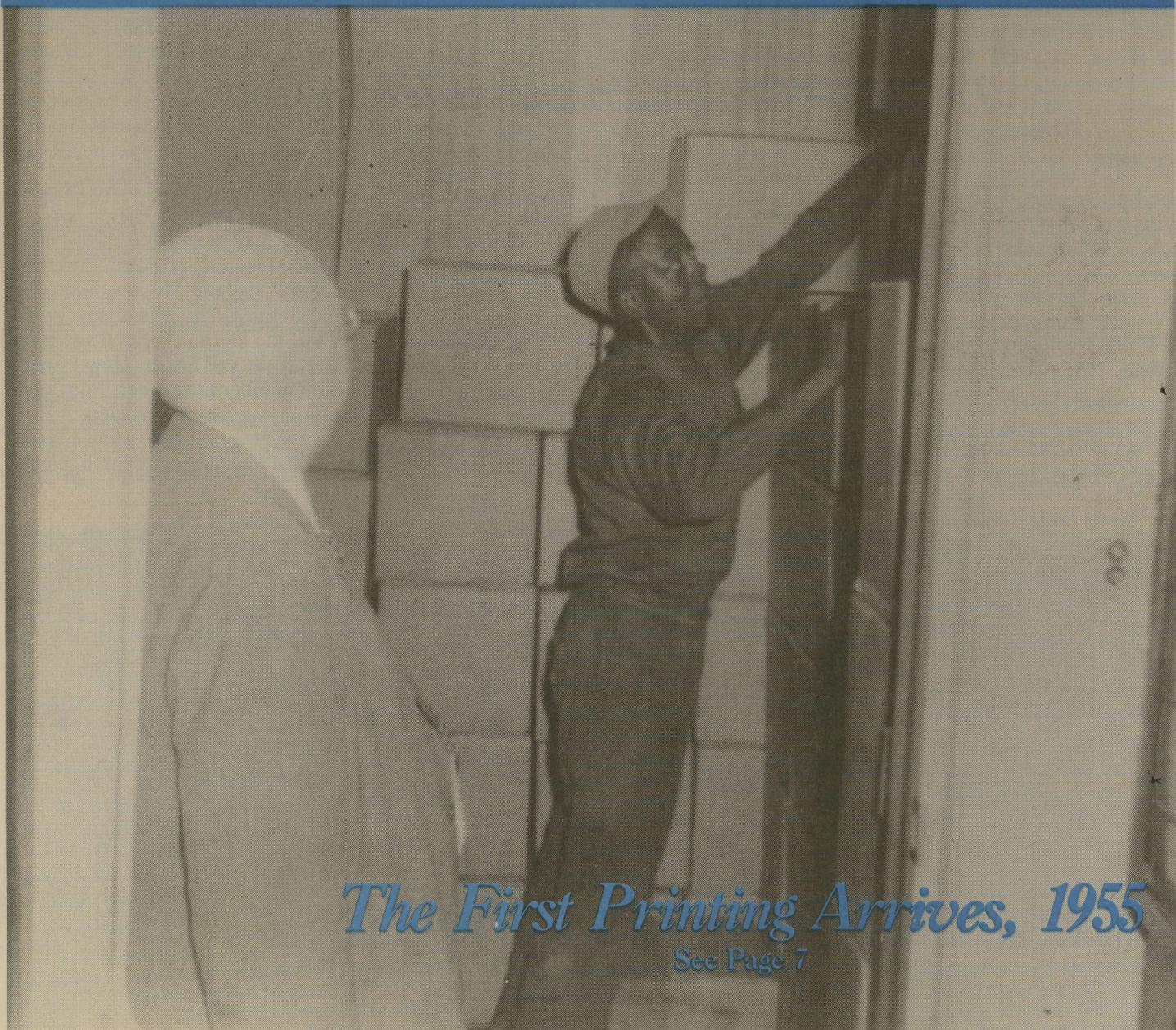


The **STUDY GROUP** *HERALD*TM

Vol. 1 No. 2

For readers of *The Urantia Book*

December 1991



The First Printing Arrives, 1955

See Page 7

"Then Jesus spoke, saying: 'Now that you are ambassadors of my Father's kingdom, you have become a class of men separate and distinct from all other men on earth. You are not now as men among men but as the enlightened citizens of another and heavenly country among the ignorant creatures of this dark world. It is not

enough that you live as you were before this hour, but henceforth must you live as those who have tasted the glories of a better life and have been sent back to earth as ambassadors of the sovereign of that new and better world.'" (1570:2)

THE FIRST SOCIETY OF

OKLAHOMA

Reported by David Glass, Fort Worth, Texas

The Study Groups Around Oklahoma City

The First Society of Oklahoma has grown into what is today the largest society of readers in the world with a current enrollment of 186 members. A chronicle of the development of this society is an intriguing tale of leadership, teamwork, initiative, and creativity. One of the inspiring features is that it grew out of a single study group.

The story begins in the year of the publication of *The Urantia Book*, 1955, when a small group of readers came into being. This early group was visited by William Sadler, Jr. and Marian Rowley from Chicago. It grew rapidly and in 1957 was chartered as The First Urantia Society of Oklahoma. Among the 26 founding and charter members were: Berkeley Elliott, Faye Brown,

Van and Helen Butler, Mary Kathryn and Bill Grisso (the first president of the society), Mary Lou and Bill Hales, Bob and Ruth Burton, Clyde and Frankie Goodman, and B.M. Salyer, Jr. The current officers of the society are: Tom Allen, President; Jeralie Scanlan, Vice President; Charlene Morrow, Secretary; Mike Challis, Treasurer; and Susan Cook, Historian.

The Oklahoma Society was the fourth chartered society of the Urantia Brotherhood and it was the first to grow from its own instigation and roots without inheriting readers from a pre-existent group such as the Forum or another society.

The Oklahoma readership first became visible when it hosted the celebrated 1976 International Conference at the Fountain-

Lake Murray Lodge, Oklahoma. Almost all of us.



head Lodge in Eufaula, Oklahoma, the second International Conference. The very scope of this conference made it remarkable. The previous International Conference (in 1973) had attracted 175 readers, the largest gathering of Urantia Book readers ever to take place up to that time. The International Conference in Eufaula, Oklahoma, however, attracted no less than 435 readers assembled from near and far.

The theme of this conference was, "Matter, Mind, and Spirit — Past, Present, and Future." Two multi-media presentations were prepared by readers from California: "Matter, Mind, Metamorphosis," by David and Sue Kantor and friends, tracing the evolution of biological life on Urantia, and another, by Larry Geis, Stephen Zendt, and friends which was a far-ranging survey of Urantia's stormy history and the fate of our first four epochal revelations.

The Oklahomans held another (regional) conference in 1977 for which they created a multi-media presentation on the Life and Teachings of Jesus. Berkeley discovered Larry Mullins' gift for poetic prose and he and several other artists began work on what turned out to be a masterpiece: "Jesus — God and Man", a three hour detailed account of the life, teachings, death, resurrection and current status of Michael of Nebadon — Jesus of Nazareth. This presentation was the product of the combined work of a writer (Larry Mullins), a composer (Sandy Garrick), and other musicians, photographers, and visual artists, as well as assemblers and coordinators of the work: Tom Allen and Berkeley Elliott, and many other members of the Society who somehow organized their efforts from distant points of North America. "Jesus — God and Man", along with other multi-media productions are now available for rental directly from the Oklahoma Society or from the Brotherhood of Man Library. The text, "Jesus — God and Man", beautifully and profusely illustrated, is available in book form from the Oklahoma Society for \$10.50. Write Berkeley Elliott, 14 SW 97th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73139.

The Oklahoma group is richly endowed with musically talented readers who have been *responsive*, producing music specifically for the various conferences; and *prolific*, having produced an impressive repertoire of compositions. Instrumental and vocal music written specifically for forum or regional conferences

are: "Forward with the Foreword", "Behold the Man!", "Who Do You Say That I Am?", and several other titles. Among their other works is a complete musical presented at the Snowmass International Conference, "The Power From Within", written and composed by Susan Wright. A highly successful group of Oklahoma musicians, named "Mota", have produced such record albums and tapes as: "Kindred Spirits", "Music from Beyond the Brain", a collection entitled, "Songs for Peace", "Under the Influence", and others.

The Children's Hour

Like some other readers' groups, the Oklahoma Society has a program for children. It convenes each third Saturday at the home of one or more of the children whose parent (or parents) serve as host while another parent (or pair of parents) lead the children in activities of their selection. Sometimes a song or prayer opens the activities. The prepared class immediately follows and consists of information or stories from the revelation creatively adapted to a child's level of comprehension. One program consisted of a puppet show. Another involved the children in drawing representations of the concepts of truth, beauty, and goodness. (Could you do that?). Sometimes a story from "Tales of Joshua" by Dr. Robert Slagle is read. There are usually between five and ten children in attendance ranging in age from two to eleven years. *The Urantia Book* is not read during these children's meetings although some of the older kids may have begun reading the book at home. Among these children and their parents are: Berkeley, Sammy, and Claire (9, 5, and 1 1/2), children of Mike and Beth Challis; Coury and Ryan (11 and 3), children of Lyn and Mike Davis; Jessica (4 1/2), daughter of Barbara Hester; Michelle (7), daughter of Colleen Holden; Cory (9), son of Don Muir, Janelle (8), daughter of David Muir, and others.

One of the signal achievements of the Oklahoma Society has been its development of celebrations commemorating Jesus' Birthday on August 21st. This celebration began in 1956 and has become a grand tradition of the Society. Last year the celebration took place in a large banquet hall in a beautiful hotel. Well over a hundred people attended the event. Each year

Continued on page 15

Berkeley Elliott and Tom Allen.



The Children's Hour:

Berkeley Challis, Michelle Mullins, Coury Davis, Ryan Davis, Coleen Holden, Sammy Challis.



STUDIES IN MARRIAGE, HOME AND CHILDREN

*A Topical Study Assembled by Annette Crawford of Denver, Colorado
with an Introduction by Martin Greenhut, Monterey, Massachusetts*

THE NUCLEAR FAMILY

Our study group was into Paper 115, "THE SUPREME BEING". We were on the third paragraph (P.1260) When I heard the reader proclaim, "God is much, much more than a Father, but the Father is man's highest concept of God ...". I stopped momentarily to consider how acutely aware I was of how much more I am than a father; yet, to my son, that is pretty much all that I am.

As the meanings in these thoughts began to expand in my mind I considered the greatness of God — far beyond knowing. I also thought of my son and that he is known to me as son. How much more is there to him! Furthermore, how much of my own father have I come to know and understand? And as these relationships came into focus while studying this

paper on the Supreme Being, the adventure of the family experience bore a new light and glistened as does Mount Everest to a world class mountain climber.

Much is written concerning the techniques of rearing and teaching children. It almost seems as though one who was interested in becoming a perfect parent could simply study the latest and best techniques concerning parenting and thereby succeed. Parenting, however, is an experientially earned know-how. It is an experience that is *required* in the ascendent career. (P.516:3-5; No surviving/ Jerusalem.)

The dynamics of family life seem to be central to all other relationships. It is as children of common parenthood that we relate to others. And, it is as parents of our own offspring that we develop the

altruistic drives that were initiated in our own childhood. Parenting stimulates the development of a kind of altruism that places the best interests of the child up front, eclipsing parental self-concern. The experiences of childhood, siblinghood, parenthood, and partnership with our spouse truly represent all that we can hope for in this learning-by-doing school called Urantia. Let's consider the seven "fundamental characteristics of family life and their application to the relationship existing between God and man." (P.1604:1-9; Jesus stated/perfect.)

The idea of getting to know "this entire relationship of a son to the Father... *in perfection*" is the central purpose of our entire ascending career and we begin here, on Urantia, as sex creatures:

The Partnership of Men and Women

Page numbers:	Begins/ends with:	Page numbers:	Begins/ends with:
	THE REASON:	928.8	The real/child culture.
1775.3-1776.1	2. THE ART/its possession.	930.1-930.5	Nevertheless/past generations.
	THE PATTERN:	937.8	In the/world existence.
368.1-369.3	3. THE UNIVERSE/the other.	931.1-3	Material/social activities.
	THE MOTIVATION:	932.7	Regardless/increased happiness.
1839.5	After Jesus/as one."	938.5-939.3	6. THE PARTNERSHIP/and wife.
913.1-913.3	Marriage-mating/be maintained.	939.4-940.4	7. THE IDEALS/on Urantia.
927.7-928.2	Monogamy always/self-perpetuation.	531.2	On the first/finaliter's world.
		941.7	In the present/of civilization.
		941.8-942.2	Marriage,/universe children.
		942.3-943.2	8. DANGERS/of survival.

A Topical Study by Art Gregory, Great Barrington, Massachusetts

A VISION OF ANGELS

Reported by Stuart R. Kerr, III, Troy, New York

On June 7, a weekend "Celebration of the Angels" was inaugurated at Simon's Rock of Bard College in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. This year's Northeast regional conference for readers of the *Urantia Book* was hosted by the Warren Study Group (of Warren, Connecticut) with Karen Anderson acting as conference coordinator. The angels must surely have been with us, for the weather was of a wonderful vintage, sunny and warm, with a special freshness of the kind only the incoming, northerly Canadian air can provide. The weekend-long spiritual fellowship more than matched the weather in pleasantness, as evidenced by the sunny countenances and lovingly warm dispositions expressed by all.

Friday evening featured a study group session on the topic of the prophet Ezekiel's vision of the angels. Art Gregory of the Great Barrington Study Group led a spirited discussion that drew on a number of comparisons between Ezekiel's account of God's angelic guardians of his throne (Ez. 1:1-28) and *The Urantia Book's* description of the transport seraphim as covered in paper 39, "THE SERAPHIC HOSTS". (P.438:3-439:2 - 5. *The Transporters/otherwise specified.*)

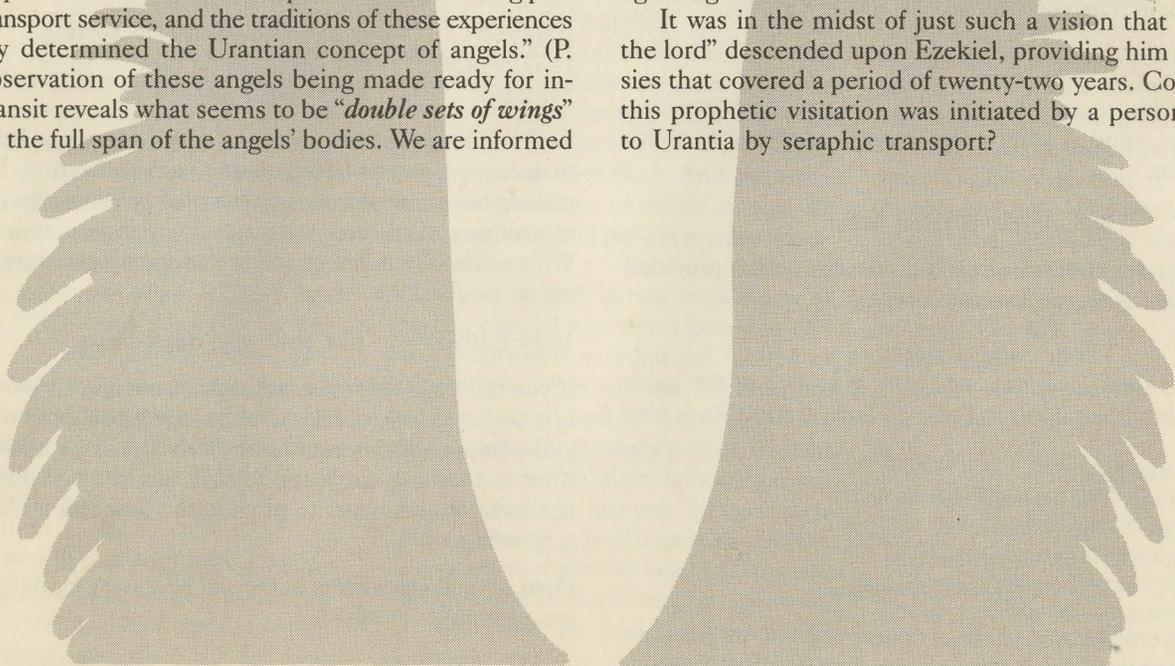
The Urantia Book plainly states that human beings "have sometimes been permitted to observe seraphim that were being prepared for transport service, and the traditions of these experiences have largely determined the Urantian concept of angels." (P. 438:5). Observation of these angels being made ready for interstellar transit reveals what seems to be "double sets of wings" that extend the full span of the angels' bodies. We are informed

that these are in fact, energy insulators — friction shields — for the protection of both angel and passenger during transport.

