



## INFORMALITY IN A NATURAL SETTING

### Northwest Enjoys Two Small Conferences

Medium-sized regional conferences are becoming more frequent, and the Northwest States enjoyed two this year, one in southern Oregon, in May, and another in central Washington, in October. Both get-togethers were characterized by informality, the daytime portions being held in outdoor park settings, followed by an indoor evening program.

**OREGON:** This lovely mini-conference took place on the banks of the Rogue River on May 22, 1976. The day began with a session of spontaneous thanksgiving, followed by prepared talks, skits, and music. Luscious avocado sandwiches were provided by Joe Zabriel. Many enjoyed afternoon swimming or volleyball. In the evening session Julia Fenderson gave a slide-talk on "Study Groups around the World," Chick Montgomery explained his large mural of the "Master Universe," and Vern Grimsley gave a stirring talk on "Proclaiming the Kingdom." Credit goes to David and Rose Clearwaters for organizing this fine mini-conference.

**WASHINGTON:** The First URANTIA Society of Wenatchee sponsored "Another Northwest Get-Together" on Saturday, October 2, 1976 at River County Park up in Washington. Some came early and enjoyed a Friday night campfire, staying overnight in tents and campers.

URANTIA Foundation Trustee Art Born and Foundation President Tom Kendall came all the way from Chicago to attend the conference.

On Saturday people gathered for the main event, which included informal worship, music, readings, a question and answer session, discussions, play, and general fellowship. After the dinner break, the group reconvened at the Cascade Building in Wenatchee for the evening program. Strong feelings of love and a sense of spiritual power were in evidence at this get-together, as they are at all such gatherings of URANTIA Book readers, and, as usual, defy description. Many thanks to Lew and Alice Clark for their work in planning and organizing this event.

### What Are We to Tell Our Brothers?

When I view our complex and confused planet, the task of revealing our Father to it seems monumental.

The essence of Jesus' gospel was simple. At first appearance it seems powerless to transform a world. But the consequences of telling man that he is a son of God can hardly be overestimated. Hope surges, and one's own highest and richest ideals are stimulated to give the spirit's work at least a momentary advantage.

We must emphasize what it means to be a son or daughter of the Living God. Our Father, the perfect and willing parent sharing our every move in life, gives us an infinite future of traversing stars in meaningful service.

The words we use must take second place to our inspiration of knowing Him. We must have human appeal if we are to gain an essential measure of impact. A firm hold on life, a knowing conviction, a goodly and natural loving purpose, and a tolerance that has been seen very little on this planet is such a rare combination that it will be easy for us to show others a life more abundant, filled with eternal value and everlasting joy. And of course, as motivated by the spirit, the outcoming success of our Father's will is inevitable.

The stage is set, the curtain drawn, we have an inspirational script, so all that is needed is the players. We are free will ambassadors with the most fantastic mission this planet (Urantia) has seen since the apostles. And with the backing we have, it is a pleasure to serve our fellow man. A pleasure in deed!

--David Clearwaters, Grant's Pass, Oregon



Lew and Alice Clark

### 107 STUDY GROUPS IN THE WEST!

In the last issue of the Agondonter we listed all of the sixty-one known study groups in the west, including the Western United States, Alaska, Hawaii, and Australia. The list has now grown to 107, too many for us to print any more! For the study group nearest you please contact your nearest URANTIA Brotherhood Field Representative or write to John Hales, Resident Director, URANTIA Brotherhood, 533 Diversey Parkway, Chicago, Illinois 60614.

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## Study Group News

### FIRST STUDY GROUP IN NEVADA

James F. George of Reno has organized the first group in the state of Nevada to study The URANTIA Book. He has agreed to serve as a communication liaison, and you can get in touch with him at 505 Modoc Avenue, Reno, Nevada 89509, Telephone (702)322-3158.

