



URANTIA® Brotherhood BULLETIN

Summer-Fall 1987

Vol. 5, No. 2

SUMMER SEMINAR PLANS ANNOUNCED

In the Summer of 1988 the Education Committee of URANTIA Brotherhood will present the third in its series of seminars devoted to an overview study of *The URANTIA Book*. The seminars will be held at Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, Illinois for four days, beginning Monday, June 27, and ending Thursday, June 30. The theme will be "Patterning for Perfection" and study will concentrate on Papers 57-92 of Part III of the Book.

Five subtopics have been selected for consideration: 1) the family as a basis for the growth and development of social institutions on Urantia; 2) the family as a reflection of or, from the human point of view, a model for the universe ascension plan; 3) the relationship of evolution and revelation on Urantia; 4) relationship of human biological and social development; and 5) attitudes and prevailing thought trends of today which may be lingering from the days of the Lucifer rebellion, the Caligastia betrayal, and the Adamic default.

An additional program on religion will be presented several evenings during the week by the Fraternal Relations Committee.

If you are interested in participating as teacher or student at the seminars, return the card enclosed with this copy of *URANTIA Brotherhood Bulletin* to insure that registration materials be sent to you in our February mailing. You may expect full details at that time. *Registration materials will only be sent if you request them directly, so be sure to return the card now.* All readers of *The URANTIA Book* are welcome, but space at the college is limited, so respond promptly to help us finalize our plans.

GENERAL CONFERENCE REPORT

During the first week of August more than eight hundred adults and children gathered at Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine, site of the 1987 General Conference for readers of *The URANTIA Book*. A large gathering like this, among a group of like-minded, spirit-guided, and open-minded mortals, stands as a snapshot for future ages of our movement in 1987, and evidences the quality of our trusteeship of this epochal revelation.

The conference lasted a week. However, from conception to the final accounting, its production required over four years of volunteer effort. The conference involved many more readers from all points of the globe than ever before in the planning and execution of a general conference. Many people experienced personally the challenges our movement faces at this fledgling stage of development. This pluralism led to highly creative experiments and brand new approaches to conference gatherings. First time successes include a virtually continuously running "hospitality center" (it closed at 2 AM), manned by bi-lingual readers who greeted visitors, introduced them to new people, and kept the cashments coming. Adjacent to this central conference "coffee shop" was another innovation: a reader-run conference "concierge" service whose only mission was to attend to the personal needs and expectations of each attendee.

See Conference on Page 4

COUNCIL MEETS AT BOWDOIN COLLEGE

The annual business meeting of the General Council of URANTIA Brotherhood was held at Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine, August 7-8, 1987. At this meeting the Council elected Bob Bruyn and David Robertson to fill two vacancies on the Council, as well as fifteen members of various standing committees of URANTIA Brotherhood:

| | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|---------|
| Judicial Committee | Tom Kendall | 6 years |
| | Melissa Wells | 1 year |
| Charter Committee | Lucile Faw | 6 years |
| | John Lang | 4 years |
| Fraternal Relations Committee | Scott Forsythe | 6 years |
| Domestic Extension Committee | Tom Allen | 6 years |
| International Fellowship Committee | Brent St. Denis | 6 years |
| Education Committee | Marjorie Reed | 6 years |
| | Barbara Dreier | 2 years |
| Publications Committee | Neal Waldrop | 6 years |
| Finance Committee | Gary Reedy | 6 years |
| | Gard Jameson | 4 years |
| Special Projects Committee | Cece Forrester | 6 years |
| | Larry Mullins | 2 years |
| | Bob Bruyn | 1 year |

A typically spirited meeting, the 1987 Council will be remembered for its intense debate on the relationship between the commercial and fraternal activities of URANTIA Brotherhood, sparked by a series of letters from URANTIA Foundation.

