

STATEMENT OF CURRENT THINKING OF
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

A. Workshop for 1978 General Conference.

The Committee on Education of the URANTIA Brotherhood is not the sponsor of the General Conference of 1978. Rather it is responsible for organizing that set of morning workshops solely on the subject of education. Therefore the members have chosen to focus on the techniques of teaching and on teacher/student orientation. We have selected as the theme for the first day: "The universe as one vast school," and for the second day: "How Jesus taught and continues to teach." Clearly these two topics are inter-related. Whether on the human or superhuman level, personality communicates with personality, facilitating learning experiences, hence growth, personal and social. In part this two-day study is designed as a "survey" course to provide the bases for future, more in-depth, workshops. Those aspects left unresolved in 1978 will be taken up in education workshops in succeeding years. The program is also designed to address the question of how to cultivate the attitudes/perspective of the personalities of the universes, to identify those teaching techniques used by them, and to apply both in the situations that confront us during our mortal existence. For further detail, see the position papers of the individual members of the Committee on Education.

B. The Brotherhood School.

As individuals, the members of the Committee on Education unite with other Urantians in that greatest of personal adventures, seeking to do the Father's will. As an arm of the URANTIA Brotherhood, the fraternal organization of readers of The URANTIA Book, the Committee on Education has a social function. The Brotherhood constitution charges the committee to find, prepare, and qualify teachers for the purpose of disseminating the teachings of the Book in order that each mortal may be aided in achieving his/her personal spiritual goals. Thus it is the committee's task to encourage intensive study of the papers together with study of evolutionary knowledge, secular and religious. We do not maintain that such study is an end in itself, but we do affirm that it can be invaluable when coupled with communion between the individual and his Thought Adjuster, when enhanced by the individual's cooperation with other superhuman agencies, when assimilated into the individual's life pattern.

With the above in mind, we are convinced that a school, more closely approaching the ideals of education presented in The URANTIA Book than any other school heretofore on this planet, will emerge according to the plan of the universes--in a slow, steady, evolutionary process. However, it is up to all of us to strive to identify and form that school, to look for and cultivate the qualities of good teacher/students. We hope the coming workshops are a first step towards that end.

C. Study Aids.

In fact the Committee on Education does not have the power to make decisions on the reproduction and dissemination of study materials on The URANTIA Book. Such power rests with the URANTIA Foundation. It is true that the committee,

operating through the Executive Committee of the URANTIA Brotherhood, may make recommendations to the Foundation. However, it also remains true that the committee has yet to review works which are not merely restatements of the URANTIA teachings, or which are not compilations drawn directly from the papers. It has yet to see original works of intellectual and/or spiritual insight. Finally, the Committee on Education is committed to the idea that the best way to learn, if it is a matter of using material culled from the Book, is to make up one's own charts, lists, etc., through study and through personal exchange with others.

- D. Two Ad Hoc committees are at work on exploring possible curricula and on identifying behavioral objectives, those outwardly manifested advances indicating inner progress.

Committee on Education
December, 1977