

# The CONJOINT READER

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

Volume VI, Number 1: Summer 1997

## OUTREACH: *Walking the Talk*

### ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

by POLLY FRIEDMAN, PRESIDENT

The year 1996/97 ushered in a new phase of experience for *The School of Meanings and Values*. We ventured out to present three "Introduction to THE URANTIA BOOK" meetings: two in Santa Monica and one in Newport, Rhode Island. The participants in this Speaker's Bureau project in California were Robert Burns, Pierre Chicoine, Dorothy Elder, K. Brendi Poppel, Polly Friedman and Stephen Zendt. Polly, Pierre and Stephen presented in Newport on May 3rd. Richard Omura took care of publicity in Santa Monica and Peter Miller acted as liaison in Rhode Island. (Many thanks to you all for giving so generously of your time and talents).

We learned a great deal from these unique ground breaking events. Since we did extensive advertising we expected to see mostly new individuals. As it turned out, the attendees were readers, their friends, relatives and spouses. We saw this as a networking opportunity i.e. for bringing readers together and reinforcing the basic concepts of the teachings for friends and loved ones who have not understood what their kin were up to. A few attendees had the book but had not been in touch with other readers. The few new readers were interested enough to buy books and even attend study groups.

The experiences were rich as a source of inspiration and learning material for those who participated. Particular insights were gained. We realize that it is more advantageous to go out to speak on invitation than to expect people to come to us. There is wisdom in using a variety of approaches to talk about the teachings — both intellectual and personal sharing of stories. It's helpful to find out about the audience and why they came. The energy and fellowship generated were highly positive and very motivating. We know now, in general, that extensive advertising outside of the readership is not cost effective, and finally have no fear — those who might criticize or disagree just don't show up.

Those who attended gave us helpful, positive feedback such as what to leave out, how to gage the time, what the listener would want to know about THE URANTIA BOOK when he comes in cold, etc. In a brief retrospect, it seems evident that the greatest benefit from these meetings has been the training experiences, important lessons in effective outreach to groups of people.

In the middle of this we witnessed the Heaven's Gate episode and gave serious thought to what is and what isn't a cult. How is the Urantia experience different? I feel it's important to stress first that through these truths we know each individual has a direct route to God, and that spiritual rebirth is a personal experience, without any obligations or trappings. It is not a particular lifestyle, following a leader or belonging to a group. This is a free and clear revelation with no strings! There is no other belief system quite like this. There is no comparison with other teachings on this one point.

In this issue we are bringing you some of the presentations given at these introductions. Thoughts on building the kingdom of heaven and an interview with a roaming Urantia Book reader round out this volume.

Thank you to Robert Burns, K. Brendi Poppel, Sioux Harvey and Norman Ingram for sharing their thoughts and experiences with us. I know each contributor personally and know they, as kingdom builders, truly walk the talk. <sup>SMV</sup>

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 20, 1997 - SANTA MONICA, CA

Expanded Truth Seminar: Thought Adjusters  
Dorothy Elder and Polly Friedman, Speakers.

NOVEMBER, 1997 - PASADENA, CA

Family Issues and THE URANTIA BOOK Teachings  
A Saturday Seminar coordinated by Sarah  
Blackstock and San Francisco Bay area guest  
speakers.

1998 - CREATIVE ARTS CONFERENCE - WEST COAST  
Expression of Spirituality Through the Arts.

# THE URANTIA BOOK IS THE 5TH EPOCHAL REVELATION OF GOD AND THE UNIVERSE TO MAN

by ROBERT BURNS, IRVINE, CA

It is a great time to be alive! We are able to display faith in God and our universe, to a degree never before attempted by mere mortals. We have faith in God with no more to go on than faith. We are finding goodness, truth and beauty with little help other than the aid of our spiritual helpers (seraphic ministry), the divine monitor that indwells our mind (Thought Adjusters), the Spirit of Truth (Jesus' Spirit) and the Holy Spirit (Spirit of the Third Source and Center in time and space). These are powerful ministries, but they are recognized and accepted by us only through faith. We have no proof of their existence except as they are manifested in the experiences of our lives. They are not seen with the eyes, heard with the ears, or felt with our physical senses. We feel, see, hear, taste, touch their powerful realities with only our faith and our willingness to discern the beauty, goodness and truth they exert on our evolving spirit. We are identifying the realities of God and Deity through our willingness of these experiences, and through such experiences, we create the fabric of our souls, the very identity of our being. And we are doing this with only our faith and our will to do our Father's Will. This is the greatest opportunity, the greatest challenge and the greatest gift!

THE URANTIA BOOK proclaims three basic truths:

## Divine Sonship

1. We are the children of a loving Infinite Father – we are faith sons, evolving sons, ascending sons of the First Source and Center of all beings and all things.
2. God is a Perfect Father.... A patient, merciful, kind and loving parent.

