



# The CONJOINT READER

A Publication of *The School of Meanings and Values*  
for readers of *The URANTIA Book*

Volume V, Number 1: Spring 1996

## LEADERSHIP: *Ambassadors in Spiritual Progress*

### ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

by Polly Friedman, President

The theme of this Spring issue, Leadership, was the subject of our October 1995 Seminar held in Encino, California. We defined leaders as "ambassadors of spiritual progress" to differentiate from the more general meaning of leader. We explored these meanings personally and for the revelation. There was a great deal of emphasis on the aspect of individual spiritual maturity and how this quality relates to leadership. One consensus stood out clearly: all 20 plus attendees agreed our first job is to "live the teachings." A leader acts on his beliefs and convictions in all areas of daily life. (Where I thought there would be a great deal of diversity, we instead felt an unusual amount of unity throughout the day).

Also discussed was the necessity for wise and well planned leadership in keeping with positive lessons learned from mistakes of the past. One theme repeated often — the importance of patience.

The other day a friend and I found ourselves in the neverending discussion of "slow growth" vs. "fast growth." She said, "Well, I'm for neither, I believe in directed growth."

I understand this to mean a growth with direction, with careful planning and nurturing, moving in step with wisdom, vision, and evolutionary discretion — all under the umbrella of sincere service. Along with this we also need to be ready for change, to be able to bend and stretch with the flexibility necessary for a fast-changing world. My understanding is that facts are stable, but truth is changing as we grow, discover and actualize.

It's a tall order for all who have the privilege of extended enlightenment for as dedicated students we will all be called on in one way or another to be teachers and leaders, as well.

### INSIGHTS INTO SPIRITUAL MATURATION AND LEADERSHIP

Shared by Anton and Dora Schmalz - Hesperia, CA

Have you ever wondered, "What is this energy called leadership?" In an election season, or any season, is leadership an elusive ideal, or can it be evolved and understood? Are there any role models who can help our understanding, and to which we can aspire?

We may be able to best appreciate truly wise and effective leadership in context with some of the attributes of the spiritually maturing, increasingly peaceful, kind and loving individual, as well as the example of Jesus, in day-to-day living. After all, in the process of learning and serving in daily living, isn't each of us sometimes a leader? At other times we're involved in other ways: as a supporter, companion, teamworker, etc.

It is helpful to remind ourselves that — as *The URANTIA Book* and other inspired sources tell us — ultimately, everything, every one of us, is an expression of the One cosmic energy flowing to and through all points in the cosmos equally, and at the same time. God continuously extends an open invitation to each of us, equally, to accept and to radiate his great cosmic laws and unfolding plan.

Jonas Salk sees that "...the major shift in human evolution is from behaving like *an animal struggling to survive* to behaving like *a human choosing to evolve*." He says, "Goodness and nobility are genetically inscribed in each of us. But, they do need to be evoked by our conscious choices. The evolutionary instinct compels us to bring out the best in ourselves, and, in each other."

So, we're encouraged to regard ourselves as evolving individuals as we invoke our freedom, moment-by-moment, to choose among alternative thoughts and be-

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Continued from Page 1: Insights into Spiritual Maturity (Schmalz)  
haviors as friends, as members of families, as leaders, and in all our relationship systems.

It is both reassuring and challenging to remember that we are each given the gifts of freewill and continuous opportunities to choose to be the best people we can be as our Father's ambassadors - to become increasingly mature spiritually. Spiritual maturation - the evolution of our divine consciousness - may be our principle purpose in the cosmic evolutionary process as it manifests through our functioning as leaders, as well as in all other relationship opportunities in our day-to-day living.

And, isn't it a joy to learn of the abundant resources freely available to each of us to choose and to express? It might be easier for many of us to understand God's great energy flow if we identify attributes of that energy to which we can relate. These attributes are sometimes called "the fruits of the spirit," and they include: *loving service, unselfish devotion, sincere fairness, undying hope, confiding trust, forgiving tolerance, active faith, sincere humility, uplifting humor, and expanding joy*. These qualities often manifest as opportunities for each of us to choose and express.

Jesus encourages us to prize ourselves very highly. He encourages us to regard ourselves as spiritual beings having an evolutionary spiritual experience, rather than as material beings simply having a spiritual experience. So, as leaders, as evolving souls, in all our life's experiences, we are invited to be inspired and led by Jesus as role model.

As our example and our Father's ambassador, he accepts the responsibility to consciously determine and deliberately manifest his principles, values and beliefs, and to radiate these consistently in all his thoughts, behaviors and relationships. In earthly terms we can think of this as being pro-active rather than reactive - as "differentiating a self" with clearly thought-through convictions in contrast with degrees of the alternative choice to behave in ways only calculated to please others or to make "peace," no matter how temporary or costly to self, to others, or to our planet.

Differentiated leadership, and healthy evolutionary functioning in general, is the product of a way of thinking that translates into a way of being, rather than a clever "technique" for changing, manipulating or having power over others. Jesus lovingly exemplifies many helpful attributes:

He is on the side of continuing evolution of the species and planet.

He asks appropriate questions and listens to the answer while being open-minded and adaptable to new ideas and situations.

He is cooperative, kind and considerate; radiates goodwill and the will to do good.

He enjoys the love and respect of others as he empowers them — helps them to learn, grow and maximize their functioning.

His personal identity and sense of self is NOT dependent on titles, affiliations, credentials, posturing, arrogance, condescension, having power and/or authority over others, or other "externals."

He enjoys inner peace and is truly wise, as contrasted with being "bright," "quick," "articulate," "hyper" or competitive, which are sometimes confused with leadership qualities today.

