

# KEYSTONE

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## FAMILY

AUSTRALIA'S TOP  
GOSPEL GROUP  
BREAKS UP



BOB  
DYLAN  
RECORD  
REVIEW

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HOW IT AFFECTS YOU

PHIL  
KEAGGY  
INTERVIEW  
4 PAGE LIFT OUT  
AUSTRALIAN  
ARTISTS  
PART ONE



# FAMILY INTERVIEW



Family appearing on Channel 7, Brisbane, April 1973.

## “Breaking Up Is Hard To Do”

It's official — Australia's foremost gospel group, FAMILY, have decided to call it a day.

Their distinctive harmonies, professional stage presence and warm audience communication have been a feature of eight albums, 15 singles and 2,500 concerts.

FAMILY's professional career commenced in 1973 when they were offered a recording contract with M7 records (now Seven Records) and the following day, they were chosen as the support act for Burt Bacharach's national tour.

A series of hit singles followed — “Hallelujah Day”; “This House Runs on Sunshine”; “The Wonder of You”; “Just Another Song About Love”; and “Fine Love”.

All their records provided the means by which they became known and respected, not only by Christians, but by the general public, thus being able to sow seeds of real life in Jesus Christ.

Why are they giving it all away and breaking up? We asked two members of the trio, Ian Smallbone and Phil Truscott . . .

**Ian Smallbone:** For some time Family has gone from year to year weighing up at the end of each one whether God was calling us to continue or it was time to bow out. This year with different interests having their sway, it's a strong possibility this could be the end.

**Phil Truscott:** So we have done the promotion for the coming concert tour as being our last one. Although we'd like to perhaps do more albums they wouldn't sell without continued touring.

**Ian:** We are now all fathers of families who are affected by the pressures of touring. And we definitely won't be travelling like we have done in the past after this year. We can't see it as being the way the Lord is leading. Last year we travelled extensively and found it's not conducive to family living.

**Phil:** We know of few musicians with families who have not either split up or had troubles and we noticed this particularly in America.

**Ian:** Last year the touring placed unnatural strains and restraints on the children being in the homes of different people all the time. Instead, we've now been basing ourselves in Sydney with only weekend tours or occasional trips to other states. Besides it is difficult to fit in with Ian Truscott who is a doctor, living in New Zealand.

**Phil:** We're not doing this concert tour as a publicity stunt because in our minds it is the last one. It's not been easy

weighing up the possibilities which anyone would understand. On the one hand we must keep using our talents as the Bible directs us to do and also use the experience we have had in some way. But whereas previously Family were available almost 365 days of the year, the group will now become more of a hobby or a part time ministry. If we are available and are asked to play somewhere we'll consider accepting.

**Ian:** Our decision is just a matter of being obedient to God's direction. When you're not responsive to His leading you're no longer in ministry, but doing your own thing. But I did think it would be difficult to leave it all behind after years with the group. Initially I fought against the whole idea but I've now seen possibilities in the field of teaching and other areas of ministry in a local church situation at home in Queensland about which I'm quite thrilled.

**Phil:** In one sense giving up is difficult but in another it's a relief. I've really missed being in one particular church and helping out there by using the experiences I've gained to benefit others. In the end it can be just as rewarding to the Kingdom as being in the group.

**Keystone:** Is God giving you a new set of priorities, for example, 1, God, 2, family, 3, church and 4, others.

**Ian:** It's difficult to put them in a numerical order, I believe Jesus to be pre-eminent but I wouldn't necessarily

see the rest as being in any order of priority. Being obedient to God is our priority which spills over into family relationships and our church. So I think those others sort themselves out after we put God first.

**Ian:** We have observed in the Christian music business — for want of a better term — evidence of irresponsibility, especially in the States but it is happening to a lesser extent here. Guys who have a wonderful ministry just get so absorbed in it after a while, they forget they have a prime responsibility in their own homes to their wives and children. Some of the rationalizations we hear from them are astounding. For example, 'The Lord is calling me to do this and it's my highest priority.' But they forget the commitments to their own family and the Bible saying you shall not commit adultery or leave your wife. In the pursuit of their ministry they forget being obedient to God. As I've said before, if you're disobedient you're no longer in ministry but into something of your own thing. In my eyes they're totally disobeying the Scriptures. Biblical principles seem to have been thrown out the window. We mention this only as an observance for ourselves to be mindful of not doing the same thing.

**Keystone:** From your eight years of performing, can you give me some observations you've made in America

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**Family,  
Robert Colman  
and Evie at the  
Sydney Opera  
House April  
1978.**











or Australia from which you feel it's important we learn?

