



# URANTIA® Brotherhood BULLETIN

Spring 1986

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## 1987 CONFERENCE PLANS PROGRESS

The next General Conference of URANTIA Brotherhood will be held August 2-7, 1987 at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine. All interested readers are urged to set these dates aside on their calendars now. A formal announcement of the conference, with more detailed information about the site, program, and arrangements will be mailed to all recipients of the *Bulletin* during the Summer, according to Marilyn Kulie, Conference Chairman.

The site chosen for this conference, Bowdoin College, is located in the heart of Maine's scenic coastal region, and provides many opportunities for personal and family recreation to supplement the delights of fellowship with other students of *The URANTIA Book* from throughout the world.

Planning for this major event is continuing. Most URANTIA Societies and many reader groups will be sending representatives to the Conference Advisory Committee meeting to be held at Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, Illinois, on June 22, 1986. This meeting will develop the ideas of the participants into recommendations for all areas of conference organization and operation. The products of this meeting will be acted on by the Conference Planning Committee to develop and implement the detailed plans and programs associated with conference operation.

## FUND DRIVE SUPPORTS EXPANSION

A letter soliciting contributions and pledges to support the work of URANTIA Foundation and URANTIA Brotherhood was mailed to readers on May 21. According to Finance Committee Chairman John Hay, this letter complements the initial request mailed last November, and is intended to remind readers of the organizations' continuing need for financial support and to explain the work performed with these funds. All readers of the *Bulletin* who have not already contributed are urged to read John Hay's letter and to respond generously to help continue the important work of our organizations. The following brief items highlight some of the ongoing activities which your contributions help to support.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

"Effective and wise leadership. In civilization much, very much, depends on an enthusiastic and effective load-pulling spirit. Ten men are of little more value than one in lifting a great load unless they lift together—all at the same moment." (p. 911:2, p. 911:7-10, Paper 81.6.37)

Dear fellow reader of *The URANTIA Book*:

During the weekend of April 18-20, thirty-one members of the General Council and several of their spouses gathered in Orlando, Florida for a thirty-two-hour seminar program to build an action plan to help us in our work over the coming months and years. This program was called a DesignShop™ because our objective was to design and build our plan through a group process which emphasized a system approach that combines the normally linear stages of typical business planning.

There is no doubt that each of you has had the experience with just a single other person of only approximate understanding of what that person means by what s/he says. Some of what we've learned from *The URANTIA Book* explains to us the combination of elements which seems to contribute to this inability to fully understand another person—unique personality, genetic and cultural heritage, differential experience, sex, and mindal system, to name just a few. You can imagine, and have no doubt experienced, the difficulty in attaining understanding when the group is expanded to more than thirty. So this task, which the General Council set for itself, to build a program which would satisfy the ideas and opinions of not only these Councilors but as many other committed readers as possible, is frankly awesome. As is typical in any gathering of human beings charged with reaching some form of unity, there is tremendous tension between those ideas which symbolize the need for speed and action, and those which symbolize the desire for patience and measured activity.

The DesignShop, rather than simply selecting one idea from two that are opposing, or a watered down compromise of both, seeks to force the participants to reach for a plan or program which will contain contending ideas. While this sounds impossible, I believe that those who participated in this process will attest to its power to facilitate this result. It is not easy. Personally, I can tell you that it has been for me one of the most provocative and joyful experiences I have shared with my peers on the General Council.

The experience itself reminds one of the need in everyday life to be aware of the simultaneous existence of unity and diversity. In fact, awareness itself is not even sufficient; there seems to me to be the further need to live and act in the reality generated by the Father's expression of

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*Message from Page 1*

both of these dimensions. In a meager attempt to offer you at least one person's sense of this experience, I would say that the DesignShop forces that very awareness and requirement to act on the participants in a concentrated time and place.

