

SEARCHING FOR



CELESTE

FOREWORD

Mothers of children still in the COG have been the protagonists in the fight against this cult and it is not hard to understand why.

A big eagle had picked up a newborn from its crib and flown with it to his nest on top of a steep, unapproachable mountain peak.

Many in the large town, including groups of strong young men and even professional climbers tried hard but failed to reach the rocktop where the baby lay helpless.

After all had almost given up in frustration, a young woman, her face covered with tears started the hopeless climb. Very early the next morning the same young woman was seen descending the mount with the infant in her arms, her clothes covered with mud, hands scratched and bleeding.

When the amazed townsfolk asked her how could she have succeeded when all others had failed she simply replied, her eyes shining through her muddy face,

“I am the mother!”

INTRODUCTION

In an article titled "A wolf among the Flock - This cult leader used to be a C&MA pastor" Rev. Jerry Cooper, a pastor with the Christian and Missionary Alliance states: "A false teacher has risen from our ranks: David Brandt Berg."¹

According to the denomination's archives Berg "was a licensed worker in the Alliance from 1938 until 1951. He served as an assistant pastor in Miami, Florida (1938-41), an evangelist for the United States and Canada (1941-48) and a pastor in Valley Farms, Arizona (1948-51)."² He later worked as a booking agent for the late television evangelist Fred Jordan for 13 years.

In 1968 Berg gathered a following of about 50 newly converted former hippies in Southern California. As of April 1, 1988, their numbers had gone up to 12,879 members. They live in tightly organized communities all over the world and spread with zeal Berg's heresies.

One of the most shocking practices of the Children of God, as the group is now called (COG for short), is religious prostitution, also called Flirty Fishing, or FFing. According to their own statistics, by December 1980 members of the group had already committed 47,565 sexual acts with outsiders. By March 1981 the number had gone up to 51,617 by June to 56,685 and by September to 61,495. Berg had boasted then: "By the end of this year ('81) it will be about 70,000 fish loved in four years, or about 18,000 fish loved every year."³ By April 1, 1988 COG's army of FFers had committed 222,280 acts of prostitution with outsiders, and by now they have most probably past the quarter of a million mark!⁴

It is already obvious that we are dealing with one of the worst heresies ever. But that is not all. The Children of God have also been involved in incest, child-adult sex, sex between children and homosexuality.

In recent years, to keep the movement from self-destructing over incest and child abuse, and to prevent their members from becoming infected with AIDS, they have curbed several sexual excesses. This, however, has been prompted by mere expediency and not a spirit of repentance.

The COGs deny that they have ever advocated child-adult sex and incest. They have also tried to exaggerate the changes and restrictions in regards to FFing.

At the time of printing, the statements in this booklet represent the most recent, up to date profile of COG policy that we are aware of. David Berg is a very mercurial person, and under his leadership the COG is capable of making sweeping policy changes on extremely short notice. Also the COG keep extremely tight control over their "inside" publications, and only members of the group have free access to the Mo Letters as Berg's writings are called. We welcome information regarding any further changes, either genuine moves by the COG towards a more conservative stand, or--on the other hand--the tolerating of sexual abuses which the COG officially claim to have discontinued.

¹ Jerry Cooper, "A wolf among the Flock - This cult leader used to be a C&MA pastor," The Alliance Life, May 13, 1992, p. 12.

² Ibid.

³ David Berg, "The 7 F's of FFing!" ML # 1083, (1/1/1982), abridged in Daily Bread, p. 286.

⁴ "FF Stats" (April 1, 1988), Good News # 327 [August 1988], p. 12.

Ex-COG member Valery Jones is carrying a crusade against the COG in Britain. She was asked by a Christian pastor to speak to The Mail On Sunday, a British newspaper, about her experience in the COG. The full page article covering the interview titled Alarm As Evil Child Sex Cult Returns To UK features a picture of Celeste, Valery's daughter. The following are portions from the article.

The grainy colour photograph never fails to prompt a flood of tears. [emphasis in original]

It is Rebecca [Valery] Jones's prized possession, a solitary picture of her 15-year-old daughter Celeste.

Tall, pretty, with long auburn hair, Celeste would make any parent proud.

But for Rebecca, the picture brings only guilt and pain.

For the two have not met in 11 years. They are a mother and child separated not by official authority, but by one of the most sinister religious cults ever formed.

Rebecca has lost her daughter to the notorious Children of God. [emphasis in original]

This is a group that even now, when so much is known about the horrors of child abuse, retains its ability to shock.⁵

Rebecca Jones was recruited by the sect aged just 15 after members were allowed into her school in Maidstone, Kent.

Following Berg's teaching, she went Flirty Fishing and conceived six children. The identity of four of the fathers is unknown.

When she left the group in India last year, to set up home in the North of England, she took five of her children with her. But Celeste's father, a senior sect official, refused to let her go. All Rebecca has is the photograph and five letters posted from Hong Kong.

"I am so worried about Celeste," said Rebecca, 33. "If they stick to Berg's teachings, she may be forced to start having babies if I don't get to her first.

It's only now I realize how horribly I was manipulated and brainwashed by them. It was impossible for me to see that until I left.

My children will always be a reminder of that. I will always bear the scars."⁶

The article gives a quick background of the group's history, mentioning the well known facts that it started in California 21 years ago, and that it soon moved to England. According to the article, Berg, fearing a backlash over the practice of prostitution and sex between adults and children, ordered the group to move from England to Japan, Thailand, India, Indonesia and Australia. In 1988 however, countries of the Far East started refusing to extend visas to those suspected of being sect members. As a result, still according to the article, 5000 COG members, (the number given is most probably an exaggeration) have returned to Britain. Using various names, among which Mission South, Music Ministry and Heaven's Magic, COG members have gone into churches and schools to recruit new members and to raise funds. They are out on the streets selling music tapes and videos bearing the brand names Aurora Productions and Kiddie Viddie. Posing as businessmen they rent houses for their communes and a secluded farmhouse was rented by the cult in Cuffley, Hertfordshire to be used as a COG school for 30 children.

⁵ Hugh Muir, "Alarm as evil child sex cult returns to UK," The Mail On Sunday, Nov. 11, 1990, p. 13.

⁶ Ibid.

One of these children, 14-years old Swiss-born Samuel Markov, decided to run away from this "school" in Hertfordshire to go see his mother in Switzerland and showed up at the Ramsgate border ferry port in Kent without a passport. Some COG literature was found in his bag. Little Sam was taken under protective police custody. The following is Valery's involvement with Sam.

I received a phone call telling me that a fourteen year old boy had run away from a COG school near London. He had been caught trying to get on a ferry to cross the Channel without a passport. In his bag was a COG publication. (The Emergency Survival Handbook 1973) Samuel was taken into protective custody for one week. He admitted to having run away from the school because he was spiritually incompatible with them. He had been taken there by his father two years before.

Sam had apparently missed his mother a lot while he was at the school and had decided to go back to her in Switzerland. He obviously did not feel that he could achieve this by going to whoever was in charge of him. (Sam was also very concerned that he might get the group in trouble by what he had done.)

Social workers went to visit the school but all the 30 children had already been moved. Sam's mother soon arrived and was allowed to spend time alone with him. Lisa was given money by the social services to pay for hotel accommodations but would not disclose which one she was staying at. She was allowed to visit Sam daily and would be dropped off from a car which parked a couple of streets away. Lisa and a male driver would sit in the car for some time before Lisa got out. The man would then drive away, having left his engine running the whole time. When visiting time was over the car would be waiting, again with its engine running.

From the time Lisa arrived, Sam began to deny that he was a member of the COG. Sam was staying at a children's home and the social worker in charge was also a Pentecostal minister. He spent a lot of time during that week with Sam and really talked to Sam a lot about being a true Christian. The social worker got in touch with me through a Christian organization and he asked me to come down and talk to Sam.

I found Sam to be a very sensitive and intelligent boy. My heart really went out to him. I took my daughter Kristina who was also 14. They spent a lot of time playing snooker and really got on well together.

I had the opportunity to talk to Sam. He was not told that I was an ex-member at first but that I was a Christian counselor. However he got very upset when I began to talk about the COG and eventually ran out of the room and out of the house down the street. There were two social workers present and they were hoping that Sam would again admit to being in the COG and that we could persuade him to leave voluntarily. However he obviously loved his mother a great deal and wanted to be with her. She had obviously told him to deny any association with the COG.

Even though Sam denied being a member, he vehemently defended the group. I told him that there were some very bad things in the COG and he asked me what they were. I showed him the quote about adult/child sex in the Good Thots book and he agreed that it was very bad. However I could not persuade him to admit his association and it was at this point that he felt so pressured that he got up

and ran out.⁷ Later he came back and his mother phoned. He told her that we were "real devils." It really hurt so much to see what Berg has done to these innocent children.

Later Lisa arrived. When she saw me she realized that they had brought me in to speak to her. She said "I did not come here to be interrogated" and immediately left the house. That night I had to go home as I had to get home to my youngest child who at that stage had never been away from me overnight. I wrote a letter to Sam and to Lisa and left them with Deborah's book and some other literature. The next day Sam was given back to his mother. The social workers had taken legal advice but had no grounds legally to keep Sam any longer. When Lisa came to pick Sam up she was given the things I had left for her. She ran out into the street with Sam and flagged down a car.⁸

POLICE RAID ON COG HOUSES

By the time the article in The Mail On Sunday came out the police had begun an investigation of the group. At the same time Hugh Muir, reporter for the The Mail On Sunday was carrying on his own investigation. He had written to the COG post office box address in Central London, BM Box 8440. A meeting was arranged which took place at the Marble Arch branch of McDonald's restaurant. COG members Mark and Vicky said that they wanted to have more meetings with him before they would take him to the COG community to meet the rest of the members.

