



# URANTIA® Brotherhood BULLETIN

Summer 1981

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*Snowmass Village, site of the 1981 General Conference.*



*Nine hundred people gather in the pavilion.*

## GENERAL CONFERENCE DRAWS 900 TO COLORADO MOUNTAINS

The 1981 General Conference of URANTIA Brotherhood convened as planned June 28-July 2 at Snowmass Resort near Aspen, Colorado. The approximately 900 who gathered for study, recreation and fellowship included 681 adults, 36 teenagers, and 179 children from 41 states and 10 foreign countries. Countries represented were:

Argentina	Great Britain
Australia	Italy
Canada	Japan
France	Mexico
French Polynesia	Netherlands

Representatives from India also planned to attend but were delayed in travel and arrived after the conference ended. This was the biggest URANTIA meeting ever, almost double the size of the 1978 General Conference, which attracted 582. Over half of the people were attending their very first General Conference.

Registration opened Sunday afternoon, June 28. A social program was held Sunday evening to acquaint and reacquaint URANTIA Book readers from all over the world.

### Setting Breathtaking

Conference visitors stayed in a variety of resort units scattered along the mountain side at an approximate altitude of 8,000 feet. Snowmass Village offers a tightly clustered variety of restaurants, shops and other services to vacationers. The rush and gurgle of a mountain stream formed the constant background sound to many activities.

The central meetings were held in a large green and white striped pavilion which provided seating adequate for the entire assemblage. Presentations for medium sized groups and workshops were held in conference rooms, lobbies, and con-

dominium rooms throughout the resort area. Almost any movement required going up or downhill which, to those unused to the altitude, meant almost immediate breathlessness.

### Programs Inspirational

The Conference program of inspirational study got underway Monday morning, June 29. Conference Chairman Nancy Grimsley welcomed the assembly and introduced the opening speakers. Welcoming speeches were made by John Hales, President of URANTIA Brotherhood, and Thomas Kendall, President of URANTIA Foundation. Nancy Grimsley then read a message from Christy (E. L. Christensen). After these welcoming messages, David Elders delivered the keynote address on the conference theme, "The Individual's Relation to the Universal Father." Dave's clear and simple inspirational message was the love of the Father and our relationship with him: "Doubt not that the Father loves you."

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*Nancy Grimsley, Conference Chairman*

*David Elders delivers keynote address.*





*Executive Committee hosts openhouse.*



*The Celestials perform in the pavilion.*



*The art display drew many visitors each day.*



*Conference participants stop to visit in Snowmass Mall.*



*Snowmass Mall—heart of the village.*

## GENERAL CONFERENCE

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The morning program, coordinated by Marta Elders of the URANTIA Society of Central Connecticut, consisted of talks to large groups. These presentations were enthusiastically received. Those who made major presentations included:

John Andrews	Jim McNelly
Henry Begemann	Chick Montgomery
David Christowski	Martin Myers
Kaye and Bill Cooper	Richard Prince
Steve Dreier	Sally Schlundt
Marvin Gawryn	Father Robert Schuer
Bob Hunt	Lorrie Shapiro
Gard Jameson	Bill Sherwood
Peter Laurence	Mo Siegel
Alison Gardner Massey	Errol and Rochelle Strider
Harry McMullan III	

The afternoon program, coordinated by Lucile Faw of First URANTIA Society of Los Angeles, consisted of small workshops on a variety of subjects. Each day's offerings focused on a different theme. Themes for the three days were "The Individual's Personal Relation to the Father," "The Individual's Relation to the Father Through Interaction with One's Fellows," and "The Individual and the Growth of the Supreme." Sixty-six afternoon workshops were held; many were chaired by two people.

### Committee Events Held

The Education Committee presented a demonstration workshop on Monday afternoon as a sample of the teaching techniques used in its annual workshops. Approximately 75 people participated under the direction of 10 small group leaders.

On Wednesday afternoon, the Publications Committee held an open forum largely attended by newsletter editors and society presidents. Discussion was open to any issue of interest to participants. The International Fellowship Committee held a reception Thursday afternoon to meet and fellowship with international participants at the Conference.

On Tuesday afternoon, the Executive Committee with assistance by the Special Projects Committee hosted an open house where conference participants could meet with officers and Committee Chairmen of URANTIA Brotherhood to discuss issues and learn more about the work of the standing committees and Executive Committee.