Foundation Letters

These letters, from URANTIA Foundation President Martin Myers, described the function and purpose of URANTIA Brotherhood from the viewpoint of URANTIA Foundation and assert the exclusive right of the Trustees to determine the marketing, pricing, and distribution of *The URANTIA Book*. Since the Council has been intensively concerned with these matters for the past four years, and since the Brotherhood has formally presented a plan for test marketing of *The URANTIA Book* to URANTIA Foundation, the letters stimulated spirited discussion.

In the letters, URANTIA Foundation specifically disapproved the proposed marketing study and stated, "...it is inappropriate for any of its licensees...further to concern themselves officially with related matters..."

The Foundation also wrote, "...URANTIA Brotherhood is to be an organization for the enhancement of the personal religious experience of the individual..."

See Council on Page 2

Council from Page 1

"...URANTIA Brotherhood has unlimited possibilities in reaching out to humankind with the teachings OF Jesus and in unselfishly SERVING as a dynamic force living and wisely assisting in the dissemination of the teachings OF *The URANTIA Book*. It is the Trustees' view that URANTIA Brotherhood's real purpose is wisely, patiently and lovingly to spread the teachings of *The URANTIA Book* and to serve as a living matrix for, and a benign coordinator of complementary efforts in support of, an inexorably developing world-wide personal spiritual awakening."

In all, the Council devoted over two and a half hours to discussion of the Foundation letters and the most appropriate response. In trying to understand the implications of the Foundation letters, a number of Councilors felt that, if URANTIA Brotherhood were to develop in the non-commercial direction mandated by URANTIA Foundation, it could be desirable to relinquish the Agency Agreement by which URANTIA Brotherhood Corporation acts as agent of URANTIA Foundation in the distribution of *The URANTIA Book*. Since the issues involved in such a decision were clearly beyond the scope of the current Council meeting, and since additional time was needed to gather more information, the Council adopted a resolution:

"That the Executive Committee schedule a mid-year meeting of the General Council to develop its priorities and tactics in accomplishing its mission of disseminating *The URANTIA Book* and its teachings, and that the committee report to the General Council at that time any progress it has made in evaluating the advantages and disadvantages of relinquishing its sales agency relationship with the URANTIA Foundation."

Continued in next column

MEMBERSHIP SURGES PAST ONE THOUSAND

In his census of members presented at the recent meeting of the General Council, John Hales, Secretary-General of URANTIA Brotherhood, reported that the total membership, at the end of calendar year 1987, was 1024, comprised of 787 members of chartered URANTIA Societies and 237 members-at-large.

The Chicago area has the largest number of Society members. A total membership of 168 is divided among four Societies: First URANTIA Society (89), URANTIA Society of Glenview (24), Orvonton URANTIA Society of Chicago (43), and First URANTIA Society of Western Springs (12).

The Oklahoma City area is equally prominent with 166 members in the First URANTIA Society of Oklahoma.

In Los Angeles, the third most populous area for Society members, the total membership of 116 is divided between the First URANTIA Society of Los Angeles (95) and the URANTIA Society of San Fernando Valley (21).

The other local URANTIA Societies are:

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|--|----|
| Rocky Mountain URANTIA Society of Denver | 64 |
| URANTIA Society of Dallas | 56 |
| URANTIA Society of Central Connecticut | 53 |
| Northern Light URANTIA Society of Alaska | 44 |
| San Francisco Bay Area URANTIA Society | 43 |
| First URANTIA Society of Houston | 31 |
| Fort Wayne URANTIA Society | 29 |
| First URANTIA Society of Wenatchee | 17 |

Although the largest Society has more than 13 times as many members as the smallest, the Constitution of URANTIA Brotherhood provides that, during the Triennial Delegate Assembly, each URANTIA Society will be represented by a single Delegate. The primary constitutional function of the Triennial Delegate Assembly is the election of the 36 members of the General Council. Members-at-large are eligible to hold Brotherhood offices; however, they do not elect Delegates to the Triennial Delegate Assembly.