Hugh Muir and Valery Jones went to a COG home that was discovered in North London. When they introduced themselves, COG member Jacob Scott yelled at the children that were outside at the moment: "Get into the house quickly. Cover your faces. Do not say anything to them." He then rushed back into the house shouting to the unexpected visitors: "I've nothing to say. Go away. This is private property." A few minutes later he came back out followed by a number of kids. They all got in a van and drove off. When the police called they had already disappeared leaving behind posters and a lot of food.⁹

The next major event was a police raid on three lavish COG houses, all of them located in the rich suburbs of London. The police had a warrant to search for "pornographic videos, literature and other paraphernalia connected with paedophile activities."¹⁰ It was conducted by plain clothes officers and took place at dawn. They found 63 children and 25 adults in the three COG locations. The following statement was made by a police spokesman: "Three addresses were searched under warrant. There were no arrests but several items were taken away for further examination. We are in liaison with the local social services and education authorities. Our inquiries are continuing."¹¹

Ex-member Miriam Padilla, who was in London, England and in the group during Valery's campaign, tells us that the COG started burning incriminating literature, including the Davidito book, and hiding their books in storage places in the city. Nobody was allowed to have pictures of any other members of the group and the children were briefed.

⁷. According to the November 11, 1990 article in The Mail On Sunday, Sam admitted that he was a member of Heaven's Magic, one of the more common names used by the COG.

⁸. Letter received from Valery Jones, Dec. 2, 1991.

⁹. Chester Stern, Crime Correspondent, "Secret 'Safe House' Of The Child-Sex Cult - Mother Barred As Evil Sect Is Uncovered In Well-To-Do Suburb", The Mail On Sunday, Dec. 18, 1990.

¹⁰. The Mail On Sunday, "Police Raid Houses Of Child Sex Group - Hunt For Porn Videos At Evil Cult's Suburban Homes", Feb. 3, 1991.

¹¹. Ibid.

COG LIES

The COG responded with a three page statement prepared by Valery's ex-husband Chris Jones. It was sent to her along with a hand written note signed by Chris that said in part:

The text of this "open letter" to you is being prepared as a tract to be distributed when necessary to the British newspapers, media, and general public, and in the future wherever and whenever you try to cause our work trouble this tract will be used in our rightful defense.

Valery accused her other ex-husband, Michael, of sexually abusing her daughter Kristina (from her marriage with Chris). In the "Open Letter," Chris cites Michael's response to her accusation, where he denies any such wrongdoing. Chris writes:

As far as your accusation against Michael of sexually abusing our second daughter Kristina, he [Michael] writes:

"I was shocked that she would ever accuse me of something like this. I was the one who caught and reprimanded her for sexually arousing and fondling and playing with our boys on a number of occasions!"

How sickening and hypocritical of you, Valerie! Maybe you assumed that because you were doing such things to your children, that I and other members of the Family were all doing the same things to ours. If so, you were wrong. We weren't.... you are the one who has been guilty of molesting children, not I!¹²

The following is Kristina's own "Open Letter" and response which we are presenting here almost in its entirety. In it she openly and clearly describes her life in the COG including while living with her step-father Michael. Among other things it very plainly shows the reader what liars the COGs are willing to become in their misguided effort to protect the group.

OPEN LETTER TO CHRISTOPHER JONES BY HIS SECOND DAUGHTER

Dear Daddy,

I have read the open letter that you wrote to my mother and the press. I'm sorry that it all had to come out like this, especially in public. However I have to tell you that most of what you, David Berg and my step-father have said is not true.

Until now I have been looking at both sides of the situation. I have been trying not to get too involved because you are my father and I was brought up in the Children of God. However I'm very upset by your horrible letter (with all that rubbish in it that you and I both know are lies).

I really do feel sorry for you. You don't seem to realize that you have been taken in by David Berg.

You have to remember that I was in the COG not too long ago. Even though I am no longer in it (because my mother took me away), I spent the first twelve years of my life there and I know how it works.

¹². Chris Jones, In Defence Of Our Daughter! An Open Letter To Valerie Jones--From her former husband, Chris Jones, a long-time member of the "Children of God," March, 1991, p. 3.

I want to tell you that I am really hurt that my own father doesn't believe that I was sexually abused. You of course know that David Berg encouraged his followers to sexually arouse children in publications such as "My Childhood Sex" and "My Little Fish" (to name only two of them). However you do not think of this as abuse, but as something which is natural and normal because this is what Berg has taught you.

I have already told you what happened to me when I was in the COG but I think that you should hear it again. - My step-father would touch me and make me touch and masturbate him, and it didn't just happen once but many times. He began to do this when I was only three years old. But he wasn't the only man who molested me. When I was older and more shapely, other men would do the same. For example when I was about 10 or 11, I was a childcare helper to a leadership couple. At night the husband would come into my room and molest me.

I know that what happened to me, happened to other girls also. You have to believe me, because you (must) know that this happens (or at least did happen) in the COG. (My mother has a lot of Berg's letters and other publications which talk of these things.)

I didn't know then that it was wrong like I do now. I thought that it was right because it was there in the Mo letters.[Berg's writings] (If you were taught that black was white all your life you'd think that it was, wouldn't you?) I just wish you would realize how wrong it is too.

I'm sorry to be so blunt, but I've been through it. I've tried to keep out of it because the COG was all I knew for most of my life. I learned some good things there and had some good times (which I won't forget). However I now feel that I must speak up about the abuse which I suffered.

I understand that you are a devoted member of the COG and that you are trying to defend the group that you love. However I must tell you that it is wrong to do so by spreading lies about an ex-member who has only spoken the truth. You not only falsely accuse my mother of many awful things, but you also falsely accuse her of lying about her experience as a COG member.

I want to tell you that my mother never molested her sons and was never reprimanded for such. As for her being uncaring and neglecting us, that's utter rubbish. When she did have authority over what happened to us she would treat us kindly and try to do as much as she could for us, like getting us decent clothes. Once she was told off for giving us one more slice of bread because we were hungry.¹³

I would say that it was my step-father who was the selfish one. He was lazy when it came to us children, but when a job came up to do for the home or leader, he'd jump to it. He left everything to mom and spanked us a lot. I was and am scared of him as he could be very cruel, and he criticized a lot of things that my brothers and

¹³. In the typical COG fashion of dealing with ex-members who speak out against COG crimes, Valery's character is repeatedly slandered. She is accused of not caring for Celeste, of being jealous of Chris' successes, self-centered, violent with the children, beating them up, leaving them dirty and crying, of being a very poor mother, a very selfish woman, involved in incest with her own boys, and a "continual drag and a drain and a dead weight in every situation [she was] in, always murmuring and complaining and causing trouble." Valery Jones in a telephone conversation from England denied that she had any form of incestuous relationship with her boys. (For the sake of those who have committed such things in the group but now have repented and asked for forgiveness, I do want to mention that by the death of Jesus on the cross the price has been paid even for the sin of incest.)

I did. (He also used to criticize and abuse my mother). It's true that he was a hard worker. I remember that he was a very good witnesser and that he sold a lot of tapes and posters. He loved praise and attention and longed to be a leader.

She may not be the best mother in the world, but she tries her hardest. It's not been easy for her since leaving the COG. She's had to find out a lot of things for herself, but she only has our's (and Celeste's) interests at heart. I don't believe that she is bitter or wanting a name as a COG exposor or anything like that. She is concerned about Celeste and wants her as she always has. (She has often cried and talked about her.)¹⁴

You know that when I was younger I used to wish that you'd come and take us with you. I was proud to tell my friends that you were my father.

Your letter almost brought me to tears - it is hard to believe that my own father could say such things. However I understand that you and all COG members have been deceived by Berg and that you would not live as you do or have said those things if it weren't for him. Sadly Berg has led you away from Christ and the real way of serving Him, and into an immoral way of life (which he justifies with out of context phrases from the Bible).

I think that you should know that hundreds of ex-COG members have all had similar experiences, and that all say the same things about what happens in the COG. I'm sure that in your heart you must know that we are all telling the truth. From my experience it is COG members who lie about who they are. They have often deceived the public (when collecting donations) by saying that it's for a charity organization or children's home etc, and by denying that they belong to the COG/FOL. [Family Of Love]

You also need to understand that the reason my mother has spoken out about her experience is to warn others because she doesn't want the same things to happen to them.

Please give my love to Celeste. I hope that you have not turned her away from me (and mom). Please ask her to write as we haven't heard anything for years. I love you daddy but not what you're doing.

K. Jones¹⁵

The following "Testimony" written by Kristina Jones in 1990 will also be presented almost in its entirety. Listen to her story and please try to imagine what it would have been like if you or your child had been raised under such circumstances.

KRISTINA'S TESTIMONY

Hello, my name is Kristina Jones. I am writing to tell you a bit about my experience in the COG. I am 14 1/2 and have spent the whole of my childhood in this cult in which my parents were members. When my mom left (end of March 88) she brought 6 of her children out with her. Celeste my eldest sister is still in with my real father.

¹⁴ Oblivious to Valery's pain, Chris is accusing her of trying to become some type of "anti-cult celebrity", seeking glory and popularity for herself. Referring to her ex-husband's "Open Letter" Valery responded with the following: "Needless to say it is full of lies, distortions and false assumptions about me and my motivation for speaking out publicly, and I wonder if it is even written by him."

¹⁵ Kristina Jones, Open Letter, pp. 1-2.

Mom didn't realize that Berg was deeply involved in sexual sin and spiritualism....When I was a baby David Berg explained the meaning of flirty fishing (being a prostitute for Jesus). Berg told members over and over again it was perfectly alright since they were doing it to win people to Jesus....Mom was shocked when she understood and told my father it was wrong but he persuaded her to accept this important revelation from the Lord. 1 1/2 years later "sexual sharing" was introduced between members. Soon afterwards my father threw my mom out sending her to live with another man in another home. He kept my elder sister.

When mom was not around daddy used to sexually abuse me....I became very afraid of him. He got very violent toward all of us. He would throw things at my mom and mentally abuse all of us.

At one time the letter "My Little Fish" came out showing naked children with adults touching them....(I grew up with sex on the brain. A lot of the teachings were based on or [were] about sex). The first time I remember daddy sexually abusing me was when we came back to England after living in India. I must have been about 3. He came in my room and started reading me a story. After the story he gave me a kiss and he started kissing me lower and lower. He then touched my private bits [parts] and started rubbing my vagina. I can remember my first reaction, total fear. I knew what he was doing because I had seen people having sex before, but for him to do it on me was a bit weird. I sat up and I tried to wiggle away, but he kept doing it rougher. From then on he did it quite frequently.

I went on lots of witnessing trips for more than a week at a time. One time I went for a fortnight with a lady who was around 35 and an Indian member whose name was Paul and then another teen whose name was Stephen. We stayed in a hotel. Before I go on I think I should point out that Paul was very perverted and he used to always push himself on me, trying to make me have sex with him. When I refused he would always go to the leaders saying I was rebellious and unwilling to submit myself to Jesus.

