



# URANTIA® Brotherhood BULLETIN

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Summer & Fall 1978



Photo by Barbara Kulieka, Evanston, Illinois, U.S.A.

Conference-goers gather by the lake for a picnic at the 1978 URANTIA Brotherhood General Conference in August. 582 readers attended. Story on pages four and five.

## Study Groups Around the World Report Activities

In our last issue, we reported on URANTIA societies. In this issue, we report on URANTIA Book study groups, another important aspect of the URANTIA movement.

URANTIA Book study groups, we have found, are a common bond for readers around the world. Whether one is in contact with only a few URANTIA Book readers or is a member of a URANTIA society, the study group plays an important part in one's study and dissemination of the URANTIA teachings. Country and city dwellers alike attend study groups, as do persons of different nationalities, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds.

Although a few locations have large, well-established groups of readers, the majority of URANTIA Book readers are relatively isolated from other readers. For them, meeting one other person who reads The URANTIA Book is a thrilling experience, and a gathering of three or four people seems like a lot. For many people, the study group is the URANTIA movement.

Small study group activity has always preceded the development of larger, well-established clusters of readers. The Chicago area and the West Coast of the United States are good examples--the earliest study group activity took place in those areas. Small study group activity soon after the book was published also contributed to the groups we now have in Oklahoma and Texas. Study groups in the 1960's and 70's contributed to the development of clusters on the East Coast of the United States and to the URANTIA societies installed in the past 10 years.

In the early days of the URANTIA movement, students of the teachings were advised to develop thousands of study groups before The URANTIA Book receives publicity. We now have 300 study groups. News of some of these groups is reported on pages three, six, and seven.

# Tips on Starting Study Groups

Throughout its history, URANTIA Brotherhood has preferred to let readers use their own best wisdom as much as possible in undertaking their various projects. URANTIA Brotherhood has, however, been quick to share ideas which have come from readers, to pass along experience readers have had, and to offer general guidance based on the wisdom of experience. In this issue featuring study groups, we would like to share some of the experience URANTIA Book readers have had in starting study groups.

## FOCUS ON THE URANTIA BOOK

One of the often-mentioned bits of wisdom readers share with us is the importance of having a group whose purpose and function is to study The URANTIA Book. In the beginning, some people who come to the group may want the group to pursue other purposes and activities. The group may consider these purposes worthy or unworthy, but in either case the group may simply say that the purpose of their group is to study The URANTIA Book, and let people decide for themselves whether they wish to be part of a group dedicated to that purpose.

This is not to say that URANTIA Book readers are narrow or exclusive in their religious studies or affiliations, or that the URANTIA movement is a new religion, church, or sect, for indeed it is not. URANTIA Book readers tend to study many religions (the book says we can benefit from studying all faiths, page 1012, paragraph five), and many URANTIA Book readers have other religious affiliations. Other religious teachings are often discussed in URANTIA Book study groups, but they are discussed in relation to the main purpose of studying The URANTIA Book.

## GETTING STARTED

This step is sometimes the hardest. There may be a number of readers who for some reason have not started meeting regularly. Or, there may be only one or two known readers. In either case, many find that a leader or facilitator is needed to get things started, that is, a person or persons who will set a time and place for meetings, be there regularly, and keep others informed of meetings. For help in obtaining members for your group, write to John Hales, Resident Director, URANTIA Brotherhood. John receives approximately 100 study group referral requests per month. He can also provide suggestions specifically for your group.

## GROWTH, CHANGE, AND DIVERSITY

"Quality not quantity" have become the bywords of experienced study group starters and goers. The numbers may be large in the beginning, then dwindle. Or the numbers may remain consistently small; a group can be started with only two people. The small group provides such satisfying interchange that groups which have grown to 20-40 often split into several smaller groups. A tendency for people to move has been noticed by many groups--no sooner does a reliable core get started than someone moves away. But new groups start elsewhere when dedicated students move.

There are as many ways to study the book as there are study groups. Two common methods are to read through the book paper-by-paper with discussion and to study topics from the book, but there are many variations. Groups meet in homes, rented rooms, public rooms, etc. The decision to let people use their own best wisdom pays off--we have refreshing diversity!