Constitutional Amendment

The Council unanimously approved an amendment to Article XI, Section 11.11 of the Constitution of URANTIA Brotherhood, changing the description of the function of the Fraternal Relations Committee to read: "The Fraternal Relations Committee shall foster and develop fraternal relations, understanding, and good will with organizations devoted to the practice or study of religion, to the end that the purposes of URANTIA Brotherhood may be advanced."

In explaining its reasons for requesting this change, the Fraternal Relations Committee stated: "The Fraternal Relations Committee is recommending the constitutional change in the description of the committee since the existing wording makes reference to churches which the committee feels is too limiting, that is, it refers only to Christianity and not to other traditions which hold services in synagogues, temples, mosques, etc. The committee also believes it will come in contact with academic institutions which study religion rather than directly practice religious rites. The new wording reflects these two concerns by being inclusive of all religions as well as all institutions that study religion."

ABA Convention

Scott Forsythe presented a report on URANTIA Brotherhood participation in the annual convention of the American Booksellers' Association, held in May in Washington, D.C. Although *The URANTIA Book* was represented in the "small press" section of this very large trade show, the display booth received well over a hundred actively interested visitors out of the several thousand attendees who passed by during the show. Over a hundred orders for *The URANTIA Book* were taken at the booth for subsequent delivery. It appears that there is a broad upswing of interest in books having a "spiritual" theme, as reflected in current bestsellers, as well as last year's record growth in sales (50%) and distribution (28%) of *The URANTIA Book*. Current plans call for URANTIA Brotherhood participation in the 1988 ABA Convention in Anaheim, California.

Brotherhood History

Jim McNelly reported for the Special Projects Committee on its efforts to develop a history of URANTIA Brotherhood, responding to a resolution passed by the 1985 Triennial Delegate Assembly, and subsequently confirmed by the General Council. The committee has divided the idea of a history into two parts: an index of official decisions and activities and a narrative history of the Brotherhood. Work on the latter project has been deferred, while attention focuses on the index. A preliminary survey of the official records of the General Council, the Triennial Delegate Assembly, and the Executive Committee indicates that the central organizations of URANTIA Brotherhood functioned largely by consensus during the first twenty years (from 1955). Beginning in 1970, the organizations began to conclude their discussions with recorded votes on specific formal actions, such as amendments, policies, procedures, and positions. The index to be created will serve the organizations as an inventory of decisions and significant discussions. Work on this project will begin during the next year.

Spanish Translation

Mike Painter reported that final work on the Spanish translation of *The URANTIA Book* has neared the end of Part IV, with the establishment of good working relationships between the professional translators (Euramerica) and readers of *The URANTIA Book* who are monitoring quality of the work. The Euramerica translators have now begun work on Part III. While completion of the translation was originally planned for the end of 1988, this now appears to have been optimistic, and a one year delay seems likely.

Other Matters Arising

The Council also devoted considerable time to the review of reports from the Fraternal Relations Committee on procedures for the conduct of meetings and standards for public presentations about *The URANTIA Book*. The Council voted to expand the activities of Field Representatives, to consider changes in the organization, and to not initiate new Design Teams.

READER PUBLICATIONS LIST

Cece Forrester, a member of the Special Projects Committee responsible for organizing an exhibit of newsletters at the 1987 General Conference, recently completed a survey of all known periodicals which are edited for an audience of readers of *The URANTIA Book*. The editors of *URANTIA Brotherhood Bulletin* are pleased to be able to share this information with their readers. If you publish such a periodical, please check to make sure that your publication is properly listed. Please send us your corrections and additions as soon as they occur. We also ask that you send one copy of your publication to URANTIA Brotherhood headquarters, in Chicago, which endeavors to maintain up-to-date and complete historical records.

If you would like to receive a publication, please contact the publishers directly. While some are distributed free of charge and others require a nominal subscription fee, it is the experience of the Publications Committee that the cost of printing and mailing you a copy typically ranges from fifty cents to two dollars an issue, depending on the size, complexity, quality, and circulation of the periodical. If you request an issue or a subscription, inquire about the circulation policy and offer to bear your share of costs.