**Ian:** I think there is a tendency in many musicians to view other groups and singers as competition which is very dangerous. When we're in that part of the Body which is ministering through music, however 'successful' our ministry may be, we must still remember it is being offered to God. I would say in 99% of cases people have felt a significant calling from God to become involved in the music ministry.

Yet time and again there is this worldly tendency to be in competition, to do things better and on some occasions to even joy in difficulties other people may be experiencing. For myself, I have often been hurt by people seeming in some ways to expect we'll be threatened by any good group that comes along which couldn't be further from the truth. We've always believed when it's time for us to move on something will come along. There'll be no problem replacing us because nobody's irreplaceable.

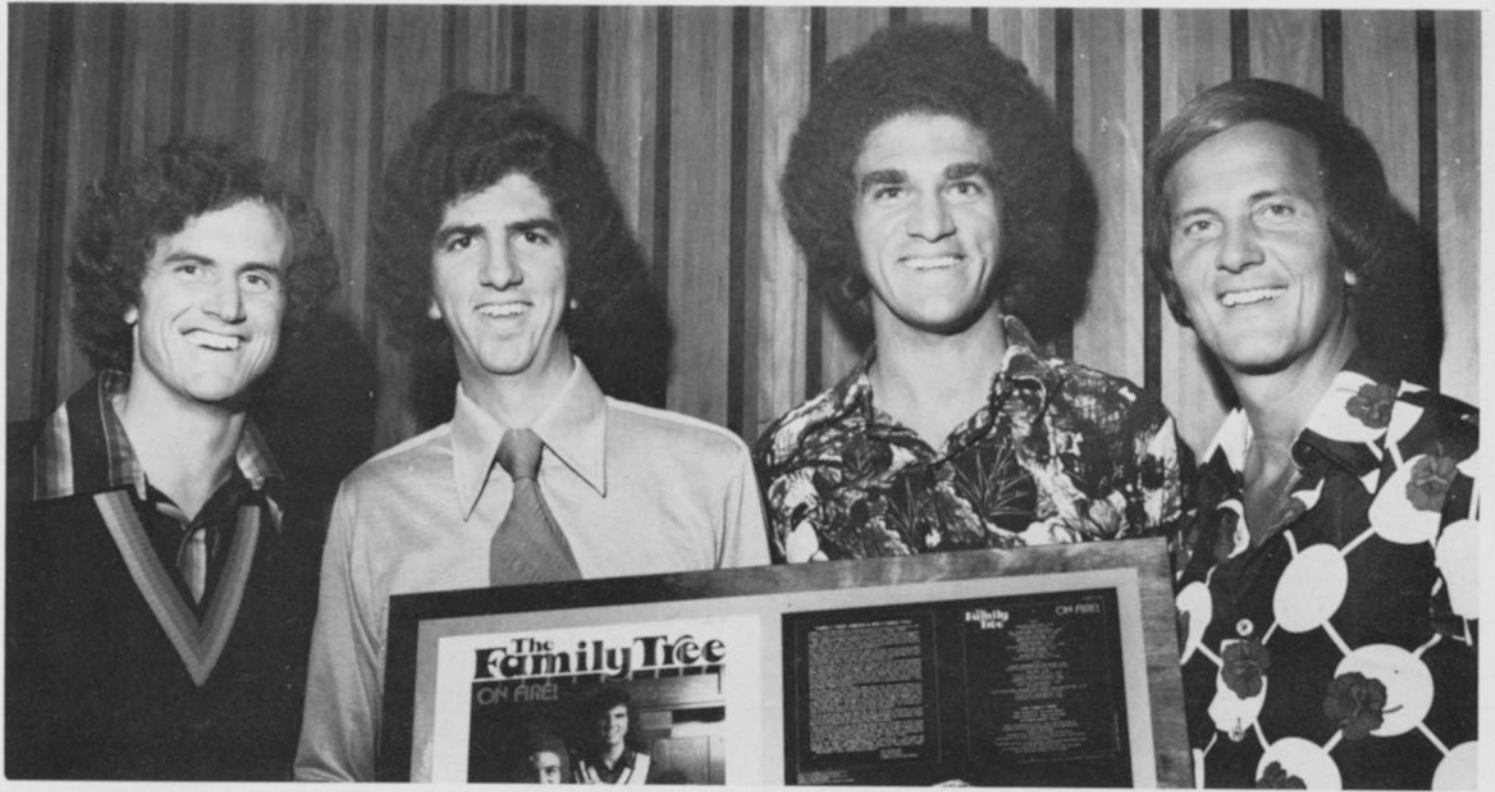
Looking at the States again, there's such a range of music — quartets, middle of the road, Christian rock. But there's a real tendency for the quartets to just be written off by others or for the quartets to dismiss Christian rock as not being a ministry. Even within that latter field itself there's sometimes real tension and bitterness between people who have slightly different interpretations. Overall I would say Christian musicians can be the greatest group of gossip mongers, who are not content to just get on with their own task but seek to undermine others. That is something we must avoid and seek to really pull together as a Body.

