



"Walking With God"

1990 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE APPROACHES

The majestic Rocky Mountains of Colorado will be the site of the upcoming International Conference for readers of *The Urantia Book*. It will be held this summer June 30 to July 5 in Snowmass, Colorado, site of the 1981 International Conference. Over 800 people have already registered and many more are expected to come, for an anticipated attendance of over 1,000 people from all parts of the world. Conference planners have been working hard for the last three years developing new ideas and implementing many suggestions made at past conferences. All readers of *The Urantia Book* are invited to attend.

The theme of this year's conference is "Walking With God" which will be explored through the presentations of experienced individuals willing to share their personal understanding of those habits which form religious growth. As stated on page 1095 of *The Urantia Book*, those habits include: "...cultivated sensitivity to divine values, recognition of religious living in others, reflective meditation on cosmic meanings, worshipful problem solving, sharing one's spiritual life with one's fellows, avoidance of selfishness, refusal to presume on divine mercy, and living as in the presence of God."

Each day will begin with a short creative arts presentation to the entire group followed by a plenary speaker on one of the habits listed above. Thereafter, the morning and afternoon sessions will consist of four simultaneous talks on the same theme.

The program will take place in a new, state-of-the-art conference center. Translators will be provided at the plenary session and at other selected presentations. Considerable free time has been allotted to allow for fellowship and other social and recreational activities.

Worship

The incredible natural beauty of the Rocky Mountains is conducive to prayer, thanksgiving and worship. Meditation/worship gatherings are scheduled in the morning and early evening each day. The conference will conclude with a thanksgiving worship service for all participants coordinated by the Boulder Women's Corps. Jeff Wattles, Lee Smith, Carol Hay, and Jay Peregrine are just a few of the people who are leading worship experiences ranging from quiet meditation to a more active outdoor worship gathering.

(Continued on page 2)

NEWS FROM 529...

Arizona Society to be chartered in May. Grand Canyon Society for Readers of *The Urantia Book* will be installed on May 19, 1990 at the Clarion Hotel in Scottsdale, Arizona. For information contact the Grand Canyon Society, P.O. Box 2621, Scottsdale, AZ 85252-2621, tel: (602) 947-8507.

International Committee Chair reports on visit to study groups in Eastern and Western Europe. (See page 3.)

Study Group Herald announced. (See page 3.)

Second Annual "Roundtable" to be held in Snowmass. The Domestic Extension Committee is sponsoring another roundtable during the Snowmass Conference to give groups related to *The Urantia Book* an opportunity to talk about their work and to share ideas.

Library book placement project continues. This program, offered by the Domestic Extension and International Fellowship Committees, has been effective for years in placing *Urantia Books* all over the world.

Resource Guide to Secondary Works to be available soon. Developed by the Special Projects Committee, it is a guide to available "secondary works"—books, newsletters, articles, and study aids—that pertain to *The Urantia Book*. □

*"The Master by precept and example taught the value of worshiping the Creator in the midst of the natural surroundings of creation." (*1840)*

Entertainment

The performing arts can be just as uplifting an experience as a stirring lecture, a silent walk in the woods, or an inspiring text. Music, poetry, drama, comedy, dance, and multimedia presentations are all planned for an enthralling evening program.

July 3rd will be the night of the Chuck Wagon Barbeque with all the trimmings, a live country band, square dancing, and Snowmass' annual fireworks display.

Professional entertainers and conference participants will blend their talents to provide an enriching experience. National recording artist Peter Kater will perform a piano concert. If all goes as planned, an internationally known singer and songwriter living in Aspen may give a private concert.

Late evening entertainment and socializing can be found at "Club UB" (back by popular demand, after being such a hit at the 1987 Conference in Maine).

Common Interest Groups

Several "common interest group" meetings have been scheduled during afternoon free time. These meetings can be scheduled by anyone around virtually any interest. Some of the groups already scheduled include meetings for attending clergy, health care professionals, women with an interest in community service, and adult children of alcoholics.

Activities

Snowmass/Aspen, right in the heart of the Colorado Rockies, hums with vitality in summer. Cast a line in a rushing trout stream. Ride down a river on a white-water raft trip. Hike on miles of well-marked trails. There are golf, tennis, swimming, and theater. Explore the glorious high country on horseback. Or just relax alone or with friends and soak up the beauty of the majestic mountains under a clear sky.

