



URANTIA® Brotherhood BULLETIN

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Summer 1979

Sixth Triennial Convenes August 17th and 18th

Notice of the call of the Sixth Triennial Delegate Assembly went forth to the URANTIA societies last March designating August 17th and 18th as the dates of the 1979 convention to be held at 533 Diversey Parkway, Chicago, Illinois. At this assembly, delegates elected by each URANTIA Society will consider resolutions and elect 12 members to the General Council as the terms of one third of this body come to completion. The 12 members of the Council elected this year will serve on this governing body of URANTIA Brotherhood until 1988.

It is through the delegate assemblies, held every three years, that all members of URANTIA societies are accorded representation in governing the affairs of URANTIA Brotherhood. Each society elects one delegate and one alternate delegate (who would take the place of the delegate if the delegate is unable to serve). Each society thus holds equal representation in the triennial assemblies.

All delegates and alternate delegates have now been elected by their respective societies and the representatives to the 1979 assembly are listed in the chart below. The number of delegates has been different at every triennial. There were six in 1964; five in 1967 as one society passed out of existence; seven in 1970; eight in 1973; and 10 in 1976. This year, with the addition of the two new societies, 12 delegates will attend.

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Photo by David Renn

Officers of the new URANTIA Society of Dallas display their charter at the installation ceremony. From left to right: Bill Hazen, Vice President; Gene Joyce, President; Nancy Johnson, Secretary; Rick Carter, Treasurer.

Central Connecticut and Dallas Societies Installed

This spring, two new URANTIA societies were chartered and installed — URANTIA Society of Central Connecticut and URANTIA Society of Dallas. This brings the total number of societies in the URANTIA Brotherhood to 12.

The first installation took place on May 12th at 5 p.m. in Farmington, Connecticut. Approximately 60 people gathered in a woodland meeting house for the ceremony signaling the inauguration of the URANTIA Society of Central Connecticut. The Charter Committee of URANTIA Brotherhood was represented by chairman Mary Lou Hales, and committee members Katharine Harries (Illinois), Irene Sprunger (Indiana), and David Elders (Connecticut). Other visitors from the Midwest included President Meredith Sprunger and John Hales, Secretary-General. Twenty-five of the 31 members (19 founding members, 12 charter members) from five states (Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New York, and New Jersey) participated in the chartering process. The essential nucleus of the society derives from three Connecticut study groups located in Farmington, Clinton, and Darien, while a significant portion of the membership comes from surrounding Atlantic states, the associations being an outgrowth of regular regional conferences generally held twice a year in the area, and a bimonthly intensive study group centered in Farmington.

After a 45-minute installation ceremony and a potluck supper, the new society held its first business meeting and

DELEGATE	ALTERNATE
Lynne Kulieke	David Kulieke
First URANTIA Society	
Julia Fenderson	Chick Montgomery
First URANTIA Society of Los Angeles	
Lisa Carr Renn	Mary Burton
URANTIA Society of Glenview	
Berkeley Elliott	Tom Allen
First URANTIA Society of Oklahoma	
Wesley R. James	Frank Sgaraglino
Orvonton URANTIA Society of Chicago	
Irene Sprunger	Sally Schlundt
Fort Wayne URANTIA Society	
Howard Schoffen	Alice Clark
First URANTIA Society of Wenatchee	
Jim Jarnagin	Adrienne Jarnagin
First URANTIA Society of Houston	
Lillian Nicholas	Elsie Kupka
First URANTIA Society of Western Springs	
Vern Grimsley	David Gray
San Francisco Bay Area URANTIA Society	
Barbara Dreier	Peter Laurence
URANTIA Society of Central Connecticut	
Gene Joyce	Bill Hazen
URANTIA Society of Dallas	

elected officers as well as representatives to the upcoming Triennial Delegate Assembly. The following constitute the initial membership of the Connecticut society:

