



Julia's Adventure

As West Coast Field Representative of The URANTIA Brotherhood, Julia Fenderson has friends and contacts not only here in California but all through the West including Oregon, Washington, Alaska and Hawaii. Recently Julia made a tour of her area finding that it is true that there are no strangers to one who knows God and that there is a great exhilaration in the meeting of a newly discovered brother.



Tuckey and Pat Hayes pose at the hearth of their Anchorage, Alaska, home during Julia Fenderson's stay in that part of the country.

On her grand adventure, Julia stopped and spoke with our friends at the Wenatchee, Washington Society who are led by Lew and Alice Clark and then flew on to Anchorage, Alaska the same day. Tuckey Hayes, an X-ray technician and his wife Pat, a registered nurse, were able to call a meeting of thirty-five Urantians out of the Alaska woodwork and have an uplifting mini-conference.

Commenting that "the URANTIA grapevine works like magic," Julia had meetings at the Hayes' log cabin around a roaring fireplace making an ideal setting for the committed and fascinated people who came to share in spiritual fellowship. On her six week trip, Julia had a meeting every night, some lasting to two or three in the morning.

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Vern in Southern California

Persons living outside of California little know that this state is deeply split between the North and South. There are conflicts over water rights and use of taxes between the forested, more rural north and the arid, more densely populated south. It was with great anticipation that I, as a student at a university in Southern California, was able to help Vern Grimsley from Berkeley in Northern California come down and do some open evangelizing in spiritually hungry Orange County.

Vern had told me that he wanted to tape his radio broadcast, "On Campus", on campus at schools other than Berkeley and asked about my school, Cal State Fullerton. Anxious to bring some life to a rather barren commuter school, I jumped at the idea. I went to the Religious Studies Student Association and asked them if they wanted, at no expense or effort on their part, to

sponsor Vern's talk on campus. They balked at the idea stating that there was a separation of church and state and that religion on the radio from a school might be too controversial causing the government to close down the Religious Studies department.

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Vern Grimsley speaking at Cal-State Fullerton

FUSLA FEASTINGS

by Janice Kidd

At last, the first West Coast URANTIA cookbook is now on the drawing board! For years the fabulous cooks of FUSLA have been exchanging recipes and dreaming of the day when these delightful dishes would appear in a single volume available to all Urantians. That day has come! A small but eager group of FUSLA members, Bonnie Abbott, Polly Friedman and Janice Kidd, have begun collecting recipes and organizing the project. Other invaluable contributors are Felice Long and Doris Passaretti, who have volunteered to type the entire book, as well as our printing consultant, Bill Sherwood, who will help us get a polished product off the press.

Hopes are high for this enterprise. It is expected to become, not just another ordinary cookbook, but a rare collector's item. Once again we will adhere to the Urantian theme "unity not uniformity."

Due to the diversity of personalities contributing to the cookbook, it will include all sorts of interesting recipes, from old family favorites and home spun quickies, to health-foods and vegetarian concoctions. Another unique feature of the book will be the addition of favorite recipes of past FUSLA members such as our beloved Fred Squires, first President of the society. A few lines about the person submitting a recipe (or about the person for whom it was submitted) will appear along with the recipe in the cookbook, providing a historical overview of FUSLA from its foundation to the present. We have hopes of receiving recipes not only from FUSLA members, but also from fellow Urantians throughout the entire West Coast region, including those highly praised cooks in Alaska and Hawaii recently visited by our West Coast Field Representative, Julia Fenderson.

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editorial

While **The URANTIA Book** tends to attract persons who are free-thinking individuals having attained the levels of comprehension rendering dependence upon ecclesiastical authority unnecessary, a great many of active Urantians still maintain direct relationships with numerous churches and spiritual organizations, ever seeking to plant seeds of living truth in the lives of the evolutionary congregants.

It is in this manner that the growth of our organized URANTIA Brotherhood will keep in touch with the religions of time until that future generation where there will be one God being worshiped and one brotherhood being experienced. **The URANTIA Book**, an aggregate of wood pulp, ink, string and cloth weighing about three pounds, will definitely perform an important service in preparing progressive individuals for this more ideal order of planetary affairs, but more importantly, the new enlightened social structure will be manifested by the acts of spiritually energized individuals who place supreme importance on the divine plan of having evolutionary experience as the concomitant of revelation.

It can be understood that men do not need **The URANTIA Book** immediately in their library in order for the brotherhood of man to be realized. Men need the living experience of the Fatherhood of God in their daily religious living along the lines of the Jesus pattern of personality comforted by the truth discerning insight of the Holy Spirit. The enhanced portrayal of the teachings of Jesus as presented in **The URANTIA Book** belong to all generations and not just the time in which we chance to be alive.