The registration packet contains more information on the following activities which need to be reserved ahead of time:

- **Whitewater Raft Trip**—The Colorado River provides a great half day river trip. It is a combination of delightful rapids, interspersed with calm water stretches.
- **Glenwood Hot Springs**—A huge pool fed from mineral hot springs provides fun

A Sampling of Speakers and Topics

Beth Bartley	"An Offer Too Good to Refuse!"
Chuck Burton	"Tadpoles, Butterflies, and Lightosity"
Bill and Kaye Cooper	"Seeing with God's Eyes"
Mary Daly	"Reconciliation and Growth"
Avi Dogim	"The Social Repercussions of Sonship"
Dave Elders	"Experiencing the God in Another"
Alison Gardner	"Cosmic Choice in Everyday Life"
Francyl Gawryn	"Discovering Cosmic Meanings through Personal Story and Song"
Marvin Gawryn	"Worshipful Problem Solving: Listening While Loving"
David Glass	"Cosmic Consciousness, Reality and Purpose"
Daniel Love Glazer	"The Faith of Jesus"—A recitation from memory.
Earlene Green	"I Wouldn't Take Nothing (Anything) for My Journey Thus Far"
Gloriann Harris	"I Believe God Made Me for a Purpose"
Carol Hay	"The Art of Sharing"
Gard & Florence Jameson	"Fellowship with God, Now and Forever"
Adrienne Jarnagin	"God's Undergraduates"
Jim Johnston	"Avoidance of Selfishness"
Marilynn Kuleke	"Working to Resolve the Dynamic Tension between Selfishness and Selflessness"
Eileen Laurence	"Ethical Behavior in Our Daily Lives"
Dan Massey	"Love, Volition, and Supremacy"
Harry McMullan	"Jesus' Principles and Caesar's Money"
Jim McNelly	"On Earth As It Is"
Bob Schuer	"Putting an Eye to the Keyhole of Eternity"
Satu Sihvo	"Sharing One's Spiritual Life with One's Fellows"
Meredith Sprunger	"Prayerful Problem Solving"
Brent St. Denis	"Practice Makes Perfect"
Errol & Rochelle Strider	"In His Presence—The Tools, the Difficulties, the Feeling, the Experience"
Buck & Arlene Weimer	"Everything You Always Wanted to Know about Family Peace!"
Will Wentworth	"Making the Effort"

for the whole family. • **Two-Hour Horseback Trailride**—Scenic views of Snowmass and Aspen on well-groomed trails. Gentle horses. • **Walking/Shopping Tour of Aspen**—Aspen is alive with activity on July 4th and is a beautiful city to enjoy.

Pre-Conference Spiritual Retreat

A pre-conference spiritual retreat called "Adventures in Spiritual Living" will explore techniques for achieving a personal spiritual relationship with God. Dallas Fellowship and *The Circles* magazine are presenting the retreat

which is the same program presented at Mo Ranch at Hunt, Texas, in October, 1989, where it was extremely effective in evoking an awareness of God's presence. Personal experience and spiritual sharing will be the major approach. The retreat will start Thursday evening, June 28th, at 7:30 pm and end Saturday, June 30th at noon.

For further information about the conference or to request a registration packet, call or write Fifth Epochal Fellowship, 529 Wrightwood, Chicago, IL 60614; tel: (312) 327-0424. □

Fellowship launches the *Study Group Herald*

by Marty Greenhut

The *Study Group Herald*, a new magazine being developed by Fifth Epochal Fellowship, has come off the drawing boards and will make its appearance in the Fall of 1990. Representatives from the Publications, Education, and Domestic Extension Committees have been named to the governing board of this new magazine designed to foster communication and growth within the study group movement. They have appointed as managing editor Martin Greenhut of Great Barrington, Massachusetts, a member of URANTIA Society of Central Connecticut, Editor of USCC Newsletter, and Area Coordinator for Western Massachusetts.

Study Group Herald will be a twenty-four page semiannual magazine. It will

be mailed to study group members and individual *Urantia Book* readers worldwide.

