

1986 Annual Report of the Publications Committee of Urantia Brotherhood

Dan Massey

During the past year the Publications Committee has accelerated the publication schedule of the URANTIA Brotherhood Bulletin, producing four issues, two of six pages and two of four pages. Each issue has exhibited a somewhat different focus, though each has been a timely report of Brotherhood activities.

The Summer 1985 issue highlighted the TDA and General Council meetings. The Fall 1985 issue focused on the annual fund drive and the work being accomplished by various standing committees. The Winter 1986 issue discussed the consultation on The URANTIA Book at the American Academy of Religion and introduced an experimental feature prepared by the Fraternal Relations Committee. The Spring 1986 issue presented the interim results of the General Council planning session in Orlando, Florida and also published our first foreign-language article.

The committee plans to continue this publishing schedule during the next year, adding additional pages and photographic coverage as funds permit.

The Winter and Spring issues of the Bulletin were typeset by our printer directly from floppy disks which we supplied. This arrangement has resulted in a significant reduction in the cost of each issue.

The other major activity of the committee has been to prepare a citation standard for The URANTIA Book in response to a resolution passed by the 1985 Triennial Delegate Assembly and General Council. A copy of this proposed citation standard, together with observations prepared by the committee, as modified on review by the Executive Committee, is attached to this report.

The citation standard was initially developed in a much more general and complex form and circulated to thirty-six interested readers, including all members of the Executive Committee and the Trustees of URANTIA Foundation. Written comments were received from nine individuals and verbal comments were provided by several others. All written comments were circulated to the group of thirty-six for further comment. The currently proposed standard was then developed by combining the most valuable insights of all participants.

The committee continues to work to develop a better structure for organizing its work. While the Chairman continues to be responsible for editing the Bulletin, various members of the committee have assumed specific responsibilities for regularly recurring subject areas. At the present these assignments are-Neal Waldrop, conferences; Eileen Laurence, international; and Lisa Renn, societies. We are also endeavoring to establish a working group to consider the role of media in the work of the Brotherhood

and the URANTIA movement.

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the many contributions to the work of the committee of our previous Chairman, Barbara Kulieke, whose term expires this June. Although Barbara's heavy professional commitments now limit her ability to work on committee projects, in previous years she has played an important role in developing the publishing activity of the Brotherhood to its present state. In particular, she initiated the development of an audiovisual history of the Brotherhood, established the format and style of the bulletin, and spearheaded the publication of its first multilingual edition.

The annual meeting of the committee will be held in Chicago at headquarters on 21 June 1986.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Massey, Chairman
Barbara Kulieke
Mark Kulieke
Eileen Laurence
Lisa Renn, Secretary
Neal Waldrop

5 May 1986

1986 PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF URANTIA BROTHERHOOD

Dave Elders

June 28, 1986

During the initial 30 years of its existence, the dedicated mortal workers who comprise URANTIA Brotherhood quietly and progressively built a solid organizational framework to help facilitate human participation in the outworking of the fifth epochal revelation on our planet. Organizational membership now numbers over 1,000; there are 15 active societies which serve as a local focus of service activities across the United States; more than 140,000 URANTIA Books have been distributed mostly in English, with almost 5,000 in French; several groupings of readers studying in other countries have indicated an interest in society formation to help with organizational work; 20 of 36 General Council members and 8 of 14 Executive Committee members live outside the Chicago area; and so on.

It is on this secure footing that we undertook many new projects and accomplished much during this thirty-first year of our existence.

The office staff was re-organized to better serve and support the increasing needs of our standing committees and readership community.

Members of the International Fellowship Committee aided URANTIA Foundation in bringing to closure the negotiations for the translation of The URANTIA Book into Spanish. The contracts were signed in early April and work is now underway.

A library placement program under the management of two committees, Domestic Extension and International Fellowship, begun in 1985, has now placed over 1,500 books in libraries internationally.

Our first non-contiguous-48-States society was chartered this past September in Alaska--welcome Northern Light URANTIA Society of Alaska.

In response to a Brotherhood request for financial help in funding gift books for library placement, URANTIA Foundation exceeded our request and gifted 1,200 books for this project.