The experience, like life itself, powerfully demonstrates the fact that planning and execution are more verblike than nounlike. This is analogous to the process of raising a child. On occasion, it is perhaps appropriate to have a fixed achievement level or behavior goal for a child; however, even the best of planning cannot anticipate the participation of a living child in the plans. As a result, the process must contain the built-in recognition and appropriate mechanism to ensure the dynamism necessary for life itself. In other words, this weekend's experience proved that any planning we might do must take into account the life, experience, and sovereign will of both the planners and those we intend to reach through the plan.

It was my experience that this process stimulated an enormous amount of creative effort in a relatively short time period. We, as a group, have a lot of work ahead of us. Not only will the Council digest, organize, express, and act upon the results of our weekend together, but also, and more importantly, we will be better able over the coming months and years to share both the experience and its products with each and every one of you. Please make it a point to engage one of the participants in an active and personal dialogue so that you might better share in what we learned together.

In fellowship,  
Dave Elders

## The Design Process: A VIEW FROM OUTSIDE

The warmth, truth, honesty, nurturing, and passion for excellence flowing from the individuals of this group made it relatively easy for me to understand why *The URANTIA Book* and URANTIA Brotherhood attract readers and members to their teachings.

I felt an overwhelming willingness to clarify thoughts, ideas, and concepts through a tolerant, sharing attitude—as well as the determination and desire to painstakingly craft conversations to serve each other and the group. A true desire for the energy to merge and transcend to a high order of work and contribution radiated throughout the Management Center during the daylight and evening hours.

It was apparent that the entire group was assertively trying to reach beyond their shyness and their own being to stretch themselves toward the new challenges and opportunities facing them at this point in their pioneering explorations. This special weekend of interaction has affected my attitude and knowledge base in a positive manner, and it is obvious to me how the same catalyzed response could be generated in those who attended the DesignShop.

Bonnie McIntire Smith

*Ms. Smith was a guest support staff member during the DesignShop. She has substantial credentials in planning, management, and research.*

## WHAT IS A DESIGNSHOP™?

The DesignShop is a multistage process through which a group explores potentialities and needs, progressively developing an approach for the effective application of resources. This method was developed by Matt and Gail Taylor, who personally conducted the seminar for the General Council of URANTIA Brotherhood.

The program began early Friday morning, as each participant presented to the group predictions of future events, particularly those which would be pivotal for planetary cultural development. Each participant also expressed a personal view of his or her projected role in the URANTIA movement. The ideas of all were combined into a scenario of world events covering the next hundred years.

The group next divided into a number of teams, each of which was tasked to create a myth, a "future history" of the next fifty years of URANTIA movement development. After reporting, discussing, revising, extending, and re-reporting their ideas, the teams regrouped to address more specific subjects in the third round of the program.

Seven design teams were formed. The Taylors selected seven specific projects, based on ideas presented in the first two rounds, and tasked each team to design an approach to one of the projects. The projects designed included a library for the URANTIA movement, an approach to selling 75,000 books per year, a strategy for overcoming criticism, a "year of togetherness" for the movement, and a plan for economic vitality.

The participants convened in plenary session Saturday morning for a lively discussion of these ideas, after which new groups were formed, with half the Councilors and spouses participating in small seminars on organizational finances, priorities, principles, and present reality, while the others observed a structured interview of three Councilors which Matt Taylor conducted.

By this time, the Council had experienced a considerable amount of formally structured exploration of ideas and opinions. After an interlude for free expression, the group convened to determine its work for the remainder of the seminar. Four major areas were defined and addressed by a total of six design teams. These major areas of concern are spiritual growth, programs and services, outreach to non-readers, and organizational goals and structures (three teams). The six teams reported their results on Sunday morning.

The spiritual growth team clearly enunciated the primary importance of spiritual growth to the organization, the movement, and the planet. The movement desires to create an environment and to foster spiritual attitudes conducive to spiritual growth. The Brotherhood can help accomplish this by providing example, opportunity, and encouragement, without in any way legislating individual or group practices.