He conveys appreciation and respect to others, has realistic expectations of self and others, and neither fosters nor participates in another person's irresponsibility.

He is forever committed to helping each and every one of us in our personal evolutionary process of emotional and spiritual maturation.

Even a partial list of his attributes as a leader and ambassador encourages us to appreciate that spiritual maturation is an expression that seems to sum up the goal of our life and eternal career, as well as the on-going process and commitment to achieve the goal of being the best people we can be in all of our thoughts, behaviors, and relationships.

This process helps us to be more conscious of the opportunities to make freewill choices among alternative attitudes and behaviors, to transcend any temptation to regard ourselves as victims, and to make the choices which will help our individual growth, while being harmless to other people.

A commitment to spiritual maturation helps us to transcend conditioning from influences in our lives which may be blocking our potential for joy, for love, for forgiveness, healing and peace — for personal fulfillment. This commitment can initiate a process of liberation for each of us so that we can be more in tune with - and can express more freely and consciously - such cosmic energies as intuition, understanding, courage, knowledge, counsel, worship and wisdom.

Our individual potential for spiritual maturation, and the energies to progress on this path of spiritual maturation, are God's loving gift to each of us.

***Our conscious choice to evolve; our commitment to the process of personal spiritual maturation, is our personal gift to God! 120***

## THE VISIONARY CHALLENGE

*Presented by Robert Burns - Irvine, CA*

*The religious challenge of this age is to those farseeing and forward-looking men and women of spiritual insight who will dare to construct a new and appealing philosophy of living out of the enlarged and exquisitely integrated modern concepts of cosmic truth, universe beauty, and divine goodness. Such a new and righteous vision of morality will attract all that is good in the mind of man and challenge that which is best in the human soul. Truth, beauty, and goodness are divine realities, and as man ascends the scale of spiritual living, these supreme qualities of the Eternal become increasingly coordinated and unified in God, who is love.*

The URANTIA Book pg 43.

*Your vision will become clear only when you look into your heart. Who looks outside, dreams. Who looks inside, awakens.*

Carl Jung

### WHERE THERE IS NO VISION, THE PEOPLE PERISH

- Vision encompasses the values of the people
- Vision answers needs of the people
- Vision focuses resources of the people

*Above all, leaders must give meaning to people through a clear purpose.*

Margaret Wheatley  
Leadership and the New Science

### VISION IS CLARIFIED BY VALUES -

#### MISSION STATEMENTS

- Personal
- Family
- Organizational

*Values are things that are important to us, principles are guidelines for human conduct. Our values must align with our principles to produce the rich results we desire in life.*

Steven Covey

### VISION IS GUIDED BY PRINCIPLES

- Key governing principles are:
  1. Deeply held values
  2. Stabilizing cultural beliefs which create powerful vision allowing for few rules for individuals to shape their own behavior.
  3. Leaders communicate the vision with the guiding principles, keeping them ever present and clear.

### VISION NEEDS COMMITTED LEADERS

- True leaders are committed
- Leadership requires a committed following

### LEADERSHIP IS LIMITED BY:

- CHARACTER: What you are as a person
- CAPACITY: What you can do
- INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY: Organizations are limited by the group's capacity and character

### VISION'S POWER - HOW WILL LEADERSHIP'S POWER BE USED

- COERCIVE POWER: Power of Fear
- UTILITY POWER: Power due to the benefits that will come by following the direction and leadership of such power
- LEGITIMATE POWER: Power due to trust, respect and honor. Knowledgeable, wholehearted, uninhibited commitment. With legitimate power, ethical behavior is encouraged because loyalty is based on principles as they are manifested in persons and respected in culture. Ethics is ultimately grounded in a commitment to doing right things, because they are valued, they are modeled by the leader, and they are sanctioned by the vision clarified by the leader. Trust in relationships is the foundation of legitimate power. Sincerity cannot be faked for long. Eventually leaders reveal themselves. What a leader is, beyond what a leader can do to, or for followers, ultimately determines the depth of legitimate power one has.

*Leadership is about full self expression, anything less represents fearful withholding or denial of abilities. You already lead co-workers, peers, and family by the examples you live. Do it responsibly.*

Brett Miles

### LEADERS ARE VISION WITH ACTION

- Have a plan, a guiding vision: Action with purpose
- Form a team - follow me: More is accomplished with a team than alone
- Be responsible, dependable and reliable
- Be daring - not fearing failure, learning from it
- Train - wonder, learn and teach

### SELF MASTERY - SELFLESSNESS

- Belief in oneself - self knowledge, integrity, maturity
- Direct energy with focus - not "casting our pearls before swine"

- Do the difficult things - saying no when necessary, not run from things
- Passionately committed - Love what you are doing
- Remember the "little things"

#### CHARACTER TRAITS ESSENTIAL TO GREAT LEADERSHIP

- **INTEGRITY** - The value we place on ourselves. The ability to make and keep commitments to ourselves and therefore to others.
- **MATURITY** - The balance between courage and consideration. Courage may focus on bottom line results, consideration deals more with the long term welfare of others.
- **ABUNDANCE MENTALITY** - Belief that there is plenty out there for everybody. It results in sharing recognition, profits, and responsibility.

*The process of becoming a leader is much the same as the process of becoming an integrated human being. For the leader as for any integrated person, life itself is the career. It is not about proving one's self. At bottom, becoming a leader is synonymous with becoming yourself. It's precisely that simple, and it's also that difficult.*

Warren Bennis

#### THE MEANINGS AND VALUES

- Without need there is no vision
- Without vision the people perish
- Vision finds its leaders
- Leadership, at its best, has high character developed from principles created from the values of the culture
- Values with deep meanings that are the essence of its cultural capacity

#### THE NEXT STEPS

- Define the challenges our world faces
- Do we currently have a need?
- As readers of The URANTIA Book, what is our  
**Vision?**  
**Values?**  
**Our Mission or purpose?**  
**Our guiding principles?**

Note: Quotations taken and outline derived from Steven Covey's books: *The Seven Habits of Highly Successful People* and *Principle Centered Leadership*. Highly recommended reading.

