



Oklahoma Set for International Forum

It's not too soon to begin thinking seriously about the 1976 URANTIA INTERNATIONAL FORUM, to be held June 25, 26, and 27, at Fountainhead Lodge, Checotah, Oklahoma, on Lake Eufala.

This promises to be the Urantia event of the year, over two hundred people already having registered. It could very well turn out to be the largest gathering of Urantians to date in the history of the Master Universe.

Sponsored by the First Urantia Society of Oklahoma, the program will be centered around the theme of "matter, mind, and spirit."

PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS FEATURED

The three-day Forum will be followed by three additional days of workshops combining in-depth study of deep topics, rest, recreation, and fellowship.

To give you an idea of the growing size and worshipful spirit of the nuclear group in Oklahoma, here is a report from FUSOK President, Tom Allen:

"Ninety-eight people gathered together at a Holiday Inn in South Oklahoma City to celebrate the August 21st birthday of Jesus of Nazareth. It was a glorious celebration, as we all gathered together in love to participate in a supper of remembrance to our Lord."

And for those of you who have not attended a large gathering of Urantians, listen to this letter from Lee Armstrong of Iowa City, reflecting on the August Conference in Chicago:

"Wasn't that General Conference amazing? There were so many fine people there with well-balanced personalities and positive outlooks—360 examples! The speakers shared new insights and gave a sense of strength to the older ones. I think Charlene Morrow from Oklahoma had to have been into The URANTIA Book for eighteen years in order to give her talk on the Supreme Being. The slide show that the Kantors and Connie Aller gave was a real experience. A picture is indeed worth a thousand words.

"I felt great joy and strength to share such a beautiful experience with brothers and sisters who are dedicating their lives to the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man."

For additional information and registration forms, write to Berkeley Elliott, First Urantia Society of Oklahoma, 1909 First National Center, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102.

Although reservations will be accepted until June 1st, please register as soon as possible to help Berkeley with her planning.

A Note from Julia STUDY GROUPS VS. PUBLICITY

Dear Friends:

I want to express a concern and some possible solutions for your consideration and reply. I realize that any discussion should be the composite thinking of many dedicated people and should be expressed to headquarters in Chicago.

In early days we were advised to form thousands of study groups and further, to avoid publicity. In this way people from all walks of life would become knowledgeable about Urantia through individual study. Most of all, individuals' lives would be unstopped, enabling them, in their various walks of life, to grow wisely and upset the lives of others.

Again: THOUSANDS of study groups before any publicity.

My concern is that of keeping a balance between the continued growth of modest, small study groups and the ever-growing big conferences.

I love the joy, fellowship and presentations at these conferences and I have always been right in there working for them. However, now I am beginning to foresee some real dangers in the emphasis on and fast growth of

big conferences. They appear to be growing at a far faster rate than the smaller, in-the-home, grass roots study groups.

For example, we could easily anticipate a thousand people attending a national conference in the next two or three years. By contrast, we cannot count more than a hundred study groups in the whole world—and more than 35,000 books have been sold.

This is obviously an out-of-balance situation. The emphasis should return to small study groups.

Let's examine some possible hypothetical results of this out-of-balance situation and then set a course to try to correct it. Say that a thousand should attend one national conference. Our first reaction is "GREAT". However, let's think this through. 1,000 come with very little background and study group experience. There always exists a natural, emotional quest of enthusiasm which we all share.

A crowd that large and enthusiastic is necessary. I have been married to a newspaper man for twenty-five years and I know that a crowd that size will attract reporters. They will know nothing about the Book. They can only gather a few notes here and there, possibly from people who have had to drop training or interaction with others at small study groups in homes. The reporter may attend some in-between meetings at hotels or restaurants where—you can supply the rest of the possibi-

lies. How will all this come out in his hastily written articles for newspapers or magazines? You can just surmise (and pretty accurately) that it will do a great disservice to our newly organizing movement—yet in its infancy stage.

Great credit goes to our leaders in the Foundation and Brotherhood who have so far so successfully kept this quiet through twenty years. It is amazing and worthy that they have done so, and we must continue their good work.

Let's work toward the goal of thousands of study groups. My own stated goal is to be able to report at least 100 study groups from the west at the Triennial Conference in June, 1976 in Chicago. We cannot force study groups but we can help organize the existing enthusiastic individuals into small study groups thus attracting other readers and students and we can improve and update present small groups with sparks of new ideas and help for improved study.

We would deeply appreciate your reactions and help. We are all working for the Father and in the same loving family.

Love-peace-joy,
Julia
Gaila Fenderson
Field Representative





The Master Universe

Pictured here is one artist's conception of the Master Universe, based on descriptions in *The URANTIA Book*, the fifth epochal revelation to the planet Earth (Urantia).

1. At the center is the stationary Isle of Paradise, geographical center of infinity and home of the Paradise Trinity (the Universal Father, the Eternal Son and the Infinite Spirit.) The cones extending upward and downward from Paradise represent the Space Reservoirs.
2. Circling Paradise are the twenty-one Sacred Spheres, seven associated with each person of the Paradise Trinity.
3. Next come the seven circuits of the one billion perfect worlds of the Central Universe (Havona).
4. The broad encircling band represents the dark gravity bodies which obscure the Paradise-Havona system from the surrounding creations.
5. Slowly circling the Central Universe are the seven Superuniverses, containing the evolutionary worlds of time and space. The capital of our Superuniverse, Uversa, is marked in the picture with the letter **U**.
6. Each of the seven Superuniverses contains 100,000 Local Universes. Each Local Universe has a potential of approximately ten million inhabited planets. Our Local Universe, Nebadon, is represented by the white dot marked with a small circle (o) near the outer edge of our Superuniverse.
7. At the outermost edge of the picture are the four Outer Space Levels, the vast domains of organizing universes destined for future habitation. The entire creation comprises the Master Universe.