The programs and services group developed a rich and informative model for the relationship of resources, Brotherhood agencies, and groups being served. A report on the work of this team is provided in a separate article in this issue of the *Bulletin*.

The outreach group developed a detailed analysis of problems and possible solutions in the areas of contact with international readers, book sales, and study group development. The team felt that most of their ideas could be readily implemented, but that, because of limitations on available resources, the individual tasks would require careful prioritization.

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# MODELING OUR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The following report was prepared at the conclusion of the DesignShop by Lucile Faw, who participated in the team which designed programs and services for URANTIA Brotherhood during the DesignShop.

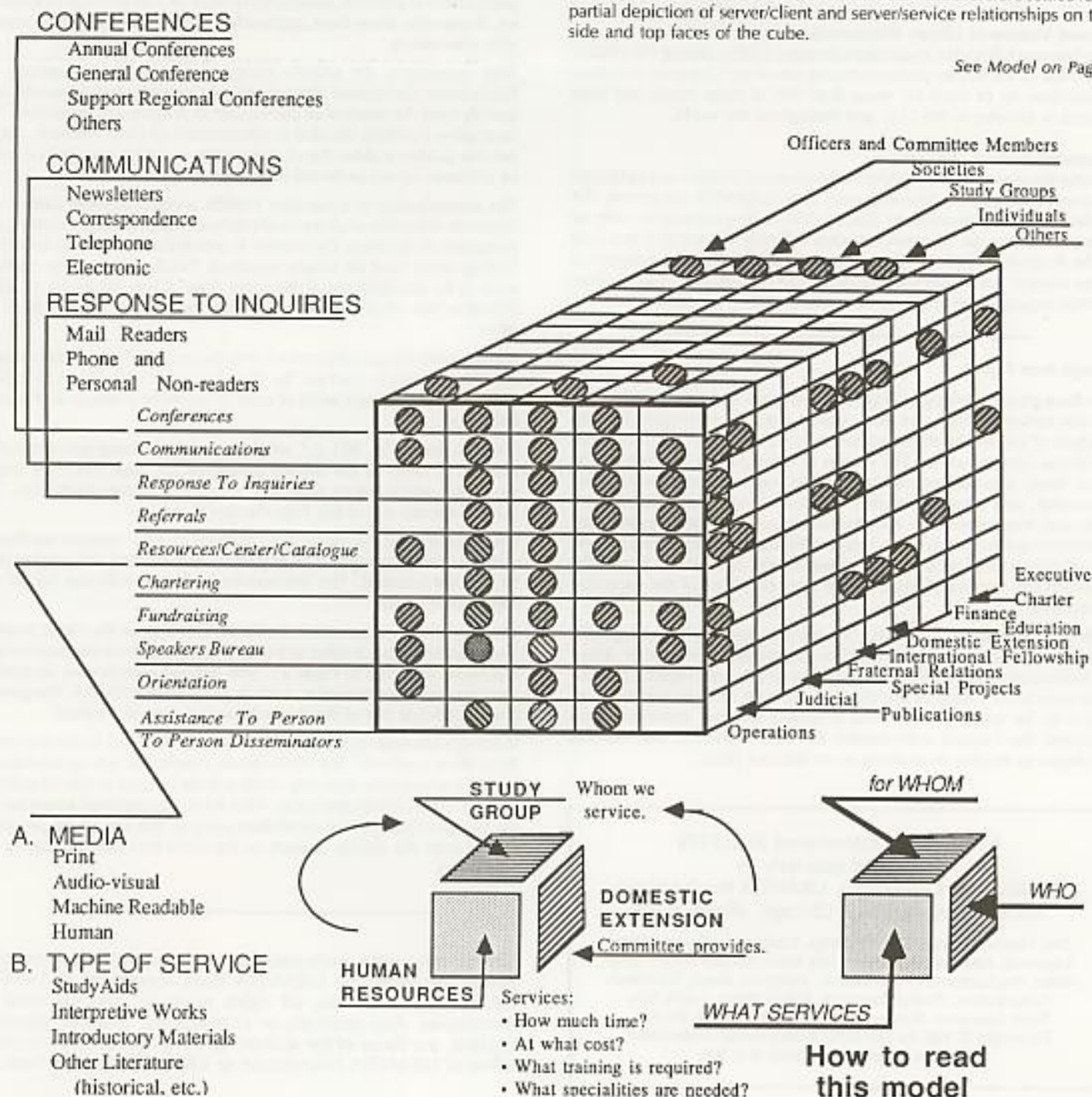
During the afternoon of the second day, the group broke up into design teams of five to seven persons, each working on an area of URANTIA Brotherhood function or structure. One seven-member team spent roughly six hours developing the enclosed graphic depicting services and programs for present and future readers of *The URANTIA Book*.

