

Wrightwood Series Debuts



Patrick Yesh speaks to panelists at the Wrightwood Series, which focused on building a spiritual fellowship.

By Byron Belitsos

Two groups of invited panelists recently presented inaugural seminars on the topics of community and race in the Fellowship's new Wrightwood Series. Conducted under the auspices of the Education Committee, the Wrightwood Series is designed to foster advanced research into important topics,



Marta Elders and John Lange were among those in attendance.

using *The Urantia Book* as a major resource of study.

"Our goal is twofold," says Dan Massey, chair of the Education Committee. "One is to provide useful study aids on topics of vital interest. The other is to stimulate continuing inquiry on these topics among the readership through fol-

low-up presentations at local and regional forums around the country."

Each Wrightwood seminar was held in a two-day, roundtable format, including formal one-hour presentations, informal discussion, social activities and worship. The weekend meetings at the Fellowship's Wrightwood building featured readers with specialized expertise in the topic. Panelists prepared papers that will be published by the Fellowship.

The seminar series was launched in early April with six wide-ranging presentations on the topic "Building a Living Temple of Spiritual Fellowship." The second seminar, "Perspectives on Race in *The Urantia Book*," was held a month later and featured four presenters. As if to underscore the timeliness of this seminar, its occurrence coincided with the Los Angeles riots.

The success of these pilot seminars has prompted the Fellowship to extend the series, and plans are under way for a seminar on gender plus a second look at the controversial issue of race and *The Urantia Book*.

"The goal of the Wrightwood Series," says Massey, "is simply to improve the quality of discussion among the readership of concepts in the book." (Related articles appear on page 6.) □

FLOWERS Program Supports Reader Activities

By Byron Belitsos

A new initiative — called the Fellowship's Local Outreach, Work, Effort and Resources Support (FLOWERS) program — has recently been implemented by the Fellowship to foster activities of students of *The Urantia Book* at the local level.

"FLOWERS represents an important shift in organizational philosophy for the Fellowship," says Vice President Marilyn Kulieke. "According to the old model, a body of people sat at the center

of the revelation, trying to maintain control. A better model, represented by FLOWERS, would be to encourage and support local activists, using the central organization of the Fellowship as a device to coordinate the dispersment of funds and resources out to the field."

Kulieke is co-designer of the program along with David Elders, chair of the Judicial Committee and past president of the Fellowship, and Janet Farrington of the Education Committee.

To the extent possible, FLOWERS will

make the resources of the Fellowship available to activists in societies, study groups or service groups. In return, Elders explains, recipients of these resources are asked to view the fruits of their supported efforts as the common property of the entire reader community.

"This might be done by sharing with all the experience or knowledge gained," says Elders, "or by plowing back into the FLOWERS program a portion of new funds generated."

Continued on page 6.

General Council Votes To Nurture Local Activities

By Melissa Wells

In a step toward increased decentralization of Fellowship activities, the General Council voted unanimously to approve the FLOWERS program at its annual business meeting on June 26-27 at Lake Forest College in Lake Forest, Ill. This new program allocates funds and resources of the central organization to support initiatives of local societies and study groups.

During the meeting, Fellowship president Steve Dreier presented his annual report, concluding, "Things are being done in the Fellowship that have never been done before, and there is no indication of unpleasant results. In fact, just the reverse is true."

Sara Blackstock, president of the Golden Gate Circle Society in the San Francisco Bay area, was elected to fill a position on the Council vacated by Jim Johnston, who resigned earlier in the year. Melissa Wells was elected to fill

Johnston's position as chair of the Publications Committee.

Other elections to committee positions included: Ellen Montgomery, Judicial; Tom Choquette and Larry Geis, Charter; Eef Hoedemaker and Sue Tennant, Fraternal Relations; Peggy Douglass, Domestic Extension; Stephanie Shaefer, International Fellowship; Matthew Block, Education; Nancy Johnson, Publications; John Hay, Marta Elders and Beth Bartley, Finance; and Anthony Finstad, Special Projects.