Man's Eternal Destiny

A fragment of the Universal Father indwells each human being on Urantia. As Jesus said, "The Kingdom of Heaven is within you." By conscious prayer and worship, we commune on superconscious levels with this indwelling Mystery Monitor, which guides us through the portals of death, and through the Mansion Worlds to the capital of the Local Universe.

Then, as spirit beings, we ascend through the Superuniverse to the Central Universe. After traversing each of the one billion perfect worlds of Havona, we attain the goal of our age-long universe career, the joyous experience of the personal presence of our Paradise Father.

Thereafter, we are mustered into the Corps of the Finality for undisclosed service in eternity.

—CMM

— "The Master Universe"

An artist's conception by
Charles Montgomery ©1975
Original 60"x84" on cloth.

Lovingly photographed by Bill Sherwood

Reflections

—by Vince Vestola

He asked that we do this in remembrance of Him. He asked us to recall the life he lived among us and to remember that he is with us now. As was his manner, the Remembrance Supper was the utmost in simplicity.

This is the joyous celebration of a new dispensation of the bestowal of The Spirit of Truth to our world. This is a celebration of Brotherhood and Fatherhood. This is a celebration!

He would not tell us when to pray. He did not tell us when to have Remembrance Suppers. Many Urantians are moved to remember him this very special way on his birthday and Remembrance Suppers have become a special annual event. And yet, I am continually amazed by the number of long time students of The Life and Teachings of Jesus who rarely celebrate, in the good fellowship of brothers and sisters, the remembrance of Michael's bestowal life on URANTIA.

I would like to share some personal reflections with you. I experienced my first Remembrance Supper three years ago at the home of Julia Fenderson, Field Representative for the URANTIA Brotherhood. (Note: I had The URANTIA Book for two years and somehow managed to miss the entire significance of Remembrance Suppers.) I was intrigued and delighted and wanted to know more about this unique experience.

Julia and I spent much time studying pages 1941, 1942, and 1943 of The URANTIA Book. (Notice how many times they refer to Jesus as intending to institute this new practice.)

I was and still am intrigued by the fact that we are told the Master is really present on all such occasions—and the words "really present" appear in those italicized letters which are used so rarely and so emphatically. Very interesting. . . I think they are trying to tell us something.

Another interesting item while we're on the subject—from time to time a Remembrance Supper would take place, and a day or two later we would discuss it in greater depth. Often Julia would remark: "But it still isn't right. There's more. I just know there is." And there was. . .

Example: Many times we noticed that certain individuals had a very difficult time expressing their thoughts out loud. Some were actually so nervous that the entire experience was quite uncomfortable. Often, as a means to break the tension, these individuals would try to say something humorous—which is fine. We should never become overly sanctimonious or grimly solemn, especially since there are so many beautifully humorous events in the life of Jesus.

However, what seemed to keep happening, is that these little anecdotes had nothing whatsoever to do with the Master, his life, or his teachings.

This problem was eliminated by simply stating at the beginning of the Remembrance Supper that it wasn't really necessary to say anything when the cup of remembrance was handed to you. Rather than worrying about what to say, simply enjoy the experience, listen to the remembrances or prayers of those with you, relax into the attentions when no one is speaking and try to feel the Master's presence.

When the cup is handed to you, speak if you are moved to speak—or commune silently within. Do what feels best and most natural for you.

Through the years Remembrance Suppers have become more Real, more meaningful, and more valuable simply because we were moved to have them more often. It was by sharing Remembrance Suppers that they evolved. Sharing Remembrance Suppers transformed purely social occasions into deeply moving experiences of fellowship and communion with the Divine. What a beautiful way to welcome new members into your study group and what a perfect way to personally introduce them to this practice, there in the warmth of your home!

At this writing we use water only since many people cannot or prefer not to drink wine. Many times we omit the use of bread.

We used to read certain incidents pertaining to Jesus' life directly from our URANTIA Books. Now we express these incidents in our own words.

We often have a period of group meditation and worship before the actual Remembrance Supper. This helps to center our thoughts and enables us to really focus our minds and energies. It also relaxes us and makes us more receptive to feeling Michael's presence. And above all, we take our time.

I strongly urge you to rediscover this practice and to reconsider any negative feelings you may harbor. All Remembrance Suppers will be different. Great! Each and every one a new experience! The Master only sought to suggest the way when he instituted this practice.

He has passed the cup of Remembrance to us and it is now in our hands, waiting to be passed on to our brothers and sisters here today and down to the generations of all tomorrows. All of us sharing in the actual presence of Michael here and now—in this lifetime—on the world of his seventh and final bestowal, URANTIA.

I look forward to sharing a Remembrance Supper with you.

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Write to: Agondonter, PO Box 563,
Los Angeles, CA 90053

Editor: Charles Montgomery
Production Manager: Bill Sherwood
Editorial Consultant: Julia Fenderson

Editorial Board: Jeff Bedell
Charles Montgomery
Scott Forsythe

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."*

*page 579

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P. O. Box 563
Los Angeles, CA
90053

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