### NEW STUDY GROUP IN LOS ANGELES AREA

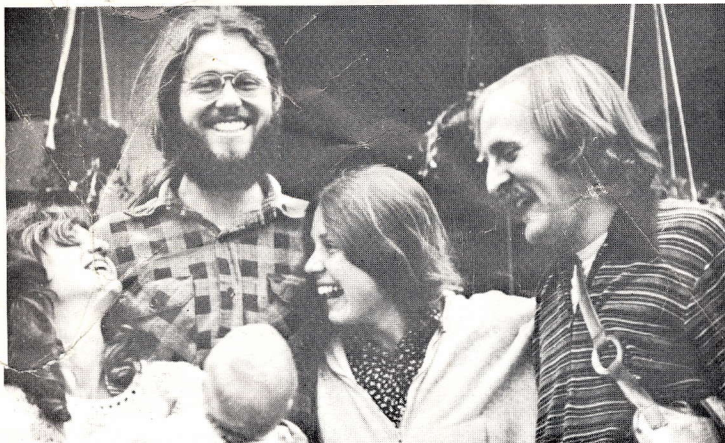
At the Brehio home in Sherman Oaks a new study group meets every Thursday evening from 7:30 to 10:30 PM. Cale, Carol and Bill Brehio will greet you at 5100 Noble Avenue, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403, Telephone (213)990-5431.

### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA "POWERHOUSE"

Dick Prince, newest URANTIA Brotherhood Field Representative, reports that he recently visited with the Hunts, Calabreses, and Ventolas up in the Eureka area, where everyone is doing well. The Loleta study group is apparently turning into "a real powerhouse," often going to midnight and providing those in attendance with a lot of good experience.

### SAN DIEGO "MIRACLE"

Dick also writes: "Not too much to report down this way. We had a picnic on the 21st and had about thirty to thirty-five people show up. That includes kids. I was surprised, but Cheryl, who planned the whole thing, was confident from the outset that the attendance would be good. Our remembrance supper that evening at our house was much smaller but, for me, much better. It is a real miracle each time one of those occurs. Michael's presence seems more powerful and palpable every time.



Cheryl Prince, left, and Dick Prince, right, visit with Bob and Cheryl Boden. Cheryl holds year-old daughter, Christine Ananda.

The Agondonter is the quarterly newsletter of FUSLA, The First URANTIA Society of Los Angeles, and is wholly supported by, and is the sole responsibility of that organization. FUSLA is a chartered URANTIA Society and pledges support to and cooperation with URANTIA Foundation in Chicago, copyright holder and sole publisher of The URANTIA Book.

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Where no authorship is indicated, items in this issue are written by the editor.

Items of mutual interest are welcomed from Societies, study groups or individuals. Short items and photographs are especially welcome. We reserve the right to edit all material submitted.

Editor: Chick Montgomery  
Editorial Assistant: Ellen Bishop  
Production Manager: Bill Sherwood

Editorial Board:  
Julia Fenderson  
Scott Forsythe

## FUSLA Elects New Board

At its August 22nd meeting, the FUSLA membership elected its Governing Committee for the coming year, as follows:

President:	Scott Forsythe
Vice President:	Dorothy Hicks
Secretary:	Carol Forsythe
Treasurer:	Lucille Faw
Membership Chairman:	Julia Fenderson
Education Chairman:	Polly Friedman
Newsletter Chairman:	Chick Montgomery
Hospitality Co-Chairmen:	Michael & Felice Long

President Scott Forsythe has expressed his thanks to the retiring committee members who served so well during the previous term, including Leonard Kidd, who served as Secretary, Pat Bedell, our former Treasurer, and Vincent Ventola, former Education Chairman.



FUSLA's new Governing Board. Standing: Chick Montgomery, Michael and Felice Long, Kermit Anderson, Dorothy Hicks, Scott and Carol Forsythe. Seated: Lucille Faw, Julia Fenderson, and Polly Friedman.

## Where Have All the FUSLANS Gone?

Last issue we reported on five former FUSLANS who have departed to the Bay Area to join the Family of God organization there, and help found the new San Francisco Bay Area URANTIA Society. The most recent FUSLAN to join the Bay Area group is Cheryl Davis.

Earlier this year Bob and Bonnie Hunt relocated to the Eureka area, way up on the northern California coast, and that growing group was recently joined by Jan and Leonard Kidd and their family and by Cathy and Vince Ventola. Leonard served FUSLA as Secretary last year and Vince as Education Chairman.

Joining the growing Boulder, Colorado group are Jonathon & Karen Johnson. The people in Boulder are determined to become the next Chartered URANTIA Society, so we hear.

