. I worked in the shop, which was on the lower level; occasionally David and Tery would drop in to chat. David came into the shop more frequently than Tery. Tery spent most of his time around the caretaker's cottage and



Recording Studio under construction



FOG members observing a manual printing press





improving the land in that area. David mentioned one day some of his mind-expanding experiences he enjoyed in his youth, these might have played a part in events to come.

Vern continues to make broadcasts each week and they are reviewed by the whole crew. The FOG crew became increasingly critical of the broadcasts. Two points of discussion Vern raised that I recall from the meetings during this time: the term physician-of-the-soul is used and the idea that the spiritually fragrant will rise to the surface just as cream rises to the top when churned.

There is intense pressure on anyone supporting Vern at this time. Hoite's paper had a real impact, some FOG members thought it would just blow over or no one would really believe it. Julia Fenderson was a very influential person in the Urantia community, she had been exposed to The Urantia Book before it was published and had worked for Dr. Sadler as a secretary for a time in Chicago. Julia had a long history supporting Vern and the radio broadcasts. I first met her when she came to Alaska as a field representative for Urantia Foundation and she was working to get Vern's broadcasts on the radio. I drove her around during her visit to the Anchorage Study group in the mid 1970's and we both agreed on not advertising The Urantia Book, the priority of Urantia Foundation and the vital need to proclaim the real Teachings of Jesus. A great deal of pressure was being applied to Julia at this time to make some statement denouncing Vern. Nancy told me of a phone call that Julia made to Vern in which she laments that she is being pressured to make a stand against Vern. Vern told Julia to go ahead and make the statement and he would take the heat from it. I do not know her exact words but Julia made some public statement reversing her long-standing support for Vern.

Fall 1984-Marvin Gawryn goes to a meeting in Southern California and also meets with Hoite. He returns and gives a report at the weekly crew meeting and while giving the report he states that Hoite makes some valid points. This statement tends to immediately separate Marvin from the inner circle of FOG. This was one of the most abrupt and sweeping relationship changes



I have ever witnessed. I really don't think Marvin was siding with Hoite but rather seeking some middle ground in which to improve a bad situation. The primary subject for discussion at the crew meetings is called the "current controversy"; one of the comments made was "FOG is no longer popular".

Francyl is making new phone lists almost every other week because of resignations and drop-outs.

December 1984 FOG celebrates 20 years of broadcasting on the radio. Fifty to one hundred people come to the celebration held in the dining room of the Institute. The dining room has terrozo floors, a wall of high glass windows, and could easily accommodate 200 people. There was also a commercial kitchen associated with the dining room.

The first half of January 1985 starts some strange happenings with FOG. Sara Blackstock announces at the weekly FOG crew meeting that she has been contacted and is receiving messages. She reads these to the crew and Tery McCade immediately walks out of the meeting indicating he does not believe they are true. Sara continues to believe she is contacted for 2 to 3 weeks. The main subject of the contact is to still prepare for WW III. This phenomenon tends to reinvigorate the remaining FOG members, but also raises some unasked questions.

Vern is silent and seems to be in a conundrum. He cannot take the position that only he can receive messages and he does not really validate Sara's messages--he is silent. He is also losing control of FOG.

On a Monday morning in the second half of January 1985 David Kantor walks into the shop and tells me he was contacted last night just after taking a shower. He is absolutely certain it is a contact. David publically announces that he has been contacted at our staff meeting with the maintenance staff of the Institute. The people attending that meeting were Nancy Grimsley, Tery McCade, Ron Craig, David Kantor and his wife Sue. I think Sara Blackstock was



also present but my memory is unclear on that. After we all hear his description of the experiences Sue asks if anyone wants to hear her opinion concerning David's experiences. We all consent and she states that she does NOT believe any of them--ZERO. We are taken back but continue to put faith in David. From this point on David begins to control the messages. He is receiving them 2 to 3 times a week. They are hand written by David and usually 1 to 2 pages in length, usually in the form of questions and answers. The messages are also viewed as secret and confidential.

The FOG crew continued to have our weekly meetings. The new messages became the central subject of these meetings. One of the meetings in February or March of 1985 it was requested to review all the messages: David's, Sara's and Vern's. Virtually the whole FOG crew was in favor of this review, just the messages and no other commentary. Vern wanted to play a tape from a talk he gave in LA that included some of his messages but also an introduction by Julia Fenderson, the tape was long and we had heard it before. The FOG crew insisted on only hearing his messages--Vern insisted on playing this tape as his contribution. Virtually the whole FOG crew walked out without listening to the LA tape. Vern played the whole tape for about 3 or 4 of us left in the room. It was at this meeting or one in this time frame that I requested that all the messages be preserved so that they could be studied as a phenomenon.

Late February or early March of 1985 Marvin and Francyl Gawryn leave FOG and move to Colorado.

