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## 1995 Annual Report of the International Fellowship Committee

John Lange

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July 1995

The highlight of the year for international Urantia travel was the pilgrimage to Israel for the 2,000th birthday of Christ Michael. Nearly 100 students of the Urantia Book from the United States, Finland, and Canada joined a tour organized by Berkeley Elliott. As we journeyed through Israel, the experiences and teachings of Jesus's life were retraced using the Urantia Book as a travelogue. The trip culminated in a worship service on August 21, in Bethlehem. This event served to re-focus our inner lives of worship and our outer lives of service to the revelation.

Near the end of September 1994, I traveled with Berkeley Elliott to her final international Urantia meeting in Australia. She and I attended the annual meeting of Australian readers held in the Melbourne area. Martin McBuney organized the conference and it was centered around the theme, "Shepherd's Pie." I was honored to give the keynote address, wherein I discussed my experiences with the Urantia Book in the various cultures of the world. The meeting was attended by nearly 100 readers from many parts of the Australian continent. As the distances are so vast these students of the Book see and visit with each other infrequently, and when they do it becomes quite a joyous occasion. After the meeting in Australia, Berkeley and I visited Susan Hemingsen and her study group in Wellington, New Zealand.

The Pacific Rim Urantia Conference will be held in Auckland, New Zealand, October 4-8, 1995. The meeting will be sponsored by ANZURA and is being organized by Neville and Patricia Twist. Several members of the Fellowship are planning to attend this gathering. The last Pacific Rim Conference was held in Robertson, New South Wales, Australia nine years ago. If the last conference was any indication; there should be visitors not only from the Pacific Rim but from many other parts of the world.

The Fourth Urania Conference will be held September 22-26, 1995; and it will once again be a boat cruise down the Volga River. The Fellowship has been represented at all three previous conferences, and several Fellowship members plan to attend this meeting. Byron Belitsos represented the Fellowship last year, and made a presentation. Tatiana Antonyan from Russia and Svetlana Brazienne from Lithuania attended the Scientific symposium last year- as guests of the Fellowship. We have now pursued an informal relationship for several years seeking our common spiritual ground. Thus far it has served as a forum to paint in a few broad strokes the teachings in the Urantia Papers. As stated before, true devotees of the Urantia Book await publication of a Russian translation. We know little regarding the progress of the Russian translation sponsored by the Foundation. If on schedule, translating should be finished and

the product ready for final editing. Since this may not prove to be the case, the Fellowship should support the Russian translation project proposed by the New York Society.

Interest in the Urantia Book continues to grow in Latin America. The IFC has continued to send Urantia Books and secondary works to South America. Communication has been maintained in the weekly correspondence by Douglas Fraser, by the visit paid to our South American friends by Rose Lieske, and by other communications from Fellowship members. For various reasons, we have postponed our next visit to South America until early 1996. At the suggestion of Dick Prince, we hope to take a small group and meet in a conference/retreat atmosphere in a rural setting. South American readers express a keen interest in Marvin Gawryn's *Reaching High* which has now been translated and published in Spanish. There is also great interest among fellowship members to revise and publish a Spanish translation of the Urantia Book in the format being prepared by the Fellowship.

Berkeley Elliott's morontia soul departed for the Mansion Worlds on January 3, 1995, but her spirit remains with us. To maintain and carry forward this level of activity, and to also consider the increase in international activity attendant upon the Fellowship's publication of the Urantia Book; I have set in motion two initiatives to accomplish these tasks. First, I have made application to establish a public benefit corporation with its mission as the international dissemination of the Urantia Book and its teachings. The tentative name of this organization is the Urmia Foundation. Projects with which this organization will be involved include mailing Urantia Books, communication, education, travel, translation, publication, and outreach.

Secondly, I have proposed to the executive committee to establish the Elliott Fund. To memorialize Berkeley's dedication to the Urantia Movement, a special fund will be established through individual contributions, and interest income from this fund will be utilized annually on a perpetual basis to foster international travel and exchange of ideas.

With loss of the copyright by the Urantia Foundation and the decision by the Fellowship to publish the Urantia Book, we are given the challenge of a new level of dedication and responsibility to the Urantia Revelation. We should pause and take stock in ourselves. Dedicated students of the Urantia Book now populate communities throughout Christendom. How much more preparation did the followers of the Fourth Epochal Revelation -have before they were challenged to proclaim the Gospel openly and with power? Is it the Father's will for this movement to experience a period of struggle and preparation and having given this generation of time its full measure of devotion, we now enter upon a new age of activity and engagement? However one interprets our current situation, we have a very great challenge ahead of us to work so our efforts may bear fruit for the generation of readers to follow us.