In his vision, Ezekiel saw four strange forms of God's angels, each having the appearance of man, "but each had four faces and each of them had *four wings*." (Ez. 1:6) Ezekiel continues to describe how they stood in the middle of each side of a square, their outspread wings touching at the corners of the square. Most interestingly, Ezekiel notices that they "*sparkled like burnished bronze*," like "*gleaming bronze*," and that they moved "*like a flash of lightning*", creating a noise like the sound of the ocean.

The Urantia Book discloses that, as seraphim prepare to swing into the energy currents of the universe circuits in preparation for terrestrial departure, they become enshrouded in a "*queer light of amber hue*," taking on a "*glistening luminosity*" as they prepare for the "*departing flash*." The wording here is remarkably similar for both accounts of observed angelic phenomena. Burnished bronze most certainly takes on the appearance of an amber hue, as both accounts attest. Isn't it possible that Ezekiel may have been permitted to observe the departing flash of transport seraphim that aptly takes on the appearance of lightning?

It was in the midst of just such a vision that "the word of the lord" descended upon Ezekiel, providing him with prophecies that covered a period of twenty-two years. Could it be that this prophetic visitation was initiated by a personage brought to Urantia by seraphic transport?



MOTHER OF MY SOUL...

Study Group Notes Assembled by Annette Crawford, Denver, Colorado

Ed. Note: This study may require two study group sessions to complete (depending on the length of discussion that accompanies the reading.) It deals with the central question of what we have to work with in our partnership with God and what it is that we are co-creating. We find ourselves in God's reality, but not part

of it, until we actually partake of it. Becoming real is the job at hand. "Herein is the Father Glorified: that the vine has many living branches, and that every branch bears much fruit." P. 1945:5

Page Numbers: Begins/Ends with:

Page Numbers: Begins/Ends with:

0008:10 4. Soul/ascension.

Here, early in the Foreword, the individual's responsibility to use mind in cooperation with the Adjuster to mother their own immortal soul is first indicated.

good and right ways to respond amidst the diverse social and intellectual challenges of daily life.

1738:2 It was/and divine."

Jesus used his own craft of carpentry in a parable to teach the futility of attempting to evolve a noble character of spirit nature without first being born of, and then taught and led by, the spirit. We can spend much time and effort conforming to self-imposed rules and controlling our outer selves - but we can only build a foundation for eternity by developing eternal values from the inside out. Jesus reminds us that the jointly created soul is a living growth. The individual's mind and morals are the soil from which our divine character of infinite destiny grows.

192:9-193:10 7. MORALS/in heaven.

These are the dynamics of moral and virtuous living along with the resources and endowments provided mortals to enable them to carry out these "performances". The words "performances" and "directed" in defining moral acts, seem to add emphasis to the word conduct - and remind us we are characters in the play of our lives as we live out the roles of our assignment.

564:11 Mind is/much alike.

The Infinite Spirit bestows mind. Throughout the broad cosmos all mortal mind is similar and mortal careers after death are also similar.

1301:7-1302:4 8. CONTROL AND/self-control.

In time and space our freewill is fenced in by natural restraints and limits. As we transcend time and space, wisdom must be our guide.

565:2 But mortal/material mind.

But mortal mind without the spiritual transformation provided by the Thought Adjuster cannot survive.

1097:6-7 4. Problems/problem solving.

1457:6-1458:3 My brother/like him.

1431:2-5 This was/creative.

Will = The deliberate choice of a self-conscious being leading to decision-conduct based on intelligent reflection. Human will making temporal decisions on material problems devoid of moral meanings and spiritual values is operating on an animal level. Will enables the human mind to experience the wonder of aspiring to be Godlike.

103:5-6 Mind, on/of humility

So we can see that our minds need the guidance of the spirit if they are to be relied upon to build an eternal soul. As is also indicated in:

1094:7-1095:5 The soil/superconsciousness.

If you tell a gardener the soil type necessary to grow tomatoes or roses or african violets or herbs, the gardener knows that various plants need different kinds of nutrients for healthy growth. If he is a serious gardener, he will test the soil and make the necessary adjustments to provide the best soil for the plant he is growing.

2079:2 The partially/his logic.

951:5-6 The primitive/of quality

142:1 Mortal man/identity.

1115:7 The enlightened/conduct.

Here, several ingredients of the soil necessary for religious growth are carefully described.

As we grow in enlightened spiritual consciousness, we become more concerned with discovering the truth of living - the truly

Continued on page 17



533 Diversey Parkway, Chicago, Illinois in the 30s.

A HISTORY OF THE URANTIA PAPERS

By Mark Kulieke, Greenbay, Wisconsin

Ed. Note: *Mark Kulieke has recently published a sixteen page booklet entitled, BIRTH OF A REVELATION—THE STORY OF THE URANTIA PAPERS. Mark grew up in a family that has been associated with the Urantia revelation since 1936 and remembers people and events from his childhood and youth that are of the Forum. The Forum is the group that studied the Urantia papers from 1924 to 1956, having been involved in a sort of interaction with the revelators through the agency of the contact commission. He is a history major and trained in library science. In addition to his dedication to the study of the Urantia Book, Mark was an administrative assistant at the Urantia Foundation for five years in the 1970s and participated in the group which created the slide-tape history of the Urantia movement in 1980. BIRTH OF A REVELATION is a work of great interest and of considerable importance to those of us who hunger to understand and to know the details of this epochal transaction. We have asked Mark to introduce his work for readers of the STUDY GROUP HERALD and here it is:*

BIRTH OF A REVELATION provides a concise but complete recital of the contact process which culminated in the publication of the *Urantia Book* in 1955. Most

people have had a vague picture at best of the process and events now detailed in this booklet. Hundreds of facts are coherently presented, at last.

One of the purposes of this history is to portray the complexity and evolutionary nature of the revelatory process. From its beginnings at the turn of the century up to the release for publication by the Personal Regent to the Vicegerent Planetary Prince of Urantia and the subsequent printing and distribution in 1955, the exact end result was probably unknown to superhuman and human alike. After all, human will was involved and is always respected. This was truly an event of man in partnership with God. And the revelation will continue to unfold among the hearts and minds of people as a joint creative endeavor.

It would be well to take cognizance of the fact that all who participated in this birth drama were very human. The revelation is great. It is epochal. But the people who helped bestow it on this planet were essentially ordinary people with an important commitment. It was no more of a commitment than you or I can make.

Contact with superhumans should not be viewed as a precise science. It was a dialogue that unfolded day by day, week by week, year by year. It often caused confusion and turmoil and variance of in-

terpretation. It was a matter of faith as are all such endeavors. The superhumans employed at least seven separately identifiable methods of communication.

Enshrouding the history of this revelation in mystery has probably already created a sacred mythology about these events. This is most unfortunate. It is time these events saw the light of day so that all students of the Urantia papers can recognize both the sublimity and the ordinariness of this process, its revelatory flavor and its evolutionary nature, the input from both superhuman and human. Further, they can recognize that the same qualities are ongoing today and into the future. The revelation is not the dead pages of a book. The revelation consists of the synapse between divine watchcare and human faith and aspiration - the downreach of the gods and the upreach of man. The revelation is transpiring every moment.

BIRTH OF A REVELATION can be ordered from Mark Kulieke, P.O. Box 9343, Green Bay, WI 54308-9343. The cost is \$5.00 plus \$1.25 for postage and handling. Net proceeds from sale of this edition will go toward further editions, a videotape presentation of this history, and to the development of a library of materials relating to the Urantia movement.

LIGHTEN LIFE NEWS

NEWS & VIEWS, QUIPS & CLIPS

I hope you enjoyed the first issue of the SGH and that you found the LIGHTEN LIFE NEWS interesting. As always your comments and contributions are welcome especially newsclippings that suggest changes in the world prompted by the work of Deity.

In the clips that follow please note that many are excerpts for space reasons.

LET ME KNOW WHAT YOU THINK

Lumpy universe

Toronto Star Jan. 31/91

LONDON (Special) — Astronomers are groping in the dark after the revelation that all their best ideas about the structure of the universe and the creation of the galaxies are deeply flawed.

A comprehensive survey of the cosmos has revealed it is too lumpy and uneven for existing theory to make sense.

A group of astronomers from Britain and Canada has mapped more than 2,000 galaxies, out to a distance of some 450 million light years, to produce the first chart of our "local area of the universe."

The results, published in today's issue of the scientific journal *Nature*, mean none of the present models of galaxy formation can explain the existence and distribution of large star clusters and intervening voids.

Cosmologists have difficulty understanding how the universe could have got so lumpy as to produce the clusters of galaxies.

Toronto Star, Feb. 20/91

Where will I be in 20 years?

As part of an exercise in a World Religions course, Grade 11 and 12 students at Parkdale C.I. were asked to list the "big questions" they consider important. Following are some of their responses:

- Was I adopted?
- Will I be forced to go fight for Canada?
- Will I be successful later in life?
- How did the human race come about?
- Why am I brown instead of white?
- Where did God come from, if there is one?
- How did the world begin?
- Why aren't there limitations on religious rituals?
- What is the purpose of religion?
- Am I going to go to university?
- How long am I going to live?
- Is there any god?
- How did the world begin?
- Are we alone in the universe?
- How many girls are there in Canada? (same person as above)
- What is the most powerful religion?
- What is the first religion in this world?
- What high school should I go to?
- What am I going to do after school today?
- Should I get a job?
- Is the world coming to an end soon?
- Will I live to get married?
- Will peace all over the world ever happen?
- What is man's purpose? (asked by a female student)
- What is real happiness?
- Why do people need God?
- Why are there so many different gods?
- What is real love?
- Why do believers think unbelievers are going to hell?

- Where will I be 20 years from now?
- Will I graduate from high school?
- What will my wife be like?
- Is there more than one god?
- Is there reincarnation?
- Is there such thing as a spiritual life?
- Do you believe man evolved from apes? (I thought a lot about it but I don't think my ancestors were monkeys regardless of all the "proof" that exists.)
- Am I doing what God wants me to do?
- How was the world created?
- Why do people believe in religion?
- Why can't we have one religion?
- Is there an afterlife?
- Is there a supernatural essence that people search for in becoming at one with life?
- What is it like to be dead?
- What am I going to do with my life?
- How am I going to get rich?
- What is my future?
- If I believe in God, will I be saved?
- Will university do anything for me?
- How many children will I have?
- When will the world end?

Toronto Star, Nov. 20/90

European pact spells early doom for 20,000 tanks

PARIS (Staff) — For 20,000 tanks in Europe, it's the eve of destruction. They're being blown up, bashed with steel balls, sliced to pieces, filled with concrete, turned into fire trucks or retired to museums.

The details of destruction are explicit under terms of the Conventional Forces in Europe agreement.

It was signed yesterday by former adversaries, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization nations and those of the Warsaw Pact.

The Soviets, under the terms of the agreement, have to rid themselves of 10,500 tanks, 17,000 armored vehicles, 14,000 pieces of artillery, 8,000 combat aircraft and 1,550 helicopters.

The Americans are giving up 3,600 tanks, 100 armored vehicles and 235 helicopters.

To demolish the tanks according to the rules of the pact, a steel ball must be dropped on them until their hulls are cracked in at least three places and the turrets are cracked once.

Explosives are only good if the gun mount is ruptured.

The agreement says only eight tanks can be put in a museum. It also lays out 14 roles for obsolete tanks, including their use as bulldozers, cranes, fire trucks, rescue vehicles, vehicles for cleaning oil spills and all-purpose transportation.

Spending on global arms reported down

WASHINGTON (AP)—For the first time in a decade, the nations of the world are spending less on weapons, the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency reports. Among them is the Soviet Union.

Developing nations accounted for most of the decline, spending \$25.1 billion less in 1988 than the year before. The overall drop was \$36 billion.

Even so, spending on arms surpassed \$1 trillion for the second year in a row. Military spending in developing countries has been dropping since 1984.

The \$11 billion decline among wealthier nations is the first drop in a decade.

The Soviet Union spent \$299.8 billion on arms in 1988, a drop of 4 percent.

The U.S. led the world with \$307.7 billion, showing a slight increase over 1987.

cosmos keeps being reborn

THE TORONTO STAR

March 3, 1991

Suppose, sometime in the future, the expanding universe stopped expanding and began contracting until it eventually collapsed on itself in a big crunch, the reverse of the Big Bang. Could the force of the implosion create another Big Bang — a new universe born from the ashes of the old? If so, was our universe created from the collapse of a previous universe?

This is the old oscillating universe theory, popular among cosmologists a few decades ago, but relegated to the theoretical trash can in recent years. Now the oscillating universe idea has been revived by University of Alberta astrophysicist Werner Israel.

The birth of a new universe from the death of the old one is the most ancient of all cosmologies. References to the concept in Chinese and Indian writings date back at least 3,000 years. Says Israel: "The idea of cycles of birth, death and rebirth are embedded in the subconscious of all human beings." But it will be hard to prove whether reality parallels these deep-rooted musings about the universe.

new planet

July 25/91

WASHINGTON — The search for planets beyond our solar system has turned up a bizarre new candidate about 10 times the mass of Earth.

The planet, if it exists, is in orbit around a pulsing dead and dark star some 30,000 light years from Earth. A team led by British astronomer Andrew Lyne announced the discovery in today's issue of the journal Nature.

If independent observers confirm the finding, the planet will win a place in history as the first ever discovered around a star other than the sun. It could also upset mainstream theories about how dead stars get that way and about their life after "death."

"This could be the Picasso of stars — having a 'family' very late in life," said David Black, director of the Lunar and Planetary Institute in Houston.