It should be mentioned that only two or three people had access to spending FOG's money: Nancy Grimsley, Tery McCade, and David Kantor. Vern could have written checks, but he does not deal with money in general. I was given a certain budget to work within for preparing for WW III once David Kantor's messages started. The messages indicated that a preemptive attack was in the works by the Soviet Union. David was seizing more control of the thinking and spending of FOG, it was like a ROLLER COASTER GOING DOWN-HILL. David could be heard at times playing the piano in



the dining hall of the institute; he would not play a song, but cords that sounded like the musical rendition of a massive wind and rain storm or something out of the movie "Young Frankenstein." Listening to David's fingers run up and down the keyboard of the piano made me think he might be delusional, but the momentum of his messages determined the fate of FOG: having gone this far I had to see it through. Late in February of 1985 David receives a message telling him the time and date of a preemptive nuclear attack by the Soviet Union on the United States. The date of the preplanned nuclear attack was to be March 25, 1985 between 3 and 5 AM;--many Americans would never recover. A copy of the first page of this message is included and it is in David's handwriting (Doc. 3). Within this time frame Vern wants to announce a disclaimer to anyone who would call the Institute. The essence of this disclaimer was: "We are experiencing messages the validity of which cannot be confirmed." This was voted down or simply ignored--we had confidence in David Kantor, or at least we had enough momentum going in the direction of David's messages to simply keep going in that direction (LIKE A ROLLER COASTER GOING DOWN-HILL). A few individuals were skeptical, Dana Bredemeyer wanted to have David ask the midwayers how many socks were in his top dresser drawer--this sounds a little silly but I thought it was a good idea--this test was not done. There was evidence during the last week that David's messages were not completely truthful--David had said he was told to put in more phone lines because the phone calls would be very heavy--there were very few phone calls during the week before March 25, 1985. Rebecca was the receptionist and handled the phone lines (the Institute came with three). The week before March 25 I repeatedly went upstairs and checked with Rebecca as to phone traffic, because we did not put in more lines and I was trying to monitor the phone traffic; (I found myself thinking "We are being set up"). There was little interest in this war warning from those outside of FOG.

The Morning of March 25, 1985 was indeed a rude awaking. Most of the members of FOG and some other close acquaintances (approximately 25-30) spent the night of March 24 and early



morning of March 25 in the shop at the Institute. There were some members of FOG that did not come to the shop that night because they had serious doubts about David's messages. By 7 AM March 25, 1985 we knew that we had been made fools of and it was DISILLUSIONING. Most simply left the Institute and went home to try and deal with the experience. Approximately 8-10 of us stayed at the Institute to discuss what just happened. Vern was not in this group, neither was he in the shop the night before; he spent the night in his area on the second floor. David Kantor did not attend this meeting and his wife Sue did not even come to the shop the night before--she always maintained that David's messages were all false. Tery McCade told me that David turned to him and said "It's all gibberish," and left the building. Nancy Grimsley told me that David called her and laughed and said he had just spoken with Rich Keeler. The meeting was a very somber group, a short time later Martha Bredemeyer shows up with donuts--this was humorous and one of the best comments that could be made given the circumstances.

The next morning a few of us return to the Institute to work. Jeff Wattles came out to the Institute, probably to console and help those who showed up the "day after." Jeff had not gone to the shop the night of the war watch, he doubted to validity of David's messages, especially concerning the prediction of mass phone calls and the need to put in new lines to handle the volume. Approximately 10 AM a newspaper reporter shows up outside of the Institute to ask questions. A disappointed and angry member of FOG had called the newspaper to report the fallacious announcement of the start of WW III. I saw the man walking around and looking in the glass entry door. Someone says "There is a reporter outside." Silence swept the room; I decide definitely not to go outside or talk to him. The seconds and minutes seem to last forever, then Jeff goes out to him and the reporter says "People have gathered at the bunker." Jeff replies "And now they are leaving--there is no story here." I don't think anyone else could have handled that situation as well as Jeff. There was no report in the local paper. The local paper was the Contra Costa Times and a very large local paper and one that



has several affiliate papers around California.

The impact of David Kantor's "March 25th War Date" was devastating on FOG. We were all fools and had been exposed as fools to the world, and ourselves or so it appeared to me. It was as if FOG had received a direct hit from a nuclear bomb and ground zero was the Institute at Clayton, California. The membership of FOG had been basically cut in half from the beginning of the war messages to March 25, 1985, now those remaining dropped like flies at a frost. There was somewhat of a consensus of the members of FOG to issue an apology--I say somewhat because not everyone agreed with this effort. Jim Blessing drafted an apology letter that 19 members of FOG signed, myself included. Vern Grimsley, Tery McCade, and Sue Kantor along with a few others did not sign the apology letter. This letter was delivered April 6, 1985 (Doc. 4-- the notation on the right side of non-signers is made by Vern and not a part of the original letter). Vern also wrote a letter attempting to explain the recent messages but his was rejected.

A couple of weeks after March 25, 1985 I awoke early in the morning with the phrase, "Lo I am with you always, even to the end of the ages" clearly in the forefront of my mind. I was out of work and the whole social system I was associated with was falling apart--that clear thought-phrase did not change either of those dominating circumstances but it was spiritually comforting and uplifting, like the voice of a friend after a devastating argument with a loved one.