"We will rely on Area Coordinators to develop most of the *Study Group Herald*," said Marty Greenhut. Since Area Coordinators visit and nurture regional study groups, they will find the *Study Group Herald* a useful tool to network information, ideas, and inspiration arising from the grass roots of the study group movement.

This new magazine will feature: news of the *Urantia* movement; the doings of readers; articles on how to hold effective study groups; topical study aids; a section devoted to the interests of young people; sharing of spiritual experiences; articles shedding light on the revelation itself; outreach ideas; classified ads; a

community bulletin board; calendars of events; and study group and Area Coordinator listings.

We need your help!

Writers, artists, cartoonists, photographers, humorists, book reviewers, and proofreaders, you are needed. If you can serve in any of these functional capacities, please send details of what you would like to do. We want your *Study Group Herald* to reflect joy in the revelation, realism of the human struggle, and the unity of goals as it develops in our fraternal association.

Write to or call Marty Greenhut at 181 State Rd., Great Barrington, MA 01230, tel: (413) 528-1452, to volunteer your time, talents or ideas. □

European Study Groups Visited

by Berkeley Elliott, International Fellowship Committee Chair

Editor's note: Berkeley Elliott and John Lange have recently returned from a trip to visit study groups in Eastern and Western Europe. The following is a short resumé of their trip.

John Lange and I arrived in Germany April 3rd. On the 4th a small meeting was set at Susan and Rusty Aldridge's home (in Morbach, close to Luxembourg) for people who had been introduced to the book. Due to a snow storm that afternoon and evening the only person able to come was Frank Wright, formerly of Knoxville, TN, now living in Frankfurt. He is trying to get in touch with all readers in the area of Germany and surrounding countries and hopes to get them together in the next year or so for a conference. He had many questions and we had a great visit with him.

On April 5th we went to Brussels, Belgium. Francois Dupont met us and took us sightseeing. That evening we met with students from several study groups at Tom and Samara Joldersma's home. They live near Marie-Therese and Fernand De Vinck, and approximately 20 readers were there. They held a regular study group, which consists of discussing the paper they have all read before the meeting. (This time it was Paper 194, Bestowal of the Spirit of Truth, which brings them close to their first completed reading of *The Urantia Book*.) Afterward



Study group participants at home of Tom and Samara Joldersma in Brussels, Belgium

food was served and much visiting occurred. It was a wonderful meeting. There were a few who didn't speak English very well, but with six or eight interpreters, it went quite well. It was a very impressive group.

From Brussels we went to The Hague and on to Amsterdam, The Netherlands. I had a short visit with Baukje Begemann in Amsterdam. She has five study groups that she continues to encourage and meet with, carrying on the work she and

Henry had started.

From Amsterdam we went to Copenhagen, Denmark, where we met with Jean Ascher. He had his own unicycle circus, called Circus Changhigh, and was a very interesting person. He tells us only 10% of the population in Denmark goes to church. He has been a reader for many years and is well read in the book. We spent quite a lot of time with him and he showed us around the city. We had

See EUROPE on back cover.

CONFERENCES

May 26-28, Life Enrichment Center, Leesburg, FL. Theme: "From Fear to Faith." Contact Pat Amyx, 4517 Hale Ave., Tampa, FL 33611, (813) 839-4517.

June 8-10, Geneva Park YMCA Conference Center, Lake Couchiching, Orillia, Ontario, Canada. Theme: "Planetary Paradigm: Understanding Anew God's Love in the World." Contact Couchiching URANTIA Society of Ontario, Cindy Hopper, (416) 225-7861.

June 8-10, Northeast Regional Conference for Readers of *The Urantia Book*, Simon's Rock of Bard College, Great Barrington, MA. Theme: "Personality—The Gift and the Challenge." Contact Steve Bartley, 2389 Algonquin Rd., Schenectady, NY 12309, (518) 370-5016.

EUROPE (Continued from page 3)

many interesting discussions.

From there we went to Gdansk, Poland. Poland is a deprived country but very happy with its freedom. Bohdan Spolitakiewicz met us at the airport and spent the afternoon and all of the next day with us. He wanted to be with us and discuss the book and spiritual things every minute we were there. We took him two *Urantia Books* and several pamphlets. He invited us to his home in Sopot, a short distance north, and we had lunch with him and his wife (she speaks no English but we communicated easily). He set up an appointment for John Lange to meet with a fellow M.D. who has the same specialty as his at a hospital in Gdansk and we all went there. I feel Bohdan is a very spiritual person, and we thoroughly enjoyed being with him.