If you are interested in exchanging ideas with other readers, editors, or publishers on successful newsletter publishing, write to Cece Forrester in care of URANTIA Brotherhood, who is coordinating an informal network. Although this activity is informal and unofficial, it receives *ad hoc* support from both the Publications Committee and the Special Projects Committee. The Publications Committee, in particular, stands ready to assist readers of *The URANTIA Book* in planning and managing in-movement publications.

Actualize, c/o Troy R. Bishop, P.O. Box 7188, Silver Spring, MD 20907

The Circles, The Dallas Fellowship, Inc., P.O. Box 1203, Arlington, TX 76004

Developments, c/o Claire Thurston, 237 Rivoli St., San Francisco, CA 94117
Published by the San Francisco Bay Area URANTIA Society.

Lecho du Cercle de Geneve, Jean-Daniel Mottier, Av. Pt.-Lancy 19,
CH-1213 Petit Lancy CE, Geneva, SWITZERLAND
Published in French by readers in Geneva, Switzerland.

Good Cheer Times, 620 12th Street, Boulder, CO 80302
Published by Jesusonian Foundation.

Harmony, c/o Dana Poole, 621 Forrest Ave., Griffin, GA 30223
Journal of the Southeastern readership of *The URANTIA Book*.

Heijaste, c/o Satu Sihvo, Iivisniemenkatu 2 B, 02260 Espoo, FINLAND
Published in Finnish. Not currently available to readers outside Finland.

Illuminations, c/o Anthony Finstad, P.O. Box 1312, Bothell, WA 98041-1312
Published by P.L.U.S.S., a group of readers in Seattle.

La Lettre/The Letter, C.E.R.D.H., 3 bis Grand Rue, 77940 Blennes, FRANCE
Published in French and English editions.

The Messenger, P.O. Box 41541, St. Petersburg, FL 33743
Published by Tampa Bay area readers.

The Monitor, c/o Hoite C. Caston, 3589 Multiview Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90062.
Published by the First URANTIA Society of Los Angeles.

The Mountain Messenger, c/o Bert Cobb, 286 South 100 West,
Jerome, ID 83338
Published for readers in the Northwest.

That Monthly Message of Inspiration, c/o David Class,
6516 Westrock Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76133

Northern Light URANTIA Society of Alaska, c/o Leanne Flickinger,
14121 Speckling Dr., Anchorage, AK 99515

Northern New England Readers' Circle, 27 Ridgewood Terrace,
Barre, VT 05641
Published by the Barre Readers' Group.

Reflections, c/o Alice Clark, 243 S. Georgia Ave.,
E. Wenatchee, WA 98801
Published by the Evergreen URANTIA Society of Washington.

Pervaded Space, c/o Kulieke, 320 Forest View Drive, Lake Bluff, IL 60044
Published for readers in the Midwest.

Planetary Prints, c/o The Boulder School, 1622 18th Street,
Boulder, CO 80302
Published by the Rocky Mountain URANTIA Society of Denver.

Prints of Peace, c/o Cynthia Hopper, 291 Empress Avenue,
Willowdale, Ontario M2N 3V2, CANADA
Published for Ontario readers.

Reflectivite, a/s Roxanne Proulx, 5057 4e Ave Rosemont,
Montreal, Quebec H1Y 2V5, CANADA
Published in French for Quebec readers.

Reversion Directory, 317 Mountain View Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95082

The Servant, c/o Joshua Wilson, 4403 E. Baseline Road, Mesa, AZ 85206
Published by the Service Opportunity Network (Arizona groups).

Six-O-Six Newsletter, c/o Madeline Noordzy, 2 Salisbury Crt, Glen
Waverly, Victoria 3150, AUSTRALIA
Published for Australian readers.

Trinity Letter, c/o Kurt Cira, 3375 N. Dousman Street, Milwaukee, WI 53212

The URANTIA Book Synergist, Box 3915, Santa Barbara, CA 93130-3915
Published by the Center for URANTIA Book Synergy.

USCC NEWSLETTER, P.O. Box 88, Farmington, CT 06034
Published by the URANTIA Society of Central Connecticut.