The Institute became quiet following the March 25th war date. Few people showed up there and it was a little like being in a tomb to walk the terrazzo floors of the long halls. Nancy Grimsley, Tery McCade, David Kantor, and I seemed to be the main ones in the building--Vern was upstairs but not often seen. Jim Blessing often came to help but he worked steady at his regular job and helped in his spare time. David Kantor and Tery McCade were still being paid by FOG. The Institute kept getting deliveries of items ordered by David Kantor; they would be dropped off at the front entry door. One of the responsibilities David assumed was



purchasing anything that he thought might be useful in case of a nuclear war. The extent of David's spending was not known until several weeks after March 25, 1985. Nancy spoke to David about his spending and in her words he looked her in the eyes and told her he was stopping, but he continued his spending. I realized that FOG could not afford to pay me and found work with a local contractor that was building houses and doing some commercial remodel work on the Children's Hospital of Oakland. I was not privy to the books of FOG or to the bank accounts or gold supply, but it was obvious to me that income had stopped and financial outflow was continuing--the Institute had to have a source of income to sustain itself, it was like a school and required a considerable amount of income to operate (lights, heat, taxes, plus payments were still being made--it was not purchased free and clear).

The FOG crew was decimated and Vern began go into the community and find people to come to the Institute. He often found musicians because he loved to play the guitar and was quite good as a musician. Playing the guitar was also one of the few reversions for Vern. He would rather play the guitar than any other kind of entertainment. He became involved with several different musicians and would play events with them. One of these musical events was outside and it was lightly raining that day. Vern stepped close to the microphone to speak and received an electrical shock through his lower lip. This shock stopped his heart; he collapsed and was rushed to the emergency room in an ambulance. He told me that he could feel the blood draining from his brain. Vern believed he died and was revived: he had some unusual experiences associated with this event. He told me among other things that he was "Blessed out". I understood this to mean that he took personal risks that jeopardized his mission.

A decision was made to file a lawsuit against the Claretians in hopes of keeping the Institute. Vern's first message was "This is it" and the Institute represented a focal point for the gospel outreach ministry. I became aware of the lawsuit after the legal process was started. Vern believed the Institute could be saved and he had



a specific conviction that he had been charged to acquire it as a part of his mission. Vern described the lawsuit as a real possibility of keeping the Institute. The nature of the lawsuit was financial and had to do with the price Vern paid for the Institute compared with the price it had sold for a few years before and discrepancies of disclosure in appraisals. There was a discovery process that involved depositions. Most of the responsibility for this fell on Nancy, Vern being excused for medical reasons. The lawsuit lasted for several months. One of the statements Vern made during this time frame was at the close of a meeting (small group of approximately 5 including Vern)--Vern states "I want to take the high road." To my knowledge Vern did not attack or denounce any of his attackers. During this time I would come to the shop to work on weekends or some in the evening after my regular carpenter job. One of the days I was working at the Institute, this was near the end when we were liquidating stuff (there was a lot of stuff), I went to the main floor and was quietly whistling, "Nobody knows the trouble I'm in, nobody knows but Jesus." Vern was strolling by in the hall and I heard him lightheartedly laugh as he passed by: Humor in the midst of Chaos. At one point David Kantor came into the shop and talked to me about the Claretians and explained how they were a small Catholic group that could not afford any losses concerning the Institute--this was an odd conversation to me. Years later I learned that David was communicating with the Claretians during the time of the lawsuit. The last meeting at the Institute that I recall was on the balcony of Vern's area on the 2nd floor--those attending were Vern, Nancy, Tery McCade, David Kantor and myself. David started talking about how we had to leave the Institute, the Claretians were going to take possession and we had to leave, at this point Tery McCade demanded David's key. Up to this time David was being paid by FOG for work at the Institute. The Institute was lost to foreclosure and the date of the eviction was March 25, 1986. I was at the Institute, along with Vern, Nancy, and Tery McCade the day the sheriff and Kevin Wheelwright (lawyer for the Claretians) came to enforce the eviction. Vern walked out of the glass front door and showed Kevin Wheelwright the plaque he had made dedicating the Institute to Jesus of Nazareth



(Doc. 5). The plaque read: THIS STUDIO IS DEDICATED TO JESUS OF NAZARETH AND THE CONTINUATION OF HIS MISSION AND MESSAGE—THE SPIRITUAL RENAISSANCE INSTITUTE—CLAYTON, CALIFORNIA—AUGUST 21, 1984. The keys to the institute were turned over and we all left peacefully with crushed hopes, with the exception of Nancy who was relieved (primarily because of the financial responsibility of maintaining it). I do not believe that the date of the eviction was a coincidence, exactly one year to the day from David Kantor's prediction of a preemptive attack on the US and the start of World War III. The loss of the Institute at Clayton was a great disappointment to Vern and to his dying day he believed that he had failed in securing it and described its loss as his responsibility and his greatest failure. Vern had a vision of the Institute as a center for a worldwide spiritual awakening based on the true teachings of Jesus—he believed he had been charged with the responsibility of acquiring it for that purpose and the plaque he had made states his view of the purpose of the Institute.

The Institute is now completely gone; the property was sold to developers, the Institute was demolished and residential houses built (photos included). Custom homes now fill the 25 acres at the base of Mt Diablo that was once the hope for a center for the spiritual awaking of mankind based on the true teaching of Jesus. All that remains of that dream in that location is the Oak Tree where Vern experienced "This is it."

