

Mexico City Hosts The Fellowship



Members of the International Fellowship Committee recently met with students of *The Urantia Book* in Mexico City.

Tradition has it that in 1325 the Aztecs were wandering through Mexico in search of a home and saw an eagle, holding a snake in its claws, perched on a cactus in a beautiful valley. At this site, they built their permanent home and named it Tenochtitlan. Today that valley

is the thriving metropolis of Mexico City.

A new search is now taking place in this enchanted land, the noble pursuit of truth and spiritual fellowship.

And with the Spanish translation of *The Urantia Book* due out any time, members of the International Fellowship

Committee visited the study group in Mexico City last March. John Lange of Fort Smith, Ark., Berkeley Elliott of Oklahoma City and John Hales of Chicago met with approximately 40 readers, many of whom also traveled great distances to attend the gathering.

Hosted by Javier de la Garza who has been an international area coordinator with the Fellowship since 1988, the group discussed with their American visitors how to integrate teachings from *The Urantia Book* into daily life. But the barriers of language have made study of the English version of the book an overwhelming effort for many of them.

"The outstanding thing about this trip is the number of people who came," says Berkeley Elliott. "Many people told me that they learned more in three hours than they had in three years of studying on their own."

"They are awaiting the Spanish translation with great anticipation," says John Lange. "We established connections to make sure that all of the readers will have their own copy when it is available."

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From Russia With Love



By: Irina Antonyan
Editor's Note: As a follow-up to our story in the previous issue of The Bulletin on a trip by members of the Fellowship to Russia, we are pleased to publish more information about Urania.

Typical questions Russian visitors to the United States have had to answer within the past few years include, "Do you guys have tomatoes in Russia?" "Have you been to Moscow's McDonalds?"

Since then, the media have said much about Russia, but relatively few

Americans realize that there's more to this great land than Yeltsin, Communists and inflation. From the smoking ruins of the "Evil Empire," a young growth rooted deep in the Russian spiritual tradition is rising.

One of these spiritual shoots is *Urania*, the first Russian holistic magazine. Published in Moscow, 60,000 copies of each publication circulate all over the territory that was formerly known as the Soviet Union.

It is the first magazine in Russia trying to create a holographic picture of a human being as a microcosm in macrocosm. It brings together the myths of the Eternal Feminine from different cultures

and psychology, the symbolic language of astrology and the wisdom of myths, ancient mystical tradition and modern knowledge. In the world of *Urania*, all these are but different means of viewing the unity of Man and Universe.

"The first year of *Urania's* life was not easy," writes editor-in-chief Tatiana Antonyan in her first editorial in 1990. "And though fairy tales are *Urania's* beloved genre, the story of how this magazine was born and survived in Russia in these hard times is almost a miracle — without sponsors, money, office and many other essentials that every publication must have. But, in fact, we had some help. The

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IC '93 Is Soon, Will You Be There?



Planners brainstorm new ways to provide good fellowship and meaningful discourse at IC '93.

It's been three years in the making and uppermost in the minds of a group of at least 25 volunteer planners from the provinces of Quebec and Ontario and New York State. IC '93 Touch The World, the first international conference of the Fellowship held outside the United States, will occur July 31 through August 5 at the Auberge des Seigneurs convention center in St. Hyacinthe, about a 45-minute drive west of Montreal.

"Our planning committee has been meeting every three to four months," says Conference Chairman Brent St. Denis in Ottawa, who is Secretary-General of the Fellowship. "We've met close to a dozen times and that doesn't include meetings by various subcommittees."

The theme — Touch The World — will be developed in several ways during the conference. "It will touch on the efforts of individuals to exhibit the fruits of the spirit as we search for God in our personal lives," St. Denis says. "But it also ascribes the heavenly Father's efforts through nature, his Adjuster, the Spirit of Truth and supermortal presences to touch us as well. And it expresses the idea that the Urantia community can touch the world with some impact on the coming brotherhood of man."

The conference program reflects a number of innovations. Intensive six-hour workshops, which require advance registration, will be offered on creative parenting, science and *The Urantia Book*, and a topic entitled Soul Pilgrims, which is a follow-up of the first Wrightwood Series seminar held last year on building spiritual community.

Experimental talk show formats and round-table discussions will focus on subjects such as cosmic consciousness, sharing *The Urantia Book*, inner guidance, cultism, origins of *The Urantia Book* and spiritual influences.