END

#### CRITERIA OF EMOTIONAL MATURITY

by Wm C. Menninger, M.D.

- ❖ The ability to deal constructively with reality.
- ❖ The capacity to adapt to change.
- ❖ A relative freedom from symptoms that are produced by tensions and anxieties.
- ❖ The capacity to find more satisfaction in giving than in receiving.
- ❖ The capacity to relate to other people in a consistent manner with mutual satisfaction and helpfulness.
- ❖ The capacity to sublimate, to direct ones instinctive energy into creative and constructive outlets.
- ❖ The capacity to love.

❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

#### On Leadership

by K. Brendi Poppel

Who will appeal to the people?  
One who reveals his true light  
Someone who listens to his Inner Guide  
And awakens to wisdom's insight.

One who courageously meets every challenge  
Deepening his faith by facing each fear  
Teaching the truth that burns in his heart  
Reaching lost souls who are hungry to hear.

A leader brings her unique vision  
A leader sings her true song  
A leader is made wise by decisions  
That reflect enlightened intellect and virtue made strong.

By pursuing a path of unselfish devotion  
A life made rich by humility  
A life filled with faith and lavished in love  
Embracing the heart of humanity.

With magnetic attraction that comes from within  
A leader emerges with valued ideals  
Based on a life that is genuine  
This is the person who truly appeals.

❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

*It's not hard to make decisions when  
you know what your values are.*

Roy Disney

# Marriage and Family Issues

This is a new column designed to address the issues of parenting, child rearing and relationships. We welcome your input for publication.

## DEVOTION

by Polly Friedman - Calabasas, CA  
M.A. Educational Psychology  
M.A. Marriage & Family

One of the finest things in life we can realize in mortal existence is devotion to a person, cause, or to Deity. I write now of the love between man and woman. Loving a partner as oneself, with total support and continuous respect with unconditional regard is probably the peak of the trust experience in our earthly existence. I believe that one's partner, soulmate, friend should always be considered first on the human plane of priorities, because it is from this relationship that we derive sustenance and strength as well as feedback and reflection. It is through the male/female relationship that we have knowledge of differences and likenesses, confusion and balance. Through this tension we are challenged to play a gender role as well as be our unique person. There is always a striving for individuality, as well as duality, and each new day requires a renewal of trust and forgiveness.

In achieving intimacy a new, almost separate power is produced... a quality greater than the sum of the pairing. When there are children in the household, they are also loved, but loved as offspring. This should not usurp the relationship of the parents, the adult authority. If children of both or either parent are put on the same priority or above that of the partner. They can be like a cleaver wedging in between for affection and acknowledgment. The parent-child relationship is not on an equal basis. It has a special place of its own, completely different from adult intimacy. It is necessary for adult parents to maintain defined and understood boundaries, because the worlds of female/male relating and parent/child relating are entirely different. As the child sees a real bond of love between parents or stepparents, he reinforces his sense of security. The parents serve as a model for the child's future experiences in building his own intimate relationships.

Nothing can take the place of couple devotion when it is based on mutual affection, cooperation, coordination and creation. When a couple understands the model of the Creator Son and Universal Mother Spirit there is no end to the fruits derived from such devotion. □□□

## YOU ARE THE MIRACLE

by Patrick Yesh, Creston, BC

I told my children as they were tucking into bed, that they were little miracles. I said to them, "Just the fact that you can think thoughts, and feel love, kick your sister, see sunshine and snowflakes, laugh with friends, get angry, cry, feel ice crack under your boots, taste icicles, hear night-time train whistles, talk to your angels — all this is your miracle of life and much more. The best thing is that you are here, alive, feeling all your wonderful feelings. How is it that you are breathing warm air in your cozy bed, on a cold winter night, as the planet spins through space? How is it that the tiny cells in your fingers tell you how soft your teddy is? It's the simple little things of life that are the miracles of you, as well as the big things around you." They smiled.

My daughter asked "Why do they call some things miracles? Where did they get the name miracles? I really couldn't answer her question, and just responded that it was a name for an extra special time or happening, that really makes people happy. I said to her, "You are the miracle of life every minute you are alive, no matter even if you are happy or sad. Even our sadness is a miracle of feeling."

I later looked up the word "miracle," which is of Latin origin meaning "to wonder at." Also "mir-a-cle n. 1. an extraordinary occurrence that surpasses all known human powers or natural forces and is ascribed to a divine or supernatural cause, esp. to God. 2. a superb or surpassing example of something; wonder; marvel.

What are our feelings if not miracles of life? What are our thoughts if not miracles of our life experiences, natural and supernatural? It is not that our thoughts are sometimes mixed up and confused, good or bad, but the mere fact that we think is the miracle. Atheists don't believe in miracles, yet they use "miraculous thought" to reach such a sorry definition of life. It depends on our point of view in the universe, of what we decide to identify with and with what kind of attitude. Are we coldly scientific, unemotional, or awe-filled with childlike amazement? I can identify myself, family, friends and universe as living miracles, or as automatons in a non-caring universe. Our creators gave us our free will to carve out our own realities. No matter how anyone else describes reality, it is our creative right to create our own reality! Truly, what we desire is what we get. It's no more complicated than that. As often as I can muster up in my human mind, I prefer to

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# Staff Highlights

1995 was a milestone year for *The School of Meanings and Values*. We celebrated our 10th Anniversary! Perhaps the best form of celebration was the addition of new Advisory Board members and two teachers to our staff roster. Special thanks to *Joe Robletto* of New York for donating a brand new HP Office Jet - our first piece of equipment!