Treasurer Joe Liszka reported that donations are in line to meet this year's budget and that the spread of the base of contributors to the Fellowship has increased. "We are holding down our bills and are in good shape," he says. "We encourage everyone to help the Finance Committee bring in funds."

Gard Jameson, chair of the Fraternal Relations Committee, announced that the Fellowship has been approved as a member of the North American Interfaith

Network (NAIN), which includes among its members many of the world's spiritual leaders such as Catholic theologians Hans Kung and Matthew Fox and process theologian John Cobb. "The group has no political platforms," says Jameson. "This is a coming together to engage in spiritual dialogue."

Following a synopsis of the development of the Wrightwood Series studies, presented by Education Committee chair Dan Massey, the General Council voted unanimously to approve the principles of this study format. The committee is currently deciding on future studies. Two ideas under consideration, says Massey, are an investigation of the roots of the fifth epochal revelation and scientific materials presented in *The Urantia Book*.

Dave Elders, chair of the Judicial Committee, spoke of his committee's efforts to review the organizational structure of the Fellowship, as charged by the Executive Committee following last year's Triennial Delegate Assembly in which a number of resolutions concerning this matter were passed. Carolyn Kendall has led a subcommittee on researching the teachings of *The Urantia Book* and historic materials to provide appropriate principles, patterns and structures. Steve McIntosh has been in charge of another subcommittee that has reviewed prevailing structures of similar organizations.

The subcommittees plan to meet together at 529 Wrightwood later this year to create proposals of revisions to the organization based on a study of accumulated materials. "These proposals will then be circulated to Fellowship members for comment," says Elders. "This process may involve amendments to the Constitution ranging from making fine-tune changes to scrapping it entirely and starting over. It will likely involve a change to the way general councilors are elected."

The tally for members in the Fellowship as of year-end 1991 is 1,222, comprising 929 society members and 293 members at large. This figure is a slight increase from 1990's membership of 1,188. "We all know that 'love is the secret of beneficial association between personalities,' not numbers," says President Steve Dreier. "As we remember that, we'll grow."

The mid-year meeting of the General Council has been scheduled for late January 1993 at Boulder, Colorado. □

Have You Made Time to Touch the World?



By Cindy Hopper

The countdown is beginning to the Fellowship's next international conference, scheduled for July 31-August

5, 1993 in Quebec, Canada. This is the first general conference for readers of *The Urantia Book* to be held outside of the United States, and planners have been hard at work to devise new ways to make the conference filled with love, fun and inspiration.

The conference site is the Auberge des Seigneurs in St. Hyacinthe, located 45 minutes east of Montreal. A special shuttle will take attendees from the Montreal airport to the conference centre.

"Touch The World" is the theme for the international conference, and each day the program will feature a different perspective of the theme that harmonizes the four ways we interact with the world: individual (mortal), group (social), supermortal (spirit) and supreme (collective spirit).

New approaches in the conference format include audience participation, small group forums and a six-part intensive study workshop which will require preregistration.

A special program for families is planned which will include workshops and activities for young children and teens. A conference store will provide a venue for secondary works such as artwork, books and cassette tapes.

A spiritual retreat is also scheduled immediately prior to the conference. "All of us crave a deeper spiritual experience, but we seldom find time to retreat for more than brief moments of prayer and meditation," says Gard Jameson, chair of the Fraternal Relations Committee. "A spiritual retreat is a wonderful way to feed your soul, deepen your relationship with God, recharge your spiritual batteries and rededicate your motivations. It is a time to experience with greater intensity the joy of worship, 'the highest privilege and the first duty of all created intelligences.'" (*303)

There is much work to be done in preparing for this conference and volunteers are needed. More information about how to become involved may be obtained by contacting the Fellowship office.