The most stable and effective method of presenting the teachings today is for the transformed sons of God to allow the mind and spirit of Jesus to live again in our lives as a living manifestation of the Father's will. There are risks for the future due to an over-rapid spread of the URANTIA teachings, especially if such unwise and immature actions are openly associated with law-breaking or are divorced from the foundations of true friendship. Friends do not seek places of superiority or arbitrary authority over their associates and our organization of united Urantians should exist as an expression of our mutual love so that we may be more effective in the task of serving our fellow man.

There is no room for activities or dictates which serve only a closed system resulting in spiritual stagnation. We are called to recognize the sacredness of evolutionary experience and that we have no right to assert the arrogance of revelation in order to influence the unwilling. Revelation is a free-will gift that must be asked for. All of us have experienced the folly of trying to prove the sovereignty of **The URANTIA Book** to an antagonistic ear. To barrage the world with unsolicited books and copious information will both confuse our potential friends and numb their senses, such that the work of the more spiritual type of individual seeking strength through friendship and equality will be thwarted.

In the not too distant past, men were seen burning books by the thousands because a select few had decided that these works were a threat to the continuance of their form of civilization. There are equally disturbing cases of books being altered, edited and banned so that the truth is molded to fit an isolated and partial view of history and destiny. The thought of there being several versions of **The URANTIA Book**, each different from the other in size, content and appeal, frightens my sense of justice and my love of the future, so I feel strongly the importance of keeping the text whole and uniform to avoid sectariansim and confusion in the years to come.

A Divine Counselor, when discussing the nature of the Trinity Teacher Sons, on page 215, stresses the importance of approaching cosmic philosophy from the infinite perspective towards the finite as an unbroken process in order to grasp the Father's primacy and come to a spiritual comprehension of destiny. Partial, incomplete and finite-oriented philosophies may reveal a form of finite knowledge but can never lead to the God of all time whom we are seeking to serve and reveal.

There is no real need to "Urantiacize" the planet, but there is a need to spiritualize it. Must we pay the price of sacrificing the unity of future Urantians for a project of dubious merit in the present? What crime is it to cultivate our evolutionary progress a little longer while we wait upon our Father's hour to arrive? Let us focus our patience and accept in faith the methodology of the URANTIA Foundation's protection of the copyright, trademark and service mark in compliance with the laws of the land.

It would be a shame to have to present our accounting of our stewardship of the URANTIA Papers by explaining that we gave the teachings away and lost them with no return. Just as bad would be to bury the book and return it to the Master unchanged and unopened. How much more beautiful would it be to have ready for the return of Michael an undistorted text with a unified group of transformed new-age leaders ready to embark on the spiritual reconstruction of our troubled and isolated planet!

Each agondonter should take these matters seriously and immediately recognize the importance of protecting the text while living the teachings. We are to stand at watch for individuals who would presume to act prematurely by preoccupying themselves with the teaching of themselves at the expense of the teachings of Jesus. Adam and Eve little thought that their unwise short cut would result in the default of an epochal revelation and we need to recognize that the "Book" will not survive on its own but through the lives of sincere leaders and dedicated workers whose vigilance and unity in this fragile beginning will be a service to all future generations and even to the Supreme Being himself.

by Jim McNelly

agondonter

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On Jerusalem, 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." *page 579

*Excerpt from the URANTIA Book, Copyright © 1955 URANTIA Foundation--Used by permission.



A bundled-up Julia Fenderson stops outside North Pole, Alaska.

JULIA'S WEST COAST ADVENTURE

Continued from Page 1

After leaving Anchorage, Julia flew on alone to the North Pole, (no kidding) and was able to get Vern Grimsley's radio broadcast on station KJNP (King Jesus North Pole) and met a Mr. and Mrs. Claus who are noted philanthropists and avid readers of **The URANTIA Book**.

Her next stop was in Hawaii where she stayed with David Saunders, a migrated FUSLAN and URANTIA Leader of whom Julia said, "David helps people as they are. The poor and dejected look to him for inspiration and leadership. The love-expanded fellowship is like a hand across the water where men are not judged by their appearance or by any other standard, but helping them on their level, knowing that other's motivations are unknown save for the Ancients of Days."

Julia also met with Urantians on Oahu and had study sessions everywhere she went. She couldn't help notice that there seemed to be many **URANTIA Book** readers in Hawaii and thinks that in regards to percentage of the total population, Hawaii may be the most populous of states when it comes to students of the teachings. It was an inspiration for Julia to hear how the saving message of the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man has been able to change so many lives and strengthen their spirits in so many ways.

