



# URANTIA® Brotherhood BULLETIN

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## CONCLAVE, TDA, SEMINARS, COUNCIL PACK WEEK

Friday, June 24, marks the beginning of a nine-day period of intense educational, fraternal, and organizational activity centering in the Chicago area. On that day representatives of the eighteen chartered URANTIA Societies will assemble at 533 Diversey Parkway for the Second Conclave of URANTIA Societies, an all-day meeting designed to explore two facets of Society function:

What a Society should do if it is to be a Society, not solely a study group, and how it can do such activities in its area.

Intersocietal cooperation, or how each group can support those of its sister Societies, each within its own area.

Though primarily devoted to group discussion, the program includes short presentations by members of the Charter Committee and the Domestic Extension Committee, which are concerned with Society activities.

On Saturday, June 25, official Delegates and Alternates elected by the eighteen Societies will convene on 533 for the Triennial Delegate Assembly, which elects the members of the General Council, the supreme policy-making body of URANTIA Brotherhood. The TDA also debates and acts on resolutions relating to the operation of URANTIA Brotherhood, which are then submitted to the General Council for discussion.

Normally the TDA completes its business by Sunday afternoon, after which the scene of action will shift to Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, Illinois, about an hour north of Chicago, where registration will be occurring for the Education Committee's third of a series of intensive study seminars devoted to an overview study of *The URANTIA Book*. The seminars are being held for four days, beginning Monday, June 27, and ending Thursday, June 30. The theme is "Patterning for Perfection" and study will concentrate on Papers 57-92 of Part III of the Book.

## Education Committee Program

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 career plan; 3) the relationship of evolution and revelation on Urantia; 4) the 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.

On Saturday and Sunday, July 2-3, as readers attending the Education Committee seminars depart for home, the General Council will hold its annual business meeting at Lake Forest College. Among the many items of business to be considered this year are the election of Brotherhood officers, new members of the Executive Committee, new committee members, and further exploration of how the Brotherhood and the Foundation can work together and with Societies, Members, and readers, to further the progress of the revelation.

## THREE NEW SOCIETIES COME ON LINE

Seattle, Kansas City, and New York City were the locales for the chartering of three new URANTIA Societies, bringing the total of active groups to eighteen.

### Seattle

Eighty people attended the chartering of The Pilot Light URANTIA Society of Seattle on Saturday evening, March 5, at a beautiful oceanside facility. The installation was preceded by a banquet, a musical presentation, a dramatic skit, poetry reading, and several speakers. Hoite Caston brought greetings from URANTIA Foundation, and Steve Dreier, the chairman of URANTIA Brotherhood's Charter Committee, addressed the group on current activities within URANTIA Brotherhood.

Eighteen Society Founders and 9 Charter Members, all from the state of Washington, participated in the chartering ceremony. Faraway visitors, as well as representatives of the nearby Evergreen URANTIA Society (Wenatchee, Washington), hailed in the Pilot Light URANTIA Society of Seattle, also known as PLUSS.

A heretofore unique office has been incorporated into PLUSS's constitution meant to help guide this action-oriented Society. Along with the usual officers and committee chairs, a "Facilitator" will serve in a special capacity with regard to Society projects. Their constitution states, "The Facilitator shall facilitate between the membership and the governing board any ideas presented by the membership to the governing board as potential projects that the Society should do relevant to the Society's purpose and the Society's support." This novel arrangement will provide assistance to the Society in seeing any type of official project through its formation and implementation. The Facilitator also oversees the regular production of a newsletter designed to communicate more fully with other Societies.

PLUSS's first set of officers are Anthony Finstad, President; Roy Benjamin, Vice President; Inez Finstad, Secretary; and Pat (Bedell) Martin, Treasurer. Don Lee is the group's first Facilitator.

### Kansas City

The Heart of America URANTIA Society of Kansas City (Missouri), the Society with the longest name to date, was chartered on Saturday evening, March 12, at a Unity Church in Kansas City (Kansas). One hundred people witnessed the installation ceremony in which 26 Society Founders and 19 Charter Members participated. Several hours of fellowship and refreshments followed.