Finally, Pat and Jeff Bedell have moved with their family to Saudi Arabia. To our knowledge, no other readers exist there, but judging from the energetic service the Bedells gave to FUSLA over the years, we have every confidence that a study group will soon be formed.

We miss you all, but we know you are doing important work in your new locations. We wish you the best, every one of you. --CMM

"On Jerusem the ascenders from these isolated worlds occupy a residential sector by themselves and are known as the agondonter, meaning evolutionary will creatures who can believe without seeing, persevere when isolated, and triumph over insuperable difficulties even when alone."\*

\*Quotation from page 579 of The URANTIA Book, Copyright © 1955, URANTIA Foundation--Used by permission.

## Marriages

### GAWRYN-STREANO

Marvin Gawryn and Francyl Streano were married in May in a beautiful inter-faith ceremony jointly conducted by a very gracious rabbi and our own Vern Grimsley. We think the occasion was heightened, deepened, and broadened by the cooperative convergence of religious viewpoint involved. This was a truly beautiful wedding.

### ANDERSON-MONTALBANO

On a fine June day, Kermit Anderson and Jackie Montalbano were married among the oaks and flowers of the Latigo Canyon Retreat in the Malibu Mountains. Kermit is special to me because he introduced me to The URANTIA Book seven years ago. I love Kermit. Not for the Book. For that I thank him. I love him because he is Kermit. I wish Kermit and Jackie much happiness. --CMM

### STRIDER-FELDMAN

REJOICE WITH US IN HARMONY AND GRATITUDE

A unique harmony has emerged,  
A love blend at beginning of crescendo  
Funneling the divine into rhythm and space.

Two hands clasped, tilted upward  
Release melodious energy  
In a song sprung from new union.

Errol Strider and Rochelle Alicia Feldman  
Have consecrated their relationship to God  
By entering into the spiritual union of marriage

August 1, 1976

(Quoted from their wedding announcement)

### LINDEMANN-SALMO

August 21st dawned clear and was growing into one of those crystal sharp days when only a few castle-like clouds drift downwind. All four mountain tops were clearly visible on "Big Island", Hawaii, the largest island of the chain. The surf was breaking on the northwest shore; a "perfect" day was in store as we traveled a third of the way around the island, from Kona to Kalopa Park for a special celebration of Jesus' birthday.

For on this day Marion Salmo and Peter Lindemann exchanged marriage vows, dedicating themselves to family service and to unitedly attempting to do the Will of our Father together. The wedding service was truly new and original, one to be long remembered for its uniqueness and deep-felt sincerity. It was the kind of touchingly genuine experience that made most everyone want to get married or marry again like that. Amid the garden greenery and fragrant flowers of uncountable colors and contrasting beauty, they dedicated their lives to living Michael's message.

Prayers and music and dancing and joy filled the air as these two young Urantians entered marriage with a much fuller picture than usual of the responsibilities and difficulties, as well as the blessings which are to be a portion of their union.

It was a happy day, a day of good cheer, a day of "good fun" as the island people here say.

And for Peter and Marion, now husband and wife, we all pray that it will be the beginning of a fruitful, beauty-filled, and rewarding experience.

--David Saunders, Kaawaloa

## New Babies for the Father

Our love and joy to the parents of these new children:

Caroline Donnelly Ziglar born April 11, 1976 to Elizabeth and Dick Ziglar at Fresno, California.

Amy Michele Basso born to Frances and Frank Basso of Riverside, California on May 1, 1976. This little girl attended all the recent spring URANTIA Orientation classes with her mother, but "sight unseen."

Heather Christine Kantor born to Sue and David Kantor at 4:40 AM on May 12, 1976. Heather was born at the Kantor home in Castro Valley, California, with husband David and friends Vern & Nancy Grimsley attending the "natural" childbirth. She weighed 7 lbs. 4 oz. and is doing beautifully.

Caroline St. Laurent born recently to Daniel and Denise St. Laurent, in their Quebec home.

Jonathon Weimer born August 25, 1976 to Arlene and Buck Weimer, in Pueblo, Colorado. Buck and Arlene were formerly very active in our Los Angeles group. Jonathon weighed 6 lbs. 11 oz. We hear Buck still hasn't come down from cloud nine.



FUSLA member Frances Basso restrains Amy Michele, eager to continue her Universe career, begun on May 1, 1976.