The easiest step was listing the types of programs and services that appeared to be both possible and useful ones for the next few years. Next, a list of persons and organizations to be served was developed and, finally, the committees and organizations available to initiate or provide these services and programs were listed.

The most difficult phase of the process was depicting it in a visual manner. The group determined that a cubical layout best pictured all phases of the process. Since only two dimensions could be pictured at one time, the group first focused on depicting the association between services and groups served (clients), which yielded the information depicted on the front face of the cube in the accompanying diagram.

The team recognized that much more thought and time would be needed to add the third dimension in full detail and therefore settled for a partial depiction of server/client and server/service relationships on the side and top faces of the cube.

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Drive from Page 1

#### Spanish Translation Begun

URANTIA Foundation has announced the conclusion of negotiations to begin translating *The URANTIA Book* into Spanish. The work is scheduled to be completed in 14 months from inception. Typesetting and production of a book from the completed translation will require some additional time. Foundation staff has begun to plan the details of the operation, which will involve the support of dedicated readers in Spain, Bogota, and the U.S.

#### Record Book Shipments Reported

During the year ending April 30, approximately 11,000 copies of *The URANTIA Book* were shipped to readers and bookstores worldwide. According to John Hales, Resident Director, this unprecedented level of activity was achieved even though extensive reorganization of headquarters operations occurred during the same time period.

#### Record Volume of Library Placements

Late last year URANTIA Foundation donated 1200 copies of *The URANTIA Book* to the library placement program of the Domestic Extension committee. As of April 30, more than 900 of these books had been placed in libraries in the U.S. and throughout the world.

#### Expanded Bulletin Produced

During the past year the *URANTIA Brotherhood Bulletin* has published 20 pages of news and views important to the URANTIA movement. The *Bulletin* is mailed quarterly to about 5,000 readers worldwide, with no subscription charge. Observant readers will note that the type size used in the *Bulletin* has been progressively reduced to permit the inclusion of more news in each issue without increasing printing and mailing costs. Further expansion of coverage depends on your support.

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The three groups working on organizational goals and structure provided a wide variety of important and creative suggestions ranging from an analysis of present Brotherhood functions to a plan for complete constitutional reconstruction. The reports of these groups engendered the most lively discussions of the DesignShop, as commercial, governmental, and apostolic models for Brotherhood organization were reviewed. Many interesting ideas for future consideration emerged, such as increasing the representative nature of Brotherhood governing bodies, establishing a clear separation of power for the judicial function of the Brotherhood, and redefinition of the responsibilities of the Executive Committee.

In its final effort of the three days, the group began work on design of a synthesis of these four themes which would relate one to another, allow for limitations on and development of resources, and project a plan for near-term action. Most of the detailed planning of these initiatives remains to be accomplished. The weekend seminar experience has equipped the Council with models for idea expression and conflict resolution to employ in devising more detailed plans.

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## CITATION STANDARD PROPOSED

The Publications Committee has prepared a draft Citation Standard for use with *The URANTIA Book*, which has been approved by the Executive Committee and will be considered for adoption by the General Council at its June 1986 meeting. Observant readers of the *Bulletin* will note that references to the book appearing in this issue are presented in this new form.