Her next adventure will be in Oregon where she will lead a mini-conference in the city of Rogue River with the assistance of David Clearwaters who lives in the city. Planned to be outdoors among the trees with facilities for camping by a creek, the conference will have music, talks and worship. The dates planned are for May 17 & 18 and all are invited to attend and participate.

Jim McNelly

THE LIVING SOIL

Pat McNelly

The eternal quest in the universe is for unification, for Divine coherence. Expressions of truth, whether in the material, philosophical, or spiritual realms all seek unity as their final goal. We realize again and again how necessary it is to seek the reality of divine unity particularly when we, as finite and imperfect beings, make the same mistakes over and over again. Whether individually or collectively, it seems that ignorance, laziness, or apathy still have powerful influences in our lives, and too often our solutions fall short of what is required to achieve our personal and collective aims.

It is evident to the keen observer that singling out specific situations and then drawing wide range conclusions based on

these findings is a very tenuous approach to the discovery of truth. It is not the purpose of this discussion to attempt to draw any conclusions that rest alone as the solutions to one of man's complex problems, but rather to simply elucidate a theme from **The URANTIA Book** that has particular meaning in our current planetary situation.

With the population of Urantia nearing 4 billion, no greater immediate need faces us than the production of enough food to feed our hungry peoples. Already in many nations, famine and associated starvation and sickness is causing hundreds of thousands of deaths annually. This tragic but true fact does not make itself as obvious in the United States as it does in Bangladesh, India, or North Africa, but U.S. Government reports do show that between 10 and 20 million Americans are still undernourished and even a greater number have poor eating habits, either as a result of ignorance, or, more often, poverty. Man will always be a creature of the soil and the land-man ratio will ever underlie all future social civilizations on our planet. With the quadrupling of the land-man ratio following the onset of the agricultural era, continuing techniques to increase crop yields became imperative. When our ancestors found that land was plentiful, human life was greatly enhanced and social cultures began to emerge. A man's death caused great sorrow in these times because of his value to the whole group. However, when land is scarce and populations are abundant, life becomes less valuable to the whole and death by war, starvation, or calamity is thought of with less concern. When we find countries with burdensome over-populations and associated starvation, the struggle for life mirrors that of our animal cousins in the wild, and the worst traits of our mortal nature take command. As yields increase and as the mechanical arts become extended along with a more sensible balance of population control, the better side of humanity comes to the surface no longer subject to the slavish drives of our animal heritage. This factor of increasing the land yield was known nearly 500,000 years ago we are told in **The URANTIA Book**. When our Planetary Prince Caligastia first arrived on URANTIA with his staff of 100, the cultivation of the soil immediately became the center of all of their teachings and for 300 thousand years, working with the soil held a top priority around Dalamatia. It is tragically sad to note that nearly all of these

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SAN FERNANDO VALLEY STUDY GROUP

A study group that meets regularly that was not listed in last issue's calendar is in the San Fernando Valley at Polly Parke Friedman's house. It meets the third Saturday of each month with the members eager to increase the size of their group in order to meet more often. Polly says that they follow a format very similar to the one described by Bob Hunt in a previous issue of the "Agondonter."

You can call Polly at 213-360-4018 for more information.

KERMIT IN AFRICA

People often joke about the size of the city of Los Angeles, claiming to see city limits signs everywhere from Japan to Mansonia number one, but Kermit Anderson, a loyal member of the First URANTIA Society of Los Angeles, extended the boundaries of the city of the angels to Zaire, Africa. Zaire, you may recall, is the place where Muhamed Ali regained his heavyweight title and Simon Zelotes ended up after leaving his fellow apostles and heading off to the heart of Africa.

Kermit tells us that he too first went to Zaire thinking of himself as a missionary to test the ideals of living as a citizen of the planet URANTIA going into a foreign environment, not being content to be ignorant of his fellow men. He was given the opportunity to travel with the Peace Corps and the Teacher Corps in order to be a science teacher in a primitive area high school where no one else spoke English. Being open to new experiences and seeking to free his soul, Kermit had that singular religious zeal that could only lead to disappointment.