Keep your calendar open for this special event. Early registration forms, providing a discount on the registration fee, are available from the Fellowship office in Chicago. Act immediately to take advantage of the discount. □

Summer Seminar Studies Cosmic Citizenship

By Cece Forrester

More than 90 persons joined in the conclusion of a cycle of six seminars themed to study Parts I-IV of *The Urantia Book*, at Lake Forest College, near Chicago, June 27 through July 2. This study format was initiated in 1985, with seminars held each two years between triennial general conferences.

This year's program — entitled "Personal Religion and Cosmic Citizenship" — focused on teachings in the concluding half of Part IV of *The Urantia Book*. Each day started with a plenary session, followed by two-hour morning and afternoon workshops.

Plenary speakers included Mark Kulieke on "The Origin of Personal Religion"; Alison Gardner on "Living in the World: The Master Teacher"; Francyl Gawryn on "Goals of Cosmic Citizenship"; and Steve Dreier on "Who do we say that we are?"

As many as 36 workshops were conducted, covering topics such as the power of humility, mansion world reference frames, the effect of the gospel on dysfunctional families, evangelizing and Christianity's problem.

Open meetings of Fellowship committees were held during the seminar week, along with a group discussion of the seminar series in which opinions were solicited by the Education Committee for new formats of the event.

Additional activities included daily worship services, a candlelight remembrance supper and an interfaith thanksgiving, which was organized by the Fraternal Relations Committee. The interfaith session featured Swami Varadananda of the Vivekananda Society, representing the Hindu religion, and Dr. Assad Busool of the American Is-



l to r: Irene and Meredith Sprunger, Carolyn Kendall, Larry Bowman, Tom Kendall, and Harold Schomas enjoy good fellowship at the Summer Seminar.

lamic College. Spiritual readings and prayers were featured along with music. A worship service concluded the week's activities.

A sing-along occurred one evening, and impromptu "sharing" sessions were organized on several evenings for attendees. An unexpected treat for the group was the performance of a Schubert piece by members of a French string quartet who had performed at the nearby Ravinia Festival and were staying on campus.

The Education Committee is considering future directions for the summer seminar series, due to resume in two years following next summer's International Conference in Quebec. Exactly what will occur in 1994 is "yet to be revealed," says Dan Massey, chair of the

committee, but he noted that it may commemorate the bimillennium of Jesus' birth.

Suggestions received by the committee covered matters such as training of presenters, teaching for children and scheduling. There was discussion of attendance levels and holding seminars in several regions. Many positive comments were made, however, about the size of the group and benefits of repeating the experience in a familiar setting. "I look forward to it as much as the big conferences," says one person.

"There will be fairly substantial changes in the nature of this program, though they may not be apparent," says Massey. "We hope to continue improving these conferences over the years and make them more useful to the attendees." □

"(The cosmic reserve corps of universe-conscious citizens on Urantia now numbers over one thousand mortals whose insight of cosmic citizenship far transcends the sphere of their terrestrial abode, but I am forbidden to reveal the real nature of the function of this unique group of living human beings.)" (1258)

BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Aldergrove, British Columbia study group hosted a spiritual retreat at Pioneer Chehalis that was facilitated by the Adventures Team from Texas. More than 50 people from Canada and the United States attended, and a number of techniques were explored to foster personal communion with God.

"The consensus was that anyone interested in deepening their personal relationship with the Father," says Alice Hoedemaker, "should take the opportunity to attend an 'Adventures in Spiritual Living' retreat."

"Many of those who have participated in one or more of these events credit the experience as having been a major turning point in their lives," says David Glass of Fort Worth, who has attended the retreat at other locations.

SAN FRANCISCO

The Golden Gate Circle Society gave a helping hand to Paula Thompson of the Domestic Extension Committee in May when she manned a booth at the Whole Life Expo in San Francisco to promote *The Urantia Book* and its teachings.

"The booth project is a great person-to-person way to talk about *The Urantia Book*," says Mo Siegel, chair of the Domestic Extension Committee. "We get 20 people a day begging us to talk about the book. Our committee is ready to help groups do fairs."

