

FIRST WESTERN URANTIA CONFERENCE

Los Angeles, California
June 29, 1973

A Talk by Mrs. William M. Hales

FATHERING A URANTIA SOCIETY

Thank you, Jeff. I am delighted to be here, and to have a small part in this first Western Conference.

It is a special pleasure to see so many young people here and to have the opportunity to become better acquainted. I am looking forward to a very interesting program.

When Julia asked me to give a brief talk, I thought you might be interested in learning about the duties of the Charter Committee of the URANTIA Brotherhood.

I have served on this committee since its inception. First as Secretary, then as Chairman for the last six years, and it has been a privilege to do so, for we have the pleasure of installing new societies. I believe I have been present at all installations with the exception of two...and your First Society of Los Angeles was one of those, unfortunately.

The Founders of a URANTIA Society must have read the entire URANTIA Book and must believe its teachings. It is very important they be dedicated truth-seekers and responsible, intelligent, practical people for the successful growth and effective progress of that society depends greatly on their leadership and guidance. Your own Julia Fenderson is a perfect example of such leadership and such dedication!

When a study group has ten or more persons who wish to found a URANTIA Society, they write to the Charter Committee and ask for information as to the steps necessary for receiving a charter. Our committee sends to them all the information with the requirements that must be met. After these are met, the Charter Committee, having met with the group and been satisfied that they are genuinely interested in becoming a Society, recommends them to the Executive Committee. This committee must approve an application before a group can be installed. A charter is then given at the time of installation, and a new URANTIA Society is born!

You can see, I am sure, how important these study groups are to the future progress of the Brotherhood...and how very important the leadership of such groups is. The high standards set by the leaders, their sincere desire to help others understand the teachings, and their willingness to devote time, thought, and energy to this work is imperative.

Members of a Society must be loyal, faithful in attendance, tolerant of one another's opinions, and sincere in fellowship.

If you have an opportunity to assist a study group in any way, do so. For from study groups come Societies and that's what keeps your Charter Committee busy!

Humm, in looking again at the title of this piece, FATHERING A URANTIA SOCIETY.. I wonder what Women's Lib will think of that!

William M. Hales' remarks made June 29, 1973 at
"First Western Urantia Conference" Los Angeles, California

It is wonderful to be here; to see old friends and to meet new ones.

(Re: Wally Ziglar's reference to poor weather)

Wally, I think the weather is treating us well. Having read of your 102 and 106 degree weather of last week, we are very pleased with the comfortable weather today.

I'm privileged and pleased to say your Conference Chairman, Julia Fenderson, is a long time family friend; since the middle 1930s (and I was a member of the family then too). We all went together each Sunday to the Forum meetings where the manuscripts were read, which later were published in book form.

Tom Kendall, the new President of the URANTIA Foundation, will tell you more specifically about the URANTIA Foundation.

I have been privileged to be President of the URANTIA Foundation since its creation in 1950 until this spring.

Tom Kendall will make a fine President of the Foundation and my spot as Trustee is being filled by Martin Myers who has demonstrated dedication and ability to assume such responsibilities.

I am glad there is a Trustee Emeritus office and that I was elected to such a position. A Trustee Emeritus has practically all the privileges of a Trustee except voting. He can attend meetings of the Trustees, participate in discussions, receive copies of all the material going to the regular Trustees, and be given assignments to carry out. So, I intend to continue to give as much effort as possible to the work of the URANTIA Foundation.

Thank you for this opportunity to tell you of my relationship to The URANTIA Book and URANTIA Foundation over the years and to say hello.