



URANTIA Brotherhood BULLETIN

Summer 1986

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COUNCIL MEETS AT LAKE FOREST

The General Council of URANTIA Brotherhood held its annual meeting at Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, Illinois, 28-29 June 1986. A variety of business was transacted, including elections, review of action taken on resolutions of the 1985 Triennial Delegate Assembly, and a number of other matters reported in separate feature articles.

New Councilor

Marjorie Reed (Lake Forest, IL) was elected to the Council, filling a vacancy left by the resignation of Martin Myers (Chicago, IL).

New Committee Members

Eleven students of *The URANTIA Book* were elected to vacancies on the nine departmental committees of the Brotherhood. Those elected, and their posts, are as follows:

Judicial Committee	6 years	Ellen Montgomery
	3 years	David Owen
Charter Committee	6 years	Tom Choquette
Fraternal Relations Committee	6 years	Richard Bain
	1 year	Scott Forsythe

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DONATION SHORTFALL LOOMS FOR BROTHERHOOD

At the conclusion of the annual meeting of the General Council, Finance Committee Chairman John Hay addressed current financial problems of the Brotherhood. The Brotherhood began its current year with a budgeted commitment to raise \$128,000 to help support ongoing operations, including book distribution, library book placement, *Bulletin* publication, readership correspondence, conference organization and other Brotherhood services. By mid-August, \$85,000 in contributions and pledges had been received. Based on historical patterns, at least \$110,000 would be needed at this point to meet the projected commitment at year end.

This shortfall is particularly disturbing because it comes at a time when URANTIA Foundation is helping to support Brotherhood programs by donating large numbers of copies of *The URANTIA Book* to the library

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CONFERENCE PLANS ADVANCE

Important information about the 1987 General Conference is enclosed with this issue of the Bulletin. Read this material and send in your reply to be sure of receiving additional conference information and registration materials.

The theme selected for the 1987 General Conference of URANTIA Brotherhood, to be held at Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine, 2-7 August 1987, is:

**Our Relationship with God:
Personal Transformation and
Its Power to Transform the World
Notre relation avec Dieu; Source de transformation
personnelle et capacité de transformer le monde
Nuestras Relaciones con Dios:
la Transformación Personal y
Su Capacidad de Transformar el Mundo**

This theme was selected by 33 members of the international conference Advisory Committee at a major meeting held Sunday, 22 June 1986 at Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, Illinois.

The meeting was designed to acquaint attendees with the conference site (Bowdoin College), the format of the conference, and some special activities planned for the conference. The hope was that URANTIA Societies and study groups can become integrally involved with planning the General Conference from the very beginning stages. The conference planners were extremely happy with the way that this one day meeting worked out.

Conference Chair Marilyn Kulieke said, "The ideas that we got from people far exceeded my fondest expectations for what could come out of such a short meeting. We were able to select an overall conference theme from among 32 suggestions. To accomplish such a task illustrates the unity of purpose and willingness to work together that this group exhibited. It was a great experience."

The meeting was sponsored by the Coordinating Committee of the 1987 General Conference, whose members are: Marilyn Kulieke, Polly Friedman, Lucile Faw, Cece Forrester, David Kulieke, Alison Gardner, and Jacques Tetrault. Members of the Advisory Committee attending the meeting were: Jan Andrews, John Andrews, Lucie Archambault, David Burleson, Lise Champagne, Tom Choquette, Paul Denis, Dorothy Elder, Marvin Gawryn, Don Guimond, John Hales, Nancy Johnson, Catherine Jones, Patrick Kopp, Virginia

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Kuenster, Harry McMullan, David Renn, David Schlundt, Sally Schlundt, Lynn Sherman, Jacques Vallee, Neal Waldrop, Melissa Wells, Tim Young, and Stephen Zendt.