As many as 20 volunteers were needed to handle inquiries at the booth during the Whole Life Expo. "On occasion we've had people travel long distances just to work the booth," says Thompson. "It really is that much fun."

The next Expo will occur in Los Angeles during September followed by another in New York during October. "This is one of our greatest sources of new readers," says Lucile Faw of the First Society of Los Angeles. "People who stop by the booth are contacted by letter and then a follow-up phone call. Many of them do later attend study groups."

LOS ANGELES

The First Society of Los Angeles hosted the General Council, which held its mid-year meeting during the last weekend of January in Los Angeles. A program for the weekend was sponsored by the society and the School of Meanings and Values. Attendance at the event was well over 100, including representation from societies in the western states.

The General Council met in open session on Friday evening, with 40 persons observing. On Saturday morning, Polly Friedman, Michael Hill and Dianne Bishop made presentations on leadership and outreach. Methods of spiritual fellowship were examined in the afternoon.

On Sunday morning, seven members of the General Council, most of them newly elected, shared their spiritual journeys with attendees. This was followed with a worship service and remembrance supper that was led by Kermit Anderson.

"We decided rather than have the traditional retreat to get to know new councilors, that we would have more of a mini-conference," says John Lange, chair of the International Fellowship Committee and organizer of the event. "We asked societies in the area to participate and decided to use this as a time to assess our strength and look at our direction through the next year or two."

ARKANSAS

Readers of *The Urantia Book* in Arkansas held their first regional conference during the last weekend of March in Eureka Springs. About 80 people came from Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas, Tennessee, Oklahoma and Texas. The theme was "Love — Divine and Dynamic," and the meeting consisted mainly of personal sharing by attendees in plenary session.

"These meetings are taking on the characteristics of a spiritual town meeting," says John Lange, organizer of the event. "We have people coming together and opening their souls. It's a group effort at understanding and knowing each other."

The group also elected a steering committee of four individuals responsible for scheduling future meetings, coordinating study groups and networking with readers in the area.



ARIZONA

The Grand Canyon Society for readers of *The Urantia Book* sponsored a one-of-a-kind floating conference during mid-April. About 40 people studied "Modern Phraseology" aboard three houseboats on Lake Powell in Arizona. Conference studies occurred aboard the flotilla, with boats anchoring at lunchtime and in the evenings on remote beaches in coves along the lake. An Easter celebration included enacting the Master's humility by washing one another's feet.

"Students of *The Urantia Book* left this conference," says Sue Smith of Arizona, "with the thought that truth had been taught, beauty seen and goodness experienced through kindred spirits."

In May, the Grand Canyon Society, composed of members in Phoenix, Mesa and Scottsdale, inducted 11 new members, eight of whom live in Tucson. "The GCS members feel that they are truly becoming a statewide society," says Geri Johnson of the Charter Committee.

The society is engaging its activities in the Adopt-A-Bookstore program, with a goal this year to place 100 books in stores throughout the state.

KANSAS CITY

The Heart of America Society in Kansas City is surveying metropolitan libraries to identify those that need copies of *The Urantia Book*. A garage sale held recently raised funds to support a telephone line and listings for study groups in both the white and yellow pages. And study group activities have been announced in community newspapers.

The World



DALLAS

Readers in the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex joined with readers throughout Texas and Oklahoma to produce a retreat entitled "Living in God's Love — Our Cosmic Destiny." The event occurred at the Northwood Institute in Dallas during June.

The conference included presentations on the love of the Father, Thought Adjusters, Christ Michael the Master Son of God, and the Spirit of Truth. Discussions followed on how these spirits contribute to our destiny as children of God.

CHICAGO

The Special Projects Committee has started collecting materials to build a resource library at 529 Wrightwood Avenue, as an aid to individuals engaged with in-depth studies of *The Urantia Book*. Books sought by the committee include major religious works and other texts referenced in *The Urantia Book*, publications within the movement (both current and past issues) and secondary works.