Several workshops will be led by international students of *The Urantia Book*. Joel Rehnstrom of Finland will conduct a class on enhancing our sonship with God, Ireland's Adrian Joyce will explore conflict as an inevitable evil, Ann Bendall of Australia will lead a session on the process of doing God's will and Tatiana Antonyan of Moscow will make a presentation on Urania, a growing spiritual movement in Russia.

Major emphasis will be placed on family life at the conference.

A free day in the conference will permit everyone an opportunity to take advantage of the French Canadian culture

in Montreal and Quebec City. "The botanical garden in Montreal is among the best in the world," says St. Denis. "And Quebec City is North America's oldest fortress city. The old part of the city is quite remarkable with relics from its days as a fortress."

"The province of Quebec welcomes tourists," St. Denis adds. "Most of the locals speak English and like to share their heritage. Non-French speaking people will not have a problem."

Early registration for the conference currently shows attendance by 390 adults, 38 teens and 90 children. Travelers will be coming from Australia, Ireland, Switzerland, Laos, The Netherlands, Ukraine, Ghana, Finland, Mexico and Russia as well as the United States and Canada. Response to a second mailer promoting the conference, which has been sent recently, is anticipated to increase attendance considerably.

A shuttle service has been arranged Saturday, July 31, for international travelers flying into Mirabel Airport and North American travelers arriving at Dorval Airport. Shuttle service will also be provided for those traveling by train or bus to downtown Montreal, as well as at the end of the conference. A one-way trip on the shuttle is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 9-17.

Passports or visas are not required for entry into Canada from the United States; however, a birth certificate or other proof of citizenship is necessary. Travelers from other countries should consult the Canadian Embassy to learn what entry papers are required.

"We're optimistic that we'll have a good turnout," St. Denis says, "and that this will truly internationalize our movement." □

World's Religious Leaders To Meet In Chicago

One hundred years ago an historic event occurred at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. A gathering of representatives from among the world's religions met to begin the process of interfaith dialogue. Hindu Swami Vivekananda opened the meeting, attended by 7,000 people, with a message from the Gita: "Whosoever comes to me, through whatsoever form I reach him, they are all struggling through paths that in the end always lead to me."

The Swami ended his message with: "I fervently hope that the bell that tolled this morning in honor of this convention may be the death knell to all fanaticism, to all persecutions with the sword or the pen, and to all uncharitable feelings between persons wending their way to the same goal."

History will repeat itself 100 years later, again in Chicago, when the Parliament of the World's Religions meets August 28 through September 4. Spiritual leaders participating in the event

include — to mention a few names — Mother Teresa, Hans Kung, the Dalai Lama and Thomas Keating.

Religions represented at the Parliament are the Bahai, Buddhist, Christian (Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Anglican, Protestant and others), Confucian, Hindu, Jain, Jewish, Muslim, Native American, Sikh, Unitarian and Zoroastrian faiths. Dr. Peter Laurence, director of an interfaith group known as the Temple of Understanding and former chairman of

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General Council Considers Organizational Changes



David Owen (right) reviews proposed changes to the structure of the Fellowship at the General Council meeting in Boulder. Also pictured (from left) Secretary Lucile Faw, President Stephen Dreier, Steve McIntosh, Larry Mullins and Lee Smith.

By: Robin Robinson

The General Council wants more feedback from members of the Fellowship before deliberating on major changes to the organization's structure.

Meeting in Boulder February 6 as guests of the Rocky Mountain Spiritual Fellowship of *Urantia Book* Readers, 28 of the 36 General Council members spent all day discussing the proposal on restructuring the organization, which were drafted by the Judicial Committee, chaired by David Elders.

The proposed revisions include:

- A Society Council elected by active members of local societies;
- An Executive Council elected by, but separate from, the Society Council, and
- A Judicial Council also elected by but separate from the Society Council.

The recommendations were put together by Virginia Brown, General Council members Larry Mullins and Lee Smith, and Judicial Committee members Steve McIntosh and David Owen.

McIntosh, in his introduction to the General Council, said the proposal included these benefits: greater focus on local communication and progress, greater cross-fertilization and sharing of ideas between groups, greater representation of members and local societies, increased enthusiasm in the Fellowship, increased membership and financial donors, increased sense of responsibility

among councilors to members of societies and the Fellowship, better quality of decisions, more efficient dissemination of information, better meetings and the organization would be closer to the tenets of *The Urantia Book*.

The Society Council members would have three-year terms, staggered so that one-third of the Council would be new each year. One Society Council member would represent 25 readers. If adopted, the Society Council would initially have 41 members, including General Council members completing their terms. It would take six years to cycle into the new system, and ultimately, there would be a maximum of 75 society councilors.