He tells us that his isolation and absence of fellowship with persons of his own kind brought out frustrations and lower emotions, showing him the wisdom of Jesus' practice of sending out his ambassadors in groups of two. Only once was he able to discuss the God concept openly with the children of evolutionary and superstitious religion, but this one experience greatly affected a young truth seeker who had learned the teachings about Jesus from the Christian missionaries but found the teachings of

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VERN IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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I never mentioned any connection with URANTIA activities, just the proposal of religious evangelism. I had been one of the founders of the student association and was shocked at their hesitation in supporting a project of a long time member. Undaunted, I went to the Student Activities center and founded my own group called the "Friends of Truth." It was no problem getting a faculty advisor and four members as there are many URANTIA scholars and friends of truth on campus. Our first activity was sponsoring Vern to speak and indeed he did.

Those who may have seen Vern speak before URANTIA gatherings know of his presence and oratorical power, but those who have yet to see him in outside truth revealing are in for a surprise. His appeal is compelling, universal and a thrilling demonstration of the dynamic of a living spiritual faith. On a campus known for its apathy and active non-involvement, Vern was able to hold the attention of one hundred full time listeners and to cause an equal number of passers-by to stop and listen for a short while. Vern, in one afternoon, out drew the rock-bands, the political pedagogues, the lecture series and even food as a main attraction.

He told us not to be ashamed for being religious in an age where organized religion is getting a bad name. He shared some insights gleaned from years of talking to students at the Berkeley campus. More than being entertaining, Vern's message of the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man is presented in a dynamic and compelling manner. Not only is his style interesting and the material thought-provoking, the relevance of his appealing gospel is immediate in its receptivity.

His talk went on for an hour with questions and answers following. When Vern addressed our monthly FUSLA meeting in December, the message was still the Gospel of Jesus, but the appeal was for teachers even more than believers. Vern drew over eighty persons to the FUSLA meeting with many of the Bay Area group coming down with him.

As Director of the Spiritual Renaissance Institute and President of the non-denominational Family of God Foundation, Grimsley has been the subject of nation-wide CBS interviews and powerful

Radio Free Europe has beamed his commentary on the future of religion behind the Iron Curtain in six languages. This dawning spiritual renaissance, according to Vern, "will one day make more difference in this world than any war which has ever been waged, or any governmental, political, social or economic upheaval in all of human history. This is an age of seekers, and we at the Spiritual Renaissance Institute say there is something to find — God. When you seek God, you seek it all; when you find God, you find all."

Those interested in more information may contact the Spiritual Renaissance Institute by writing to Box 347, Berkeley, California, 94701. Be sure to ask for the time and station for Vern's broadcast, "On Campus", in your area.

Jim McNelly

HOLIDAY NEWS ITEMS

from Julia K. Fenderson

The increased communication among our western URANTIAN groups has been joyful and rewarding in dozens of ways. During the holidays, Barbara Maier arrived at Julia's home bringing news and greetings from Tuckey and Pat Hayes' great group in Anchorage, Alaska. She came the same weekend Vern and Nancy Grimsley were here so she achieved a dream to meet and visit with them and with David Kantor and Richard Keeler, as well as to attend our big monthly meeting at Brentwood School, and meet with nearly 100 loyal Urantians of California gathered to hear Vern Grimsley.

Soon after this, Norman Ingram and his son Eric arrived from Hilo, Hawaii, for a day's visit and happened in when a small study meeting was going on in Julia's home so they were able to meet several of our group. Then Tony Johnson from Captain Cook, Hawaii, visited several of our study meetings while staying with his sister and parents in Marina. He participated in our midnight Prayer Watch, to usher in the New Year at Julia's.

Bob and Cheryl Boden of Loleta, California, stopped at Julia's for dinner and a long visit with news of that growing Eureka group in Northern California where we will have a mini-conference in the spring. Dr. and Mrs. Richard Prince are now up there, as are Susan Jennings and the Victor Schwabs.

Dozens of calls — both local and long distance, came over the Urantian phone at Julia's, wishing us all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

KERMIT IN AFRICA

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Jesus only after contact with Kermit. From this and other experiences, Kermit saw also the wisdom of bringing the leaders of primitive countries to learn and study in the progressive countries instead of sending foreigners to spread the truths of eternal life to people with very short life spans.

His role, this idealistic volunteer realized, was as a science teacher more than as a religious leader and found experience goals that were more easily attainable. Satisfied with a sense of adventure and energized with a lone English speaking visitor, Kermit lived in service for an entire year with only letters and copies of the "Agondonter" to keep him company.

He taught in French, his second language and his student's third, and ten subjects even though he was prepared only in physics, math and chemistry. He became painfully aware of the consequences of Caligastia's rebellion and the default of Adam and Eve in the misery of ignorance, disease and deformity. He saw the dangers of mixing technical revelation without the time governor of experiential adjustment. He did find much nobility of spirit and a profound hospitality by the tribesmen and villagers. Something was the same in both the stone age and the twentieth century as they converged before his eyes.