"This can be a unifying experience for all members of the Fellowship and reader community to work together," says Bob Bruyn, chair of the committee. "And we'll be providing a great service for future generations of readers."

NEW YORK

Members of the Society of Greater New York for Readers of *The Urantia Book* are gearing up to work a booth at the Whole Life Expo October 2-4. "As many as 20 members from our group will work the booth," says Bart Ice of the Charter Committee. "We get a good response at the Expo, but not much afterwards, which isn't unusual for New York City. We've had a few people come once or twice to study groups, and one person came regularly."

CONNECTICUT

The Connecticut Fellowship for Readers of *The Urantia Book* held a society meeting during March. Meredith Sprunger spoke at the meeting, attended by 60 people, about the early history of the Urantia movement.

OHIO

A regional conference dedicated to bringing together students of *The Urantia Book* and *A Course in Miracles* was held during May in Loveland, Ohio. About 70 people attended, the majority of whom were more familiar with *A Course in Miracles*. "Everybody was open and comfortable, and there was certainly a unity," says Nancy Johnson, one of the presenters. "The purpose was to create an awareness of the relatedness of these two works and lay the foundation for mutual support in the study of both of them." The event was organized by the Cincinnati *Urantia Book* study group hosted by John Burdick.

FLORIDA

The study groups in Florida held a three-day conference during Memorial Day weekend at the Methodist Retreat Center in Leesburg. About 70 adults attended the conference, which examined the theme of "Transformation—Personal, Social and Global."

Avi Dogim, chair of the Charter Committee, spoke during the event about the meaning of affiliating with the Fellowship as a society. The group decided not to pursue chartering as a society at this time. Paul Herrick was elected president of the study group collective for a two-year term.

The group is preparing to participate in the Miami Book Fair, which is scheduled for mid-November.

Do you have news for the Fellowship's Dateline map? Please send your information — including a contact for clarification of news — to Dateline, The Fellowship, 529 Wrightwood Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614.

Local readers have volunteered to help with this project.

More on the Wrightwood Series...

An Inquiry Into Community

By Janet Farrington

My involvement as facilitator of the first Wrightwood Series came through a series of coincidences. During the 1991 Summer Intensive, Dan Massey presented a paper that explored the meaning of Jesus' momentous question to the apostles: "Who say you that I am?" There had been much discussion in the movement regarding our identity as a community. People were wondering how the Fellowship should serve the readership after all the changes we had been through. After Dan's talk, I had a question similar to that posed by Jesus, but in this case a question posed to all of us; namely, "Who do we say that we are?"

At this time, the Executive Committee had given the Education Committee an assignment called the Wrightwood Series seminars. The committee was looking for topics and facilitators to implement the series. I was contacted and happily accepted the job.

The questions on my mind were: Who are we as a community? What do we do? Who do we say we are when the world asks? How are family values part of our identity as a community?

After selecting the panelists for the series — John Lange, Marta and Dave Elders, Patrick Yesh, Sara Blackstock

and Jill Hull — we realized that the community we are trying to identify is already described in the words of Jesus. We are "the living temple of spiritual fellowship," (p. 1747) the phrase Jesus used after Peter confessed to Jesus' divinity. We also realized that asking ourselves how to build this living temple was just as important as asking who we are.

Each panelist accepted a portion of the topic — children and family, spiritual education, spiritual support groups and the soul in relation to community — using *The Urantia Book* as the major supporting text for their research. Bob Slagle was unable to attend, but his paper on family life was submitted.

At the conclusion of the weekend, the panel divided itself into two work groups. One group will prepare a workbook for children and families based on ideas presented at the seminar. The other will publish a portfolio of essays on "Building the Living Temple of Spiritual Fellowship."