### Special Programs Presented

Entertainment and inspirational presentations were scheduled in the pavilion each evening. A choral group called "The Celestials" made up of 50 URANTIA Book students from all over the continent performed nightly. The singers were directed by Waldine Stump of Oklahoma City. Many other individuals and small groups totalling 40 people offered their musical and dramatic talents.

A number of multi-media presentations were made, both afternoon and evening. These included "Lucifer/The Galilean" and "Theos 21—Toward the Spiritual Frontiers of the 21st Century" produced by David Kantor, Spiritual Renaissance Institute; "Men of Clay—Children of Fire" produced by First URANTIA Society of Oklahoma; and "A History of the URANTIA Movement" produced by the Publications Committee of URANTIA Brotherhood.

Berkeley Elliott, First URANTIA Society of Oklahoma, was the coordinator for special programs. David Kantor of the Spiritual Renaissance Institute and the San Francisco Bay Area URANTIA Society in Berkeley, California, acted as the sound technician for the entire conference. He was assisted by other members of his society.

Many conference goers and their families engaged in recreational activities coordinated by John Hay, Rocky Mountain URANTIA Society of Denver. These included horseback riding, whitewater raft trips, and chairlift rides up Aspen Mountain. A large number of people were combining the conference with a summer vacation, either lengthening their stay in the mountains

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or traveling before and after the conference to various parts of the West.

In the registration area, various works of art from URANTIA Book readers were on display throughout the conference. Collection of this material was coordinated by the Art and Display Committee chaired by David Kulieke, First URANTIA Society, Chicago.

### Last Day Unifying

On Thursday, July 2, all came together for a general assembly in the pavilion. During the morning program, the gathering was treated to a musical program presented by more than a score of children of conference attendees, and directed by Eileen Laurence, URANTIA Society of Central Connecticut, and Francyl Gawryn, San Francisco Bay Area URANTIA Society. The overall childcare and children's program for the Conference was coordinated by Linda McNelly, Rocky Mountain URANTIA Society of Denver.

Thursday morning talks included John Hales, "Participating in the Family"; Carolyn Kendall (Chairman, Fraternal Relations Committee), "Spiritual Revolution"; and Meredith Sprunger, (Fort Wayne URANTIA Society), "The Commission to Ministry—The Way Jesus Taught us to Relate to the Father." The talks of the last day showed the many ways we can minister to our fellows on the planet to help realize the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man on our world, Urantia. The closing address, "Our Mission and Message," was delivered on Thursday afternoon by Vern Grimsley, San Francisco Bay Area URANTIA Society. In the evening, an outdoor barbecue and social for the entire gathering closed the conference.

Tremendous thanks are due to Nancy Grimsley, Conference Chairman, and Marta Elders, Berkeley Elliott, Lucile Faw, John Hay, and David Kulieke, members of the Planning Committee. As is usual for such an undertaking, many more people than could be named here contributed their time, effort and talents to make the Conference an enjoyable and rich learning and sharing experience for everyone, old and new. This was the first time that overall planning, expediting, and conference location were outside of the Chicago area. Current plans of the Executive Committee are to hold a general conference every three years, alternating between Chicago and other locations. The next General Conference would be in the Chicago area in 1984.



On the last day of the conference, participants listen to Vern Grimsley and Francyl Gawryn.



The children make their presentation.



John Hales, President of URANTIA Brotherhood

John Hay, Colorado member of Planning Committee

### Conference Comments

We have received many letters mentioning the conference. Here are a few comments we wish to share:

"I enjoyed so much meeting you and all the other readers in Snowmass. The experience of receiving so much good will from so many people strongly reinforced my conviction that this is indeed the proper path to follow."

"What a glorious week in Snowmass with our Father and so many wonderful brothers and sisters! I will always cherish the spiritual inspiration and personal contacts of that week. My heartiest thanks to you and everyone who helped make it happen."

"It was a good meeting at Snowmass. I was especially struck—as were others—by the number of sublimely spiritual contacts and exchanges—far beyond mere good ideas and wise philosophy. It was very uplifting."

"We really enjoyed the conference at Snowmass! It was so well organized and planned and the topics were so very meaningful."