Founding Members

Charles Arcieri
Beach Barrett
Mary Carty
Barbara Dreier
Steve Dreier
Dave Elders
Marta Elders
Eileen Laurence
Peter Laurence
Carl Marsden
Alison Gardner Massey
Dan Massey
Vincent Myers
Charles Olivea
George Park
Nick Scalzo
Rick Schonberg
Helena Sprague
Joel Winter

Charter Members

Ellanor Anderson
Beth Bartley
Peter Comella
Alice Houghtaling
Pat Moriarty
John Murney
Cynthia Myers
Gertrude Plourde
Judy Sexton
Virginia Varnum
Lili Vitols
Jay Winter

The society officers elected are as follows:

President: Charles Arcieri
Vice President: Marta Elders
Secretary: Helena Sprague
Treasurer: Beach Barrett

After the business meeting, the group held a regular study meeting, followed by fellowship.

Dallas Installation

June 16th marked the day of installation for the URANTIA Society of Dallas. The chartering ceremony took place at 6:00 p.m. at the North Park Inn, Dallas, Texas.

Some 60 people from five states attended the ceremony and dinner which followed. Many then congregated at the home of Gene Joyce for lively conversation and fellowship.

In attendance at this special occasion were most of the 21 members (12 founding members, 9 charter members).

These are as follows:

Founding Members

Sarah Dexter
Terry Elliott
Jean George
Randy Harwick
Bill Hazen
Jane Cook Hazen
Jean-Pierre Heudier
Nancy Johnson
Gene Joyce
William P. Junk
Robert B. Raw
E.J. Sachse

Charter Members

Frank Burt
Richard Carter
Judy Daniel
Amy George
Mike Gravitt
Dorothy O'Brien
Jim O'Brien
Patricia Omo
Marian Wallace



Photo by Beach Barrett

Members of the new URANTIA Society of Central Connecticut gathered at their installation ceremony in Farmington, Connecticut. Members of the Charter Committee and other Midwest visitors are in the upper left corner of photo.

from the committee included Mary Lou Hales (chairman, Illinois), Irene Sprunger (Indiana), David Renn (Illinois), and David Elders (Connecticut). Also participating in the ceremony were Meredith Sprunger, President of URANTIA Brotherhood, and John Hales, Secretary-General.

The members of the URANTIA Society of Dallas have been studying and growing together for many years. Gene Joyce, president of the society, has had *The URANTIA Book* since 1956. She studied the teachings by herself until 1968 when she contacted and gathered together several fellow readers. The following years proved fruitful. Gradual expansion has brought about weekly study groups in Plano, Arlington, Austin, and San Marcos, as well as Dallas. The members of these various groups frequently fraternize with one another. Individuals from all groups have become members of the new society. The weekly study group that currently meets in the home of Gene Joyce will now be regarded as the society meeting, as three-fourths of the people who attend are now members of the new society. The officers of the Dallas society are:

President: Gene Joyce
Vice President: Bill Hazen
Secretary: Nancy Johnson
Treasurer: Rick Carter

Many congratulations go to the two new URANTIA societies.

Representatives Visit South American Study Group

Richard Prince of San Diego, California, and Lynne Kulieke of Lake Forest, Illinois, recently teamed up to make a week-long visit to a flourishing URANTIA Book study group in Bogotá, Colombia. Dick is a URANTIA Brotherhood Field Representative and a friend of the group's founder, Douglas Fraser. Lynne is chairman of the Brotherhood's Education Committee and therefore a member of the Executive Committee. She was asked to make the trip

This installation was also officiated by the Charter Committee of URANTIA Brotherhood. Representatives

on behalf of the International Fellowship Committee of URANTIA Brotherhood. Lynne is fluent in Spanish, having taught Spanish for many years, and Dick speaks Spanish quite well from practice gained as a medical doctor specializing in emergency room work at Bay General Chula Vista Hospital. Both are very keenly interested in the international spread of the URANTIA teachings.

The two made their visit from June 29 to July 6. They reported being very enthusiastically and graciously received by the group in Bogotá. Lynne stayed with the family of Carlos Zapata; Dick was the guest of Pedro Baquero. Almost every moment of their visit found them in a gathering of 12 to 15 people, including trips made by a caravan of several cars. Dick and Lynne enjoyed a solid week of discussion, fellowship, dining, and sight-seeing with the Colombian students, most of whom are pictured here.