## Spiritual Liberty

1. Our individual lives are composed of free will decisions. God does not force our will, does not scare us into doing his will through fear. The Eternal Father attracts our will through love - the truth, beauty and goodness we discern in our lives.
2. It is through our free will decision to do our Eternal Father's Will that we develop our eternal nature as individuals. The greatest liberty possible is the liberty we find when our will is to do our Father's Will. Jesus' life manifested the will of the Eternal Father – showing us the way through his universe to the Eternal Father. We can live such a life, doing our Eternal Father's Will, serving mankind with our recognition of eternal values and bringing new meanings to existence with our unique life experiences. We can love the Father, serve the children of time, and even love all other beings as the Eternal Father loves us. This Jesus did with his life when word was made flesh, serving all his creatures of time and space, showing all of us the way to doing the Father's Will even as he revealed the nature of God and our relationship to such a loving Creator, as sons.
3. Our character is free to display the fruits of our evolving spirit – our service to others: our love, respect and joy of other beings; our very recognition of the Universal Brotherhood of all beings and the Fatherhood of God.

## Eternal Salvation

1. Through our faith we are saved. Not through ritual, proclaimed beliefs, or identification with a specific theology or creed. Eternal salvation is through our desire to do the will of God, which is to find the nature of our Eternal Father. In our quest to find the source of all things and beings, we find, identify and resonate the values and meanings of all beauty, goodness, and truths of existence.
2. "Self is man's invincible foe, and self is manifested as man's four greatest passions: anger, pride, deceit, and greed. Man's greatest victory is the conquest of himself."<sup>(1450)</sup> When man is selfish, the result of anger, pride, deceit and greed, he is incapable of unselfishly serving and loving others. We must lose our selfishness to find our eternal destiny.

It is important to remember that we communicate with the Father personally and instantaneously, as an individual and/or as a group, through the spirit nucleus indwelling our mind. THE URANTIA BOOK speaks to all people as individual religionists, to all men and women, especially the young, and even the faithless and the downtrodden. Jesus provided the excellent model of human living. He listened to people, understood them and loved them. Jesus is always personally available, always understanding of all persons and loves them.

Through science, we understand that light is made up of photons having mass and energy. The opposite of light is darkness. Darkness does not have mass nor does it possess energy. Darkness is nothing more than the absence of light. We cannot make a beam of darkness. We cannot extract energy from complete darkness.

Heat is energy and therefore has mass equal to its energy. Cold is not an energy nor does it have mass. Cold is the absence of heat, nothing more. Absolute zero is as cold as it gets, the complete absence of heat atomic energy. Absolute zero is not a force, an energy or matter. It is simply the absence of energy.

Spirit reality is much the same. Truth, beauty and goodness are realities of eternal existence. They are realities of love which is a reality of the Eternal Father – of God. Sin is not a reality, a force. It is an absence of reality, the relative distance from goodness, truth and beauty. Evil is the absence of goodness. It is a measurement of the lack of the presence of God. When a being completely rejects eternal reality, that being does not exist anymore with any form of identity. The personality goes back to the oversoul of creation, back into the Supreme Being.

Beings can influence us with their "sins", evil, or iniquity only by their ability to divert us from goodness, truth and beauty. If we choose with our free will choice to follow non-truth, non-goodness, non-beauty, then we will, with our free will, lose identity in the universe. When our name is called, we will not be found, for we will not be anymore.

I believe there are images of beauty within the expanding consciousness of mankind that will actually move this planet forward on its march toward physical perfection. I believe that our individual faith, our willingness to do our Eternal Father's Will, will bring us to spiritual perfection. There are truths that urge each of us toward the reality of eternity. The goodness in the universe draws us to the love within us and even dares us to love others as our Father loves us. <sup>SMV</sup>

[In grateful appreciation to Dorothy Elder who provided the inspiration and basic idea for doing this writing. Many ideas were also taken from Stephen Covey's book *Principle Centered Leadership*.]

# INTRODUCTION TO THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE URANTIA TEACHINGS

BY K. BRENDI POPPEL, SANTA BARBARA, CA

*"There is in the mind of God a plan which embraces every creature of all his vast domains, an eternal purpose of boundless opportunity, unlimited progress and endless life. And the infinite treasures of such a matchless career are yours for the striving!"<sup>(365)</sup>*

This quotation comes from THE URANTIA BOOK. THE URANTIA BOOK claims to be a special revelation of truth written by higher celestial personalities. It professes to be the first major or epochal revelation since Jesus came to earth. Now this is a claim that is bound to raise a few eyebrows out there. It seems that every generation has a new revelation, and the age we live in has psychic healers on the hotline and a new guru in every ashram. THE URANTIA BOOK, however, has no guru. It has nothing in common with fanatical or radical cults or movements. It is not a new religion. It builds upon the foundation of our religious heritage, but strips away the superstitions and goes beyond the best of metaphysics. But you need to read this book and critically examine it for yourself. It was first published in Chicago in 1955 and is currently available in local bookstores (in several English editions, as well as translations.)