Newsweek June 3/91

Unsolved mysteries: The instruments of the 1990s are intended to solve cosmic puzzles left over from the 1980s. In that decade, a burst of discoveries radically changed our notions of the universe. Infrared and optical telescopes in orbit and on the ground found galaxies arrayed in a complex, structured way—what astrophysicist Alan Dressler of the Carnegie Institution's observatories in Pasadena, Calif., sees as "more like sculpture than spatter." The galaxies sparkle like glitter on soap bubbles: galaxy upon brilliant galaxy lie on thin, curving sheets surrounding immense voids. This finding challenged the dogma that the universe is homogeneous, without structure. What wasn't explainable was simply humbling. X-ray detectors gathered evidence that humongous radiation-spewing beasts lurk in the centers of violent galaxies and left theorists scrambling to find a power source that could explain them. Optical observations of stars in galaxies implied that some 90 percent of the matter in the universe is zipping around totally undetected by any instrument, let alone the human eye. Somewhere out there is a shadow of

It's been less than 70 years since astronomers discovered that galaxies are not bright clouds in our Milky Way, but island worlds scattered through the cosmos. Having yielded one of her celestial mysteries, nature has managed to stay well ahead of scientists' pursuit of her other ones. In the 1990s, some of the enigmas may finally yield. Yet even as the next generation of telescopes explores the art and architecture of the cosmos, astronomers will inevitably, and serendipitously, stumble upon yet deeper secrets. Vera Rubin is convinced that "some of the most mysterious features of the universe have yet to be discovered."

Who is God?

We asked that straightforward question, believing that people everywhere hold in their hearts vivid impressions of the Supreme Being, that these visions reveal the grandest extent of the human imagination and show us as much about ourselves as about the ultimate reality

...asks Life in its December/90 issue.

new age of prosperity

Sir John Templeton, eminence grise of the investment industry, says we're about to enter a global Golden Age.

The collapse of communism and the explosion of scientific discoveries leading to new products and processes will overshadow economic problems, soaring government debts and precarious financial markets. And, Templeton believes — as usual — the stock market will be one of the beneficiaries.

"We are coming into the most wonderful period in world history for gains in our standard of living," the soft-spoken, 78-year-old Templeton told *The Star* in an interview yesterday. "Goods will be higher quality and lower cost. We will have more variety and more new conveniences. The whole development process is speeding up."

New Data Jolt Big Bang Theory

Jan. 3/91 N.Y. Times

A critical element of the widely accepted Big Bang theory about the origin and evolution of the universe is being discarded by some of its staunchest advocates, throwing the field of cosmology into turmoil.

According to the Big Bang theory, matter from the explosive moment of cosmic creation originally was evenly spread throughout the universe. But galaxies tend to be clumped together, an awkward fact that astronomers have sought to explain by assuming that cold invisible matter is a major attractive force.

The cold dark matter model, as it is called, accounts well for local clustering but could not explain the giant superstructures recently found in galactic surveys, like the "great wall," a string of galaxies that stretches across the sky for at least a half billion light-years.

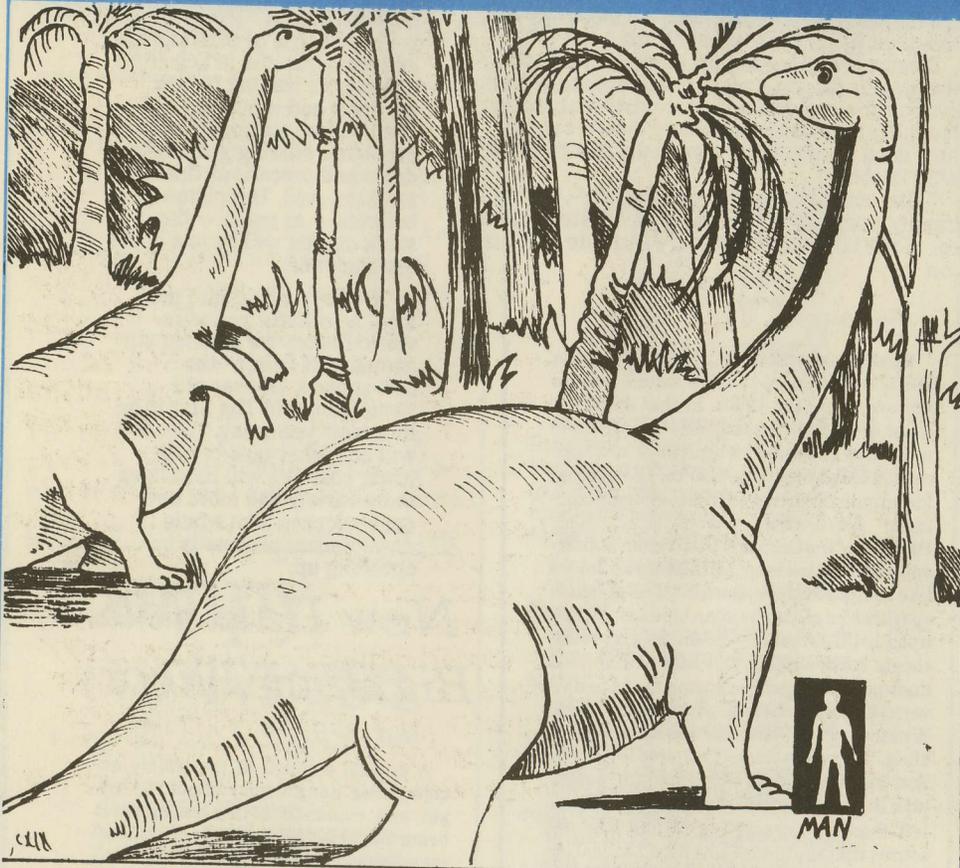
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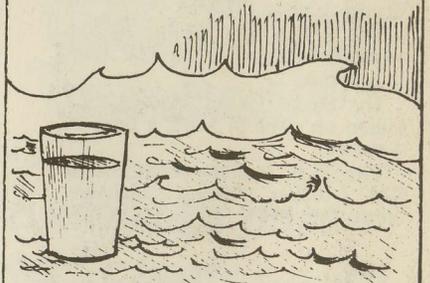
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FACTS FROM

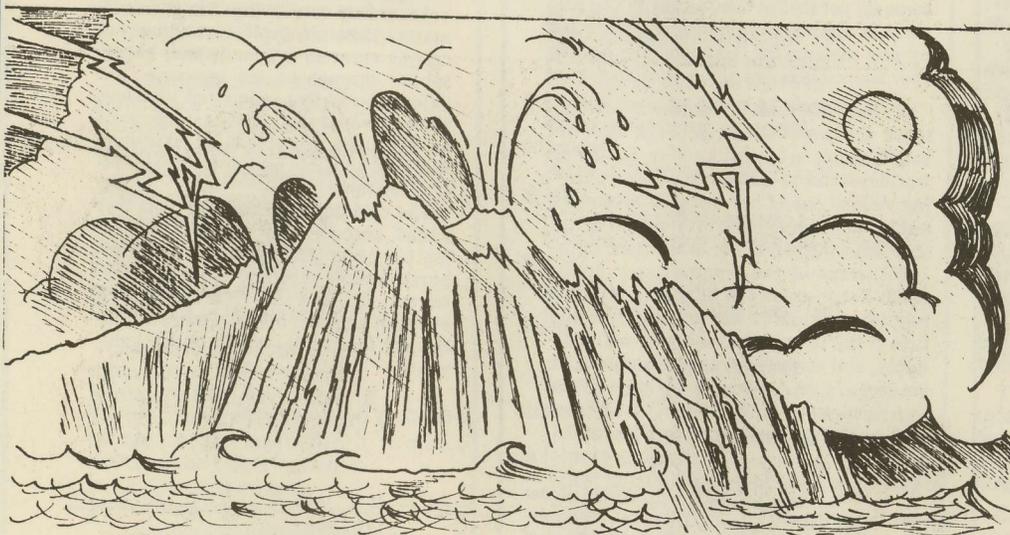


35,000,000 YEARS AGO THE DINOSAUR DISAPPEARED DUE TO THE SMALLNESS OF HIS BRAIN. THEY LACKED THE INTELLIGENCE TO PROVIDE ENOUGH FOOD TO NOURISH THEIR LARGE BODIES. —P.688, 695

THINGS TO READ ABOUT
IN YOUR URANTIA BOOK!

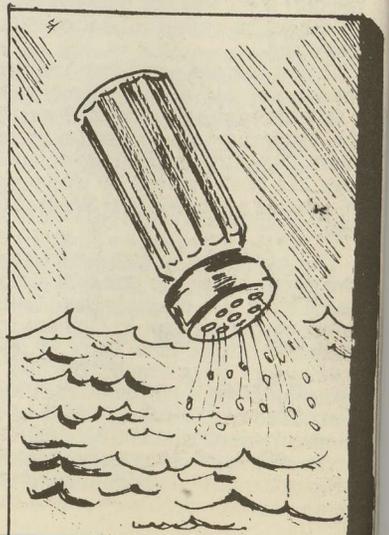


THERE ARE MORE STARS THAN
THERE ARE GLASSES OF WATER
IN THE OCEANS. —P. 172



IN EARLY STAGES EARTH WAS A VAST AND CONTINUOUS BLANKET OF STEAM. THE SUN NEVER SHOWN. CARBON GAS WAS CONSUMED BY THE PLANTS. LAVA FLOWS AND METEORS KEPT THE OXYGEN ALMOST COMPLETELY USED UP. —P.659

650,000,000 YEARS AGO WATERS
OF THE SEAS FINALLY ATTAINED
THE DEGREE OF SALTINESS
ESSENTIAL FOR LIFE. —P. 663



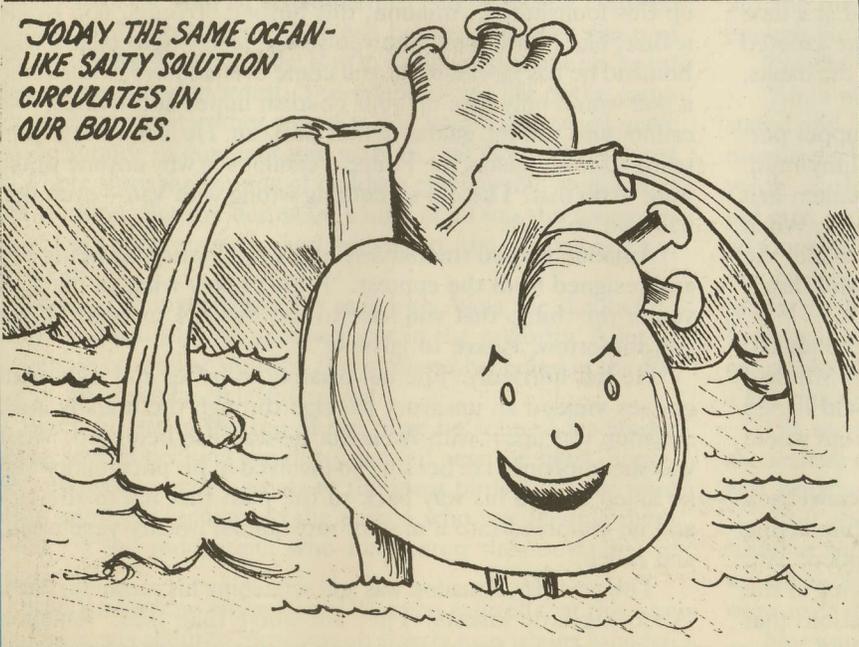
URANTIA FILES

by
Allen
Collins



ADAM AND EVE ARE THE MATERIAL SON AND DAUGHTER GIFT OF THE CREATOR SON. THEY ARE TO REMAIN ON A PLANET THROUGHOUT THE EVOLUTIONARY LIFE OF AN INHABITED WORLD. THEY COME FROM THE ARCHITECTURAL WORLD OF JERUSEM TO UPLIFT THE HUMAN RACE. THEY VARY IN HEIGHT FROM 8 TO 10 FEET. THEIR BODIES GLOW WITH RADIANT LIGHT OF A VIOLET HUE. THEY ARE CHARGED WITH DIVINE ENERGY. THEY ARE EQUAL TO EACH OTHER AND WORK IN PAIRS. IMMORTALITY IS MAINTAINED BY INTAKE OF COSMIC ENERGIES - BY EATING FRUIT FROM THE TREE OF LIFE. UNLIKE OTHER CREATED SONS OF PLANETARY SERVICE THEY CAN BE SEEN AND UNDERSTOOD. THEY MINGLE WITH HUMANS. — PAPER 137

TODAY THE SAME OCEAN-LIKE SALTY SOLUTION CIRCULATES IN OUR BODIES.



SOME SCIENTISTS VIEW MATERIAL CREATION AS AN ACCIDENT. THE UNITED MIDWAYERS OF URANTIA HAVE ASSEMBLED 50,000 FACTS PROVING IT WAS NO ACCIDENT.

— P. 665

This Story of Amadon and the fandor was begun in the last issue of STUDY GROUP HERALD. As this installment opens we find Amadon in the midst of the planetary rebellion, about to mount his fledgling fandor for the first time. . . .

THE Water OF Astonishment

*By Wayne Ferrier, Williamsport, Pennsylvania
Illustrated by Marianne Green, Medina, Ohio*



It was nearing the time of day when the sun was in the center of the sky and Amadon found himself meandering towards a favorite spot across the swamp, a few hours walking distance from the city of Dalamatia. He was feeling good for once. Things had not been going well lately in the city. Members of the Prince's staff, including Van, were hard to find since the start of the rebellion. Disputes were becoming more common among the people that lived near the city, and Amadon had the feeling that he would have to be leaving the area like so many had done already. This morning he woke up early while the stars were still out and turned these things over in his mind. They had even invaded his dreams! But once he was on that familiar path that cut through the reedy swamp and meandered toward the channel, he started feeling much better.

Soon he could make out the turbid water that moved along at a walking pace, sometimes carrying debris, driftwood, and vegetation along in its current. A hungry fish jumped at a low-darting horsefly, temporarily disturbing the chocolate colored water causing circular ripples that radiated out towards the banks, only to disappear in the flow.

Nearby, turtles were sunning themselves on the upper portion of a weather-bleached log, half sunken in the slimy mud. Part of the log's surface was gray and parched, its sunken half was sodden and covered with red, green, and brown algae. When Amadon approached too near, the turtles belly-flopped into the water making plopping sounds as they went under and disappeared into the murk.

"This is so peaceful," Amadon said to himself as he looked around. "So peaceful, yet so invaded!" It was Avela. She had found his spot and had beaten him here so she could harass him some more. She was sitting on the bank not far from where the turtles were.

"If you be quiet and sit still long enough they will crawl back up on the log," Avela said. Then she turned towards him acting like she just realized who she was talking to and cackled, "Ah, Amadon, the one who believes in the myths and stories of the unseen Father!" Avela always started out her conversations that way and it was really beginning to annoy Amadon.

"Who do you think you are and what do you want, Avela?" Amadon replied.

"Can you not think of a better quip than that?" she retorted "I hear you say that every day."

"And every day I have to put up with you! What are you doing this far from your camp? Don't you know these are dangerous times? There are three things that I will never understand God's purpose for, and they are: flies, snakes, and you following me around everyday!"