The hotel we stayed in had two double beds and we decided to take turns. The first night Paul and I slept in a double bed. I woke up in the night to find him on top of me and Stephen and Rose on the other bed having sex. I felt jealous because I liked Stephen and to see him having sex with Rose made me sick. There was nothing I could do, there was nothing I could do about getting out of it with Paul as he was mentally and physically stronger than I was. This particular road trip was when mom had gone back to England for not receiving correction. Before this happened mom and I went to visit another home and that night mom slept with the shepherd and I had a mattress on the floor. When I woke up mom wasn't there and Uriah told me to come up on the bed and he would whisper it in my ear. When I got there he started to tickle me and we had a bit of fun. Then he started to put my hand on his penis. I thought about when daddy made me do it to him and if I didn't then he would **spank** me. [emphasis added] So I lay on him and held his penis and then someone walked in the door and asked Uriah if he would like a cup of coffee. I felt very embarrassed and awkward.

When I was 10 I shared a bed with a girl named Phoebe. We used to talk about things like how many men had tried it on. We didn't know anything else, we were taught that that is how you got to be a good faithful disciple. But we didn't understand everything and when we voiced some complaints we were given big reading

assignments and given a partner (boy) to sleep with until we got over our trials.

Some of the COG literature was: "Come On Ma, Burn Your Bra", "God's Whores", "Child Sex", "Sex Slaves", "God Made Sex, Let's Enjoy It", "Sex With Mother". (This letter talks all about Berg's fantasies of having sex with his mom and that child-adult sex cannot be harmful as he wished his mom had touched him).

I became a childcare helper to a leadership couple. The two kids were great. I got them up and put them to bed every night. When their dad returned from a leadership meeting he used to come into the room where I was putting them to bed, and when they were asleep he would lay down next to me and start kissing me and touching me. Because I was older I was supposed to take part rather than have it happen to me. This became a regular thing every night. The longer our relationship went on the more things we did and although I knew I was being obedient to Berg and the Lord, I also felt dirty. But I must admit I wasn't totally kicking him off me or resisting him all the time like when I was younger, as I think I was more brainwashed and used to it, and it seemed pointless to resist.

I realize I was doing things I never would have done or wanted to do, and this is how the COG made me and other members. Most of the time I was made to believe that I was bad and listening to the devil if I didn't agree with what they said.

Leaders set dates for orgies, (sharing nights) matching up partners for group members. I remember one sharing night all the adults were downstairs in the living room, mattresses were on the floor, couples were changing over from time to time and soft "family" music was playing. The older kids, me included, were allowed to watch and join in. I remember sharing with a few older teens (I was 11 years old). There were many more shocking things happening but it would take a book to write everything. In lots of homes and in our particular home there were many underage pregnant girls, not even knowing who the father was.

Berg is a real pervert and a lot of his teachings were twisted round to suit his purpose. It took me a long time to realize this but when I went to school and mixed with people outside the group I realized that his teachings were not normal. Now that I see both sides I can decide what to believe in and what I think is right and not simply be told what to believe in.

Now 2 1/2 years later I'm really eager to help other people understand what the COG is all about.¹⁶

In another letter, written to Berg when she was 13 years old, Kristina said: "You have strayed so far away from Christ and the real way of serving Him."¹⁷ How true! In a PS at the end of the letter, Valery wrote to Berg:

But it is not too late to turn back to Him, and I hope and pray that you will. I ask you to please repent before God for the harm that you have caused to so many and to humbly ask his forgiveness. The Lord loves you and wants you to return to Him. We forgive you and pray for you. Valery - (Kristina's mother)

¹⁶. Kristina Jones, Testimony, 1990, pp. 1-4.

¹⁷. Ibid., p. 4.

Kristina's account of her personal experience is just one of many such cases of paedophilia that could be documented. There is a large amount of incriminating internal evidence and proof of the existence of child-adult sex and incest in COG literature. The COGs love to write, translate into many languages and distribute worldwide all this information among themselves. They are very vulnerable as a result and they can be stopped very easily as their own writings and publications witness against them.

There are others who like Kristina and her mother Valery are stepping out and are trying to expose the COG and show the world that child-adult sex has taken place in the COG. They are doing this by making public their experiences in the group. I hope that more ex-members will follow their example, so that this cult can never dare deny that child-adult sex has taken place. We know that it not only took place, but it took place on a massive scale and for a long time.

During the recent media campaign to expose the COG in Japan, Toru Suzuki, COG member and representative for the cult, lied that there never was child abuse in the COG. An ex-COG member however responded that Toru Suzuki himself had made love with a 14-15 year old girl in 1985. Toru Suzuki denied it but that should not come as a surprise since COGs do lie. It is written in their literature that they can lie if it is done to defend the group. The COGs are lying about this issue even after an ex-member in Australia, very recently, stated in court that he himself had sex with children in the group.

Of course, the COG publication "My Little Fish" of 1979 is enough to convince anybody that child-adult sex took place in the COG. In 1989-90 Berg ordered to burn copies of that article but enough of them are floating around in counter-COG circles. It shows pictures of a very young boy engaged in sexual acts with adult women. We are working on an Information Package about the COG and we need originals of the Davidito book and other incriminating literature published by the cult. If you have such originals, or even photocopies, please send them to us ASAP. Thanks.

Miriam Padilla, one of the protagonists in the campaign in Japan, (born in the group, left the COG at age 17, about a year and a half ago), insisted during a television interview that there were minors of 11 years old, who were victims of venereal diseases transmitted by their step-fathers.¹⁸

Miriam writes of parents masturbating in front of their children and the children masturbating in front of their parents. She says that she could talk about hundreds of cases of sexual mistreatments, and that she thinks 95% of the children she met had suffered such experiences. Sexual activity is something very common for the children in the COG, something they are used to, since they have seen so many adults do it and done it so much themselves.¹⁹

She writes that since the little girls were too young for penetration, they would get them involved in oral sex. She mentions a 9 year old girl who was raped. Her face was covered with a bed-sheet for this purpose. The little girl was trembling from fear. She says that in 1989, there was a case of a two year old girl who was suffering from venereal disease.

She met a 10 or 11 year old girl whose mother would play with the little girl's sexual organs every night and help her make love with a 10 year old boy. This same little girl showed Miriam how she could put three of her own fingers in her own vagina. She talks about a girl who was reproached by her "shepherd" because she refused to do oral sex with a male.

Miriam tells us that many girls and children as young as eleven years old got videotaped doing strip-tease and the tapes were sent to Berg. She writes that she was surprised to find out the people outside the cult were kind and not cruel like the COG had told them they were. She had been told that the world outside was a dangerous place. She had to start all over again.

Debby, Miriam's sister (23 years old with two children, ages 3 and 1, came out about a year and a half ago), also wrote about her experiences in the COG. Debby writes: "I remember having to do a dance for Moses David as a birthday present. We were told to strip and to masturbate on video while the men were filming. My sisters and my mother had to do the same together with other teenagers from 11 years old upward."²⁰

18. Jacques Richard, *The Wolf Who Became A Shepherd*, (July 1992), p. 11.

19. SHUKAN BUNSHUN, *UN ETUDIANT DE 19 ANS TMOIGNE LES ABUS SEXUELS QUE J'AI VUE DANS LA SECTE - LA REALITE EFFRAYANTE DE LA "FAMILLE D'AMOUR"* - 5e PARTIE D'UNE CAMPAGNE DE POURSUITE APPROFONDIE, (July 1992).

20. Debby's personal testimony (untitled), (May 1992), p. 3.

The following are excerpts from Debby's three page long "personal testimony":

[From about age 9 the baby-sitter] sexually abused me and continued to do so unrelentlessly until the age of 13. He would get drunk and come into my room at night and do everything he possibly could to me. He tried raping me on several occasions, forcing himself into me....He constantly harassed me during the day trying to stick his fingers up me and roughing up my breasts.

During the time I was being abused I also suffered intensely witnessing my parents going to bed with other people - this they did to "obey the teachings" handed down from Moses David. It drove my father to drink and jealousy. I remember waking up at night terrified hearing screaming and yelling. The next day I found out that my father had put a gun to his head to kill himself but my mum managed to stop him - (these were my Christian parents who were supposed to be serving God).

I was sent to Mexico to live with the leaders of the movement. These people were leaders over Mexico and Central America. The oldest son of 12 was having an intense long-lasting relationship with their secretary of 33 years of age, their 10 year old daughter was having an affair with the secretary's husband of 38 years.

I was forced to go to bed with [a leader] after he had publicly humiliated and shouted at me. Then later on I had to go to bed with his "right hand man", as a reward for him for the good work he had done.

Sex parties were rampant, just about everybody was having sex with everybody.

The next leader arrived and I had to sleep with him, then the next, and so on and so forth...until I found I was pregnant at the ripe old age of 19....As I was pregnant I refused flatly and was sick of being used as an object where men could just relieve themselves on me.

The COG is a perverted, demonic and manipulative cult which has ruined not only my life but thousands of innocent young children and teenagers both sexually, mentally and emotionally.

I have actually witnessed 3 and 5 year olds being sexually abused. I was in the same bed with a man who was raping a 14 year old girl who was terrified in his hands. I cannot recount how many awful things I saw....My friend was repeatedly abused by several men at the age of 12.

I recall toddlers being encouraged to "make love" to each other. On one occasion a couple of 3 year olds were naked in a room trying to have sex with each other and the adults were watching them.

There are just so many teenagers being abused, beaten and cruelly mistreated and imprisoned in this cult, unable to speak up for themselves....They have been so deceived that they are willing to die for their beliefs. Who is going to be their voice and save [them] from the clutches of this evil and perverse cult?

I suffer severe depression and utter confusion in my mind. I have had to have visits from a Psychiatric nurse and take medications for panic attacks after my breakdown....I deeply regret that this cult has had 20 years of my life and still exists to mess up the lives of countless men, women and children and babies physically, mentally and emotionally.

I am prepared to make my voice heard and to fight for the lives of these children. I wish that someone had done that for me!

One of the worse crimes of super-pervert Berg has been his incestuous relationship with his granddaughter Mene, daughter of his older son Aaron who jumped off a cliff to his death in 1973. Mene or Merry writes:

I received a phone call from my grandfather and I was told to go to his room. That was December 17, 1983. I was 11 years old. I'll never forget this day for the rest of my life.

