



URANTIA® Brotherhood BULLETIN

Fall 1985

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1987 GENERAL CONFERENCE SET

The 1987 General Conference of URANTIA Brotherhood will be held August 2-7 on the campus of Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine. The Brotherhood officers announced the conclusion of negotiations with the College at the September meeting of the Executive Committee. Site identification was accomplished by members of the URANTIA Society of Central Connecticut, coordinated by Alison Gardner, past Society President. John Hales and Chuck Burton assisted in final site selection and negotiations.

Brotherhood President Dave Elders appointed Marilyn Kulieke, Chairman of the Special Projects Committee, as Chairperson of the 1987 General Conference. In a statement to the *Bulletin*, Ms. Kulieke said, "We are extremely excited about the General Conference. As we are just starting our planning process, we would like to encourage readers to provide their input. If you have any suggestions for the conference theme or other suggestions with regard to the planning process, please write to me at Chicago headquarters."

An *ad hoc* conference coordinating committee will be appointed in the near future. This group will, in turn, appoint *ad hoc* committees in the areas of program planning, site coordination, and special programming to execute the innumerable details of conference planning and operation.

The site of the 1987 General Conference, Bowdoin College, is located in the heart of Maine's scenic coastal region, about three hours from Boston, and less than an hour from Portland. The oldest college in the state, Bowdoin occupies a compact, picturesque campus on the outskirts of Brunswick, a typical small New England town. All facilities are within easy walking distance and provide full access for the handicapped. In addition to scenery, the Bowdoin campus offers extraordinary sports recreational facilities, including an Olympic pool and year-round ice skating rink (bring your own skates), as well as courts for tennis, squash, volleyball, etc. Several excellent golf courses are located nearby.

Registrants at the conference can arrive early and stay on in economical College housing for several days after the end of the formal program, allowing more time to savor the delights of rural New England. Early arrivals can also enjoy the Maine Arts Festival at Bowdoin, which ends immediately before the conference begins.

The Executive Committee hopes that the location of this conference in the Northeast will permit the participation of a range of readers who have been unable to attend previous General Conferences. The site is particularly convenient for readers in New England, Quebec, and the Maritime Provinces of Canada.

The *Bulletin* will publish regular updates to keep readers informed as plans mature for this important event.

COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITIES

Dear fellow readers of *The URANTIA Book*:

Random House Dictionary defines the word community as "...a social group sharing common characteristics or interests and perceived or perceiving itself as distinct in some respect from the larger society within which it exists..." Interestingly the word "community" comes from the same Latin root and is defined as "...that act of sharing, or holding in common; participation...association, fellowship...a group of persons having a common religious faith." A Melchizedek writes in *The URANTIA Book* that "The characteristic difference between a social occasion and a religious gathering is that in contrast with the secular the religious is pervaded by the atmosphere of communion." (1133:1) Finally, in Paper 99 (Social Problems of Religion), we should consider two additional statements—"Any religious belief which is effective in spiritualizing the believer is certain to have powerful repercussions in the social life of such a religionist. Religious experience unfailingly yields the 'fruits of the spirit' in the daily life of the spirit-led mortal." (1091:6) And, "Man can never wisely decide temporal issues or transcend the selfishness of personal interests unless he meditates in the presence of the sovereignty of God and reckons with the realities of divine meanings and spiritual values." (1093:2)

Now you might fairly ask just what this all has to do with URANTIA Brotherhood and the work we have to do together on behalf of this revelation. One answer might be that one of the most valuable benefits of this work is the opportunity to build a sense of community with many different types of people with whom we otherwise may never have come into contact. Further, because of the very nature of the work, this sense of community may be built not on social interaction, not on geographical proximity, not on racial or cultural commonality, but on the more enduring foundation of the communion of sons and daughters with our Universal Father. Thus, our true unity as a brotherhood would be manifest not in our backgrounds, our cohesiveness, our social warmth, or what we choose to do together on behalf of this revelation, but rather on the way we each contribute to group activities the common experience in the inner life of the final sovereignty of our Father.