The messages of Vern remain a question in the minds of some; many, the loudest majority long ago decided that they were false. The idea (accepted by many) that all messages are the same and that since Sara and David's have been proven wrong means that Vern's were also wrong. Vern's messages were instructions on how to manage The Urantia Book's exposure to the general public and a war warning. Those instructions were rejected and Vern was ostracized. The question I have asked myself for several years is, "What is the length of time that should be allowed for evaluating Vern's war warning?" Based on what I know of the Bible and the forecasts of Jesus I have concluded that the time frame



for a war warning of this nature is 40 years. This is a personal evaluation and not a personal revelation. I have always held the view that the messages were secondary to Vern's preaching; I do recognize that this is not the popular view. The evaluation of Vern should take into account his life work which started in high school as an interim minister in a local church, study at KU and in Berkeley, street preaching at colleges (On Campus), public speaking to business groups, and his radio broadcasts: all of these focus on the teachings of Jesus as understood in The Urantia Book and without the doctrines of the Christian Church, to quote Nancy Grimsley: "Vern had preaching in his bones". Ever since my first reading of The Urantia Book in 1972 I have believed that proclaiming the teachings of Jesus is the correct direction to take for exposing The Urantia Book to the general public and I also recognize in Vern's preaching the clarification of the teachings of Jesus and the added truth of how to work with your Thought Adjuster. The Urantia Book persistently and consistently states that what is most needed is a revival of the actual Teaching of Jesus unencumbered by the doctrines and dogmas of nineteen centuries of contact with evolutionary religion. Those who cannot or will not recognize the value of a clearer understanding of the Life and Teachings of Jesus will see only one side of the complex and intriguing life of a world class preacher. The Urantia Book can be viewed from a spiritual perspective or from a materialistic and social perspective. Those who see The Urantia Book as a means for social prestige or economic enhancement could easily overlook the more important spiritual message of the book.

The attacks on Vern and the loss of the Institute lead to the relocation of Vern and Nancy to the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada Mountains near Yosemite National Park. Vern's public speaking career was over and he had been ostracized from the Urantia community that became increasingly political and litigious in its nature. Vern continued to make his broadcasts, which focus on a restatement of the actual Teachings of Jesus, more than half of all his broadcasts have been made in the new home that Vern referred to as The Ranch. Vern and Christy had consistently advocated a spiritual awakening for mankind



through a revitalization of the actual Teachings of Jesus, Vern was very bold in this position. A thorough reading of The Urantia Book reveals that a "great religious awakening, a world-wide spiritual enlightenment" occurs at the close of the 4th planetary epoch and that Urantia is now quivering on the very brink of an epoch of social adjustment, moral quickening and spiritual enlightenment. Vern persistently and consistently advocated a spiritual renaissance within the individual through cooperation with the indwelling Spirit of God. He provided a sense of direction for the presentation to mankind of the 5th epochal revelation and that direction was through a renewed understanding of the 4th epochal revelation. Vern also gave a war warning in October of 1983. That war warning has tended to eclipse all of his evangelical work within the Urantia community. Vern never recanted his war warnings and never picked a date for the start of WW III. In the years that followed the collapse of FOG, Vern would at times in private, refer to these warnings as "his prophecies." He ministered much to the individuals he encountered in his new home, always focusing on the individuals personal relationship with God. The daughter of a Seventh Day Adventist missionary once described Vern's preaching as being able to hit the exact target in your soul; she was not then, nor is now a reader of The Urantia Book. Listening to Vern's preaching it seems as if his Thought Adjuster at times speaks directly through his preaching. Vern's main target audience has always been the general public and during his public speaking career he would deliver the teachings of Jesus to a secular audience and they would love it and never at first realize that they had just been given a new and more accurate understanding of the gospel of Jesus. The message Vern brought and continues to bring is not his message. Vern once told a small group and me, "This is not my gospel." Vern simply repackaged it and presented the gospel of Jesus without all the historical baggage that has become attached to the story about Jesus. I think in time it will be said of Vern that he was "hated without cause" and the Old Testament saying that "A prophet is not without honor save in his own country and among his own people" will ring true again.



This is my recollection of events at the Spiritual Renaissance Institute in Clayton, California from October 1983 to March 25, 1986. I was there and an active participant and do believe that was where I was supposed to be. More than once I felt like I was on a ship at sea in the midst of a great storm and simply hanging on for dear life.

Ron Craig, PO Box 2587, Oakhurst, California, 93644.

This pamphlet may be made available for the cost of publication plus postage.



## APPENDIX

### **Nancy Grimsley on the subject of Hoite Caston's 1984 document**

Hoite's document titled "Vern Grimsley Message Evaluation" is over 200 pages in length. It is my intention to deal with his conclusions, rather than go through his material page-by-page. Hoite uses the following summary twice as a concise statement of his research results. Photocopies of these two paragraphs from Hoite's document, pages 139 and 232 (quoted here), are reproduced on page 6.

"A close look at the accuracy of Vern's past claims for himself and his work at F.O.G. discloses the following facts: Vern claims to have a degree in psychology, but he doesn't; he claims to have been a researcher for the National Science Foundation, Washington, D.C., but he wasn't; he claims to be a lecturer for the famous American Management Association in New York, but he isn't, he claims that Radio Free Europe and the Armed Forces Radio Network beamed his commentaries behind the Iron Curtain in six languages, but they didn't; he claims to be the executive director of a "television production company", but he isn't; he claims to be on over 1,000 stations, but he isn't (he's on fewer than 200); and he claims to have an annual audience of over 100 million, but he gets fewer than 2,000 letters a year. Now he claims to be receiving 'messages' from the supermortal planetary government for the guidance of the URANTIA Movement and asks us to take his word for it."