Both groups plan an intensive for presentation at the International Conference in Quebec next summer. Several of the participants have already made presentations at local and regional conferences. □

Deepening Perspectives on Race

By Bobbie Dreier

The Los Angeles riots provided the background to our efforts to examine *The Urantia Book's* teachings on race. Initial participants, Matthew Block, Earlene Green and Charles Olivea were invited because of their prior work on the subject.

We undertook this project knowing full well that the book's teachings on race are both difficult and sensitive. Discussion of the relative inferiority or superiority of the races, and the meanings and implications of *The Urantia Book's* statements, require intellectual honesty and spiritual maturity.

With this in mind the participants presented papers reflecting personal, analytical and creative perspectives about racial issues on Urantia.

The issue of biological inequality versus spiritual equality was central to our discussion. *The Urantia Book* states that the races are not created equal. "On those worlds having all six evolutionary races, the superior peoples are the first, third, and fifth races—the red, yellow, and blue. The evolutionary races thus alternate in capacity for intellectual growth and spiritual development, the second, fourth, and sixth being somewhat less endowed." (*584)

Unfortunately, the plan for racial amalgamation that would have blended the races, thereby uplifting the hereditary endowment of each race, was thwarted by rebellion and default, and we find ourselves on a planet still marred by racial strife.

If we value the realization of human brotherhood and the evolution of the Supreme, we must understand the implications of our current racial differences. Each of us must seek creative and enlightened solutions according to our highest light of truth.

The weekend was a highly interactive and stimulating process. The panelists are revising their work in light of our two days together. We plan to meet again with additional participants and to culminate our efforts with the publication of a series of essays. □

FLOWERS Continued from Front Cover

Resources available through the program include training, use of educational materials such as a conference planning kit or sample newsletters, access to Fellowship speakers and financing in the form of loans, grants or matching funds.

A test case for the program is currently under way. The Executive Committee of the Fellowship recently awarded the Seattle Pilot Light Society a \$2,000 loan to assist in placing a deposit for use of a conference site to celebrate Jesus' birthday. The loan is to be repaid immediately following the celebration.

Guidelines for applicants to the FLOWERS program are:

- The project should be wholly related to *The Urantia Book* and its teachings as well as to the Fellowship's purposes.
- Preference will be given to ideas that require teamwork.
- Priority will be given to societies and study groups in awarding resources to applicants.

Applications to the FLOWERS program are available from the Fellowship, 529 Wrightwood Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614, or call (312) 327-0424. □

*"The entire ascendent plan of mortal progression is characterized by the practice of giving out to other beings new truth and experience just as soon as acquired." (*339)*

Letters To The Editor

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

Do you have an opinion on matters of interest to readers of *The Urantia Book*? The Editorial Page is your place to share what you think is important.

Letters for publication should be addressed to: Letters to the *Bulletin* Editor, The Fellowship, 529 Wrightwood Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614 or fax to (312) 327-6159.

My mother was on the original Domestic Extension Committee and I must point something out that changes somewhat the impression left in Carolyn Kendall's article, "The Brotherhood Then..." (Winter 1992 *Bulletin*). The Executive Committee was still in touch with the commission that presented the book. The commission only wanted the book passed by individuals, no advertising. Even letters to the editors of newspapers were nixed. They stressed that the book was not for this century.

The article makes it sound like the Executive Committee were obstruc-

tionists. My father's best friend was Bill Sadler, and they spent a lot of time worrying about how to spread the book without the media. Bill felt the book was so powerful it would spread itself. It's certainly been slower than he anticipated, but time is different for the book. It's to be widely distributed when the world is ready for it.

I don't think there should be too much attempt to recreate the past. It's best that the book just be there when an individual or the world needs it, and its origins obscure.

—Holly Adler Arvanites
Novelty, Ohio

Wrightwood Series Call For Proposals

The Education Committee of the Fellowship plans another Wrightwood Series to be held during Spring 1993, tentatively entitled "Gender and *The Urantia Book*."