One area in which this unifying quality is continuously tested is group decision-making, whether in study groups, societies, or centralized functional groupings. Often in our organizational deliberations, we will have two directly opposite solutions to the same problem. Since these opposite solutions usually come from sincere, committed, thoughtful peers, each group member is profoundly challenged in arriving at the best decision. Both approaches can be equally correct; neither one probably is totally incorrect; both may seem wise in their way. Since none of us presumes to claim absolute certainty for a particular avenue of approach or action, we must, therefore, make our decisions through the group process. This is

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indeed fortunate since it not only insures the dimensionality of any decision, but also enables us to practice the living blend of inner experience and outer expression which is often so difficult to balance. Thus, while "what" we do ends up as a group product, the "way" we work together to decide what to do is the personal responsibility of each individual involved; in this way our efforts to serve help us learn how to express the individual inner life in actions which literally create caring and effective group interactions.

I'm sure this reminds us all of Jesus' comments at the Gilboa Camp to his apostles and John's disciples as these committed men wrestled with the problems and difficulties which often separated them. Jesus would only speak to the twenty-four men on the subjects of sympathy, co-operation, and tolerance, and, in refusing to help them resolve their differences, said: "If you are in personal difficulty in your relations with God, come to me, and I will hear you and counsel you in the solution of your problem. But when you enter... upon the socialization of religion, you are destined to solve all such problems by your own decisions. Albeit, I am ever sympathetic and always interested, and when you arrive at your conclusions touching these matters of non-spiritual import, provided you are all agreed, then I pledge in advance my full approval and hearty co-operation." (1624:9) It seems noteworthy that Jesus pledged in advance to support whatever conclusion they arrived at, as long as they were in unanimous agreement. One might conclude that the very process of willfully and co-operatively working together to resolve their differences guaranteed the twenty-four men the input of those spiritual agencies whose very involvement insured Jesus' prior commitment of support. Can any of us doubt that it is the same for us today as we wrestle with questions not dissimilar to those the apostles and disciples dealt with?

Because we are geographically separated, and often diverse in culture, racial heritage, and language, building a sense of community among the readership of *The URANTIA Book* is not an easy task. Because we have consciously chosen not to become involved as a group in current social, political, or economic issues, some of the most common human bases for building community are unavailable to us. However, the development of a sense of true communion with our common Father and with each other may be the most durable and dynamic building block for community we can have. And the individual can make this contribution to family, neighborhood, nation, study group, society, or any other group.

While we may not always be able to affect "what" another person or group decides to do, there is no limit whatsoever on our ability to change the "way" we interact with others. "Even the work of this world, paramount though it is, is not nearly so important as the way in which you do this work." (435:7)

—Dave Elders

URANTIA® Brotherhood BULLETIN

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1986 INTENSIVE STUDY SEMINAR SET

Lynne Kulieke, Chairman of the Education Committee, has announced that an Intensive Study Seminar will be held at Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, Illinois, during the week of June 23-26, 1986. The program for this seminar will devote three days to the detailed study of Part II of *The URANTIA Book*. A fourth day will be reserved for thematic study.

Next summer's program is the second of a planned series of four dealing with the parts of the book in succession. Last summer over eighty people participated in a series of workshops on Part I, also held at Lake Forest. Enthusiastic response to that program, as well as constructive comments by attendees, has led to expansion and refinement of the program, as well as addition of a fourth day of activities for next summer.

The Education Committee has sponsored regular summer workshop programs, in a variety of formats, since the early 1970's. These programs differ from the more elaborate General Conferences, since they are designed to emphasize learning about methods for fostering study of *The URANTIA Book*, in addition to providing study participation in a topical program.

The current series of Intensive Study Seminars are organized to encourage program participation by the majority of attendees. Last summer, each registrant was offered the opportunity to present a short speech, or conduct prayer or worship, for a plenary session, or to lead a workshop.

The Education Committee believes that this active program participation by a large number of dedicated students will enhance the quality of study groups, society meetings, and conferences throughout the movement.

Be sure to return the enclosed card promptly to receive special mailings from headquarters about plans and registration for next summer's seminars.

ALASKA SOCIETY CHARTERED

A special air of anticipation and excitement surrounds the chartering of a new URANTIA Society. Brotherhood members who travel from distant areas to attend the chartering are as joyous and anxious for all to go well as are the prospective members awaiting the culmination of years of work, study, and planning.