My intent is to offer the reader an opportunity to review a brief compilation of materials from our files that shed a different light on what Hoite concludes to be, in his terminology, "the following facts."

My modus operandi is:

1. Refer to Hoite's summation paragraph in which he makes seven major assertions of falsehood on Vern's part and comment briefly on each.
2. Present substantiating information to each statement declared false by Hoite that he either missed entirely in his researching or disregarded.

In keeping with my experience that a succinct overview is more efficient than a blizzard of pages, I've selected representative items. The record that Hoite assails covers twenty years and our files contain many more documents than those reproduced here.

This document is arranged as follows.

Part One: My dealing with Hoite's summation paragraph as outlined above.

Part Two: Substantiating documentation

1. Documents relating to each of Hoite's asserted falsehoods with an identifying cover sheet.
2. Copy of the standard press brochure we used for many years so the reader can review a prime example of our publicity statements.



### Regarding Hoite's Summary Statement

Hoite's eight statements are in Italics and my comments follow.

1. *Vern claims to have a degree in psychology, but he doesn't*

The phrase most often used in our publicity blurbs was "Phi Beta Kappa in Psychology and Philosophy." The University of Kansas provided a statement at our request in December 1984 attesting to Vern's Bachelor of Art's degree, his major in philosophy, his minor in psychology, his graduation With Distinction and with Honors in Philosophy. I attach a copy of this as well as a copy of Vern's Phi Beta Kappa certificate.

Hoite and Vern were in the same fraternity, were roommates for a semester, and graduated at the same time.

2. *he claims to have been a researcher for the National Science Foundation, Washington, D.C., but he wasn't*

Vern was awarded a research assistantship funded by the National Science Foundation in Washington, D.C. while an undergraduate at the University of Kansas and did extensive research working with Professor Bert Kaplan. Twenty years later Hoite talked to Professor Kaplan who recalled Vern's stint as his research assistant quite well. Based on Hoite's narrative, Professor Kaplan's recollection was that the grant Vern held was probably a NIMH (National Institute of Mental Health) research grant (which is equally—if not more—prestigious than NSF.)

Attached is a copy of Vern's NSF award letter from Dean Francis Heller. The official supervisor was the Head of the Psychology Department, Professor Wike, and the research was done with Professor Bert Kaplan.

Vern and I were married in 1960, attended KU together, and both graduated from KU. I was there while all this research work was being done (and I can attest that the humid Kansas summer Vern spent in the stacks of the KU Library lives in his memory yet!).

3. *he claims to be a lecturer for the famous American Management Association in New York, but he isn't*

Attached are copies of a selection of letters Vern received from the AMA as well as other documents regarding his AMA work.

Vern's career on the lecture circuit encompassed much more than the AMA. For nearly ten years he travelled as a dinner club speaker for The Franklin Agency speaking to Knife and Fork Clubs, Metropolitan Dinner Clubs, Executive Clubs and others, including the Emporia Chamber of Commerce, Topeka Sales and Marketing Association and the Missouri Bar Association. He travelled on our broadcast work, also.

I've attached a selection of press clippings about Vern's other speaking engagements.



4. *he claims that Radio Free Europe and the Armed Forces Radio Network beamed his commentaries behind the Iron Curtain in six languages, but they didn't*

Attached are letters from Radio Free Europe and the American Forces Radio Network about the programs we supplied as well as other representative documents RFE and AFRN sent to us showing the outlets and coverage of these networks.

RFE: Horst S. Petzall of RFE refers specifically to the process of translation for our program on Youth and Religion Today. RFE used 32 medium wave and short-wave transmitters to reach 30 million listeners in their own languages, as indicated on the attached documentation.

AFRN: we dealt specifically with American Forces Radio and Television Service. AFRTS used our On Campus series. These campus broadcasts were Vern's discussions and debates with students outdoors on campus, primarily at the University of California, Berkeley. The series was available in 14 minute and 1-1/2 minute segments. The latter we found to be very popular with youth-oriented stations since the format appealed to younger audiences and each segment was designed to fit into a standard commercial slot.

Note: Hoite uses the term Armed Forces Radio Network for AFRN but the name had been changed from Armed Forces to American Forces some years earlier.

5. *he claims to be the executive director of a "television production company", but he isn't*

TV was a fledgling development at FOG, an expansion of the slide-show multi-media presentations and funded by a special grant we had received for the purpose. In spring 1978 a San Francisco Bay Area television station first broadcast one of our programs as an Easter special.

6. *he claims to be on over 1,000 stations, but he isn't (he's on fewer than 200)*

We supplied programs directly to approximately 200 radio stations as well as the programs sent to AFRN and RFE. The AFRN network had over 800 station outlets (see attachment to Number 4 above) and RFE used 32 medium wave and short-wave transmitters. The figure of 1000 stations is a composite.