Our French brothers and sisters are convening the first International Meeting of Readers of The URANTIA Book to be held in Europe August 3-11, 1986. This meeting is to be organized by C.E.H.D. H., a non-profit society of readers of The URANTIA BOOK in France.

In response to the General Council members' 1985 requirement for better communication throughout our community, we have (a) begun to publish "The Bulletin" on a more regular quarterly basis, and (b) have begun to distribute the Executive Committee Letter to all members of URANTIA Brotherhood.

Work on the 1987 General Conference to be held at Bowdon College in August, 1987, has begun under chairperson Marilynn Kulieke.

President's Report page two

International Fellowship chairperson, Berkeley Elliott, has had a busy year extending her and her committee's personal hand of friendship to readers everywhere. Importantly, Berkeley visited our French friends, the Duponts, over Christmas and will have traveled to Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Tahiti this month with John Hales before our meeting..

The willing participation of virtually every Council member in a November retreat program and an April Design Shop program has resulted, in my judgment, in the development of the essentials of a plan of action which can and will guide our efforts in the coming year.

It is my belief that we have completed the initial phase of building a solid organizational foundation on which the balanced, wise, thoughtful, and progressive expansion of personal and cooperative outreach activities may be built. In addition to this sturdy organizational scaffolding there is much good will, a high degree of commitment to cooperation and mutual respect, dedication to the profound need for and values of personal one to one ministry, and the obvious presence in our community of skills, energy, resources, and, creativity. We are poised on the brink of what may be a tremendous growth in the number of those of our planetary fellows who want to learn more about The URANTIA Book. As this takes place, we cannot ever forget that personality relationships are ends in themselves, not means, and that this is our Father's revelation to all mankind and that we have the good fortune to be able to serve as human workers in league with a vast number of celestial personalities in whom the primary responsibility for this revelation is vested.

Thanks so much for-this opportunity to be of service to you and to the work we have been given to do together.

In fellowship and with the deepest respect,

David Elders President

1986 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL

Lynne Kulieke

This year the Education Committee has devoted its time and attention to the following areas:

1 - 1986 Intensive Study Seminars. In cooperation with the Fraternal Relations and Special Projects Committees and with the office staff, the committee has planned and is in the process of implementing a four-day study program focusing on Part II of The URANTIA Book at Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, Illinois. The next seminars are projected for the summer of 1988.

2 - Study Aids. The committee continues its deliberations on this subject re: need, kind, formation, and dissemination. It has just made available for general use a new brochure of guidelines for small-group leaders; it is also in the process of devising another letter to be mailed to all new readers registered on the mailing list at headquarters, indicating what study aids may be obtained from the central office. Finally, an ad-hoc committee has been formed to pursue this topic on an on-going basis.

3 - Teaching Skills Workshops. The committee is inaugurating a pilot (experimental) program this year at the Intensive Study Seminars to be developed in future years according to need and interest.

4 - Conference Contacts. The committee has determined to make itself and its members available to assist any groups from the readership requesting help in organizing conferences.

5 - Scholarship Program. The committee has reviewed carefully many proposals and plans to supply monies to individuals otherwise unable to attend and participate in Brotherhood-sponsored events; it has concluded that central administration of such a program at this time would be impractical, unwieldy, and conceivably unfair. Therefore, it has decided to pursue the following course: Through the Bulletin, mailings for committee-sponsored events, and any other means at its disposal, it will encourage the readership at large, societies and study groups to consider the establishment, official or unofficial, of a local scholarship program if such seems desirable to them.

Other subjects under discussion include the formation of a visitor's program (teacher/student/minister) and the creation of a questionnaire to readers to assist the committee in fulfilling its constitutional charge.

The committee extends its heartfelt thanks to guests, Mary Daly, Kevin Goodman, Polly Friedman, Pat Mundelius, and Ralph and Betty Zehr, for wisdom and effort freely given to the concerns of the committee and to all others who have contributed so much to its work. The members, John Andrews,

Helen Carlson, Marilyn Hauck, Joycee Henrion, Marjorie Reed, and I also wish to express gratitude to the General Council for its support and for the opportunity it has provided us to be of service.

