

STUDY GROUPS

While the truths of the URANTIA Book remain as print on a page, the revelatory task of the Book will not succeed. It is only in mobilizing those truths by living example in the lives of God knowing men and women through loyal and sincere effort and service that the revelation will find its complete expression. "The world needs to see Jesus living again on earth in the experience of spirit-born mortals who effectively reveal the Master to all men." [P. 2084] "Truth cannot be defined with words, only by living." [P. 1459] "...true religion is a living love, a life of service." [P. 1100]

"While religion is exclusively a personal spiritual experience--knowing God as a Father--the corollary of this experience--knowing man as a brother--entails adjustment of the self to others selves, and that involves the social or group aspect of religious life. Religion is first an inner or personal adjustment and then it becomes a matter of social service or group adjustment." [P. 1090]

"There is a real purpose in the socialization of religion. It is the purpose of group religious activities to dramatize the loyalties of religion; to magnify the lures of truth, beauty, and goodness; to foster the attractions of supreme values; to enhance the service of unselfish fellowship; to glorify the potentials of family life; to promote religious education; to provide wise counsel and spiritual guidance; and to encourage group worship. And all live religions encourage human friendship, conserve morality, promote neighborhood welfare, and facilitate the spread of the essential gospel of their respective messages of eternal salvation." [P. 1092]

In his presentation before the First Western URANTIA Conference, Martin Myers, member of the URANTIA Foundation, had some important words to say. He explained ** that the early members of the URANTIA Movement were told that, "The Book is being given to those who are ready for it long before its worldwide mission. In the meantime thousands of study groups must be brought into existence. Thus will the Book be in readiness to comfort and enlighten the peoples of the world when the battle for man's liberty is finally won and the world is once more made safe for the religion of Jesus and the freedom of mankind."

The study group concept is important to the URANTIA Movement. It is primarily concerned with the study of the teachings of the URANTIA Book but even more important it remains as potential center for the application of the truths of the URANTIA Book. The mission of the URANTIA Book will never succeed if there are just thousands of people reading the Book. The study groups, because of their smallness and personal intimacy, seem to have the real potential to develop into religious groups. When this begins happening on a wide scale, the mission of the URANTIA Book to bring the gospel of the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man to the world will be assured.