The development of a unified international language and a development of the service motive in association with technical advances are keys to the progress of emerging nations, according to Kermit. The people are eager for knowledge and crave fellowship with the rest of the world. Isolation, according to Kermit, brought **The URANTIA Book** alive to him and like a Jonah in darkness, brought him ashore, back to the duties of living he had left for far-off enticements.

His growth, he reports, was wholly unconscious and that God takes care of all of his children when they are in need. Coming back to the United States was made twice the homecoming for he was able by coincidence to attend last summer's URANTIA Convention in Chicago. To go from total isolation into the arms of over three hundred Urantians was quite an experience. Through all of this, Kermit sees much good to have come out of his travels and has brought him, in his own assessment, to be more aware of his dependence upon God and

the importance of socializing his spiritual brotherhood experience. He says that he misses the fine African beer but it is not enough to get him to go back to live. The adventure, in his final analysis, was so valuable that he wouldn't trade it for anything. The "Agondonter" welcomes Kermit back home and thanks him for sharing his personal experiences with our readership.

by Jim McNelly



LETTER FROM NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

November 27

Dear Jim,

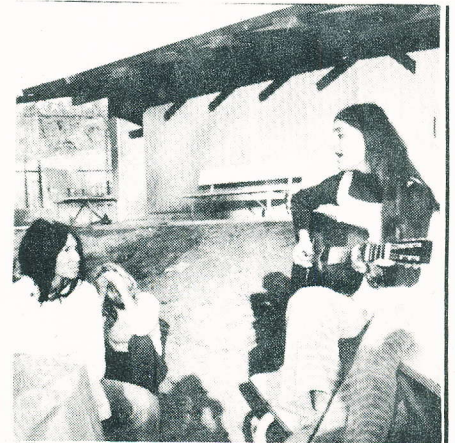
Congratulations to you and your staff on the spectacular November 1974 Agondonter. I just got home this afternoon (from seeing Bob and Cheryl Boden in Loleta) when I pulled it out of the mailbox. What a powerful piece of publishing. The calendar should make it quite easy for folks who are not yet strongly into a group scene to more easily focus on what is happening when. Please tell Bob Hunt that I enjoyed his piece on study groups. You guys should make him a regular columnist. Your review of the new concordex was great, Jim. Buck and Arlene's article on the Picnic was characteristically trippy. I could see the entire event in my mind's eye as I read of the unfolding of the day. We saw them just a few days before the picnic and their high hopes for the event sound as though they were justified. I have heard Mark Freeman tell his story of how he

found **The URANTIA Book** before but never so powerfully. I hope you got to meet him through his efforts for this issue. He is a very gifted, entertaining and loving brother who can and I'm sure will make many more beautiful contributions from time to time. Finally, I was completely unprepared for what I found in the back of the issue. Your article on money says many things which I strongly feel. Money is only as good or as bad as are the uses to which the man who has it decides to put it. As society becomes more complex it is increasingly more difficult to cast off our material possessions, don a saffron robe, and walk the streets like a monk proclaiming God's love. I have no doubt that if one were possessed of a perfect love and an unshakable desire to do the will of the Father such an approach could bear fruit, but such a human is too rare an event to be counted on for the important job of extending the Kingdom today! Money is energy, freedom to act, means to control material realities in such a way as to augment growth of spiritual realities. I only hope that more Urantians will come to realize that, while Love can overcome many problems, it cannot, at this time in our planet's history, buy stamps, print books and "Agondonters", pay salaries, etc.

I would also appreciate your letting me know how I can help the book committee in its work. I have put a few books in institutions up here, but I'm not sure how "strategic" anyplace in Humboldt County is. Everyplace is beautiful though, even in the rain, and we would all like to see you up here when you get a chance. Much Love to all our friends down south,

Dick Prince

During FUSLA's most recent picnic held December 8, 1974 at Rustic Canyon Park, the group was warmed in hearing some original ballads by Francyl Streano (right). As the day progressed, Buck and Arlene Weimer, who have since relocated in Pueblo, Colorado, auctioned off their treasured house plants in the hopes of raising money for the Foundation's efforts. They raised \$600.75, a sum which wouldn't have been possible without the generosity of Buffy St. Marie (left), who later punctuated the day by sharing herself professionally in music.