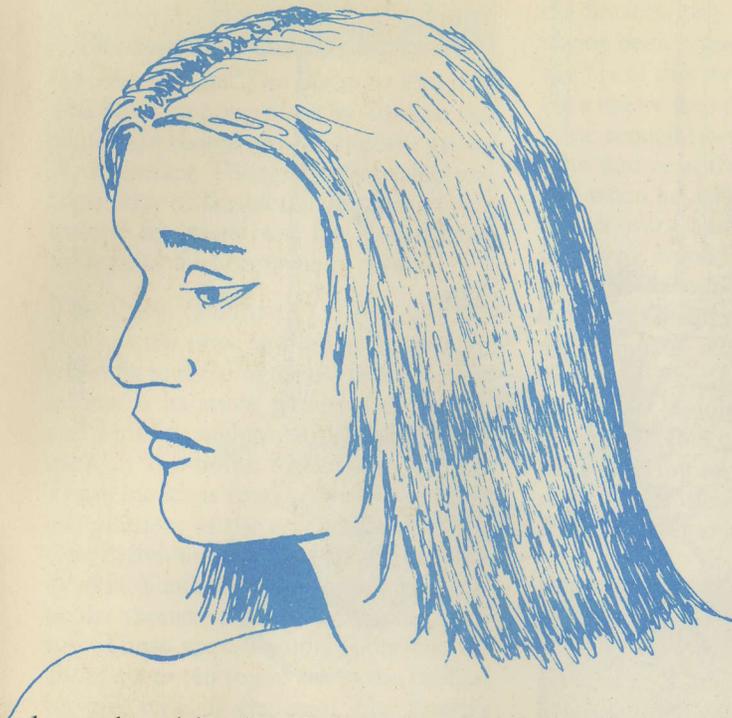
Amadon realized that his brazenness was useless in a contest of words with Avela. She possessed a quick mind and a sharp tongue. Amadon was learning that his nature was not accustomed to flippancy. She rejoined him:

"The flies are here to annoy the believers. The snakes are here to frighten the believers in their every move. And, I am here this morning to swear to you that if you would only give up this foolishness, Amadon, this burden of yours, you would realize, like I have, how free you would feel. I have talked with Bon and he has agreed to let you come over and live in our camp if you would only give up your childish hopes and wishes. Van cannot give you the guidance that Bon can. He is too busy quarreling with Caligastia, the Prince. I cannot see why anyone would want to do that! There is something wrong with Van — even Bon has said so."

Amadon reaped the harvest of his futile effort at being combative and resigned from the contest. "I don't know what to make of you or the things that you have to say, Avela. I suppose I'll see you tomorrow. I have to go now."

He left hurriedly. The tall disarray of ocher and iridescent grasses yielded an unsavory passage through the marshy area. Amadon was upset with Avela but he was also befogged. What was she implying? He became so involved in his uncertainty that he failed to find his way back to the path that led to the city and he stumbled into a mire of mosquitos, prickly vegetation and muck.

The next day, Amadon was still scratching his mosquito bites. "Annoying little insects! They are worse than flies!" Amadon cursed under his breath. But there was good news when he got



EDITOR'S NOTE TO ALL KIDS!

We are very excited about having you as readers of THE STUDY GROUP HERALD. We are starting a contest to see who can send in the best kid's or kids' stories, artwork and other stuff. We're starting in this issue with a promise to print any kids' pictures of Amadon and his fandor that we get. (A kid is any son of God!)

home that night after his encounter with Avela. There was a message waiting for him from Van. It had been arranged for Amadon to meet with one of Van's friends who would teach him the skills necessary to ride his passenger bird. He was to meet this person up on the slope where the goats roamed.

Amadon headed up the ridge that separated the patches of swamp and marsh that existed between the two great rivers. The dirt track was full of grasshoppers, their body colors simulated the color of the rocks and sand of the area. Most would fly up a few feet away and land again only to repeat the action as Amadon approached near them. Others lived among the grasses where they tried to conceal themselves by cleaving to the stems and remaining still or by quickly sliding around behind the stems.

As he was climbing up the age-old trail to the highest slope he would occasionally turn around and look down over the basin, out over the land where numerous camps lodged between the rivers. To the left and far down he could see the camp of Bon where Avela lived. The bustle of activity could be heard from where Amadon stood. The sound of the life of the camp prevailed over every other sound at that height. He could make out the sounds of domesticated animals that Bon's group cared for. There were the sounds of children playing and women and men working. But the dominant sound of all was the sovereign cry of holy men in prayer and worship to the various gods of the tribes.

Amadon thought about his talk with Avela the day before and he realized that his position was in the minority. A lot of the people of the Dalamation city opposed his belief in the Father of all. Amadon felt ostracized.

When he got to the top of the ridge he spotted his fandor among several pecking the dusty ground near the bluff. Someone was tossing barley groats to the great birds and they were eating away. He recognized the person who was feeding them as one of the red people who frequented the roost area of Dalamatia.

Amadon became embarrassed when he realized that this new mentor he was about to meet was an elderly man whom Amadon

had boasted to many times. While talking to this man in the past, Amadon had made himself out to be an expert on the passenger birds but now found himself humbled by the recognition that the real master had remained silent and allowed him his illusions.

"Ah! Amadon, you finally made it up here," the old man called, "The passenger bird is ready for you."

"Do you mean that she is ready to carry me through the air?" asked Amadon.

"Almost," the old man replied. "Actually she is only strong enough to carry you as she glides down to the bottomland below the ridge, and that we will do today."

"And am I going to do that by myself?" Amadon asked uneasily.

"No, I have an older and more experienced bird here and I will go with you. Not only can I talk with you as we go down but the presence of the older bird will calm the little fandor enough so that she will not panic."

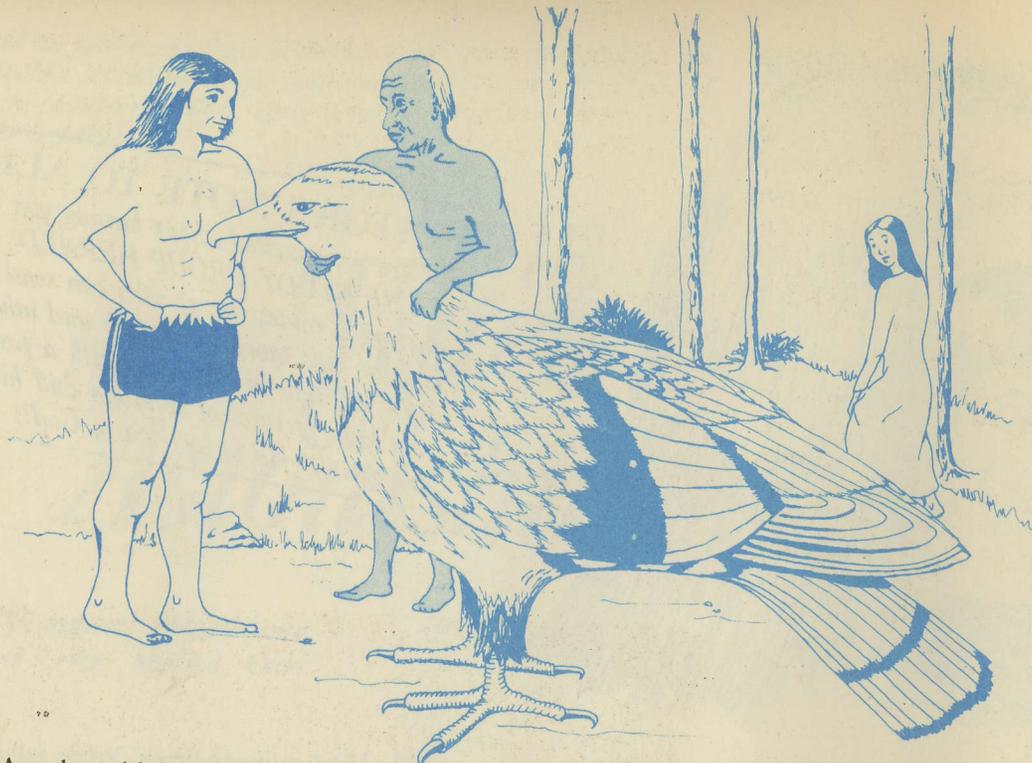
"So *she* won't panic!" joked Amadon. "What about me?"

"Ah, a warrior like yourself would never panic," the old man stated and he smiled. "Do as I do," he called and he suddenly mounted a large passenger bird. The great bird's wings flapped wildly as the bird ran around the area near the cliff with the old man on its back. Feathers were flying and the commotion was kicking up a lot of dust. Audaciousness may not have been one of Amadon's strong points but courage was. In an instant, he was on the little fandor's back. His bird may have been smaller but was in no sense weaker. She flapped more wildly than the red man's bird and started running quickly around in circles. After a few moments, Amadon became dizzy and fell to the ground.

His coach did not even grin. "Get back on that bird until she realizes that you are not going to give up," the old man called, and Amadon obeyed.

After about half an hour of this Amadon was bruised and sore but he was able to stay on the bird without falling. "Now we are ready to go!" uttered his teacher, and he and his fandor were over the edge.

Not wanting to be left behind by its own kind, the little fan-



dor followed, carrying Amadon with her. Before Amadon came to realize his predicament he found himself riding the fandor who was bolting down the slope and was off the edge and in the air.

Amadon had both arms around the bird's wirey neck but he found himself slipping. "Amadon, hold her with one arm only and hold the other one in the air to keep your balance," the old man called. Amadon did as he was told and found that this technique really worked. Soon he had enough confidence to look down and realized that he was higher up than he had thought.

Amadon was not accustomed to such stimulation, but there was nothing about it that was disagreeable. "Whoa!" he called out into the air, "I'm riding among the clouds!" His instructor circled closer to him now while Amadon and his fandor kept gliding at a steady descent towards the flatland below. The old man called.

"Ah, Amadon, who is that down there on the ground looking up at us?" Down, far below him Amadon could make out the figure of a woman looking skyward. It was Avela. The old man called, "Perhaps the unseen Father is hard at work within her and that is why she is drawn to you." Amadon looked over at the old man as they glided toward the ground.

"Who is this new mentor who knows so much about my personal life?" Amadon thought to himself. "That woman is a thorn in my side!" he barked. "And she has no love for the unseen Father!"

The old man called back, "Avela can have that effect on people she cares for. As for the matter of the unseen Father, all the people in Bon's group are convinced that He does not exist, so who is she going to discuss the matter with in order to make the right decision?"

The birds landed. Amadon got off the fandor and felt both his feet on the ground again. "That was quite an experience!" he called to the red man. Avela was running toward them. Amadon puffed out his chest, his daring ride through the air would surely have impressed her, he thought. She was calling to him as she came nearer.

"Amadon, How foolish you are! You tarry about in the

swamps, believe in unseen things, and now I find you hanging about with my father in the air on these ridiculous birds." Amadon's mouth dropped open.

"My people were at war with Avela's people when she was a child," the old man explained sheepishly. "Both of her parents were killed. It was only right that I should raise her since she was too little to have survived on her own."

"Then you are of Bon's group!" sputtered Amadon. "Who would Van send me into the hands of Bon?"

"Avela has ties to Bon, but I have ties to neither Bon nor Van nor any other group. Van asked me to teach you of the ways of the passenger birds and that is what I am doing. Avela has been working with Bon for many years and now is old enough to make her own decisions."

"Then do you believe in the unseen Father?" Amadon asked the old man.

"I don't know what to believe, Amadon." The old man said. "But you have seen like I do, like these birds do. You have seen what it is like to fly. What does creation look like from another view?"

"I don't know," stammered Amadon. "It was extraordinary." The old man stated, "I find many things about creation extraordinary and have not found sufficient means to explain them."

"You are both crazy!" Avela charged. "If you keep hanging around with my father and drink this water of astonishment too many times like he did you will never return from it!" After having said this she walked off. Amadon looked at the old man.

"Old man, your eyes are laughing but your face shows no emotion. What am I to believe?"

"Believe what you will and be here tomorrow for another lesson." At this, the old man started walking in the direction Avela had gone. The rest of the small flock had flown down from the ridge and followed him except for the little passenger bird. Amadon's fandor was eating what was left of the barley groats the old man had scattered on the ground just before he left. Indeed, Amadon was beginning to see things from a more elevated view. But, it was raising more questions than it had answered.

... to be continued

OKLAHOMA *Continued*

Bill Allen sings "The Birthday Party of The King" accompanied by Tom on the piano, and invited speakers deliver inspiring addresses. This year, the speaker was Carol Hay of Boulder, Colorado, who is known by many for her remarkable presentation at Snowmass, 1990.

The Study Groups

Perhaps the most important factor contributing to the progress of this cohesive society is its study groups. On Sunday and Monday nights, large study groups meet at the home of Berkeley Elliott. These meetings focus on the diverse special interests of the readers themselves. One individual assumes the responsibility of facilitating the group study on a particular theme which he or she has chosen. These special studies continue for about six to ten weeks when the facilitator and topic is changed. The Sunday group is currently being conducted by Richard Randall who has chosen an interesting theme for his period of leadership, personality. Each reader is sharing and discussing his or her favorite passages from *The Urantia Book* and commenting on its special meaning.

The Monday group is progressing through part IV very slowly and with much discussion. As of this writing they are devoting two successive meetings to just one section of one of the "Jesus Papers". This assembly has adopted the unusual title: "The Self-Conscious and Slightly Self-Centered Urantia Book Study Group". Clyde Lewis, contact person for this study group is one of its prominent members.

The Tuesday night group gathers at the home of Van and Helen Butler. This group is the original cluster of friends who gave rise to the Oklahoma Society, some of whom have been studying together since 1957. They have met at several different places during their extended history and have an average of 12 to 18 members in attendance. The meeting usually begins with prayer, after which members read sequentially through the book, as they always have. When one of the more difficult papers is to be read, some of the meeting time is spent on one of the Jesus Papers as well.

There is a meeting on Wednesdays hosted by John Burchell in Bethany, a suburb of Oklahoma City (as well as of Jerusalem). In contrast with the thirty-five years of experience of the Oklaho-

ma Society, this group is in its infancy, having been organized only three months ago (as of this writing). John was pursuing a twelve step program where he made some acquaintances who became friends. John had read the book through twice, and when he asked some of these close friends over to read a little from the book, they were immediately taken with it, and that was the foundation of the new study group. John and the group intend to experiment with different ways to approach the study of the *Urantia Book*. The group has grown rapidly and there is a strong desire on John's part, for himself and his friends, to improve their comprehension of the book, their general understanding of reality, and to achieve a more definite

Elliott, and sometimes others make the ninety-mile journey to Tulsa to fellowship with these readers.

I have been present at a few of the meetings at Berkeley's home and I was strongly impressed when I observed that, unlike the majority of study groups that I have attended, the quiet and concentration was remarkable. Small, simultaneous exchanges between two or a few readers while consideration is being directed toward the subject for the evening are strictly prohibited. This rule is upheld by the facilitator as one of her or his assigned duties. Readers hear each other out and do not interrupt the reading of passages. This stipulation is observed so considerably and completely that I did not wit-



Berkeley Elliott, William (Bill) S. Sadler, Jr., Frankie Goodman, Clyde Goodman.

"conscious contact", as he put it, "with all of what is going on".

Thursday a study group meets in Tulsa at the home of Wanda and Mike Smith. Among the regular members are: Nancy Oakley, Kathy Miller, Kathy Madison, Don Gardner, Gary Dangerfield, and Charles Audraine. Some members of this group have been meeting for over twenty years. Nancy Oakley shared with me that this group has developed a pervasive sense of unconditional love and acceptance. She commented that although all members do not always agree on every issue, there is always a strong group feeling of approval which she described as: "I love you no matter what." Sometimes, meetings begin or end with prayer, the group standing in a circle holding hands. The sense of spiritual closeness, Nancy shared, makes these meetings a special experience for its members. About once a month, Tom and Karen Allen, Berkeley

ness even a mild reprimand from the facilitator or anyone else throughout.