Respectfully submitted by

John Lange, Chairman for the Committee

Douglas Fraser, Stevie Shafer, Adrienne Jarnigan, and John Hales

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# **1995 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE FELLOWSHIP**

Beth Bartley

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The function of the Secretary General of The Fellowship is to prepare the minutes of the Executive Committee for all of their meetings; to give permission for the Executive Director to sign their name to any correspondence needed in notifying members of up-coming meetings; and to aid the Executive Director and the President in preparing for the meetings. The mid-year meeting in January included participation of the full council, involving a lively discussion of what we would do if and/or when the copyright of The Urantia Book was judged to be invalid. There was a special meeting of the General Council in March, 1995, held in Chicago, after the copyright of The Urantia Book was judged as invalid on Feb. 10th. There has been a conference call meeting of the Executive Committee in May and June, for the purpose of coordinating the publication of The Urantia Book.

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## 1995 FRATERNAL RELATIONS ANNUAL REPORT

Gard Jameson

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The Fraternal Relations Committee is pleased to report that the 1994/1995 year has been very eventful. We have continued to maintain close relations with the North American Interfaith Network (see enclosed article). Sue Tennant chaired the "Festival of the Family" in Toronto (see article) which was a wonderful event according to Sara Blackstock and Janet Farrington who were participants.

Peter Laurence has recently accepted a position as the Executive Director of The Peace Pyramid Project, "a living symbol of the universal desire for peace by peoples of all colors, races, religions, and cultures".

Steve Rohrbach has been leading a number of interfaith events in the Boulder, Colorado area.

Bettina Gray, a former member of the Fraternal Relations Committee, recently had her interviews with the leaders at the World Parliament of Religions published, "A Parliament of Souls: In Search of Global Spirituality".

Another person, familiar to many of us, is Ann Garner; Ann enjoys getting involved in numerous activities and she has recently discovered the delights of interfaith involvement. Ann was at the World Parliament and has carried that spirit to Dallas where she is involved the creation of an interfaith council and interfaith events.

Looking forward, we will continue our involvement with NAIN and participate in events as they may arise from time to time. It is our hope that in conjunction with the Education Committee we can continue to have a role at Summer Educational Seminars in teaching members of the Urantia Book community about the ways in which interfaith dialogue goes on. It is vital to the spirit of the community and the revelation that we learn well the lessons of Urmia and attempt, each in our own way, to communicate in a manner that is sensitive to the tradition of the listener. We have much to learn from the great traditions of the planet and we have much to share! But, our sharing must be grounded in a heightened sensitivity to the values of the other.

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## 1995 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

Marilynn Kulieke

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The work of the judicial Committee over the past year has been focused in two areas: constitutional revisions and organizational structure related to taking on the additional task of printing the Urantia Book. A brief summary of our actions on these two projects follows.

### Constitutional Revisions

In November, a report was presented to the Executive Committee which outlined a strategy for approaching Constitutional Revisions. This report contained the following three suggestions.

1. Develop language for constitutional changes which do not relate to the structure of the Fellowship but are needed to better match the way that we currently function. An example might be to change the name of the charter committee or change the description of the charter committee's responsibilities.
2. Develop language for constitutional revisions which include those changes made in #1, but in addition include the concept of an annual delegate assembly which passes its work on directly to the General Council.
3. Language for constitutional revisions which include those changes made in #1, but in addition include the concept of a General Council in which societies have direct representation.

The general direction from the Executive Committee was to proceed in this direction. Steve McIntosh and Duane Faw both provided constitutional language aligned with suggestion #3. This work was passed on to the EC and discussed in general at the January, 1995 General Council Meeting. It was requested that we ask societies for their feedback on these revisions.

### Organizational Structure

Some of the questions that our committee has been thinking about, are the following.

1. How do other fraternal organizations which print books organize their printing operations in their organizational structure?
2. How would the activity of printing and overseeing the production of The Urantia Book impact our

constitution and by-laws?

3. What are some checks and balances that would help ensure that a small number of individuals can not have undue influence over the printing and distribution?
4. We currently have the Fifth Epochal Fellowship Corporation and Board of directors. Should that be the corporate entity that we use for book sales or should another entity be formed?

We will continue to deal with these issues as the work to print the book unfolds.

I would like to thank committee members Duane Faw, Tom Kendall, Steve McIntosh, Ellen Montgomery and David Owens for there work with this committee.

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## Domestic Extension Committee Report, 1995

Mo Siegel

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The Domestic Extension Committee is happy to meet the demands that will arise in this next phase of the dissemination of The Urantia Book. We look forward to an accelerated growth in new reader/believers as affordable versions of the revelation come into the main stream. Now, more than ever, we dedicate our efforts to the expansion of study groups, new reader introductions and follow-up, reader networking, and greater distribution of The Urantia Book.

### 1995 Accomplishments:

**Area Coordinators:** The AC training manual was mailed out to Area Coordinators by the end of February. The manual is a well rounded and easily updated publication which provides ACs with practical information in nine sub-sections including: The Fellowship, The Area Coordinator Program, Study Groups, Networking, Ministry And Service, Public Outreach, Interfaith Activities, and Miscellaneous (current events). All of the project suggestions in the manual are methods which were tried, tested, and submitted by readers. So far the feedback from AC's about their new manual is that it is useful and they like it. A heart felt thank you to Ann Garner for her loving service in compiling this manual.