Among the general councilors, some expressed concern that confusion would be the result of new leaders coming to serve each year. Others asked why reduce the present nine-year term to three years, with proponents answering that the shorter term offers flexibility.

On the issue of representation, proponents said that each society would have a minimum of one representative on the Society Council.

The Executive Council would remain the same in function, except that it would be separate from the Society Council and each councilor would have a three-year term.

Members of the Judicial Council would have 10-year terms and would rule on any question put before them.

Committee members would serve five-year staggered terms, led by a Society Council member.

Among opponents of the proposal was General Council member Harry McMullan, who says separation of the Executive Committee and General Council is a bad idea and that direct election of representatives won't filter candidates as efficiently as the Triennial Delegate Assembly does. The underlying assumption, McMullan says, is that the more direct the election, the more democracy. That's not a *Urantia Book* theory, McMullan contends. In fact, *The Urantia Book* supports representative government similar to the Triennial Delegate Assembly, he adds.

McMullan does not want to see financial contributions become a way of being considered an active member of a society. Another concern expressed by McMullan is that gridlock could result from separation of the Judicial Council from the Society Council. The present system, he says, has an incentive for agreement.

Not all General Council members felt there was even a lack of communication between the General Council and societies. Avi Dogim, chairman of the Charter Committee, says that members of his committee have sought responses from societies and received none. The upcoming International Conference should include discussion by society representatives on the reorganization, Dogim says.

Ultimately, the General Council voted 24 to 3 with one abstention in favor of the following motion:

"The General Council approves in principle, but not necessarily in exact detail, the proposal of the subcommittee on constitutional restructuring, and instructs the Judicial Committee to send the draft document to all Fellowship members and societies for their comments. Further, the Judicial Committee is instructed to bring back its finished recommendation for detailed consideration and vote by the General Council at its August 1993 meeting. Affirmative votes at that time on any element of the proposal will include instruction to the Judicial Committee to draft the enabling constitutional language for a General Council vote at its next meeting."

A new constitutional structure can not be implemented before the 1997 Triennial Delegate Assembly because the constitution requires a one-year gap between the General Council vote and Assembly vote. □

A Word From Our President

[Editor's Note:
This letter was
written by
Fellowship
President
Steve Dreier in
December 1992
and was sent to
all members.]



The discussion of issues in *The Urantia Book* reader community is usually characterized by widely divergent viewpoints. For example, some believe the Fellowship should sponsor, or at least encourage, the development of an institutional religious structure providing birth-to-death ministry—something that *Urantia Book* readers can belong to. Others find this prospect extremely distasteful; they feel it would eventually lead to dogmatic and rigid sectarian orthodoxies of the kind observed in some modern religious groups.

Outreach activities using various forms of mass media advertising are encouraged and employed by some; they find them useful and effective. Others are vigorously opposed to such approaches, insisting that responsible dissemination efforts must be strictly person to person.

Some believe the Fellowship should associate with other religious groups to encourage dialogue and dissemination; others feel that such activities would define the Fellowship as a formal religion, and are therefore opposed to all such organizational involvement.

Increased opportunities for group prayer and worship at Fellowship functions are a high priority for some; others see dangers of undesirable ritualization or worse in such a prospect. A wide difference of taste exists for the various styles of group prayer and worship, including the remembrance supper. What is satisfying to one person is often unacceptable to another.

Some feel the Fellowship should make every effort to re-associate with the Foundation; they see the separation of the two organizations as an impediment to the progress of the revelation. Others consider the separation beneficial and essential; they are vehemently opposed to a reuniting of the two groups.

Some believe the constitutional structure of the Fellowship is flawed; they feel it does not provide the membership with adequate control over organizational decision making. Others find the same

structure an acceptable and reasonably functioning form of representative government.

Some complain that *Urantia Book* gatherings are too intellectual and often fail to satisfy people's spiritual needs. Others say they experience great enrichment of their spiritual lives from careful study of the most intellectually challenging subjects presented in *The Urantia Book*.

Some feel obligated to defend *The Urantia Book* against hostile or ignorant criticism; they believe that great confusion and damage will result unless such attacks are rebutted. Others believe it is best to simply ignore such events and go about our business; they feel that most attempts to refute only increase confusion and extend unprofitable debate.