Of course the visit included attending the regular Tuesday night meeting of the group which was attended by 25 to 30 people. Questions and discussion naturally centered around the visitors as the members were eager to hear about everything concerning the URANTIA movement. Lynne and Dick found the Colombian group solid, well-balanced, and knowledgeable, and were highly impressed in every way. They further reported that the members are very keenly concerned to have available a Spanish translation of *The URANTIA Book*. There was considerable discussion about possible translation efforts.

The Brotherhood representatives did not leave Colombia before promising to make many more trips to Bogotá in future years as well as maintain regular written communications with the group members.

Background and Development of the Colombian Study Group

The study group in Bogotá flourishes due to the efforts of a Colombian native and citizen named Douglas Fraser. Douglas is bilingual and bicultural, holding a degree from San Francisco City College. He is in his early 40's and is an engineer by training. About five years ago, on one of his frequent trips to the United States, he came upon *The URANTIA Book* in the Fresno Public Library and was soon enthralled with its contents. He read the book avidly over

the ensuing months. A short time thereafter he chanced to be placed in charge of a publishing company in Bogotá named Fondo Educativo Americano. Douglas was responsible for the editing and manufacture of the company's publications. An important part of his duties including translating three to five books per month from English to Spanish. In addition to sharpening his translating skills, his new work created many opportunities for discussion with various individuals and groups. Occasionally one or two people in the groups he spoke to were quite curious to know how Douglas came to have such advanced views on many topics. This often led Douglas to invite them to visit a group on Tuesday night to find out. Thus did the study group slowly grow to its current size of approximately 10 regular members with as many as 15 to 20 others attending on an occasional basis. Only a few have a command of the English language. The group initially relied on Douglas to verbally translate for them during meetings. In addition, Douglas prepared about 100 pages of study notes in Spanish which the members have had access to and which provide them with knowledge of some of the basics.

Douglas moved to Fresno, California, about one year ago and went to work for a manufacturing firm in the city. His purpose in making the move was to enroll his children in school in America in order that they could also become bilingual and biculturally educated. Douglas recently applied and became a member-at-large of URANTIA Brotherhood.

Although Douglas is residing in the United States for an indefinite period, the Colombian study group still frequently looks to him as their leader. The members send Douglas a cassette tape on a weekly basis containing their discussion and questions. Douglas regularly sends a reply tape offering his answers to their questions. In addition, the group struggles along with an English-Spanish dictionary. Carlos Zapata now functions as the area coordinator for the group. The group still meets on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. on the second floor of a restaurant owned and operated by Gloria Zapata. Thus has the revelatory knowledge of *The URANTIA Book* found firm root in Colombian soil.



Photos by
Lynne Kulieke

Photo Courtesy of
Douglas Fraser



Upper left: In Los Helechos Restaurant, standing from left to right: Jairo Urrego, J. Fernando Díaz, Capitán and Mrs. Tanco, Edmundo Gutiérrez, Susana Baquero, Jaime Varela, Fernando Jaramillo, Jorge Rincón, Aristóbulo Ballesteros Durán, guest. Seated: Pedro Baquero, Lynne Kulieke, daughter of J. Fernando Díaz, Mrs. J. Fernando Díaz, Mr. and Mrs. Pedro Aja, guest. Upper right: Standing from left to right: Carlos Zapata, María Elvira de Agudelo, Orlando Baquero, Ramón Ortiz, guest. Seated: Gloria Zapata, guest. Bottom left: Carlos Zapata, Pedro Baquero, and Dick Prince enjoy lunch together. Bottom center: Lynne Kulieke, Gloria Zapata and Dick Prince at the Zapata home. Bottom right: Douglas Fraser, founder of the Bogotá Study Group.

