

Meet the Officers

This winter edition of the Bulletin is an excellent opportunity to give profiles of URANTIA Brotherhood officers who were elected at the Triennial Meeting of the General Council last summer. Officers of URANTIA Brotherhood serve three-year terms. Elected to serve from 1976-1979 are the following five officers.

Dr. Meredith J. Sprunger, President. Meredith and his wife, Irene, have been active with the teachings of The URANTIA Book since they were introduced to it in 1955, helping to organize the first Indiana study group in 1957 and the First URANTIA Society of Fort Wayne, Indiana, in 1969, and Meredith was one of the first Field Representatives of URANTIA Brotherhood. After election to the General Council, Meredith gained Executive Committee experience as Chairman of the Committee on Education. Meredith and Irene still live in Fort Wayne, where Meredith is a full professor at Indiana Institute of Technology, head of the Department of Psychology, Chairman of the Division of Liberal Arts, and was recently drafted to be President of the university until his retirement at the end of this school year. Meredith earned his Ph.D. in psychology from Purdue University in 1947, is certified in private practice in psychology, and active as a minister in the United Church of Christ. The Sprungers have two daughters and a granddaughter. Meredith looks forward to full-time URANTIA activities soon.

Miss E. L. Christensen, Vice President. Christy has been a part of the URANTIA movement since its early beginning. When the Foundation was organized in 1950 she became a Trustee as well as its Secretary. She still serves as Secretary but is now a Trustee Emeritus. She has been a member of the General Council of URANTIA Brotherhood since its organization in 1955 and still is. She has also been a member of the Executive Committee since 1955 and still is. She was named President of URANTIA Brotherhood in 1963, elected Vice President in 1967, which office she still holds. She served as Vice President of First URANTIA Society, Chicago, for two years, 1968 and 1969, and as its President in 1970. Since retiring from her banking job in 1946, she has spent full time in URANTIA headquarters office and is still doing so.

Miss Marian T. Rowley, Secretary. Marian, too, has had much contact with URANTIA Book students since she was Secretary-General--principal clerical and liaison officer of the Brotherhood--for 20 years, resigning in 1975 due to failing eyesight, which was later restored by surgery that year. Marian is currently President of First URANTIA Society, of which she was a charter member. She also served on the Committee on Education from 1955-1975. Retired from a secretarial career, Marian is a full-time volunteer at headquarters.

Miss Edith E. Cook, Treasurer. A charter member of First URANTIA Society, Edith has been a member of the Judicial Committee of URANTIA Brotherhood from 1955 to the present, and a member of the General Council since 1955. A Trustee of URANTIA Foundation since its organization in 1950, Edith is currently Treasurer of URANTIA Foundation. She was Vice President of First URANTIA Society, 1966-1967, and was Miscellaneous Activities Committee Chairman from 1964-1976. After leaving a career in which she achieved the status of Certified Professional Secretary, she has worked full-time at headquarters.

Mr. John W. Hales, Secretary-General. A charter member of First URANTIA Society, John graduated from Beloit College and served as a Junior Officer in the U.S. Navy. After obtaining a Master's degree in social work from Columbia University School of Social Work, he became employed by the Jewish Board of Guardians, New York City, and was assigned to the Coney Island Mental Health Service for Children and Youth. John and his wife, Suzanne, started family life in Brooklyn where John worked with disturbed children and their parents in the Brooklyn Clinic, was a field supervisor of graduate students in social work for Columbia University, and was involved in several URANTIA Book study groups, becoming a URANTIA Brotherhood Field Representative in 1972. John has been a member of the Committee on Education since 1974. In 1974 John was hired as Resident Director of URANTIA Brotherhood, and Suze and John moved to the Chicago area, making their home in Kenilworth, Ill., with their children Cathy and Erik.

All officers of URANTIA Brotherhood attend monthly meetings of the Executive Committee, comprised of the officers and the nine departmental committee chairmen, which is charged with the responsibility of actively managing affairs of URANTIA Brotherhood.

George Williams College Selected as Site for 1978 General Conference

The next General Conference of URANTIA Brotherhood really is in 1978. Several Bulletin readers wondered if "1978" was a misprint and wanted to be sure it is the right year. It is. There will be no General Conference in 1977. There will be a meeting of the General Council, but this will be the annual business meeting of the 36 Councilors of URANTIA Brotherhood, not the large gathering of the General Conference to which many other persons are invited for a program of social and educational activities.

George Williams College is in a lovely outdoor setting at Williams Bay, Wisc., on the shores of Lake Geneva, approximately 80 miles from Chicago. It has all the features the Planning and Expediting Committees were looking for, including adequate accommodations for anticipated attendance, easy access from Chicago, recreation, and facilities for families. The college has been reserved for the week of August 13-18, 1978, so those planning to attend can mark their calendars now. Members of the committees, headed by Carolyn Kendall, Wheeling, Ill., were listed in the November 10, 1976, Bulletin; the program and other details are now being planned. Committee members would be happy to receive your ideas.