A second important planning meeting was held by the conference Site Coordination Committee, 19-20 July 1986 at Bowdoin College. Over 30 members of the committee were assembled to view the physical facilities and develop action plans covering the next year's work and preparation. The meeting was organized by Alison Gardner and Jacques Tetrault, co-chairs of the Site Coordination Committee. Both Marilyn Kulieke, conference chair, and Cece Forrester, special programming, attended to enhance overall inter-communication. URANTIA Brotherhood President Dave Elders also participated.

Reflecting the planned internationalism and bilingualism of the conference, readers in attendance were about equally divided between English-speaking readers from the New England area and French-speaking readers from Quebec Province. As a result of two days of meetings, the site coordinating group organized itself into action teams in specific areas, such as administration, children's program, concierge, equipment/seating logistics, ground transportation, hospitality, recreation, registration/food/lodging, and translations. Readers of *The URANTIA Book* in the Northeastern United States or in Eastern Canada who were unable to attend the planning session at Bowdoin, but are able and willing to assist in site arrangements and services during the next year, are invited to contact Alison Gardner or Jacques Tetrault by writing to them at the URANTIA Brotherhood office in Chicago. Virginia Kuenster is the staff conference coordinator at the office. In this capacity she looks forward to receiving your inquiries concerning the conference. In turn, she will see that your questions and suggestions get to the proper committee chair.

CONFERENCE CALENDAR

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.

August 2-7, 1987 General Conference of URANTIA Brotherhood. Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine. Theme: "Our Relationship with God: Personal Transformation and Its Power to Transform the World" — "Notre relation avec Dieu: Source de transformation personnelle et capacité de transformer le monde" — "Nuestras Relaciones con Dios: la Transformación Personal y Su Capacidad de Transformar el Mundo" Contact: URANTIA Brotherhood, 533 Diversey Parkway, Chicago, IL 60614. Phone: (312) 237-0424.

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LIBRARY PLACEMENT SURGES

Dave Elders reported to the Council that 1200 copies of *The URANTIA Book* and *Le Livre d'URANTIA*, donated by URANTIA Foundation, have been placed in libraries, primarily in the United States and Canada. The bulk of these placements were effected by Vin Myers, a reader from Worcester, Massachusetts. By the end of the year, all other books budgeted to committee programs will have been placed through direct mail and other personal contact efforts of the Domestic Extension and International Fellowship Committees.

The Council recognized the economic impracticality for URANTIA Foundation indefinitely to donate books for library placement, and discussed possible plans to be worked out by the Executive Committee to assure adequate continuing support of the library placement activity. It was recommended that a two-part program be proposed to URANTIA Foundation. Under this proposal, the Foundation would be asked to donate an additional 1000 books to the placement work during the present year. The Brotherhood would simultaneously propose a long-term mechanism for purchase of additional books from the upcoming ninth and subsequent printings on a reduced cost basis.

The possibility of establishing a perpetual gift book fund, structured like the perpetual book printing fund, was discussed. The Council also considered use of direct annual fund raising to pay for future book donations. The consensus of the Council was that the program should be continued by any feasible means, and that the readership should assume a greater share of the financial responsibility for this program as a service opportunity.

BOOK PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITY

Vin Myers, a student of *The URANTIA Book* from Worcester, Massachusetts, is well known to readers of the *Bulletin* for his success in placing over 1500 books in libraries in the U.S. and Canada during the past two years. In a recent letter to the *Bulletin*, Vin writes: Basically what I have discovered is another fertile area for book placement. I discovered this one day when I was placing a book in the Greenfield, Massachusetts jail. Across the street was a nursing home with rehabilitation. It made me think that we might have overlooked an opportunity to reach a special sector of the community. So I went in and, to my surprise, the nurse at the front desk already knew about the book because she had seen it in a health food store.

As I went about talking to libraries, I also tried about ten more nursing homes, as well as several hospitals, a few seminaries and convents, and some alcohol treatment centers. Almost every institution with a general (non-technical) library was happy to accept the book, so it is just a matter of being in the right place at the right time with a will to serve in such a manner.

Nursing homes seem to be a great bet because there is an audience with genuine needs, combined with staff with a service orientation and good education. Another good thing is that all these homes have Activity Directors who come right out and want to talk to the donor of free books. They are more than willing to accept a gift book, particularly when they learn how much it has to say about man's relationship to God and the reality of personal survival of death.