Individuals sometimes ask what the Fellowship believes about this or that. Often the response is an attempt to describe the spectrum of beliefs which has been expressed by the membership. Some find this frustrating; they regard it as evidence that the Fellowship does not stand for anything. They believe that many people crave guidance and leadership in the decision making, and that the Fellowship must provide such assistance by taking clear stands on the various issues which come before the community. Others feel that, while formal organizational positions are sometimes desirable, it is usually best to encourage people to come to their own conclusions after a thoughtful and fair consideration of all viewpoints and options.

A diversity of opinion has been expressed about the merits of copyright and trademark issues, legal involvement, channeling activities, gender groups, children's programs, teacher training and much more.

These are samples of the many issues which could be mentioned. The essential point is that *Urantia Book* readers are not characterized by philosophical uniformity. One of the great strengths of the community is its growing ability peacefully to accommodate a substantial diversity of philosophy and taste. We have not always succeeded in this, but we are getting better and just now seem to be doing fairly well. It suggests that we are not only talking about *The Urantia Book*, but that we are also, to some degree, actually living out its teachings.

The variety of viewpoints in the reader community is probably a most

fortunate circumstance. At times it may be difficult and frustrating, but it provides each of us with a valuable opportunity to improve our ability to work with other and diverse beings. There is no way to learn this except through actual experience, and these experiences probably have real survival value.

Teamwork, we are told in *The Urantia Book*, is one of the most important lessons we have to learn on Urantia (p. 311). We are also told that the work we do is not nearly as important as the way in which we do that work (p. 435), and that we will each begin the mansion world career exactly where we have left off here (p. 533). As we grow in our ability to function peacefully and productively with increasingly diverse personalities and circumstances, we are probably enlarging our capacity to merge into the far more complex mansion world community. Our accomplishments serve to enrich both this life and the next.

Some matters do enjoy wide agreement. Most readers would like to see *The Urantia Book* readily available for purchase at a reasonable cost, and most favor the timely production of translations into other languages.

A few other views seem to be held in common. Virtually all *Urantia Book* readers regard themselves as children of the Universal Father, they experience some type of personal relationship with God. Most consider all others likewise to be children of the Universal Father, and therefore, at least in theory, their brothers and sisters. They believe they will survive this life and regain consciousness on the mansion worlds along with mortals from the 618 other inhabited planets of our local system. There they expect to continue their cosmic education, learning about the structure and administration of the system of Satania, and many other things, while working together with a great variety of other beings, mortal and supermortal. Before long they expect to fuse eternally with the Father's Indwelling Spirit. Following this, they believe they will continue to progress, level by level, through the super- and central universe, serving and learning, until they finally attain Paradise and the personal embrace of the Universal Father. Subsequently, they expect to embark on an adventurous but as yet uncharted journey into eternity and infinity.

It seems remarkable that individuals

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PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

More than 20 volunteers working at the **Whole Life Expo** in Pasadena March 19-21 talked to at least 500 people and sold 21 copies of *The Urantia Book*. Another 2,600 brochures covering topics such as introducing new readers to the book, origin of *The Urantia Book*, spiritual perspectives and Mustard Seeds were also handed out. One evening at the Expo, Domestic Extension Committee members Paula Thompson and Ann Garner spoke on "*The Urantia Book: Answers for the 21st Century and Beyond*."

"I was amazed at the number of people who were drawn to the booth," Garner says. "The flow was constant. I am confident that we talked to a minimum of 200 people per day. Even after the booth had been dismantled, a young lady we had met very early in the Expo came running up, begging to get her *Urantia Book*, not having had time to get away from her own booth. We were also warmly touched when an older gentleman jumped up, during our formal presentation, exclaiming, 'I want one now!'"

"We have a large number of readers who have long-term experience with the book," Garner adds. "Many of them have become restless and lethargic. In my opinion, the only way for them to learn more and move to a higher level of experiencing *The Urantia Book* is through creative teaching and outreach. I experienced a superb avenue for fulfilling these needs in your booth at the Expo."

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Part two of the **Wrightwood Series** seminar on "Race and *The Urantia Book*" met April 30 through May 2. The event was moderated by Bobbie Dreier and attended by Matthew Block, Charles Olivea, Mark Kuliecke and Mary Daly. Earlene Green submitted a paper, but was unable to attend the seminar. The papers on this sensitive issue will be submitted to the Executive Committee to review prior to publication.

MORENO VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

Marlene Chicoine of the Domestic Extension Committee organized a one-day conference for study group leaders March 20 in Moreno Valley. "The book is being read more today than ever before," Chicoine says, "and people have the desire more often now to start a study with others." This first meeting was considered to be a great success, says Mo Siegel, committee chair.