Notes from the Office

Study Aids for Part IV of The URANTIA Book. The Life and Teachings of Jesus may be obtained by writing URANTIA Brotherhood, 533 Diversey Parkway, Chicago, Ill. 60614. The cost is \$5.00 plus postage--35¢ in the U.S., 72¢ in all other countries. Published in 1975, the book is a little over 100 pages long, 8½ by 11, with plastic ringbinder and durable cover. Contents include a twelve-page descriptive chronology of Jesus' life, a list of references to Jesus in Parts I-III of The URANTIA Book, and an almost page-by-page reference comparison of Part IV to the four Gospels. A major portion is devoted to a subject approach to Part IV, including such topics as Jesus' Manner of Teaching, Instructions to the Teachers of Jesus' Gospel, and others (25 in all). The book was prepared by Mrs. Ruth E. Renn of Chicago in cooperation with the Trustees of URANTIA Foundation and is described as "the product of many years of loving labor."

Subscribers to The URANTIAN Journal will receive notices when it is time to renew their subscriptions. Each subscription starts whenever it is received, not on a calendar year basis as some have assumed. Records for subscriptions are therefore maintained individually. You may send subscriptions at any time and need not renew until you receive a notice.

Price Increase for The URANTIA Book Effective March 1

Effective March 1, 1977, the price of The URANTIA Book will be increased to \$26. URANTIA Foundation notified URANTIA Brotherhood of this news in late January, and we wanted to give you some advance notice via the Bulletin. There has been an effort for several years to stave off a price increase--in fact, there has not been a price increase since March, 1971--but it finally became necessary.

It's hard to take the bite out of news of this kind, but we did recently receive a letter expressing a perspective which provides at least some consolation, and would like to share it with you. In this letter, received like so many others from someone who has found the book and been moved to write us about it, the writer recounts his search for truth and says:

"In my search for truthful knowledge I compiled a list of books that I read. On nutrition and physical health--52 books....On emotional health and psychology--40 books....On spiritual health, religion, philosophy, and so-called esoteric knowledge--94 books....On self improvement, science, and general knowledge--31 books. I spent hundreds of dollars for these books and hundreds more for magazines. The URANTIA Book....is of more value to me than all the rest of the books I've read put together. The truths contained in it are priceless."

Another perspective which has caused URANTIA Book students to smile is to remember that we are getting the fifth epochal revelation for a little over a penny a page.

International Fellowship Committee Activities

In recent meetings the International Fellowship Committee has concluded the importance of three things in the present evolution of the international spread of the teachings of The URANTIA Book: 1) having personal contact among international readers, 2) encouraging study groups which focus primarily on the teachings of the book itself, and 3) working in cooperation with those international study groups engaged in serious study of The URANTIA Book who wish to participate with others in a coordinated way in the study and wise dissemination of the URANTIA teachings.

Martin Myers, Chicago, Ill., Committee Chairman, elaborated upon these concepts in an interview for the Bulletin. The first point--the importance of personal contact--has been inspired by the actual experience of those who have been involved in the early evolution of international growth. The multinational gatherings (informal) which have occurred have been so positive, so inspiring, and so constructive (and so much fun!) that the Committee feels that personal contact among the various national individuals and groups has great potential and will become a key feature of successful international development.

The second point, Martin continued, is simply what we have discovered by our experience in study groups: that when study groups have focused on the teachings of the book itself, and not become sidetracked or distracted, the teachings have taken hold, and stable, appealing, and satisfying associations of believers in the teachings have emerged. In these emerging groups, "unity, not uniformity" seems to be the by-word. On the third point Martin pointed out that if we concern ourselves with coordination, governance will take care of itself--each group ably managing its own affairs in a manner which allows it to cooperate with other groups of similar goals and purposes, the concept of relative autonomy upon which URANTIA Brotherhood was founded.

URANTIA Books have been steadily making their way into countries around the world. There are study groups in many countries, many of which groups are unknown to us. Of those known, a few have indicated a desire to work towards becoming a society in the years ahead.

Like other Brotherhood committees, the International Fellowship Committee is assessing its role and thinking over ways to carry out their constitutional responsibilities; evolutionary growth is bringing several committees into new and increased activity. Committee members would warmly welcome your ideas.

Members of the International Fellowship Committee are: Hazel Cunningham, Chicago, Ill.; Eunice Mills, Pensacola, Fla.; Martin W. Myers, Chicago, Ill., Chairman; Anna Rawson, Edina, Minn.; Mary Snider, Wilmette, Ill.; and Harold W. Schomas, Park Ridge, Ill.

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"That which the world needs most to know is:
Men are the sons of God, and through faith they
can actually realize, and daily experience, this
ennobling truth." (p. 2052)*

*Quotation from The URANTIA Book, Copyright © 1955,
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Currently serving are: Barbara Newsom, Wichita, Kans., Editor; Virginia Bowman, Helen Carlson, Mark Kulieke, Eva Vincent, and Lillian Wallin, Staff, all of Chicago, Ill. We welcome your comments, questions, and suggestions. Unless otherwise indicated, Bulletin items are written by the Editor.