## From the Office

LAST CALL for ordering 1974 and 75 conference tapes. As mentioned in the last issue of the Bulletin, we need 50 orders for conference tapes to keep the price per set at \$24.30 (12 hrs.) and \$16.50 (8 hrs.) respectively. To date we have received only 25 orders for the two sets. To give a final opportunity to those who wish to obtain these tapes, we are extending the deadline for orders to March 15. Do not send payment at this time. Those who order tapes will be contacted after March 15.

This combined issue of the Bulletin is a departure from our regular procedure of publishing quarterly; we will resume quarterly publication with our winter 1979 issue. We enjoyed hearing from the many study groups who wrote. Our winter and spring 1979 issues will

continue with the many study group responses we have received. It is a pleasure to share such good news!

## URANTIA Brotherhood BULLETIN

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Photo courtesy of study group

A URANTIA Book study group in Melbourne, Australia, meets at the home of members. Pictured left to right are: Neil Francey, Dianne Swadling Bacon, Trevor Swadling, Maureen Materazzo, Don Nicoll, Les Sheridan, and Keith Bacon.



Photo by Rob Smith, Victoria, B.C., Canada

URANTIA Book study group of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. Back row, left to right: Gaetan Gautier, Kahlen Wood, Pat McQuig, Archie Chisholm, Maureen Wood, Gordon Bellamy, Jim Smith. Center row: David Sharp, Betty Garey, Carole Bellamy, Rene Chisholm. Front row: Liz Smith, Asta Dennis, Ernest Gibson.

## International Study Group News

Over 5,000 URANTIA Books have been sent to 80-90 countries outside the United States in the past 23 years, and the growing activity of international readers is of interest to many readers.

Study group activities are reported regularly in Australia, Canada, France, and New Zealand; there are also study groups in Finland, Holland, Colombia, and Costa Rica. Interested readers are active in England, Italy, Spain, Sweden, the Philippines, South Africa, Mexico, and India.

In response to our request for study group news, international groups sent responses which we share with you here. Other readers and groups are encouraged to write and send pictures for future issues of the Bulletin.

Russell Good writes from Auckland, New Zealand: "At first there were two who started reading. That was in 1972 and the place was Australia. Later, these two came back to New Zealand bringing The URANTIA Book with them." One of Russell's friends learned of the book and introduced Russell to it, helping him with questions he was asking: "Who am I? What am I here for?" As other friends began reading, it was natural to get together for "instant study group sessions," and in 1976 they made their group official. Since then, a core of five has been meeting "with various readers coming and going." The group keeps minutes of the business portion of its meetings, then reads and discusses a paper which each person has read prior to the meeting. For Rosalie Steward of the Auckland group, the discovery of the book was an answer to questions and "the revelation of the joy of love." Liz Hooke says, "...the book has changed me personally, for the better in so many ways... Now that I have goals and direction, life here is exciting and good."

Kahlen Wood writes from Victoria, British Columbia, in Canada: "We are fortunate in Victoria to be able to participate in a URANTIA Book study group that

meets every Sunday in the home of one of its members. The group was formed in November 1976 through the efforts of a solitary reader... help was forthcoming, and the group has steadily grown to its present size of 15." The group reads and discusses a paper at each meeting.

"Surely one of the greatest benefits a group such as ours can offer is that of being able to share the sense of joy and happiness that comes with reading the book with fellow URANTIA Book students. Our group has demonstrated its usefulness on many occasions when an individual has had problems with understanding a particular issue or concept." Kahlen also mentions the benefits of enlarging one's personal circle of friends and the atmosphere of the group, which provides a good forum for discussion and debate.

Kahlen concludes, "we have the blessing of a unique book at work for us, changing our perspectives, answering our questions, posing others... As far as The URANTIA Book and our study group is concerned, all I can say is--'Thank God!'"



Photo courtesy of study group

The Auckland, New Zealand, study group, left to right: Steven Hooke, Margaret Hemmingsen, Roslaie Steward and baby Arlea Steward, Russell Good, Betty Hooke, Liz Hooke. Not pictured: Eady Stephensen and Mary Howe. Two other members, Sue and Colin Hemmingsen, recently moved to Wellington, New Zealand.

## 1978 Genera



A morning study group session meets in one of the many sunlit rooms.