I'll end with a suggestion. When you are in a nursing home, A.A. center, jail, or even a hospital, why not arrange to place a book?

While it is what you aspire to be that sets the tone for you to be great, it is what you do that can make you feelingly experience God's joy in service and, as a consequence, character growth.

COUNCIL FORMS DESIGN TEAMS

The plan for the Council to organize itself into Design Teams to study a range of policy and planning issues, reported in the Spring *Bulletin*, was debated at length at the 1986 General Council meeting. While many Councilors, particularly those who had been unable to attend the Orlando DesignShop, expressed the view that the Design Team approach had not been sufficiently considered and presented unresolvable conflicts with the existing committee structure of the Brotherhood, by far the majority felt the planning activity should proceed.

Councilors volunteered to serve on teams tasked to develop action plans for review at a January 1987 meeting of members of the General Council. Plans approved at that meeting will be implemented in the following months. The plans will include consideration of available resources (people and money), appropriateness for current evolutionary development, coordination with other team programs and Brotherhood departmental committee programs and resources, and involvement of readers worldwide. The six Design Teams are:

1. Study Group Development: Harry McMullan, Michael Painter, Polly Friedman, Lew Clark, Steve Dreier
2. Programs, Services, and Resources: Tom Allen, Lynne Kulieke, John Hay, Marilyn Kulieke, Nancy Grimsley, Gloriann Harris
3. Book Sales, Marketing, and Distribution: Charles Burton, John Hales, Larry Mullins, Bill Hazen, Doug Fraser, Mo Siegel
4. The Personal and Spiritual Component in our Work: Steve Law, Helena Sprague, Jim McNelly, John Andrews, Marjorie Reed, Virginia Kuenster
5. Communications Design: Jim Jarnagin, Dan Massey, Duane Faw, Paul Snider, Marian Rowley
6. Internationalization: Frank Sgaraglino, Tom Kendall, Gene Joyce, Phil Rolnick, Peter Laurence, Scott Forsythe, Berkeley Elliott.

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Domestic Extension Committee	6 years	Michael Challis
International Fellowship Committee	6 years	Neil Francey
Education Committee	6 years	Ralph Zehr
Publications Committee	6 years	Nancy Johnson
Finance Committee	6 years	Marta Elders
Special Projects Committee	6 years	Daniel Glazer

In a related action, Cece Forrester was appointed by the Executive Committee to a one year term on the Special Projects Committee, left vacant by the resignation of Carol Forsythe, which occurred too late to come before the Council for action.

Action on TDA Resolutions

The chairmen of various standing committees and other responsible officers reported on actions taken during the past year to address resolutions passed by the 1985 Triennial Delegate Assembly and approved by the Council at its 1985 meeting. A number of the reports led to extensive discussion. Briefly, the various issues presented and discussed were:

Citation Standard

Dan Massey, Chairman of the Publications Committee, presented a proposed standard for citation of *The URANTIA Book*. The general nature of this standard has been presented in an article in the Spring issue of the *Bulletin*. The Publications Committee plans to produce a descriptive pamphlet explaining the details of the citation standard during the next year.

Study Aids

Marilynn Kulieke, Chairman of the Special Projects Committee, outlined the approach her committee is currently pursuing to develop a resource guide which would list the titles, authors, and sources of all study aids submitted, along with brief summaries of each aid. An information packet is being prepared for submitters of study aids. The full program will be described in a future issue of the *Bulletin*. The Council and the Executive Committee continue to debate the wisdom of this decentralized program versus the publication and/or distribution of selected study aids by URANTIA Brotherhood or some combination thereof.