Valley Reflector, 1291 Old Ranch Road, Camarillo, CA 93010
Published by the URANTIA Society of San Fernando Valley.

A Voice of Fort Sanders Faith Sons, c/o Helen Hutchinson,
1638 Highland Ave., Knoxville, TN 37916
Published by Knoxville, TN readers.

In addition to the publications listed above, the following periodicals are published by the central organizations, URANTIA Foundation and/or URANTIA Brotherhood, from the offices at 533 Diversey Parkway, Chicago, IL 60614:

Executive Committee Newsletter, URANTIA Brotherhood
Published 5-6 times a year, mailed free to Brotherhood members.

URANTIA Brotherhood Bulletin, URANTIA Brotherhood
Published 3-4 times a year, mailed free of charge to entire mailing list.

URANTIAN Journal of URANTIA Brotherhood, URANTIA Brotherhood
Published Quarterly, by subscription, \$5 per year.

URANTIAN News, URANTIA Foundation
Published twice a year, mailed free of charge to entire mailing list.

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URANTIA® Brotherhood Bulletin
Published quarterly by
Publications Committee, URANTIA Brotherhood
533 Diversey Parkway, Chicago, Illinois 60614

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READING PLANS PROLIFERATE

During the past two years, the Northern Light URANTIA Society of Alaska has sponsored a plan under which participants complete a full reading of *The URANTIA Book* in a single year. Again, for 1988, the Alaska Society will be sponsoring such a program. Readers who desire to participate may register with the Society to receive a suggested reading schedule and periodic letters of encouragement. Contact Northern Light URANTIA Society of Alaska, c/o Leanne Flickinger, 14121 Specking Dr., Anchorage, AK 99515.

The Alaska program requires an average reading rate of four papers each week, a pace which is rapid for individual readers and possibly impossible for groups. Other groups are experimenting with more leisurely programs. The *URANTIA Brotherhood Bulletin* recently received the following letter from a group of readers in the Throggs Neck section of the Bronx, New York, describing their hopes and plans for such a program:

"We of the Throggs Neck *URANTIA Book* Fellowship would like to invite all readers of *The URANTIA Book* to join us in a paper per week reading starting as of Sunday, 19 July 1987, on Paper 1. We have personally made a commitment to simultaneously read *The URANTIA Book*, one paper per week for the next 196 weeks, at any time convenient to each individual reader during that paper/week.

"We would like to know of those who wish to participate; however, it is not necessary, we will all know eventually! In our belief, the constraints of time and space have hindered our efforts over the past fifteen years to accomplish a simultaneous subjection to the revelation, and that as our paper-a-week program proceeds, those questions and desires of the readers will draw us together, regardless of time and space restrictions. The following members of our group will gladly discuss the paper of the week with anyone interested in doing so whenever possible: Tom and Kate Hansen, (212) 892-0632; Tom and Pat Lasagne, (212) 409-2224; Pat and Kathy Devine, (914) 633-0981; Joe Mazziello, (212) 904-9261.

"If you would like to add your name, please let us know, T.N.U.B. Fellowship, c/o Tom Hansen, 811 Clarence Avenue, Bronx, NY 10465. Happy Reading!"

Conference from Page 1

Housed in this same building was a large exhibit of art and publications by readers. Each full conference day a different type of "fair" was offered, including a celebration of study groups, an international exchange, and an examination of movement newsletters. Demonstrations of a computer-based reference aid to *The URANTIA Book* and of a computer bulletin board system for readers were offered as well.

The program, under the banner theme, "Our Relationship With God: Personal Transformation and Its Power to Transform the World," included major presentations as well as discussion groups and workshops. Three multimedia programs were presented: *A History of the URANTIA Movement* (Publications Committee of URANTIA Brotherhood), *The Great Adventure* (First URANTIA Society of Oklahoma), and *Toward a Governed World* (Telecosm). A special children's program was also offered throughout the conference.