Photo by David Kulleke, Des Plaines, Illinois, U.S.A.



Conference-goers enjoy fellowship at the Tuesday afternoon picnic.

Photo by Carolyn Kendall, Wheeling, Illinois, U.S.A.



Mo Siegel of Boulder, Colorado, coordinated an afternoon presentation on "Introducing URANTIA Book Concepts." Carol and Pierre Kostic, pictured on the right, journeyed from Chatillon (near Paris), France, to attend the conference.

Photos by Carolyn Kendall, Wheeling, Illinois, U.S.A.

582 students of The URANTIA Book gathered August 13-18 on the shore of Lake Geneva in Wisconsin for the largest URANTIA conference ever held. Conferees hailed from 36 of the United States and five provinces of Canada, and from Holland, Australia, Italy, Sweden, and France. The setting was idyllic, and the consensus appeared to be that the study, worship, and fellowship were permanently transformative to the many individuals who attended.

The conference was engineered by Carolyn Kendall, chairman of the conference planning and expediting committees. The entire campus of George Williams College in Williams Bay was used for the conference. URANTIA Society of Glenview greeted participants; First URANTIA Society of Western Springs and the Special Projects Committee of URANTIA Brotherhood acted as class registrars; First URANTIA Society of Fort Wayne hosted the Sunday evening reception.

Morning study groups met from Monday through Thursday. Sixteen groups met each day for a total of 64 different groups during the four days. Study groups averaged from 15-25 people, and met in comfortable sunlit rooms, on shady hill-sides, or even on the shore. This informal atmosphere encouraged many new readers to participate in discussion. The morning study groups were representative of the many study group methods used in the URANTIA movement; leaders of these sessions came from 50 different groups in North America. First URANTIA Society of Wenatchee coordinated the program.

Inaugurated this year was the series of Committee on Education Workshops. "The Universe as One Vast School" and "How Jesus Taught" were the themes of these workshops. Lynne Kulleke, chairman of the URANTIA Brotherhood Committee on Education, reported that over 140 people participated.

Fifty persons attended Publications Committee workshops on Monday and Tuesday mornings for experienced editors and those interested in starting URANTIA movement publications.

In the afternoons, three presentations were offered each day to audiences ranging from 75-200 people. Topics varied, but one predominant theme in many of them was the need to develop fraternal relations with the cultures,

# Conference

peoples, and religions of the world. Despite the size of these groups, many of them effectively encouraged audience participation.

Morning and afternoon programs for children aged 5-15 were provided by a committee headed by Ruth Renn. More than 50 children attended classes separated into three age groups.

Conferees enjoyed dozens of other activities such as swimming, tennis, volleyball, morning worship sessions, lake cruises, and woodland hikes. Many of these events were arranged by a recreation committee coordinated by Chuck Burton of First URANTIA Society and consisting of members of the Boulder, Colorado, study group.

Evenings provided a combination of entertainment of many kinds. The Orvonton URANTIA Society coordinated the organized entertainment in the unusual large-domed auditorium with Budd Blume performing as master of ceremonies. Several fine singers and musicians performed nightly. Humorous skits added to the fun. Main features of each evening were the audiovisual productions of the Spiritual Renaissance Institute, Berkeley, California, presented by David Kantor. After the programmed entertainment, most people regularly formed small groups for discussion, fellowship, worship, and campfire sings extending deep into the warm nights.

On the final evening, a remembrance service led by Nancy Grimsley was conducted by the San Francisco Bay Area URANTIA Society. After Vern Grimsley's address "Ambassadors from the Future," all joined hands and stood in a circle to offer thanks to the Father and to contemplate our futures as bearers of the great truths of the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man to the peoples of our planet.

The conference committees wish to extend their thanks to all of the people who helped with the conference, especially program leaders and speakers. To list all who performed tasks or prepared presentations contributing to the success of the conference would mean to list the majority of the hundreds who attended. Perhaps the most important feature of a URANTIA

conference such as this one is that all people are important contributors, all are active participants, all share the success of the experience of coming together in the search for truth and spiritual enlightenment.



Photo by Barbara Kulitke, Evanston, Illinois, U.S.A.

Lewis Auditorium



Photo by Glen Abbott, East Greenwich, Rhode Island, U.S.A.

