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General Councillors
Society Presidents and
Field Representatives of
URANTIA Brotherhood

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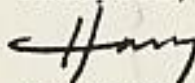
Friends,

The enclosed letter is a proposal by the Domestic Extension Committee to help invigorate our study groups. It is intended to be sent to the entire mailing list, and should be self-explanatory.

We would appreciate any comments you might have on it, pro or con, and/or any improvements you might suggest. Our committee is very excited about it, and we hope that you will feel the same way.

In order to be able to share your comments with the Executive Committee, where the proposal is now under consideration, please send them to me no later than November 1st.

Godspeed,



Harry McMullan, Chairman
Domestic Extension Committee



*Draft of proposed
mailing to study groups
regarding suggested
Domestic Extension Project*

URANTIA BROTHERHOOD
533 DIVERSEY PARKWAY CHICAGO ILLINOIS 60674

Dear

The revelators spoke of the necessity of forming thousands of study groups, and it's time for us more energetically and systematically to address that goal. We have been adding study groups every year, but unfortunately, losing roughly the same number due to people drifting apart for one reason or another, and hence we have not been making much net growth. Our present need is to stabilize what we already have, and then build on it.

As an important step toward meeting that need, this letter is to announce the formation of the Study Group Fellowship of URANTIA Brotherhood, dedicated to the welfare of study groups, the grass roots and soul of our movement.

Requirements for membership

As is proper, quite a long process is involved for a study group to become chartered as a URANTIA Society. In contrast, there is only one requirement for your group to join the Study Group Fellowship: that at least three of your members commit to meet together to study the book on a regular basis, attending at least 75% of your group's regularly scheduled meetings.

This requirement is structured as a bare-bones minimum, and is grounded in the fact that The URANTIA Book defines three as the minimum size of a group, and because a group must meet in order to be a group. The benchmark of 75% attendance is somewhat arbitrary, but what we are trying to elicit is a definite commitment on the part of the members toward their group, in the belief that such a commitment is one of the surest means of protecting and enhancing the spiritual lives of each of its members.

There is no requirement of individual membership in URANTIA Brotherhood or of having read the book for your group to join the Study Group Fellowship. "Whosoever will, let him come." All that is required is that a minimum of three readers complete and send in the attached application form, which is renewable on an annual basis.

Your membership in the Study Group Fellowship is altogether voluntary, and that you will not be thought less of if you choose, for whatever reason, not to join. No one from headquarters will be taking roll to check up on whether your members show up at meetings; the 75% participation benchmark represents an encouraging challenge designed to foster your members' commitment toward your group and to give your

members more a sense of being part of a larger cause--the network of thousands of study groups which the revelators said are critical to the eventual ushering-in of the spiritual kingdom on Urantia.

We are requesting that each group name itself; this is intended to give your group an existence independent of any one member who may have founded or led it, and to help foster a greater loyalty of the part of your members toward the group. (In naming your group, it would be preferable not to call it "John & Jane's Group," as they may move, or the "Tuesday Night Group" for a similar reason. The name of the town you meet in, or some name from The URANTIA Book would be fine, first-come, first-serve.)

Membership benefits

Each summer, member study groups will be invited to attend a conclave of study groups, which will meet as a part of the Brotherhood summer workshops. At these meetings, all matters relating to the welfare and extension of URANTIA study groups will be deliberated. There will be no "political" dimension to the Fellowship; there will be no offices to hold. It will be exclusively dedicated to helping study groups better serve the needs of their members. By the sharing of experience, effective methods for study groups will become more widely known. We will accelerate the process of learning what works and what does not work.

One benefit of Fellowship membership will be inclusion in an annual yearbook. Each study group will be invited to send in a current group picture, the members' names, and the dates and times of your meetings, with the telephone number of a contact person for groups open to visitors. The place of meeting will not be given so as to allow you control over, or notice of, who might be attending. The yearbook will unquestionably induce many interesting guests, travelling in the vicinity, to adjust their schedules to be able to attend, thus promoting an invigorating cross-fertilization of our entire movement. The identification of near-by study groups will lead to more regional activities at the study group level.

Another benefit of Fellowship membership will be periodic mailings containing the best available resource material for study groups, how-to articles by successful study group leaders, and any noteworthy news of concern to study groups.

Each year your study group may reaffirm its membership in the Fellowship simply by renewing your commitment to meet; hopefully with increasing membership as the years pass. Eventual chartered URANTIA Society status is not what every group will necessarily desire, but if that is the course the group has chosen, membership in the Study Group Fellowship should be very helpful. The Fellowship should also help give geographically isolated study groups more a sense of being an integral part of the URANTIA movement.

Why is the Fellowship being formed?

Our movement needs to give far more attention to the necessity of

meeting together. The Master warned of the dangers of isolation, and strongly encouraged his apostles to stay together. Since the book is so extraordinarily replete, too many imagine that they can study it exclusively in the privacy of their homes most efficiently, and that group study is superfluous. Such people ignore the balancing and corrective influence of the group on our individual opinions, and the nurturing and spiritually reinforcing effect of group participation. Without the support of our fellows, we lose our enthusiasm. Another common mistake is for new readers to imagine that they should know a great deal about the book before attending a study group. The truth is exactly the opposite, since that early period is when a study group can help the new reader most! It is God's plan that we find him and grow spiritually not only by means of what he teaches us directly, but through close association with our fellows. Rodan spoke to the urgency of forming protective habitual practices designed to conserve and augment spiritual energies, of which, next to worship itself, study group fellowship is our archetypal example.

Study groups approach their meetings in as many ways as there are study groups, but experience has proven that the essential ingredient of a successful group is that a core of its members are faithful in their attendance. The less-regular members cease attending if they cannot be reasonably sure that someone will be there. With even a small committed core, however, the group can grow.

We are very excited about the formation of the Study Group Fellowship, and hope that you are. Please share this letter with your study group, and if you have further questions concerning what it means to join, do not hesitate to call me. We look forward to hearing from you.

Godspeed,

Harry McMullan, Project Co-ordinator
Domestic Extension Committee
PO Box 82009
Oklahoma City, OK 73148
(405) 943-7482

Application to Join
The Study Group Fellowship of URANTIA Brotherhood

Name of Group: _____

Members' Names, Addresses and Telephone Numbers:

1. _____ (*)
2. _____ (**)
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

(Please print clearly; add additional sheets if necessary)

For one year from the date hereof, we pledge our best efforts to attend at least 75% of our group's regularly scheduled meetings.

Signatures:

I take pleasure in welcoming your group into the Study Group Fellowship of URANTIA Brotherhood for one year from the date hereinafter given.

President, URANTIA Brotherhood

Date: _____

Attest: _____
Secretary, URANTIA Brotherhood

- (*) person to whom correspondence should be directed
(**) alternate to above