



URANTIA® Brotherhood BULLETIN

Spring 1985

Vol. 3, No. 1

URANTIA BROTHERHOOD CELEBRATES 30TH YEAR

On January 2, 1985, URANTIA Brotherhood celebrated its 30th anniversary. URANTIA Brotherhood was formed on the same day that URANTIA Foundation announced its "Declaration of Intention to Print *The URANTIA Book*"—January 2, 1955. On this day, 36 members comprising the original General Council met and signed the Constitution inaugurating the social organization concerned with the study and dissemination of the URANTIA teachings to the world. Thus URANTIA Brotherhood began to function before *The URANTIA Book* was published on October 12, 1955.

The selection of the first members to the General Council was of necessity a "bootstrap" operation. From "the Seventy," a group of Forum members who studied the papers intensively, 36 members were selected to serve for the first nine years of the Brotherhood until URANTIA societies could be formed to send delegates to the first Triennial Delegate Assembly (TDA). When the first TDA was held in 1964, there were five societies functioning. For this one and only time, the delegates elected all 36 members of the General Council. Terms were staggered so that all subsequent assemblies would elect one-third of the General Council. Six TDAs have been held since 1964, one every three years. Plans are underway for the eighth TDA, which will meet in June.

• Three Decades of Growth

In the first ten years only about 50 *URANTIA Books* per month were sold or distributed. A French translation was first published in 1962. Summer study sessions began in 1963. A comment from a publication of the period still seems appropriate: "Already numerous problems have presented themselves... and though we are one in purpose and united in goal, our reasoning on many matters is greatly diversified. We are learning the inestimable value of group thinking."

The second decade brought change and more rapid growth. By 1973, 10,000 *URANTIA Books* were sold per year, and 200-300 study groups were meeting. The first General Conference was held in 1975. Nine societies were functioning.

In the third decade, book sales fluctuated, now averaging over 7,000 books per year. The number of study groups is still estimated at 200-300; however, they are meeting in more countries, and some study groups have been meeting for many years now. The committee structure of URANTIA Brotherhood began to mature during this period. A French translation is again available, selling at the rate of approximately 2,000 books per year, and plans for the Spanish are underway. Our fourteen URANTIA societies provide increasing leadership and innovative projects. Many readers who are not members of URANTIA Brotherhood make valuable contributions to the purposes and activities of URANTIA Brotherhood.

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The First Triennial Delegate Assembly in session at 533 Diversey Parkway in 1964.

SEMINAR SET TO "FIND, PREPARE, AND QUALIFY TEACHERS"

The Education Committee has always taken seriously the commission in URANTIA Brotherhood's Constitution to "...interest... suitable persons in preparing themselves to teach the truths of *The URANTIA Book* and to prepare and qualify such persons to teach *The URANTIA Book*."

Current programs of the committee are directed more toward helping potential teachers help themselves prepare than in passing judgement upon ability to teach.

In past years, summer workshop and seminar programs were shared by two or more departmental committees. This year, however, full attention of the 1985 Summer Seminar participants will be given to the teacher participation program of the Education Committee, chaired by Lynne B. Kulieke (Highland Park, IL).

Announcements of the Summer Seminar are being mailed to the membership of URANTIA Brotherhood. This article in the Bulletin constitutes an invitation to all readers of *The URANTIA Book* who are interested in a teacher training seminar. They may request registration information from URANTIA Brotherhood.

Seminar Theme

The theme of the seminar will be: "Study of *The URANTIA Book*—Part I," a sequential study of the 31 papers in Part I of *The URANTIA Book*. This broad-ranging study program is designed to

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The Future Unfolds

Can we say we have made progress in our true mission—to bring the fifth epochal revelation to the world? Most *URANTIA Book* readers who have participated in fraternal activities with other readers would probably say they have learned from those experiences, grown in their ability to love, expanded their personal relationship with God, and increased in their ability to share spiritual concepts and experience with others. For many, home life is richer and more meaningful. It will be interesting to see how our contribution to the spiritual brotherhood of man evolves.

