

A REPORT ON THE GATHERING OF URANTIA BOOK STUDENTS
IN VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA - JULY 23/24, 1977

The Birth of the Idea

In November, 1976, a group of URANTIA Book readers had been brought together in Victoria and by mid January we decided it would be advantageous to have Mr. and Mrs. L. Clark, of Wenatchee, visit us to answer some of the many questions we had and to help us better relate to the whole URANTIA movement. From this, along with contacts we had made with readers from Kamloops, Summerland, the Greater Vancouver area and various other B.C. locations, it was decided that we have a B.C. "gathering". The term "gathering" was chosen from the thoughts conveyed in the URANTIA Book, page 1133, paragraph one, "The characteristic difference between a social occasion and a religious gathering is that in contrast with the secular the religious is pervaded by the atmosphere of communion".

Invitations and Program

An invitation and program sheet was prepared and mailed, along with a map indicating locations of activities, and a rate sheet for a convenient motel, to the URANTIA Foundation and Brotherhood, Family of God Foundation, Berkeley, California, field representatives L. Clark and J. Fenderson, all known readers of The URANTIA Book in British Columbia, and contact persons in Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario. (Copies enclosed)

The Gathering

We were truly blessed with most beautiful weather, fraternal fun, intellectual stimulation and spiritual love. The following brothers and sisters attended some or all activities:

Lew and Alice Clark	Wenatchee, Washington
Janice Goben	Kent, Washington
Gordon and Carole Bellamy & Mary Lynn, Don, Debbie	Victoria, B.C.
Archie and Pat McCuaig	Victoria, B.C.
Jim and Liz Smith & Robert and Jonathan	Victoria, B.C.
Nathen and Kasandra Zadden & Loesha and Garrett	Whiterock, B.C.
Ron and Ferne Louie	Burnaby, B.C.
Raymond and Josephine and Michelle Louie	Burnaby, B.C.
Mrs. Eve Humphries	Kamloops, B.C.
Archie and Rene Chisholm	Victoria, B.C.
Sean Powers	Victoria, B.C.
Steve Thynne	Victoria, B.C.
Chris Bos	Victoria, B.C.
Asta and Barry Dennis & Samantha	Victoria, B.C.
Jim Egan	Merville, B.C.

Mel and Gail McIntyre & Amanda	Victoria, B.C.
Priscilla Rayfuse	Victoria, B.C.
Ernest Gibson	Victoria, B.C.
Bill and Betty Garey	Victoria, B.C.
Marion Buckley	Calgary, Alta./ Victoria, B.C.
Joe Poulton	Victoria, B.C.
Sharon Eveleigh	Victoria, B.C.
David Vidal & Jefferson	Victoria, B.C.
Roy Rhymer	Victoria, B.C.
Bea Lamprecht	Victoria, B.C.
David Sharp	Victoria, B.C.
Brian Wells	Victoria, B.C.
Tom Hetherington	Ladysmith, B.C.
Mrs. Chan	Burnaby, B.C.

Others were present but did not show up!

The Activities

The activities were carried out in three phases: 1 - Discussion with Clarks; 2 - Fun and fellowship (Saturday, July 23) and 3 - Expressions (Sunday, July 24).

1. Discussion with the Clarks.

About 30 gathered on the sundeck of the Bellamy residence at 10 A.M. and held a discussion with Lew and Alice Clark regarding the Foundation, the Brotherhood, Societies, Field Representatives and study groups. This continued until about 12:30 P.M., at which time a light lunch was served amid much informal discussion and exchange of ideas. Approximately 2:00 P.M. the group went to Kinsman Gorge Park to meet the rest of the gang for the second phase of the gathering.

2. Fun and Fellowship.

At the park the whole group (51) enjoyed a great day of canoeing, swimming, tennis, frisbee and conversation. At 5 P.M. the Victoria Study Group provided a hot and cold picnic dinner which was enjoyed by all. About 7:30 P.M. approximately 30 people headed to Esquimalt Lagoon Beach where we enjoyed a view across the Straits of Juan de Fuca to the Olympic Mountains, a pretty sunset, a beach fire with conversation, music and marshmallows. Truly a day of enjoying nature's beauty.

3. Expressions.

Sunday, July 24th, was a day for everyone to have the opportunity of expression. Held in the View Royal Community Hall, the program opened about 10:30 A.M. with quotes from The URANTIA Book indicating some of the reasons for the "gathering". This was followed by silent expression of our love for the Father. We then proceeded with a question and answer period where all were encouraged to present questions they had, or had been asked, and answers were provided by the rest of

the group. This was patterned after and prompted by a tape of the Q&A session from the 1976 Oklahoma Conference. A sandwich lunch was provided by the Victoria Study Group, after which the following formal presentations were given:

1. The Brotherhood of the Kingdom Ernest Gibson
2. The Spirit of Truth Nathen Zadden
3. The Urantia Post Bestowal Age Jim Smith
4. General Presentation Lew Clark

In appreciation of the Clarks' willingness to be with us, and as a remembrance of this historic occasion (the first such gathering of URANTIA Book students in Canada) a "Wish You Well" fountain (manufactured by Gunther Ostermann, of the Vancouver, B.C., Study Group) was presented to them.

The meeting closed at 3:30 P.M. with thanks to all who had taken part. A feeling of joy and fellowship prevailed with many expressing a desire to repeat the "gathering" again next year.

Note: Tapes of the formal presentations accompany this report, and photographs are incorporated herewith.