Group worship is another important feature of these Sunday and Monday night meetings. These expressions of love, gratitude, and reverence for the Father and His celestial family are a natural, spiritual overflow of the loving feelings and personal appreciation evoked by the evening's reading. These periods of worship are customarily enhanced by instrumental and vocal music. The sharing, socializing, study, worship, music, and conversation at these gatherings do not take place within a couple of hours, but generally last the entire evening.

The Oklahoma Society does not proselytize. To join, one simply expresses his desire to become a member and, after compliance with the specific responsibilities of membership, arrangements

Continued on page 24

Michael S. Smith, 20, of Coraopolis, Pennsylvania offers this Young Readers' page, inviting letters, writings, artwork, photography, etc. as well as the sharing of ideas, feelings, and experiences by pre-college and college age readers. Do you write stories or poetry? Do you read The Urantia Book in isolation?

Do you know other young readers? Have you ever tried sharing The Urantia Book with your peers? If you have something to share on this page, send it to Michael S. Smith, 1827 Hassam Road, Coraopolis, PA 15108, Tel: (412)269-6693.

WHAT AM I? WHO AM I? AN INTROSPECTION OF MYSELF

By Michael S. Smith

1

What am I? Who am I?
I am so much more and less than you would suppose,
I am a man, I am also the effeminate of soul,
I am the worker busy to gain his pay,
I am the slouch not wanting to toil for his wealth,
I am the one who wishes to be alone with his books,
But also the one to show himself to mankind by
my serviceable wealth.

Not I the man of the world as yet,
My soul is too small, the world I cannot possess,
My fellow man I do not know,
His life I cannot grasp,
My own life I would not so much guess at the true reasons
of my sometimes hypocritical spontaneous actions,
My purpose I do not see,
My effect I have not made.

I view things and at times become them,
People's actions I may step into,
Other times I do not understand why such a path has been
chosen,
My own better actions only stay as long as the inspiration,
My longings do not fit, for this I do not care,
In times of needed companionship I will reverse this view.

I long for God,
I long for living, for friendship, for love and understanding,
For a better humanity the world around,
For all to have the intelligence and spirit I might think I
have separate,
For growth I long, my own soul to fly,
All souls to fly, yours and mine together, all
misunderstanding to be gone.

Angels to talk with to show upon my shaded scene some
light to inspire me,
Some light to inspire you,

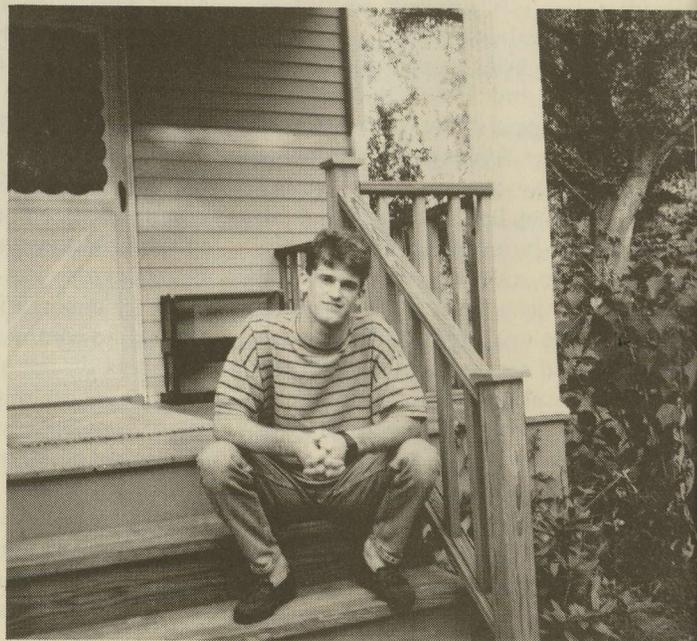
The joys of a heaven to be found from one who has seen
and felt the glory of God,
A voice I await, one that shall lead me,
Is it so wrong to wish to die?

No sign do we have to reveal what is truth,
No outward manifestation of the true power of God,
By faith we must live our beginning to final day,
Hoping not in vain our faith will make us whole.

My faith is strong,
My questioning is just that, nothing more,
No indwelling thought can erase this most bearable feeling
in the depths of my soul,
All may fall, my faith shall stand.

Michael S. Smith

Continued on next page



MOTHER OF MY SOUL *Continued*

Page Numbers: Begins/Ends with:

And we water this garden with whole hearted devotion to supreme values; dedicated to doing the will of the Father in Heaven.

The religious habits recommended in paragraph 4 of P. 1095 form an "Eight Fold Path" for religious growth. Each of the eight is worth a topical study.

1216:5-1217:4 Material mind/human intellect.

This reading pulls no punches in stating the awesome responsibility we have in using our minds to either eternalize or destroy ourselves. This powerful and poetic statement makes it clear that all we really have that is subject to our will is mind. And this mind of ours is just a temporarily loaned intellect system.

The surrender of our will to God is an active, not passive, choice to cooperate with the adjuster's leading when that leading consciously differs from the desire of the natural mortal mind.

1610:2 Salvation is/love of God.

As our knowledge of our salvation and our real peace with God mature, our spirits are regenerated and we become masters of ourselves and of our flesh. We then truly consider it a privilege to cleanse ourselves from body and mind evils and seek perfection in the love of God.

1112:4 Revelation teaches/morontia worlds.

It is indicated that we must provide the adjuster something to work with. These are the "self-possessed ideas" that the Adju-

Page Numbers: Begins/Ends with:

tant Spirit of Wisdom can transform and the Adjuster can Spiritize, making these concepts available for living out under the guidance of the Spirit of Truth. Thus is a righteous character developed: "the prerequisite for mortal admission to the ever-expanding and increasing spiritual realities of the morontia worlds.

The careful reading of this paragraph reveals a working relationship of the divine ministry laboring in our behalf and *with us*. It comes as close as any in expressing our ability to escape the dead level of temporal existence by use of mind. And this point is aptly followed by this next reference on page:

1287:5 What man/brotherly service.

And this is the result of our working in concert with our divine friends and making spiritually illuminated decisions!

0022:2 Urantia mortals/God-consciousness.

We may not ever be infinitely perfect, but we can, in fact, be humanly perfect — as we are now and here.

0026:1 In the/God-consciousness.

Mortal mind in service only to the material world will become more and more material and will eventually suffer personality termination.

Survival is achieved by so adjusting the human will and transforming the mortal mind so the God-conscious intellect can be spirit-taught and spirit-led.

YOUNG READERS *Continued*

2

I would be the man of all seasons if I could,
To do all the things the world may offer,
All these things I could do,
With this pen and paper I could lead you, too,
But I can not go,
My words are stuck in introspection of myself,
In time I may bring us both,
This time is what I await,
The time my words may flow even more as these,
Though these flow the best as yet,
But my time has not arrived,
My purpose I have not uncovered,
Continually waiting, my life it flashes by.
Doubt not I say to you and I,
My time shall come to mystify us both,
With words of mankind my voice through these writings
will spring,
The songs of all the world I will sing,
Of all occupations, travels, lands, and seas,
Of the mountains' high peaks, the valleys' streams and
green flushing trees,
Of child and adult each pulled towards sides of evil and good,
Of all my mind can picture,
This these lines will reveal.

You will travel with me, my side never to leave,
So as I have stood with the masters through their own
lines in books,
So you shall stand with me,
And the new poet I shall be,
You await me the wide world over as I await you,
And if my life shall be buried too soon,
In Paradise spheres my carol will sing,
Only there shall the songs of this earth be complete.

3

I see my coming out,
As the mollusk stretches outward the shell only to recede
back again,
I see my steady growth into manhood,
Reaching always for consciousness that only the cosmos
possesses,
I am young, ever growing,
Grasping to reach the peak, only to find the next step
invisible,
I have started young on my quest,
I pray my early trials will the sooner pass from my life.
I know I will be great,
I know that you may also be great,

Continued on page 19

INTERNATIONAL READERS

We welcome correspondence from readers around the world. Share with us your inspirations and your ideas, your studies and your

socials. Write: International Editor, Chilufya M.K. Thompson, P.O. Box 22620, Kitwe, Zambia.

MESSAGE TO MY SOUL

Chilufya M.K. Thompson, Kitwe, Zambia

The object of love is Jesus for He hails from the Father.

The object of love is God the Father from whom all reality transcends now and forever.

The object is Jesus for He is your Lord and Master.

The object of love is Jesus for He is the true light that lights every Spirit-born soul.

The object of love is Jesus for He is the living truth, the living water that will quench every thirsty soul.

The object of love is Jesus for He is truth, beauty, and goodness.

Now then, let us worship Him for His goodness, crave to enter into His light and be blended therein to magnify this unextinguishable flame.

Exhort Him on high, praise Him and above all, love Him.

He will come again to His mortal home, Urantia (Earth) which gave Him the final glory that He now enjoys in all the heavens.

He is the sovereign king of a whole universe.

Chilufya Thompson
17/06/91, 16:45 HRS
An inspired message

(This letter was enclosed with the letter to Chrissy and Lee Smith on page 27.)

FAITH BIBLE CHURCH OF AFRICA, INC.

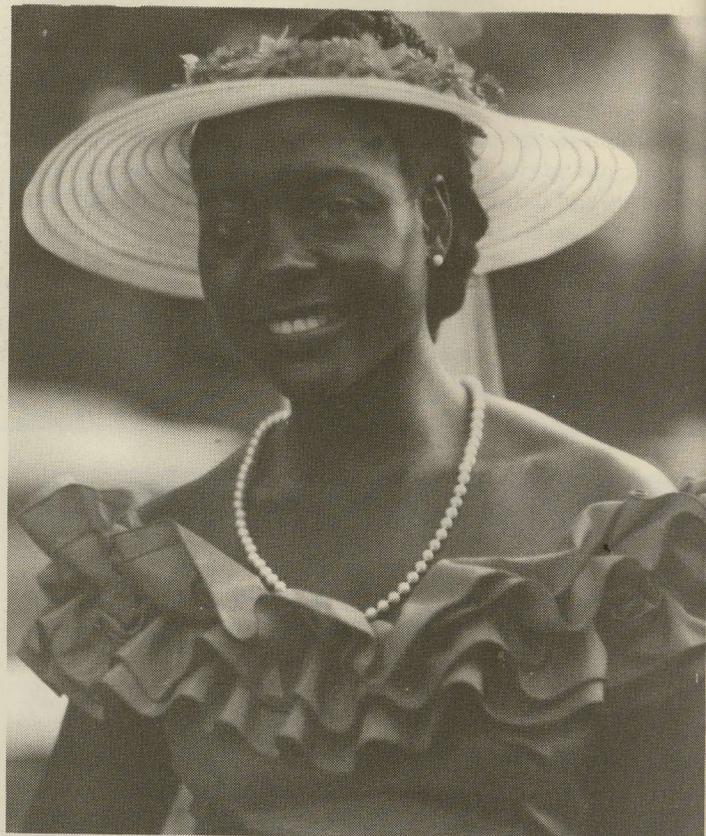
"Go ye therefore and teach all nations" Matt:28:19.

Rev. Godwin A. Ikoro, Founder and general superintendent
P.O. Box 401
Satellite Town, Lagos
Nigeria, West Africa

Monday, June 3, 1991

Beloved and Precious Chrissy Smith,

Greetings to you all in the Holy and Merciful Name of our dear Lord, the Father, I pray that this mail will meet you in good health and I hope that you will read through it in good faith.



Chilufya M.K. Thompson

Beloved, kindly extend my brotherly salutations to those loving saints with you over there.

I am really very convinced that you will be wondering who must have written you this mail from that far away country like (Nigeria), West Africa. I so much believe that this is just the very way the Lord wants it, as to join us together in this form. My prayer is that let no man put this great relationship of ours asunder, unto the end.

To start with, I am in the person of REVEREND GODWIN A. IKORO, the founder and general superintendent of Faith Bible Church of Africa, Inc. As well as leader of study group of *Urantia Books*, in Nigeria. And I am based in Lagos, the Federal capital of Nigeria. And I came to know of you through one

Continued on next page

INTERNATIONAL *Cont.*

of the newest magazines published by the Fifth Epochal Fellowship, called "The STUDY GROUP HERALD, Vol. 1, No. 1, Spring 1991", issue. In fact, I have been praying that I should one day have a friend and brother whom I would be corresponding with and who is also a reader of *Urantia Books*. I thank God, because, He has done it for me by making me to know you today.

It now seems like my thoughts and dreams on this issue have become a reality. I hope you may be sending me from time to time some *Urantia Books* for use here. We are numbering over 45 members. We have our newly constituted Board Members of Urantia Study Group. I am therefore, enclosing to you the picture of these, our newly constituted Board Members, for you to see them while I plead that you should try your very best and send me some of your USED MATERIALS OF URANTIA BOOKS.

Here in Lagos I am a missionary, and I am 45 years of age with 11 children, whom God Has blessed to my dear wife, Sister Mercy and myself. I would love to have your own picture as you reply to this letter Beloved. *Because, there is something very special about having a visual picture*

of the person one writes to, or prays for. Therefore, try your best and let me have and share your picture with my family and the entire members of Urantia Study Group here in Lagos. I am therefore, looking forward to having your soon coming reply within the week and I pray that you should try and mail me some of your used *Urantia Books*. Beloved, I love you

and I continue to back you day by day in my prayers. I also pray for all the members of your loving family as well as the members of your study group over there.

May God, our Father, bless you all as you reply within the week Beloved.
Yours United in the Spirit of Christ Jesus.
Rev. Godwin A Ikoro, (Leader)
URANTIA STUDY GROUP, Lagos.



Reverend Ikoro and friends.

YOUNG READERS *Continued*

That we all can attain our highest, loftiest aspirations and ideals.

All my days I have seen tribulation,
And that much I have seen of joy,
The joy soon to outweigh the trials,
The leaves of grass soon to cover the dirt.

4

I show you these lines so that my future poems will have
proved the fact of my search uncovered,
I will be, wait and see, the man you would love,
For love I give in return,
For now all we both may do is wait for truth to be revealed,
In time we both shall be not so blind as today.

My song I would not stop now,
I must recite how diligently I have searched;
For years I have read books of superstition, fear, to
reverence and love,
I have loved the ones who recite of love,
And the revealer of a higher love they have given me to
stretch out among you,
Through all I have read I discard what has not appealed to
both you and I,
Always holding the joyfulness of love soon I will have pour

out from me,
Of the true Jesus I have read and known,
The new revelation burns within my soul.

5

I sit and ponder you the reader of I,
I ask what it is that you have and have not found in my
own searching,
But I say I expect all from you,
You say I am irrational; I say so too,
You say I am of true love; I say so too,
I am of all, for all I encompass,
Both evil and good I have been and have seen.

I am really not sure of myself as I am now,
Neither of the world and its multitude of peoples,
If you are I would like to know you,
For I would be your diligent pupil,
Of the future I sense that all will be my teacher,
And I the teacher to all.

How much I sit here in wonder of my own forward looking,
My thoughts of the poet and the man of the world,
I also wonder what you have thought of me,
And have I changed you?

PERIODICALS OF THE MOVEMENT

Cece Forrester, Chicago, Ill.