Book Pricing

Frank Sgaraglino, Vice-President of URANTIA Brotherhood, presented a plan which he developed for reducing the retail price of *The URANTIA Book* to \$20. Assumptions underlying the plan are: 1) that the book will not be printed in a less costly edition, 2) that sales volume through various channels will be moderately increased from the present, and 3) that the resulting income loss to URANTIA Brotherhood will be made up through contributions targeted to book price reduction. Under these assumptions, contributions at a rate in excess of \$100,000 per year would be required to support the program. This plan, which was submitted for review and discussion, led to extensive discussion. A number of Councilors endorsed the plan strongly, while others felt that it did not represent a wise use of funds. A large number urged a cautious approach, pointing out that this represented a costly undertaking which, at the present, had not been shown would be effective in increasing sales volume. The experience of groups in various areas which have subsidized the sale of the book has been ambiguous. In addition, lowering the actual retail price of the book reduces bookstore profit, making stocking the book less attractive unless sales accelerate at the lower price. Several Councilors expressed the view that the market was not really sensitive to price.

As the pace of the debate quickened, the idea of test marketing the book at reduced price and with variant dust jackets was suggested. This idea was resisted strongly by a minority of Councilors who felt that the plan should be enacted without further delay and that the proponents of a reduced price should be challenged to donate the funds required for its execution. Cost data was presented showing that a retail price of \$20 would not cover basic printing and storage costs, so that any increase in sales volume could only increase the financial loss at this basic price.

Eventually, the Council decided to refer the matter to a Design Team, with specific instructions to develop a complete plan for test marketing the book next Winter or next Spring.

At the conclusion of this lengthy discussion, and after voting was completed, Douglas Fraser articulated the need for consideration of the financial plight of potential readers, especially in other countries. The essence of his statement was as follows. The monthly salary of a teacher in Bolivia is about \$35. The current cost of the book is completely beyond the means of such potential readers. The book should not be viewed as a product from which the movement derives income, but as a necessary expense of accomplishing our purpose. Ideally, we should have enough money available for our work to be able to give the book away for whatever a person can pay. Those who understand the importance of the book should bear the expense of making it available to potential readers. He further stated that we should consider retaining the current U.S. price structure to facilitate subsidizing prices in other countries.

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CONCORDEX REPRINT STIRS DEBATE

At the 1986 General Council meeting, Dave Elders announced that the *Concordex of The URANTIA Book*, a major study aid prepared by the late Clyde Bedell, has recently been reprinted under the auspices of Mr. Bedell's estate. The Brotherhood has stocked previous editions of the *Concordex* and offered them for sale from headquarters as a convenience to readers. The current third edition raises certain issues which require resolution if the Brotherhood is to resume this practice. The new edition has been published without express or implied approval of URANTIA Foundation. If the Foundation determines that no conflict exists between the *Concordex*, as now published, and their rights and obligations, the Brotherhood could consider resuming direct sales. In the interim, persons inquiring for the *Concordex* through headquarters will be referred to the publishers.

This position engendered considerable discussion among the Councilors about the most appropriate attitude of the Brotherhood toward various types of secondary and derivative works, including study aids. Opinions expressed ranged from the viewpoint that the Brotherhood should have nothing to do with secondary works to the idea that the Brotherhood should serve as a vehicle for the active publication and promotion of such works. Some Councilors argued that the *Concordex*, by virtue of its history, should be accepted for Brotherhood distribution regardless of policies towards newer works. Others pointed to changes of editorial content in the third edition which refer explicitly to the Brotherhood and indicate a possible misunderstanding by the publishers of the role and function of the Brotherhood.

The Council eventually referred the matter of the *Concordex* to the Executive Committee for further consideration.

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placement program and by accepting for its own account less than the customary 50% of unallocated contributions to the joint fund drive. It is unreasonable to expect the Foundation perpetually to set aside its own interests and needs. It is impossible for the Brotherhood to maintain the current level of service to the movement without a higher level of financial support from the readership.

The current annual cycle of contributions for the Brotherhood will end in about two months. Standing committees, which are responsible for the service initiatives of the Brotherhood, have projected increased financial needs for next year to support enlarged programs. In November the Executive Committee will meet to approve departmental budgets and establish a consolidated budget governing Brotherhood activities for 1987. Unless the level of readership financial support increases now, the Executive Committee will be compelled to cut back important programs.