**Booth Outreach:** By May 1st, we will have completed shows in Seattle, Pittsburgh\*, Ashville\*, San Francisco, and New York. We look forward to shows in Spokane, Pasadena, Denver, Boulder, Santa Fe, Sacramento, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Ft. Lauderdale, New York (2nd show), Atlanta and Boston. That's 17 shows! (\* After the city indicates first time in that city.)

The following represents our accomplishments at 5 shows in 1995:

Urantia Books sold 105

Concordex sold 17

Paramony sold 8

Life After Death sold 147

Introductions distributed 872

Brochures distributed 11,146

Mustard Seeds distributed 3,563

People who saw our booth 80,000

People we talked to 1,500

Attendance at lectures 150

Names added to mailing lists 247

Volunteer booth workers 81

The following depicts our accomplishments at 1994 shows:

Urantia Books sold 307

Concordex sold 76

Paramony sold 35

Life After Death sold 229

Introductions distributed 2,414

Brochures distributed 3,230

Mustard Seeds distributed 10,859

People who saw our booth 350,000

People we talked to 51,000

Attendance at lectures 651

Names added to mailing lists 693

## Volunteer booth workers 19.0

**Expo Follow-up:** We continue to encourage Expo follow-up workshops in certain cities. The follow-up workshops are the next step in bringing new readers into existing study groups, initiating new study groups, and making contact with those individuals who put their name on the booth sign-up sheets. We have had successful follow-up workshops in San Diego, Toronto, Ft. Lauderdale, Seattle, Las Vegas, and Pittsburgh.

**Training Teachers:** Before each Expo new volunteers are trained on how to answer difficult questions, creative listening, booth etiquette, logistics, goals, purposes, and Jesus' outreach techniques. We also touch on what to do when someone wants to argue and ways to diffuse irate religionists. In terms of training, nothing matches the superb experiential wisdom that comes from actually talking to interested persons at the booth. In a year and a half approximately 80 new booth volunteers have been trained.

**Urantia Book Availability:** When low cost versions of The Urantia Book are readily available for distribution we anticipate initiating an outreach effort involving bookstores and Area Coordinators. We hope to get ACs to go to book stores on a quarterly basis to encourage and promote sales of the book. We also plan to initiate in-store promotions like workshops, tear pad placement, study group promotion, and classes on the book.

**Book Subsidies:** The Afford-A-Book program continues to be a viable way for subsidizing lower priced Urantia Books for people who can't afford them. We know from experience that price is often the determining factor for someone wanting to purchase the book. With the advent of low cost books available in the near future Afford-A-Book may be supplanted by Donate-A-Book which could provide books to individuals who can't afford The Urantia Book at any price.

**New Reader Introductions:** Domestic Extension continues to conduct, support, and encourage public introductions to The Urantia Book. Our main objective is to show local readers how easy it is to hold introductory classes for new and potential readers. Larry Geis, Mchelle Klimesh and Lee Russell (in Kodiak Alaska) are currently working together on developing a video introduction to the book which will facilitate in-home group introductions.

**The 1995-96 Study Group Directory:** This year's edition is now complete and available through The Fellowship and The Jesonian Foundation. The 1994 directory included 291 domestic groups plus 61 international groups, an increase of 27 groups over the 1993 total. This year's directory has 306 domestic groups and 67 international groups, an increase of 26 groups over the 1994 total.

**The Phone Message Program:** The phone message program began again in Boulder in November 1994 and is now complete. The top seven messages for 1994-95 season are:

1. Who Is Lucifer ? 109 callers with 6 messages

2. Do People Live On Other Planets? 81 callers with 6 messages
3. How to Pray More Effectively 76 callers with 6 messages
4. Prayers From Other Planets 58 callers with 5 messages
5. Where Is Jesus Now? 54 callers with 5 Messages
6. What Is Heaven Really Like? 52 callers with 5 messages
7. Was Jesus Death Political? 50 callers with 5 messages

New Projects: In addition to serving the Area Coordinators in the United States we are extremely pleased to be serving the Area Coordinators in Canada as well. This will help create greater continuity in North America and will give the Canadian readership (as the second largest in the world) more attention to their growing needs. AC manuals, for example, were mailed to all of the Canadian ACs.

As you read this report you will see how much work this committee is blessed with. The faithful servers and friends of this committee make it happen. Special love and thanks goes to the tireless efforts of Paula Thompson.

In His service and ever grateful for the opportunity,

The Domestic Extension Committee

Mo Siegel, Chair

Paula Thompson, Secretary and Outreach Director

Ann Garner, National Area Coordinator

Robin Jorgensen, Study Group Development

Larry Geis, Special Projects

Michelle Klimesh, Special Projects

Mary Ebben, Tireless Adjunct