The purpose of THE URANTIA BOOK is to expand cosmic consciousness and enhance spiritual perception. With each reading, your understanding deepens. This is a book to grow into. The book paints a picture of a brilliantly coordinated universe - where science and religion are perfectly integrated. And God, who dwells in the center of the universe of universes is love. The essential message of THE URANTIA BOOK is: God is our father, and we are related as his cosmic children of destiny.

*"The myriad of planetary systems were all made to be eventually inhabited by many different types of intelligent creatures, beings who could know God, receive the divine affection, and love him in return."<sup>(21)</sup>*

THE URANTIA BOOK describes in detail the trillions of planets which circle around Paradise and its one billion perfect spheres. We are here, on the outer edge of the seventh superuniverse. We learn that our cosmic journey begins here on earth, and continues on upward and inward to Paradise and beyond. There are vivid descriptions of the orders of angels and their functions. Part 3 of this book is *The History of Urantia*, Urantia being the name of our world. Here you can read about the birth of the solar system. How did human life evolve from the apes? What really happened in the garden of Eden? How does it effect us today? Why are we here? The fourth, and last part is *The Life and Teachings of Jesus*. These seven hundred pages present the human Jesus and his struggles as a man, as well as the divine Master. Why did he really come to earth? The story of Jesus is probably the most enthralling and inspiring part of the Book. You can begin reading anywhere. I began with the Thought Adjuster papers.

I first came upon this book in Colorado in 1971. I had recently gotten married, and we traveled to Colorado from upstate New York in a caravan with two other couples and assorted ani-

mals. I have to admit we were a bunch of hippies. We found a place to live up in the mountains between Boulder and Denver. There were three other people who lived with us. I never quite figured out why they were there - I think they came with the house. (Actually it was a mobile home). One of them had THE URANTIA BOOK and would frequently read passages from it. All nine of us congregated around a large cable spool table in the kitchen and listened to Ron read. I had no idea what he was talking about. But somehow I had this strange notion that this was a holy book and that the people who had it could help me. We stayed in Colorado a short time, maybe six or seven weeks, and then went back to Ithaca, New York. The couple with THE URANTIA BOOK came back east with us. Shortly after New Years, and quite unexpectedly, my husband Allen killed himself. After the initial shock had subsided, I decided to go to the island of Jamaica to live forever. Ron and Sheri and THE URANTIA BOOK came with me. And that's where it hit me! Ron was reading about Thought Adjusters. Thought Adjusters, also called Mystery Monitors, are actual fragments of the Father that indwell our minds. Their purpose is to spiritualize our thinking. As we allow God to lead, we progress through the seven psychic circles. If we choose, we can eventually fuse with this perfect piece of God. We become one with God within.

On the last page of THE URANTIA BOOK it says, "The great challenge to modern man is to achieve communication with the Divine Monitor that dwells within the human mind. Man's greatest adventure in the flesh consists in the well balanced and sane effort to advance the borders of self-consciousness in a whole-hearted effort to reach the borderland of spirit consciousness - contact with the divine presence."<sup>(2097)</sup> SMV



The Urantia Book is a revelation of truth  
Given to those who would receive  
A call to see more of reality  
And through eyes of faith to believe.  
It's message is simple, the Paradise plan  
Is the Fatherhood of God and brotherhood of man.  
Are you hungry for truth? Are you willing to be  
Open to new possibilities?  
There's more to the mystery of mortal ascension,  
We can unlock the door to the spiritual dimension,  
Comprehension comes by stretching your mind,  
The one who seeks is the one who will find.  
There is a plan for man's evolution,  
From the domain of darkness to the terrain of light,  
We each can make a real contribution,  
As we attain higher levels of spiritual insight.  
It's your decision, but what's there to lose?  
Spirit vision can expand if you so choose.  
I ask you now...  
Be silent, be still,  
Ask your Inner Guide, what is his will?  
Listen within,  
Let your heart speak,  
And look to The Urantia Book  
If it is truth that you seek.

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A single truth has many paths...

## THOUGHTS ON BUILDING THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

by SIOUX HARVEY, BEVERLY HILLS, CA



**Christianity:** Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God.



**Confucianism:** Seek to be in harmony with all your neighbors...live in peace with your brethren.



**Buddhism:** There is no happiness greater than peace.



**Hinduism:** Without meditation where is peace? Without peace, where is happiness?



**Islam:** God will guide men to peace. If they will heed Him, He will lead them from the darkness of war to the light of peace.