"All Urantia is waiting for the proclamation of the ennobling message of Michael, unencumbered by the accumulated doctrines and dogmas of nineteen centuries of contact with the religions of evolutionary origin. The hour is striking for presenting to Buddhism, to Christianity, to Hinduism, even to the peoples of all faiths, not the gospel about Jesus, but the living, spiritual reality of the gospel of Jesus." (1041)

REQUIRED OF COUNCILORS, TDA DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES: READ THE BOOK

Amendments to enhance the qualifications of persons elected to the General Council, the highest governing body of URANTIA Brotherhood, were enacted by the General Council August 11, 1984. Section 8.3 of the URANTIA Brotherhood Constitution was amended to read: "Any member of URANTIA Brotherhood in good standing who has read *The URANTIA Book* in its entirety shall be eligible to hold the office of Councilor, . . ."

Amendments were also passed requiring URANTIA Society delegates and alternates to the Triennial Delegate Assembly (TDA) to have read the book in its entirety. The revisions ensure that the status of delegates and alternates is consistent with that of Councilors.

The quality of the formal organization charged with dissemination of the revelation depends upon the knowledge and experience of those who direct its course. Familiarity with concepts of *The URANTIA Book* is a basic requirement for those persons, in the opinion of many.

From time to time, questions arise as to whether a complete reading of the book should not also be required for individuals elected to departmental committees and for all members of URANTIA Societies. To date, no thorough study has been undertaken concerning these two matters.

Members-at-large are required to read the book prior to acceptance by the Executive Committee as members of the Brotherhood. Members-at-large have been elected to departmental committees and even to the General Council. But the Council would carefully consider all of the ramifications prior to the enactment of any legislation that could affect the autonomy of local URANTIA Societies.

A URANTIA® Publication

CLYDE BEDELL 1898-1985

Memorial services were held January 26 in Boulder, CO, for Clyde Bedell, author of the *Concordex of The URANTIA Book*, a 430-page study aid widely used by students of *The URANTIA Book*. His death occurred January 22. He had remained active until shortly before that time, when a worsening heart condition overcame him.

Clyde Bedell was a charter member of First URANTIA Society. He served on the General Council of URANTIA Brotherhood from 1955 to 1964 and was a member of the Brotherhood's Domestic Extension Committee from 1955 through 1957. Mr. Bedell was a popular speaker at regional conferences, having a dynamic oratorical style and voice.

Prior to his retirement to devote more time to the *Concordex*, he was a widely recognized author and speaker on modern advertising techniques. He is survived by sons C. Barrie and Jeffrey, several grandchildren, and his sister Betty.

TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN FOR FRATERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee, at its November 9 meeting, appointed Dan Massey (Sherborn, MA) temporary chairman of Fraternal Relations Committee. He will serve in that capacity until the next General Council meeting, June 29, 1985, when he will either be elected to full terms as member and chairman, or another Councilor elected in his stead.

The chairmanship became vacant recently when Meredith J. Sprunger, after long and distinguished service on the General Council, resigned from the Council. Dr. Sprunger cited personal considerations and the desire to devote more time to outreach, as reasons for relinquishing the chairmanship. He continues as a member of the Fraternal Relations Committee, however.

A vacancy on the same committee had occurred earlier in the month when W.A. Van Valkenburgh, Jr. (Atlanta, GA) resigned because of increased business and family responsibilities. This position was filled by the appointment of Mr. Massey.

In related action, the Executive Committee accepted the resignation of James C. Mills (Tallahassee, FL) from the General Council. At his own request, the committee also reviewed his recent appointment as Field Representative. As in Dr. Sprunger's case, plans to pursue a personal outreach project were also cited. While he will no longer be formally representing the Executive Committee as a Field Representative, he will continue as friend and counselor to readers in the southeastern United States.

