

The Agondonter



Vol. III, No. 1

FIRST URANTIA SOCIETY OF LOS ANGELES

Fall 1972

F.U.S.L.A. COMMITTEE MINUTES

The following summarizes highlights of the F.U.S.L.A. Governing Committee's first meeting of the new term, held Aug. 30, 1972.

A letter from URANTIA Foundation was read, thanking this Society for its recent \$15 donation in the memory of member Audrey Forsythe.

Action was taken to initiate the new "Hot Line" service for members, with Hospitality Chairman Cheryl McCade in charge; her announcement about this service appears elsewhere in this issue.

Bob Blackstock brought to the meeting some copies of the proposed new F.U.S.L.A. Constitution (with By-Laws) he has worked on, which is intended to simplify, update, and replace the existing one. Further work will be done by the Committee prior to submitting for ratification.

The Governing Committee is planning a get-together of members and friends for next August 19, similar to the meeting held recently at Wally Ziglar's home, which combined a brief Jesus Birthday program with ample time for conversation, potluck, and fun; also included was an experimental Remembrance Supper. In addition, a special Jesus Birthday celebration will be scheduled for the evening of August 21.

Alternative formats (presentations, lec-
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HOT LINE

The "Hot Line" service will be used to inform Urantians of illnesses and other needs of local believers. So informed, those notified can serve in some way, promptly: visit the sick, prepare a meal, offer transportation, etc.

If this system is to serve, you will want to inform me, the Hospitality Chairman, PROMPTLY of such a need. I will, in turn, swiftly send out postcards to those near to or acquainted with the afflicted individual or family. As soon as you know of one who is in need or ill, please notify CHERYL McCADE, 1435½ Shenandoah St., Los Angeles 90035, or phone (213) 659-4950. Also, if you

wish to volunteer in advance to help when needed in this ministry, please contact me.

P.S. Anyone willing to volunteer some cookies or goodies for the monthly meetings, please contact me. I would be so appreciative. Thank you.

--Cheryl McCade

THE THREE RING CIRCUS

Want to progress towards being totally time conscious like Jesus? You can start now by marking your favorite occasions as recorded in the URANTIA Book. I'd like to gather them all and arrange a new world calendar.

Just think--Christmas in August, Good Friday on a Saturday, and Thanksgiving all year round. Feast days commemorating the first life implantation and the birth of Andon and Fonta might be hard to set, as would be Melchizedek's birthday.

The second thing to do would be to commission a jeweler to create a watch which is set to Local System, Constellation, and Local Universe time. Any watch set with Superuniverse time would appear broken. One set with Paradise time would appear missing.

The problem of timing is very real to us Urantians. Should we have the Jesus Birthday celebrations always on the twenty-first or on the closest Sunday? Should there be an evening celebration? Will Santa find the chimney?

These questions could mean the difference between attaining the third circle or not. Who knows? Who wants to be known as only a "sleeping survivor?" The difference is between waking up on the third day or staying in the celestial sleeping chambers for a millenium.

I can almost see John Cameron Swayze in the resurrection halls on Jerusem greeting an awakening survivor from Urantia saying, "Yes, ladies and gentlemen, his Timex is still ticking!"

Seriously, would Urantians like their own calendar? Should February 29 of leap year be used to remember the venerable Frog? Send your ideas to the Three Ring Circus, care of the Agondonter.

--Jim McNelly

THE AGONDONTER

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Secretary: Patricia Bedell
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On Jerusem, the ascenders from isolated worlds such as Urantia "are known as the agondonters, meaning evolutionary will creatures who can believe without seeing, persevere when isolated, and triumph over insuperable difficulties even when alone."
(U.B. 579)

PAUL A. GOLLNICK

Word has been received of the passing of a pioneer member of our URANTIA Society, Paul A. Gollnick, whose home was in Bonsall, California. He passed away August 26, 1972, at the age of 83. Services were held August 29 at Vista, California.

Paul and his wife, Naomi, were dedicated students of the URANTIA Book, and before its publication were among those who studied the Papers at 533 Diversey in Chicago.

They later moved to the Los Angeles area where they joined the small band of students here who had read the Papers in Chicago. This group was the nucleus of the West Coast URANTIA Society chartered by the Brotherhood in 1956 after the URANTIA Book was published. The name was later changed to First URANTIA Society of Los Angeles (FUSLA).

Paul was elected our first treasurer and served faithfully in this capacity for several years along with Fred Squires, our first president. Both Paul and Naomi regularly attended our meetings held at the Steen home in Pasadena, in Fern Dell Park, and in other locations until they moved to Bonsall. The contributions of their knowledge of the book helped to enrich us in our mutual understanding.

Notes or cards may be sent to Naomi Gollnick, Box 194, Bonsall, California 92003.

--Julia Fenderson

COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued from page 1)

tures, free-for-all discussions, etc.) and dates for our Society's school of Meanings and Values were thoroughly discussed, taking into account wishes expressed by many members at recent opinion-seeking sessions. The results will soon be announced by the Education Committee.