Preceding the chartering a series of talks were delivered which examined destiny—individual, local, and organizational. Jim McNelly looked at God-centeredness versus self-centeredness in his talk about individual or personal destiny. Barbara Kulicke, formerly from Kansas City, discussed local destiny and looked back on the past and the events that led to the formation of The Heart of America URANTIA Society of Kansas City. Berkeley Elliot completed the series



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT CALLS FOR ACTION

The following article is drawn from President Dave Elders' Report to the General Council, August 1987. In presenting this visionary concept to the Council, Dave began with a review of his assessment of the present status of URANTIA Brotherhood and concluded with a review of implications of these ideas for planning Brotherhood actions. In summarizing, he wrote, "URANTIA Brotherhood, from my perspective, is struggling to free itself today from the necessary controls and restrictions which protected it in its infancy. In order to break this inertia and take a major growth step toward productive maturity as a living and organic vehicle of the teachings of this fifth epoch, we must reach for a higher and motivating vision of what it is possible for us to achieve. What you ... read is my vision; you may have another and better one. What seems clear, however, is that we need something to give us a real and achievable mission for our fellowship which is both responsive to and expressive of the teachings we profess to represent."

### A Vision of URANTIA Brotherhood Civilization in the Fifth Epoch

It is my belief that the blueprint for what our global fellowship can and must become is contained in the pages of *The URANTIA Book*. While the fourth epoch, made real by Michael's living presence among us as Jesus of Nazareth, demonstrated the awesome opportunity to live wholly according to the will of our God, the fifth epoch builds onto this inner imperative the manner in which each unique, spirit-led individual must live in relation to each and every other unique and spirit-led individual. True unity is the inner and progressive experience of oneness with God; true diversity is the simultaneous existence of each and every unique child of this same Father. The active and increasingly loving recognition of the God in each person is our way, in a supreme sense, of realizing that, in God, unity and diversity are one and the same. Thus, while personal and inner transformation IS the very essence of our work, it must also become increasingly actualized in the outer spheres of our lives together as human beings. And that is the service the fellowship we call URANTIA Brotherhood can provide for us and for every person on our planet.

I believe that the individuals who comprise URANTIA Brotherhood must strive together to become a GLOBAL CIVILIZATION OF LIGHT AND LIFE in the larger world community in order to demonstrate in a living and profound way what it is possible to achieve in this fifth great epoch. *The URANTIA Book* states that: "At first life was a struggle for existence; now, for a standard of living; next, it will be for a quality of thinking, the next great earthly goal of human existence." (910/3-4; 910:1) Our fellowship can serve that purpose by evolving an ever-progressing expression of community which transcends animal nature (fear and mistrust), environmental circumstance (cultural, national, linguistic), hypocrisy of inconsistent words and deeds, and acceptance of what-is-as-necessary to flourish as a higher order of culture and civilization expressive of fifth epoch principles and ideals:

1. God is our personal Father and the Father of every person who is. This recognition is not just an observation of fact, but rather, an empowerment of each and every person to seek the God in each and every other, and to manifest it in a high order of balanced living: true inward spiritual brotherhood and true outward social brotherhood.
2. The willing commitment of a measure of outward sovereignty to an ever larger social expression of this eternal brotherhood is the supreme gift each unique individual may bestow on his fellows. Ultimately, this will lead to the true realization of man and mankind as spiritual values.
3. URANTIA Brotherhood, if it can increasingly express the ability of the teachings of this fifth epoch to enable humankind's growth to a new, more inclusive level, will become a mighty force in the transformation of the peoples on our planet toward light and life, not so much by the words we speak or carry to others, but by the way in which our lives are led—alone and together with our friends.
4. All phases of the realms of human experience must be uplifted in our community: the arts, science, philosophy, marriage, home and family life, religious in-

Continued in next column

## NEW FIELD REPRESENTATIVE PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

At last Summer's meeting, the General Council approved a new initiative on Field Representatives to be administered by the Domestic Extension Committee. It has long been agreed that study groups are central to the growth of our fellowship and the dissemination of the Urantia revelation. For over twenty years, a system of Field Representatives has been effective in helping untold groups and individuals, through the dedicated service of a small number of individuals who have served in this capacity. Under the new program that concept will be extended to involve more people, to better serve isolated study groups and readers, to establish definite areas of responsibility, and to better coordinate the whole system.