The 200 stations we supplied directly included stations in all 50 states as well as major international stations such as Radio Sri Lanka. Confirmation of our international geographical coverage to Cyprus, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Hong Kong, Luxembourg and Australia is included in the attached letter from Pan American Broadcasting Company.

7. *and he claims to have an annual audience of over 100 million, but he gets fewer than 2,000 letters a year.*

Attached are letters from three major agencies who handled FOG broadcasts—Pan American Broadcasting, J.C. Gates Agency and WMAQ. Their own estimates of our annual radio audience, added together, total approximately 300 million.

Our figure of 100 million was a conservative estimate.



8. *Now he claims to be receiving 'messages' from the supermortal planetary government for the guidance of the URANTIA Movement and asks us to take his word for it.*

This, of course, was the real focus of Hoite's effort. The method Hoite chose to discredit Vern's messages was to cast disrepute on Vern personally—his character, integrity and honor—and on Vern's lifework. Hoite took our words and our accomplishments from a twenty-year venture and branded each a lie in order to give the lie to Vern's messages. Vern is not the first, nor will he be the last, to suffer this type of treatment from an adversary. Character assassination is a poor tool for a person of honor to use, but it will always serve the end of the user. It is difficult to defend against, and the taint will never entirely disappear.

It should be possible to disagree about messages without resorting to scorched earth tactics.

During the lifetime of our entire generation on this planet (and probably many generations beyond ours) messages will be debated. Since Vern's message in October 1983—"actively prepare for the third world war"—is the controversial message that triggered Hoite's denunciation in 1984, I will add these observations.

Only years later have journalists and historians begun to comprehend how terrifyingly close the world came to nuclear war in 1983.

Five years later, in 1988, the London *Sunday Telegraph* broke the story of how Moscow came to suspect in November 1983 it "might really be facing nuclear attack at any moment." In October of 1990 *TIME* magazine ran a story headlined on the cover detailing how "in 1983, the world edged closer to apocalypse than at any time since the Cuban missile crisis of 1962" and reporting that in November 1983 "the KGB concluded that American forces had really been placed on alert—and might even have begun the countdown to nuclear war."

A brief synopsis together with copies of the following are attached for your consideration.

- *The Calgary Sunday Sun*, October 16, 1988, dateline London UPI, referencing London's *The Sunday Telegraph*.
- *The Storm Birds*, book by Gordon Brook-Shepherd about top defecting Soviet spies, 1989. Extract attached.
- *TIME* magazine, October 22, 1990, large feature article headlined on the cover "Inside the KGB: A Double Agent's Tale." *TIME* excerpts from *KGB: The Inside Story*, a history of the agency written by Christopher Andrew, an expert on British intelligence. Copy attached.

***TIME*, October 22, 1990 -- Synopsis**

"When he fled from the U.S.S.R. in 1985, Oleg Gordievsky was the Kremlin's top spy in Britain and had also been cooperating with British intelligence for a decade. Here he . . . tells how, in 1983, the world edged perilously close to apocalypse." Title Page



*TIME*, October 22, 1990 (continued)

“Gordievsky tells how, in 1983, the world edged closer to apocalypse than at any time since the Cuban missile crisis of 1962. Convinced that the U.S. was preparing a nuclear attack, the KGB mobilized all its resources and, in a search for confirmation, came perilously close to persuading Moscow that war might be imminent.” Page 72

“On November 2, NATO began an exercise code-named Able Archer 83, designed to practice nuclear-release procedures. Paranoia in the Center reached its peak. Because Soviet contingency plans for a surprise attack against the West envisaged using training exercises as cover for a real offensive, Moscow was haunted by the fear that this might be equally true of Western plans. Two features of Able Archer caused particular alarm: the procedures and message formats employed in the transition from conventional to nuclear warfare were quite different from those used in previous NATO exercises; and the imaginary NATO forces were moved through all the alert phases from normal readiness to general alert. Though there was no real alert involving any NATO troops, alarmist KGB reporting persuaded the Center that there was.

“On November 8 or 9, 1983 (Gordievsky cannot recall which), flash telegrams were sent to both KGB and GRU residences in Western Europe reporting a nonexistent alert at U.S. bases. Although the Center admitted that concern for the security of U.S. bases might be the result of the October 23 bombing of a Marine barracks in Beirut, the telegrams implied that there was another possible explanation: the beginning of the preparations for a nuclear first strike.

“Surveillance teams around American bases in Europe reported changed patterns of officer movement and the observation by some bases of one hour's radio silence between 1800 and 1900 hours, Moscow time. In the tense atmosphere generated by the crises and rhetoric of the previous few months, the KGB concluded that American forces had really been placed on alert—and might even have begun the countdown to nuclear war.” Page 82

Of special interest to me are the dates. Vern's war message came October 6, 1983 (and autumn 1983 was the only time he received any message about war). His one letter to leaders in the UB movement was October 16, 1983.\*

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\* Footnote: Vern did not receive any message in spring 1985 about a Soviet first strike on the U.S. In late 1984 or early 1985 David Kantor began receiving messages, and it was David who received a series of messages announcing and confirming a Soviet nuclear attack for a specific date in March 1985.