## NEW ADVISORS

*Robert Burns*, Irvine, CA. Robert is the owner of a Health and Fitness club in southern California. His vocation and avocations all work to coordinate body, soul and mind. He is an active leader within his local community, as well as Urantia activities.

*Lynn Chapman*, Pueblo, CO. Lynn is a Psychiatric Occupational Therapist. Her work includes leading groups in art therapy, relaxation techniques and problem solving. Lynn has some interesting workshops to offer in the arena of character building, goal setting and using art for personal expression.

*Pat Fearey*, San Francisco, CA. Pat is a gifted painter, photographer, journalist and graphic artist. Anyone who has been to conferences in the past is well aware of Pat's creativity.

## TEACHING STAFF

*K. Brendi Poppel*, Goleta, CA. Brendi is an Advisory Board member and our resident poet and songwriter. Brendi holds a BA in Communications Arts and Human Development from Cornell and an MA in Education from Assumption College. She has been a reader of *The URANTIA Book* since 1972.

*Patrick Yesh*, Creston, British Columbia. Patrick holds a Masters of Education from Queen's University at Kingston, Ontario and has taught and counseled among the Canadian Indian population. He is an accomplished artist and now presents art workshops designed to help the participants discover their inner soul artist. He has been a *URANTIA Book* reader for 20 years.

Rest assured, these creative persons have some inspiring workshops in store that will add a whole new dimension to the offerings of the School!

As a part of the application process to be selected as a teacher for the School we ask the applicant to write an essay that describes their understanding of the thesis of *The URANTIA Book*. We were particularly moved by the time and effort that Brendi and Patrick put into their respective responses and wanted to share their ideas with you.

## EDUCATION AS RELATED TO THE URANTIA BOOK TEACHINGS: A PHILOSOPHICAL VIEW.

by Patrick Yesh - Creston, BC

The ideal of spiritual education can be at the same time simple, profound, and complex. The simplicity is in the concept of doing the Will of the Father. The complexity is the interpreting of His Will and the doing of it in an educational and social context. There is simplicity in the concept of modeling education with love. The complexity is in the actualization of the ideal: attempting to live like Jesus, the master teacher.

Urantia is our School House; our life is our education; *The URANTIA Book* is our primer text on spiritual living; and the Trinity, Angels, Thought Adjusters, and countless spiritual beings are our teachers. The main thesis of the book is to "do the will of the father": "to share the inner life with God." This is fundamental to all other truths in it. We begin in this life to share every nuance of our inner life with the same God who gifted us with our free will and faith. We begin to live a fear-less life of loving service. We seek opportunities to do good for others; to awaken their consciousness to the joys of universe citizenship, to membership in the family of God, and the feeling of being home, secure in the kingdom. We connect and bond through worship.

Our spiritual education is a search for meanings, facts and values. When we begin to discern the great *meanings* behind the truth of sharing our inner life with God, we become sensitive to the miracles in our lives. To practice living faith, as Jesus did, is the second most important thesis. By so doing we attract others into our light of truth. We live as if in the presence of God sharing even our problems and unspiritual thoughts with him. Meanings change and grow richer as we grow wiser in spiritual experience. Our search for meanings never ends; they are found in concentration camps, financial boardrooms, cancer wards, and old age care homes.

We encounter *facts* in time and space and use them to understand God and his creation better, to grow in appreciation and inspiration. We manipulate and create with these facts to reveal more truth and to explore the potential of the Supreme ad infinitum.

*Values* are what we are as potential infinite beings. You are a value in the Universe. We are eventually known by our values. You become what you value. If we value spiritual life, we will attain it. Value is more than this. By clarifying our value sets we can achieve greater self-un-

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## IDEAS OF EDUCATION AND THE URANTIA BOOK

by K. Brendi Poppel - Goleta, CA

The vast universe is actually a training school and learning tool. As we master our lessons, both on Urantia and beyond, we are permitted to advance. The URANTIA Book presents to us a picture of a gigantic creation, teeming with intelligent life of many orders, not just mortal man. We are, in fact, at the lowest rung on the ladder of ascendant progression.

Within each mortal indwells a divine fragment of God, our Thought Adjuster. Our job is to achieve better communication with our inner Guide, and as we so choose to do the will of God we make spiritual progress. The eventual goal of every mortal is fusion with this magnificent Monitor within, and this is only accomplished after completion of the seven psychic circles of spiritual progress.

There is abundant aid provided as part of God's plan. Each mortal is unique in personality and we are all free will creatures. We can choose God's plan, or we are free to reject it. If we deliberately choose to go against God, and persistently do so, we can and will eventually extinguish ourselves. However, if we choose to do God's will, we will increasingly become more godlike. There is an endless progression to Paradise and beyond for those who dare to live up to their spiritual ideals. Whatever we choose, nothing of real value is ever lost in the universe. There is also an experiential component of God that is in the process of becoming. God the Supreme will emerge, and man will make his contribution to the Supreme by the positive actions and real achievements of his life.

Underlying all this progress is the fundamental nature of God, and of our universe. God is a loving Father, and the entire cosmos is filled with creatures dedicated to serving God and his creation. The URANTIA Book tells us "Love is the desire to do good to others," (p. 648) and Jesus taught the new commandment to us, "Love one another" (p. 1944). This is our lesson and our purpose. We are to lead lives of loving service, and as we grow in God, and live in this love, our lives will be bountifully blessed. This blessing of love, "the benign virus of love" (p. 1098) has the power to transform the world.