In the inaugural issue of the *STUDY GROUP HERALD*, we listed names and addresses of known periodicals for Urantia Book Readers. In this and future columns, we will publish

updates and new information supplied to us. In each issue we will also bring you a close-up of one periodical and its publishers, together with reprints of selected articles.

UPDATES

LIGHT & LIFE NEWS is a new publication from Australia. Keith Bacon is the editor. Address: 97 Lindrum Road, Frankston, Australia 3199.

SIX-O-SIX, the international newsletter from Australia has a new address: P.O. Box 281, Ashburton, Vic. 3147, Australia, and now has a distributor in the U.S. who is handling subscriptions. Contact David Glass, 5302 Wooten Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76133, U.S.A.

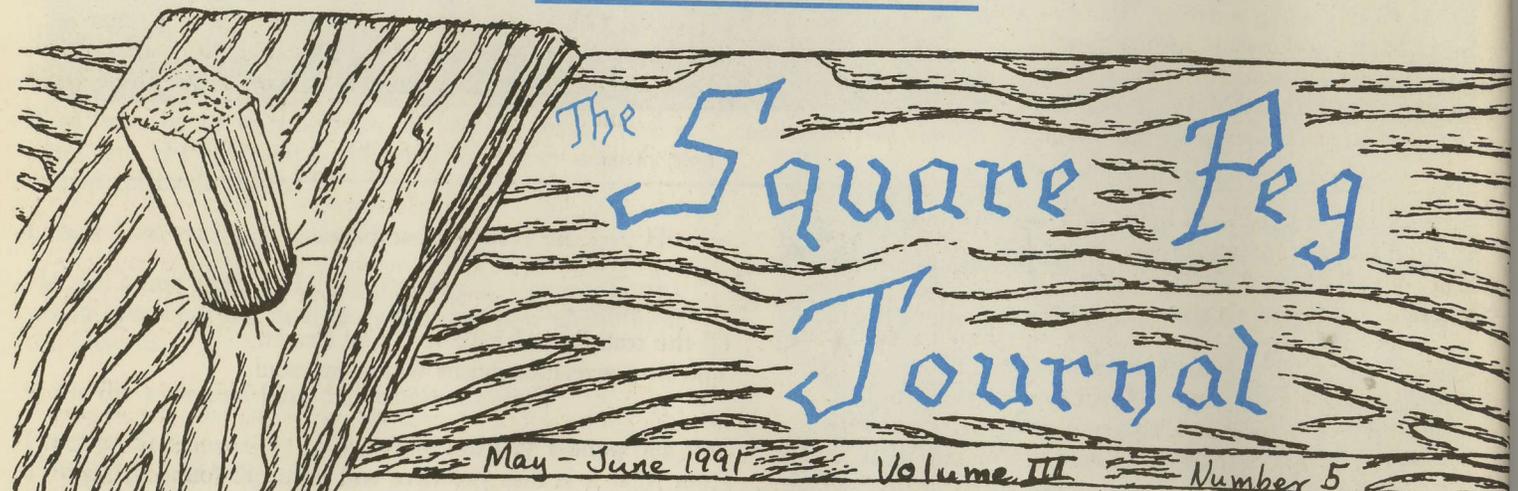
WORDS FROM THE HEART, the new publication of Heart of America Society of Kansas City, has a new mailing

address: c/o Betty Teresso, 4027 NW Claymont Drive, Kansas City, MO 64116 U.S.A. Julie Tharp will still be participating, but she no longer lives in the Kansas City area.

Dick Bain, publisher of **COSMIC REFLECTIONS**, may be relocating. In the meantime, use this address: 6010-18th Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL 33710, U.S.A.

Dick also reports that Patije Mills is publishing the **SONSHINE MESSENGER** with news for Florida Readers. Address: 1340 Rhodes Avenue, Sarasota, FL 34239-2732, U.S.A. Patije, be sure to send us a copy!

CLOSEUP



C. Public Domain

Begun in January, 1989, this monthly journal has a specific focus: "For Catholic readers of the *Urantia Book* and other interested parties." It publishes reflections on the gospels week by week according to the liturgical calendar, including teachings likely to be brought up, and how the Urantia revelation approaches these topics.

Says editor Mary Daly of Garretson, South Dakota, "Our specific

purpose is to offer support to Catholics who would like to stay in the Church but feel swamped by theological issues, and who may face both overt criticism and various subtle forms of isolation. It may also be helpful to ex-Catholics who have some forgiving to do, and to other Christians who'd like scriptural reflections." Adds Mary, "There are more Catholic *Urantia Book* readers than you might think — and many who used to be."

The name is taken from a book on woodworking by Eric Sloane, who explains that while a nail might rust and a round peg may shrink and fall out, a square peg of green wood in a round hole of seasoned wood will *never* fall out. Says

Mary, "I use the name as a joking reference to my feeling that I may not be comfortable in the church all the time, but I know that's where I belong."

Mary is originally from Maryland, near Washington, D.C. She was raised in the Catholic Church and attended parochial schools. There were eight brothers and sisters in her family and Mary's parents were "not average but special": her father, a scientist in the fields of mathematics, physics, and astronomy, discovered that the earth is pear-shaped. Her mother, a daughter of immigrants, writes books about Emily Dickenson.

Mary majored in mathematics at New
Continued on page 24

Ed. Note: This material has been selected from a twelve page presentation of the origin, nature, and ministry of the Divine Minister, the second of a three-part series about the Blessed Mother and the Divine Minister. As such, it is unavoidably

taken out of context. For the complete series, order the May-June, July-August, and September-October issues of SQUARE PEG JOURNAL, Rte 2, Box 45, Garretson, SD 57030.

ON DEITY AND GENDER

Reprint from THE SQUARE PEG JOURNAL, July-August 1991

By Mary Daly, Garretson, SD

Origin of the Divine Minister

(74:1) When a/projected universe.

Genesis 1:1-2

Proverbs 8:22-35

Nature of the Divine Minister

The local Universe Mother Spirit is, like the Infinite Spirit in the Trinity, the minister of mind in our local universe. Much of her work of carrying out the loving and merciful plans of our Sovereign is done in the realm of mind.

To realize the importance of mind, we should reflect that spiritual realities cannot directly affect material realities; therefore, a purely spiritual being cannot change anything in the material world. Sometimes, when we receive material answers to prayer, intermediate personalities have been mobilized to serve us. This is done because our prayer is consonant with the will of their supervisors, even with the will of the Father himself. But most often, the gap is bridged by mind, the mediating reality between matter and spirit. On certain levels, mind can directly affect the physical world, and it can also respond to spirit. Sometimes, therefore, our material prayers are answered through the spirit-led unification and mobilization of our human minds, allowing them to operate more effectively in the material world.

The Infinite Spirit of the Trinity, the source of all mind, is also the "The God of Action," the member of the Trinity who carries out the plans and purposes of the first two Persons. Our local universe Mother Spirit is such an active mind minister within this creation. Even nonpersonal and prepersonal levels of mind are her province, although here she works indirectly through seven adjutant mind spirits. Five of these adjutants work both in the animal world and among men. The last two, worship and wisdom, work only among those who have the potential of personality. ...

Adjutant Ministry

The ministry of the Mother Spirit to an individual human person begins with the work of her adjutants who make contact with developing mind as soon as it is possible. There are seven adjutant mind spirits and they must be hard at work even prenatally, since the individual already has a separate mind system. The first one to make contact with a new mind is the spirit of quick intuition, simple responsiveness. The second is the spirit of knowledge, the gift that makes learning possible. Various games of response, including prenatal games, are evidence of its function. Next come courage and curiosity and loyalty. These five types of mind function we share with the animal world.

Sometime between the ages of four and seven, the adjutants of worship and wisdom become able to contact the developing mind. Adjutant worship is the foundation of the deeper gift which our Father initiates in the indwelt personality, but even the initial movements of awe and piety separate human from animal thought. Finally, under the guidance of the spirit of wisdom, the work of all the other adjutants, intuition, knowledge, courage, curiosity, loyalty, and worship, becomes unified. At this time, the child is included in the circuit of the Mother Spirit, endowed with the Spirit of Truth, and indwelt by a spirit gift of the Father. It is a real entrance into the life of the Trinity.

The Mother Spirit does not indwell her children as does the spirit of the Father who guides our thoughts from so deep within. Nor is she the same as the truth teacher we have in the spirit of Jesus. But inclusion in her spiritual circuit is a precondition for the personality focus that makes these ministries possible, and she remains involved in them. The Spirit of Truth is focalized in her presence, and the worship initiated by the Adjuster is registered in her presence before going on to Paradise. In addition, during this dispensation when all contacting personalities are able to perceive her personality, it would seem that a



Mary and Briega Daly.

child would be able to recognize her from this time forward. That such recognition is rare proves nothing. Recognition of the Father himself is rare when it is not anticipated by faith. . .

Personal Ministry

Little is said about the personal ministry of our Mother, only that she includes us on her circuit and that she is recognizable as a person. I think there is much we can learn, but first of all, we need to know God as Father.

The Urantia revelation remarks that even its teachings about the Father will not become generally accepted until there are improvements in family life. This is an important point. Many believe that the doctrine of the Fatherhood of God cannot be taught because it is not meaningful to people who do not have good fathers. What they fail to realize is that there is no substitute for a good father. God as mother or friend is not the answer. Improvements in family life are essential to the revelation.

If teachings about a Mother Spirit are to be properly understood, they too must await such developments or they are likely to be offered in competition with Father relationships. In practical terms this runs directly contrary to the doctrine of one God.

A Mother, Not a Goddess

The queen of heaven, the co-sovereign with Jesus, is our mother. She is not a warrior queen even as Jesus is not a war-

rior king. She neither seeks nor exercises power over any person, but serves all as their loving mother. Although her presence is strong enough to define a universe, it is so gentle and self-effacing that many never notice it or distinguish it within their general consciousness of the presence of one God. Our Divine Mother is a creative spirit, a mercy minister, a mind minister, a mother, a humble spouse, and queen. At least these are some of the ways we may describe her. But she does not experience these callings in the conflicted way we might. She is divine and the characteristic of divinity is *unity*.

Our Mother in heaven is not to be confused with mother nature whose local space she defines, whose patterns she has filled out, but whose powers are indifferent to the choice of eternal love. Nor is she to be confused with mother earth, our physical home, whose beauty is her creative gift, given in cooperation with our Creator-Father, but whose primal energies are sometimes the focal study of mere pantheistic systems of religious consciousness. Finally, although she is a mind minister, she is not to be confused with the feminine aspects of the subconscious nor with any merely archetypal image of woman. She is a living spirit being with a unique presence and a loving will.

With these thoughts in mind, we may look at the traditions

Continued on next page

that have fed into the mother cults of the world and distinguish three types of influence.

First, there are the historic influences, primarily Eve and Mary the mother of Jesus. Eve was in fact a supermortal woman with a revelatory mission which contributed much to family life and home arts, beginning thirty-five thousand years ago in a garden home near the confluence of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. Because she and Adam defaulted in the face of temptations stemming from the Lucifer rebellion, their influence was diminished and the memory of their lives appears purely mythic, but they were real people. The Cretan worship of the Great Mother is described in the *Urantia Book* as an exaltation of Eve's memory.

Mary, the earthly mother of Jesus has, in the Catholic tradition, become thoroughly entwined with the doctrine of spiritual motherhood. Scripture's every word about her has been symbolically interpreted as part of the portrayal of the perfect and understanding companion of Jesus. Sometimes she is hardly perceivable as a human being, but by the same token her story has become the historic focus of devotion to the Mother of Mercy who labors for our salvation by the side of Jesus.

The second great influence in the development of mother cults is the *overwhelming psychic mystery of gender difference*. Men are awed and frightened by woman's superior intuitive skills which so startlingly undercut the raw power of either politics or muscle. Men and women both have evolved all sorts of ways to enhance their respective realms of power and protect themselves from each other. Mother cults represent a cultural enthronement of certain female traits and values and a system for encouraging their development. Sometimes this is merely done in the conservative manner natural to women and mothers; sometimes it is done in defensive opposition to masculine power. In our own time there is a new and powerful interest in these cults. In evaluating these matters, those who know Jesus should recognize that a modern religion which ignores Jesus is not the same as an ancient one, for the ancients had no opportunity to be taught by his Spirit of Truth.

A few years ago, I asked a fellow reader, a former Catholic, how much thought she had given to the Divine Minister as representing the feminine aspect of Deity the way the Blessed Mother does in Catholicism. "Oh, I guess I never got into the goddess thing", she responded. Nor had I, but it made sense to check into this effort to restore gender balance to western religious thought.

Well, the "goddess thing" isn't much like the Catholic teaching, and it isn't much like the Divine Minister, either. In fact, it's like the Lucifer rebellion.

One might sum up the Lucifer Manifesto (P.603) in three statements: "I will not worship; I will not serve; I will not be held accountable." Similarly, "the goddess thing" is anti-Father, including the Fatherhood of God and the privilege of being drawn back into his worship. It rejects many forms of service as subjugation, including every form of service that begins in submission to the will of another. It evades accountability by enshrining the role of intuition without distinguishing between the primitive and prelogical work of the first adjutant mind spirit, and the development of the soul and superconscious which rightfully make claims that transcend logic (but do not contradict it).

In sum, the goddess thing is competitive, sly, irresponsible, and thoroughly earthbound. It is the ultimate confusion between the psychic and spiritual realms, enforced as a doctrine and enshrined in practices that ridicule the possibility of giving analysis a wholesome place in religious thought. It is the corruption,

not the re-awakening, of an evolutionary religious experience. It has nothing helpful to say about spiritual motherhood and much to suggest that is damaging to gender harmony and, consequently, to the advance of family life.

The confusion generated by goddess religion impels me to digress a little further.

Getting right down to it, is it sexist to call the First Source and Center, "our Father?" If so, the *Urantia Book* can hardly be called a revelation. 1933 is not so long ago that the revelators could not have seen the feminist movement gathering momentum. I think they did, but to understand their response we need to be clear about the feminist trends in contemporary thought and be willing to enter spiritually into our revelation.

Feminism has two faces. One face claims equal dignity for women and men and seeks fairness for women in the public sphere along with the continued development of protection and care in the realm of the family. The *Urantia* revelation endorses this program only remarking that full social equality must await the end of war because women cannot compete in this endeavor without sacrificing their gains in the family realm.

The other face of feminism seeks to bolster the claims of gender equality with spurious assertions of sameness that have no basis in either science or spirituality and that frequently run contrary to the best interests of the family. About this face the *Urantia Book* has strong words: *Woman has finally won recognition, dignity, independence, equality and education; but will she prove worthy of all this new and unprecedented accomplishment? Will modern woman respond to this great achievement of social liberation with idleness, indifference, barrenness, and infidelity? Today, in the twentieth century, woman is undergoing the crucial test of her long world existence.* (P.937)

The Pope could have used that line in his encyclical *Humanae Vitae*!

Before returning to the Deity identity, let me say a positive word about patriarchy. At the time a child is born, it is always perfectly obvious who his mother is. It is not so clear who the father is. He can always skip out. Patriarchy is the social order in which men agree to take responsibility for their children. As such, it is the most significant advance toward monogamy with all its unique potentials for home life. Grave misfortunes occur when the father's claims are not accompanied by respect and care for the mother. Progress lies in the proper negotiation of that relationship. Not in a return to matriarchy.