We left Gdansk April 13, spent six hours in Warsaw, and then flew into East Berlin. We had a little problem getting to West Berlin, but mission was accomplished, through many security checks. The Berlin wall was most interesting and the problems with its coming down are of concern to many people, even though they are very happy about the reuniting of the two Germans.

With each trip we take and with each and every contact, I am more and more convinced of the importance of personal contact and the beauty of our Father's plan to bring us all together. We see his plans beginning to take shape everywhere we go! □

1990 Conference Child Care Support

The Child Care Program needs support to help fund it so that we can all have a better conference. In order to subsidize this important program, Fifth Epochal Fellowship will be selling commemorative T-shirts and hats at the conference. The T-shirts have the theme "Walking with God" in several languages printed on the back and the conference logo on the front. They come in various sizes and colors. The hats are in neon colors and also display the conference logo. All proceeds from the sale of the T-shirts and hats will go to help fund the Child Care Program. □

What was that word?

HOPE—the grandeur of trust (*51).

This definition from *The Urantia Book* is far loftier than that presented in Webster; i.e., "desire accompanied by expectation of or belief in fulfillment." From there it merely crossreferences to the words "trust" and "reliance."

Grandeur is defined as "the quality or state of being grand," and *grand* (as it might apply here) is defined as "having more importance or higher rank than others bearing the same general designation; marked by a regal form and dignity."

Trust is defined as "assured reliance on the character, ability, strength, or truth of someone or something."

If hope is the *grandeur* of trust, we must learn to assign it a deeper meaning. If we accept that trust is "assured reliance on the character, ability, strength, or truth of [God] or [*The Urantia Book*]," then perhaps we could infer that hope means we learn to go a step beyond and actually dare to live out such trust—with regal form and dignity.

*Quotation from *The Urantia Book*, copyright © 1955 by URANTIA Foundation, all rights reserved.

Fifth Epochal Fellowship is dedicated to the study and dissemination of the teachings of *The Urantia Book* and to the growing fellowship among readers.

Your continuing moral and financial support is greatly appreciated. Contributions to Fifth Epochal Fellowship are tax deductible.

LETTERS

March 30, 1990

Dear Editors:

In the fall issue of the Fifth Epochal Fellowship *Bulletin* you stated that Pilot Light Urantia Society of Seattle (PLUSS) was among those societies which "have met and decided to maintain their affiliation with Fifth Epochal Fellowship." The members of PLUS are concerned that this error may foster some misconceptions about our society's official position and we would like to clarify the situation.

The members of PLUS have met on two occasions to formally discuss the change in relationship between the Foundation and Fifth Epochal Fellowship, formerly known as Urantia Brotherhood. PLUS has not signed the letter of intent to affiliate with the Urantia Brotherhood Association; neither has it voted to change its relationship in any way with Fifth Epochal Fellowship. Technically speaking, PLUS does not consider that its relationship with either Urantia Foundation or the former Urantia Brotherhood has changed despite the major changes that have taken place within and between its two parent organizations.

Please be so kind as to clarify our position to readers of the *Bulletin* in your next issue. The governing board of PLUS will notify if there are any changes in the society's status.

PLUS Governing Board

Fifth Epochal Fellowship BULLETIN

Published by:

Publications Committee
Fifth Epochal Fellowship
529 Wrightwood Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60614

or

P.O. Box 148068
Chicago, Illinois 60614-8068

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Printed in U.S.A.

CONFERENCE NOTES

"Urantia is now quivering on the very brink of one of its most amazing and enthralling epochs of social readjustment, moral quickening, and spiritual enlightenment." (*2082)

A Message from John D. Hay Chair, 1990 International Conference

The Urantia movement needs you.