## Gus Walstrom Promotes to Next Stage

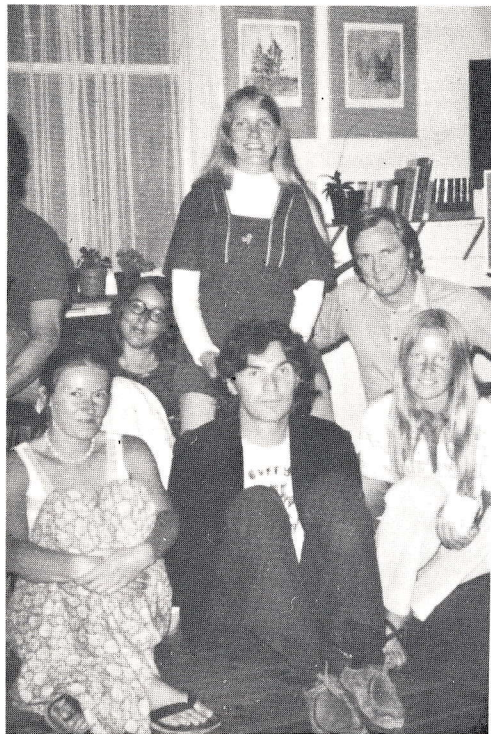
Our beloved friend, Gus Walstrom, of Atascadero, California recently passed on to the Mansion Worlds. He was such a highly developed spiritual soul that he may have skipped several Worlds because he had learned so many of their lessons.

He was beloved by all of us and attended our first Western Conference in Los Angeles in 1973. After that, a group of us spent a week-end with him in Atascadero. This delightful man, in his eighties, conducted a workshop there which was one of the highlights of the year for all of us. Our love and respect go with him and we know someday we will have another joyous visit with him. Gus willed his small estate to URANTIA Foundation. Another good lesson for all of us to consider. --JKF

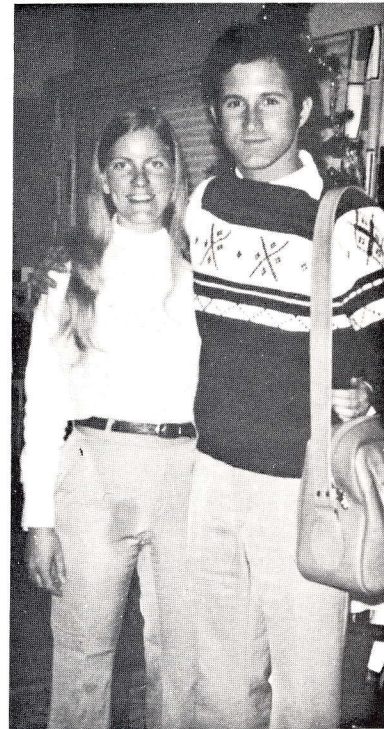
## Study Groups Active in Eastern Australia



Diane & Keith Bacon



Study Group at Bacon home



Jane & Phil Rolnick



Neil Francey



Neil and Keith



Tom Reynolds with friend



A friend & Julia

### News from "Down Under"

In the last issue of the Agondonter, we reported on the remarkable doings at Universal Brotherhood, Inc. in Western Australia.

This time we want to share with you these pictures of some of the fine people in Eastern Australia, and tell you something about the expanding activity there.

Eastern Australia has been very active for several years in the study of The URANTIA Book, under the leadership of Diane and Keith Bacon, 270 Walsh St., South Yarra, Melbourne. A study group meets weekly at their home with up to thirty! members attending. They have also helped to organize other study groups in the Melbourne area.

During Julia Fenderson's recent visit to Australia, she visited Diane and Keith's study group, where she was wel-

comed graciously. She also visited with the study group of Irene and Wolfgang Borrutta, and viewed some of Wolfgang's outstanding paintings. The Borrutta's had previously attended study groups in the home of Henry Begemann, URANTIA Brotherhood Field Representative in the Netherlands.

Tom Reynolds, who conducts a study group in his home in Oakley, Melbourne, took Julia on some delightful excursions around the Melbourne area.

Another study group leader and avid student of The URANTIA Book is Neil Francey of Melbourne. He plans to visit the Los Angeles Society and study groups soon.