"We attended the URANTIA Conference at Snowmass and really were impressed with how harmoniously everything went and the thought-provoking speeches we heard—not to mention workshops... To hear how *The URANTIA Book* helped those attending overcome the negative aspect of their religious training was one of the most interesting experiences we've ever had and the workshop discussions were great."

"It was the most wonderful week we have ever spent and it will give us strength for the future... We just can't get over the love, fellowship, attitude, and spiritual pervasion of the conference... We have never seen anything like it—people who could be so spiritually dedicated and yet have so much genuine fun. True brotherhood of all kinds, sorts, and descriptions of people... We are still holding the marvelous 'glow' from the Snowmass conference."



## STATEMENT OF THE CURRENT THINKING OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF URANTIA BROTHERHOOD, 1981

*Editor's Note: The Education Committee recently issued the following statement of policy at the time of the General Conference. We plan to print policy statements of committees and other official groups from time to time.*

*The Education Committee coordinates URANTIA Brotherhood workshops each Summer. Dates for the 1982 Summer workshops will be announced soon. Five committees will sponsor workshops in 1982.*

### A. Brotherhood Educational Activities.

As individuals, the members of the Education Committee unite with readers of *The URANTIA Book* and other Urantians in that greatest of personal adventures, seeking to do the Father's will. As an arm of URANTIA Brotherhood, the fraternal organization of students of *The URANTIA Book*, the Education Committee has a social function. The Brotherhood constitution charges the committee to find, prepare, and qualify teachers for the purpose of disseminating the teachings of the book in order that each mortal may be aided in achieving his/her personal spiritual goals. Thus, it is the committee's task to encourage intensive study of the papers together with study of evolutionary knowledge, secular and religious. We do not maintain that such study is an end in itself, but we do affirm that it can be invaluable when coupled with communion between the individual and her/his Thought Adjuster, when enhanced by the individual's cooperation with other superhuman agencies, when assimilated into the individual's life pattern. The committee, in its coordinating role, arranges to bring people together on our time-space sphere where they, through the study experience, may contribute to their own education and to that of others by sharing.

### B. Workshops.

As part of the attempt to achieve the afore-mentioned aims, the Education Committee has initiated a series of workshops with the following specific objectives:

- 1) To provide a framework for study of the teachings of *The URANTIA Book* with the idea of improving quantitative and qualitative knowledge of these teachings.
- 2) To provide a laboratory practicum in which participants may try various techniques in and of the teaching/learning process for use in other situations (i.e. the local study group, the family). This practice in socializing learning may well facilitate the development of those skills which promote awareness of values and meanings in addition to facts.
- 3) To provide a climate in which personalities may interact cooperatively in such study—to provide generally yet another experience in living. The committee feels that other benefits not related to education (except in the very broadest sense) may accrue for both the individual and the group. The members enjoy speculating that these workshops may even become one of those alternative institutions of self-gratification which civilization is encouraged to develop. (p.772)

In the current series, three programs have been offered—1978, 1979, and 1980—either as part of a General Conference or in cooperation with other standing committees of the Brotherhood.

### C. Workshop for 1981 General Conference.

The committee would like to acquaint more readers of the book with the workshop activity outlined above. Hence, in 1981 we are offering a "demonstration" workshop consistent with the theme of the Conference. Our topic is "Recognition of the Gifts of the Father," with the focus on those gifts—not always obvious—that we can utilize as we pursue in depth our studies of the truths contained in *The URANTIA Book*. We are hopeful that the participants will become so engaged in this kind of activity that they will join in future workshops, broadening and deepening their own experience while contributing to the growth of others.

### D. Study Aids.

The Education Committee does not have the authority to make decisions on the reproduction and dissemination of study materials on *The URANTIA Book*. Such power rests with the URANTIA Foundation. It is true that the committee, operating through the Executive Committee of URANTIA Brotherhood, may make recommendations to the Foundation. However, the Education Committee has found from experience that the most valuable aids are those which, through study, one provides oneself and those which accompany personal interchange. Knowledge and understanding can also be strengthened by individual pursuit of interests "inspired" by reading the papers.

### E. Conclusion.

The committee hopes that this summary of its thinking, by no means exhaustive, will serve to promote an understanding of its concerns and functions.

Education Committee Members:

Marjorie Reed	Stephen Dreier
K. David Schlundt	Helen Carlson, Secretary
Marilyn Hauck	Lynne Kuliecke, Chairman

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