**Taoism:** The wise esteem peace and quiet above all else.



**Sikhism:** Only in the name of the lord do we find our peace.



**Judaism:** When a man's way pleases the lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.



**Shinto:** Let the earth be free from trouble and men live at peace under the protection of the Divine.



**Urantia:** Personal peace integrates personality. Peace is the social yardstick measuring civilizations advancement.

This article was originally written as an appeal to members of the International Urantia Association and The Fellowship to consider how their behavior (regarding their respective viewpoints) was enhancing or negating the building of the kingdom of heaven. However, the teachings reviewed here can be contemplated by all readers as we strive to grow intellectually and spiritually. As human beings we need to grow in our decision-making and discernment while embodying the fruits of the spirit that are discussed by Jesus on page 2054:3:

"The bread of life and the water thereof are given only to those who hunger for truth and thirst for righteousness - for God. The fact that the dead rise is not the gospel of the kingdom. These great truths and these universe facts are all related to this gospel in that they are a part of the result of believing the good news and are embraced in the subsequent experience of those who, by faith, become, in deed and truth, the everlasting sons of the eternal God. My father sent me into the world to proclaim this salvation of sonship to all men. And so I send you abroad to preach this salvation of sonship. Salvation is the free gift of God, but those who are born of the spirit will immediately begin to show forth the fruits of the spirit in loving service to their fellow creatures. And the fruits of the divine spirit which are yielded in the lives of spirit-born and God-knowing mortals are: loving service, unselfish devotion, courageous loyalty, sincere fairness, enlightened honesty, undying hope, confiding trust, merciful ministry, un-failing goodness, forgiving tolerance and enduring peace. If professed believers bear not these fruits of the divine spirit in their lives, they are dead, the Spirit of Truth is not in them; they are useless branches on the living vine, and they soon will be taken away. My Father requires of the children of faith that they bear much spirit fruit. If, therefore, you are not fruitful, he will dig about your roots and cut away your unfruitful branches. Increasingly, must you grow up, by grace, to the full stature of spiritual adulthood. And when you go abroad to tell all nations the good news of this gospel, I will go before you, and my Spirit of Truth shall abide in your hearts. My peace I leave with you."

What are we URANTIA BOOK readers doing to facilitate the building of this kingdom? Can Jesus provide us with some guidance? Jesus tells us in paper 170, "The Master made it clear that the kingdom of Heaven must begin with, and be centered in, the dual concept of the truth of the fatherhood of God and the correlated fact of the brotherhood of man."<sup>(1859:11)</sup> He tells us then if we accept this teaching we can be liberated from animal fears and enriched with the following endowments. I think most readers accept this teaching, but do we allow ourselves to be enriched by these seven endowments? They are:

1. The possession of new courage and augmented spiritual power. The gospel of the kingdom was to set man free and inspire him to dare to hope for eternal life.
2. The gospel carried a message of new confidence and true consolation for all men, even for the poor.
3. It was in itself a new standard of moral values, a new ethical yardstick wherewith to measure human conduct. It portrayed the ideal of a resultant new order of human society.
4. It taught the pre-eminence of the spiritual compared with the material; it glorified spiritual realities and exalted superhuman ideals.

5. This new gospel held up spiritual attainment as the true goal of living. Human life received a new endowment of moral value and divine dignity.
6. Jesus taught that eternal realities were the result (reward) of righteous earthly striving. Man's mortal sojourn on earth acquired new meanings consequent upon the recognition of a noble destiny.
7. The new gospel affirmed that human salvation is the revelation of a far-reaching divine purpose to be fulfilled and realized in the future destiny of the endless service of the salvaged sons of God. <sup>(1859:12)</sup>

We can read and intellectually understand these endowments. But how can we experientially "know" them? Living the kingdom now does not mean being a "softie" on issues we believe in - it means maintaining a dignified, tolerant, understanding persona, while having the courage to calmly speak the truth and having complete faith in the fact that God's will will prevail and getting on with the Father's business living the teachings.

Jesus taught that, "by faith, the believer enters the kingdom now." <sup>(1861:2)</sup> He also taught that two things are essential to faith-entrance into the kingdom:

1. Faith sincerity. To come as a little child, to receive the bestowal of sonship as a gift; to submit to the doing of the Father's will without questioning and in the full confidence and genuine trustfulness of the Father's wisdom; to come into the kingdom free from prejudice and preconception; to be open-minded and teachable like an unspoiled child.
2. Truth hunger. The thirst for righteousness, a change of mind, the acquisition of the motive to be like God and to find God. <sup>(1861:3)</sup>

The book tells us that Jesus taught that sin is not the child of a defective nature but rather the offspring of a knowing mind dominated by an unsubmitive will. <sup>(1861:5)</sup> Jesus wanted to impress his apostles and disciples that they must acquire, by faith, a righteousness which would exceed the righteousness of slavish works such as those that some of the scribes and Pharisees paraded so vaingloriously before the world in his time. What does Jesus teach us about the progressive steps to this righteousness? First, we must have faith to open the door to the kingdom, then, there are the progressive steps of righteousness which every believing child must ascend in order to grow up to the full stature of the robust sons of God. Forgiveness is the act of God which accepts our faith as the price of admission.

"And the reception of the forgiveness of God by a kingdom believer involves a definite and actual experience and consists in the following four steps, the kingdom steps of inner righteousness:

1. God's forgiveness is made actually available and is personally experienced by man just in so far as he forgives his fellows.
2. Man will not truly forgive his fellows unless he loves them as himself.
3. To thus love your neighbor as yourself is the highest ethics.
4. Moral conduct, true righteousness, becomes, then the natural result of such love." <sup>(1862:1)</sup>

Furthermore, it is not our place to make judgments upon others, that is God's prerogative.