Respectfully submitted, Lynn Kulieke

DOMESTIC EXTENSION 1986 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF URANTIA BROTHERHOOD

Harry McMullan

The Domestic Extension Committee is pleased to report progress in the past year in the two main activities of its responsibility, study group relations and book distribution.

1. As promised in last year's annual report, all known study groups in the United States have been contacted and information compiled to update membership. Waldine Stump completed over 500 telephone calls in this project, and this revised directory information should be available by the time of the General Council. Waldine said that her calls appeared to be deeply appreciated, particularly by the more isolated groups, who were glad to be reminded that the Brotherhood cares about them and is interested in their welfare and progress. A number of groups had had visitors due to their listings in the first edition of the study group directory.

We have more study groups now than we did at the time of the last directory, and although some have as much as doubled in size, by and large most study groups are not growing. The underlying problem appears to be a low level of commitment among our members, both in terms of regular attendance and in recruiting new readers. Our committee will try to develop a program to help improve this situation next year, in part by considering the suggestions made at our recent Orlando Design shop.

2. Library book placement. Due to the generous gift of 1,200 English URANTIA Books by URANTIA Foundation, as well as our allocation of 225 books in the Brotherhood budget, we have been able to place a record number of URANTIA Books in libraries in the past year: 1,375 since the last General Council.

In Tom Allen's "regular" program using reader volunteers to place books in libraries, 190 books have been placed since the last report, for a total of 716 books since the program began. So far, 165 volunteers have worked to make this program a success.

Last year Tom Allen began a new program of direct-mail-free book offers to libraries. Mailing lists were acquired, and in October 1985, 3,118 letters were sent to public libraries, which produced 119 acceptances. In February 1986 an additional 5,781 offer letters were sent to libraries from which there have been to date 166 acceptances. In summary, from 8,899 letters we have received a total of 285 responses, or 3.2 %. Total out-of-pocket placement costs for stationery, envelopes, postage, and mailing list acquisition came to \$10.57 per book. Needless to say, this project involved a lot of volunteer work. We thank the many Oklahoma Society members who helped in labeling and stuffing for the mailout, and Marian Rowley and CeCe Forrester in their continuing work of book mailouts and office accounting at

533.

Additionally, Vince Meyers has been placing library books at a furious rate. As of the writing of this report (early May), Vince has placed approximately 750 gift books in libraries. While Vince is not formally a member of the Domestic Extension Committee, we are grateful for his efforts, as well as URANTIA Foundation for supplying the books, and another individual who has paid Vince's expenses so as to make it possible for him to do this work. By the time of the General Council, undoubtedly Vince will have placed the entire 900 books which will have been made available to him.

Our goals for book placement for next year are largely constrained by financial considerations. To the extent that the Brotherhood or Foundation is able to fund gift books, we will try to be equally aggressive next year. We hope to continue the volunteer placement program as usual. Vince and his outside sponsor have stated their willingness to place as many as 2,500 books. Also, we can acquire new mailing lists for public, college, prep school, seminary, church and other libraries to whom we could make offers. This aspect of the report may strike some of you as a "numbers game," because that's what it takes to make the book available in as many libraries as possible. Hopefully, however, we're not forgetting the purpose behind it all.

3. Another project discussed in last year's annual report was the creation of a booklet of excerpted spiritual principles from The URANTIA Book which might be used as a study aid for beginning URANTIA Book study groups. With the help of a number of you on the Council, this project was completed in draft form as a booklet entitled "21 Steps To A Spiritual Awakening - A Study Guide Based Upon The URANTIA Book", which I earlier 'sent each of you. As I said in a cover letter at that time, after having worked with it, it seemed more appropriate for it to be an individual rather than a Brotherhood publication, and it was handled in that way.