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE BRIEFS

Pledges and gifts to the Fellowship in response to the **Finance Committee's** solicitation letter show an increase in the base of support. In 1992, the number of donors grew 20 percent from the year before. "We're still afloat," says Chairman Harry McMullan in Oklahoma City. "We were able to make budget without three of our major givers."

The **FLOWERS** program has provided matching funds for a **Seattle** society telephone project and the production of a 90-minute video by the **Golden Gate Circle** society in San Francisco.

A third request for financing was approved for Dahli Moyes in Van Nuys, Calif. to share study aids via computer modem. Moyes has introduced concepts of *The Urantia Book* to individuals around the world communicating by computer. "The countrymen I reach love the ideals of *The Urantia Book* much more than other religions flooding their countries at this time," writes Moyes in his application. "They can not afford to buy the book but they have access to computers and are gathering to study on screen my messages which are quotes from *The Urantia Book*."

The **Domestic Extension Committee** reports that response to classified ads in newspapers to call for a phone message related to *The Urantia Book* has been excellent. One ad ran two weeks at a cost of \$63 and yielded 126 calls, with 13 people requesting more information. "The seasonal messages were a terrific success," says Chairman Mo Siegel in Boulder. "If a group is working with limited funds, this yields very good results."

The committee also did some homework and discovered that in eight Whole Life Expos from April 1990 to October 1992 no less than 4,000 people had been introduced to *The Urantia Book*, 475 had signed to receive local mailings and 175,000 show attendees had at least seen the booth exhibiting *The Urantia Book*.

Local study groups are encouraged to request the support of Domestic Extension with booth projects at book fairs or Whole Life Expos. "The relationship of book availability (for new readers) to booth work is more than two times greater than places with no exposure," Siegel says.

The **Education Committee** has received responses to its call for papers on cultism and *The Urantia Book* from six individuals and is in the process of determining the date for the event and levels of participation.

The **International Fellowship Committee** has sent 25 books to Russia since making its initial presentation in Moscow last November. "We have continued dialogue and it is our hope a group from Russia will be attending our International Conference in Quebec," says Chairman John Lange.

Committee members Lange and Berkeley Elliott also plan to attend the "Summer Days" conference in Finland.

RUSSIA (Continued from Front Cover)

feminine image — Urania — led us from theme to theme, from person to person, and prompted solutions. We only tried to follow and embrace the revealed pattern."

Another boost for Urania was when Antonyan had the publication blessed by an Elder of the Optina Poostyn, a Russian Orthodox monastery. It was to Optina Elders that Tolstoy and Dostoevsky came to find spiritual guidance and support.

Though still struggling, *Urania* has published 11 Russian issues and has formed a network of like-minded people through its readership. These readers come from all walks of life. Urania gets letters not only from scholars and intellectuals, but also from distant villages where people read it with an encyclopedia at hand.

There may be a simple explanation of why people hold on to Urania in spite of the harshness of today's life. They are drawn to the same spiritual roots that support Urania.

The writings of Vladimir Soloviev, Father Pavel Florensky and other great spiritual visionaries of Russia, outlawed by the official theology, survived seven decades of communism and inspired one of the most significant books of Russian mysticism, *The Rose of the World*. Poet Daniel Andreev wrote the book during his 10 years in "political isolation" in one of the most ill-famed Soviet prisons during the '40s and '50s.

The book is based solely on the author's spiritual experience. Since his youth he was unusually sensitive to manifestations of "the other world," and this feature of his personality was crystallized during his years in prison. He used no spiritual practice other than Christian Orthodox prayer and self-concentration.

His concept of a multi-layered universe and interaction of its more than 200 planes of being greatly contradicts the Orthodox dogma. And some of his concepts are very similar to those of *The Urantia Book*.

"I began to write this book in the gloomiest years of tyranny overhanging 200-million people," wrote Andreev shortly before his death in 1957, just a year after his release from prison. "I was writing it in secret and hiding the manuscript, and forces of Light — people and not people — were sheltering it during searches... If it ever reaches

people whose spiritual craving makes them read it to the end overcoming all its difficulties — the ideas put into it can not but become the seeds giving birth to sprouts in other people's hearts."

The name of Daniel Andreev, while not known in the West, is only now resurfacing in Russian culture. Concepts written in *The Rose of the World* form the framework of Urania's philosophy. And introducing the book to the West is one of the reasons Urania has published its English issues.