For the September 1 chartering of the Northern Light URANTIA Society of Alaska, Pat and Tucky Hayes opened their arms, their hearts, and their home to all who would come. Alaskan readers of *The URANTIA Book* from Homer, Fairbanks, North Pole, and other areas arrived over a week in advance of the festivities. Many non-Alaskan guests were expected to come from "outside" (the lower 48 states).

Those arriving early headed out to the wilderness on a salmon fishing expedition with Tom Choquette, or took shorter local field trips. By the time the *Bulletin's* correspondent (Lucile Faw) arrived on the eve of the chartering, activities had reached a fever pitch in the Hayes home. Late in the afternoon the fishing party returned with a huge catch of salmon.

On Sunday the committee workers began arriving early and preparations continued as the sound system, electric piano, photographic equipment, and tables and chairs were set up. Leanne Flickinger brought a lovely cake which she had ordered especially for the occasion. The food tables were set up and people began arriving with food for the big celebration after the induction ceremony.

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1986 ANNUAL FUND DRIVE LAUNCHED

The annual drive to raise funds for outreach programs of Brotherhood committees and to meet regular operating expenses of URANTIA Foundation and URANTIA Brotherhood was launched November 25 with the mailing of pledge cards to over 4,300 readers of *The URANTIA Book* worldwide. In his accompanying letter, Finance Committee Chairman John Hay wrote, "Everyone has... favorite projects and ideas... Now, more than ever, they are getting done and great progress is on the horizon." Two thirds of Brotherhood operating income must be raised from contributions.

This year, more than in any previous year, Brotherhood financial needs have mushroomed. Major contributing factors to this growth in need are increased levels of outreach by Brotherhood committees and the growing workload of headquarters staff. Rapid growth of the library book placement programs of the International Fellowship and Domestic Extension Committees, and the expanded publication schedule for the *Bulletin*, planned by the Publications Committee, are but a few of the expanded committee activities which are currently dependent on reader contributions for their support.

In addition, the Brotherhood has for many years enjoyed the benefit of selfless, full-time volunteer service rendered by Helen Carlson as the person responsible for recording and processing of all orders for *The URANTIA Book*. With Helen's retirement this Fall, her work has been taken on by salaried Brotherhood clerical staff, necessitating increases in staffing and office space. Other factors tending to increase the cost of operations include ongoing projects to computerize many of the Brotherhood's operations.

Last Summer the Triennial Delegate Assembly greatly broadened the presence on the General Council of individuals living outside the Chicago area. At the same time, the Council changed the geographical composition of the Executive Committee to the degree that a majority of its members no longer reside in Chicago. While all Councilors personally bear the costs of their work for the Brotherhood, this geographical diversification creates increased needs for coordination and communication which largely fall on our small, but devoted headquarters staff, as does the need to support the increasing activities of a growing number of readers worldwide.

Historically, URANTIA Foundation and URANTIA Brotherhood have shared equally in contributions to the annual fund drive, unless the gift was directed otherwise by the donor. This year, for the first time, and in recognition of the rapidly growing work of the Brotherhood, the Foundation has agreed to a division of donations according to the relative needs of the two organizations. As always, donors may choose to direct their gifts however they personally feel is appropriate.

"There's a lot we can all do to spread *The URANTIA Book* and its teachings, and there's a lot more we can do when we all work together. We'd like to thank you in advance for your generous donation. If you have any questions or ideas, please feel free to call. May our Heavenly Father's love fill your heart," says John Hay in the solicitation letter from the Foundation and Brotherhood.

LIBRARY BOOK PLACEMENT SURGES

This past year over seven hundred copies of *The URANTIA Book* were placed in public libraries in the United States by the Domestic Extension Committee, according to Harry McMullan, Chairman. One dedicated reader, Vin Myers (Worcester, Massachusetts), was personally responsible for placing over four hundred books during a personal odyssey which took him on two trips to Canada traveling from the Maritime Provinces to the Canadian Rockies and returning across the northern tier of the United States.

The committee is now engaged in a direct mail campaign offering the book to over nine thousand public, university, and college libraries. Early returns from a test mailing indicate a final response rate in the range of three to six percent, resulting in placement of three to six hundred books. Other activities of this committee will swell this number beyond a thousand if funds permit.