4. Pursuant to a General Council resolution of last summer, Domestic Extension Committee was assigned the responsibility to report on Brotherhood business practices regarding the sale of URANTIA Books. On the recommendation of the president of URANTIA Brotherhood, however, this report will be postponed until next year, due to the fact that extensive changes in Brotherhood business methods are currently being implemented, which would cause any report-on what we are now doing to become quickly obsolete. This year has been a active and enjoyable one for me in terms of Urantia activities. I wish to thank each of the members of Domestic Extension Committee who served during the past year: CeCe Forrester, David Kulieke, Tom Allen, Waldine Stump, and Mo Siegel. We all appreciate the opportunity to have served during the past year, and look forward to hearing any comments or suggestions by any of you concerning ways in which we could better perform our duties.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry McMullan, Chairman Domestic Extension Committee*

* P.S. Hope you get around to changing our name some day..

1986 FRATERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Peter Laurence

Starting with the Spring issue the Brotherhood Bulletin began a series of articles sponsored by the Committee. Each article focuses on a different religious organization in an effort "to provide a brief glimpse of the broad diversity of religious expression that has been institutionalized in the cultures of this world, and to highlight aspects of these various traditions which might become stepping stones toward a growing sense of spiritual unity among religionists from a variety of backgrounds. Statements are taken directly from the literature of these organizations and, whenever possible, are reviewed by a member of the organization to help insure that their ideas have been fairly represented.

Our committee will also sponsor the three evening programs at the Summer Seminars in Lake Forest. The general theme of these programs centers on interfaith activities and intends to give participants a view of some current efforts in the promotion of-inter-religious dialog and understanding.

Since January 1st, responses have been made to correspondence received from members of the following groups:

American Sikhs
Baha'is
Subud Brotherhood

The Committee has instituted the addition of adjunct members subject to the following guidelines:

1. Each member of the Committee can nominate one person to become an adjunct member.
- 2., Adjunct members may participate fully at Committee meetings but may not vote.
3. Adjunct members will serve concurrently with the nominating member, upon approval by vote of the Committee.

The Committee intends to develop a list of consultants who are active members of a particular religious organization, are also familiar with The URANTIA Book, and have indicated an interest in working with us to bridge the gap between their group and URANTIA Brotherhood.

The Committee

Bettina Gray
Carol Hay
Steve Law
Mike Painter
Phil Rolnick

Peter Laurence, Chairman

Adjuncts:

Scott Forsythe

David Robertson

Jeff Wattles

1986 REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE OF URANTIA BROTHERHOOD

Berkeley Elliott

Since my report had to be in Chicago last year before we went on our trip to Europe, I would like to go back and pick up details of that trip that actually happened, instead of just projection.

We met with 12 URANTIA Book readers in Paris, the evening of May 12, 1985. Arrangements had been made by Jacques DuPont and George & Marlene Michelson -DuPont for us to have all of the lower-level of a restaurant near the hotel where we were staying in Paris. John & Susie Hales had joined us so our tour of Students of The Urantia Book. (with the exception of 3 who were unable to attend due to a little-accident) - a total of 19 -plus the 12 from Paris, spent the evening in fellowship and fun. I believe this is a "first" of this type of "getting-to-know-our-brothers-and-sisters" and its effects are still being felt and no doubt will be from now on.

As a result of this meeting, George-Michelson DuPont and Jean Claude Nior (from the Netherlands - accompanied George), spent a weekend here in Oklahoma City - and we all really learned to love them - then spent almost a week in Boulder at the "Intensive" session. I understand this was a transforming experience, and as a result an International Conference is being held in Paris this August. Also as a result of the two meetings (May and August), John & Carol Hay and I spent 2 weeks with the DuPonts over Christmas - getting to know and love them even more,

Satu-Sihvo and Marja Svesson, from Finland, joined us for 3 evenings and 2 days, while we were staying at the Kibbutz No of Ginnosar on the Sea of Galilee. They are active in the Helsinki Study Groups and we truly enjoyed getting to know them. They both spoke English quite well - especially Satu. She had learned English 15 years ago. They were a delight and we are looking forward to meeting with them in Helsinki this August, after the International Conference in Paris.

When Tom Allen put his URANTIA Book on the counter at the Kibbutz, the clerk got very excited. He said he had noticed the name of our tour - "Students of The URANTIA Book" but he just could not believe it was the same Book he had read in San Diego years before. We sent him a couple of Books to put in libraries and we do hope to hear from again. I have had a couple of letters since we came home.