The opportunities for increased outreach and improved readership services are great. Satisfying your desires in these areas takes enormous amounts of volunteer effort for program development and coordination. It also requires financial support. Your contribution to URANTIA Brotherhood demonstrates your interest in having services such as library placement, the free *Bulletin*, internationalization of the movement, conference planning, and study group support services, continue to expand to meet the needs of a growing readership.

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Improved Book Store Distribution

Action on this TDA resolution was deferred to next year until the effect of reorganization and procedural changes at Brotherhood headquarters can be evaluated.

Improved Communications

Dave Elders, President, reported that the Executive Committee newsletter has been mailed within two weeks of each meeting to members-at-large and to Presidents and Secretaries of URANTIA Societies. Some, but not all, societies redistributed this information to their members, which had been the intent of this mode of distribution. After some discussion of the degree of society action which should be expected, the Council voted to mail future editions of the Executive Committee newsletter directly to all Brotherhood members of record from Chicago headquarters.

Brotherhood History

Jim McNelly, members of the Special Projects Committee, presented initial concepts of possible approaches to a movement history which he had developed on behalf of the committee. He suggested that a history should embrace three types of functions: 1) it could serve as a quasipublic summary of people and events for the edification of new readers, 2) it could record for posterity the actions and some of the process of the organization, and 3) it could serve as a reference guide for future movement leaders and activists. He concluded by recommending that the Council adopt programs to increase awareness of the value of historical documentation, then develop an archive system, have each official group prepare a history of policy and resolutions, and defer detailed historical documentation to the future. Some other Councilors urged that the entire effort be dropped as an inappropriate expenditure of time and improper potential expenditure of funds at this time. The discussion concluded with the narrow defeat of a motion to terminate the effort to plan a movement history. It was the sense of the meeting that Special Projects Committee take into account the various views expressed and make specific recommendations to the Executive Committee for appropriate action. Also that the participation of qualified volunteers in this project should be sought through the *Bulletin*.

Standard Biographies

Dave Elders reported that, beginning next year, any person who nominates or recommends an individual for election to an office of URANTIA Brotherhood will be required to complete or have completed a uniform biography form in order for the recommendation to be valid. Copies of these forms will then be forwarded to all qualified electors for consideration before the scheduled election.

Reports on Other Activities

At the conclusion of the review of TDA resolutions, the Council received reports on and discussed a number of other major items, which are treated in separate articles in this issue of the *Bulletin*. These include the Library Placement Program, the 1987 General Conference, a recent goodwill tour of the Pacific basin, the establishment of formal Design Teams within the Council, citation of Helen Carlson for service to URANTIA Brotherhood, possible distribution of the newly published edition of the *Concordex*, and impending financial problems of the Brotherhood.

Other Topics

The Council addressed many other subjects in its meeting. These included the status of the Spanish translation, the need to establish standards to guide readers in public appearances and interviews, the possibility of establishing a toll-free or low-toll number to receive phone calls at headquarters, the possibility of increasing the size of or admitting observers to the General Council, and the need to provide guidance and support to URANTIA Societies.

PACIFIC TOUR REPORT

During the first two weeks of June, Berkeley Elliott, Chairman of the International Fellowship Committee, John Hales, Secretary-General of URANTIA Brotherhood, and Tom Allen, a member of the General Council, travelled the South Pacific, visiting readers in Tahiti, Australia, New Zealand, and Fiji. This was the first major trip by representatives of the Brotherhood to the South Pacific since Julia Fenderson travelled to Australia some ten years ago. The following report is drawn from Berkeley's diary of the trip.