MANY BOOKS PLACED WORLDWIDE

Berkeley Elliott, Chairman of the International Fellowship Committee, announced interim results for the committee's library placement program at the November meeting of the Executive Committee. Early in 1985, the committee offered *The URANTIA Book* by direct mail to 1400 English language university libraries outside the United States. This campaign has so far resulted in the placement of the book in 75 libraries in such diverse locations as Nigeria, India, Iran, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Israel, Ghana, Ethiopia, Tangier, Kenya, Sudan, Malawi, Syria, Spain, Portugal, Sri Lanka, Japan, Jordan, and Iraq, to name but a few. Requests resulting from this mailing continue to arrive in Chicago.

More recently, the committee offered the French translation of the book by direct mail to 3700 representatives of French language university libraries worldwide. In less than a month, this effort has produced 90 requests for *Le Livre d'URANTIA*.

In discussing these results with the *Bulletin*, Ms. Elliott was obviously pleased by the excellent early response to her committee's efforts and excited by the potential of such efforts for making the book accessible in a greater number of locations around our planet.

COUNCIL HOLDS RETREAT

A retreat for members of the General Council of URANTIA Brotherhood and Trustees of URANTIA Foundation was held November 9-11 at Cedar Creek Farm Seminar Center in New Haven, Missouri. Arrangements for the retreat were supervised by Marilyn Kulieke, Chairman of the Special Projects Committee. The program for the retreat was designed by Peter Laurence, Chairman of the Fraternal Relations Committee, with the assistance of various members of the *ad hoc* committee on philosophy.

Thirty-two councilors and trustees attended the retreat. Most arrived at this scenic site in central Missouri, located about an hour west of St. Louis, on Friday evening to participate in a reception hosted by URANTIA Brotherhood.

The formal program, dealing with ongoing attempts to develop a statement of guiding philosophy for the Brotherhood, began Saturday morning with an address of welcome and inspiration by Dave Elders, President. This was followed by a presentation of the retreat program and method by Peter Laurence and a discussion of the value system of *The URANTIA Book*, as applied to Brotherhood collective attitudes, by Dan Massey.

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PUBLICATIONS PLANS ANNOUNCED

The Publications Committee is working to improve communications among readers of *The URANTIA Book*, according to Dan Massey, Chairman. This activity includes an expanded role for the *Bulletin of URANTIA Brotherhood*, as well as new projects in such areas as citation standardization, media development, and use of computers.

Bulletin Expansion

The *Bulletin* will be published quarterly, beginning in 1986. In addition, the staff hopes to increase the number of regularly published pages from four to six as soon as available funds permit.

The expanded *Bulletin* will contain much material which has not previously been reported to the readership. Increased coverage will be provided for local and regional conferences, activities of local URANTIA Societies, and news of international readers. Three Publications Committee members serve as sub-editors responsible for these news areas. Neal Waldrop (Silver Spring, MD) coordinates conference follow-up reporting; Lisa Renn (Glenview, IL) organizes the collection of news from Societies; and Eileen Laurence (Armonk, NY) serves as the focus for international information.

Conference organizers, Society officers, and readers worldwide can help the *Bulletin* staff make this newsletter more interesting and informative. Send your letters to the Publications Committee in care Chicago headquarters. Deadline for the receipt of materials proposed for publication is the first week of January, April, July, or October. The *Bulletin* is mailed about eight weeks later.

Citation Standard

The Executive Committee has assigned responsibility for development of a recommended system of citation for *The URANTIA Book* to the Publications Committee. An *ad hoc* committee of readers interested in the citation problem has been appointed to develop and refine proposals for review by the Publications Committee.

Students of *The URANTIA Book* who are interested in the development of good methods for both popular and formal identification of quotations from the book are invited to write to the committee to join these deliberations.

Media and Computers

The Publications Committee plans to establish additional *ad hoc* groups to assist in other phases of its work. Roxy Alessandro-Ventola (Venice, CA) is working with the committee to develop access to reader expertise in media. Similar efforts in the area of computer technology are planned to start next year.

The Publications Committee hopes through these and other initiatives to expand the involvement and participation of the readership in the work of URANTIA Brotherhood.

STUDY GROUP DIRECTORY

Domestic Extension Committee of URANTIA Brotherhood requests that anyone whose study group does not appear in the *Study Group Directory* but would like it to appear there should send his name, address, and telephone number to:

Study Group Directory
URANTIA Brotherhood
533 Diversey Parkway
Chicago, Illinois 60614

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Following this plenary session, the group divided into one-on-one pairings to discuss personal differences of viewpoint on Brotherhood philosophy. Following lunch, the group divided into quartets. In each quartet members of four of the morning's pairs attempted to consolidate their developing attitudes. Members of the Executive Committee served as facilitators during this phase of the retreat.

