



STUDY GROUPS AROUND THE WORLD

Today, we are presenting a collection of slides on Study Groups Around the World. Some are very recent -- new study groups are being formed continually. The thrust of this collection will be on those in other countries. Often they are originated by someone finding The URANTIA Book in a library and then wanting to share the good news. Study groups and libraries work hand in hand in this movement.

Our purpose is to inspire the viewers with the basic, grass-roots work being done in study groups by the faithful, hard-working pioneers of this movement. This offering is a spring-board for better communication and exchange of ideas and methods of working. There is a deep expressed need for a closer working relationship between study groups. We hope this slide talk will initiate that interaction. Another purpose is to encourage your work in placing books in libraries and to aid in forming more study groups, and to join in strengthening existing ones.

We have been told that "Thousands of study groups must be brought into existence". How many do we now have in 1983? Approximately 260. So here is one big challenge! We cannot force study groups but we can nurture them and help them grow. The map shows the locations of study groups and points up the areas without any study groups and without URANTIA Books in libraries. Many countries offer the opportunity of placing books in the bilingual sections of their libraries. There, scholars can find them, take fire, and spread the teachings to their countrymen who will form their own types of study groups. Remember: Study groups are autonomous!

There are now seven printings totaling 134,000 books of which approximately 117,000 have been sold. Wherever these books are, there must be readers who are eager to find others with whom they can share their growing adventures in the study of this revelation. For that purpose we can help them form study groups.

Of the very recent publication of the French translation of 5,000 books, more than 3000 have already been sold. A small study group with these French books has already been formed in Tahiti and there are four in Eastern Canada. More will follow soon.

"Go, then into all the world telling this good news to all creatures of every race, tribe and nation". *(2054) "As the Father sent me into the world, so do I send you," said Jesus. *(2055) This "good news" is carried so eloquently by The URANTIA Book.

SEVERAL TYPES OF STUDY GROUPS

1. Read Around the Circle - This gives every one a chance to participate and a group can usually cover one paper in an evening. Discussion.
2. Topical - One person is assigned a topic for each meeting. That person does the major research and prepares quotations, readings and questions on the topic.
3. Hospitals, Hospices and Convalescent Homes - Either one of above two types of meetings are used. Group meets in assigned rooms for that purpose at hospital or rest home. Often just a meeting for comfort and inspiration. "Visit the sick and afflicted". See pages 1570:3; 1595:2; 1635:7; 2033 and 1590.
4. Parents' Groups - Assigned passages on home and family are studied.
5. Children's Groups - Children are taught by leader. Parents follow up at home.
6. Marriage and Family - Preparation for marriage and family as inspired by those on a Neighboring Planet, on advanced planets, and in the Garden of Eden where a year or two year's training is required before marriage.
7. Orientation Groups - Preparation for becoming a member of a Society. Learning about the Constitutions of the Brotherhood and Society, and the organization and relation of different groups of the Brotherhood.
8. Translation Study Groups - Groups working on translations into their native languages such as those in Finland, and in Bogota, Colombia, S.A.
9. Study Groups in American Companies Overseas - Examples are Northrop, Bell Helicopter.
10. Study Groups in Military Encampments and on Navy Ships at Sea - Many books have been placed in these libraries.
11. Prisons and Detention Camps - Oklahoma is leading a large study group at El Reno Prison.

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(1950- Declaration of Trust)