We (Berkeley and Tom) met John Hales in Los Angeles Sunday evening (1 June) and boarded the nine o'clock flight to Papeete, Tahiti. We arrived at two in the morning and were met by Brigitte and Dexter Cave and Emmanuel Lou, who took us to our hotel. By noon we were recovered enough to join Emmanuel for a quick tour of a few of his business enterprises (an ice cream factory and a cheese curls factory) before lunch with Janette (Emmanuel's wife) and Brigitte and Dexter. After lunch we stopped by Janette's boutique, a local church (three of whose members are reading the book), and Emmanuel's stationery store and book store, where *The URANTIA Book* was beautifully displayed. We had planned to end the day by showing the Brotherhood history tape-slide show to a group of local readers; however, after burning out two projector bulbs, we read and discussed the book instead.

The next day (Tuesday, 3 June) Emmanuel picked us up and took us by boat to Moorea, a nearby island. Brigitte flew in to meet us after lunch, when we met with Kiki Ringland and Lucien and Martine Yen Kow and their three children on the beach. On Wednesday we flew back to Papeete in time for lunch with Emmanuel's family (he has three sons) and an afternoon of local shopping before our final meeting that evening in a Chinese hall with approximately 33 actual and potential readers. Dexter and Emmanuel translated for us, since French is the language of Tahiti, although most people speak some English. This was a very interesting meeting and several individuals prominent in the community were present. Our plane for Melbourne, Australia left Tahiti about five in the morning on Thursday and arrived at eleven in the morning on Friday. We lost a day from our calendars, if not from our lives, as we crossed the International Date Line enroute. On arrival, we were met by Neil Francey, Tom and Pamela Reynolds, Steve Shanahan, and other local readers. We spent the afternoon at Neil and Jan's home in fellowship with many readers. After dinner we each spent the night with a different family.

The Melbourne conference, which was a major object of our trip, started Saturday morning with 33 in attendance, including four readers from Tasmania, Peter Webb from Perth, and Kathleen and Trevor Swadling from Sydney. Neil Francey served as M.C. In the program, talks and exhibits were mingled with workshops and a showing of "The History of the URANTIA Movement," which was quite well received. The conference continued on Sunday with more workshops, talks on Society and study group operation, and planning for a future South Pacific Conference, probably in 1988, in Melbourne.

Sunday night we flew to Perth, where Sue Webb (Peter's wife) took us to our hotel and a meeting with Peter Toy. The next day, Peter Toy and Maureen gave us a sightseeing tour of the area ending at their home and a meeting of 12 actual and potential readers. John showed the slide show again and we visited into the morning. On Tuesday we drove to Balingup with Helen Condon to meet with Stephen Carthew, Sam Purves, Rose Gilmore, and Ruth Purves at the Universal Brotherhood. After a long visit, we returned to Perth for dinner and caught an overnight flight to Auckland, New Zealand, arriving there at three the next afternoon.

We visited with Dennis Clapitt and Neville Twist and enjoyed a late evening dinner at Neville's home. Thursday we toured the Auckland area with Neville before meeting and visiting with about 14 interested readers. John showed the history slides again. On Friday, we flew to Fiji, where we met with Isireli and Martha Racule. John showed the slides again to a group of readers at our hotel, after which we enjoyed an evening of relaxation. On Saturday, Izzy took us to visit his home and the homes of several other readers. At the end of the afternoon we returned to Izzy and Martha's, where John showed the slides one last time, we participated in a Fijian Quava ritual, and shared dinner and good fellowship with 15-20 friends.

At midnight we flew to Honolulu and then on to Los Angeles, where we briefly visited Julia Fenderson to share recollections and news of the people and places she had visited on this trip ten years before.

All in all we met many members of our universe family and trust it was as beautiful an experience for them as it was for us.

BULLETIN STYLE CHANGES

At the annual meeting of the Publications Committee, held 21 June 1986 at headquarters, the editorial policies of the *Bulletin* were reviewed. Historically, the *Bulletin* has limited its reportage to specific events and official actions of the Brotherhood. Since official actions are not usually taken until a consensus of opinion has developed, this policy has limited the amount of information available to readers about ongoing deliberations and alternative viewpoints.

Beginning with this issue, the *Bulletin* will try to report alternative sides of major discussions in progress within the governing bodies of the Brotherhood. It is not our intent to advocate one position or another, unless formal action has been taken by the cognizant group. We ask our readers' forbearance as we work to implement this policy.

