

March 5, 1977

Julia K. Fenderson

REPORT FROM FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

Greetings to each of you on the occasion of our first Field Representative Conference. Though we have met informally for short periods before, this is the first time we have met at headquarters for a planned program of two days. I bring you warm, friendly greetings from the fields where I have been serving recently.

The motto given for our group in the Guidelines, is: ^{by Alvin Kalicka} PROGRESS THROUGH LOYAL COOPERATION. One of the very touching scenes in the Book which illustrates this type of "loyal cooperation" is the one described on p. 1546 - "During the dark hours of the Master's death, in the hearts of these apostles all reason, judgment and logic were set aside in deference to just one extraordinary human emotion - the supreme sentiment of friendship-loyalty . . . and it was this human sentiment, not his superb teachings or marvelous doings that held them together." And may we all here go and do likewise, for we have that same friendship-loyalty to hold us together and help us progress.

Each year my work as Field Representative leaps ahead by geometric progression as I'm sure it has for you. Because of limited time and space I will present only the highlights of a year of constructive travels and work with URANTIA Book Study groups.

- 1 - Last January, I was finishing up my work in Australia, crossing about 4000 miles from Perth in the West to Melbourne, in the East where there are three study groups. Neil Francey is starting a new one there, he just wrote me. Keith and Diane Bacon are the natural leaders of the Movement in the Eastern part of Australia. Recently we just heard of the arrival of their new baby boy named Michael Van.
- 2 - On February 8-9, I had the great privilege of participating in the installation ceremonies of the tenth and newest society at Berkeley, California, called the San Francisco Bay Area URANTIA Society (SFBAUS). Mary Lou Hales organized and led those beautiful and auspicious ceremonies with one of the largest groups ever to be inducted (23). Herman Schell, Paul Snider and Bill Hales also all participated in this joyous occasion.
- 3 - May 21-28 was spent at Grant's Pass and Medford, Oregon with study groups of that area and in participating in the Oregon Conference under the leadership of David and Rose Clearwaters. Members of SFBAUS the new society at Berkeley also came up with talks and music while I gave the slide-talk on Study Groups.
- 4 - June 18-30, I attended and took part in the Council Meeting in Chicago,
5 - and then on to Oklahoma for the true enjoyment of their marvelous conference with all the great talks, multi-media presentations and music. The best part as always, was the fellowship with URANTIA Book students from all over the country for one full week. Nothing seems to equal the exhilaration of meeting fellow students. We are all so grateful to Berkeley and the Oklahoma Society members for making all this possible.

- 6 - In September, I helped Jim George and Rose Schweikert organize the first study group in Nevada at Reno. Rose is the very talented and scholarly German lady who is slowly beginning a translation of the Book into German. She says it will take years and many, many more good translators to help her. There are several students of the URANTIA Book from the local college there and a very capable young psychiatrist from the Medical Clinic helping with the study group.
- 7 - October 1-4 was spent in East Wenatchee, Washington with Lew and Alice's great group in their Northwestern Conference. We were fortunate to have two members of the Foundation come and participate: President Tom Kendall and Trustee Arthur Born. The conference was held on Friday and Saturday but many stayed over Sunday at the Lew Clark's home. One thing I've noticed about these conferences, nobody wants to leave. One great outcome of this conference was the organization of several new study groups in the Seattle area by those who attended and received Lew Clark's help and continuing watchcare.
- 8 - The eighth URANTIA Book Conference that I participated in this year was in Calgary, Canada under the direction of Joyce Forst. It was interesting to note that this was a group of middle-aged and older people as a whole, and the first time this has happened in all my travels. Usually I would say that about 90% of our URANTIA BOOK STUDENTS are in their 20's and 30's.

The Calgary group laughingly said they were waiting to see what kind of people we had in this movement so luckily I had my slide-talk for the second night and they could see for themselves. The first night we had a lovely dinner with a group of ladies in a home high on a hill overlooking the city. The second night a large crowd attended my slide-talk at Joyce Forst's home where questions flew. I told them we had all kinds of people and life-styles in this movement and therein lay our strength. This Revelation came for all peoples, as our Master often said, and as the URANTIA Book points up. Everyone seemed to appreciate this.