A feeling of togetherness pervaded the crowd gathered in the auditorium for entertainment on Wednesday evening.



Photo by David Kulitke, Des Plaines, Illinois, U.S.A.



Photo by Glen Abbott, East Greenwich, Rhode Island, U.S.A.

Nancy Grimsley of Berkeley, California, conducts the Thursday evening remembrance service. David Kantor of Castro Valley, California, accepts applause from the audience after the viewing of one of the Spiritual Renaissance Institute multi-media shows.

# U. S. Study Group News



Third and fourth generations of URANTIA Book readers in Chicago gather for a picture. Front row, left to right: David and Lisa Renn and son, Kevin, Marilyn Kulieke and daughter, Lauren, Barbara Kulieke, and Lynne Kulieke. Back row: Mary and Chuck Burton, Jeff Kendall, David Kulieke, Neal Kendall, Mark Kulieke, and Tom Kulieke. In addition to URANTIA society meetings and other study groups, the "young people" in Chicago meet monthly for a study group they've had since 1975. Various known as "the tadpoles" or the "North Shore tangents," the group combined this year with other young readers to form a "Northside--North Shore Study Group" of 25-30 young people in those parts of the Chicago area.



The "Round Table Study Group" of Naperville, Illinois, is one of six study groups which meet in addition to society meetings in the Chicago area. From left to right are Ila Gronewold, Grace Walker, Martha McDonald, Lillian Nicholas, Grace Stephens, and Edythe Born. Grace Walker writes that "for at least 20 years I have had some kind of URANTIA Book study group in my home." Several families and new readers have been part of the group over the years. Recently, the meetings have been held on Friday mornings "as we share in our seeking to grasp and understand some of the great wisdom of the book." The group pursues topical studies, including a series led by Grace Stephens on the morontia life.



Pictured above are the study groups in the Tampa-St. Petersburg area of Florida. These readers had been meeting as a combined group since 1974 and as they grew, writes Joyce Law, they decided to split in two and only meet together every few months. Richard Bain, who responded for the St. Petersburg group, says the groups also join together in putting on conferences and having retreats. Both groups meet for dinner; the Tampa group just started reading the book from the beginning after studying topics for about a year, and the St. Petersburg group rotates through the four parts of the book, doing a paper from the first part one week, a paper from the second part the next week, and so on. Members of the Tampa group, upper left, are: first row, Steve and Joyce Law, Mary Willard, Mrs. Odell Glass, and Sadie Cummings; back row, Kirk Peterson, David Glass, Kevin Goodman, and Jim Rinehart. Not pictured are JoAnn West, Bill Pearce, and Toby Anderson. The St. Petersburg group are: first row, left to right: Jay Klafs, Bob Munshower, and Demeris Klofs (whose left side is just as beautiful as the right side, though the photographer missed it here); back row: Richard Bain, Michael Bain, Ron Edwards, Barbara Edwards, and Frank Palfy.

Photos courtesy of the study groups.



The URANTIA Book study group in Tulsa, Oklahoma, has met regularly at the home of Kathy King for one and a half years. In the upper left photo are back row, left to right: Jay Bird, Ginger Bird, Larry Mullins, Colleen Mullins, Nancy Oakley, Kathy King, Charlie Klanke, and Linda Bynum; front row, left to right: Sarah Robbins, Bill Hazen, and Jan Hazen. Seven are members of the Oklahoma URANTIA society. The group began at the beginning of the book and is presently reading in Part III. Sarah Robbins writes, "We all benefit greatly from the discussion and fine fellowship."

The upper right photo shows the Minneapolis, Minnesota, study group. Joyce Lapham started the group in 1973 and views herself as a facilitator more than a leader or teacher; she writes, "Jay and I have simply offered our home and showed our friendship to those who have our same interest, to learn and prepare so we can help others in the future." Front row, left to right: Stewart Ferguson, Anne Rawson, Linda Ferguson, Kim Saunders, Arnie Kroll, Joyce Lapham, Sue Rutledge, and Tom Rutledge; back row: Tom O'Keefe, Glen Thorsander, Jay Lapham, and Rod Johnson. Thirty people have been to the group over the years, and Glen Thorsander recently started another in the area.