SCHOLARS QUIZ

Pat McNelly

The "Agondonter" has been going through some changes lately, many which deal with the form of the newsletter, and others which deal with our content and style. The "Scholar's Quiz" is no exception. The original idea was born with a skit that our Fullerton Study Group presented over a year ago as part of a program dealing with humor and **The URANTIA Book** which we presented to a monthly meeting in Los Angeles. URANTIA "trivia" questions were part of a hypothetical game show of the future and everyone had a good laugh. There was a problem here though. Realizing that there is nothing trivial about information in the book, we wondered if there wasn't a place in the "Agondonter" for a "Scholar's Quiz" that would not only ask questions about some of the more obscure facts contained in the encyclopedic **URANTIA Book**, but also serve as a study group aid and be entertaining and informative as well. We hope we've succeeded. But, realizing that one can only do so much with mere facts, the "Scholar's Quiz" is being discontinued and in its place I will be

LITERATURE

Julia Fenderson would like to tell our readers that she is offering at cost several study aids for **The URANTIA Book**. The items she has available are:

Study Groups, 2 pages \$.20
An Annotated Bibliography
for Parents, 27 pages \$1.75
Maps Illustrating the Life
and Travels of Jesus, 18 pages. \$1.00
Reaching Children with the
URANTIA Teachings, 17 pages \$1.00

Southern California URANTIA Brotherhood Member at Large, Bob Hunt, gave a talk to FUSLA that he had previously given to the World Future Society entitled "THE URANTIA BOOK: A Guide to the Future and Beyond". This talk is designed as an introduction to the book for an intellectually orientated audience. The "Agondonter" is pleased to be able to offer his twenty-page presentation for the price of one dollar each, postpaid. Communications should be addressed to the "Agondonter", P.O. Box 5488, Fullerton, Calif. 92635.

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writing a regular feature which will explore a specific theme emphasized in **The URANTIA Book**. My article, "The Living Soil" is the first in a series of what I hope will be a continuing effort. I've enjoyed doing the research for "The Scholars Quiz" and hope my joy has been shared with our readers. And now, here are the answers to the questions in the November "Agondonter."

As to which were the *first* land animals to appear on URANTIA, there has been much discussion. On page 680 we are told that the first land animals were air breathing amphibians, and that there were numerous species of these primitive frogs. However, on page 675 we are told that nearly 100 million years before the age of frogs, certain primitive worms left their marine habitat and burrowed along those ancient shores. Weren't these worms actually the *first* land animals?

Concerning camels and llamas, they first appeared on the continent of North America around 30 million years ago. Check page 696.

We are told that the greatest single leap of all pre-human evolution was when the reptile became a bird. Polly want a dinosaur?

Speaking of dinosaurs, being all but brainless, they were unable to provide themselves with enough nourishment to sustain their enormous bulk and were soon doomed to extinction. Brain size, not brawn, became the evolutionary technique for the future.

Coal shortage? Some coal bearing strata in North America and Europe are 18,000 feet thick.

Does it seem colder this winter? In the past there have been six different and unique ice invasions in the Northern continents.

Are you still searching for those missing links? Forget it. They are missing because they never existed.

Surprisingly enough, there was a land bridge connecting South America and Africa as recently as 170 million years ago.

The builders of the great stone faces on Easter Island were descendents of a group of 132 Andites who embarked 12,000 years ago from Japan to South America in a fleet of small boats. Got a match? The first method for starting a fire was discovered by both Andon and Fonta, our first human parents. After being away from their primitive ancestors for just one month, Fonta found a dry bird's nest which quickly ignited the moment a spark fell upon it, startling both the twins so much that they almost lost their first fire in their excitement.

soil

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advances were lost to future generations when Caligastia threw in his lot with the other participants of the Lucifer Rebellion.

As mankind moved from the pastoral stage to the agricultural stage, the cultural panorama was taking form and the highest type of material civilization was being born. Where domestication of animals characterized the previous era, the domestication of plants ushered in the agricultural era, and this urge for growing plants continues to exert an ennobling influence on the races of man. **The URANTIA Book** tells us also that not only does association with plants instill patience and peace (though less excitement and adventure than other social activities) but in association with industry, mass agricultural projects free much of the population to develop a true cultural civilization and allow the necessary leisure time for man's philosophical, artistic, and spiritual pursuits.

Again it is shown that underlying all civilization is this land-man ratio, and techniques to develop a more abundant yield whether in the physical soil of our planet or within the spiritual gardens of our heart should be of concern to each of us.