God gives meaning and value to our lives. The gifts of God (such as truth, beauty and goodness) penetrate our minds, hearts and souls. To learn how to ever more gracefully bring new believers into the spiritual kingdom is certainly part of our mission here. As a teacher, I would hope to share this wondrous revelation with those unaware of its existence, to reinforce the connections between God and

believers, to inspire, to serve, to communicate God's truth in new creative ways. I would hope to gain experience and continue to improve my communication skills and listening abilities as I serve God. To be a teacher is also to be a learner and a listener. I would want to be open to hear the ideas and experiences of each individual I come in contact with.

Every opportunity to serve is special and precious. Ideally, every educational experience should be spiritually uplifting, innovative and inspiring. I do not know what the outcome of my work will be. I can only try to do the very best I can, with God's guidance and support, and surely the results will be more than worth the effort. I want to plant the seeds of truth, water the garden, and watch the flowers grow and bear fruit. I will do whatever I am called upon to do. I am eager to serve God, and share the highest truth now with those ready to receive it.

END

*The School of Meanings and Values* is a California non-profit corporation whose purpose and goals are to engage in educational activities which specifically provide individual and group spiritual exploration based on the principles and teachings of the Fifth Epochal Revelation, The URANTIA Book. The primary objectives of the School are to further disseminate the teachings of The URANTIA Book by training teachers and leaders for world-wide service.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** Valerie Becker, Dianne Bishop, Polly Friedman, Don Morton, Royce Russell.

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### Thank you ...

Robert Burns, Stephen Finlan, Polly Friedman, K. Brendi Poppel, Royce Russell, Dora and Anton Schmalz, Patrick Yesh, and Dick Ziglar for your contributions to this edition.

## The Readers Page

The views presented in articles in The Readers Page are based on the author's own experience and insights and are not meant to be an interpretation of The Urantia Book nor represent the views of *The School of Meanings and Values*.

### THE URANTIA PAPERS - A WAY PAST THE CURRENT CONFLICTS. *by Stephen Finlan, Berkeley, CA*

#### LIBERAL AND CONSERVATIVE VALUES

Perhaps the greatest advantage of The Urantia Book's social teachings is that it enables one to appreciate the values of both the "liberal" and the "conservative" intuitions. The URANTIA Book seems definitely to take sides on particular issues, but it is not always "left" or "right." The UB authors are very liberal as regards personal religious freedom, but very conservative in their statements about genetic realities.

Most of the left-right arguments going on in society and in the church are wasteful. There seems to be a tragic inability to see the values of honest people on the other side of any given argument. Intellectual analysis is hindered by the ideological presuppositions of both sides. There is very little real communication going on.

Everything is interpreted politically; discussion can hardly take place when every utterance is pigeonholed politically. The real tyrant in America today is no one person or group, but this atmosphere of politicism.

The religious scene in America is sharply divided between liberals and conservatives, with each wing preserving a different set of worthwhile values — and a different set of tragic mistakes. The conservatives have a strong Christology, belief in God, respect for tradition (which is continuity over time). Liberals have science, tolerance (sometimes), and an aversion to blood-atonement teachings. But the old "liberal" tradition of the 'teens and 20s, which combined both these sets of values, is gone.

The hope for a revitalization of Christianity lies in a respectful understanding of the truth found in both streams, and refusal to play into the divisive and sub-philosophic hostilities also found in both streams. A Christian today who would stand up for truth must often go against his or her congregation. There are people who are doing that, who defend Christology and critical Biblical scholarship; who encourage the advance of science, but are not seduced by fads in academic thinking.

#### A FOUNDATION FOR ESCHATOLOGY

Eschatology is the study of "end-things" — afterlife, planetary destiny, universe consummation. The URANTIA Book gives us a revealed yet rational eschatology. We

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### WHAT KIND OF LEADERSHIP? - ONE MAN'S OPINION. *by Dick Ziglar, Raleigh, NC*

If one looks closely at the television advertisements for the Psychic Friends Network, barely discernible and only for a brief moment, (almost subliminal) there appears an inherent disclaimer invalidating the entire ad - "*For adults and entertainment only.*" For only \$240.00 an hour, (\$3.99) per minute you can have your own personal psychic forecast your future while concomitantly resolving your immediate frustrations through advice on today's pressing concerns.

There is an alarming parallel emerging in religious cults and spiritual orders which allows the devotee the comfort and convenience of a close up and personal religious news forecast - comforting messages coupled with topical religious information.

I've heard people say "I can't wait to get to Wednesday night channeling session to hear the latest from Alpha, Beta or Delta." What a marvelous opportunity to be able to meet every week with a celestial guest personality even though they are not visible to mortals. Sounds too good to be true. All we need now in the Urantia movement is a 900 number and a few bucks for a phoney TV ad, a couple of Hollywood personalities to attest to weekly conversations with Adam and Eve, then, move over Psychic Friends and make way for Friends of Urantia.

Urantian gurus have become invisible messengers from on "high". We hear all sorts of conflicting and confusing information coupled with simplistic messages relative to our spiritual needs as mortals of an earth bound realm.