The Fatherhood of God and in particular the Fatherhood of the first person of Trinity, is a basic tenet of *revealed* religion. God has freely entered into a personal and life-giving relationship with us, even calling us to perfection. Deity is also maternal, brotherly, sisterly, friendly, shepherding, and merciful. It is also policing and judging.

The First Source and Center must be conceived of as masculine — and therefore fatherly — because feminine primacy is contradictory, and neuter primacy, being impersonal, exalts force over person. Yet the revealed three-way polarity of the Trinity affirms the mystery of a primacy which is *coequal* with apparently "subordinate" persons. It is, at the very least, more complex than sexism!

Nevertheless, spiritual truths can only be understood with the help of the Spirit of Truth. It is inevitable that the unaided material mind will fall back into sexist interpretations. The only way of progress lies in the thoughts of the soul, developed in prayer.

Continued on next page

CLOSEUP *Continued*

College in Sarasota, Florida. She then entered a convent where she spent six years while studying philosophy and theology at Marygrove College. She also worked in a home for the aged and in pastoral care. During her time in the convent she was given *The Urantia Book* by a friend. After leaving, she worked as a mathematician. In 1976 she married Michael Daly who works in management in the communications field. They moved to South Dakota in 1980. Their five children range in age from newborn daughter, Briega, to fourteen years. Says Mary, "My job now is mothering. And *The Urantia Book* has taught me that it makes a difference who your parents are."

The inception of the **SQUARE PEG JOURNAL** was "in part the fruit of a few years of startling spiritual renewal as we returned to active Church member-

ship." Up until the Urantia revelation, Mary believes, "The Catholic Church represents the most comprehensive body of thinking about Jesus, and therefore is the best jumping-off place for knowing *The Urantia Book*."

In its first two years, the **SQUARE PEG JOURNAL** consisted mostly of listings of scriptures and corresponding readings from *The Urantia Book*. Scripture listings continue, but issues are now devoted to topics for several months at a time. This year, four issues focused on the Passion and the following four are about the Blessed Mother and the Divine Minister and how the two are related. A new topic, probably the Sacraments, will be covered next year. Usually published monthly, the **SQUARE PEG JOURNAL** will be bimonthly for the remainder of this year at least, but all subscribers will receive twelve issues for \$12.00, U.S., \$15.00 Canadian, and \$20.00, overseas. "A discount is available

as needed for a cheerful expression of interest", notes the subscription policy, and a sample copy is available free on request.

The **SQUARE PEG JOURNAL** states that it is not intended to proselytize either non-readers or non-Catholics. However, says Mary, "There is so much in *The Urantia Book* that people don't see if they don't know any theology. There's a statement in *The Urantia Book* about "high gear spiritual performances" awaiting a new revelation. I think of the book as fifth gear. You certainly can't start a car in fifth, and you can only shift to fifth from fourth or third gear. Many people have no idea what kinds of questions get raised 'in fourth gear'! If you go at *The Urantia Book* without an appreciation for Christianity, your understanding will be much less than it could be."

Interested readers can write for more information to: Square Peg Printers, Route 2, Garretson, SD 57030, USA.

OKLAHOMA *Continued*

are made for him or her to be inducted at the next celebration of Jesus' Birthday. Membership includes several factors including a commitment to assist in the dissemination of the teachings and to incorporate the values and ideals into one's life.

The numerous creative projects which are always under way involve many society members and lend further substance and cohesiveness to the Oklahoma society of readers. A revelator remarks that Thought Adjusters are often able to achieve a more effective transmission of their ideals and values into the minds of their mortal hosts when these indwelt

personalities are engaged in the flowing idea-streams of creativity.

Another leader in the Oklahoma Society who does such creative work and who contributes very much to the life of the society is Harry McMullan III. Harry has written two booklets: "Why I believe *The Urantia Book*" and "Jesus and *The Urantia Book*." He is also author of, "21 Steps to a Spiritual Awakening" and is working on "A Dictionary of *The Urantia Book*."

Apart from their many accomplishments, the members of the Oklahoma Society radiate an inviting and welcom-

ing attitude toward all who come to meet and fellowship with them, whatever the occasion. Tom Allen, the current president of First Society of Oklahoma, extends his invitation to all readers to visit the Oklahoma group whenever possible. Berkeley is a most congenial hostess and always makes sure that newcomers and guests are introduced around the circle of these gregarious readers. Such hospitality and warmth gives clear evidence that cooperative service is transformative and that genuine love is lastingly contagious and elicited of mutual affection as well.

DEITY & GENDER *Continued*

Third, and most important in understanding the cult of the Blessed Mother, is the influence of spiritual reality. We have a true mother in heaven. Deity is not just masculine in character. The sovereignty of our local universe is dual, a simplification of the trinitarian sovereignty of the whole creation. The polarity of the sexes reflects divine relationships, mutually balancing avenues of cooperative service in which the gender complements are harmonized in love.

The great error of western thought about a Divine Mother is the effort to collapse the entire issue into the outward categories of myth, memory, and gender competition. These efforts are never entirely successful because they assume a false founda-

tion. Myth must yield its convictions to the march of science. History eventually fades into a shadow, and competition yields to cooperation in mature (spiritual) growth. In the end the inner experience of spiritually-minded men and women transcends all else and assures the persistence of doctrines about our Heavenly Mother. This is all the more true in the spiritual dispensation that began with Pentecost because of the deepening of our Mother's personal approachability. We know and love her. Far beyond any rumor of a goddess in competition with the gods, she is our personal Mother, the Mother of Mercy, and the first and best friend of Jesus.

This poem is from a friend in Florida who is in the sunset of life on Urantia. She has read the Urantia Book for many decades and is now working on a project about a person in the book. She says that the Father has use for her. There is work yet to do here.

Adrienne Jarnagin, Houston, Texas

A Life for All Seasons

By Annie Spiars, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

A touch of green amidst the snow,
The first crocus-harbinger of spring.
Stirs the soul and lets it know
The beauty that is following.
Like the opening bud, hope quivers,
Then hurries right along
To join the singing, gushing rivers
In swelling joyous song!

Summer follows in its wake,
And like a blossoming, first romance,
Fragile lilies on the lake
Whisper softly, "Take a chance!"
The full moon in its ethereal flight,
The soft sounds of the turtle dove,
The longings, yearnings in the night
Murmurs back, "I Love! I Love!"

Flaring brightly as they fall,
The autumn leaves depart,
Reminiscing we recall
The memories that touched our heart.
Secreted carefully away,
To look back on tomorrow,
Brought forth upon another day
To help us ease the sorrow!

Life and season left behind,
Loneliness is now our share
Never more can we re-find
The ones and things we had there.
We're in the winter of our life,
No more our footsteps roam,
We pause and rest from all our strife
Until HE comes to take us home.

LETTERS

June 12, 1991

To The STUDY GROUP HERALD,

Thank you for publishing my article, "Race and the *Urantia Book*" in your first issue of the STUDY GROUP HERALD. I have received numerous congratulations and a few long distance phone calls. It is a subject that lays heavy on many minds, especially among whites. The few blacks I have met who read the Book did not experience the same trauma as I did.

Just in the last several weeks, we in the Washington, D.C. area, have come across a reading group comprised of seven black people. Their group is called, The Urantia Group of Greater Metropolitan Washington. The hosts for the group are William and Elise Gainor, (301)423-5353. I have visited their group (and they visit the group at my home) and noted that they are dedicated readers and have been reading as a group for two years. Their stories of how a few of them found the Book are heart-warming. I feel so happy knowing that more and more people of the black race are discovering the *Urantia Book*. I will encourage them to participate in local gatherings and attend conferences.

May Our Father smile upon the work you are doing.

Earlene A. Green
Silver Springs, Maryland

June 6, 1991

To The STUDY GROUP HERALD,

Congratulations, your first issue of the STUDY GROUP HERALD is a success, and I wish to thank you sincerely for sending a copy to me so promptly.

I'm a Zambian national now residing in Zambia after spending ten years abroad of which seven were spent in the U.S.A. in New York. It was during this period in 1982 when a friend, Elona Saren, introduced the *Urantia Book* to me. It came just at the right time. I later met Eileen and Peter Laurence who assisted me greatly and I still value their friendship.

I enjoy and treasure all literature sent to me regarding the U.B. I use them to spread the truth around to the many "kindred spirits". I hope someday to form a study group here, in Kitwe. Please let the U.B. readers who may chance to be in this part of the world know how to get in touch with me, I enclose a business card for more details.

I hope you will introduce a foreign readers' page.

The angels and other divine beings are working "overtime" in this part of the world as well as everywhere. It is so wonderful to see their work carried out and to feel their presence around us.

I send warm greetings to you all from sunny Zambia.

Yours in Kingdom building,
Chilufya M. K. Thompson
P.O. Box 22620
Kitwe, Zambia

Ed. NOTE: See P.18, International Readers Page. Chilufya has accepted the job!

May 31, 1991

To The STUDY GROUP HERALD,

Please accept this statement of my appreciation in regards to your having forwarded to me a copy of the STUDY GROUP HERALD. I've enjoyed reading it and I appreciate it as a gift. I now look to the day when I can reciprocate by contributing to your efforts.

Presently, my incarceration inhibits my capacity to serve your cause actively or economically; nonetheless, I offer my gratitude as a token of my appreciation for the work you are doing, and I surreptitiously pray your evolvment will continue commensurate with your meritorious projects.

In addition I must say I'm delighted in having the opportunity to witness the metamorphosis of the Urantia Brotherhood. Indeed your activity indicates your group is composed of talented, creative, energetic, inspiring, and intelligent God-seeking people. Surely your works, your plans, your objectives, and your efforts are worthy of the ennobling path of THE SUPREME - the evolutionary foundation of Michael's adventuous, absonite eventuality through divine faith experience in our humanity - actualize as it will the potential building blocks of the Urantia Fellowship and the ever resident Urantia Brotherhood.

Finally, now I'm certain that what you are doing, what must be done by others and will best be done by all, can be accomplished effectively once fellow believers, pilgrims, or vanguards of this new revelation give more of themselves individually as a testimony of duty to our collective desire to realize the supreme destiny which Michael has promised.

C.J. Howard
Reidsville, Georgia

March 13, 1991

To The STUDY GROUP HERALD,

This letter from Linda Scott was written by a very new reader and first-time guest to our '89 Jesus Birthday Party:

(Submitted by Adrienne Jarnagin)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS

Last August, 1989, a dear friend invited me to attend a birthday dinner celebration for Jesus. I was introduced to the *Urantia Book* by this same friend, only a few weeks earlier and I really didn't have a clear idea of what to expect. After all my years on Urantia, I was amazed to find out that Jesus had not been born on December 25th. That amazement was just the beginning of what I was soon to experience.

I thought I was going to the usual dinner party like I had attended so many times during the holiday season, but I was wrong! The first thing that became obvious to me was the attitude of the other guests. It wasn't only that they were nice and friendly, they were loving. I was put at ease immediately by the sweetness in their voices, a common thread that ran through all who were there. It didn't make any difference that I wasn't known. I wasn't made to feel like a stranger. I felt as if I were

Continued on next page

with family and friends that I had known for a long time.

We socialized for awhile and then had dinner. Food that everyone had brought to share. A short time after dinner, we were all asked to form a circle in the family room and take a little time to think about one thing that we were thankful for, as well as one prayer.

As each person in that circle, one by one spoke of their gratitude to GOD and uttered their prayer, I felt a rush of radiation that ran through my whole body. I knew that each one of us in that circle was sharing a oneness with each other and a deep heartfelt love for Jesus. Truly, this was a spiritual experience. I remembered what Jesus had said about loving each other as he loves us and I knew that had happened in that room. In those few precious moments I understood the meaning of brotherhood.

After the circle had broken, a few of us went outside to drink in the night air and to reflect. I felt so peaceful, so happy, so free. It was the kind of feeling that I could imagine a bird has as it soars above the earth. I felt free from all the ties that bind my soul to materiality. Everything seemed so right and so good.

As I was looking into the clear night sky at all the heavenly bodies twinkling and blinking, a beautiful shooting star suddenly crossed the sky. I know that shooting stars are a common sight but this one was special to me and I will always believe that this one was to let us know that Jesus was with us and was very pleased with his birthday party.

I have read alot more in the *Urantia Book* since last August and one thing I now know for sure, our thought adjusters really enjoyed those few hours.

In looking back and reminiscing as I write this narrative, I find that my emotions have turned to excited expectation about going to this year's birthday party for Jesus.

Linda Scott
NASA Area Study Group, Texas

June 27, 1991

To The STUDY GROUP HERALD,

I was very happy to receive the Spring, '91 STUDY GROUP HERALD. Although I have read the complete *Urantia Book*, it is very good to go back over important parts and refresh one's mind. The study series you have set up will be very helpful in this as I am in a small town 90 miles from the nearest study group, and as I don't drive at night I'm unable to attend. I have tried my very best to interest others in this area in the *Urantia Book* but I guess they just aren't ready for the growth it will give them.

Thanks so much,
Marcia Y. Diez
Crystal River, Florida

June 21, 1991

To The STUDY GROUP HERALD,

I'm delighted to have the STUDY GROUP HERALD as I am the only reader for hundreds of miles and it makes me feel like I belong to a study group.

Thanks again,
Angela Martin
Vernal, Utah

To The STUDY GROUP HERALD:

Here is a prayer that I wrote the other day when I was upset:
Never feel unloved or unwanted by your own family.

Always convert your feelings of aloneness into prayers which God can carry to the situation to help. God loves you and wants you to feel rewarded even if you're stressed to your limit.

Spiritual rewards are yours for your effort.

If you don't feel that you're getting enough communication, just have faith that people love you. Your relationship with God actually exists.

Gloria Greenhut
Monterey, Massachusetts

June 13, 1991

To The STUDY GROUP HERALD,

Congratulations and thank you for publishing this interesting and informative paper for all *Urantia Book* readers — even the children.

We have a small study group in the southeast corner of Pennsylvania, but are unique in the fact that we have people who come from three different states in our group: Delaware, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. We call ourselves the Bubs (Believers in the *Urantia Book*). We meet once a week.

Frances Culgan
Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania

To The STUDY GROUP HERALD:

We wanted to thank all of the folks involved in putting together The STUDY GROUP HERALD and are looking forward to the next issue. THANKX!!!

Enclosed please find a copy of a letter we received from Nigeria. We were thrilled to be able to fill the request for some used UBs and are planning to send more as they become available. I would like to invite anyone or any study group or society to likewise consider sending this group some books. Is it possible to share this information with the readership? We would be most grateful.

We were also wondering if you plan on having a regular feature in the SGH that focuses on family issues. We really appreciate the stories for children and my daughter enjoyed the Andon and Fonta piece. More of that, for sure!

We have received many fine notices from folks around the country (and globe) asking about the REVERSION DIRECTORY but we are not publishing it at this time. However, The Golden Gate Circle Society publishes DEVELOPMENTS and can be reached at 237 Rivoll St., San Francisco, CA 94117. Please replace the REVERSION DIRECTORY listing with Developments. Thank you.

Many wishes for your continued success.

In His Light,
Chrissy and Lee Smith
Soquel, California

(The letter to Chrissy from Nigeria appears on page 18.)