"One of our American readers called this magazine a missing link," says an editorial in a Urania publication. "And apparently one of our tasks is to keep this link unbroken and give the Western audience a chance to get acquainted with the treasures of Russian spiritual thought and a way to communicate with their Russian colleagues."

Another task is to introduce our Russian audience to the Western experience in the sphere banned by our country until the recent past. This, probably, is the goal and meaning of what Urania is doing."

And this is why its first three English issues include chapters from *The Rose of the World*, the first translation of the text into English. And this is why Urania has started another ambitious project, an annual international congress dedicated to Daniel Andreev's memory. Its name is "Sophia Will Return."

The First Sophia Congress was held in Moscow last November and had about 300 participants, with 15 Americans including *Urantia Book* readers John Lange and Lila Dogim. In his presentation at the Congress, Lange for the first time introduced *The Urantia Book* to a Russian audience. And all Congress participants agree that it was a unique chance to freely exchange ideas with Russian philosophers, historians, artists and scholars of esoteric knowledge.

The second Sophia Congress will be held this November in Moscow. Urania invites everybody who shares its main belief — we are all brothers and sisters, children of One God.

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For more information on the Congress and for subscription information to Urania, please contact Johnette Putnam, P.O. Box 488, Cullman, AL 35056, (205)734-4622. □

WORLD (Continued from page 2)

the Fraternal Relations Committee of the Fellowship, will also participate in the event.

The goals of the Parliament are to promote understanding and cooperation among the world's religious communities and institutions; assess and renew the role of religions in relation to personal spiritual growth and the challenges facing the global community, and develop and encourage interfaith groups and programs which will foster inter-religious cooperation into the 21st century.

"The impact of this once-a-century event will primarily come from the combination of religious leadership that is brought together," says Gard Jameson of Las Vegas, chairman of the Fraternal Relations Committee. "This is a continuation of the dialogue about the necessity of religion to effect transformation on our planet. A declaration of human values will be drafted at this event. It's kind of like the Declaration of Independence. This is the first effort of an interfaith group to provide a declaration of human values that acknowledges, supports and appreciates the diversity of the human condition."

The Fraternal Relations Committee plans to participate in the Parliament's exhibition hall with a booth. Although the General Council did not endorse an official affiliation with the Parliament, it has approved the committee's operation of a booth at the event. Anyone interested in helping at the booth is welcome.

A training session for volunteers will be held at the Fellowship's office at 529 Wrightwood Avenue in Chicago on the evening of August 28.

"We'll need 30 volunteers," Jameson says. "If you want to have a taste of the interfaith movement, here's your chance. This event gives us broader exposure to what is happening in the interfaith movement and we should be able to share that in many ways with the Fellowship at large. We will all come away with a sense of purpose with respect to the interfaith dialogue and its importance within our community and in other communities."

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For more details on volunteering at the booth, please call Gard Jameson at (702) 384-1120. □

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.

I became a *Urantia Book* reader in 1955 and have blessed that time ever since. The Fellowship has done a remarkable work and truly within *The Urantia Book's* original intent. I am now on my 31st reading of the book and learn many new things.

Bernell C. Nelson, Medford, Oregon

The events and controversy of the past few years have shown us to be all too human. In a way, I think it is just part and parcel of our starting out at the very bottom on this wonderful universe adventure. I remember my first study group in the Ozarks of Arkansas. I would leave that meeting almost giddy with the spiritual high after studying teachings in *The Urantia Book*. There is much going on these days to distract us from the spirit within and nurturing spiritual fellowship with our brothers and sisters. But if you find *The Urantia Book* still has a place on your lap, I think you will also find the depth and majesty in the book that has been there from the start.

Paul Miller, Memphis, Tennessee

The group in Russia is a great breakthrough. I commend you for following this up.

Bud Kagan, Alea, Hawaii

Thank you for the "Glossary and Pronunciation Guide," a very nice and informative compilation. Also, it's great to see it printed on recycled materials. I hope this practice can be expanded in all of your publications.

F. Vannoy Cail, Dallas, Texas

Nothing will aid in the spread of the gospel more than the unification of the Fellowship, Foundation and

those who believe they have been in direct communication with the spiritual government.

R. Keith Jones, Duluth, Minnesota

I can't wait until all this channeling stuff blows over and we can get back to reality. If we were given a collection of truth with the magnitude of *The Urantia Book*, why would anyone need to make contact with us now? Everybody wants a miracle. I say get to work.