From notes we have received from our tour guides since we returned, we seemed to have left a trail of good will in France, Italy, Israel and Egypt. So a few more have heard of The URANTIA Book and readers of The Book.

The International Fellowship Committee met in San Francisco, CA - actually at the Berkeley Marina

Marriott, in Berkeley, February 14-17, 1986. Guests included David & Marta Elders; John & Susie Hales; Emmanuel Desurvire, Philip Rolnick, Francly Gawryn and the twins; Gloria Fraser, Sheryl Prince and Paul Snider. Martin Myers joined the meeting Saturday evening. Members present were: Mary Snider, Richard Prince, Douglas Fraser and Marvin Gawryn (plus myself). J. J. Johnson was absent.

Emmanuel shared his invaluable insights on the viewpoints in France and we all agreed it will take input from French, Spanish, Australian, etc. to make this a truly International Brotherhood. We will continue making as many personal contacts as possible and make every effort to get to know and understand others' viewpoints.

We have incorporated the positive corrections and additions to the Guidelines, and they will be printed on Brotherhood stationary - if approved by the Executive Committee and the General Council - and made available to readers all over the planet, along with a short letter, as a "chain of friendship."

On Sunday evening, after the Committee finished its work, the Bay Area URANTIA Society held a Social for us. They have many new members from the San Francisco area and it was truly great being with this group!

The first weekend of June, John Hales, Tom Allen and I plan to attend the Conference in Melbourne, Australia. It has been over 8 years since they have been visited and they are anxious for us to attend. on the way, we will visit other Book readers.

In August of this year, many of us Plan to attend the International Conference - the first outside of the North American continent - near Paris, France. We are very excited about being able to spend time with our brothers and sisters in France and other countries. After a week there, several of us plan to visit URANTIA Book students in Finland.

The Spanish translation is underway, so we can look forward to another translation in about 2 years. This is exciting news for all of us.

Our mailing to libraries has resulted in placing 240 French and English URANTIA Books outside the United States. Orders are still coming in.

I want to express thanks and appreciation to all members of this Committee, all the guests that have helped so much, and the staff at headquarters. Another great year!

Sincerely,

INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Berkeley Elliott Chairman

1986 Report of the Special Projects Committee to the General Council of Urantia Brotherhood

Marilynn Kulieke

This year the focus of the Special Projects Committee has been in three areas. We have been dealing with two of the 1985 resolutions passed on to our committee by the Executive Committee and we have also been assisting in the site and logistic arrangements for the 1986 Summer Seminars.

One of the resolutions that our committee has focused on is the resolution requesting that URANTIA Brotherhood create and accumulate study aids. Our committee developed a plan to compile a resource guide which would contain names, address, phone number, title, type, and abstract for each kind of secondary work that was submitted to us. We would then computerize this listing and publish it so that all readers could have access to the guide and send for those study aids that interest them. For this first step, individuals will disseminate their own works to other readers. A listing of the proposal that was passed by the Executive Committee is attached.

The second resolution that our committee has been dealing with was the resolution that a factual history of the URANTIA Book should be developed. The Special Projects Committee considered this resolution and discussed four possible ways to proceed. The first was an historical archive, the second was the creation of a written chronology of URANTIA Brotherhood, the third was the collection of oral histories, and the fourth was a historians album. After the discussion of these ideas by the Executive Committee, it was decided that currently there was little funds to expend on this resolution. Consequently, the Special Projects Committee decided to develop a long range plan to provide some framework for planning action-in this area. This plan is currently being developed. We also had some interest in beginning to collect oral histories from a few individuals.

Finally, we have been working on the summer seminars. Our committee has been responsible for the budget, registration form, letters to attendees dealing with site, and some site logistics. We continue to be involved in this level of activity.

I would like to thank the Special Projects Committee members, Carol Forsythe, Bill Hazen, Neal Kendall, Jim McNelly and Chick Montgomery, for their work and support this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilynn Kulieke Chairman, Special Projects Committee