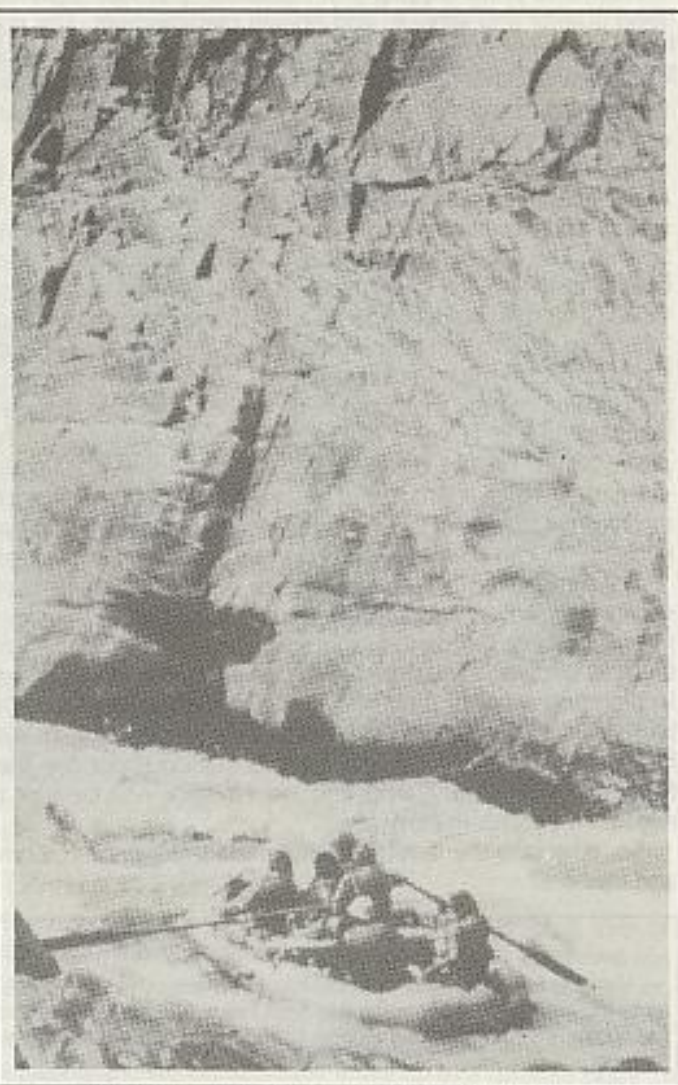
Fifth Epochal Fellowship is a vital part of the Urantia movement, and every three years we have a large International Conference so that reader-believers from all over the world can get together and meet each other, study with each other, and get to know each other. We are expecting over 1,000 people at Snowmass/Aspen this year and hope you can be there.

These are important times for the whole world in that peace and democracy are emerging around the globe. Once the citizens of this world start to enjoy the fruits of peace they will undoubtedly look for answers and seek for new meanings in their individual religious lives. The temples, synagogues, mosques, and churches will not contain the growing quest for spiritual knowledge.

On page 2082, *The Urantia Book* tells us "Urantia is now quivering on the very brink of one of its most amazing and enthralling epochs of social readjustment, moral quickening, and spiritual enlightenment...And such times...are always times of great revelation." We certainly have a great revelation. We are all very fortunate to be among the first to have *The Urantia Book* in our lives. What does it do for us? How does it affect our lives and those around us? What can we do to help?

Come to the conference at Snowmass/Aspen this summer and find out. See how love and brotherhood dominate most people's lives who have been touched by the revelation. See the goodness, the truth, and the beauty that reading *The Urantia Book* has already begun to impart upon us all. Share in worship and thanksgiving to our heavenly Father.

If you haven't registered yet for the conference, call (312) 327-0424 and we can take care of your registration over the phone or help you with any questions you may have. Over 200 volunteers will be working together to bring you the conference at Snowmass/Aspen this summer. We look forward to joining with you in "Walking with God" in the Colorado Rockies, June 30-July 5, 1990.



"Ride down the river on a whitewater raft trip."

"Religion does need new leaders, spiritual men and women who will dare to depend solely on Jesus and his incomparable teachings... And then will these spirit-born souls quickly supply the leadership and inspiration requisite for the social, moral, economic, and political reorganization of the world." (*2082:3)

Why Take the Family to Snowmass This Summer?