This so called coordinated teaching mission indigenous to the Urantia movement is anything but coordinated. Much too frequently conflicting statements are passed off as mortal error or an error in transmission attributed to neither side of the transmission. Perhaps an impaired synapse, a freak neural breakdown, an overly energized neural spike due to excessive sugar working the brain at the time of transmission. Far too many statements are dismissed as not really relevant since the human erred in the reception of the transmitted messages. For instance, statements like Manitoba, Canada (Ham, Woodcross, 1992) or the Mariposa Grove in Yosemite Park, California (Cigna, Newport Beach, CA) being the

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derstanding. By shifting emphasis upon that which we value from the lower earthly values to our higher spiritual values we can cause great changes within our personality and behavior. Safeguarding of our eternal spiritual life ascension (and that of others) is the value we want all our other values to fall under. Making spirit first over mind and matter is essential to happiness. Living a spiritual life first means we learn to love, to know ourselves as children capable of reflecting the unconditional love of our Thought Adjusters. Value is felt in meditation, worship, and communion with your Thought Adjuster and those of others at a conscious level.

The writers of the Urantia Papers understand the human condition and graciously say that it is our willingness and intent to do the will of God that matters in this life. This is qualified, however, by the sayings of Jesus' admonition that to do the will of God manifests in the fruits of the spirit. This is the great criteria, the curriculum, for earthly spiritual education. How do we teach others, and our children to bear the fruits of the spirit? How do we help our spiritual teachers to carry out this task? Effective teachers model their teachings. We yield to our inner Thought Adjuster's leading, identify with our pre-morontia soul, and cooperate with our Thought Adjuster's pre-ordained plan for our lives. Not easy tasks, but Jesus said this yoke was easy — helping others to get there is the hard part.

The URANTIA Book assures us we are in a loving, caring and merciful universe. Our fears are lifted and we get on with immediate, positive, spiritual work. Our service work is powerfully connected to the work of the spiritual government. By living faith, as agondonters, we know this to our spiritual ultimatons. The writers of the book are the teachers, not I. I can only introduce the teachings to others. The individual who encounters the information goes through innumerable personal changes as they ingest and act on the teachings. The first reading in which one encounters the life of Jesus as an example for his own life is one of the primary catalysts for personal change. Upon later readings, the injunction to be perfect as God is perfect speaks to the very soul of the reader-practitioner and portends immense internal personal changes, which can take a lifetime. As a teacher, by listening empathetically, I can try to discern what level of personal spiritual growth others are at, as well as to try to discern their spiritual truth capacity. Then I may present appropriate information perhaps without reference to the book. Many times, listening patiently is the key for educating.

In the larger scheme of spiritual life-skills education, we as Urantia organizations create and execute a plan

of education as revealed in the Urantia papers. They indicate methods of education and describe types of schools in various times and places. By studying these educational methodologies and those of Jesus, we can understand better how to educate others spiritually. This information is more implied in the teachings, I think, as a way of getting us to work for the knowledge so that we possess it more deeply.

In my life I have attempted to actualize the teachings only to find disappointment in my human frailty. Perhaps it is from this perspective of my own inadequacies that I may become a more compassionate listener and spiritual servant. For it is in the serving that we teach. I cannot teach these truths in a rote manner from the book. I think this is the problem with most religions. We are told to teach The Urantia Book truths through gracious and sincere example. The apostles carried through because they remembered Jesus as a friend. I find simple fundamentalist Christians who work in dedicated service in the community very effective in their life's spiritual expression of service, joy and uncomplicated happiness. This is what attracts others to the teachings of Christ, not knowledge, but holy, happy, godlike actions. Good teachers are God led from inside, checking with him every move, and sharing with him every decision. A long time ago a yoga teacher told me that you can only teach what you know. When we really know Jesus as a friend, maybe we will act like him. *The Miracle in action.*

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**April 13, 1996 - Speakers' Training Classes - Brentwood, CA**

Second Saturday of each month 12Noon - 2PM.  
Develop presentations and speaking skills.

**April 20, 1996: Burlingame, CA - Seminar**

Leadership: Ambassadors in Spiritual Progress

**August, 1996 - IC '96 Flagstaff, AZ - Workshop**  
Singles' Issues

**September 28, 1996 - Encino, CA - Retreat**

Evaluation of One God Concept: Acknowledging  
Common Ground with Other Religions.

**October, 1996 - Various Locations TBA**

Introduction to Basic Teachings of  
The URANTIA Book.

**1997 - Conference - West Coast Location TBA**

Expression of Spirituality Through the Arts

who have read this book have been eased through a conflict that is still very intense for many people — that of having to decide whether to believe in the unscientific scenarios of traditional Christian belief, or the dreary pointlessness of the random universe presented by materialism. Most liberal Christians construct something in between; their intuition tells them there is something true in the Bible, but they can't formulate very much of it in contemporary thought-patterns. Often they try to construct religious belief without questioning materialistic assumptions; they end up building a house on sand, with the best of intentions.

The best Biblical scholars (in my opinion: Ben Witherington, C.H. Dodd, James Dunn, Pheme Perkins, N.T. Wright) strongly believe in the divinity of Jesus, but most people are not so able to break free of the prevailing materialism of our age, which cannot tolerate such ideas.

The "Jesus Seminar" (Crossan, Mack, Borg, et al.) is typical of those people who are totally under the spell of the spirit of the age, and unable to notice their blind spots. They are not to be despised for it; and they do some valuable historical research. But they are symptomatic of the crisis in belief: it is getting harder and harder to believe in the old eschatology. There is much in Christian eschatology that is true, but it was contaminated early on by images of catastrophic divine intervention with summary punishment of the wicked.

The URANTIA Book will eventually provide the solution to the eschatology crisis, an existential crisis going on in many people's lives.

All this tends to point out for me how timely The URANTIA Book is. It must increase, while the two options of our age (unsophisticated eschatologies, and materialism) must decrease. Yet the Book does embrace the true Biblical eschatology: there is a Judgment and an afterlife, there are heavens, there is a Trinity, Jesus is divine, there is a purpose in human life which involves our "being transformed from one degree of glory into another, into the likeness of God" (2 Corinthians 3:18). These are the truths we should be shouting from the rooftops, and we won't be judged crazy for doing so, if we find allies in the other people who have said these things.