"The righteousness of any act must be measured by the motive; the highest forms of good are therefore unconscious. Jesus was never concerned with morals or ethics as such. He was wholly concerned with that inward and spiritual fellowship with God the Father which so certainly and directly manifests itself as outward and loving service for man. He taught that the religion of the kingdom is a genuine personal experience which no man can contain within himself; that the consciousness of being a member of the family of believers leads inevitably to the practice of the precepts of the family conduct, the service of one's brothers and sisters in the effort to enhance and enlarge the brotherhood." <sup>(1862:6)</sup>

On page 1863:12 the book warns us not to make the fatal mistake, when we look for the age manifestation of the kingdom, to fail to effect its establishment within our own souls. Are we more successful if we love those brethren who we have disagreed with, or is it better to stay angry, attack, be mistrustful, and intolerant? We are the receivers of teachings that mean a great deal to us. Can we get by the past and move to a new era for URANTIA BOOK readers? An age that accepts the fact that mistakes were and are being made by a few people, but where we realize that the most important lesson for us all is to live the teachings of the book?

We have an opportunity to move forward, to build the kingdom of heaven within our hearts today. It will take prayer, willingness and love. We can do it, especially with our Father's support. And I do believe we all have his love and support. If we really trust God then we should have no fear of loving and forgiving each other. God is the personality that can judge us - he alone. We may feel that we are here to protect and fight against those we disagree with. We are here to learn to live God's will, which means to live the truth while being full of love. If we look to Jesus for examples, he loved those who hated him, he forgave those who trespassed against him, he even loved those who killed his body because he knew the power of love and forgiveness. Is each one of us practicing the power of forgiveness enough in our life? I think that we can infuse a lot more love into our communication with those we disagree with - to help to build the kingdom within our hearts. <sup>SMV</sup>

"You should never forget that intolerance is the mask covering up the entertainment of secret doubts as to the trueness of one's belief." <sup>(1641:4)</sup>

"Always we may have diversity of intellectual comprehension and interpretation, even varying degrees of socialization, but lack of spiritual brotherhood is both inexcusable and reprehensible." <sup>(1866:3)</sup>

"The weak indulge in resolutions, but the strong act. Life is but a day's work - do it well. That act is ours; the consequences God's." <sup>(556:13)</sup>

## TRAVEL LOG: SOUTH AMERICA OR BUST

by NORMAN INGRAM, WHITTIER, CA  
and POLLY FRIEDMAN, CALABASAS, CA

On May 21, 1996, Polly Friedman spent an afternoon chatting with Norman Ingram a reader from Molokai, now residing in southern California until departing for Africa and China. Norman had recently returned to Los Angeles after nearly 24 months sojourning in Mexico, Central and South America.

*Welcome back Norman. I guess the first question is why did you go to Latin America?*

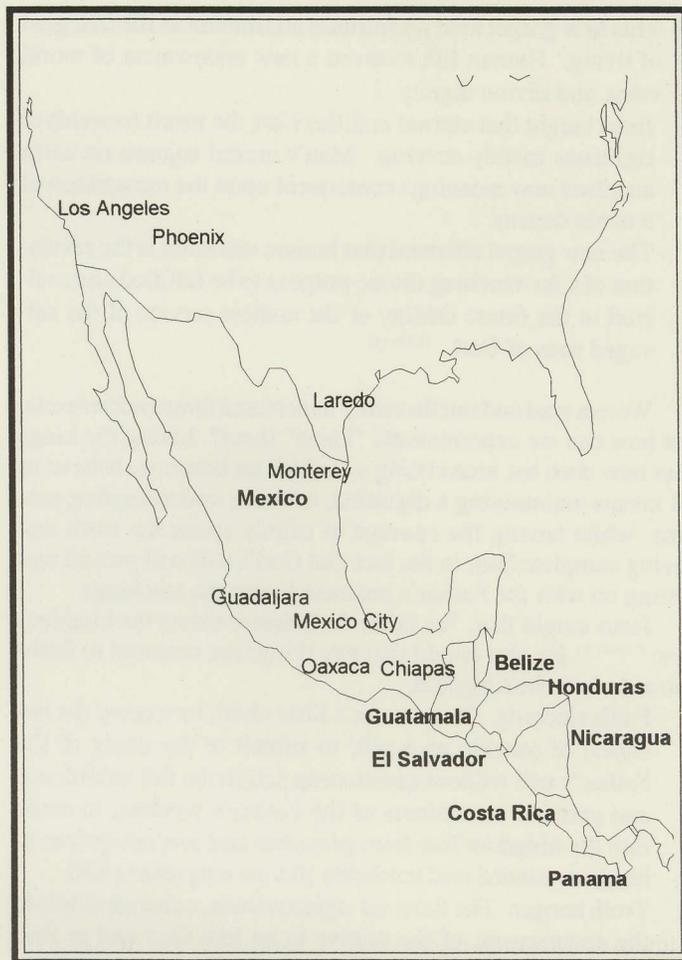
Well, in 1995 I went from Hawaii to New York for a summer session Urantia Workshop. I met Senora Lourdes Pizarro who said she knew of an attorney from Peru who had a study group in Arequipa. I was surprised because I knew there were study groups in Bogota and Santiago. She continued by saying it was a large group of around one hundred, but the amazing thing was they had only one Urantia Book. This put a burden on my heart, or for want of better words, on the top of my prayer list for books for this study group.