Daily conference newsletters were published in both English and French. Electronic translation equipment failed to arrive, but many bi-lingual participants made valiant efforts to compensate for this need among non-English speaking attendees. Evenings were set aside for informal fellowship, our own entertainment, and trips to local points of interest.

Also new this year was the teaming of another gathering, a "spiritual retreat," immediately before the opening of the general conference. More than one

Continued in next column

CONFERENCE CALENDAR

February 12-14, 1988, Southwest Conference of Readers of *The URANTIA Book*, Franciscan Renewal Center, Scottsdale, Arizona. Theme: "Face to Face, Heart to Heart, Spirit to Spirit." Contact: Bob Dominski, S.O.N., 4403 E. Baseline Rd., Mesa, AZ 85206. Phone: (602) 832-6827. Alternate contact, Peggy Johnson, phone: (602) 277-5256.

May 13-15, 1988, Scientific Symposium, Nashville, Tennessee. Theme: "Man's Augmenting Vision." Contact: Scientific Symposium I, P.O. Box 23238, Nashville, TN 37202. Phone: (615) 383-5854.

May 27-29, 1988, Rencontre provinciale des lecteurs du *Livre d'URANTIA* du Quebec, l'Auberge Les Quatre Temps, Lac Beauport, Quebec, Canada. Theme: "Le Livre d'URANTIA dans ma vie quotidienne." Contact: Comité Organisateur, a/s Germaine Dube, 2445, rue Trudeau, Duberger, QC, G1P 3J9, CANADA.

June 10-12, 1988, Eastern Regional Conference, Simon's Rock campus of Bard College, Great Barrington, Massachusetts. Theme: "Religions of the World." Contact: URANTIA Society of Central Connecticut, P.O. Box 88, Farmington, CT 06032.

June 26-30, 1988, Intensive Study Seminar, Lake Forest College, Illinois. Theme: "Patterning for Perfection." Contact: URANTIA Brotherhood, 533 Diversey Parkway, Chicago, IL 60614. Phone: (312) 327-0424.

July 16-23, 1988, Rencontre francophone des lecteurs du *Livre d'URANTIA*, l'Abbaye de Bonnetombe, Cassagnes-Begonhes, l'Aveyron, France. Contact: Famille Bize, 1661 Estavannens, SWITZERLAND or Jacques Tetrault, 830 Cote Terrebonne, Terrebonne, PQ, CANADA. Phone: (514) 471-3783.

July 23-24, 1988, Oregon Conference for Readers of *The URANTIA Book*. Theme: "Spiritual Teamwork." Contact: Nancy Votrain, P.O. Box 2046, Corvallis, OR 97339.

August 18-21, 1988, North Central Conference for Readers of *The URANTIA Book*, Open Bible Campgrounds, Clear Lake, Iowa. Contact: George Sammis, Box 1355, Mason City, IA 50401. Phone: (515) 424-1511.

October 10-14, 1988, South Pacific Regional Meeting of *URANTIA Book* Readers, Ranelagh House, Robertson, New South Wales, Australia. Contact: Kathleen Swadling, 7 Walsh St., Narrabeen 2101, NSW AUSTRALIA. Phone: (02) 9137893. Reply by January 15, 1988 to assure housing.

hundred individuals came to Maine expressly to participate in a program of relaxation and preparation.

A very special vote of gratitude should be given to the innumerable readers who freely gave their time and energy to make this conference a success. This is particularly important since the conference was not without its universe-class challenges, both for individuals and groups of individuals.

Each of us played our role, or roles, as conference planner and organizer, participant, parent, brother, sister, confidant, child care leader, lover of mankind, etc., to the best of our abilities and each according to our individual God-consciousness. In four years, all who joined in were tested and tried and then were tested and tried some more. Each frame and measure of time indexed our group expression of love for God and our brothers. Many people who made their way to Maine in August recognize an important lesson in that, despite the character or significance of any particular event in our individual or collective lives, it is, and always will be, our personal experience of the Paradise Father that draws us near to him, making each moment real, understandable, love-driven, and supreme.