The organic blanket of rich black humus so painstakingly created by nature's long practiced methods is perhaps the most important natural legacy that we can insure is left behind for our children and the many generations of mortals to follow. Perhaps no other single natural phenomenon is as important to man as is the living soil of the planet and its many living organisms from bacteria and fungi to the protozoa and the much maligned, blind lowly earthworm. Of course air and water have a rightful place on the list of essential natural needs as well. We might find an able model in our humus brother, the earthworm, who toils unceasingly converting decaying organic matter into dark rich topsoil in nature's compost heap of the centuries, as we engage in the "cosmic composting" program of the ascension career, mulching the insights of mota with the loamy clay of our evolutionary heritage. We are given a rich spiritual soil in which to grow, even the Father's eternal light in each of our hearts, and we can, if we choose, create through love even more abundant yields of worshipful joy and happiness in the life gardens of our brothers and sisters. In the same way that we might cover our

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REFLECTIONS

by Vince Ventola

Sitting down to write, to share my thoughts and feelings with you. Thinking of all the people, the faces, the eyes, the faces behind the eyes of all the brothers and sisters I have met on this incredible path. In some way, shape, or form, to whatever degree, each one of us has been touched by the teachings of **The URANTIA Book**. From the point of our initial discovery we have also experienced the "drawing power" of this revelation as we began to search for other readers and expand our consciousness to their ideas, theories, perceptions, and personalities. It has been an invaluable experience listening to other students of the URANTIA revelation and interesting to note the ideas and attitudes of the more "experienced" students in contrast to the more "recent arrivals." It is also interesting to note who considers themselves knowledgeable and experienced and who remains forever a beginner. I cannot remember ever encountering a more diverse group of beings. Our moments of fellowship and worship are among the most meaningful and significant experiences in my life.

Yet, I cannot help but wonder, many people have seen **The URANTIA Book** but how many have seen the LIGHT? Why does so much of the "transforming power" of this revelation seem to occur in each other's presence because we have a love this book more than our brothers and sisters? Are we merely comfortable in each others presence because we have a meeting of the minds and mutual acceptance and interest in the teachings? How do we interpret **The URANTIA Brotherhood**? Does it apply only to readers or to every being on this planet? Is **The**

URANTIA Book really our only common bond? Or can we dig deeper and look through it to our real Source and Center?

How concerned are we — how interested are we in each other? Do we acknowledge the term "Brotherhood of Man" in our intellects or our hearts? Regardless of our seemingly different life styles, are we interested in becoming friends too? Do we have the time? Do we have the desire? Do we have the LOVE? Do we find ourselves still criticizing each other or unable to work out the "rough spots" in our relationships? Has our interest in organization building replaced our interest in the self-realization of brotherhood?

Do we still strive for ever deepening personal communion with the Father? Or do we assume we know Him and His Truths because we have **The URANTIA Book**? Do we look for Him in our daily lives? Do we see His "face" in our brother's "face"? Has the experience of **The URANTIA Book** become a substitute for the personal experience of God Consciousness? How well do we really **KNOW** Our Father? How clearly do we discern His Will? How good are we at following? How open are we in heart, mind, and spirit to Him? To each other?

Is knowing **The URANTIA Book** knowing it all? Is this the beginning or the end of our questioning and seeking? How well do we read the book? How often? Are our ideas and theories crystalizing or do we continually subject our mind's interpretation to a continual bathing and re-energizing in study groups? How well do we **LIVE** the book?

Do we **LOVE** one another as Jesus loved us? Does it matter to you?



FUSLA FEASTINGS

Continued from page 1

Perhaps your salivary glands are already secreting in anticipation of this extraordinary volume of soul sustenance. Please remember that we need the assistance of each and every one of you for the complete success of this project. Working together on small service oriented projects such as this will help us to know one another better so that we can grow as a strong body united in the dissemination of the URANTIA teachings now and in future years. We hope to enjoy your full support and your favorite recipes soon. Your entries are needed as soon as possible to allow time for organizing, typing and printing. Send your recipes

today to: Janice Kidd
% The "Agondonter"
P. O. Box 5488
Fullerton, CA 92635

It will be helpful for you to include a short message about yourself, your recipe, your involvement with **The URANTIA Book** etc. The projected date of completion is April 4, 1975, just in time for FUSLA's West Coast URANTIA Celebration. Hopefully, the cookbooks will be available at this time for your perusal and purchase. They will also be available by mail following the official announcement of their arrival. **ALL** profits will be donated to FUSLA for the work of disseminating the URANTIA teachings.

VAN and the AGONDONTERS

By Jim English

Oh, it had been such a long time. The very ages now loomed between him and his onetime mortal career. How short and frail were the lives of men.

The resurrection! And then the ascension. Van went back in his mind to the day he received word of his acceptance for service on Caligastia's corporeal staff. There had been meetings, instructions, preparations, and then, once again, life in the flesh.

