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FRATERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE WORKSHOPS

Lake Forest Academy - Ferry Hall, Lake Forest, Illinois  
Wednesday & Thursday, August 15 & 16, 1979

\*Session 1, Wednesday afternoon: UNDERSTANDING OURSELVES

- I. Opening Remarks: Carolyn Kendall, Chairman, Fraternal Relations Committee, URANTIA Brotherhood.
- II. Our "Missing Earmarks" of Formalized Religion: Joyce Lapham, Member, Fraternal Relations Committee.
  1. There is no ecclesiastical hierarchy.
  2. There are no official interpretations of the meanings of The URANTIA Book.
  3. There is no specified way for a group to study the book.
  4. Scheduling of prayer or worship services at Brotherhood functions is optional.
  5. There is no official Remembrance Service format.
  6. There is no official marriage ceremony, ritual of baptism, or funeral service.
  7. There are no prescribed creeds, slogans, or vestments.
  8. There is no designated place for URANTIA Societies or study groups to meet and study.
  9. There is no official music or art.
  10. There is a constitutional policy of non-exclusivity of membership in URANTIA Brotherhood.
  11. There is no prohibition against an officer of URANTIA Brotherhood also serving in an officer-level capacity in another group.
  12. We do not legislate concerning the personal practices of our members.

\*2:00 to 5:00 p.m.; one half hour intermission at midpoint.

File 104

III. Learning About Religious Groups (A preview of our program):  
Joyce Lapham

1. We must learn about the world's religions.
2. We need to identify the persons in the movement who are knowledgeable about conventional religions and the cults and sects.
3. We invite a sharing of experiences from those who have joined or visited religious groups.
4. We must foster a sense of respect for the accouterments of religious services.
5. We must become "borrowers" of the faith of others.



IV. The Speakers' Bureau Outline: Frank Sgaraglino, Member,  
Fraternal Relations Committee

ROLE OF THE SPEAKERS' BUREAU IN URANTIA BROTHERHOOD  
AND RELATION TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. The Fraternal Relations Committee is responsible for fostering the formation of Speakers' Bureaus in URANTIA Societies, subject to the jurisdiction of the Executive Committee.
2. Each URANTIA Society may establish a Speakers' Bureau, if it so desires, and determine its own conduct. The chairman of a Society Speakers' Bureau is asked to submit an annual report to the Fraternal Relations Committee if there has been any activity in a preceding year.
3. All incoming requests from churches or religious organizations for speakers, made to the Brotherhood, will be channeled to the Fraternal Relations Committee Chairman, who will then contact the Society closest to that group.
4. The Fraternal Relations Committee will act as a central clearing house for experiences and ideas regarding the Speakers' Bureaus, keeping in contact with the Societies, and passing along experiences and suggestions from other Societies.

SUGGESTIONS TO LOCAL SOCIETIES WHO WISH TO ORGANIZE  
SPEAKERS' BUREAUS

1. Each speaker should receive training in the fundamentals of public speaking.
2. The speaker should have a thorough knowledge of The URANTIA Book.
3. Any speaker going out from a URANTIA Society is in reality a representative of URANTIA Brotherhood. When speaking as an authority about the organizations, he should first determine what the policies of URANTIA Brotherhood and URANTIA Foundation are, and to the best of his ability state them in a positive and favorable light.
4. Speakers should be sent out in twos whenever possible.
5. No fees should be charged by speakers. Methods of clearing expenses should be formulated by the local Societies in advance.
6. It is recommended that any activity by a Speakers' Bureau be at the invitation of the other group, rather than as a result of solicitation on the part of the URANTIA Society.

Speakers' Bureau, Continued.

7. Any speaker who takes such an assignment should make a study of the group he will address. Better understanding will result if there is sympathetic tolerance for others' beliefs.
8. A skillful and wise speaker will emphasize the soul saving message of The URANTIA Book and avoid overlong discussions about the book, about the origin, or about the organizations.
9. Concerning the origin, none of us has any first hand knowledge as to how the URANTIA Papers were transmitted. There are many rumors about the method, most of which are contradictory, and there is no means to validate any of the rumors. In the absence of an official version, the only reliable information is in the book itself.
10. The first speakers have a solemn responsibility, and they would, of course, be representative of the dignity and character of the URANTIA Revelation.

Approved by the Executive  
Committee, 1977



V. The Nature of "Our" Organization; Martin W. Myers, Chairman,  
International Fellowship Committee; Trustee, URANTIA Foundation.

1. Understanding the need for our organization.
2. The Brotherhood is not the "body" of Michael; membership in the Brotherhood is not a passport to the mansion worlds, but is there an implied promise of planetary continuity to the Brotherhood similar to Melchizedek's covenant with Abraham, or Jesus' bestowal of the keys of the kingdom upon the apostles?
3. What is the destiny of the Brotherhood? Will there be other Brotherhoods?
4. What are our primary and secondary loyalties? Is the organization of primary importance?
5. What are some of the instructive features of the organizations of predecessor revelators? By studying Jesus' organization how will we be guided in our own world mission?
6. Should the Brotherhood be like that state that co-ordinates most while governing least; one that organizes least?
7. What is the propriety of calling ourselves "URANTIANS" or "Urantians"? What are the legal considerations as well as increasing the danger of institutionalization? Would it conduce to building a wall around ourselves?
8. Why do we wish not to become a separate religion? Is it inevitable that we will be seen as a religion, or that we will actually become a separate religion?
9. We read that we should strive for unity, not uniformity. With respect to the URANTIA Movement, unity of what?