The goal of the seminar is to bring together a panel of individuals who have prepared extensive research on the topic of gender, focusing on: gender relationship, communication, compatibility, complementarity, universe models, planetary challenges, fatherhood and motherhood, sisterhood and brotherhood, marriage, sexuality, equality and many other fascinating aspects of gender presented in *The Urantia Book*.

Proposals will be reviewed by members of the Education Committee and selected for development as presentations. Those who would like to present ideas, research or questions but are not interested in participating as a panel member are also encouraged to submit proposals. Those interested in becoming panel members are asked to consider the following guidelines:

- Prior experience, expertise or expressed interest in the topic.
- Willingness to research and write a substantial document for publication and distribution by the Fellowship.
- Ability to travel to Chicago for presentation and discussion with the panel (Fellowship funding available).
- Willingness to continue work with the panel in various forums, including presentations at national, regional and local conferences.

Deadline for submitting proposals is September 30, 1992. Please send to: The Fellowship Education Committee, 529 Wrightwood Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614, clearly marked "Wrightwood Series Seminar — Gender Proposal."

All proposals will be reviewed, acknowledged and the panel assembled by October 30. The seminar will occur during May 1993.

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For more information, call Janet Farrington, Education Committee member, at (206) 487-9332.

THE PEACEFUL THINKER

In response to the visitor's question, Brother Raphael was trying to explain why a man would leave everything he knew, take a vow of poverty, of chastity and of silence to become a Trappist monk, and live the rest of his life in the Abbey of Gethsemani, hidden in the rolling countryside of northern Kentucky.

"I took a vow of chastity," he explained, "so that I could love everyone equally. I took a vow of silence so that I could listen to others and to God. And I took a vow of poverty so that I could own the entire world."

"And look at all I own," he continued, looking out the window of his small office in the guest house. "I own the sun, the sky, the trees, the grass ... even the wind. I consider myself a very wealthy man."

As Guestmaster at the 150-year-old monastery, Brother Raphael is one of only a handful of monks allowed to speak to retreatants. Even then, he selected his words carefully, not wanting to waste them. But in his few words, there was great wisdom.

The visitor was reminded of a poem by Francis Carlin, which on the surface sounds romantic in its intent, but carries a far deeper meaning:

Because of the light of the moon
there is silver on the moor;
Because of the light of the sun
there is gold on the walls of the poor;
Because of the light of the stars
there are planets in the stream;
And because of the light of your eyes
there is love in the depths of my dream.

Finding Brother Raphael's strength, wisdom and happiness doesn't necessarily require an austere monastic life. It doesn't require giving away all you own, or moving away from the ones you love. It does, however, require silence. Whether it's the silence of prayer or meditation, or the quiet peace of watching the sun rise, it is necessary to find that place inside that allows us to get away ... to get away and listen to the voice of Heaven. Little is learned by talking in prayer; much is learned by listening in prayer.

Material prosperity, earned honestly and used properly, is part of life and one of its challenges. But understand, wealth stays here when you leave. The love gained and given here is transferable; everything else remains behind.

It was time to go. The visitor left Brother Raphael in his office, looking out his window ... gazing at all he owned.

Go in peace.

— BDB

"Revelation is a technique whereby ages upon ages of time are saved in the necessary work of sorting and sifting the errors of evolution from the truths of spirit acquirement." (1110)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Aug. 7-9, 1992, Midwest Conference. St. Benedict Center, Madison, WI. Contact Dennis or Susan Brodsky, (715) 824-3103.

Aug. 20-23, Pilot Light Society Family Retreat / Jesus' Birthday Celebration, Mt. Rainier, Ashford, WA. Contact Tony Finstad, (206) 485-8266.

Sep. 4-7, First Annual Frontier Conference sponsored by three Midwest Fellowship societies, Boulder, CO. Contact Rocky Mountain Spiritual Fellowship, 205 Canyon Blvd., Suite 200, Boulder, CO 80302.

