

To: Executive Committee, Fellowship for Urantia Book Readers

From: John Lange

Subject: Fellowship ON-LINE

Electronic exchange of information, ideas, and images is bringing the human family closer together due to its ability to partially transcend time and space. Many see this as the human counterpart to the cosmic concept of reflectivity. It is a tool capable of extending the human mind in the same way reflectivity is a manifestation of the Infinite Spirit. The size of the Global Family in relation to the current number of dedicated Urantians encourages us to embrace these services as the next step in the dissemination of the Urantia Revelation. In fact this activity may come to characterize us as it is becoming a necessity for success in our international efforts.

RECOMMENDATIONS

After discussing the possibilities with Michael Challis, Dan Massey, Michael Million, David Kantor, Larry Watkins, and others; I should like to make these recommendations for the fellowship to go on-line. THIS IS A THREE STEP PROCESS.

STEP ONE

- Get the Fellowship "up and running" with at least a laptop, a modem, and an on-line account - a subscription to some commercial service such as America On-line (the .COM in an address)
- Staff members and general counselors could begin the learning curve by becoming familiar with logging on, sending E-mail, networking, web browsers, etc.
- More importantly, monitoring and/or participating in the dozen or more Urantia Book Forums and Lists that already exist.
- Could be used for communication and correspondence between XC members, general counselors, staff, suppliers, Jesusonian, international readers, etc.
- Primary use will be for text only
- Minimal cost, may have computers, will need modem and monthly service charges.

STEP TWO

Establish a Fellowship web-site (which would give us a .ORG in our address)

- By utilizing A)a direct connection to the Web and B)a hardware/software platform we will be able to offer web-browsers a wide variety of graphics, audio, etc. in addition to text and independent of a service.
- We would be limited only by our imagination. Possibilities include any hard copy including all our publications, secondary works, glossary, video clips picture files, audio clips, conference publicity and registration, etc.
- In essence this is electronic publishing. It will be important to make sure that our web site is as presentable and professional as the Book we are about to publish by conventional means. Not only dose this mean well done graphics and well designed software, it also means we will need equipment capable of processing information very quickly.
- We could begin with a 486/pentium, but this would likely be overwhelmed very soon. Most experts agree we would be best served by a "work station" containing hardware and software powerful enough to handle any amount of response. The cost of the former is \$5,000, and the cost of the latter is between \$12,00 and \$25,000.
- Companies such as Silicon Graphics (SGI) and Sun should be given an opportunity to compete for our business, which would not only allow us to view the web-sites they have helped to create but could also lead to some competitive pricing.
- We would need the best wired data connection to the Net. There are many in Chicago-our first choice would be a T1, the fastest type, although an ISDN or ATM would be just a little slower.
- It would take one or two people to maintain the site, but the beauty of having your own web-site is that this maintenance can be performed by someone outside the office, or even in another city.

STEP THREE

Technology will point the way to step three, which might presently entail buying a node and encoding a CD-ROM. By the time we reach this point there may be a whole new world of technology available to us.