The Field Representative's joy is to help individual readers of *The URANTIA Book* and study groups within an assigned territory. The new program aims to appoint one or more field representatives to serve for a term of three years in each state and/or large population center in the United States. Appointments will be based on nominations by the Domestic Extension Committee. In areas where URANTIA Societies function, the Societies will be invited to elect a Field Representative.

In late Winter a letter from the Domestic Extension Committee was mailed to all U.S. Study Group leaders of record inviting their participation in the selection process. If you have a study group, did not receive this mailing, and wish to participate in the recommendation process, contact Harry McMullan, Chairman, Domestic Extension Committee, 330 South Vermont, Oklahoma City, OK 73108.

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struction, morality and ethics, politics, education. The quality of thinking must be uplifted so that it positively affects the realms of action. This will give living recognition of and opportunity to the presence of the Adjuster in the human mind, thereby expressing our choice to allow our Father's hand to evolve us from our heritage of animal "reaction" as motivation to "spirit-led action" as a stimulus to living.

5. We must take the injunction to "live in the world but not be of it" more seriously as a present choice and not a future event. Our culture, language, nation, race do not define us as persons, but only define the circumstances of our natures. While once these shared characteristics served to socially unify, ennoble, and evolve humankind from tribe to nation, their utility in this fifth epoch is in the potential of the teachings to facilitate our transcendence of them to attain a new order of cultural expression—a community of religionists united not by the externals of nature and environment, but by the indwelling of our God. If URANTIA Brotherhood cannot overcome these differences and move humankind toward the one language, one race, one culture of light and life, some other group will. The paradox in transcendence is that the good is preserved at a higher level; thus, if cultural or national expression is of value, it will be retained in the heightened appreciation of the uniqueness of each and every individual.

6. Our collective drive would be to aid each person in the realization and expression of ever-higher experiences with the God who is the very heart and soul of our community: bringing man to God and God to man. As such, we would not just "allow" our associates to express the meaning of the teachings of *The URANTIA Book* in their own unique way using the gifts of their intelligence, experience, expertise, and training, but we would EMPOWER them to do so. In this way, our community would be expressive of the true diversity of humankind and our personal and collective commitment to the underlying unity in our Father it reflects.

7. While Light and Life is a future accomplishment in a planetary sense, URANTIA Brotherhood should be committed unwaveringly to the principle that an individual and groups of individuals in association CAN live today in the world in a manner increasingly expressive of Light and Life. Adherence to this principle would give our community an living goal which, though perhaps not perfectly attainable in our lifetimes nor in those of our children or theirs, would be a motivating "worthwhile unattainable." (See "The Nature of Cultism," pp. 965-966 in *The URANTIA Book*).



## LETTER FROM OREGON

*The following article is excerpted from a letter received at headquarters from the Lincoln City study group, written by Doug & Lissa Parker and Judy Mace:*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We would like to take a few moments of your time to share some good news about our activities here in Oregon. We're sure you will be pleased to know that the revelation has taken firm hold in the fertile Oregon soil, and a healthy family of URANTIA Book readers had developed. For many years a number of families have met for fellowship and regular study. While no geographic grouping has ever had more than 15-20 study group members, many of these groups have been meeting regularly for well over ten years.

During the past three years a core group of study group members from these different areas throughout the state have come together to plan and conduct a statewide conference at Silver Falls Conference Center, a regional children's conference (a mini-conference within the Northwest Regional Conference at Warm Beach, Washington), and are now in the planning stages of a second statewide conference. This is a truly dedicated group of families and individuals. We love this avenue of service and fellowship and feel blessed to be active in such service.

For years many of us have had our dreams of establishing a Society. Whenever anything was said aloud it would always be preceded by the disclaimer "someday" or "when the time is right," a Society will happen. If all indications are correct, that "someday" is coming soon, and the time does seem to be right for Oregon to have a Society. THANK YOU FATHER!!! Last fall, our group (which has adopted the name of "OREGONDONTER"), met with Tom Choquette to discuss what it means to apply for Society status. After careful consideration and communications with outlying study groups, we have decided to go forward with the charter application. Committees have been established to carry out the required application processes. At present, our timeline indicates that within the next year the application will be submitted.