After an evening of study, worship, social reversion, and relaxation, attendees convened Sunday morning in groups of six to further explore the resolution of philosophical differences under the guidance of members of the *ad hoc* committee on philosophy. Sunday afternoon's program consisted of a plenary session for review of work accomplished.

This retreat was the second such event, the first having been held in October 1982 at Green Lake, Wisconsin. By sponsoring these events, the General Council hopes to create experiences which foster the bonds of friendship and brotherhood which unite the council and the Brotherhood in service to common ideals. While the formal program of these retreats is valuable to individuals and the group, the greatest benefit to the council stems from the experience of interpersonal sharing in working groups of varying size and composition.

CONFERENCE CORNER

In August through October, from Maryland through Oregon, enthusiastic readers of *The URANTIA Book* were busy getting conferenced. The Tennessee volunteers led the way, being hosted on August 17-18 by Melissa Wells, Buddy Conley, and the rest of the Nashville study group. About 60 people attended, focusing on the life and teachings of Jesus. Harry McMullan's guest presentation "Jesus the Divine Man" drew a number of rave reviews.

"Communications" was the theme of the family reunion conference held August 23-25 in Silver Falls State Park, Oregon. Twenty-three children and over one hundred adults, accommodated in the park's lodges, cabins, and camping facilities, enjoyed numerous speeches and workshop sessions. Child care featured the cooperative supervision of parents and some of the older children, and was topped off by a children's "show." Gerald and Robin Wisdom were the overall coordinators.

On September 21, readers from the Washington, D.C., area sponsored the Sixth Central Atlantic Conference, which was devoted to examining *The URANTIA Book's* teachings on the inner life and its outward expression. Maureen Cragg and Neal Waldrop gave keynote presentations on the two halves of the conference's theme, and Earlene Green served as hostess and M.C. Forty-five people attended.

While summer verdure was yielding to the mellow hues of autumn, Meredith and Irene Sprunger hosted the Ninth Midwest Conference, held on October 11-13 at Wallen Place in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Fifteen children and one hundred adults were present, and the conference focused on the theme "Spiritual perspectives for a new age." As in Oregon, the children gave a lighthearted presentation on the final day.

On October 25-27 Dave Elders led extended discussions on the Foreword, the intimidating topic which brought eighty people to an Oklahoma City conference. Participants hailed from as far away as Texas, Arkansas, Tennessee, and Missouri. Michael Challis presided, and the weekend's festivities included several performances of classical music. Organizer Berkeley Elliott gave a multi-media presentation—just as at the preceding conferences in Nashville and Fort Wayne.

During the week of August 11, the Rocky Mountain Society sponsored an intensive workshop series on personal ministry. Presentations were given by Errol and Rochelle Strider, Bill and Kaye Cooper, Marvin Gawryn, Don Guimond, and Stan Hartman. Credits for planning, organization, and support accrue to Steve Rohrbach, Joan Batson, and Carol and John Hay. One "extracurricular" caught the spirit of the week: a day-long climb to the top of 13,500 foot Mt. Audubon, led by Don Guimond.

A cross-cultural crew of enthusiasts operated a booth at Tahiti's Fourth Festival of the Pacific Arts. In the course of eleven days last summer, hundreds of pamphlets were distributed, and 34 books were sold (10 in English and 24 in French). Reviewing their experience, the group of volunteers (Emmanuel and Rene Lou, Isireli and Martha Racule, Steve Shanahan, Don and Jeanette Guimond) emphasized the importance of finding just the right environment and presenting the teachings with the dignity and respect they deserve.

CONFERENCE CALENDAR

Second Chicago Area Miniconference—March 1, 1986

Prospect Heights, IL. Theme: "Spiritual Influences and our Responsibilities." Contact: David Kulieka, 320 Forest View Drive, Lake Bluff, IL 60044. Phone (312) 234-6204.

Kansas City Conference—Spring 1986

Further information in next *Bulletin*.

Conference of URANTIA Book Students of Inland Northwest—Early June 1985.