Phil Smith, Galt, California

As a group facilitator, life skills coach, small businesswoman and as an alive, receptive human, I know the time has come to build from the bottom up. Please know I support you and offer my services to you. God bless/ess your efforts!

D. Owen, Thunder Bay, Ontario

I was introduced to *The Urantia Book* by my husband 13 years ago and it changed my entire life and brought me much happiness and peace of mind. We would love to meet any readers who are visiting this part of the world to exchange views.

Mrs. Edward Kendrex
Sorrento, W.A., Australia

I believe the window of opportunity to turn Russian readers on to *The Urantia Book* is unprecedented, thrilling and compelling!

Jill Hull, Golden, Colorado

Please do what you can to get the price of *The Urantia Book* reduced so more people can afford to buy a copy. I enjoy giving them to people as gifts, but with the increase?

John M. Schorpp III, Baltimore, Maryland

The Peaceful Thinker

Timing isn't everything. At least mine isn't. If I buy into the stock market, a broker friend will say the timing is okay, but I *really* should have bought last month. And when I think about selling, he says I should wait until the market improves. Even if I remark about a sunset, someone will invariably say I should have seen the one yesterday. Or, just wait until tomorrow. Always tomorrow.

But how can my timing be correct when I can't see beyond the next instant? Even my view of yesterday is clouded by impressions, poor memory or patterns of thought. I am bound by the shuttered vision of human mortality, wishing for what could have been, hoping for what might be.

Several years ago, I left the office very late, near midnight. I walked to my car, got my keys and began to open my car door. Old fumble-fingers dropped the keys. But it only took a second to pick them up, open the door and begin driving home. I took the usual route and drove the 30-mph speed limit. (Why tempt a bored traffic cop at that hour?) As I passed though an intersection, my left eye caught the image of a speeding car running a red light.

Click! Before I could twitch, the bumper of the other car barely clipped the front of my car. In an instant, the moron disappeared in the other direction. Somewhat shaken, I stopped and looked at the front bumper of my car. I had to look closely. At the very front, a chip of paint about half the size of a dime had been sheared off. I didn't know whether to throw up or wind my watch. If I had driven through that intersection one second sooner, I would have been Play-Doh.

Now, I know many folks attribute to God so many things for which He would rather not take credit — or blame. And yes, sometimes I do it too. But I wonder. Was it mere chance that I dropped my keys, which delayed my trip one single second? Was it my guardian angel? (Her name is Aunt Essie, by the way). Was it blind luck? Was it God?

I'm sure I won't know in this lifetime. But in the next world, that's one of the questions I'll ask. Can you picture it? Standing there talking to this kindly fellow with a beard and white robes? "Say, you remember that night when I was leaving the newspaper and that nut nearly made me a hood ornament ...?"

Surely, we all have stories like this. Some, of course, are less dramatic. Like the time a few months ago when I submitted an offer on a new house. Two days later, the seller received a second offer from another party. He took the second offer instead. I was somewhat disappointed, but simply thought that the timing was not right. And last month, another house I like much better came on the market. I'm scheduled

(Continued on Back Cover)

"That which formerly appeared as a succession of events then will be viewed as a whole and perfectly related cycle; in this way will circular simultaneity increasingly displace the onetime consciousness of the linear sequence of events."

The Urantia Book, p. 1439:3

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 11-12, 1993, The Finnish Urantia Society's Annual "Summer Days" Conference near Helsinki. Contact Joel Rehnstrom, 10160 Degerby, Finland.

June 19, Mini-conference presented by School of Meanings and Values, Mercy Center, Burlingame, Calif. Theme: "Spiritual Community Connections Within and Without." Contact Dolores Nice, (415) 369-6803.

June 25-27, Whole Life Expo, San Diego.

June 26, Annual Picnic of Washington, D.C., Virginia, Maryland and Delaware study groups, Ellicott City, Md. Contact Buddy Roogow, (301) 461-9063.

July 31-August 5, The Fellowship's 1993 International Conference, St. Hyacinthe, near Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Contact The Fellowship, 529 Wrightwood Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614, (312) 327-0424.

August 21, Jesus' Birthday celebration, Oklahoma City. Contact Berkeley Elliott, (405) 843-4900.

October 1-3, The Second Annual Frontier Conference sponsored by three Midwest Fellowship societies, Boulder, Co. Contact Rocky Mountain Fellowship, 205 Canyon Blvd., Suite 200, Boulder, CO 80302.

October 1-3, Whole Life Expo, Los Angeles.

