

AGONDONTER

"Urantians benefit by the spiritual influences and activities of the local and the superuniverse, with their almost endless array of loving personalities who ever lead the true purpose and the honest of heart upward and inward towards the ideals of divinity and the goal of supreme perfection". P. 100:7, The Urantia Book.

Volume I Number 4 December, 1964

Published by First Urantia Society of Los Angeles, 78 N. Grand Ave., Pasadena, California. SY 3-8971

CALENDER OF COMING EVENTS

Saturday, December 19th., 2032 Stewart, Santa Monica, 8:00 P.M.

1st Part: Georgia Gecht teaching: "Cosmography"

2nd Part: "Inspirational Subjects".

January 2nd., Same as above.

Sunday, December 27th., ~~78 No. Grand Ave., Pasadena~~ 2:00 P.M.

1st Part: Georgia Gecht teaching "~~The Evolution of Forces and Energies~~".

2nd Part: ~~Helen Steen teaching "The Angels and other Spirit Beings stationed throughout the Universe"~~. *Cancelled*

January 10th., Same as above.

SCIENCE SAYS THERE IS SUDDEN CHANGE IN EVOLUTION

by SCOTT FORSYTHE

In the book The Search for Early Man by John Pfeiffer, published by The American Heritage Publishing Co., 1963, there is an interesting statement on page 41, which expresses the Urantian concept of sudden changes during evolutionary advancement. The passage is as follows: "Whenever small, inbreeding groups live in isolation from other groups, New characteristics may suddenly appear, and traits that would be lost or buried in a vast population have a better chance to develop".

On page 669:#6:3,4 The Urantia Book states the following concerning evolutionary changes: "From era to era radically new species of animal life arise. They do not evolve as the result of the gradual accumulation of small variations; they appear as full-fledged and new orders of life, and they appear suddenly."

The sudden appearance of new species and diversified orders of living organisms is wholly biologic, strictly natural".

SECRETARY SENDS OUT MATERIAL TO MEMBERS

Members of FUSLA were pleased to receive two separate mailings from our Secretary, Julia Fenderson, recently. The first included a copy of the Memorial Service written by William S. Sadler, Jr. for use at Floyd Bordsen's funeral a few years ago in Chicago and since used at several Urantia Commem-

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AGONDONTER: An ascender from isolated world. One "who can believe without seeing, persevere when isolated, and triumph over insuperable difficulties even when alone". Page 579:1, The Urantia Book.

FINANCING AGONDONTER

First Urantia Society of Los Angeles has gladly born the cost of publication of the first four editions of the paper you are reading as well as of mailing it .. to members ..to other societies, and to isolated individuals who are believers or readers of the Urantia Book and are spread over the country. We now find ourselves at a Crossroads. There is sufficient interest and demand for the paper to justify its existence, but we cannot long continue to be financed as we now are, out of the general funds of FUSLA'S treasury. We hesitate to make a subscription charge because of the fact that we have not published for a whole year, and have no proven record to justify a yearly subscription price. The Editorial Committee would greatly appreciate the suggestions of readers on how you would like to see us finance AGONDONTER. Perhaps a general appeal for contributions would be satisfactory or at least a good way to begin?

THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

WILLIAM BURTON KING TAKES TO THE AIR WAVES

Our respected Society member, Bert King, former bible teacher and wholehearted follower of the Urantia Book's teachings, has taken on the job of answering listeners' religious questions on a fifteen minute broadcast. Bert advises that the Urantia Book will be the source for his answers to the queries he receives whenever appropriate, but otherwise the slant will be Urantian when the Bible is de rigueur. Bert will not be actually citing chapter and verse as his replies will be more general in character; he will be giving his opinion, in other words.

We are looking forward to an early announcement of the specific time, station and day of Mr. King's program.

GROUP PRAYERS OFFERED

A prayer group formed spontaneously in mid-November to petition God for the safe recovery of Helen Steen's daughter, Mrs. Catherine Madson, from an operation she underwent. She was operated on November 24th., at Lackland Air Force Base hospital in San Antonio, Texas, to remove a tumor in the cranium which has been pressing on the optic nerves and impairing her sight in both eyes. It is with great thankfulness to God, to her surgeon and to all who sent prayers for my sister that I now report her completely safe and full recovery.

Bob Steen

In a later report from Bob: "My sister is out of danger from her operation but has lost the sight of her left eye for good and only has part of her right eye now. We are so glad that she is out of danger from such critical surgery and has some vision, because this way she can resume her life much as before. The family has expressed its gratitude to the members of the prayer circle and also to all of those who offered their condolences and joined in sending flowers on Curtis Steen's recent departure for the next life". Bob

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INDEXING THE URANTIA BOOK

Following is a condensation of a letter from Anna Rawson and Edith Cools in Chicago, explaining how they are working on the Urantia Index.