In or near Coeur d'Alene, ID. Contact: Thomas Orjala, 307 S. 19th St., Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814. Further information will follow.

Summer Seminar—June 23-26, 1986

Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, IL. Study: Part II of *The URANTIA Book*. Contact: June Fain, URANTIA Brotherhood, 533 Diversey Parkway, Chicago, IL 60614. Phone (312) 327-0424.

French International Conference—August 2-11, 1986

Near Paris, France. Further information in next *Bulletin*.

1986 Midwest Conference—August 8-10, 1986

Madison, WI. Theme: "The Presence of God." Contact: Brad Shrake, 9686 Stadt Road, Marshfield, WI 54449. Phone (715) 384-5922.

Boulder School—August 8-15, 1986, followed by a week-end August 16-17.

Boulder School, Boulder, CO. Theme: "Whole-hearted Living: Integrating the Secular and Spiritual Lives." Contact: Lou Meyer, Boulder School, 1622 18th St., Boulder, CO 80302. Phone (303) 443-8154.

Northwest Conference—August 17-20, 1986

Warm Beach Camp & Christian Convention Center near Stanwood, WA. Theme: "Reaching In—Reaching Out." Contact: Mrs. Patricia Bedell, 15213 72nd Ave. N.E., Bothell, WA 98011. Phone (206) 488-3712.

Nashville Group Conference—August 29-31, 1986

Fall Creek Falls State Park, Pikeville, TN. Contact: Melissa Wells, 315 54th Ave. N., Nashville, TN 37209. Phone (615) 383-7113.

NOVA OF 1572 EXPLAINED

"The most recent of the major cosmic eruptions in Orvonton was the extraordinary double star explosion, the light of which reached Urantia in A. D. 1572. This conflagration was so intense that the explosion was clearly visible in broad daylight." (458:5)

In the August 1985 issue of *Scientific American*, on pages 88-96, three scientists from the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory in Cambridge, Massachusetts, present an article entitled "Young Supernova Remnants." This article is of particular interest to scientifically inclined readers of *The URANTIA Book*, since it presents a discussion of the nova of 1572 in terms of current thinking about the causes of such events.

The story begins in November 1572, when, as a young man, the Danish astronomer Tycho Brahe found a "new star" in the constellation Cassiopeia. Tycho observed the star from its appearance, when it was as bright as the planet Venus, until its disappearance in March 1574. Tycho drew an important philosophical lesson from his observations—that the ancient Aristotelian dogma, which asserted the immutability of the realm of "fixed stars," was false. This realization, supported by an observed event, contributed to the intellectual climate from which sprang the later work of Copernicus, Kepler, and Newton.

In 1935, the Indian astrophysicist Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar showed that a star which is at least 40% more massive than the sun will, after exhausting its sources of energy, eventually collapse into an extremely dense sphere of matter which explodes violently.

Current theory holds that one class of novas, called Type I, are actually explosions occurring in double star systems. One member of such a double star system is an old, energetically exhausted, and very dense white dwarf star. If the white dwarf orbits close to a normal companion star, its intense gravity will draw matter from the surface of the second star. Eventually, the mass of the white dwarf will grow beyond Chandrasekhar's limit, leading to a violent explosion which disrupts both stars. Another class of novas, called Type II, do not arise from double stars, but occur as natural events in the evolution of single, massive stars.

In 1952, the remnant of Tycho's nova was discovered with the 250-foot radio telescope at Jodrell Bank. In the years since its discovery, Tycho's remnant has been extensively mapped by radio telescopes and, most recently, by the orbiting Einstein X-ray Observatory. These observations show that Tycho's remnant resulted from the explosion of a double star, as stated in *The URANTIA Book*.

The *Scientific American* article is accompanied by a number of dramatic images of supernova remnants, as well as by a charming period engraving illustrating the location of Tycho's "new star" in the heavens.

STUDY AIDS

In response to a resolution passed by the General Council, the Special Projects Committee of URANTIA Brotherhood has developed a plan to collect and disseminate information about study aids. This pilot effort, called the *Study Aid Resource Guide*, will be a collection of titles and summaries of written, audio visual, graphics, and computerized study aids. Approval was given by the Executive Committee at their November 11 meeting to begin implementation of this project. More information will be forthcoming in the next issue of the *Bulletin*.