A few months later I was in Chicago helping with the Whole Life Expo. I hadn't darkened the door of 533 Diversey Parkway in about 15 years, so I went in and said, "Aloha, I'm Norman Ingram from Molokai, Hawaii and I would like to place an order for one hundred Spanish translation books, "El Libro de Urantia." Well, there was a sudden tension in the room. They said, "How did you know we had Spanish books?" I said that I didn't know they didn't have them, but I had a need for them in Peru. We all had a good laugh and they said they didn't know the books were coming but there was a truck sitting outside with 5000 books and no one to unload this first load of second edition softcover Spanish translations. I rolled up my sleeves and said, "Let's get them unloaded." And everything with the Foundation has worked fine ever since.

At any rate, on October 24, 1995, I left with the few books I could afford in hand for Peru. Five people from four different study groups in Southern California joined with me (they were also going to Peru for an International Conference: Duane Faw, Richard Omura, Stella Religa, John Mahaffey and Sandy Varga. We proceeded to Lima and met many new friends. We met with some people in Arequipa where we delivered some books. In Pisac, a small town outside of Cuzco, on our way to Macchu Pichu, Duane Faw and I met a Chilean student named Pradhana Fuchs. After our introduction he asked, "What are you doing here?" I said, "We are delivering some needed Urantia Books to Peru."

Well, his eyes got real big and he said, "Urantia! I've been looking for this book for my spiritual progress." Pradhana had been reading the book by J.J. Benitez, called *The Trojan Horse* (a best seller in Latin America). In that book the author captures the crucifixion of Christ from THE URANTIA BOOK. A friend had told Pradhana that Benitez got his information from THE URANTIA BOOK, which is very expensive and hard to get.

I said, "un momento" and I went upstairs and brought down an El Libro de URANTIA and gave it to him. He got so excited his knees kind of buckled. As a result of this meeting we spent two months in 1995 traveling "the Urantia trail" together in South America going from Lima to Ecuador to Columbia and to Brazil and up the Amazon River to Iquitos, Peru and onto Chile. Then friends flew Pradhana up for the Flagstaff conference in August



1996 for his contribution to the world outreach of Urantia Nations, S.A.

Shortly after the conference we drove back to South America via Mexico and Central America for the big trip to go to each nation's capital city, to the national libraries (biblioteca), universities and prisons. We did manage to set up a book distributor in Lima and make contact with some book stores along the way as well as a book order of ten to the student book store at the University of Ecuador in Quito.

*How many books do you think you placed?*

Well, all in all, 184 books were contributed to the Latin American outreach. We want to give our humble thanks to Fred Harris and all the friends who responded through the Internet, readers at large from the Fellowship and the Foundation's contribution of ten books and air freight to the different shipping destinations. You can all be proud of your cooperative efforts. The Kingdom is being built in the hearts of men and women.

*How were you personally supported during this time? It must have been very expensive.*

We got very little help but it seems like it was a step of faith. We didn't have the funds when we started out to do it, but we were given the burden to reach the South American continent. It seems like every place we went we were taken care of beyond what we could imagine. Remember, when the apostles first went out they were told not to take extra food or clothes with them because things would work out. And it did the same for us.

### ***What transportation and route did you take?***

We drove a donated RV nicknamed "Norla" (Norlatiadek) from Los Angeles to Phoenix, to Laredo, Texas and then we passed through Monterey, Guadalajara, San Miquel de Allende, Mexico City, Oaxaca and Chiapas. Then we headed to Central America, going through Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica. We left "Norla" in Costa Rica because we didn't have the funds to ship the RV all the way to Peru and the ferry from Panama to Columbia had gone out of service.

From Costa Rica we bused to Panama, then flew to Bogota, Columbia and then to Lima and Cusco in Peru. We rode the train passed Lake Titicaca to La Paz, Bolivia. From Bolivia we took a bus to Santiago, Chile.

### ***What highlights or jubilees did you experience?***

There were so many. One highlight happened one evening in San Miquel de Allende. Pradhana was sitting by himself on a park bench when a young man came down and sat next to him. Pradhana motioned us over to them and we were introduced to "Seraphim." I had never met a Seraphim before. Needless to say, that turned out to be quite a night. We turned on a little love to this young man and he stuck to us like glue and followed us back to the RV. There we read to him about seraphim and he was delighted. We watched this Seraphim as he had a spritual birthday. He wanted to take us to his father's ranch but we couldn't accept all the invitations we got or we would still be there.