CLASSIFIEDS

By approval of the editorial staff and for the consideration of a donation of \$20.00 to the STUDY GROUP HERALD one column inch of this classified section will be made available for your notices. Maximum size for notices is 2½ inches. Submit all notices with donations to The Study Group Herald, 529 Wrightwood Avenue, Chicago IL 60614. Make checks payable to The FELLOWSHIP.

The STUDY GROUP HERALD does not accept responsibility for products or services herein advertised. We expect advertisers and readers to maintain the highest ethical standards in these transactions.

THE CONCORDEX of *The Urantia Book* helps you plan study groups, research topical studies, introduce new readers, save time and energy. On sale \$19.95. Call Good Cheer Press, 1-800-767-LOVE.

OUR MOST POPULAR product ever! Introducing 12 completely different mustard seeds. Book marker size bits of mighty *Urantia Book* truths. Excellent for spreading truth. Good Cheer Press, Boulder, CO 80301.

FOR THOSE DEALING WITH DEATH - An inspiring, beautiful magazine reviewing *The Urantia Book's* promise that faith in God ensures eternal life in a loving, orderly, intelligent universe. Good Cheer Press, Boulder, CO 80301.

BULLETIN BOARD

Notices are published at no charge subject to the discretion of the editorial staff. Write the STUDY GROUP HERALD Bulletin Board, 529 Wrightwood Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614.

1993 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE: Scheduled for July 31-August 5, 1993 at St. Hyacinthe (Near Montreal, Canada). Theme: TOUCH THE WORLD. Now organizing Regional Support and Planning Committees. Call or write: Brent St. Denis, IC '93 Chairman, 1088 Barwell Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K2B 8H5.

DESIGN A LOGO for "Touch The World", the theme of the 1993 International Conference for readers of *The Urantia Book* at St. Hyacinthe, Quebec. Logo designs that are submitted should be camera ready, on 130-150 pound art paper 8"x8" with design 6"x6". Convey the theme clearly. Be international (non-discriminatory). Use no more than 3 colors on a white background (It must be reproducible in black and white). Keep the design simple so it can be reduced in size. All entries become the property of IC '93 and will be displayed at the conference. Deadline for entries is December 31, 1991. Name of artist, address and phone number must accompany entries on separate paper. Submit entries to Kathy Norenberg, 643 Gilmore Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, R2G 2R5.

NEW: *Evolution of the Soul*, by Dr. William Sadler, Father of the Urantia movement. *Angels All Around Us Coloring Book* for children. For free catalogue write the Good Cheer Press.

NOW A SINGLE SOURCE for most *Urantia Book* inspired works including *The Paramony* by Duane Faw, art prints by Byron, and *Call of the Spirit* by Merritt Horn. Call 1-800-767-LOVE.

THE URANTIA BOOK for sale plus extensive secondary works. For a free catalogue write or call The Good Cheer Press, 1790 30th Street, #400, Boulder, CO 80301. Tel: 1-800-767-LOVE.

MASTER SPIRIT MUSIC for tapes: "MOTA Get Motivated", "Songs For Peace", "Songs From Beyond The Brain", and record album "Kindred Spirits - For Your Comfort" @ \$6.00/tape, \$5.00/record album. The record album will be included free with order of three or more tapes. If you are not satisfied we will refund your money. 5908 Burnham Place, Oklahoma City, OK 73132.

THE RESURRECTION OF MY SOUL, \$2.00. "Selected Poems", \$3.00. "It Is Finished", \$4.00. "Inspirations", 12 monthly issues, \$10.00. David Glass, 5302 Wooten Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76133.

THE GRAND UNIVERSE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM. Traces our intellectual and spiritual development from this planet to Paradise. 21 pages. English. \$2.50 (Incl. Postage). Lee J. Cook, 2513 25th St., Lubbock, TX 79410. Tel: (806)744-2664.

THE CIRCLES. 24 page magazine on the spiritual life based on *Urantia Book* principles (3 issues/year). Send for sample to: Sample of Circles, Dallas Fellowship, Inc. P.O. Box 1203, Arlington, TX 76004-1203

WRITE A THEME SONG for "Touch The World" IC '93. We encourage all song writers to submit their ideas on cassette to Kathy Norenberg, 643 Gilmore Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R2G 2R5.

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA. Adventures in Spiritual Living Weekend Retreat. May 8-10, 1992. Facilitators: Bill and Kaye Cooper, Ted and Sharon Lanier, Skip and Carol Weatherford. Coordinators: "Companions on the Way" Study Group. For information and registration package contact Eef or Alice Hoedemaker, 26045-62nd Avenue, R.R.1 Aldergrove, British Columbia, Canada V0X 1A0.

ADVENTURES IN SPIRITUAL LIVING would like to put on a spiritual retreat or a one-day intensive in your area. Contact Kaye Cooper (713)586-9109.

INTERNATIONAL STUDY GROUP DIRECTORY 1991-92 edition now available, send \$1.00, U.S. or \$2.00, Intl to The FELLOWSHIP, 529 Wrightwood Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614 or call (312)327-0424.

ADOPT-A-BOOKSTORE Project. Tried and tested procedures assembled for the Domestic Extension Committee by Paula Thompson is designed to insure the availability of *Urantia Books* in local bookstores. For packet of project description contact your area coordinator or The FELLOWSHIP, 529 Wrightwood Ave, Chicago, IL 60614. Tel. (312)327-0424.

FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD. Book by Kaye and Bill Cooper on how to feel God's presence and know Him as a friend. \$11.95 (includes shipping). Latham Publishing, P.O. Box 680857-H, Houston, TX 77268-0857.

RESOURCE GUIDE for *Secondary Works of The Urantia Book* is now available from the Fellowship, 529 Wrightwood Ave. Chicago, IL 60614.

GOD ANSWERS HIS MAIL Book of inspirational messages by Kate Gentry. \$9.00 plus \$2.00 postage. 62305 Oram Street, Dallas, TX 75214.

THOUGHTS OF POEMS. The complete chronological collection of works by Michael S. Smith covering 4 years as a student of *The Urantia Book* from age 16-20. Sixty-eight poems. \$12.50. 1827 Hassam Road. Coraopolis, PA 15108.

JESUS WAS A LEO. By Frank Jakubowsky. A book that uses the time given in *The Urantia Book*. An astrologer confirms Jesus' birth time. Learn more about Jesus' life by the use of astrology. \$6.95. Jesus Books, 1565 Madison Street, Oakland, CA 94612.

MEDITATION TAPES/MENTAL VACATIONS. "Aqua Landscapes"... Soothing music interlacing ocean images. "Spring Meadows"... Rest in the tall, soft grass of a spring meadow. Send \$6.00 for each 60 minute tape to Sound Shoppe Workshop. 106 Cranes Lake Drive, Ponte Verdra, FL 32082.

NOW AVAILABLE. BIRTH OF A REVELATION. The Story of the Urantia Papers By Mark Kulieke. Contact Mark by Phone (414)465-9864 or send \$6.25 to Mark Kulieke, P.O. Box 9343, Green Bay, WI 54308-9343.

THE JOURNAL. First issue of this new FELLOWSHIP publication is being readied for publication. David Kulieke, Editor, seeks submissions of: non-essay prose (especially fiction), poetry, artwork, photography. Send them into The FELLOWSHIP, 529 Wrightwood Ave. Chicago, IL 60614. Subscriptions may also be obtained at the same address (2 issues/yr. \$8.00, U.S. or \$9.00, International).

ALSO AVAILABLE from The FELLOWSHIP: **SPECIAL CONFERENCE ISSUE OF THE JOURNAL** (40 pages, summer 1981) \$4.00, U.S. \$5.00 Intl., **AN ARTISTS CONCEPTION OF THE MASTER UNIVERSE**, \$3.00, U.S. \$4.00 Intl., **STUDY GROUPS FOR THE URANTIA BOOK: IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS** - special double issue of *THE JOURNAL* (8 pages, Winter/Spring 1990), \$2.50, U.S., \$3.50, Intl. **SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM I SPECIAL ISSUE OF THE JOURNAL** (66 pages) \$5.00, U.S., \$6.00 Intl. **SPECIAL CONFERENCE ISSUES I AND II** (58 pages each - 1990 Intl. Conf. Snowmass, Colorado), \$5.00 U.S., \$6.00, Intl. each, **RESOURCE GUIDE FOR SECONDARY WORKS OF THE URANTIA BOOK**, \$3.00 U.S. and Intl. Write: The FELLOWSHIP For Readers of *The Urantia Book*, 529 Wrightwood Ave., Chicago, IL 60614 or call: (312) 327-0424.

SEEKING DOWN-TO-EARTH HOME-SCHOOLING FAMILY to share our land in Northern New Mexico Mountains and help us start a small camp to serve needy adolescents. Prefer folks with an understanding of *The Urantia Book* who are service oriented and in touch with the natural world. Contact Mary Steigerwald, P.O. Box 16, Ojo Sarco, NM 87550.

A PRAYER FOR

COMMUNITY AND LOVE

Dearest Father-Mother, God,
We are Your family, we are your children.

Enlarge our horizons with the power of your love,
That we may obtain real sustenance
from our tender fellowship,
acknowledging one another
as members of a Spirit-centered family
whose creator you are.

Offer us the hope of maturity,
the consanguinity of familial affection,
to know the solid support
of spiritual brotherhood,
as we seek to grow in tolerance
and grace.

Guard our hasty tongues and credulous minds
from preoccupation with the trivial transgressions of life.

Set us on the road toward loving-fellow feeling,
that we may share your great love
with those we meet along the way.

This we pray from our inner need,
dear God of Life.
May your light so shine upon our darkness
that we become witnesses
to the dawning new day.

— AMEN —

Stephen Zendt, San Francisco, California
Submitted by Inez Finstad

GOD'S LOVE AND HIS LAW

Study Group Notes Assembled by Annette Crawford, Denver, Colorado

Ed. Note: *Mercy ministry, the divine way of raising us children in a reality which consists of both law and love is the very thing that makes our evolutionary, experiential, ascending lives possible. This study affords an opportunity to contemplate the awesome complexity of our experience of relativity in a universe whose foundation is absolute perfection and whose destiny is finality as individuals, supremacy as total evolutionary completion, and ultimacy of divine fruition.*

This study presents a truly beautiful glimpse of the landscape of mercy ministry and immutable divine law.

"Justice is the collective thought of righteousness; mercy is its personal expression. Mercy is the attitude of love; precision characterizes the operation of law; divine judgement is the soul of fairness, ever conforming to the justice of the Trinity, ever fulfilling the divine love of God. When fully perceived and completely understood, the righteous justice of the Trinity and the merciful love of the Universal Father are coincident. But man has no such full understanding of divine justice. Thus in the Trinity, as man would view it, the personalities of Father, Son, and Spirit are adjusted to co-ordinate ministry of love and law in the experiential universes of time." (P.115)

Page Numbers:	Begins/Ends with:
195.4	The cosmic-mind-endowed/recognition.
1126.2	God is/evolving universe.
114.3	All law/the Trinity.
115.2	Justice is/universes of time.
1145.5	Through the/Paradise Trinity.
1222.5	Science is/cosmic philosophy.
1306.1-4	In the beginnings/finite growth.
42.5	Divine truth/celestial personalities.
432.3	2. Law/worlds of space.
139.7	Whatever the/Isle of Paradise.
279.7	Those mortals/truth to others.
280.3	These advisors/the creators.
137.3	There is/universe of universes.
54.5	For ages/universe children.
137.6	God is/evolutionary creatures.
41.5	God is/co-ordinates of God.

Page Numbers:	Begins/Ends with:
41.6	God loves/spiritual universe.
39.2	The creators/afflicted with us."
115.2	Justice is/universes of time.
1638.5	4. There is/not find me."
761.3	Sin is/the soul.
1301.1	Sin in/cosmic citizenship.
552.2-553.2	1. Seraphic/morontia life.
820.3	The pouring/light and life.
1662.1	"Nathaniel,/divine ordinance.
1116.8	Never can/Deity attainment.
1446.1	"Says God,/not covet'
1596.4-8	Throughout this/the kingdom.
1599.4	"And then/of man"
1709.3	Jesus introduced/press you.
529.3	There will/obliteration.
554.3-6	6. Recorder-teachers/the truth.

FROM THE EDITOR

It is very exciting to be part of this movement of Readers of The Urantia Book and to be in touch with so many readers.

The STUDY GROUP HERALD is receiving a positive response and the seed seems to be germinating. We received almost 80 letters of interest which included \$831.00 in contributions toward production costs.

The Cost of producing and mailing The STUDY GROUP HERALD, Vol. 1, No. 1 was more than \$4,000.00. The difference between costs and income was made up by a single

benefactor who, for the time being, is willing to subsidize this new medium.

It is not going to be easy for The STUDY GROUP HERALD to become self-sustaining unless each reader shoulders his own responsibility. We are suggesting a donation of \$5.00 a year. Make Checks Payable to The STUDY GROUP HERALD c/o The Fellowship and send them in with the cut-out form below to The Fellowship, 529 Wrightwood Avenue, Chicago IL 60614.

(CUT ON DOTTED LINE)

Enclosed is my contribution in the amount of \$ _____ to defray the cost of the STUDY GROUP HERALD.

Name _____ Address _____

Please add the following names and addresses to your mailing list:

Name _____ Address _____

Name _____ Address _____

Name _____ Address _____

Name _____ Address _____

Please include a separate sheet of paper with comments or your letter to the STUDY GROUP HERALD for publication

The STUDY GROUP HERALD is published by The FELLOWSHIP for readers of *The Urantia Book* twice annually (Spring and Fall). Quotations are from *The Urantia Book* © 1955 by The URANTIA Foundation unless otherwise specified. All opinions expressed herein are those of the individual authors and do not represent policies of the FELLOWSHIP or of the editorial staff.

Written material, artwork, classified advertisements, notices, or announcements should be mailed to The STUDY GROUP HERALD, c/o The FELLOWSHIP, 529 Wrightwood Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614. We ask that all photos submitted for publication be in black and white (Color negatives can be printed in black and white).

The STUDY GROUP HERALD Editorial Advisory Board: James Johnston (Publications Committee), Leonard D. Massey (Education Committee), Mo Siegel (Domestic Extension Committee). Managing Editor: Martin Greenhut. Associate Editor: Adrienne Jarnagin. Design by George Lallas. Typography by Dan Ellis, AccuComp. Feature Editors: Alan Collins (Comics), Annette Crawford (Topical Studies), Brent St. Denis (Lighten Life News), Cece Forrester (Periodicals of the Movement), Wayne Ferrier and Maryanne Green (Amadon and The Fandor), David Glass (Social), Michael S. Smith (Young Readers), Chilufya M.K. Thompson (International). Reprint from *The Square Peg Journal* by Mary Daly. Feature introducing *Birth of a Revelation* by Mark Kulieke. Stephen Zendt (Prayer). Proofreaders: Charles Arterburn, Lynn Ellis, Beth Bartley, Mary Anne Uranowski.

*"These expressions of love,
gratitude, and reverence
for the Father and His
celestial family
are a natural,
spiritual overflow of
the loving feelings
and personal appreciation
evoked by the evenings readings.
These periods of worship
are customarily enhanced by
instrumental and vocal music.
The sharing, socializing, study,
worship, music, and
conversation
at these gatherings
do not take place
within a couple of hours,
but generally last
the entire evening."*

(SEE PAGE 2)

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