Vern Grimsley, president of the Family of God Foundation in Berkeley, is to be asked to speak at our December 3 meeting. A second feature being planned for this occasion is the annual F.U.S.L.A. gourmet spaghetti feed.

"AS WE PASS BY"

The purpose of this article is to suggest that more of us believers speak what we know--about sonship with God and brotherhood with man--in simple, casual conversations with friends, neighbors, and co-workers.

One day after he and Ganid had returned a lost child to its anxious mother, Jesus said: "You know, Ganid, most human beings are like the lost child. They spend much of their time crying in fear and suffering in sorrow when, in very truth, they are but a short distance from safety and security, even as this child was only a little way from home.

"And all those who know the way of truth and enjoy the assurance of knowing God should esteem it a privilege, not a duty, to offer guidance to their fellows in their efforts to find the satisfactions of living. Did we not supremely enjoy this ministry of restoring the child to his mother? So do those who lead men to God experience the supreme satisfaction of human service."(1465)

Yet many Urantia Believers seem silent about their beliefs. A great percentage, I believe, would truly enjoy this "supreme satisfaction" if they would only make bold to try sharing the truths and faith they have. And the Father would have new opportunities to reach more of his children.

Said Jesus in one of his last appearances: "That which the world needs most to know is: Men are the sons of God, and through faith they can actually realize, and daily experience, this ennobling truth."(2052)

How many of the folks you meet each day

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"AS WE PASS BY" (Continued from page 2)

are truly happy? How many are remotely aware of their divine destiny, or of the God revealed to you and me? How many, on the other hand, reveal a sense of futility of life and a defeating hopelessness, like the lost child Jesus mentioned.

You and I know this isn't what the Father wants his children to feel. Yet "most human beings," said Jesus, "are like the lost child." Nothing is visible beyond the purely material; no brighter future is seen than the "rat race" of business or social competition. No ultimate authority is recognized or known or loved.

These are the individuals with whom we might speak, in an attempt to plant seeds which could grow into a realization of new ways to discover God, the world, and themselves. Certainly, some are not fertile soil. But many others are, who truly hunger for the kind of life-changing good news that has found its way into our hands.

About Jesus' personal ministry we are reminded that "He had time to comfort his fellow men 'as he passed by.'" And "Most of the really important things which Jesus said or did seemed to happen casually, 'as he passed by.'" "And it behooves the Master's followers in all ages to learn to minister 'as they pass by'--to do unselfish good as they go about their daily duties." (1874-5)

Do any of us believe that a few gifted preachers, priests, and teachers are to be the sole communicators of spiritual truth? To his followers, Jesus said: "You are all called to carry the good news to those who sit in darkness. This gospel of the kingdom belongs to all who believe it; it shall not be committed to the custody of mere priests..." (2044)

Still, some believers will say, "Oh, I can't be an instrument for God. I have faults and failings and I'm not that spiritual a person." Experiment anyway, if you have the faintest desire to. At times we are all disappointingly unGodlike; still we are called to human service. For when God hasn't a perfect instrument available, he will use an imperfect instrument--you, or me.

After all, the Master's first call was to men who could hardly be called "spiritual types" who relished prayer, meditation, or worship. Those fellows were earthy, rugged, and ordinary, as we are. And in this com-

mission to share the good news we are not expected to be perfect. The Master's followers, you remember, are to "learn to minister 'as they pass by'...." Jesus tells us to become interested in our brothers and to learn how to love them. (1439) The Book asks "Are you becoming increasingly artistic in your technique of leading hungry souls into the spiritual kingdom? Are you becoming more tactful in dealing with troublesome associates?" (1740) (Emphasis mine) Always the message is gradual progress.

--Jeffrey Bedell
(To be continued in next issue)

GROUPS OF LISTINGS IN THE CONCORDEX

Have YOU discovered some of the "groups" of listings in your CONCORDEX? I have found in conversation with Urantians that most seem unaware of a few helpful "classification" lists.

For instance, if you wish to find the origin of something, look under "O" for "origin". There are some 250 entries. Like: cock as a weather-vane, commercial credit, child adoption, basket making, placental mammals, retrograde motion in astronomic systems, handshaking, sanctuary, tattooing, six colored races.

Conservative religionists are making hay these days, and you may easily be challenged by fundamentalists who assert--without knowing what's in the Bible--that it is all the inspired word of God. Under "word of God, Bible all inspired", page 309 of CONCORDEX, are many entries it is well to have some familiarity with.

Speaking of "challenge", there is a listing of highly stimulating and inspiring "challenges" to every URANTIA BOOK STUDENT under "challenge".

Some people have not even discovered the considerable list of references under "Jesus, on". That listing follows "JESUS" and comes just before "JESUS, QUOTES". You can quickly find some (at least) of what Jesus had to say about such things as anger, accidental riches, defense of the truth, overcoming fear, freedom, love.

Another helpful group listing: "PARABLE". The URANTIA BOOK summarizes many important topics wonderfully. There is a considerable listing on such wisdom under "SUMMATION". See also "NUMBERS, SOME". Good hunting!

--Clyde Bedell