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by discussing the structure of URANTIA Brotherhood and its present challenges in her talk on organizational destiny. Bill Hazen brought greetings from URANTIA Brotherhood and, just prior to the festivities, Mike Painter spoke to the group and answered questions about URANTIA Foundation.

The first set of officers for The Heart of America URANTIA Society of Kansas City are Robert Bruyn, President; Constance Greene, Vice President; Michael Wood, Secretary; and Ila Hall, Treasurer.

## Greater New York

The URANTIA Society of Greater New York was inaugurated on Sunday afternoon, April 17, at a private yacht club on City Island immediately off the coast of Bronx, New York. The chartering ceremony was preceded by musical selections and poetry reading, and greetings from URANTIA Foundation by Helena Sprague. Tom Choquette, a member of the URANTIA Brotherhood Chartering Committee, and now representing the recently chartered Pilot Light URANTIA Society of Seattle, conducted the installation, which encompassed 17 Society Founders and 6 Charter Members. The official ceremony was followed by a large pot-luck luncheon and several hours of fellowship. Three representatives of the Wanatchee-based Evergreen Society, and many readers from nearby Throg's Neck (a bevy of URANTIA Book activity) joined in the celebration.

The URANTIA Society of Greater New York's first term officers are Bart Ice, President; Kathy Devine, Vice President; Dale Szejnberg, Secretary; and John Speed, Treasurer.

Coming rapidly over the horizon are two additional societies, both outside of the United States, in Ontario, Canada and Helsinki, Finland.

## TECHNOLOGY BOOSTS COMMUNICATION, STUDY

During the past year two new technology-based services to the readership have appeared, an electronic library and a computer-based reference aid, both of which were demonstrated publicly at the 1987 General Conference.

### Electronic Library

The Brotherhood of Man Library is an electronic data service for students of *The URANTIA Book* which has been fully operational since August 21, 1987. This service is envisioned as an international repository for pertinent subjects of study and fellowship. The sponsors feel that offering a centralized telecommunications service will assist writers and teachers in sharing their insights with a growing readership.

Information in the Library is available to anyone with a computer and a modem. The Library allows downloading of articles and accepts uploaded materials. Advanced services, such as electronic mail, bulletin boards, and automatic transfers of large files are provided. Readers desiring more information should phone George Sammis at (515) 424-1511 or write for information to Box 1355, Mason City, IA 50401.

### Reference Aid

The Computer-Based Reference Aid is an electronic data base system which provides an index of over 600,000 references to over 24,000 terms used in *The URANTIA Book*, along with experimental utilities for retrieving and combining lists of word appearances to develop useful reference sets. This system was made available for beta testing by interested readers in early January. The Publications Committee, which is sponsoring this test, hopes to receive input about the design of the system from typical users and hopes that individuals with appropriate computer programming experience will choose to participate in its further development.

The opportunity to participate in the beta test is available to anyone with computer equipment capable of supporting the system. This generally means an IBM compatible or Apple Macintosh with a hard disk of at least 10 MByte capacity. For more information call Dan Massey at (617) 653-8850 or write for information to Box 120, Sherborn, MA 01770.

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## 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 exists among the peoples of our world. Our presentation in this issue concerns the movement called Religious Science.

A part of the larger designation known as New Thought, the philosophy of Religious Science is best described in *The Science of Mind*, written by Ernest Holmes and first published in 1926. The movement, sometimes referred to as Science of Mind, was founded in 1927. At present there are two organizations devoted to the perpetuation and dissemination of Ernest Holmes' teachings. They are called the United Church of Religious Science and Religious Science International. According to one of their joint publications, "Religious Science is a system of mental and spiritual principles combined with a technique for the application of these principles. It is designed to lift and expand consciousness in ways that lead to an even higher order of livingness. It emphasizes the spiritual connection of all, thus promoting peace and greater harmony at all levels of experience. The consistent application of Religious Science results in health, satisfying relationships, enhanced creativity and prosperity." The following material is taken from the writings of Ernest Holmes and represents some of the basic beliefs contained in his teachings.