Barbara and Steve Dreier study material as Marie Alpert and Beach Barrett look on. The scene is a meeting at Helena Sprague's home in Talcott Glen, Connecticut, where many readers from the dozen or more study groups in the northeast U.S. have often met. Connecticut readers are working toward becoming a URANTIA society; Steve and Helena are field representatives of URANTIA Brotherhood.



Oregon readers gather at the home of Fran Huntington. Left to right: a brother, Steve Kazmer, George Hendricks, Tom Handley, Mary Murin, Fran Huntington. On the floor: Shirley, Judy Kazmar, Gypsy Hopkins.



Helen Hutchinson wrote of the study group in Knoxville, Tennessee, started in 1975 by Bruce McCoy, which has met in Helen's home. Left to right: Woody Harper, Bruce McCoy, Helen, Marj Young, Mike Brady (in front).

## General Conference Meets

The regular annual meeting of the General Council of URANTIA Brotherhood was held from 10:00 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. on Saturday, August 12, 1978, at 533 Diversey Parkway, Chicago, Illinois.

Routine business included the census report of members by the secretary and the presentation of reports from the officers, departmental chairmen, and field representatives of URANTIA Brotherhood. This year, for the first time, these reports were printed and distributed in advance to the 36 members of the General Council. There was some discussion of the printed reports before moving to other items on the agenda.

Progress on the licensing agreement between URANTIA societies and URANTIA Foundation concerning use of the registered marks of URANTIA Foundation was the next topic for discussion. In the year since the last General Council meeting, URANTIA Foundation had completed the revised licensing agreement, which had been worked out in consultation with society members as an improvement over the original agreement, and the revised agreement had been signed by nine of the ten URANTIA societies. The result of discussion was a motion passed later in formal session which expressed the will of the General Council concerning the society which had not signed the agreement. The motion stated:

"It was the sense of the General Council that everything should be done to arrive at a mutual understanding with the Houston society by the Executive Committee and the officers of the Brotherhood and that the General Council request a report on the actions taken for a resolution of the issue at the next meeting of the General Council."

Discussion of other agenda items resulted in four additional motions in formal session. These were: a motion encouraging the Charter Committee in their efforts to work out pre-charter procedures to help study groups in decisions to become a URANTIA society; a motion that the Executive Committee study and report on methodologies for securing leadership on the General Council; a motion for the Executive Committee to consider changes in its meeting schedule; and a motion for the Ad Hoc Committee on Field Representatives to continue

its study in association with the field representatives. Committee members were elected and a current list of committees and officers is available upon request.

## Regional Conferences

Many fine regional conferences are being held. Here are some of the highlights of recent meetings:

- May 27-29 - a weekend retreat for Colorado study groups was held in the mountains near Boulder, Colorado.
- July 9 - URANTIA Book readers gathered in the Seattle, Washington, area.
- September 23-25 - the "First Pacific Conference for Students of The URANTIA Book" was held in Hawaii. Out-of-town guests included Meredith and Irene Sprunger, and Tom and Carolyn Kendall.
- September 22-24 - Colorado study groups again retreated to the mountains near Boulder for fun, worship, and fellowship.
- September 30 - October 1 - the annual Northwest Get-Together for Students of The URANTIA Book was sponsored by the First URANTIA Society of Wenatchee (Washington).
- September 30 - October 1 - a get-together in Eureka Springs, Arkansas, was held for readers in northwest Arkansas and southwest Missouri.
- October 28 - the "2nd Central Atlantic Conference for students of The URANTIA Book" was held in the Washington, D.C., area.
- November 4 - the semi-annual Eastern Regional Conference was held in Pawling, New York.

### UPCOMING MEETING

Readers in the Northwest United States and Canada announce that a "Pacific Northwest Gathering of Students of The URANTIA Book" will be held July 28-30, 1979. Conference facilities at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C., Canada, will be used. Mark your calendars if you can plan to attend and contact Nathan Zadden, 8686 Centaurus Circle #104, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada V3J 7K3.

*"Train your memory to hold in sacred trust the strength-giving episodes of life...build up for yourself and in yourself reserve galleries of beauty, goodness, and artistic grandeur. But the noblest of all memories are the treasured recollections of the great moments of a superb friendship." (Page 1779)\**

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