There was incest between a grandfather and a granddaughter who were related by blood.²¹

Mene was first sexually abused by her step-father.²² At age seven she became incestuously involved with her brother two years younger than her. She writes that "the COG was actively encouraging such behavior."²³ When she was nine years old, she was taught how to perform strip-tease and learned how to make love with anyone.²⁴

She has now been delivered from her alcoholic grandfather and is living with Deborah. Deborah, Berg's older daughter, has now made public how she herself was victimized by her father. She writes:

I don't like to recall this next incident, but my father first pressured me to have sex with him when I was eight years old, in Texas. I resisted but was raped nonetheless.²⁵

Many years later Berg said during a COG meeting: "Incest is a good thing." He went on to confess that he had committed incest with Deborah and her younger sister Faith.²⁶

Deborah describes her painful days in her father's cult when she was planning to slowly kill herself through starvation and how as a result of her weakened condition she had to spend half a year in a hospital confined to a wheelchair. Deborah also said something that I think should be the heart and soul of the counter-COG movement and is the very reason I have spent so much time writing this booklet. She wrote:

When I think back, I wish I had told my grandmother, because she was a very strict Christian and would probably have done something about it. Things might have turned out quite differently if I had told her.²⁷

How true. We must expose the darkness.

21. Marry Berg, Marry's Story, n.d., p. 5.

22. *Ibid.*, p. 4.

23. *Ibid.*

24. *Ibid.*

25. Deborah Davis, (untitled), n.d., p. 2.

26. *Ibid.*, p. 5.

27. *Ibid.*, p. 2.

CORRECTIONS AND UPDATES

In our first booklet, "Child Abuse?" I had stated:

I do not consider myself an expert on the COG since I have been away from the group for about 10 years. I am still learning about them, and for this I need the help of those who know more than I do....There may still be more changes within the COG in addition to those presented in the booklet. I can only report on what I know and there may still be more recent developments that I am not aware of. This booklet's aim is to be a substantial first stepping stone toward more complete and more detailed research and documentation.²⁸

Since the publication of that booklet some errors have been pointed out in "Child Abuse?" which we now want to correct, and for which we want to apologize to our readers. I am deeply committed to accuracy and fairness, and I agree that we need to be extremely cautious when dealing with such issues.

The following are corrections, comments and observations regarding subjects covered in our booklet "Child Abuse?"

First of all, at several points you raise possibilities, guess at COG motives and put question marks. Many of your conclusions are absolutely correct and you can state your views with confidence.

On the other hand, you have made some errors and inaccurate assumptions which I suggest be corrected.²⁹

There is no more sex between children.³⁰

As to the 1985 "teen sex" restrictions which you quoted to prove that pre-teens can have intercourse--or at least indulge in foreplay and masturbation--to the very best of my knowledge these are no longer in effect, having been brought into rein by the later 1988 tightening of policies.³¹

All child abuse and incest has stopped in the Children of God!³²

Child abuse and incest have officially been stopped in recent years, but the COG are not telling the truth when they state that neither of these things have ever happened. They definitely have.³³

While these kind of things, thankfully, no longer take place in the COG, and the children are not being subjected to sexual abuse as they once were, the fact remains that in countless young lives the damage has already been done. There was never any public apology, never any published attempt to help the poor kids understand what they had been through. It was all glossed over. The adults were told to lie and say that no abuse had ever happened and the children were told not to talk about it to outsiders. They were told to forget about it, to hush it up. Many of these children -

28. COUNTERCOG, Child Abuse?, (1991), p. 3.

29. Letter received from ex-member, (May 3, 1992), pp. 3,4.

30. Ibid., p. 9.

31. Ibid., p. 6.

32. Letter received from ex-member, (May 3, 1992), p. 6.

33. Ibid., p. 7.

now teens - frankly need help from professional Christian counsellors."³⁴

Lesbianism has been completely banned in the COG for at least eight years now. Homosexuality has also been completely banned....I will agree that incidents of homosexuality did indeed take place after Berg's banning of it, but these happened against COG policy.³⁵

An ex-member that came out in 1985 tells us that lesbianism was still allowed in Mexico. It was practiced not only in her home, but other homes as well. It was up to each community if they wanted to do it or not. Homosexuality was forbidden, but it was allowed to make an exception in special cases!

A publication in 1988 shows in the section of the magazine reserved for pictures of couples only, two male homosexuals. By including this picture in an official publication, they were sending a rather clear message to the rest of the homosexual members in the group.³⁶

I was shocked to hear that Berg had oral sex with one of the leaders who has now left the group. Imagine the great prophet of the End-Time, the man that is uttering the oracles of God to this generation, with a male sexual organ stuck in his mouth. How absolutely revolting.

Homosexuality has always been one of the most evasive and difficult to figure out topics in the COG. The following interesting point was made:

Many COG members simply are unaware of the excess and sins that other members in other countries and areas have been involved in.... Reading about certain abuses I didn't know about before was one of the things that turned me against the COG and helped me make a real mental break.³⁷

Brazil is mentioned as an example of a country where things were different from other places.

It was well-known in the COG that Brazil was one of the worst fields in the world for always getting into excess. (I was shocked once to read an article which confessed that a large part of the work in Brazil had once been "heavily tripped-off into homosexuality.") The orgies Dalva³⁸ describes may have continued to happen in Brazil, but Brazil was an exception, I think.³⁹

I was told by Richard Dupuy (Watchman, 20 years in the group, came out in March 1992) in the strongest terms possible (absolutely, very definitely, no question about it) that "sharing" between adult members is still going on as strong as ever, now in 1992. He said that they distribute forms where COG members write their choices of who they want to go to bed with, choice one, choice two, choice three. He said: "If you are lucky you get to sleep with one of these three."

A young ex-member of 19 years old, whom we shall call Hellen, (born in the group, escaped out of the COG when 17 years old, was at the 21st Century International School in Japan until 1989) feels that the COG are very wrong and she wants to see them stopped. Hellen told me that "sharing" among adults was going on all the time. When there was a single man in a home, the wives in that home would take turns "sharing" with him.

34. Ibid., p. 8.

35. Ibid., p. 9.

36. Family Foto News, FFN 11, DFO, (Nov. 1988), picture of Hezekiah and Elimaec.

37. Ibid., p. 6.

38. Dalva Lynch with Paul Carden, "Inside the 'Heavenly Elite': The Children of God Today," Christian Research Journal, (Summer 1990), pp. 16-20.

39. Letter received from ex-member, (May 3, 1992), pp. 9, 10.

Hellen talked about a basement that was provided in the "school" in Japan with rooms for teenagers 15 years old and over, to do what they want together and that even a schedule was set up for this purpose. Everybody had his day when he or she would have sex. The students would write down a list of 6 people that they would like to go to bed with and the adults would choose one for them out of the list. They had to tell the shepherd afterwards what they did in the sex room. Hellen said that these rooms in the basement reminded her of a brothel.

We have heard from more than one source that no sex is allowed between teenagers any more unless these teenagers get married. We do not know all the details, but evidently the COG has officially stopped this practice of "sharing" among teenagers. It still does not mean that teenage sex does not take place and particularly in the higher levels of leadership and especially around Berg. We are seeking to get more information on this subject, especially printed COG material. When these teenagers will reach legal age, they will of course be free to "share" with other adults. I heard of a case where Berg had sex with a 17 or 18 year old girl. What moral difference is there really, if the girl in this case was not a 17 year old teenager, but instead was an 18 year old "adult".

As indicated earlier, due to outside opposition, the COG was forced to abandon some of its sexual practices, or at least pretend that it was doing so. Watchman said that sex between adults and minors has been prohibited and that anybody who does so is supposed to get instantly excommunicated. But he said that there were two cases of sex between adults and teenagers in Japan, but that all the offenders received was a slap on the wrist, a warning. Hellen said that sexual activity between adults and teenagers was prohibited in the COG, it was not the policy, it was not supposed to happen, but it did happen. She said that there were instances of sex between adults and teenagers. She remembers that after the rule came out that the 15 year olds and younger can not have sex, and when she was 14, an adult made advances towards her. When Hellen reported this to the leaders, they did not do anything to the offender. She said that they were not enforcing anything. Later on, Davidito, Maria's son, when he was 14 years old asked Hellen then 15, to "share" with him. Maybe Davidito did not think the rules applied to him since there probably was no such rule in Berg and Maria's household. Hellen also said that after the rules and restrictions and tightening of policies, in the school in Japan, adults would still come in the baths when teenage girls were washing.

To show how superficial these changes were, a friend of Hellen of 16 years of age got pregnant and had a baby by an adult leader and she even reported a case of incest involving a 16 year old boy. He told Hellen that his mother had made love with him. She also mentioned the case of a well known homosexual "shepherd" who was lusting after his teenage flock, washing their backs, etc. When one of the teens complained, he himself got in trouble. Further indication of the superficiality that is characteristic of these changes is the following episode related by Hellen, from the life and times of Peter Amsterdam, Berg's right hand man. During Peter's birthday party, about 30 girls including 13 year olds, among which Peter's own then 13 year old daughter, took their tops off and kissed him. If the COGs were serious about these changes they would not have little girls doing a topless show for someone's birthday. Finally she said, parents still continued to do sex in front of kids as young as 3 years old. Hellen said she was shocked with the three and four year old children's knowledge about sex.

Hellen shared with me that all these things stopped because they were considered bed security. There isn't in all this even a hint of repentance or remorse. She pointed out that Berg never said that these things were wrong, that it is not OK to do these things, he never came out and said he was sorry for writing or practicing these things. They simply stopped certain practices because they are scared, things were getting hot. When things cool off, they may go right back to preaching and practicing everything they were doing before. For the meantime, Berg's policy of "exceptions" always allows room for that gray area to exist for these types of things to keep on happening. In the COG exception is the rule to the point that you can't really talk too seriously about rules!

It may be argued that these are isolated cases, just a few instances of people who are still disobeying these new rules. That these things are done by those further away from the more disciplined COG center, those in the fringes. But that is not quite an adequate explanation in the case of a group as tightly controlled as the COG is and where, as Hellen explained, the higher the leadership level the more these things are happening.

