

Collection Summary

ID Number: CS 096

Title: Children of God

Extent: 5 Folder(s)

Span Dates: 1967-1987

Language: English

Geographic Location: Huntington Beach, California

Abstract: This collection consists of newsletters from the organization, newspaper clippings, and magazine articles, as well as papers and notes.

Selected Search Terms

Subjects: Communal living; Collective settlements; Housing, Cooperative; Collective farms; Commune; Free love; Cults

Historical Notes: One of the most controversial of the Jesus-movement groups of the late 1960s and early 1970s, the Children of God coalesced around the coffee-house ministry of David Berg (1919-1994), a Christian and Missionary Alliance pastor, in Huntington Beach, California, in 1968. In 1969 Berg and about 100 followers began to travel the country preaching a millennial doom-and-gloom message. Parents of some followers believed that their children were being abused and formed the early anti-cult organization FREECOG, for Free the Children of God. Most of the Children left the United States and spent several years working abroad, and the movement reportedly grew substantially in those years. In 1976 the movement initiated its most controversial practice, "flirty fishing," in which female member had sex with men outside the movement in an attempt to convert them. That police was eventually abandoned, and in the early 1990s the Children quietly began returning to the United States. They changed the movement's name to the Family, and in 2004 to the Family International. The movement recently reported 12,000 members living in over 1,400 communal households in over 100 countries. Although the movement had originally been entirely communal, it eventually began to accept noncommunal members as well. (Miller, Timothy. The encyclopedic guide to American intentional communities. 2nd ed. Clinton, New York: Richard W. Couper Press, 2015. pg. 76-77)

Administrative Information

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Contents	Date	Container	Location
Newsletters	1973-1977	Folder 1	Filing Cabinet 11-E

Contents	Date	Container	Location
Newspaper clippings; magazine articles	1973-1987	Folder 2	Filing Cabinet 11-E
Newspaper/Magazines: "Truth" Magazine (vol. 3, no. 10 [Issue 25]), "New Improved Truth" Magazine (vol. 3, no. 4), Cornerstone (no. 29), Jesus Christ Solid Rock Magazine, and All Things Change!	n.d.	Folder 3	Filing Cabinet 11-E
Redekop, Calvin. "Contemporary Christian Communes."	n.d.	Folder 4	Filing Cabinet 11-E
Class Notes: History 319 Communal Societies in America/Dr. Donald Pitzer	1983	Folder 5	Filing Cabinet 11-E