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The opening and closing sessions of the Triennial Delegate Assembly are open to observers; due to space limitations at the 533 Diversey building, observers of the brief opening and closing sessions this year will be restricted to General Councilors, Society Presidents, URANTIA Brotherhood Field Representatives, and spouses of the foregoing. The triennial sessions themselves are open only to delegates and alternates. In 1976, delegates deliberated approximately 8-10 hours in closed session, with alternates attending as observers.

General Council Meeting

Immediately following the Triennial Delegate Assembly, on August 19th, the Triennial Meeting of the General Council will occur. The Council will elect officers and fill committee positions on the nine standing committees including several chairmanships. Since the current Brotherhood president, Meredith J. Sprunger, has asked not to be considered for another term, the Council will definitely be electing a new president from among its members. The Council also annually considers major items of business and makes long-range policy decisions on important Brotherhood issues.

Triennial Milestones

URANTIA Brotherhood was formed on January 2, 1955 when the 36 members comprising the original General Council met and signed the constitution of URANTIA Brotherhood, elected officers, committee chairmen, and committee members.

That original organization was a provisional one designed to operate for the first nine years and thrust URANTIA Brotherhood through this formative period. Meanwhile as the first URANTIA societies were chartered, they were to provide the mechanism for launching the Brotherhood on its permanent constitutional path. In this initial nine year period, six URANTIA societies were chartered. Accordingly on August 20th and 21st, 1964, the first six delegates from these societies met and elected an entire slate of 36 people to the General Council in staggered terms; 12 for three years, 12 for six years, and 12 for nine years. Thereafter, terms for one third of the Council expire every three years. Twelve people are elected or re-elected at each triennial for terms of nine years. The assemblies also fill other positions on the Council made vacant by death or resignation.

The first assembly was a high point in the early history of URANTIA Brotherhood. It marked the beginning of the permanent organization. Each assembly since that time has constituted a milestone in the development of the Brotherhood. Those who participate in this important constitutional process experience a real sense of satisfaction. The 1979 Triennial Delegate Assembly will meet less than four months from URANTIA Brotherhood's 25th anniversary which will occur January 2, 1980. Only eight of the original 36 members of the General Council remain on the Council at this time. A new generation of URANTIA Book students is slowly assuming responsibility for the direction of URANTIA Brotherhood in its mission of

promulgating the teachings of *The URANTIA Book*.

The best wishes of many go to this triennial's representatives as they fulfill their important constitutional responsibilities.

Study Group News

On March 17, Carolyn and Tom Kendall, Martin Myers, and Scott Forsythe, all of the Chicago area, visited a very interesting study group in Connecticut. At the request of Tom Kendall, Chairman of the Domestic Extension Committee of URANTIA Brotherhood, George Park wrote the following account of the group's experience.

Three years ago a few serious students in the northeast United States, all members of groups in their own communities, started what has come to be known as the "Homework" group. They meet once every other month on a Saturday at six o'clock. Leadership rotates. A format originally used by a member of the group who is a gifted teacher has continued to serve well. This is simply a series of questions which the current leader prepares on a given topic. Several questions are assigned to each member, who is to research these and reply in depth. Topics have included The Supreme, Mind and Spirit, and Prayer and Worship. Sample questions from the latter topic are: What are the forms, purposes, and results of individual prayer and worship, of social prayer and worship? What is faith, and what is the relationship between faith and prayer or worship? What place does emotion have in the experience of prayer and/or worship?

Over a period of time, everyone takes part in discussion; the leader may moderate the discussion if this is needed. Exchange of ideas is free but not wandering.

It was early agreed that no time limit would be set on a topic; the current one, Prayer and Worship, is in its second year. The presenter is free to use any methods he or she wishes, and so far there have been formal written papers, charts, tapes, informal discussion, and a demonstration involving everyone present.

The original group numbered 11; slowly it has grown to 29, attendance averaging 23. The dynamics of groups vary in relation to size; while it is a different experience to study with 23 instead of 11, members still find it rewarding, some traveling 100 miles each way to attend. Energies are confined to study; no meal is served, but everyone brings snacks.

The group's cohesiveness and shared enthusiasm have evolved into the nucleus of the URANTIA Society of Central Connecticut.

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