**Photocopies of Hoite's summary paragraph**

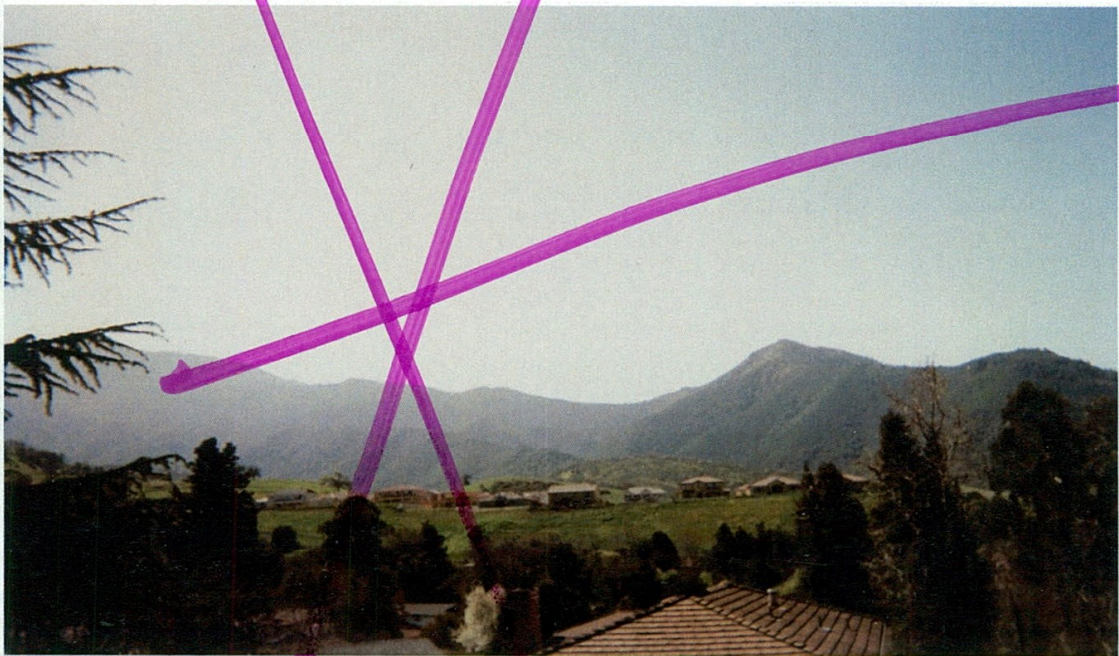
The results of following such a philosophy to the extreme is suggested by Vern's record on accuracy: He claims to have a degree in psychology, but he doesn't; he claims to have been a researcher for the National Science Foundation in Washington, D.C., but he wasn't; he claims to be a lecturer for the famous American Management Association in New York, but he isn't; he claims that Radio Free Europe and the AFRN broadcast his commentaries behind the Iron Curtain in six languages, but they didn't; he claims to be the executive director of a television production company, but he isn't; he claims to be on over 1,000 stations, but he isn't (he's on fewer than 200); and he claims to have an annual audience of over 100 million, but he gets fewer than 1,600 letters a year. Now he claims to be receiving "messages" from the supermortal planetary government for the guidance of the URANTIA Movement and asks us to take his word for it.

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A close look at the accuracy of Vern's past claims for himself and his work at F.O.G. discloses the following facts: Vern claims to have a degree in psychology, but he doesn't; he claims to have been a researcher for the National Science Foundation in Washington, D.C., but he wasn't; he claims to be a lecturer for the famous American Management Association in New York, but he isn't; he claims that Radio Free Europe and the Armed Forces Radio Network beamed his commentaries behind the Iron Curtain in six languages, but they didn't; he claims to be the executive director of a "television production company", but he isn't; he claims to be on over 1,000 stations, but he isn't (he's on fewer than 200); and he claims to have an annual audience of over 100 million, but he gets fewer than 2,000 letters a year. Now he claims to be receiving "messages" from the supermortal planetary government for the guidance of the URANTIA Movement and asks us to take his word for it.

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Doc. 5

THIS STUDIO IS DEDICATED TO  
JESUS OF NAZARETH  
AND THE CONTINUATION OF  
HIS MISSION AND MESSAGE  
THE SPIRITUAL RENAISSANCE INSTITUTE  
CLAYTON, CALIFORNIA  
AUGUST 21, 1984



Vern Grimsley and myself at the Spiritual Renaissance  
Conference of 1983 in Berkeley, California





2/25/85

MON. EVE 6:00 PM

CAN YOU CONFIRM THE MARCH DATE FOR ME AGAIN?

"SURE - \_\_\_\_\_ BETWEEN \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ AM, PACIFIC  
 COAST TIME. WE WILL CONFIRM THIS MANY TIMES  
 BETWEEN NOW & THEN THAT NIGHT YOU WILL  
 WANT ALL YOUR PEOPLE TO BE AT THE INSTITUTE,  
 WITH AN ALL-NIGHT NEWSWATCH. THIS WILL BE A  
 SKILLFUL EXECUTED SURPRISE ATTACK WHICH HAS  
 BEEN MORE THAN 2 YEARS IN THE PLANNING. WE  
 ARE WORKING DIRECTLY WITH DONALD REGAN. HE  
 IS AWARE OF US & KNOWS OF THIS DATE. WATCH  
 HIM CLOSELY. HE IS THE GREATEST LEADER TO  
 APPEAR IN YOUR COUNTRY IN A LONG TIME AND  
 WE WILL BE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH MUCH THRU HIM.  
 PRAY FOR HIM; YOU THINK YOU HAVE DIFFICULTY  
 WITH THIS STUFF - HOW WOULD YOU LIKE  
 TO HAVE ~~TO~~ TO DO WHAT HE'S GOING TO HAVE  
 TO DO BASED ON OUR CONTACT WITH HIM?"