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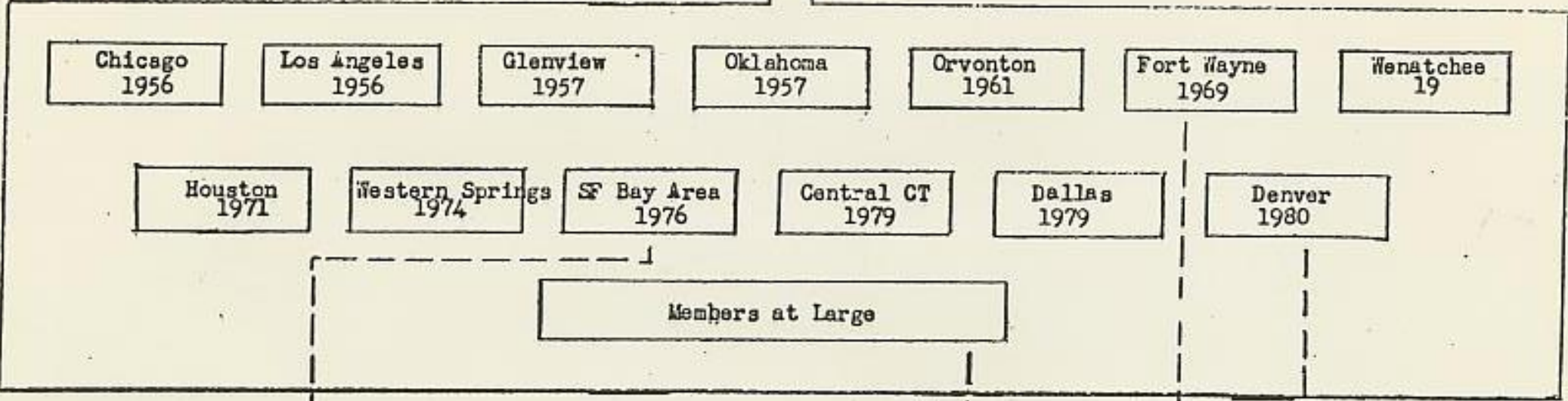
PRESENT TRUSTEES OF FOUNDATION

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Foundat - 1950
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The URANTIA Book

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ON URANTIA BOOK STUDY GROUPS

The aims of URANTIA Brotherhood are expressed in the excerpts from the Preamble and Purposes set forth in the Brotherhood Constitution as follows:

The purposes of this organization will be the promotion, improvement, and expansion among the peoples of the world of the comprehension and understanding of cosmology and the relation of the planet on which we live to the universe, through the fostering of a religion, a philosophy, and a cosmology which are commensurate with man's intellectual and cultural development.

The URANTIA Book speaks to different individuals in different ways. This realization contains a potential for breadth and depth in group study of The URANTIA Book.

URANTIA Brotherhood, as a social and fraternal organization with a religious purpose, has set as its primary task the slow yet purposeful dissemination of the teachings contained in The URANTIA Book through an ever increasing number of informal URANTIA Book study groups.

As study groups continue to form in many places, we are repeatedly asked for some guidelines on plans for study of The URANTIA Book. Even though we know that each study group will be different and that each will evolve a distinctive style of its own, nevertheless, we can list certain general guidelines from long experience.

Please remember we are not giving definitive guidelines for study groups; rather we are sharing with you the experiences gained from many URANTIA Book study group members, reflecting wide and varied social, cultural, and geographic backgrounds. Keep in mind you will ultimately have to evolve that method of study which best meets the needs of your group. There is no specified way for a group to study the book.

From the beginning, the spirit of love, fellowship, joy, and good cheer should prevail -- without these, all else will be as "sounding brass and tinkling cymbals." All of those spiritual qualities so lauded in The URANTIA Book can be cultivated and evidenced in these small fellowship meetings -- as well as elsewhere.

GENERAL SUGGESTIONS FOR STUDY GROUP PARTICIPANTS

The consensus of existing study groups indicates that whatever the meeting format and study procedures decided upon, the unique learning experience provided in a group study of The URANTIA Book will be enhanced by consideration of the following:

1. "The higher a creature's education, the more respect he has for the knowledge, experience, and opinions of others." (*278)
 - Practice the art of listening to another as a means of learning about that person, about yourself, about the topic.
 - Encourage each member to share pertinent insights, based on experience, and be willing to share your own.
2. "One of the most important lessons to be learned during your mortal career is teamwork." (*312) Each participant is simultaneously student and teacher.
3. "One hour of teaching will not wholly change the beliefs of a lifetime, and so Jesus found it necessary to reiterate his message, to tell again and again that which he wished them to understand; and even then they failed to grasp the meaning of his earth mission until after his death and resurrection." (*1831)
 - Study of The URANTIA Book is a personal adventure in discovery of fresh insights and new truths. Uniform agreement will not always obtain. There are no official interpretations of The URANTIA Book.
4. Foster a mutual willingness to seek clarification. No question is insignificant. Your question may provide illumination for another person.
 - If necessary, be willing to put a question in abeyance until further study of The URANTIA Book brings the answer.
5. If it is agreed that a Paper be read in preparation for the study meeting, give priority to honoring that commitment.
6. Rejoice, with thanksgiving! "Be of good cheer..." (*1753)

STUDY GROUP MODELS

Study Group A

This group has recently formed and has only four members who meet once a month in private homes. The group begins with a prayer followed by a pot luck supper. After the meal they begin the Paper which was selected at the end of the previous meeting. Each member takes his or her turn reading aloud, and questions, answers, and comments may occur at any time. This format is very flexible and there is no emphasis placed upon finishing the Paper during a single session. At the close of the meeting, the place, time, and Paper for the next meeting are determined.

*Quotation from The URANTIA Book, copyright © 1955, URANTIA Foundation. Used by permission.

Study Group B

This study group meets every two weeks on Friday at 8 p.m. The group size at the average meeting ranges from 10-16, and the meetings are held in the homes of the participants. The meeting is begun by the elected program chairman, and reading of The URANTIA Book is taken up where it was left at the previous meeting. There is no predetermined number of pages to be covered, and discussion is carried on freely. After about one-and-a-half hours the program is turned over to a volunteer leader. At this time the leader makes a special presentation of his or her choosing; such presentations have included a portrait of John the Baptist, slides of the Holy Land, a word-association personality profile, and a poetry reading with accompanying nature slides. Also, other topics concerning certain relevant and contemporary religious and social issues and their relationship to The URANTIA Book are sometimes discussed during this segment of the meeting. Between 10:30 and 11:00 the formal meeting ends, and the host and hostess serve coffee and dessert.

Study Group C

This study group has been in existence for a number of years and meets every Sunday in a rented facility between two and four p.m. from September to June. The average attendance is 25 people. A program committee assigns a different discussion leader for each of the Papers which are read sequentially in either a single Sunday (for a short Paper) or for two consecutive meetings. Blackboards, overhead projectors, and other study aids are sometimes used for illustration. Discussion usually occurs following the reading of a particular section. There is a half-hour break for fellowship when alternating hosts serve refreshments. The major emphasis of this study group is to understand in depth the teachings of The URANTIA Book.

REMINDER

Various difficulties arising in any group effort, such as apathy in attendance, irrelevant discussion, or dominating individuals, can, with thoughtful consideration of the principles listed above, be worked through in friendly fashion to the benefit of all, strengthening and enhancing relationships within the group. You may even find that you are learning "... to feast upon uncertainty, to fatten upon disappointment, to enthuse over apparent defeat, to invigorate in the presence of difficulties..." (*291)

LBK/jh
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HOW TO START A URANTIA STUDY GROUP

By Marlene Chicoine

1. Your sincere desire to share the book with others is the only requirement.
2. Decide what evening or day would be best for you and your household.
3. Set aside this time once a week or month, whatever is best for your lifestyle.
4. **IMPORTANT:** Call the MONITOR announcing your meeting information: day, time, location, and your phone number.
5. **BE PATIENT!!** It sometimes takes months before you get a real response.
6. Study group size grows and diminishes, on and off through the years. Always encourage others, who may have a distance to come to your group, to start their own study group if possible.
7. Everyone may bring a snack or drink, to share, of their choice. You may place a donation jar on the table, to cover cost of napkins, styrofoam cups, coffee or tea. This is optional, do what you feel comfortable with.
8. A study group in every town in the world, is a beautiful expectation and most important goal, for the introduction of this revelation to the world.