

May 22 & 23

Dear Steve,

Here are a few words about myself and what I will try to talk about at the School, per your request:

I have been a reader of The URANTIA Book for twelve years. I am a founding member of the URANTIA Society of Central Connecticut and serve on its Governing Committee. I am a General Councilor of URANTIA Brotherhood, and serve on the Executive Committee as chairman of the Publications Committee. I am married to Alison Gardner, and we have two children, Ross (age 3 3/4) and Tiye (age 3 mos). We live in Sherborn, Massachusetts, a suburb of Boston.

I hold a B.S. from MIT in Physics, an S.M. from Harvard in Applied Mathematics, and an "A.B.D." (incomplete Ph.D. dissertation) from Harvard in Computer Science. I work for BBN Laboratories, a large science-based consulting firm, as a manager of research and development projects involving the application of Artificial Intelligence techniques to job training via computer.

On Thursday night I will speak on "Academic Confrontations with The URANTIA Book--The Theological Viewpoint." I plan to discuss the significance of fact, logic, and theory in the development of scientific thought. I expect to use these ideas to analyze the content and value of theological debate on cosmological principles. I will draw on material about alleged conflicts between The URANTIA Book and modern science presented at the American Academy of Religion's recent consultation on the book to illustrate the discussion. While some conflicts do exist, they do not seem to support the positions presented at the consultation.

On Friday night I will continue to explore the relationship of the cosmology of The URANTIA Book, as presented in papers 41-42, and current scientific thought, focusing on the scientific and logical viewpoint rather than the theological.

I hope this gives you enough information to prepare your news item.

Thanks for the invitation.

Dan