Thirty-six members of URANTIA Brotherhood, including the members of the Executive Committee and the Trustees of URANTIA Foundation participated in a review, conducted by mail, of a wide range of possibilities. Eventually, three basic approaches to citation emerged as reasonable alternatives.

After considering the relative merits of these three alternatives, the Publications Committee determined that no one method would adequately meet the needs of all users under all possible circumstances. The committee therefore decided to recommend all three methods, and to provide guidance about the circumstances in which one method might be preferred or not preferred in relation to the other two.

The promulgation of a standard citation method requires careful and complete definition of all terms of reference, such as page, section, and paragraph. In addition, the manner in which the citation is to be written (orthography) must be clearly specified. Finally, since three methods were to be standardized at the same time, it was necessary to adopt orthographies which would readily distinguish one method from the other.

For example, the quotation which introduces Dave Elders' letter on page 1 of this *Bulletin* is cited as: "(p. 911:2, p. 911/7-10, Paper 81.6.37)." This provides an application of each of the three methods to the same reference.

The first entry, "p. 911:2," employs the Page:Paragraph method of citation. It refers to the second paragraph on page 911. The partial paragraph which begins page 911 is counted as paragraph zero. The colon indicates use of the Page:Paragraph method.

The second entry, "p. 911/7-10," is based on the Page/Line method. It refers to lines 7 through 10 on page 911. The heading at the top of page 911 is not counted. The fraction-mark always indicates use of the Page/Line method.

The third entry, "Paper 81.6.37," is an example of the Paper.Section-Paragraph method. It refers to the 37th paragraph from the beginning of numbered section 6 in Paper 81. This method permits easy location of the reference in a translation, such as *Le Livre d'URANTIA*. The periods always indicate use of the Paper.Section.Paragraph method.

In citing a reference to the book it is normally sufficient to use any one of these three methods. The Publications Committee has recommended that no method other than one of these three be used in official publications of URANTIA Brotherhood. After formal adoption of a standard by the General Council, the committee plans to prepare a brief pamphlet setting forth the details of each of the three methods for use by the readership.

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## DESIGN TEAM PLAN INITIATED

At the most recent meeting of the Executive Committee, May 2-3, a proposal of Brotherhood President David Elders was adopted for continuation by the General Council of planning work begun in Orlando. Under this plan, design teams will be established to work in six broad areas. Each team will consist of from three to nine Council members.

Each team will organize itself and its work according to the shared wisdom of the team members. Additional team members will be selected by the team itself, as needed to support the work of the team. The teams will report their results at an informal meeting of the Council in January 1987. The plans and recommendations resulting from this meeting will be presented as a part of the program of the 1987 General Conference, to be held at Bowdoin College, in Brunswick, Maine, August 2-7.

Each design team will not only plan the implementation of programs and services but also develop strategies for securing the resources needed for implementation. In effect, each team will have complete latitude in performing its work and making its recommendations, subject to existing limitations such as available resources, evolutionary timing, concerns of URANTIA Foundation, and commitments to protect the copyright and registered marks.

The six subject areas for the design teams were identified by analysis of the work products developed by Councilors and spouses attending the Orlando seminar. Topics around which significant degrees of consensus developed were selected. These topic areas are:

1. Study group development
2. Programs, services, and resources development.
3. Book sales, marketing, and distribution.
4. The personal and spiritual component in our work.
5. Communications from printed to electronic.
6. Internationalization of URANTIA Brotherhood.

While the work of the design teams will overlap the areas of responsibility of the departmental committees of the Brotherhood in many ways, it is expected that the design teams will assume creative initiative and the departmental committees will focus their efforts on actual implementation of recommended programs. The fact that the areas of design team responsibility do not directly coincide with areas of committee responsibility should lead to productive cross-fertilization.