An older ex-member (came out about four years ago) said that she believes all the controversial sexual practices are still going on, though on a smaller scale. She offered the following insight and observation into the deceitful innerworkings of this cult. Berg, she said, is putting out these letters and rules and regulations but she is sure that he is doing just the opposite. Berg forbids certain

things but he continues practicing these very same things himself. Others around him who know about this, do the same things that Berg does, those things that are supposed to have been prohibited in the group. It works out very conveniently for Berg because this way he is covered. He can even rebuke his followers when these practices are exposed and say, I told you not to do these things, and even show the letters and the documents where he told them to stop these practices.

I think we are safe in pointing out that banning a particular practice from the rank and file of the COG membership, does not in any way mean that those same changes have been instituted in Berg and Maria's household and those around them. It is becoming absolutely clear to me that the COGs are as hard core as ever, as far as their sexual beliefs go. They have simply made some adjustments because of a situation that has presented itself.

There may have been further changes in the COG not covered in this section. We depend upon updates as to COG policy from those recently leaving the COG, so if you have recently left them and have some information to share with us, it would be greatly appreciated.

MORE COG LIES

The GOGs claimed in "Child Abuse?!" that they have "adopted much more conservative & universally-accepted policies regarding sex." They have also stated: "Now - in the late '80's - we have officially discontinued & banned [FFing]. Just as the whole World has tightened up on its sexual freedoms - due largely to the AIDS epidemic - so we also have become much more conservative & restrictive along these lines, & we now stick to more conventional means of witnessing & telling others about God's Love."⁴⁰

In a personal letter written in June 1989, Chris tries to reassure Valery by saying: "There is absolutely no sexual contact allowed between Family members and outsiders. FFing for the past 2 years has been a thing of the past."⁴¹ In his "Open Letter" written in 1991, Chris again claims that there is no more prostitution or FFing in the COG. He writes: "I do not have the time or space here to go into the Scriptural reasons why we do not believe that FFing is inherently wrong. Anyway, that is now an outdated issue, because, as you well know but will not admit, FFing has been banned by us as a means of preaching the Gospel for the past four years."⁴²

Notice that in both quotes Chris is referring back to 1987. Chris' statement that there was no sex with outsiders when he wrote these two letters to his ex-wife is simply not true.

Areopagus, a Christian magazine, conducted an interview in September of 1991 with Berg's son. The magazine was seeking "to clarify changes in policies and practices" within the COG. Berg's son, Jonathan (also called Hosea or John Ho) pointed to Berg's writings in "Daily Bread" (a condensation of the Mo letters) and said: "Okay, it says here all sex with outsiders is now banned. This was published October 1987....All sex with outsiders is now banned **unless they are already close and well-known friends.**"⁴³ [emphasis added] We can see very clearly even from Jonathan's above statement alone, that Chris' statements are not accurate. They are at best half-truths. The COG are specialists in half-truths. They still have sex with outsider old "friends"! Even though in a sense and up to a point the COG has changed, for them to say that they have become much more conservative and conventional is like someone claiming that he is getting closer to the moon, because he took the elevator to the top floor of a New York skyscraper!

⁴⁰ Child Abuse?!-An Official Statement from the Founders of the Children of God! (1989), p. 3.

⁴¹ Chris Jones, personal letter to Valery, (6/89), p. 1.

⁴² Chris Jones, In Defence Of Our Daughter!, p. 1.

⁴³ "Children of God Revisited," Areopagus, Advent, 1991, p. 47. (Jonathan spoke to Areopagus in Sept. 1991)

THE CONDOM REVOLUTION!

In 1987, the year that both Chris and Jonathan referred to, Appolos, a COG leader, sent a letter to Berg which was published in the Oct. 1987 issue of Good News. Among other things he wrote the following: (I want to forewarn the reader not familiar with the COG to prepare himself for some of the strangest utterings of a "Christian" cultic mindset. In all quotations from COG material, unless otherwise indicated, emphasis is in the original. As we often do, we shall quote from COG literature extensively. We believe that one of the best ways to fight the COG is by simply quoting them.)

We've already seen how rapidly afflictions can spread through the Family with other sexually transmitted disease....The hitch with AIDS is that it doesn't clear up, except of course by an absolute total miracle of God!⁴⁴

And considering how quite a few of our girls used to be engaged in escort work (I don't know if they still are or not?), and how we used to frequent the bars and clubs where American tourists, as well as tourists from many other countries, would come for the express purpose of finding a girl to take to their room and make love with, it just seems like our FFers are really putting themselves at risk. I know that "greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends," & that our FFers have always been at risk, but I'm wondering if it might now be wise to at least caution them to be extra prayerful & extra careful about who they go to bed with?⁴⁵

I know that most of the afflictions that our girls have picked up when FFing were from men who perhaps weren't all that discreet & cautious in their sexual habits, & had previously gone out with escort girls or prostitutes before meeting our girls, & had picked something up, which they consequently passed on to our girls....Because we do share a lot within the Family, it just seems like the kind of wedge the Enemy would just love to get in to try to destroy us & our witness.⁴⁶

I've heard of sexual afflictions spreading rampantly throughout virtually all of the Homes in some countries in the days of their gigantic meetings before "Ban the Bomb"⁴⁷....It seems that it wouldn't hurt to exercise a little extra caution when it comes to taking strangers to bed.⁴⁸

⁴⁴. A question from Appolos with Berg's reply, "The New Sexless FFing or Condom Revolution!" Good News #287, SPECIAL AIDS EDITION, DFO, Can Be Read to Close Friends & Long-Time Fish if Necessary!, (Oct. 1987), abridged in LIFELINE, vol. 17, p. 669.

⁴⁵. Ibid.

⁴⁶. Ibid.

⁴⁷. David Berg, Ban the Bomb, ML # 1434, cited by WS Staff in "More Aids Precaution!" (9/87), Good News, # 292, DO, [11/87], abridged in LIFELINE, vol. 17, p. 749. In "Ban the Bomb" Berg wrote: "ANYBODY WHO REFUSES TO HAVE SEX WITH A MEMBER OF ANOTHER HOME SHOULD NOT BE CONDEMNED OR CRITICIZED for it....BAN ALL INTER-HOME SEXUAL CONTACT! Rampant sexual promiscuity & spreading of sexual diseases to epidemic proportions could destroy us!....It's always been a risk with our FFing, but that's part of the sacrifice involved....But these FFers should be particularly careful that they don't bring anything Home & pass it around to the Family!....No more sex with non-Home members, except for FFers, & please you be careful, & be careful with your FFers as well!"

⁴⁸. Appolos and Berg, "The New Sexless FFing or Condom Revolution!" Good News #287, p. 669.

Appolos' main point was for the FFers "not to give out their sexual favours quite so freely, but to really witness the Word & only give them sex as a final last resort--providing you know that they really are genuinely hungry for the Lord & His Love & are worthy."49

Berg answered Appolos' letter with the following:

With this new malignant threat of worldwide AIDS, our FFers should even discourage sex!--But if absolutely unavoidable, should insist than man wear a condom, even if she has to put it on him herself! (Carry'm with you, Girls!--That's not asking too much when he's asking her all!...So if you can't FF without sex or use condoms, cut the FFing!--It's a new sexless or condom FFing Revolution!50

So there you have it, a condom revolution! More clarification, restatements, and detailed explanations of this new policy followed:

The new policy of no sex with outsiders unless absolutely necessary, in which case they wear a condom, is to be applied directly to our longtime outside friends with whom we regularly have intimate contact....We are having to call an immediate Worldwide ban on sex with anyone who lives outside of one of our Family Homes, unless unavoidable & using a condom.51

The point is, the present worldwide AIDS epidemic has now reached crisis proportions, & for the sake of God's Work, we must insist--at least for now [emphasis added] --that the no-sex-without-a-condom rule applies even to our close friends.52

If someone refuses to agree to & abide by these stipulations, then you should no longer feel obligated to make love with them!--"Roll ye away the stone", roll down the condoms & do everything you can, & the Lord will do everything that we can't! PTL! WLY & are praying for you.53

Prostitution through escort services was at this point banned.

ALL SEX WITH OUTSIDERS IS NOW BANNED!--Unless they're already close & well-known friends!
--WHICH MEANS ESING [short for escorting, prostitution through escort services] IS NOW OUT!--It is too dangerous for our girls to deliberately put themselves into contact with the high-risk people who make use of such services! ESing is now unequivocally banned to all Family members!54

49. Ibid., p. 670.

50. Ibid.

51. "More on how to 'Beware of AIDS!'--Practical Advice on Condoms!" ibid., p. 678.

52. Ibid.

53. Ibid., p. 679.

54. "Summary of AIDS Rules & Policies!" (9/87), ibid., p. 680.

This sounds like a real ban, thanks to AIDS, but again with the COG you can never be sure. We must maintain a healthy suspicion. The COGs can not be trusted. They may still be ESing in a smaller scale, or they may have restarted since all these changes took place five long years ago.

Next the new policies were announced to some of the close friends in one of the homes and introduced with these words:

Our highest Earthly authority, dear Dad, [Berg] has passed a rule affecting...all of our outside friends...folks like you. This rule may be a "hard saying" for some of you, something difficult for you to take, & you may just have to take it by faith.⁵⁵

Within our Family we have a lot of freedom & liberties that other groups & churches don't have, & that in itself is a precious privilege. We're...able to have intimate fellowship & sex with one another.--Something I don't think you'll find in any other Christian church or fellowship! So let's count our blessings!⁵⁶

Having to wear a condom is a very small sacrifice to make!⁵⁷

Some of you, like V., actually have children within the Family here, so I know this is hard for you to take because it means you won't be able to have any more unless you move in & become a fulltime live-in member.⁵⁸

One in the audience raised a question.

(Friend: So could I have a clarification? You're saying the rule is that condoms must be used if they're sharing with outsiders only. For example, if I share with a Family girl, I need to use condoms.) [Speaker:] Yes. (Friend: But if she shared with you, for example, you don't have to use condoms.) [Speaker:] Right. But if I was to have any outside contact, with anyone, I would have to use a condom. That's the rule: If our women make love to any outsiders, they have to make sure that the men wear condoms.--And if any of our men make love with any outsiders, they have to make sure that they wear condoms as well.

(Friend: I just want to clarify this a little further. If I am the one who is with her, then I have to use condoms. But if you're the one, then you don't have to, is that right?) [Speaker:] Right.⁵⁹

The November issue of Good News covered these changes further. Berg wrote:

We're virtually banning all outside sex with unknown persons!⁶⁰

55. "Talk with Close Family Friends about the New Condom Rules!" *ibid.*, p. 681.