Chartered from Page 2

Finally, nearly everyone was present and the long-awaited induction ceremony began. On hand representing the Brotherhood were its new President Dave Elders, immediate Past President and new Secretary-General John Hales, Chairman of the Charter Committee Steve Dreier, and committee members Mary Lou Hales and Lucile Faw. Also present were Tom Allen (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma) and Bobbie Dreier (Teaneck, New Jersey).

The well-planned ceremony designed by the incoming society began with a song played on the electric piano by Heidi Hermansen and led by Jeanne Phillips. The song, "Ordinary People," composed by Danniebelle Hall, had been taught to the group and rehearsed the night before. It is a beautifully appropriate song emphasizing God's use of each of us who is willing no matter how little we may have and be. Following the song, a special prayer was read by Leanne Flickinger and fourteen passages from *The URANTIA Book* were read by members of the group and their guests.

Steve Dreier continued the official ceremony by presenting a statement of the ideals and purpose of a URANTIA Society. Mary Lou Hales read the purpose of URANTIA Brotherhood from Article II of the Constitution. Lucile Faw administered the pledge to all Founding and Charter members in unison, inviting all other Brotherhood members present to renew their pledge at the same time. As their names were called alphabetically, first the Founders and then the Charter Members present came forward to sign the membership book.

When the last person had signed the book, Steve Dreier presented Charter number 15 to Tom Choquette, the acting society President. The membership book was also presented to the society.

Welcoming and inspirational remarks were delivered by Dave Elders, after which the ceremony closed with a song and unison recitation of the benediction.

A brief formal meeting was held for the election of officers. Tom Choquette was elected President; John Andrews, Vice President; Deborah Foster, Secretary; and Barbara Maier, Treasurer.

A period of joyous brotherhood shared in hugs and happy chatter was followed by a return of the children from their supervised play and lots of food for all. The afternoon afforded a wonderful opportunity for people from many diverse areas to become acquainted and to learn more about each other. With almost all of the 43 new members present along with families and many well-wishers, the house and grounds were well-filled.

Those living farthest away gradually began departing on their homeward journey. Finally, the remaining party adjourned to a nearby Chinese restaurant for dinner hosted by the guests from outside to give some measure of thanks to their many hospitable friends.

Over the next few days, each departing outsider was accompanied by a freshly frozen salmon from the previous week's fishing expedition.

LETTER FROM ALASKA

The newly chartered Northern Light URANTIA Society of Alaska cordially invites you to help us celebrate our first calendar year by joining us in a year of studying *The URANTIA Book* together.

We feel that one of the most important duties we have as individuals is to truly learn what the Father's will is for each of us, and the best way to accomplish this is to better know the Father of that will, and as much as possible his purposes for us and all of existence.

The URANTIA Book tells us on page 2097 that "The great challenge to modern man is to achieve better communication with the divine Monitor that dwells within the human mind." To help achieve this we should try personally to get to know our Father more completely. And what better way is there of getting to know our Father than through prayer, and a complete study of the revelatory knowledge of *The URANTIA Book*, which our Creator Brother has chosen to send us to heighten our spiritual awareness of truth, beauty, and goodness, and of our perfect Father within us.

To know the Father more is to love the Father more. To love the Father more is to love ourselves more. To love ourselves more is to love our brothers and sisters more. The more we love our brothers and sisters, the more we can service and align our will with the Father's will for us.

Therefore, we invite students from all over the world to join together in one grand reading of the book. As many as will, let us read the book together in 1986. We can do this individually or with our families, or however we desire, but let us do this reading in addition to our study groups, societies, and URANTIA Brotherhood activities. Mostly, let us do it all together, progressing through the book this one time in synchrony. Beginning at the front, on Wednesday, January 1, 1986, let us read four papers a week, each week, until we are finished, just before Christmas of 1986. A year-long Christmas present dedicated to Jesus, and the greater glory of our Father.

For those of you who wish to join us, we are enclosing the address of our Society for you to send your name and address to. We will keep you informed and encouraged on a monthly basis. Let us keep each other inspired and motivated.

Please join us in this coordinated study effort and help us make 1986 truly a "Year of Study." Please feel free to pass this on to others who may be interested.

Not our will, but the Father's will be done in our lives. God bless and guide you.

Northern Light URANTIA Society of Alaska
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