## INTERNATIONAL NOTES

The editors of the *Bulletin* invite our readers worldwide to write with news of their activities and adventures. Correspondence should be addressed to Eileen Laurence, 512 Bedford Road, Armonk, New York 10504.

Dr. Probal Dasgupta, Deccan College, Post-Graduate and Research Institute, Pune 411 006, India, writes: "Contacts in this country...tend to be tenuous...it is understandable that I don't know about people in India who may be reading *The URANTIA Book*. I am happy to report that my progress in studying the book for the purpose of a comparative review has been interacting in positive ways with my independent study of philosophy, its points of contact with linguistics, and Indian philosophy. It is beginning to seem likely that there are specific ways...in which the approach of *The URANTIA Book* and certain aspects of Indian traditions are strictly complementary and thus enrich our understanding of the problems in a beneficial interactive way."

## CONFERENCE CALENDAR

July 18-25, 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.

August 3-11, French International Conference. Chateau de Montvillargenne, Gouvieux-Chantilly, near Paris. Contact: Mr. George Michelson-Dupont, 3 bis Grand Rue, 77940 Blennes, FRANCE, or Berkeley Elliott, 14 S W 97th St, Oklahoma City, OK 73139. Phone: (405) 794-2978.

August 8-10, Midwest Conference, Madison, WI. Theme: "The Presence of God" Contact: Brad Shrake, 9686 Stadt Road, Marshfield, WI 54449. Phone (715) 384-5922.

August 17-20, Northwest Conference. Warm Beach Camp & Christian Convention Center near Stanwood, WA. Theme: "Reaching In—Reaching Out" Contact: Roy Healy, 3506 Corsica Way, Vancouver, BC, CANADA V5S 4J3.

August 29-31, Nashville Group Conference, Fall Creek Falls State Park, Pikeville, TN. Theme: "Beliefs and Ideals of Jesus" Contact: Mrs. Melissa Wells, 315 54th Ave., N. Nashville, TN 37209. Phone: Home (615) 383-7113. Work (800) 251-2561, X2647.

September 12-14, 1986 Florida Conference. Palm Beach, Florida. Sponsored by South Florida URANTIA Book Study Groups. Theme: "Living in Partnership with God" Contact: Bill Lindemann, 1675 Northwest 4th Ave., Apt. 707, Boca Raton, FL 33432. Phone: (305) 394-9314.

October 24-26, First URANTIA Society of Oklahoma Forum. Lake Murray, Ardmore, OK. Theme: "The URANTIA Book—International Viewpoints" Contact: Michael Challis, 206 N W 31st St, Oklahoma City, OK 73118. Phone: (405) 521-0806.

## LA LETTRE, NOUVELLES INTERNATIONALES

La LETTRE, parrainée par le Centre d'études de réflexion sur la destinée humaine (C.E.R.D.H.) bien que venant de France et écrite en français, a une saveur tout à fait internationale. L'édition Été 1985 présentait un éditorial d'Emmanuel Lou (Tahiti), un poème d'Eileen Caddy (communauté de Findhorn in Ecosse) extrait du livre *Footprints on the Path*, un reportage par George Michelson-Dupont sur sa visite à Boulder en août dernier, un article sur l'emploi du mot "trinitiser" par Jean Royer que se réfère au livre de William S. Sadler, Jr., *Appendices à une étude du Maître Univers* et un article intitulé "Le printemps, une étude du futur," par Henry Begemann (Pay-Bas).

L'édition Automne-Hiver 1985 annonce une rencontre internationale des lecteurs du *Le Livre d'URANTIA* en France, du 3 au 11 août 1986, au château de Montvillargenne, 60270 Gouvieux-Chantilly, France, organisée par le C.E.R.D.H., 31 rue Jouye-Rouve, 750 Paris, France. Henry Begemann présente un autre papier intitulé "Le processus d'identification" et Marlène, Jacques et Georges Dupont, un article sur "Amour et amitié." Complétant ce numéro est une liste des bibliothèques municipales et universitaires qui ont *Le Livre d'URANTIA*.