1. The Index will not be a true concordance, which would run into many volumes and would be valueless. A true concordance would list, alphabetically, every word in the Urantia Book and every reference to every word, including a, and, is, the, etc. Each reference would contain a few words before or a few words after the indexed word, and page numbers would be given. To use the word "Urantia" as an example:

Urantia

minds of mortals on U...that being the name... 1

as the human races of U. 21

and so on for thousands of references and many pages. And this would not include references to Urantia where the words, "your world" or "your planet" are used, those words would have to be checked separately. From the above example of the concordance method, one can see that the references listed give little indication of the ideas expressed in the text.

INDEXING THE URANTIA BOOK .. Continued

and when you consider that there would be page after page listed under the heading "Urantia" about the only thing of value would be the page numbers where "Urantia" is mentioned.

2. Choosing what to index. We cannot index every word, as will be seen from the above. Choosing is difficult, and our choices will not suit everyone.
3. Combining. We are combining page references to help reduce the size of the index. For example:
Andites
 Adamic blood in, 851, 871
 adventurous nature of, 872, 873, 889, 941
4. Avoiding duplications by combining names and cross referencing. Example: Creator Sons and Michaels are the same. (They are also Paradise Sons, and sometimes Master Sons and Sovereign Sons, etc.)
5. Separating the general from the specific. A simple illustration: Paradise Sons--Creator Sons (Michaels), Magisterial Sons (Avonals), and Trinity Teacher Sons (Daynals). Paradise Sons is the larger classification and so indexed. Yet in the book any one of the three orders might be referred to as "Paradise Sons", as was Jesus many times in the Jesus papers. When they use the term "Paradise Son" and we know "Creator Son" is referred to it is put under Creator Son (with proper cross referencing).

Sometimes this separating, combining and cross-referencing gets very complicated. There are many problems involved, especially where names or terms are used interchangeably. It is almost impossible to avail ourselves of the services of occasional part-time volunteers, as it takes too long to explain the general rules and the complications. Also, no hard and fast rules can be established for this indexing.

The Index will not be perfect..and it will not suit everyone, but we are doing our best to make it useable. We cannot say as yet when the Index will be published.

SIGNS THAT MAN IS BECOMING CONCERNED WITH HIS GENETIC FUTURE

A recent talk by the Associate Director, Department of Research and Education, Evanston Hospital Association, Evanston, Illinois reveals that in responsible circles some thinking men are applying their ingenuity to problems of racial uplifting, biologic betterment, and to "quality" as well as "quantity" birth control.

Dr. Sheldon Berger, in his speech entitled "The Biological Future of Man" discusses some specific problem areas in which scientific research may uncover evidence necessary to demonstrate the need for and/or means of obtaining a more intelligent, healthier population for our ever more complex world.....He explains that inside the cell there is an absolute dictator substance (DNA) which decrees just what enzymes will be produced and which will not. Science may find ways to alter what DNA decrees, may discover enzymes which are related to intelligence and stimulate additional production of these enzymes and decreased production of other less useful ones. He mentions the surmise that cancer is, after all, a case of DNA gone wild, implying that control and manipulation of the substance DNA may mean an end to cancer cells.

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He outlines the "quantity" birth control problem, explaining that at most this planet cannot hope to support more than 50 billion souls. He shows that the present rate of population growth in Europe and North America is 1% per year (approximately 20 births per thousand persons and 10 deaths), while the so-called "underdeveloped areas" average 2.5% per year (40 births per thousand and 15 deaths). These two rates come out to a mean 2% per year population growth. At this rate the world will hold 50 billion inhabitants in 142 years, between 4 and 5 generations from now.

Intelligence of the population is increasingly important with our more and more complex machines and more and more dangerous weapons, however, he paints a dreary picture of decreasing intelligence with a persistence of unintelligent people in having large families while better health measures make increased survival of the "unfit" possible.

In older times their lack of cleverness would have tended to render them less able to cope with their environments and they would have died even before reproducing themselves. Now more and more weak types (physically and/or mentally) are surviving past the age of reproduction, and then true to form, are reproducing themselves in larger numbers.

SIGNS THAT MAN IS BECOMING CONCERNED WITH HIS GENETIC FUTURE

Dr. Berger points out that we seem to operate on the theory that along with life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, people have the inalienable right to reproduce at will although as CRICK has pointed out, the having of children is clearly not a completely private matter.

The Scientifically originated solution suggested comprise the bright side of Dr. Berger's picture. He says CRICK suggests the government authorize an anti-ovulatory compound in food so that no women are fertile. Then a second chemical would be made available to qualified mothers which would counteract the first and selected women would regain their fertility. CRICK also suggests in conjunction with LEDERBERG that the taxing power be employed to obtain a more intelligent, healthier and appropriately limited population, by giving tax incentives to desirable parents and levying a severe tax penalty on undesirables who persist in reproducing themselves.

Finally MULLER suggests artificial insemination banks, where sperm of males with various desirable characteristics would be frozen in glycerol, coded and classified; then used to produce desired offspring in women of correspondingly desirable traits. Theoretically it may be possible to isolate which spermatazoa produce male and which female babies so that sex as well as "quality" could be controlled.

Dr. Berger allows as how none of these solutions have been suggested with the thought that they will be promptly adopted, but they do open our minds to problems to which we well could and should be devoting the best thought of our time.