VI. Publications of a Religious Organization; Barbara N. Kulieke,  
Chairman, Publications Committee

1. Should we distribute more introductory literature as do conventional religions?
2. Should introductory brochures aimed at the various religions be developed?
3. Is there a danger that hand-outs could substitute for personal ministry?
4. Review of current headquarters and field publications.
5. How could publications play a role in how we present the movement to the world? Will critics read them instead of the book?
6. Brotherhood policy: We never pronounce judgment upon religious groups or their beliefs.
  - A. Should newsletters be monitored?
  - B. Exercise care in Correspondence. Letters are often later published or read on radio. (See Paul's letter to Titus in Bible.)
  - C. Conference tapes distribution -- too candid comments.
7. Should demands be heeded for study guides, simple versions, interpretive works, researches, charts, dictionaries, various sized indexes, maps, calendars, Bible correlaries? If so, translations would be needed.
8. Should we encourage development of extras: Christmas cards, art reproductions, book jackets, book marks, jewelry, poetry, essays, placques, or coloring books?
9. Could secondary publications substitute for direct study of the book?
10. Comment on: the problems of co-ordinating the need to find an outlet for the creative urge of URANTIA Book student now, while allowing future students to make their own original discoveries.
11. Is there a danger of becoming a big-business religion, rather than engaging in "This business of finding God"? (Matthew Levi)

VII. Yesterday, Today, and Our Future: Thomas A. Kendall, Chairman,  
Domestic Extension Committee; President, URANTIA Foundation.

1. The plan of evolutionary development for this revelation.
2. The personal approach of imparting truth.
3. Avoiding association with temporal institutions.
4. Problems with Americanizing or Christianizing the URANTIA Movement.
5. Personal vs. official interpretations of the teachings.
6. Maintaining the purity of the text; preserving the name and symbol.
7. Allowing The URANTIA Book to be your inspiration rather than your authority.



\*Session 2, Thursday morning: GETTING TO KNOW RELIGIOUS GROUPS.

- I. Parallel and Divergent Concepts in World Religions: Jeffrey Wattles, Member, San Francisco Bay Area URANTIA Society.
- II. A Survey of Significant Sects and Cults: Scott Forsythe, Member, First URANTIA Society of Los Angeles; Administrative Assistant, URANTIA Foundation.
  1. Is the source of their belief divine revelation or is it of human origin?
  2. Do they follow a living or dead "divine" prophet?
  3. Do they believe in a Supreme Being?
  4. Do they believe in personal survival after death?
  5. Are there rules of personal conduct?
  6. Do they have a unique lifestyle?
  7. Is their main emphasis on rituals and ceremonials, or upon spiritual development?
  8. Is their organizational structure complex or simple?
  9. Do they try to influence their members concerning other religious beliefs?
  10. Is their view toward new truth open and liberal, or closed?
- III. Positive Approach to the Fundamentalist: Harry McMullan, Member, First URANTIA Society of Oklahoma; Member, Domestic Extension Committee.
- IV. The Spirit of Urmia - Sharing Religious Experiences: Bettina Gray, Member, San Francisco Bay Area URANTIA Society.
  1. How can the spirit of Urmia be revitalized in the present?
  2. What are the benefits to the spiritual renaissance of such a revitalization?
  3. What enhances/prevents genuine interfaith sharing?
  4. Some specific experiences of working with the traditional and new religious groups in the United States.

\*9:00 to 12:00 a.m.; one half hour intermission at midpoint.



\*Session 3. Thursday afternoon: SOONER OR LATER: Vern Grimsley, Coordinator and moderator; Member, Fraternal Relations Committee.

I. Preparing for the Day the Press and World Religions Acclaim or Criticize Us Publicly.

1. Can that time be delayed? How?
2. How should we respond to interest from the press and media?
3. How should we plan for the future?

II. Communicating a Spiritual Image for The URANTIA Book: Marvin Gawryn, Member, San Francisco Bay Area URANTIA Society.

\*2:00 to 5:00 p.m.; one half hour intermission at midpoint.

----- (Detach and return) -----

WE WELCOME YOUR EVALUATION

1. Which presentations were the most valuable to you?
2. Would you like to see any or all of these sessions repeated? Which? Where? When?
3. How could each be improved?
4. Would a printed Digest of any of the presentations be useful?
5. Do you have any experiences you want to share, or advice you wish to impart to the Fraternal Relations Committee concerning the subjects under study?

Thank you for your participation. Please return this form to:

Mrs. Carolyn B. Kendall, Chairman  
Fraternal Relations Committee  
URANTIA Brotherhood  
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