Some of the "human sources" utilized by the revelators are still remembered. Liberal Christians remember William Hocking (*The Meaning of God in Human Experience*), and evangelicals appreciate Alfred Edersheim (*The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*) excellent and enlightening books.

These are the relative priorities of truth and fact: "Though the Christian concept of the Trinity erred in fact, it was practically true with respect to spiritual relationships"

(1145:1). Christianity got this right: there is a Creator-Father, an incarnational Son, and a Spirit Agent.

The revelators extol the Greek "who so bravely stood up at Nicaea and so fearlessly challenged this assembly that it dared not so obscure the concept of the nature of Jesus that the real truth of his bestowal might have been in danger of being lost to the world. This Greek's name was Athanasius," (2070) — one of the architects of the doctrine that Christ was "fully human, fully divine."

The Christology of Athanasius is central to the beliefs of Catholics, Protestants, Orthodox, and URANTIA Book readers. <sup>1200</sup>

(The author wishes to thank Patrick Yesh for his editorial advice.)

Continued from page 8: What Kind of Leadership (Ziglar)

spiritual center on earth. We might term this the *nebulous error factor*. This is no small mistake to be dismissed as irrelevant due to human error in receiving certain transmissions. This is tantamount to an economics professor telling his class that San Francisco is the automobile capital of the USA. Then when informed by a class participant that it is not San Francisco but rather Detroit, the professor states that it will be checked out and he will get back to the class next week.

What I find most interesting with both the "so called" psychics and channelers is the seemingly lack of objectivity, and the inability to discriminate content and source. While these subjects continue to believe in a bonafide experience, their interest is sustainable indefinitely. However, when the attenuation of subjectivity leads to greater objectivity the fascination commences to wear off. Followers drop off and in the case of the psychics, profitability disappears, and with channelers as their audience drops off the center stage disappears. In both cases vested interests obscure reality, ego exaltation becomes a prime motivator, discrimination wanes allowing for fraud to eventuate into a perpetuating evil. There exists then the possibility that this self-perpetuating delusion, bordering on insincerity can assuredly inhibit true spiritual advancement. At this time while many channelers have already realized their folly having since abandoned their course of delusion, the movement still remains strong among Urantia groups, merely because devotees remain committed and unwilling to initiate a challenge. Like the psychic followers they continue to believe what they wish to hear, and as long as the messages appear plausible might not the source be real?

Since Urantia channeling provides little or no down side risk to its devotees, the activity in most cases being

Continued from Page 5: You are the Miracle (Yesh)

wonder at life as a supernatural happening. To help me stay close to Creator identification, a creature of Divine origin, destined to be creative, I meditate, worship, and paint on-the-edge, spiritual imagery. And in my spiritual play-shops, I like to lure others into the euphoria of soul identity, through their own creative attempts to picturize their spiritual reality. Mystery, amazement, and admiration are awaiting the stroke of the brush, when the hand is directed by the divine source within, when the eyes follow the colours of the spirit's urge as they blend into a new reality; the miracle of your creative-self.

It all depends on what you desire to identify with, humanity alone, or your humanity in creative partnership with your own Divinity. My children can be a burdensome bother, or masterpieces of creation. Eternal souls brought forth from universe energy patterns, even though he just punched her and she pulled his hair in return. So!, they are miraculous little bundles of uncivilized behaviours, as well as mysteries of love.

A writer recently said "Energy follows attention." Attention to miracles makes your life's energies take some awesome creative directions. Remember that **You are the Miracle!** END

Continued from Page 10: One Man's Opinion (Ziglar)

well intentioned, providing opportunity for beneficial experiences through group interaction in the discussion of benign spiritual thought, some groups will continue to visit efforts to alter this collective interplay. From what I've been able to discern, the study of the Urantia Papers as presented in The URANTIA Book is far more intriguing and interesting than the messages channeled from the subconscious minds of a variety of channelers, such being the feeling among all the people I've contacted. If this feeling is ubiquitous around the country, channeling is destined to be short-lived. END

*Jesus sought to divert their minds from miracle seeking to the finding of a real and personal experience in the satisfaction and assurance of the indwelling of God's spirit of love and saving grace.*

(The URANTIA Book, pg. 1545)

## THOUGHTS ON LEADERSHIP TRAITS compiled by Royce Russell

L	E	A	D	E	R	S
Lead	Evaluators	Active	Decisive	Enthusiastic	Reliable	Self-Mastery
Loyal	Even-minded	Adaptable	Deliberate	Empowering	Risk	Strength
Learners	Evoke higher talents of others	Appreciative	Delegate	Equality of Rights Approach	Resourceful	Steadfast
Listeners		Accessible	Dedicated		Relationships	Seed Sowers
Loving in Approach	Educators	Accept Accountability	Driven	Empathetic	Respectful of Others	Solution-oriented
Loners when Necessary		Authority from Knowledge	Disciplined		Replacement Trainers	Switching the Standards
Look for Long-term Benefits		Ability to Anticipate Change	Doers of the Difficult		Redefine Themselves	Stand for Something Different from Consensus
			Defend Staff Members			Synthesizing Skills
			Detail Minded Not Detail Obsessed			

The spiritual forward urge  
is the most powerful driving force present in this world;  
the truth-learning believer  
is the one progressive and aggressive soul on earth.  
(The Urantia Book, p 2063)

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## *The School of Meanings and Values*

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

*The School of Meanings and Values* is a California 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation formed to provide courses of indepth study for students of *The Urantia Book* to:

- ♦ Explore new spiritual frontiers.
- ♦ Integrate the teachings into daily life.
- ♦ Inspire deeper commitment to service.
- ♦ Promote the development of teachers.
- ♦ Encourage and enhance leadership abilities.