- 9 - On Halloween night Richard Keeler had a real fun conference at his home in Solana Beach. We all dressed as some personage in the URANTIA BOOK and of course you know Richard came as Onamonalonton in full Indian regalia, warbonnet and all. I was Mother Eve who had had 106 children and was dressed in violet with a little flashlight in my hair for the halo. But the prize of all came as a Thought Adjuster decked out in screw drivers, wrenches etc. to help "adjust." Three of us gave presentations.

- 10 - I attended two of Dick Princes great study groups in San Diego. This is a solid and growing group which meets faithfully every Tuesday come rain or shine - and its mostly shine there!

Orientation Meetings

Many meetings are held in my home in Culver City for various purposes, the major one being Orientation Classes for prospective members of our Los Angeles Society. These are held once a month in six sessions covering orientation about the Foundation, the Brotherhood, the Society and on the various ways to conduct a study group including the use of multi-media. Time has proven this to be an essential part of our society activities.

*Expanded
I have now identified and visited about 125 study groups. I prepared a list of these with addresses & mailed to each of you as a service. For various reasons now have 10 being trained in 6 lessons on 2nd lesson*

Some Observations About Our Work

It is impossible to enumerate ^{the} the great number of values and goodwill that result from these different meetings in various parts of the world. Building an understanding of the special groups in our movement, I believe, is one of the most important and it is really essential in preventing future problems. I know I have gained so much understanding and appreciation of different life styles and differences in people so that I am better able to "see with the eyes of the spirit."

✓ I believe that one of the greatest services we can perform is to acquaint people with our hard-working staff here at headquarters and for that purpose I frequently use my slide-talk. *A picture is worth 10,000 words*

I am continually amazed at the real and serious lack of information about the Foundation and Brotherhood which exists. Many times I have found that due to ignorance and some false grapevine information there is strong sentiment against these organizations. Our carefully planned activities can counteract that sentiment.

At one place I found they actually believed the Foundation to be something like the Rockefeller Foundation in New York City - a multi-million dollar complex, 50 stories high, with huge staffs of secretaries and clerks carrying on full-time jobs. The readers wanted no part of that power structure. It is up to us as Field Representatives to give the true picture. I try to show how the majority of workers at headquarters such as the Presidents of both the Foundation and the Brotherhood have full time, challenging jobs and also they have families and homes and after those responsibilities are cared for, they must take care of letter-writing, appointments and the business of our organizations.

* Another point I try to follow is to avoid interpreting the URANTIA Book. The URANTIA Book stands on its own merits and each reader should interpret this book for himself. Of course, we must know the Book so well, that when problems are brought up as they invariably are, we can say: "Let us read this section together and see how some of your problems are met and even resolved. At least we can learn together." Never set oneself up as a Master Teacher. In the end, this procedure is a protection to ourselves as well as to the movement.

To truly evidence our own love and willingness to serve each person, is always a bridge and everyone responds in kind. As Jesus said to his young pupil from India: "Ganid, no man is a stranger to one who knows God . . . Does it seem strange that one should enjoy the exhilaration of meeting a newly found brother? To become acquainted with one's brothers and sisters, to know their problems and to learn to love them is the supreme experience of living." p. 1431:1 - And we are having it!

A Typical Day

Usually there are three or four letters which require carefully prepared answers. (This, in addition to my personal correspondance) As there are six postal deliveries per week, this results in about 74-75 letters per month which must be answered and files on them maintained daily.

There are about the same number of Urantian telephone calls per day and month which require much time and care, and some research.

There are many people who come to visit. Some call first and some do not. As I live alone this can keep me pretty busy. I have the joy of having quite a few house guests as I live near the International Airport.

We have some materials which we mail out upon request. These must be packed and taken to the post office. When I am away for a few days at a conference this all stacks up and I must get caught up immediately upon my return.

A busy but very fulfilling, happy life, doing what I long to do - the Father's work.