### ***What about highlights in South America?***

Again, there were so many. While in Santiago we met a fellow who was a co-owner of a TV video editing studio. He asked a question about life after death. I was explaining to him about the journey to Paradise, and we had gone past the local system and on to the constellations when he looked at me and with a big smile as if a burden had been lifted off his shoulders and said, "Happy Birthday!" All the questions and burdens he had before were lifted and he was on the way to Paradise. He was having a spritual birthday on the spot, like our friend Seraphim did.

### ***So you also went to prisons?***

Yes, and it was always a blessing to go to prisons. Our first experience was in Guadalajara, Mexico. There were 30 inmates that sat down to see our little introduction of the Adoration video, which we always showed first. There was one boastful young prisoner who wouldn't settle down and was making fun of our work. Finally the other prisoners made him quiet down to see the slide show and he was the first one to stand up after a few minutes to say, "I think I got a glimpse of what heaven must be like." He got the message for sure, as did his fellow inmates.

### ***What happened in difficult places like Columbia?***

As far as turmoil, it seems there was something happening in most places. Like in Chiapas, Mexico it was the Indians. then we crossed over to Guatemala and shortly after that people were calling with concern about the deaths at a soccer game which we didn't happen to attend. When we arrived in Columbia they were observing the 10th anniversary of the bombing of government buildings that were overtaken by mountain rebels. They were afraid that violence might happen again, so you saw only men in suits and the military and police on the streets of

Bogota. We were in Lima when rebels took over the Japanese embassy. In Chile four prisoners were airlifted by helicopter from the new multi-million dollar prison that was thought to be escape proof. It seems everywhere we went things were politically active, but we weren't affected by any of it.

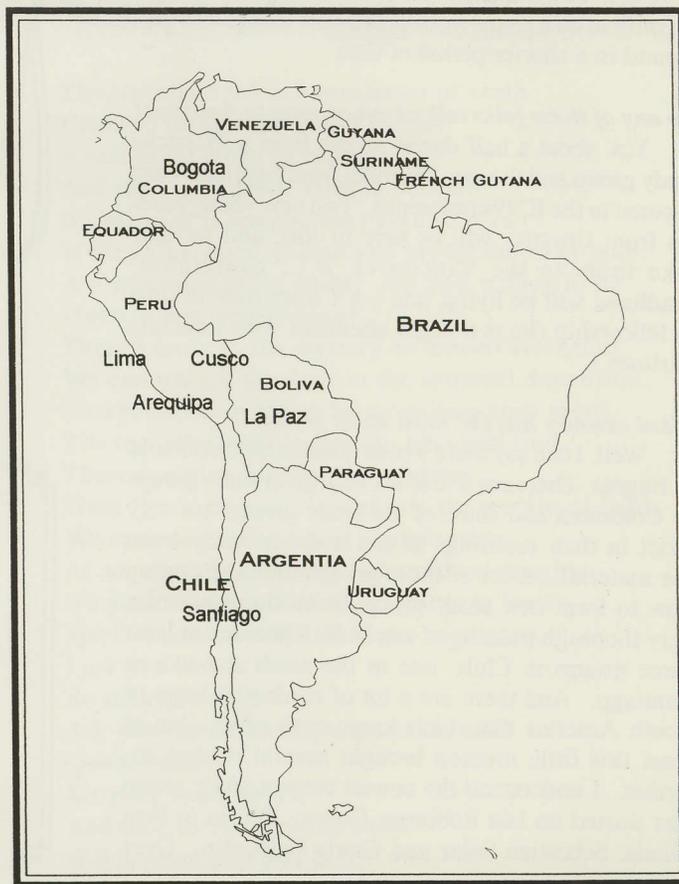
### ***Did you have any disappointments?***

They are so minor compared to the blessings that's its hardly worth mentioning. In South America, Latinos especially are reaching outside their church. They are tired and unhappy with the mysteries. They want more answers and they're latching onto every new age thing that comes down the pipe: L. Ron Hubbard is out in full force with Dianetics; the Mormons are out in full force with their missionaries; the 7th Day Adventists, Jehovah Witnesses and the rest are all there and I see the people latching on to these new things because it gets them out of the unfulfilling experience they've been having with their churches and lack of spiritual growth.

If I can show my brothers a more direct path - the journey to Paradise, I feel its my first duty in life.

### ***How much influence have the Benitez books had on paving the way for the Urantia teachings?***

We talk about the help we get from the Foundation and a little from the Fellowship, but Benitez has probably been our biggest helper in all South America. When you say Urantia, you might get a puzzled look, but when you say, J.J. Benitez you have them right back in the conversation. When they find out a lot of the material from the Benitez books came from THE URANTIA BOOK, they want this also for spritual insight, so it's been a great help to us in many ways.