October 2-4, The Australian Conference 1993, Brisbane. Theme: "Welcome to the Shores of Paradise." Contact Neil Francey, c/o Six-O-Six, P.O. Box 616, Sunnybank, 4109, Queensland, Australia.

October 22-24, Whole Life Expo, New York.

November 2-5, Sophia Will Return, Moscow, Russia. Simultaneous translation, visas, transportation and accommodations provided. Contact Johnette Putnam, P.O. Box 488, Cullman, AL 35056, (205) 734-4622.

July 1-10, 1994, Triennial Delegate Assembly, Summer Seminar and Scientific Symposium III, Oklahoma City, OK.

PRESIDENT (Continued from page 4)

who differ so widely in their opinions about virtually everything should show such uniformity of personal conviction on the fundamental question of who they are and where they are going.

Each personality is unique — one of a kind. We cannot reasonably expect to understand all things in quite the same way. Still, if you could pick a few matters about which you would most like to see similarity of viewpoint, what would they be? Perhaps we are not as far off target as we sometimes think.

In fellowship,
Steve Dreier

Announcements

Help! Help!

Our computers were stolen along with all of our back-up records for the Good Cheer Press mailing list. If you would like to be on our new list, please send your name and address to:

Jesuronian Foundation
P.O. Box 18764
Boulder, CO 80308

For Unto Us A Son Is Given

August 21, 6 BC to August 21, 1994 AD.

Join in a celebration of the 2000th anniversary of the birth of Jesus in Israel August 19 through August 29, 1994. An extended trip to Egypt is scheduled August 29 through September 5.

Estimated price for the Israel trip is \$1886 per person and for those going on to Egypt, an additional \$1207 per person.

Arrangements include continental breakfast and dinner each day, accommodations in first-class hotels, a full sightseeing program, transfers, tips, entrance fees and air transportation from New York.

We have room for 200 people in this tour. Right now, reservations have been made by 126 people for the Israel trip and 84 for Egypt.

A down payment of \$50 per person will reserve your place in the Israel tour; \$100 per person for Egypt. Deposits will be refunded if you cancel at least six months in advance.

For more information, contact Berkeley Elliott, 14 SW 97th St., Oklahoma City, OK 73139 or call (405) 843-4900.

MEXICO (Continued from Front Cover)

As well as sharing spiritual insights, the group shared their cultural traditions during the weekend. Lange, Elliott and Hales were taken to the Teotihuacan archeological zone where they climbed the Piramide del Sol (Sun Pyramid). In accordance with Aztec religious tradition, many pilgrims were visiting the pyramid to commemorate the Spring Equinox, which occurred March 20th.

"This is a time to celebrate the birth of spring," Lange says. "Many of the study group members participated."

"We arrived early and watched the sun rise over the top of the pyramid," Elliott says. "We could see the people coming in waves. They wore white clothes and red headbands and put their hands up in the air to absorb the energy at the pyramid and keep it in their bodies."

In another tradition keeping with their land, study group members gave gifts, including native music, books and jewelry, to their American friends before their departure back home. □

What was that word?

CIRCULAR SIMULTANEITY—Events viewed as a whole and perfectly related cycle, in contradistinction to the human consciousness of the linear sequence of events.

Is this vision available to us now? Yes, but spiritual maturity is probably the key.

At Carthage, in his discourse on time and space, Jesus said to the Mithraic priest: "On the inhabited worlds, human personality (indwelt and oriented by the Paradise Father's spirit) is the only physically related reality which can transcend the material sequence of temporal events."

Another indication is: "Even during the days of the earth life in the flesh, though man's mind is rigidly space-bound, the creative human imagination is comparatively time free. But time itself is not genetically a quality of mind." (p. 135)

THINKER (Continued from previous page)

to close on the property June 21. Was it my timing? Or was it God's?

If left to my own resources, my timing will always be off. I'll get there early, or late, or not at all. I'll try to go through a door before turning the knob, then pay the price with my nose. I believe — at least in this reality — I'm just a walk-on in somebody else's play. I'm not the director. Nor the star. I don't have a script. And I certainly don't know the ending. But whether you believe in a God, a universal mind, guardian angels or tea leaves, life cannot be a random occurrence. You would have better luck building a Rolex from junkyard scrap.

I still drop my keys. But I don't mind. That's my signal to slow down, take a breath and wonder about something that has puzzled me for years: did the other guy drop his keys, too?

—B. Durant

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Please feel free to share this publication with anyone interested in the Fellowship.