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Berkeley Elliott, International Fellowship committee chairman, meets with readers in France. From left to right: Fernand De Vinck, Belgium; Berkeley Elliott, Oklahoma, USA; Bob Plamondon, Province Quebec, Canada; Jean Royer, France.

GOODWILL VISIT TO FRANCE BY PRESIDENT AND IFC CHAIRMAN

Opportunity for free exchange of ideas among readers of *The URANTIA Book* is one of the main reasons for having general and regional conferences. However, the same economic factors that kept many North Americans home last summer from the General Conference at Green Lake, Wisconsin, also affected South American, Asian, and European readers. No one outside the North American continent attended.

Shortly after the conference, in September, John W. Hales, President of URANTIA Brotherhood, accepted a standing invitation from Jacques Dupont to pay a return visit to *URANTIA Book* readers in the Paris area. It had been April 1982 since Mr. Hales' last visit, when at that time he surprised them with URANTIA Foundation's newly published version of the long out-of-print French translation, *La Cosmogonie d'URANTIA*, now called *Le Livre d'URANTIA*.

Almost three years have passed since French readers were again able to purchase low priced copies of the translation. A new chairman of International Fellowship Committee (IFC) was elected in 1982, Berkeley Elliott, (Oklahoma City, OK), whom the majority of readers in Europe had not met. Mr. Hales believed it would be a good chance for her to become acquainted with some of our more distant students.

John Hales and Miss Elliott spent nearly a week at Mr. Dupont's home at Recluses, near Fontainebleau, with readers in discussion and fellowship. Besides many from the environs of Paris, there were several people who traveled great distances: Nigel Hornby, formerly of London, now living in Oslo, Norway; Fernand DeVinck (Braine-L'Alleud, Belgium); Bauk and Henry Begemann (Wassenaar, the Netherlands); and Jean Royer (Avignon, France). Also visiting France at the same time were Adele and Robert Plamondon (Montreal, PQ, Canada).

They expressed avid interest in the progress of the plans to develop a Spanish translation of *The URANTIA Book*. Mr. Hales and Miss Elliott listened to concerns the group had about the employment of professional translators. Most were reassured that there will be ample opportunity for careful checking by bilingual Spanish and English speaking believers before it is published by URANTIA Foundation.

URANTIAN JOURNAL BEGINS TENTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

The March 1976 Inaugural Issue of "The URANTIAN Journal of URANTIA Brotherhood" actualized the vision of several dedicated students of *The URANTIA Book* for a vehicle through which to share those deep understandings, rich inspirations, and fond aspirations which are inevitably generated in the hearts and minds of those who study these teachings. We intended that this "Journal" with the dedication and contribution of many in our community would evolve into a "true watershed of excellence in writings about man's spiritual condition." We believe that we are on the way to this goal, and ask each of you who has not yet subscribed or offered your work for publication to join us in our reach for excellence.

To whet your appetites sufficiently to stimulate the need to search for sustenance in the "Journal," here is a brief selection from our efforts over the years:

"The Brotherhood is quite possibly standing face-to-face with a challenge of destiny. It may be our task to actualize a new and living reality in human institutions—the truly person-centered organization. Such an institution could also faithfully follow the command to serve men as Jesus did. What a magnificent challenge this is!"

"There was a man once, who achieved perfection simply by loving God and serving man. He didn't set out to do great things in the sight of man, only good things in the sight of God."

"Every personality has a direct line to the Universal Father through the personality circuit, in addition to self-consciousness, and the priceless gift of free will. Since each personality on Urantia (and throughout God's universe) is original, it follows that each could be considered a "pattern personality."

"Prayer is self-reminding. It is like putting a letter on a clip inside your front door so you will remember to mail it when you go out. Prayer is putting a note in a place where your mind will notice it, to keep yourself on the path of progress."

"Look out and down and in well/and behold the sun storing in a blade of grass/transforming in the stomach of a cow/sleeping for epochs in the lump of coal/that leaps to life/that drives the wheels/that carry the lives like yours and mine/forward in space and time."