His train of thought ran through the 606 adventure finally spilling him into the present. He became aware of the personalities around him making ready the departure. Yes — he felt relieved to be returning to Jerusalem. Relieved, yet somehow sorrowed. 500,000 years had made him part in the heart of this confused planet. He'd seen it grow and then . . . wither, betrayed by the rain.

So it came to pass that a mountain spring became the showers, and the innocent received the power. And down through the lives of countless kings, he and Amadon were kept alive in their highland home by the ministry of the receivers. There the mighty men of old had nursed and nurtured the waters of life and truth, slowly irrigating the thirsty world.

But now the age of the fallen prince had closed. The message was loosed on the wings of birds and the air was astir. "The promised Son has come." The majestic Adam and Eve had won the hearts of men as they stood vested in kingly robes, ready to receive the helm of the earth.

But now as the company made ready to depart, Van caught a troubled look deep in Adam's eyes. One even of disillusionment and perhaps only visible to the eye of the ages, but there none-the-less. The voice of the universe fell mute on URANTIA, and it was so lonely.

Van drew a sigh and started into the evening sky. His part in this great adventure had drawn to a close. The sprawling stars had beckoned him countless nights before, but this night they seemed somehow closer. He was on his way to Jerusalem where his beloved Adjuster timelessly awaited his return.

THE LIVING SOIL

Continued from Page 6

vegetable gardens with a living compost and make sure we provide enough water and light, we should let the soil of the soul be constantly enriched with the water of life when we suffer from spiritual drought and famine, and breathe deeply of the breath of life, inhaling the beauty of the universe as we rejuvenate our spirit in times of mental smog.

We should become more adept at worming our way through the errors of the past as we let our lives become fertilized by the living URANTIA Revelation. I am told by some reliable Life Carriers that applying these methods of spiritual organic gardening eliminates the pests of selfishness, envy, and suspicion while enriching the yields of Truth, Beauty, and Goodness without the insecticides of superstition, fear, and pride. **The URANTIA Book** is full of references to life, growth, light, soil, plants, water, but after even a cursory first reading one cannot help but come to know that the greatest fertilizer in the world for growth and life is Love, even the love that lets us know that we are God's children and are truly one universal family.

So as agriculture became more and more the domain of a select few, especially in our nation, so too have many of us forgotten or lost sight of the fact that even the highest social developments must ever rest upon a sound agricultural basis. And the same thing has become true in the religious world where the churches are being controlled by a select few and the majority of souls experience religion second hand just as most of us get our

food second hand from the supermarket and never enjoy the taste or economic benefits of home grown vegetables. We have chemically fertilized lawns where we could have organic gardens and we have second-hand religion instead of a living spiritual brotherhood.

Few of us realize how delicate the land, air, and water of URANTIA really is much less what must be done in the next 25 to 50 years to insure that the mistakes of the past are not made again and that the lands that are now fertile continue to remain that way, that the air continues to im-

prove and regain its health from the abuse it is being put to, that our waters remain pure so that our children will enjoy their life giving blessing. While we are certainly called to a great adventure of discovery and service in the worlds and universes to come, the work we have to do to salvage our planet from physical ignorance, philosophical uncertainty, and spiritual darkness must be our primary concern as long as this world is still our home. The harvest is great, but the laborers are few. The eternal quest in the universe is for unification. Let us joyfully do the Father's will.

CALENDAR

The First URANTIA Society of Los Angeles meets on the first Sunday of each month – Call (213) 276-6168.

FUSLA West Coast URANTIA Celebration – April 4, 5, 6 – Call Vince (213) 395-0892

Study groups:

SUNDAYS

Fullerton – Call Jim & Sue (714) 526-5185
Santa Ana – Call Leonard & Jan (714) 979-9289
Venice – Call Bob & Bonnie (213) 823-5723
Anaheim – Call Pat and Jeff (714) 826-7468 or
Marley (714) 635-9773

WEDNESDAYS

Downtown Los Angeles – Call Michael & Felice (213) 626-7304
North Hollywood – Call Kermit (213) 352-4997 or
Dorothy, Bill & Lenore (213) 985-5669

West Los Angeles – Call Dorothy (213) 472-8722
Riverside – Call Russ, Gladys & Fran (714) 687-5257

THURSDAYS

Santa Monica – Call Vince & Cathy (213) 395-0892

SATURDAYS

Sepulveda – Call Bill & Carol (213) 892-8739
San Fernando Valley – Call Polly (213) 360-4018

Study groups in **all** areas wishing to be included in the above listing, whether for the purpose of acquiring members or for the introduction of new people, please contact the "Agondonter".

agondonter

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Fullerton, California 92635

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