Sep. 18-20, Golden Gate Society Fall Retreat, San Ramon, CA. Contact Sara Blackstock, (510) 672-3340.

Oct. 9-12, Australian Conference, Elanora Conference Centre, Sydney. Theme: "Human Nature and the Twelve Apostles." Contact Trevor or Kathleen Swadling, (02) 9137893.

Oct. 16-18, Adventures in Spiritual Living, Mo Ranch Conference Center, Hunt, TX (near San Antonio). Contact Skip or Carol Weatherford, (713) 363-1652.

Oct. 16-18, Annual conference and society business meeting of the Ontario Fellowship for Readers of The Urantia Book, Guelph, Ont. Contact Bob Jones, (519) 657-8080.

Nov. 7-8, First Society of Oklahoma Fall Forum. Contact Warren Litchfield, (405) 794-2978.

What was that word?

When the apostles heard Jesus teach the multitude in parables, they were perplexed. Peter and a few of the apostles became confused over the parable of the sower, thinking it was an allegory. But, what is the difference between parables and allegories?

According to the Britannica World Language dictionary, an allegory is the telling of a story in a figurative or symbolic language requiring interpretation; especially, a narrative veiling a moral by symbolic devices, such as personifications or metaphors. A parable is a short narrative making a moral or religious point by way of comparison with nature or familiar things.

Jesus didn't like to use allegories, probably because of the hidden meanings. He preferred parables to illustrate truth using the similarities between the natural and the spiritual worlds.

"And when he employed a parable for illustrating his message, he designed to utilize just one feature of the story for that purpose. Many wrong ideas concerning the teachings of Jesus may be secured by attempting to make allegories out of his parables." (*1672)

Have You Tried the New Journal?

The *Journal* has expanded its format into a literary and artistic publication for readers of *The Urantia Book*. Works of excellence in the form of philosophical and investigative essays will be published from readers throughout the world. Poems, artwork, photography and fictional prose will also be featured.

Artists, writers, photographers and poets are welcome to submit materials for consideration by the editorial staff. Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope to return materials that will not be published.

And subscribe for only \$8 (\$9 outside the U.S.) to receive two issues per year. NOTE: Donors who give \$150 or more annually to the Fellowship will automatically receive an annual subscription to the *Journal*.

YES, I would like to subscribe to *The Journal*.

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I would like to subscribe for _____ year(s) at \$8 U.S. or \$9 international.

____ Enclosed is my check for \$_____ (U.S. funds).

____ Please charge my VISA/MasterCard: \$_____.

Acct. No.: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____

Mail to The Fellowship, 529 Wrightwood Ave., Chicago, IL 60614 or fax to (312) 327-6159.

Seeking Conference Sites

Do you know of a good meeting facility for the 1996 international conference? An acceptable site will accommodate 2,000 persons at a reasonable price. Other considerations are ease of travel, attractions of the local environment, quality of facilities and a local support group willing to work on conference planning and execution.

FLOWERS Logo Needed

We are seeking a logo for the FLOWERS program (see description on pg. 1). Send your submissions to The Fellowship, 529 Wrightwood Ave., Chicago, IL 60614. Thanks!

SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM II

Video and audio tapes of Scientific Symposium II are available. The entire Symposium can be ordered on two 6-hour video tapes for \$75; 14 audio tapes are available for \$50. They may be ordered by contacting First Society of Oklahoma, 14 SW 97th St., Oklahoma City, OK 73139. Shipping and handling costs are included in the price.

JESUS' 2000TH BIRTHDAY

There is still time to make your reservations for Jesus' 2000 birthday celebration in Israel, August 21, 1994. Contact First Society of Oklahoma, 14 SW 97th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73139 for more information.

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The Fellowship BULLETIN

Published in St. Petersburg, FL by:

Publications Committee
Fifth Epochal Fellowship
529 Wrightwood Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60614
(312) 327-0424
fax (312) 327-6159

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Nancy Johnson, Typography
Matthew Block, Copy Editor

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