A Message from Linda McNelly Chair, Child Care Committee

Parents who plan to participate in this summer's conference will be delighted to learn that *Family Circle* magazine selected Snowmass Resort as one of its top choices for 1989 Family Resort of the Year! A panel of parents, travel professionals, and family vacation experts rated their favorites—with Snowmass a winner in categories such as spectacular setting, warm welcome to children, plentiful recreation and kids' activities, food quality and service, and on-site management. The conference setting provides a unique opportunity to make social contact with other families who read *The Urantia Book*. These friendships, these very important human relationships, carry enrichment possibilities that last a lifetime.

In addition to the excellent resort facilities, there will be many activities for families to enjoy together, such as rafting, riding, and excursions to the mountain top or Glenwood Hot Springs. The nearby town of Aspen is alive with family Fourth of July festivities. At Snowmass, vacationers can expect fireworks, a western barbeque, even an old fashioned square dance.

So that parents can attend the adult conference sessions, the Childcare Committee is organizing a nursery for babies in a condominium near the convention center. Care and activities for children 3 to 11 years will be provided by Snowmass. This professional, on-site program will be providing arts, crafts, dramatics, dance sports, swim lessons, and nature experiences to children attending the conference. Evening babysitting arrangements can be made with hotel staff and teen babysitters.

For families with teenagers, there will be morning study sessions based on *The Urantia Book* and geared to the teens' interests. These discussion groups will provide opportunity for teens to become acquainted with one another and participate in planning some of their activities. During the afternoon the teens can enjoy the recreation activities, swim, hike, or visit the Media Center. More detailed information about the Teen Program, Adventure Camp and the Nursery will be sent to registered parents in early June.

So, why take the family to Snowmass this summer? Come and find out!



"Cast a line in a rushing trout stream."

ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FUND

An Economic Assistance Fund has been anonymously donated to assist those in need to pay for meals at the conference. By partially subsidizing the cost of meals, this fund helps those people who are having difficulty covering the expense of attending the conference and who otherwise may not be able to attend. We are therefore offering the following subsidies on meal prices for those who are in need:

	Full Meal Plan (14 meals)	Partial Meal Plan (7 meals)
Adults:	\$125 - \$50 off = \$75	\$68 - \$25 off = \$43
Child/Teen 5-16:	\$ 75 - \$30 off = \$45	\$41 - \$15 off = \$26

For a family of 4 this would be a savings of \$160 for the Full Meal Plan or a savings of \$80 for the Partial Meal Plan.

Please do not use this subsidy if you don't need to, as the fund is limited and will be granted on a first come, first served basis. For more information, call Fifth Epochal Fellowship at (312) 327-0424.

*"The soil essential for religious growth presupposes a progressive life of self-realization, the co-ordination of natural propensities, the exercise of curiosity and the enjoyment of reasonable adventure, the experiencing of feelings of satisfaction, the functioning of the fear stimulus of attention and awareness, the wonder-lure, and a normal consciousness of smallness, humility." (*1094)*

RELIGIONS OF OUR WORLD

This article is presented by the Fraternal Relations Committee as part of a 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 the world. All of the material quoted below is taken from an uncopyrighted pamphlet published by the Swedenborgian Press, Newton, MA, entitled:

This We Believe

by Rev. Paul Zacharias, Swedenborgian Church, Ret.

Every so often we need to stand back and take a long, objective, honest look at our religious faith. What do we believe in? Why do we cherish certain particular concepts? What difference does it really make? This challenge to re-examine our "value system" applies to us all, whatever our religious orientation happens to be, Christian and non-Christian alike. We all require a belief-value system that makes sense to us. As responsible persons we need to examine periodically the philosophical and religious frame of reference in which we live and move. If we don't do this, we stagnate; we drift along on a borrowed, second-hand faith which will not serve us in the crunch of life.

Agnostics and atheists alike are called upon to evaluate their life-style; they, too, must know what they believe in, as well as why they reject certain ideas. We all need to have basic convictions, attitudes and values that are reasonably coherent and meaningful, otherwise there is no direction or purpose to life.

When we look at life from this point of view, we start from a framework of thought found in the writings of the 18th century scientist-theologian, Emanuel Swedenborg, a perspective shared by many, including members of the Swedenborgian Church. You may find it valuable to compare this perspective with your own. Some within this tradition might differ on certain phrasings and emphases but in general, when we look at the main issues of our lives, *Swedenborgians see it this way.*

THE CREATIVE LIFE FORCE

This comes first because as Swedenborgians we accept the premise that there is a perfect, supreme Being who is life itself and from whom all life comes. We are because God is; without God we would not be here. God is self-conscious Divine Love and Wisdom. Swedenborgians believe that God is a Divine Person, who is ever present and permeates every living thing. All creation is sustained from moment to moment by God's constant inflowing divine energy. God is aware of what is going on in your life and mine, and is deeply concerned about our welfare. The past and the future are both the present because God is simultaneously within time and space and yet outside of both.