In terms of gossip, one guy whom we met in the United States gave us some helpful words. He said 'When people come to me saying this, this or this about someone, I simply ask why are you telling me? Am I part of the problem or part of the cure? If I'm not part of either I'd prefer you not to tell me as I don't wish to know about it.' Gossip is such an easy thing to do. It's a tool of the devil.

**Keystone:** How can we remain clean in this area?

**Ian:** Everything which arises in terms of jealousy, envy, strife, falsehood, is a result of immaturity. We are called to mature and grow in grace and in Christ, never to remain stagnant desiring the sincere 'milk' of the Word all our life. It's the same in every area of Christian liv-





ing; unless we grow we stagnate.

A person having a ministry in music is no different from Joe Average Christian. But unfortunately too many Christian musicians are playing every Sunday night and possibly mornings as well. Then there are other things such as practice which can prevent regular attendance at Bible studies during the week with the result they are isolated and out of fellowship with the rest of the Body. They become totally absorbed in the fact of doing God's work but they are really outside the Body. And it is only Christ's body which can do any work for Him.

**Keystone:** In practical terms, how can one stay in fellowship with the rest of the Body while working Sunday nights and so on?

**Phil:** Probably by restricting your playing times, for example, having every third or fourth week off. Of course we've learnt much from being on the road. If you go to different denominations with different viewpoints and you don't have a solid base you'll become wishy washy and blow in the breeze. Visiting different denominations should be a boost rather than washing you around in the waves of the sea.

**Ian:** When we look at the instances of broken marriages, it's often because the only fellowship has been amongst the musicians which is not healthy. We have to take our place in the Body and must make the time to do so. My closest,

friend in the Lord is a bricklayer.

Just this morning I mentioned the number of times Jesus calls us to take the initiative and not just wait around letting things happen. The command is to go into all the world — not wait and hope the world will come to you. To put it another way; the command is to seek ye first the Kingdom of God, not be there and hope the Kingdom will come by. We have to take the initiative, I believe, in so many situations and areas with one of those being fellowship. If Sunday is not the day there is plenty of other opportunities.

In our church and many others, there are two services (sometimes three) so surely you can make it to one of those at least once a fortnight. Many groups are busy but I hope not that busy.

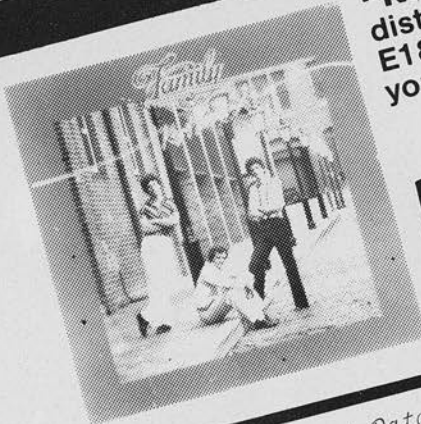
**Keystone:** Are there any other areas which you feel are essential for one to constantly give over to God to ensure you are not doing something in your own strength?

**Ian:** Although we've not said so specifically it underlines everything. We need to be in a right relationship with God, then the fellowship and finally your own private devotional life.

**Phil:** This sounds very simple but it came home to me yesterday at church when the sermon pointed to the value and importance of prayer. Powerful ministries come from people who spend time in prayer and are close to God. **K**

# Family

## Grand Final Australian Tour



Family, Australia's finest gospel group are embarking on their final Australian Tour, from September to December 1980. This will be the last time Family will be available to be seen in a tour of this nature. Their unique harmony and captivating stage presence have been a major force on Australian Christian Music for over eight years.

To coincide with this tour Family's latest album "Key of Love" has been released and is without doubt their most exciting release. Recorded in Nashville, U.S.A. it has a freshness and excitement that will make its mark on Gospel and Secular Music.

"Key of Love" Family's eighth album is distributed by Rhema Records. P.O. Box E18 ST. JAMES 2000 and is available at your local Christian Bookshop.



**STOP PRESS**

Family Tour Dates:-  
Brisbane 19th September - 264 2904; Adelaide 20th  
September - 45 3737; U.S. of A. 22nd September  
to 15th October; Ipswich 18th October - 281 1983;  
Papua New Guinea 21st to 28th October; Brisbane  
7th to 8th November; Blacktown 14th November  
- 621 7313; Caringbah 15th November - 523 3740;  
Petersham 2nd November - 2 586 ex 470.

For information on available dates for Family contact Peter  
Beveridge on 212 2366