### **AREA OF STUDIES**

- ♦ Topical studies of *The Urantia Book* teachings to promote spiritual insight.
- ♦ Comparative studies of philosophy and world religions to extend an opportunity for intellectual growth.
- ♦ The study of human relations and the humanities to foster the development and integration of meanings and values into the practical lifestream.
- ♦ Teacher training and leadership training for the further dissemination of *The Urantia Book* for worldwide service.

### **ORGANIZATION OF THE SCHOOL**

**Board of Directors:** The Board is self-appointing and oversees the operation of the School and appoints members of the Advisory Council and the Teaching Staff. *Current Board Members:* Valerie Becker, Dianne Bishop, Polly Friedman, Don Morton, Royce Russell.

**Advisory Council:** Coordinates with study groups; facilitates in implementing projects endorsed by the board; surveys needs of the *Urantia Book* reader community; facilitates in fund raising efforts; offers clerical support; and generally functions to improve service opportunities within the School. *Current Advisory Council:* Toni Arden-Richey, Grace Boyett, Robert Burns, Lynn Chapman, Pat Fearey, Peter Miller, Richard Omura, K. Brendi Poppel, Stella Religa, Stephen Zendt.

**Teacher Staff:** Dedicated ambassadors of service who design, conduct and work to evolve course studies to meet the educational and spiritual guidance needs of the planet. *Current Teaching Staff:* Polly Friedman, Michael Hill, Cathy Jones, K. Brendi Poppel, Patrick Yesh.

### **OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE**

The School of Meanings and Values is formed by the participation of individuals who heed the call to service. The Directors invite the commentary, talent and practical assistance of individuals and experienced teachers to join in this effort to realize the ideals of planetary evolution.

We need your support as a way of assuring our particular objectives are successfully realised. The School is appreciative of gifts and welcomes all tax-deductible contributions.

The following is a list of the current activities available from the School

### RETREATS/WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS

**INSPIRATION: GIFT OF THE COSMOS:** A ten part series looking at inspirational characters in The URANTIA Book.

**JESUS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION - PRESENTATION ON MEANINGS AND VALUES:** An afternoon seminar exploring meanings and values.

**HOW JESUS TAUGHT:** A four part series surveying Jesus' attitudes of teaching through stories; team teaching, teaching through service and using one's life as a teaching tool.

**THE GIFT OF REVELATION: COMMON THREADS OF REVEALED AND EVOLUTIONARY RELIGION:** A six-part series studying major world religions (Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, Islam, Sikhism) and particularly the common ideas of One Truth, One God, Life After Death, Divine Essence in Man.

**STUDY OF HUMAN SEXUALITY:** A seminar study looking at the complex blend of physiology, psychology and sociology present in couple and family relationships and what The URANTIA Book has to say.

**FEAR, COURAGE, AND STRENGTH:** A seminar study of the evolution of these qualities and emotions drawing on inspiration from The URANTIA Book.

**A PERSONAL JOURNEY: THE SOUL:** A two-day seminar devoted to The Evolution of the Soul, The Thought Adjuster and the Soul, Mind and Soul Evolution, Morontia Experiences Now.

**EVOLVING COMMUNAL VISION:** A one day workshop exploring the meaning of communal vision in preparation for building community. This is a condensed version of the weekend seminar Evolving a Spiritual Community.

**COMPARATIVE STUDY: TEACHINGS OF TEILHARD DE CHARDIN AND THE URANTIA BOOK:** The one-day seminar is primarily devoted to the study of Teilhard's masterwork — *The Phenomenon of Man*, augmented with unusual audio-visual material and small group discussion built around comparative study. Teilhard de Chardin was a realist and mystic — a scientist, paleontologist, philosopher and Jesuit priest. In his life and work he combined his knowledge of science and evolution with insights of spiritual truth that yield a profound perception ahead of its time, that also parallel the teachings of the 5th Epochal Revelation.

**THE ETERNAL SON: OUR PATH TO UNDERSTANDING THE NATURE OF GOD:** A two-part seminar exploring aspects of the Second Person of Deity and the Relationship of Deity; The Eternal Sons' relationship to man; The Eternal Sons' presence on Earth - through the Life and Teachings of Jesus; recognizing the key tones of the broadcast of the message of the Eternal Son to earth through the daily life of Michael of Nebadon.

**ACCESSIBILITY OF GOD:** A full-day seminar presenting The Gift of the Son; The Spirit of Truth; The Gifts of the Infinite Spirit: Mother Spirit, Mind Spirits, Holy Spirit, Angels; The Gift of the Father; The Thought Adjuster. Culminates with small group sharing.

**LEADERSHIP: AMBASSADORS IN SPIRITUAL PROGRESS:** A full day seminar exploring ideas of leadership. Topics discussed include personal spiritual growth; leadership traits, the leader in service to all; examples of leaders from the Urantia teachings; an a visionary challenge.

### CONFERENCES

**THE ROLE OF MEANINGS AND VALUES IN SPIRITUAL TEAMWORK:** A study to enhance our experience and understanding of the development of meanings and values, and to develop a clearer consciousness of how to incorporate these realities into daily living to the benefit of the individual, the family, the community, and the Supreme.

**EVOLVING A SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY: A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE IN RELATIONSHIPS:** A three day workshop dealing with an individual's relationship to God, to oneself, and to others in order to evolve a community.

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