"Youth seeks recognition. Maturity tends to change the individual's perspective with a leavening of the importance of self."

"Only transformed individuals can create a transformed world. Only better men and women can fashion a better society; only advanced citizens can architect an advanced civilization. Man is a son of the Eternal, yearning eternity, a child of the Infinite, longing infinity. Man was created by God and for God and nothing but God can ever satiate that thirsting of spirit which burns like salt in his soul."

We hope that now you can no longer live without the quarterly sustenance of "The URANTIAN Journal." A subscription form is enclosed for your convenience. Please use it and join us in reaching for excellence. Thanks to each of you.

The Editors

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encourage teachers to enhance presentation skills on this material. The Seminar is scheduled for June 24 through 27 and, as in the past, will be held at Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, IL.

The Executive Committee's intent in wholeheartedly supporting the Education Committee's teacher training program is to emphasize just one of the three primary goals in these early years of fostering the revelation: the vital need for experienced teachers; establishment of thousands of study groups and the funding of numerous translations, being the other two.

ALMOST THERE

At its February 1-2, 1985 meeting the Executive Committee voted to contribute \$15,000 to the Spanish translation campaign bringing the total amount raised to \$336,000. With only \$14,000 needed to reach the goal, the Finance Committee is urging all who have pledged to meet their payment schedules and is appealing to those who have not yet pledged to help us over the top.

Plans are being formulated for contract negotiation with the translation company, and efforts of the teams of bilingual readers of *The URANTIA Book* are being coordinated for the process of checking the translation.

The International Fellowship Committee at its February meeting in Los Angeles reviewed the challenge of translating a work of the magnitude and depth of *The URANTIA Book* and expressed its appreciation for the wonderful support for the Spanish translation effort by the contributors of the campaign and its eagerness for the continuing progress of this latest effort to make the fifth epochal revelation available to a large part of the world's people in their own tongue.

Please make checks payable to Andite Corporation and mail to URANTIA Brotherhood, 533 Diversey Parkway, Chicago, Illinois 60614.

CONFERENCE CALENDAR

Oklahoma City, OK—March 8-9

Theme: "The Inevitabilities." Contact: Berkeley Elliott, 14 SW 97th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73139, Phone (405) 794-2978.

Kansas City, MO—May 3-5

Theme: "The Mastery of Self." Contact: Ila Hall, 8700 E. 110th St., Kansas City, MO 64143, Phone (816) 763-2008.

Tampa, FL—May 17-19

University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida. Theme: "Sharing the Glad Tidings (Loving Outreach)." Contact: Sharon Beasley, 109 E. Jersey, Brandon, Florida 33511, Phone (813) 681-7255.

Ontario Study Groups—June 7-9

Geneva Park, Orillia. Theme: "The Brotherhood of the Kingdom in Our Times." Contact: Ontario Regional Conference, 33 Ontario Street Apt. #405, Kingston, Ontario, K7L 5E3, Canada.

1985 Intensive Study Session—June 24-27

Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, IL. Contact: R. June Fain, URANTIA Brotherhood, 533 Diversey Parkway, Chicago, IL 60614, Phone (312) 327-0424.

Nashville Study Group—August 17-18

Pikeville, TN. Contact: Mrs. Melissa Wells, 3825 Sentinel Drive, Nashville, TN 37209, Phone (615) 383-7113.

Oregon URANTIA Book Family Reunion Conference—August 23-25

Silver Falls State Park, OR. Contact: Gerald & Robin Wisdom, 450 W. Cochrane Lane, Roseburg, OR 97470. Phone (503) 672-6982.

9th Midwest Conference for Students of *The URANTIA Book*—October 11-13

Wallen Place, Fort Wayne, Indiana. Theme: "Spiritual Perspectives for a New Age." Contact: Irene Sprunger, 4109 Plaza Drive, Fort Wayne, IN 46806 Phone (219) 745-4363.