Comprehending God's fulness is forever beyond our grasp. This is why God broadened our understanding by being born as Jesus Christ. When we read the Gospels about the teachings, the compassionate love and the sheer goodness of Jesus, this speaks to us of his continuing presence in our midst as the God-Man. By this perfect life in the world he opened up new dimensions and possibilities for human life, and by his continued presence among us enables us to reach towards them.

LOVE IS LIFE

God is love. Love demands the giving of itself in the hope

that it will be returned. This is what life is all about. We can easily test this assumption. Make a list of the most significant values in your experience. Probably the list will include some of these:

- Deepening your relationships within the family circle.
- Strengthening your friendships.
- Being happily married/or happily single.
- Building your self-esteem.
- Becoming a better person.

All these aspirations express some form of loving. They are love in action. We know from our own experience how important love is. Paul Tillich calls it the "Ground of Being"; Swedenborgians call it "Ultimate Reality." Without love, expressed and enjoyed and shared, life would not be worth living. The kind of love we're talking about is made up of many qualities. It includes understanding, kindness and compassion. Love manifests itself in joy, awareness and acceptance.

All of these take on tangible form in the deepening of our human relationships—the warm beating heart of love. It is helping others with no thought of reward. It is rejoicing in our friends' good fortune and weeping with them in their sorrow. Love makes no demands. It does not compel or dominate, but rather appreciates and encourages the responsible expression of individual differences.

We all know what it means to love and to be loved. We have all thrilled to those exalted experiences, short in time but long remembered, when we felt such intense at-one-ment with a member of the family or a friend or God. In more ways than one, love makes the world go 'round.

ETERNITY IS PRESENT NOW

Because God is love, and love is eternal, all life is forever purposeful. As Swedenborgians we believe that when we die we pass from the consciousness of one world to that of another. When our physical body dies, we remain our true selves. The process of dying does not change our loving, thinking, desiring and memories. We immediately wake up in a spiritual body in the spiritual world. Actually this realm of the spirit surrounds and interpenetrates our material world all the time.

Usually we are unaware of it. Sometimes artists, poets, as well as others like ourselves, have caught glimpses of this real inner world. Wordsworth, Browning, William Blake, Goethe, Shakespeare and thousands of other sensitive persons in all walks of life have had "intimations of immortality," and a conviction of the continuity of personality.

Life flows endlessly on. We gradually free ourselves from the misconceptions and limitations of our earthbound existence. We are with people whom we know and love, people with whom we share similar interests. We have work to do that we enjoy doing and which best serves the well-being of people

around us. All of our best talents are fully utilized. Life in heaven is a well-balanced experience of service, fellowship and recreation. New vistas constantly open up before us. Always the challenge is to become a more authentic person.

This unfolding process as a person must begin here in this world. In a very real sense eternal life begins for us here and now. We make our own heaven or hell, both here and hereafter. Our ultimate destiny depends upon our freely chosen day-by-day decisions, large and small. This is the way life is.

MARRIAGE LOVE

Swedenborgians believe that the highest human form of love is the affection that unites a man and woman in marriage. Granted, there are many loveless, unhappy marriages in the world today, but think for a moment about the ideal, about the happy and successful marriages we know. There is nothing more wonderful than a marriage in which both partners continue to be lovers, each deeply concerned about the happiness and well-being of the other. Where there is a growing trust and a mutual respect, where joys and sorrows are deeply shared and where, as the years go by, there is an ever increasing openness to each other, and a deepening sense of oneness as well as a growing appreciation of the other as a person.

Such "marriage love" is beautiful indeed. In its intimate union and mutual involvement, it is the embodiment in human experience of the union of the perfect Love and Wisdom that is God. It is this harmony with Ultimate Reality that truly sanctifies marriage, giving husband and wife the most vivid intimations of heavenly joy and assuring them of their eternal happiness within this blessed relationship. This ideal of marriage love becomes an ongoing reality for those who are willing to work, to sacrifice and to grow in order to achieve it.