56. *Ibid.*, p. 682.

57. *Ibid.*

58. *Ibid.*, pp. 682, 683.

59. *Ibid.*, p. 683.

60. David Berg, "God's Pets!" ML # 2344, (9/87). *Good News* # 292, DO, [11/89], abridged in *LIFELINE*, vol. 17, p. 744.

I WOULD BE ABSOLUTELY SCARED TO DEATH TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH SOMEBODY NEW WHO WE DIDN'T KNOW THEIR WHOLE HISTORY, their sex history & who they were & where they came from & what's been their sex experience!⁶¹

IF SOMEONE SHOULD GIVE THEIR LIFE FOR IT OR HAVE TO DIE FOR IT, WELL, PRAISE THE LORD! "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends!"--John 15:13. Even if the Lord should allow anyone to get it & die of it, they'll just get There before we do! It's no sacrifice really, except that it's perhaps a sad way to die. But I don't think the Lord would let any of us die of that unless we have really transgressed His rules & maybe have done something to deserve it.⁶²

Our girls who go out with some of their faithful friends & long-time Fish should never be without condoms now, ever. I think our girls & men should be extremely careful from now on--prayerful & use condoms!

I THINK A LOT OF THE FISH ARE GOING TO WANT TO BE MORE LOYAL TO OUR GIRLS NOW, & not be running around with all sorts of other women. When they've got to travel, you can't blame a man for wanting to take along a girl with him, especially if it's one that he knows is safe & is a good girl, who loves him & is teaching him the Bible & all that sort of thing.

THEY'RE GOING TO THINK A LOT MORE SERIOUSLY ABOUT THAT NOW. They've been pretty free about sex before, but now they're going to really be scared to be too promiscuous. They're really going to be much less promiscuous & more careful & choosy about the girls they choose. They're going to want to stick with one woman, & will probably want to take our girls with them on their business trips.⁶³

OUR GIRLS WILL ACCOMPLISH A LOT MORE WITH SOME OF THEIR FISH TOO BY RESTRICTING SOME OF THEIR FORMER ACTIVITIES & not just going out nightly on some kind of escort dates with strangers.⁶⁴

THEY'LL NOW CUT WAY DOWN ON THE NUMBER OF THEIR CONTACTS, & concentrate & specialize more on a few regulars.⁶⁵[emphasis added]

And now with this AIDS scare, I think it's going to actually do us good & get more real disciples & cut down on profligacy & promiscuity, & help them to concentrate on fewer fish....They don't even have to necessarily have any less sex, but have it more with the same men whom they concentrate on. I think those few men will probably appreciate it more too, if they know that you're concentrating more on them & not just going out every night with a different man.⁶⁶

61. Ibid.

62. Ibid., p. 745.

63. David Berg, "Even the AIDS Scare is for our Good!--Romans 8:28!" ML # 2345, DO. (8/87). ibid., p. 751.

64. Ibid., p. 752.

65. Ibid.

66. Ibid.

The following are some quotes from Maria, Berg's "wife," on the subject of "CAN WE SURVIVE WITHOUT FFING!"

ANOTHER THING SOME PEOPLE ARE GOING TO WONDER: "OH MY!--WITH NO MORE SEX WITH OUTSIDERS WHOM WE'VE JUST MET, we won't be able to win any more top people or kings or important friends like these others whom we were able to FF!" But that's not necessarily so!--We can!

MY GOODNESS!--THE ENTIRE CHRISTIAN WORLD HAS WON MILLIONS UPON MILLIONS OF PEOPLE WITHOUT SEX FOR CENTURIES! Of course the church has not done the job the way it should have, but it has won a lot of people, & almost all of it has been without sex! True, it's a very effective bait, but let's try to do it without it & see what the Lord can help us accomplish! I think a lot of our people are going to be very, very surprised by all the people they can win without sex!

NOW THAT DAD [Berg] HAS BANNED SEX WITH NEWLY-MET OUTSIDERS,...it may be a shock to some for awhile, & their finances may plummet a bit, especially those who have been depending on ESing & FFing wealthy tourists, so it may be difficult at first for a lot of people.

THOSE WHO THINK THEY CAN'T DO IT MAY GRUMBLE & GROAN & MAYBE EVEN LEAVE THE FAMILY, BUT THE OTHERS WILL BE STRONGER & MORE DEPENDENT ON THE LORD!

True, it certainly has been effective & has helped us win a lot of precious souls, but let's face it, the entire Christian World has won converts for a couple of thousand years without using the flesh like we do! So to say we can't win people just because we can't use sex is absurd!--We can!

OF COURSE, THE WRENCH FOR A LOT OF OUR FOLKS ISN'T GOING TO BE SO MUCH, "OH, HOW ARE WE GOING TO WIN SOULS?", it's going to be a financial problem. And it may be difficult at first, but the Lord isn't going to fail them or let them down. Some may have to tighten the belt a bit & move into a less luxurious house.

Who knows, maybe the Lord is allowing this to prepare them for just living by faith, really living by faith. Of course, a lot of them consider that their FFing the rich tourists & ESing is living by faith, but maybe this is to prepare our people for when it's going to get really rough. After all, the Crash is almost here!

WHEN THE CRASH REALLY HITS, PEOPLE ARE NOT GOING TO BE TRAVELLING ALL OVER & STAYING IN FANCY HOTELS & PAYING BIG MONEY FOR GIRLS ANYWAY.

FFing is one thing that a lot of our people have gotten pretty dependent on! It's probably the thing that they get the most reliant on to bring in the most support. So maybe the Lord's just trying to wean us off of some of these things that we've put too much trust & dependence on.⁶⁷

⁶⁷. Maria, "Mama on the New AIDS Rules!--It's Come to That!-- 'We're Just Gonna Have to Trust the Lord!'" Maria Letter # 89 DO (ML # 2346), (9/87), Good News # 292 DO [11/87], abridged in LIFELINE, vol. 17, pp. 754, 755.

It would really be funny if it was not so tragic. These people are truly deceived! The following section of Maria's letter explains "WHICH OUTSIDERS TO STILL HAVE SEX WITH!"

WHEN YOU RECEIVE THIS GN [Good News magazine], YOU FFERS REVIEW ALL OF YOUR FRIENDS, ALL OF YOUR CLOSE FRIENDS, regardless of if you've known them a month, a year or ten years. You need to determine who is in the "well-known" category, which outsiders are those with whom you can still make love (with a condom!), & those with whom you should not! If you've gotten really close to them & they to you, you should certainly know something about them, what kind of a person they are, what are their sexual habits etc. So our girls need to counsel with their Shepherds & prayerfully decide which of their friends & fish are "well-known" & worthy enough to be allowed the privilege of being one of the few outsiders with whom we'll take the risk of still having intimate contact.

SOME OF THESE GUYS WHO FLY INTO TOWN EVERY NOW & THEN, WHO ARE WITH A LOT OF OTHER PEOPLE ALL OVER THE PLACE, PROSTITUTES & WHATNOT, I WOULD NOT SAY THAT THEY WERE VERY "WELL-KNOWN" FRIENDS! No matter how many times you've been with them, if you don't know their whereabouts or history or what they're up to or who they've been with, watch out! If they travel a lot, & are obviously pretty loose & free, & are probably with women--& in some cases, men--all over the place, I wouldn't say that they were a "well-known" or "close" friend!

WHEREAS, WHEN YOU'VE GOT SOME NICE FELLOW WHO LIVES IN A HOUSE A FEW MILES AWAY, & YOU KNOW HIS WHOLE HISTORY & WHAT HE'S DOING & where he goes, you've maybe even met his wife & children, or at least you know a lot about him, & you keep tabs on him pretty well, that's another story. With counsel, with prayer & with discernment, you might decide to continue ministering to him sexually if he really needs it & is sincere.--Especially if you know his whole story. But even then, some of our people can be pretty naive & easily deceived. But if you've faithfully given these people the Word, and you've really convicted them, they're bound to be pretty sincere with you, if you handle them right. After they've genuinely gotten saved & filled & are really feeding from the Word, they should begin to open up their hearts, & you should expect them to.⁶⁸

Specific directives and instructions were passed down from World Services (COG's administrative unit) on how to introduce these changes.

When you break the news to your close friends & long-time fish regarding the new AIDS precautions & the necessity to use condoms, refrain from oral sex etc., it's quite likely that some of them will go through some pretty big trials, as did the men who fellowship with one of our large "test-tube" field Homes. Most of the men...went through some huge battles afterwards.

The main trial that they went through was that the new condom rule made them feel separated from the rest of the Family, like "outsiders".--Which they are in body, as they don't live with us in our Homes. Some of these men have been very close to the Family for many years now, & have even fathered children by the girls who have faithfully loved & taken care of them. In fact, some of them said

⁶⁸. Ibid., pp. 755, 756.

that they actually consider the Family girls to be their "wives".-- So the new condom rule came as quite a "hard saying" for them, to say the least!

We're sharing this with you because we want you to be aware of the battles & trials that your fish & friends may also go through regarding this change in policy, so that you can pray & ask the Lord for a great deal of wisdom, understanding & especially love for them during this time of trial. "This means that we will never be able to have children--or any more children!" was one of their typical reactions & trials, & it took real love, patience, understanding & Godly counsel to help pull them through such huge emotional battles. "We that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, & not to please ourselves."--Rom. 15:1.⁶⁹

So please be prepared for similar trials & tests when you break the condom news to your long-time friends & fish. They may cry, they may get angry, they may get upset,...but "Love never fails"!..."Who shall separate us from the Love of Christ?"-- Certainly not a little thing like a condom! (Rom. 8:35.)

Have desperate united prayer with your shepherds & Home & counsel together & get all the help you need to pull your friends through! Some who had difficulty getting it up or reaching an orgasm with a condom have also found that with prayer & faith, all things are possible!--And they are now having fun & loving fellowship & enjoyable love-up time with their girls without any problem! TYJ!-- So don't give up! GBY!⁷⁰

We can plainly see that FFing did not stop. Sex with outsiders was restricted to old outsider "friends." While we can be thankful that the world has now been spared their major FFing and ESing onslaughts, we must, however, point out that sex with "outsiders" or non-members is still technically FFing. Again, it must also be noted that the curbing of FFing was not due to repentance, but was merely a tactical maneuver to prevent themselves from contracting AIDS. The COG was also quick to realize that announcing that they'd "stopped FFing" served their PR purposes admirably.