"We believe in God, the Living Spirit Almighty; one, indestructible, absolute, and self-existent Cause. This One manifests itself in and through all creation but is not absorbed by its creation. The manifest universe is the body of God; it is the logical and necessary outcome of the infinite self-knowingness of God... We believe in the incarnation of the Spirit in man and that all men are incarnations of the One Spirit... We believe in the eternity, the immortality, and the continuity of the individual soul, forever and ever expanding... We believe that the Kingdom of Heaven is within man and that we experience this Kingdom to the degree that we become conscious of it... We believe the ultimate goal of life to be a complete emancipation from all discord of every nature, and that this goal is sure to be attained by all... We believe in the unity of all life, and that the highest God and the innermost God is one God... We believe that God is personal to all who feel this indwelling Presence... We believe in the direct revelation of Truth through the intuitive and spiritual nature of man, and that any man may become a revealer of Truth who lives in close contact with the indwelling God... We believe that the Universal Spirit, which is God, operates through a Universal Mind, which is the Law of God; and that we are surrounded by this Creative Mind which receives the direct impress of our thought and acts upon it... We believe in the healing of the sick through the power of this Mind... We believe in the control of conditions through the power of this Mind... We believe in the eternal Goodness, the eternal Loving-kindness, and the eternal Givingsness of Life to all... We believe in our own soul, our own spirit, and our own destiny; for we understand that the life of man is God.

"As the Laws of God are broad, so should we be in dealing with them. In this Science, we believe that man's life is a drama which takes place on three planes: the physical, the mental, and the spiritual. We should have no objection to any form of healing, for anything that helps to overcome suffering is good, whether it be a pill or a prayer. We believe in any method which produces results, for each has its place in the Whole.

"We believe in every church and in all forms of worship. Above all, we certainly believe in God! Because Truth is infinite, it must be continuously unfolding in the consciousness of man and no one will ever have a complete understanding of Truth. A complete understanding of Truth would be a complete understanding of God, and a complete comprehension of God would be to become God. We know that more light will be given as we use that which we have, and we repudiate any belief which says that all of Truth has been given."

Further information may be obtained by contacting your local Religious Science or Science of Mind church, or one of the following organizations:

Religious Science International	United Church of Religious Science
3130 Fifth Avenue	3251 West Sixth Street
San Diego, CA 92103	Los Angeles, CA 90020

"There is not a Urantia religion that could not profitably study and assimilate the best of the truths contained in every other faith, for all contain truth." (1012:4)

## CONFERENCE CALENDAR

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 Bonnecombe, 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.

July 29-31, 1988 Midwest Conference for Readers of *The URANTIA Book*, University of Indianapolis, Indianapolis, Indiana. Contact: Bob Buselli, 5093 N. Delaware St., Indianapolis, IN 46220. Phone: (317) 251-7163.

July 30-31, Annual Summer Weekend Meeting of British URANTIA Book Readers in London at the home of Gez & Pamela Lamb, 31 Westmorland Rd., North Harrow. Phone: 01-427-3593.

August 18-21, 1988, First North Central Conference for Readers of *The URANTIA Book*, Open Bible Campgrounds at Clear Lake, Ventura, Iowa. Theme: "A Celebration of Gifts from God: Christ Michael on Urantia." Contact: Merry Hanson, 3200 Main Avenue, Clear Lake, IA 50428. Phone: (515) 357-8318.

## Oregon from Page 3

As a newly forming Society, we humbly seek guidance and counsel from all of our more experienced brothers and sisters throughout the assembly of reader-believers. At the same time we believe we can add yet another unique flavor to the spiritual fragrance that will one day envelop the entire planet.

Please come and visit us in Oregon. The next Oregon conference is planned for the Summer of 1988, at Silver Creek Falls Conference Center. Michael Painter attended our first state-wide conference, held at this same site, two years ago. We will be sending a mailing with more specifics in the late Fall or early Winter. Any of you who have not visited the Pacific Northwest or who would like a reason to return, are invited to join us in our study/celebration/fellowship of "Spiritual Teamwork."

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