Les lecteurs de langue française ou ceux qui désirent pratiquer cette langue peuvent obtenir une copie de *La LETTRE* en écrivant à

George Michelson-Dupont  
3 bis, Grande Rue  
77940 Blennes  
France

Le prix de l'abonnement est 120 francs français.



## RELIGIONS OF OUR WORLD

This article is presented by the Fraternal Relations Committee as a part of our continuing effort to bring to students of *The URANTIA Book* a flavor of the religious diversity and spiritual unity that currently exist among the peoples of our world. The quoted statements are taken directly from the literature of the organizations which we are highlighting, and whenever possible these articles are reviewed prior to publication by members of those organizations in order to insure that their ideas have been fairly represented.

Our presentation in this issue concerns the Baha'i Faith, and is taken largely from a pamphlet entitled "Our Common Faith: World Peace through the Oneness of Religion."

"Baha'is are followers of Baha'u'llah. They are people who came from different religious backgrounds—or no religion at all. They reside in over 200 countries and territories, representing every race, and almost every nationality and tribe. They have become part of one universal family through the uniting influence of Baha'u'llah's teachings."

"The Baha'i Faith presents a unique view of the nature and purpose of religion. Far from aiming at the overthrow of the spiritual foundation of the world's religious systems, its avowed, its unalterable purpose is to widen their basis, to reinvigorate their life, to demonstrate their oneness, to restore the pristine purity of their teachings, to coordinate their functions, and to assist in the realization of their highest aspirations."

Some of the essential teachings and principles of the Baha'i Faith are:

1. Oneness of God.
2. Oneness of Religion.
3. Oneness of Mankind.
4. Elimination of prejudice of all kinds.
5. Search after truth.
6. Universal auxiliary language.
7. Equality of opportunity for men and women.
8. Universal education.
9. Essential harmony of science and religion.
10. Elimination of extremes of wealth and poverty.
11. World government.

"These principles alone will not independently resolve the world's problems. A fundamental spiritual redirection is required. It is this change that Baha'u'llah has come to bring about. His objectives are the transformation of society, establishing world peace and a new civilization through the unity of mankind, and the renewal of individual souls."

For copies of the pamphlet and additional information check local telephone directories for Baha'i representatives or contact the Baha'i Community of the United States, Wilmette, Illinois 60091.

The Fraternal Relations Committee would like to invite the submission of articles similar to the above from any interested reader who wants to participate in developing a greater understanding of the world's religions. Manuscripts should be approximately 500 words in length and should focus on shared concepts of a positive nature, with brief commentary rather than analysis.

"The future of Urantia will doubtless be characterized by the appearance of teachers of religious truth—the Fatherhood of God and the fraternity of all creatures. But it is to be hoped that the ardent and sincere efforts of these future prophets will be directed less toward the strengthening of interreligious barriers and more toward the augmentation of the religious brotherhood of spiritual worship among the many followers of the differing intellectual theologies which so characterize Urantia of Satan." (p. 1010:4, p. 1010/20-26, Paper 92.5.13)

### Model from Page 3

To expand the usefulness of this structural model, the group amplified the services and programs to be as explanatory as possible. This was not done in an attempt to be all-inclusive, but rather to reflect those needs which had been communicated to the team from many sources within the organization.

The full, detailed analysis of the associations of agents, resources, and groups served will be a worthwhile design activity to complete our understanding of the challenges of readership service which the Brotherhood faces.

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"Having started out on the way of life everlasting, having accepted the assignment and received your orders to advance, do not fear the dangers of human forgetfulness and mortal inconstancy, do not be troubled with doubts of failure or by perplexing confusion, do not falter and question your status and standing, for in every dark hour, at every crossroad in the forward struggle the Spirit of Truth will always speak, saying 'This is the way.'" (p. 383:2, p. 383/12-17, Paper 34.7.8)

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