THE FLOW OF PROVIDENCE AND THE SECOND COMING

All of this points to our Swedenborgian concept of Divine Providence: How God is governing the universe, moving in history and working to bring the kingdom of heaven upon earth. While we believe, along with the Catholic theologian, Teilhard, and many others, that all creation and all history is gradually converging toward God, we firmly believe that this can only come about with our freely given cooperation.

God has a magnificent plan for the human race which is nothing less than a heaven on earth. This will come about, not by God's winding up of history nor by a divine destruction of the world many believe, but only through our daring to build a brave new world in the light of God's plan for a new and finer humanity. In the challenge and confusion and changes all around us, we see the birthpangs of a New Order of Life as it struggles into being at the divine hand. In the newness and wonder which set our times off from all history, we see the beginnings of our Lord's Promised Second Coming: the Spirit of Truth that is to lead us into all truth, into a new freedom and to a new humanity as our Eternal Lord moves to "make all things new." We further believe that the Lord's gracious providence has as its further goal a heaven of redeemed men and women in the world of spirit where this larger life can be realized more and more fully and joyously to eternity.

God is calling each one of us to have a humble but very significant part in these cosmic and eternal purposes. As we respond, meaning is given to our existence and significance to our striving. Then we know what it means to trust God, to trust

other people, to trust ourselves.

THE WORD OF GOD

Through the ages God has been revealed in many forms: in the created universe, in human beings made "in God's image and likeness," and uniquely in the incarnation as the historical Christ. For us, today, the Bible is the fullest disclosure of our Lord God. Here we come to know our Lord as Creator and more personally as saviour and redeemer. Here, in the Abiding Presence among us, our Lord God remains close at hand and accessible. The Bible is the Eternal Word because it enables us to encounter the many revealings of God.

Swedenborgians believe that the Bible contains a deeper meaning symbolic from beginning to end. This describes spiritual life as it has been experienced by the human race, as it can be achieved by every individual, and as it was lived to perfection by the God-Man. For example, our Lord told the Parable of the Sower, and then interpreted its hidden meaning. He said the "seed" falling upon different kinds of "grounds" pictures divine truth entering various types of minds; whether rejected or accepted, it produces living results. This Holy Word is therefore much more than the allegorical story of creation, the history of the Jewish people, the record of the Lord's life and the account of the founding of the Christian Church.

Swedenborgians believe that because the Holy Word expresses the mind of God—divine truth adapted to our understanding—it is written throughout in this symbolic way. The Bible is God speaking directly to the spiritual conditions, the needs, and the aspirations of Everyman, today and always.

A NEW REVELATION

Where do we find these new spiritual insights into our Christian faith which presents the Bible afresh as God's Holy Word and sets all life in a different perspective for us? No one but God creates divine truth. Humanity at best is but a channel through which divine truth comes to us from that divine source. What sets us apart as Swedenborgians and gives us our distinctive perspective is our conviction that Emanuel Swedenborg, eminent 18th century scientist-theologian, was enlightened by our Lord God to a remarkable degree. As one of the greatest spiritual pioneers of all history, he was instrumental in bringing to the human race a new revelation from God. In the writings of this great man, who humbly called himself "Servant of the Lord Jesus Christ," we find the ideas and insights which we have tried to share with you. At the same time we do not believe that ours is the only saving faith, or that our church has a monopoly on divine truth. On the contrary, Swedenborgians believe that the Church Universal, the Church as it is in the Lord's sight, includes all good living people throughout all creation. All who live up to the best they know, whether Christian, Jew, Moslem or pagan, are truly members of the Lord's church and are welcomed into that body of redeemed men and women in the spiritual world which we call "heaven."

Foremost, perhaps, among the new truths which have burst forth from God through this illustrious man is the bold announcement that our world is standing on the threshold of a New Age. Our Lord Jesus promised to send us the spirit of truth, "the truth will make us free." All that is asked of us is that we stretch our spiritual muscles and reach for the stars.

Copies of this pamphlet or other informational material may be obtained from: Swedenborgian Church, Central Office, 48 Sargent Street, Newton, MA 02158.