From time to time readers write expressing approval or disapproval of our articles and policies. As an example, a number of readers wrote favorably about the article "Nova of 1572 Explained" in the Fall 1985 issue. A few wrote to say that they were troubled by our report on criticisms from the American Academy of Religion in the Winter 1986 issue.

The editor appreciates the interest and support which the *Bulletin* has received during the past year. Unfortunately, it is not always possible to reply personally to each letter received. Information and ideas you send of general interest will be considered for inclusion in the *Bulletin* as space permits.

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RELIGIONS OF OUR WORLD

The following article has been contributed by a reader from England. It is presented as part of the Fraternal Relations Committee's 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 the world.

I have made it known that whilst reading *The URANTIA Book* over a number of years, I have continued as a member of the Subud Brotherhood and, as a result, I am grateful to have been asked to write a short article about Subud.

I became a member of Subud in 1960 and at present attend a local Subud group in Windsor, England, where I assist as a helper. I would describe my experience in Subud as a form of spiritual awakening, which has resulted in meaningful insights relating to my own strengths and weaknesses. Over the years I have become increasingly aware of guidance arising from within and this has clearly played a part in bringing me into those situations necessary for my own development. It is equally true to say that Subud members become aware of God's presence in the world around them and members generally take a practical view of work in this world.

Without dwelling any longer on my own experience I should now like to quote briefly from the recently published leaflet entitled, "Subud in the World."

"Subud is a spiritual movement which began in Indonesia about fifty years ago. It now exists in over seventy countries and numbers about ten thousand members. As well as providing a personal spiritual experience for each member, Subud aims to set up health, educational, and social welfare projects around the world. Subud members are also active in creating business enterprises, the purpose of which is to generate the funding for these humanitarian activities."

The leaflet goes on to mention the origins of Subud. "In 1924 a Javanese man by the name of Muhammad Subuh Sumohadiwidjojo spontaneously received a series of spiritual experiences. After further experiences in the 1930's he found that he could transmit the revelation he had received to other people, although he did not seek people out, but simply passed on the contact to those who asked for it."

"Later he moved to Jogjakarta and it was here in the 1950's that Europeans first came in contact with Subud. This led to Muhammad Subuh being invited to visit England in 1957 where many westerners joined Subud."

"Muhammad Subuh continues to guide the Organization he founded. He is commonly known as 'Bapak' to Subud members, an Indonesian

term of respect and affection which means 'father.'"

According to the leaflet, "The central experience in Subud is known as the 'latihan,' an abbreviation of the Indonesian 'latihan kejiwaan' which means literally 'spiritual exercise.'"

"The occasion when you join Subud and do the latihan for the first time, is known as 'being opened' and is generally understood by Subud members to be a direct contact with the Power of God which initiates this form of worship."

"The experience is different for each person and different at different times."

"People usually have a feeling of well-being and relaxation after doing latihan. In the longer run, they learn to trust the guidance received through the latihan as it permeates every aspect of their lives including personal relationships, family life, and work."

The leaflet refers to the character of Subud as follows: "Although Subud is based upon a religious experience it is not in itself a religion or a teaching. Nor is there a priesthood. There is no dogma or system of belief and membership is open to anyone of any religion. Members of all religions as well as those with no particular religious affiliation belong to Subud. Subud does not put forward its own ethical system or moral code, believing that these have already been given and that what people need now is the assistance to be able to live up to the code they have chosen to follow."

A copy of the leaflet and additional information can be obtained by contacting Subud Britain, 55 The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5TE, United Kingdom; or the International Subud Committee, P.O. Box 188, Pyrmont, Sydney, NSW 2009, Australia.

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.

"When a member of a social religious group has complied with the requirements of such a group, he should be encouraged to enjoy religious liberty in the full expression of his own personal interpretation of the truths of religious belief and the facts of religious experience. The security of a religious group depends on spiritual unity, not on theological uniformity." (1135:2; 1135/12-19; Paper 103.5.12)