WHAT IS IN CHARGE IN THE SOVIET UNION?

"... WHICH WOULD BE  
 THAT A COMPLEX QUESTION ~~TO~~ ~~TO~~ DIFFICULT  
~~TO~~ ANSWER BECAUSE OF YOUR LACK OF  
 BACKGROUND INFORMATION."

WHEN YOU SAID, "WHEN WOULD EVENTS  
 INDICATE THE OBVIOUS," WHAT DID YOU MEAN?

"WE MEANT THE ACTUAL HITTING OF TARGETS  
 IN THE U.S.. MANY PEOPLE WILL NEVER RECOVER  
 FROM THE SHOCK OF THESE EVENTS. YOU WILL  
 ONLY BE ABLE TO SEE SUBTLETIES AHEAD



F. C. NEWSOM, M. D.  
PSYCHIATRY  
WICHITA, KANSAS 67208

PSYCHIATRIC CONSULTATIVE EXAMINATION  
of VERN BENNOM GRIMSLEY  
on FEBRUARY 8, 1984

His formal mental status is as follows: He is a 43 year old caucasian male who looks younger than his stated age. There are no abnormalities in his appearance including his dress, grooming, posture and behavior. His ability to relate and to collaborate with the examining psychiatrist is excellent. His feelings are freely expressed and his mood is appropriate. His speech is relevant, coherent, with no undue pressure or retardation, and there are no neologisms. He is oriented for place, person and time, and he is in excellent contact with reality. His thought processes are clear with no evidence of confusion, and his thought processes reveal no evidence of delusions or hallucinations. His ability to interpret proverbs is excellent. There is no impairment of either recent or remote memory and his ability for recall is excellent. He has excellent insight into his own strengths and limitations. His judgement is excellent. His level of intellectual functioning is estimated to be in the very superior range.

The diagnosis is: No Mental Disorder

It is my clinical impression that the client has no impairment of his ability to carry out work related activities. He has no impairment in his ability to relate to others including fellow workers and supervisors. He is extremely capable of withstanding the stress and pressures associated with his day to day work activities.

He impresses me as having special abilities and outstanding qualities in his capacity for group relationships, his sense of community, his awareness of collective values, his use of his energy for creative purposes, the central place of religion in his emotional life, and his excellent qualities of leadership.

Yours sincerely,



F. Carter Newsom, M.D.

FCN:vnd



Vern



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

URANTIA Brotherhood  
c/o John Hales, President  
533 Diversey Parkway  
Chicago, IL 60614

April 6, 1985

Dear members of URANTIA Brotherhood,

For some time now, most of us at Family of God Foundation have been acting on the basis that certain alleged communications from the Planetary government to individuals in our group were valid. We believed these messages were meant to direct our activities to be in cooperation with the Planetary government.

As students of *The URANTIA Book* we recognize that such contacts have occurred before and, presumably, may occur again. But despite our highest motivations and sincere efforts to apply our best understandings of such phenomena to the "contacts" in our group, we have failed to reliably discern what in them may be true and what may not. Some of the "contacts" which seemed most valid have proven to be false and we must now say we erred in believing they were genuine.

We can no longer use such alleged contacts as the basis for group decisions, actions, or direction. This "experiment" is providing us many difficult lessons. We hope that our experiences will serve to alert others to the difficulties in validating such experiences and the consequent dangers of following any leadings they may offer.

We sincerely regret and apologize for whatever negative consequences have befallen anyone as the result of believing as we did that the "contacts" in our group were valid. The truth of such contacts, and appropriate responses to them, should only be evaluated by each individual for himself or herself.

Please trust that those in our group, and those in the movement at large, acted in good faith regarding these matters and in every instance did the best they knew.

We rededicate ourselves to our chartered purpose: the proclamation of the teachings of Jesus, the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man. This has always been our purpose and we will remain true to it, while focusing all our activities more directly upon this spiritual ministry.



We appreciate the many calls of love, support and understanding we have received in the recent weeks...we love you all.

In the Father's love,

Your fellows at The Family of God Foundation.

May to blessing  
 Ron Kenton  
 Ron Craig  
 Frank Baco (m66)  
 Laura Kendall  
 Jeff Wattles (SSM)  
 Janet Herman  
 M. Wayne Hansen  
 James Bessie  
 Bettina Gray  
 Rebecca Marshall (BC)  
 David Gray  
 Dana Brudemeyer  
 Sara L. Blackstock  
 Robt L. Blackstock

donna hanna  
 Michael Hanna  
 Dolores L. Nece  
 Nancy Grimsley

Non-signers:  
 Hagiko Wattles  
 Terry McCade  
 Sue Kantow  
 Larry Jones  
 Vern Grimsley  
 Nathaniel Blackstock  
 Chris Nico  
 Mark Turin  
 Sally Hennigan