

Kansas City Family Opens Coffee House

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Dear Family,

The Kansas City Family has opened their coffee house at last. Many months of effort have culminated in the successful opening on March 3. Over 80 people crowded into a space designed for forty. The atmosphere of "The Crook of His Arm" (the name of the coffee house being from the "Howl, My soul" in the Family songbook) was deliberately created to provide peace and harmony. A close, warm atmosphere of fuchsias and purples hovers over the soft deep rugs blues and golds of the low, round tables lend to the feeling of unity. We feel that we have achieved an excellent blending of the vibrant, colorful feeling appreciated by the young with the elegance and good taste which appeal to more sophisticated visitors.

The stage and lighting is of a professional quality, and provides a showcase for local talent. We have had a number of amateur and professional musicians play for guitars, and thank us for providing the type of atmosphere that is nowhere else in town. We have seen talent varying from classical guitarists to folk groups: but the most unusual act occurred when Lauren Sellers mothers, a professional belly dancer, who is visiting her daughter in the hospital, offered to perform for family members. For most Family members, this was their only experience with this art form.

The coffee house is providing a dual purpose. Obviously, this provides a medium to serve and relate to individuals in the community. At the present there is no "public" lecturing done at the coffee house. However, this is our primary intent for the near future. For now we are establishing "The Crook of His Arm" as a sanctuary for those who want to find a higher level of self-awareness. Our efforts in this direction have been fruitful with eight people contacted and concluded already.

Our second important purpose is to become known as a responsible and respected institution in the city. We plan soon to involve city officials in a panel or "hot seat" with questions directed from youth in the area and regulars at the coffee house. This impact on local government will be intended to help us with influencing youth groups, and using the Family as mediator. Through these organizations we anticipate many good contacts for lectures.

In Their Name,

Kansas Family