But it is not even true that sex with outsiders was restricted to old outsider "friends". The COG was operating two FF homes after the "Condom Revolution" of 1987 in the Philippines. When the COG got kicked out of the Philippines in 1988, they started an FF home in Japan at the end of 1988. In 1988 and 1989, Berg the super-pimp was in and out of Japan. The FFers were going out to meet new people, new fish. They were going out and bringing new people home. The FF home, this house of prostitutes, had opened up and it was operating for this purpose. It was still going on in 1989, when Hellen left Japan. The existence of the FF home was top secret. Hellen said that only the people at the school in Japan, where she was, knew.

In the interview with Areopagus, Jonathan plainly admits to sex within the COG. He states that "probably it's accurate to say also that in some of our publications or some of the things written by us that liberties along this line so far as sexual freedom or sharing together is concerned was encouraged."⁷¹ Then quoting his father (David Berg) he reads the following: "Sex with babes, new disciples in the family less than six months, is now an excommunicable offence."⁷² The clear implication of this statement taken in context is that if you are in the group six months and one day, you can sleep with anybody. Anybody in your home that is, now that there's no more "inter-home" sex. See footnote #47.

⁶⁹. WS [World Services] Staff, "Condom Battles & Victories," (9/87), *ibid.*, pp. 752.

⁷⁰. *Ibid.*, p. 753.

⁷¹. "COG Revisited," *Areopagus*, p. 47.

⁷². *Ibid.*

You can have all the sex you want with everybody in your own community. If you transfer to another COG home or community, you can have all the sex you want with everybody in that community, and everybody there can have sex with you and your wife or your husband. Provided that "all parties affected and concerned agree", Jonathan tells us that in the matter of sex among adults in the same home, they "have not found grounds or reasons for it to be absolutely forbidden."⁷³

As we saw earlier the COG policy of free sex among members was still in effect as late as March 1992, the time when Watchman left the COG, and "sharing" is most probably still going on today.

Jonathan, according to an eyewitness account, committed incest during the early years of the cult with his sister Faithy while their father was watching. We suppose he does not think that this practice should be "absolutely forbidden" either.

Concerning the source of all this false teaching, the Mo letters, Jonathan says, "There are portions of these writings that are, I feel, as inspired and as from God and as unchangeable as the Bible."⁷⁴ And in response to the interviewer's question, "Is it possible for us to have a collection of those?" (the Mo letters) Jonathan replies: "It's the most expensive set of the doctrines of faith than any group has. It costs you your life. If you want to know all that we believe and everything our founder has told us over the years, then you have got to give your life in service to the Lord and in proving that you really believe those things."⁷⁵

Although I did spend ten years of my life following and believing the Mo letters and reading them with religious devotion, I now firmly believe that those books contain some of the worst kind of pure poison that can possibly be given to feed people with. When I left the group I threw all my Mo letters in the trash can. But now that I am endeavoring to expose this super-heresy I have reacquired most of the Mo letters. It took me and my wife two full working days to make double copies of just four volumes. All of these volumes, called Lifelines, a misnomer, constitute about 20,000 pages of reading, a monumental work for one or even a few researchers. Any volunteer readers out there?

CELESTE

Aware of all the sexual abuse that has happened in the COG and the sexual excesses that continued to happen, Chris nevertheless accused Valery of "vilifying and degrading the good work of others [the COG's], and causing a lot of people to get stirred up over nothing."⁷⁶

Knowing that girls over fifteen were at that time permitted to have sexual intercourse with other teens, Chris wrote and told Valery: "As for Celeste you have my word that she is happy and healthy, and that I will never allow any harm to come to her."⁷⁷ That's like promising hot weather at the North Pole in the dead of winter. How can Valery, or any mother, not worry? How can she take comfort in such shallow assurances when her child is living in a group controlled by someone like Berg?

Berg needs spiritual deliverance through the casting out of lustful sexual demons. He should be under observation and treatment and therapy. He has no business leading thousands of young people's lives. He should be arrested by the authorities at once, instead of allowing him to keep on running around all over the world destroying more lives. Why are the authorities so slow? Let us remind them that they have a responsibility and duty to protect and rescue those who are victims of a man like David Berg.

⁷³. Ibid.

⁷⁴. Ibid., p. 48.

⁷⁵. Ibid.

⁷⁶. Chris Jones, Open-Letter, p. 3.

⁷⁷. Chris Jones, letter to Valery, p. 2.

Celeste is about 17 years old now. We do not know what kinds of sexual activities she has been involved in. But we do know and it is safe to say that the average COG member of that age, or at least very many of that age group, have already had a long history of involvement in sexual activities with other children, and adults, and in many cases even with their own parents. At age 18 or one short year from now, she will most probably be having sex with other adults in her community.

Celeste was the inspiration for this booklet. And of course Celeste represents every other teenager, or child, born and trapped in the COG all their lives. She was born in the group. She does not know anything but life in the COG. Like her sister Kristina said in her Open Letter, "if you were taught that black was white all your life you'd think that it was."

Celeste writes in her father's "Open Letter" that she feels her mother's decision to join the COG was the best thing Valery ever did! Celeste says: "You were my age when you first made that choice, [to join the COG] and I think that decision you made then was the best decision you ever made. I'm proud to have been born in this Family....I love you and pray that you will be happy for me and not worry."⁷⁸

I am sure that many ex-COG members can identify with that kind of a statement. I remember a time in the cult when I was actually thinking that if some enemy of the group shot Berg with a gun, I would be willing to stand in front of him and give my life to save God's Great End Time Prophet. Once you are convinced, like we were, and she now is, that Berg is some great man of God, as he claims, and that the COG is God's special end-time movement, army, and family, this kind of commitment is understandable.

Please pray for Celeste and for all the young people in the COG. Pray for the kids in Barcelona. As many of you know, the police had arrested COG members in Barcelona, Spain, and are holding many children in custody. Is God putting a burden on anyone's heart to help in that situation? Some of you spent years in childcare in the COG, taking care of children. Does anyone feel the call of God on their life now to help those precious children in any way they can?

An ex-member mother, whom we shall call Kathy, wrote me the following about these minors in Barcelona and their excessive preoccupation with masturbation:

The kids had to be separated from other children in the state institution because their behavior was so bizarre that they could not keep them together with the "normal" kids (who didn't come from the sect). In other words, they were practicing sexual acts which the authorities did not want the other kids to be exposed to. These poor kids really need our support and prayers!⁷⁹

After I wrote back to doublecheck on this story I got the following from Kathy:

What I said to you was...something I knew to be a fact from having talked with the authorities here...who had been given this information from the authorities in Spain.

Upon receiving your letter, I called the authorities...tho, to confirm these facts; and they again confirmed that they were true. What I told you was...a direct quote from the authorities here.⁸⁰

Along the same line, we heard about a grandmother who succeeded in making her daughter get out of the COG. She then discovered that it was not easy to prevent the little girls from masturbating in the middle of the living room.

These kids are so used to masturbating that it has probably become an addiction they still indulge excessively in, whether they are in the group, or leave the group or end up in a jail.

⁷⁸. Chris Jones, Open Letter, p. 2.

⁷⁹. Letter received from "Kathy," (April 16, 1992), p. 3.

⁸⁰. Ibid., (June 14, 1992), pp. 1, 2.

Exiting the COG does not necessarily mean the end of COG related problems in one's life, as Kathy explains:

The effects of this group are still to be seen in many of our lives....Sometimes I wonder if I'll ever personally be completely whole again, when I see the devastating effects that this group has had on me and my children.⁸¹ The effects are seen even in children (like mine) who have been out of the group since 12 years.⁸²

She also makes the following point:

I have never felt that I should do anything, tho, against the group, because I felt that that would just be getting "vengeance" and I know that God's Word speaks against our doing that....that's His job!...However, I now realize that it is not a question of vengeance; but rather of just helping to expose this group...for the evils they have done and are doing; and in doing so, helping to prevent other victims and innocent children from being further abused.⁸³

WHAT MUST BE DONE

Another ex-member wrote us that he believes "expose is one of the key needs, ...as the COG seem to never implement any changes or reforms unless it's under the threat of outside persecution."⁸⁴ He explains that incest and child-adult sex were stopped as a direct result of opposition against the COG. We must try to expose the COG everywhere and put pressure on them to stop even the existing excesses.

"Kathy" wrote the following concerning another ex-COG member's encounter with the COG in the newly reopened fields of Eastern Europe.

She now goes with a friend all on her own into Eastern countries like Romania to witness for the Lord; and she often sees COG members handing out their tracts. She recently saw a little girl all by herself in a train station passing out tracts, and she said that everywhere she looked in the station people were sitting there reading the tracts from the COG.- She asked the little girl if she was Romanian and she said "No", that she was French.- [She] says that they have even infiltrated the churches there and that the churches have no idea who they are and what is behind them.⁸⁵

This very thing is happening in Bulgaria, as this recent article in Christianity Today clearly shows.

Bulgaria. The Children of God are saturating the street corners of Sofia, Bulgaria, with posters and thousands of leaflets. Already the group claims more than 2,000 youthful adherents there (see "Fertile Ground for False Teaching," p. 40). A young man who finally left the Children of God expressed his concern in a letter to the Christian Research Institute (CRI) of San Juan Capistrano, California: "You'll be surprised to know that such cults are

81. Ibid., (Dec. 28, 1991), pp. 6, 7.

82. Ibid., p. 4.

83. Ibid., p. 7.

84. Letter received from ex-member, (May 3, 1992), p. 12.

85. "Kathy," (Feb. 3, 1992), pp. 2, 3.

flooding now the ex-communist countries of East Europe. I left [the Children of God] five months ago. The problem with them now is that in Bulgaria they still haven't revealed their cultic nature. They seem still quite evangelical, and unfortunately many Christians join them.⁸⁶

Just like in Bulgaria, most churches in the world are hardly aware of the COG problem within their own countries. All churches and denominations must be alerted. That is a big job. And the same applies to high schools. Valery was recruited by the COG in her own high school in England. The COGs that were arrested in Barcelona were recruiting in high schools. Everybody should get involved in letting the churches, and schools and the media of their part of the world know of the COG danger. The same applies to businesses that donate food and supplies to the COG or that market COG products!