***What do you feel comes now? What's the next step?  
What can we do to help this cause?***

First let me recap what we've accomplished. In Latin America and Mexico there are over 38 municipal and national libraries, 20 plus universities and 14 prisons that have THE URANTIA BOOK on the shelf. We delivered over 184 books and spoke to over 500 people in 24 months. With all of your help and the help of the powers that be, we were able to plant some seeds. But after reading THE URANTIA BOOK I realize it is just as important to nurture these seeds that have been planted. We have a database list of people who want more information and fellowship. They want more visitors from America. They love the fact that people in America love them and are willing to share these marvelous truths with them.

***In time, do you think it will be helpful to develop study aids that could be sent to new study groups?***

Most definitely, and some of that is being translated and sent already. Many of the secondary works have been translated and many more need to happen. In fact, we are looking for volunteers to join the translation team to translate articles and quarterly newsletters into Spanish.

I've never seen such an enthusiastic bunch of people, especially young people of South America under the age of 26. They are picking up THE URANTIA BOOK and getting so excited and telling their friends about it. THE URANTIA BOOK tells us that when you take a bold step forward for truth, beauty and goodness, you can change the world. I think South America is going to be a prime example of how things can turn around in a shorter period of time.

***Do any of these folks talk about coming to America?***

Yes, about a half dozen people from a Mapuche study group and the same number from Santiago want to come to the IC99 conference. Two new young readers from Uruguay will be here in June and we may take them to the Vancouver, B.C. conference. Pradhana will be flying into LAX from time to time to fellowship (he is a flight attendant with Lanchile Airlines.)

***What country has the most study groups?***

Well, I can say there's been about 2000 books sold in Bogota. There are five to six very good study groups in Columbia and some of the study groups are very strict in their teachings so the students really learn the material. A lot of those groups are breaking up now to form new study groups from the result of a very thorough training of teachers. There are at least three groups in Chile, one in the north and two in Santiago. And there are a lot of readers at large in South America that don't know each other, but at least this little mission brought several readers together. I understand the newest outpost study group has started on Isla Robinson Crusoe, thanks to Pete Niada, Sebastian Solar and Guido Balbontin. Over

52 books were given to new young readers in Chile alone. In their appreciation, the Mapuche study group has made a video "Adoracion" as an introduction to El Libro de Urantia, Chilean style. It is available in Spanish, Portuguese, French and English. George Dupont got the first complimentary copy for his approval.

*We have other countries to talk about, but for now I'll give you a rest. Many thanks and blessings Norman. You are truly a trail blazer, and have brought riches to many by your action, example and love for humanity.* <sup>SMV</sup>

If you would like to hear more about Norman's South American adventure or his plans for missions to Africa and China, please feel free to contact him via:

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**In Service of the Supreme**

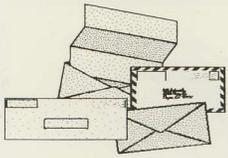
Devotion to One and service to all  
Is the highest calling we can pursue  
Fulfilling our purpose in God's master plan  
means playing the role that is right for you.

Being true to yourself by doing his will  
Satisfies the soul and gratifies the heart  
In giving our gift, our spirits are lifted  
By caring and sharing we each do our part.

We all have a piece to add to the puzzle  
We each have a blessing we can bestow  
And the world is so hungry, how can we deny it  
The fruit of the spirit that it needs to grow.

© K. Brendi Poppel

One of the most amazing earmarks of religious living is that dynamic and sublime peace, that peace which passes all human understanding, that cosmic poise which betokens the absence of all doubt and turmoil. Such levels of spiritual stability are immune to disappointment. Such religionists are like the Apostle Paul, who said, 'I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else shall be able to separate us from the love of God.' <sup>(1101)</sup>



## MAIL CALL

The following letter was received from an attendee at our east coast "Introduction to THE URANTIA BOOK." It is so helpful to us to get feedback on our presentations (glowing or not).

Dear SMV,

The seminar at the Newport Congregational Church the afternoon of May 3 was extremely special. From the moment Stephen Zendt introduced it and described his affection for the teachings through Pierre Chicoine's wondrous, exhilarating sermon-on-the-mount-like talk, through Polly's captivating and endearing presentation with the moving idea of paralleling Beethoven's Fifth and its four movements with the four parts of the Urantia Book – it was unique. All was told by each one with absolute sincerity and commitment to Christ Michael's simple, dual command: love the Father and love each other.

The whole afternoon was moving, inspiring and motivating. I wished there had been 5000 people there. As it was going on I wished for the presence of many I know.

It was or should be gratifying to you and the others who came 3000 miles for this program that others of the assembled group (though small), also came from long distances - from Maine, New Hampshire, Schenectady, New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts. Amazing!

Thank you all at the SMV for a wonderful and positive experience in the sharing of the 5th Epochal Revelation.

Terry Galvin  
Portsmouth, RI

# Thank You

We would like to acknowledge the many people who have generously supported the School this past year with their tax-deductible donations.

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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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