When we joined the group, there were people who had joined before us, had found out about the true nature of this cult and had withdrawn themselves from it. If these people who knew about the COG had tried harder to warn those who were at that time entering it, many lives could have been spared this unnecessary tragedy. How many of you ex-COGers, for example, would have joined if you knew that Berg had been having repeated incest with his daughter Faithy, many years earlier? We today are in the same position as those who could have prevented us from joining by telling us about the COG.

How about organizing protest activities and press conferences to alert the media? How about a systematic search for strong Christian lawyers to defend and help us in court? How about contacting every intercessor in your city to do battle in the spirit against the demonic forces in control of the COG and Berg? These are not extremely difficult things to do if we want to pay the price, involve ourselves and get busy.

The parents and relatives of COG members should be alerted, especially those that are supportive of the COG because they do not know how truly bad the group is. If parents the world over hear the whole truth about the COG, more of them will, at the very least, stop supporting the group, and hopefully will be moved to do more to rescue their kids. How about organizing parent groups all over the world? My own mother came to the United States from Greece to find and rescue me, even before all the Ffing and other vile practices had mushroomed. And maybe if when she came here she had been morally supported by dozens of US parents she might had been more successful. She ended up in a hospital instead!

I personally have a lot of faith in parents and grandparents. I believe that parents by the hundreds are going to join in the fight against the COG. We must be so yielded to God's love for others of our family, that we must be willing to give our lives if that is what is going to take. Having a child or grandchild in the COG is an non-negotiable, non-compromisable situation. There is no way can we accept it, live with it, give up and say we have done all we could do. We can't say that, we do not have the right to say that. A parent's "job description" does not leave room for such compromise.

My pastor shared a story during Mother's Day Sunday about a chicken that was found burned to death in a fire at a farm. When the farmer later pushed the dead chicken with his foot, there came a bunch of little live chicks out from under their mother's charcoaled body. I thought, my God, if a chicken can instinctively, led by its natural motherly impulses, sacrifice its life, and get burned to death to protect the lives of her little offsprings, how can we do less for our own human children, whom a man like Berg is corrupting? Love motivated, counter-COG cult busting activism is the way to go.

One thing that everybody can do is pass this booklet on to others by the dozens, hundreds, or thousands. (The cost of printing this booklet is about 50 cents per copy. Please include something for postage. Make your checks payable to COUNTERCOG the name under which we are incorporated.) Send them to government officials, newspapers, but especially parents. You can write us for additional copies. You may also want to translate these publications into other languages, like others have already done and for which we are very thankful.

86. "New Kingdoms for the Cults," *Christianity Today*, Jan. 13, 1992, pp. 38, 39. A shorter reference in "Fertile Grounds for False Teaching" says: "Some 2,000 youth in the capital city of Sofia have joined the Children of God."

We could also move toward establishing a closer, networking epicenter, wherein our personal goals, plans, strategies and tactics could be discussed. I am not necessarily suggesting an organic unity in a form of a corporate legal structure. What I have in mind is a unity of hearts, a serious start of discussion concerning a great and grave matter; a situation that deeply concerns us. May God help us all to do something.

Some of you may want to start by helping financially those like Valery Jones who are already ministering to others. Not only is Valery fighting a desperate struggle to locate and rescue Celeste, but she is also providing emotional support to the many parents and others she is in touch with, sending them literature, books, calling them on the phone. She recently told me that she would like to hear from other people who have children in the group as she wants to start a support group for ex-members with children still in the cult. She is starting a charity, "THE CHILDREN OF GOD RECOVERY FUND" to help parents like herself locate and rescue their children from the COG. She also wants to help financially people coming out.

What motivated me to produce this booklet was Valery's long letter of her activities in England. Valery is fighting for her daughter Celeste. She needs our help. If you can feel her despair and you would like to help her financially or offer her moral support and encouragement, you can write her at the following address: **Valery Jones B. M. Box 7531, London, ENGLAND WCIN3XX**. Her telephone number is **44-602-735811**.

Another strong activist in Europe, and a protagonist in the recent anti-COG press campaign in Japan, Dr Jacques Richard asked me to announce his group's (A.D.F.I.) congress in Barcelona. It will take place during 23-25 April 1993. Dr Richard's address is: **96, Rue de la Fuie 72000 Le Mans, FRANCE. Tel. 43/84.11.30**

Although we have limited ourselves in this booklet to writing mainly about the sexual abuses in the cult, a lot can be said about the physical, emotional, and mental abuses as well.

We are inviting other ex-members to take up the torch and the pen and write extensively about the mental tortures in Victor's camp, which is nothing less than a COG detention camp, or prison, a thought-reform center, where members are isolated, intimidated, humiliated, forced to answer questions and fill out reports. We pray that some will take the time to research and write about the cruel beatings of little children, the bruised bodies of even babies less than one year old. We have even heard of cases of teenage suicides in the COG. Someone should publish something about the serious problems of people even when they come out of the group, both teenagers and adults. Some go through prolonged depression, psychological problems, have thoughts of suicide and experience panic attacks and breakdowns. Miriam, referring to young ex-members used the word psychopaths and said, "You will be surprised." She explained that these young people have experienced random, repeated, continuous sexual abuse not that long a time ago and they are growing up to be really sexually disorientated people. She said that they are very mentally unstable, with very big problems and that they really need proper care.

How about an ex-COG news bulletin that will keep us all informed and up to date about such developments as are now happening in Australia, Japan and will surely happen in other places in the future?

That the anti-COG movement is still in its embryonic stage is shown by the fact that there is not even a basic documentary video made by us telling the world what is happening in the COG. Now that Watchman came out, who was the main driving force and creator of the videos that the COG are selling worldwide, we are presented with a unique opportunity to help him now produce a video that will expose the COG instead. He shared that he wants to make a one hour long documentary on child abuse in the COG that will make people stand up and want to do something. He wants to create something professional, something that can be broadcasted. He is at the present time travelling all over in his campaign against the COG and thus in a position to meet a lot of people for interviews etc. A tool like a video documentary should have been created a long time ago. I believe that there is a great need for it. So here is our chance to help finance what I consider a top priority project at the relatively low cost of seven to ten thousand dollars. If you would like to help Watchman with a contribution for this project, you can send your donation to **Richard Dupuy c/o COUNTERCOG P.O. BOX 40242, Pasadena, California, 91114, USA**. Thanks.

We all keep on saying, but never act like we really believe that our greatest weapon is prayer. Please pray for the kids in Barcelona. This is heartbreaking. Let us not allow ourselves to become desensitized. If you feel you can do nothing else, at least pray for that situation daily. Get down on your knees in your bedroom and cry out to God, interceding with prayers and tears for them. Lose a little sleep over it if you have to!

"Arise, cry out in the night: in the beginning of the watches (before sunrise) pour out thine heart like water before the face of the Lord: lift up thy hands like water before the face of the Lord: lift up thy hands toward Him for the life of thy young children." (Lam. 2:19.)

Please, please, beloved, pray! If we don't pray for these children and their families, who will? If we aren't concerned, who will be?

These precious children are so desperately needy of our help at this point, but still trapped in the COG. They and their parents are deceived by Mo, but they are still our precious brothers and sisters and children and we must help them, in prayer if nothing else. Let's help our brothers and sisters and children, intervene for them, exit-counsel them. Let each of us pray how the Lord wants us to be involved. We cannot just sit by and watch as more lives are destroyed. Everyone can do something, whether it is small or big. The last thing I am trying to do is make anybody feel guilty. I am not trying to twist anybody's arm. Dedication to a cause should be commanded and not demanded. But I simply, in the depths of my being, believe and know that there are many who want to really get involved in this battle and that united as a team, without presumption, but with true and sincere dependence in God, we are going to be victorious in rescuing lives from the grip of this hellish heresy.

OPEN LETTER TO CHRISTOPHER JONES

Dear Chris,

I do remember how inflamed your heart was with the vision for the Music With Meaning ministry when Faithy came to Athens back around 1980, just a month or so before I left the group. But you see Chris, I came to realize that dedication, by itself, is not enough. There are millions of dedicated but dead wrong people around the world. I know that COG members are hard working people, their homes are clean, etc. If the churches had shown a fraction of the zeal that COGs display for evangelism in its two thousand years of history, the whole planet would have been evangelized many times over by now. Nobody who knows the COG will dispute these plain facts, nor will they fall into the mistaken assumption that life in COG is a constant orgy like the media typically depicts.

But walking up around the Acropolis, by Mars Hill, the very spot where Paul many centuries earlier had brought the Christian light that eventually transformed pagan Athens, I made two lists on a small piece of paper. The first list on the left side was all the good things about the COG: how I had seen it grow from the 120 members in 1969 when I joined, to 500, then to 1000, then to many thousands, over ten thousand dedicated soldiers for Jesus. Also on that list on the left side was all that scripture memorization, all the soul winning, all the fellowship, the dancing. But the list on the right side of the bad things in the COG was overwhelming. I had already left the group earlier for six months because of the Kohoutek fiasco, but had decided to return, excusing that false prophecy as nothing more than just a mistake that Berg had made. But now there was prostitution, herpes, kids born who will never know who their father is, and it was just too much. So I left. And if you heard about it you may have thought that I backslid. But I did not Chris; the group did, the COG backslid.

Chris, Valery does not have to "wake up to the error of [her] ways" for the simple reason that she already has, just as thousands of others like her and me have done over these past 21 years. You, Chris, are the one who needs to wake up. When you finally come out of the limbo you are in, we will be here to help and love you. We do not hate you. We deeply care for you, and pray that the spell you are under will be broken in the Name of Jesus. But the consequences of many of the things that you are doing and will still be doing until you snap out of it, will be with you for the rest of your life. I know from personal experience Chris, the cold reality of waking up and suddenly realizing what you have done, what you have allowed to happen. I have experienced the stigma of it all, the hiding of many of the worse details of my past in the COG from others, the fear of how all this could and it very well may reflect in the lives of even my grandchildren. You do not have to wonder if God will ever forgive poor Valery for doing what any real and true mother would do. May you wake up from the error you are in and reach out and receive God's mercy and forgiveness like thousands of ex-COG members have the world over. May God reveal to your heart the deception you are in.

In Jesus' Name.