Phil and Jane Rolnick, formerly of California, now lead a weekly study group far north of Melbourne on the coast at Slade Point, Queensland, where Phil and Jane both teach.

It's a small world, and is rapidly becoming encircled with dedicated URANTIA Book students.

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

### FUSLA Doings over the Summer

The First URANTIA Society of Los Angeles (FUSLA) holds monthly meetings for members, friends, and newcomers. Our format has generally been to meet from about 2:00 until 4:00 o'clock on the first Sunday of the month. We usually have short presentations and announcements, group discussion, and a refreshment time with informal fellowship. Here's how it went over the summer:

**MAY:** During an excellent presentation entitled "All you Wanted to Know About Angels but were Afraid to Ask", by a panel composed of Vince & Cathy Ventola, Kermit Anderson, Toni Richy, and Dorothy Hicks, the audience was surprised by Michael and Felice Long wafting through the hall, appropriately attired in maroon tights and hand-batiked angel wings.

**JUNE:** This month we departed from custom and held our meeting outdoors, at the beautiful Escondido Retreat in the Malibu Mountains. This was a day of individual and group meditation, hill roaming, wildflower gathering, and a natural foods pot luck. A series of short and inspiring talks began with Vince Ventola urging "A Day Alone With God." Julia Fenderson and Cathie Ventola spoke on "Love" and "Faith" respectively. FUSLA President, Scott Forsythe discoursed on "Growing with the Supreme." The day ended with music and worship under the 'oak cathedral'.

**JULY:** No meeting was held this month because so many members were away attending the Oklahoma Forum.

**AUGUST:** This meeting featured a panel discussion by members of Felice & Michael Long's study group, entitled

"Concepts of Art and Creativity in The URANTIA Book," followed by small group discussions (four groups of about ten people each) on the same topic.

**SEPTEMBER:** Kermit Anderson and Pat McNelly gave a combined presentation on "The Spiritual Conspiracy." During the group participation period, members of the audience shared interesting experiences of spiritual experiences in their lives.

**OCTOBER:** Twelve would-be Thesians produced a rather droll five-minute skit dramatizing page 1098 of The URANTIA Book, the well-loved cave-man passage. The cast consisted of Narrator, Caveman, Sabre-toothed tiger, Woman, two Children, and six Curtain Bearers. Bill Sherwood gave a short talk, and Chick Montgomery led a group discussion on the general subject of Understanding, Overcoming Resentment, and Learning to Love.

**NOVEMBER:** Bill and Carol Brehio are scheduled to do an illustrated presentation on The Supreme Being.

**DECEMBER:** The Family of God crew from Berkeley plan to visit us and ... well, let that be a surprise!

**NEXT YEAR:** No programs are planned yet, but our Education Chairman, Polly Friedman, promises that we will have good things happening, including the addition of live music at all of our monthly meetings.

**ETERNITY:** The details are as yet unrevealed, but we have been told by several people who claim to be close, personal friends of God that it is going to be out-of-sight, our present sight, that is.

## How One Small Study Group Operates

Daniel St. Laurent has brought to our attention the letter "A Plea for More Small Study Groups"\* that we took time to analyze. We are extremely happy that you brought up the subject of small study groups vs. large conferences as alternate approaches to a better understanding of The URANTIA Book.

Our small group in Montreal, three to five members, has discussed this matter and following are our thoughts.

Firstly, let us testify to the fact that our group operates under a very simple process. We simply get together for two to two-and-a-half hours once a week in a downtown room to read between four and seven pages of The URANTIA Book in French, but with a cross reading in English. We have started at the top of the Book, with the introduction. We take turns at reading out loud, paragraph by paragraph. As one or more of us has a comment, explanation, thought or "soul wave" we simply express it. This usually spurs about two to five minutes of intercommunications.

Within a two-hour period we probably spend forty minutes reading and eighty minutes studying and helping each other better understand the reading.

We never or so seldom get into digression from our reading material that we virtually never exchange on anything but the Book's content.

We make it a point to read about five pages ahead of where we had stopped before the next session, so that we pre-read the material to be studied. We had all read most of the Book or all of it before joining the study group.

The experience has been on for six months so far, and we have all derived great pleasure, enthusiasm and spiritual comfort from it.

None of us attend these study group sessions either to go on an ego trip nor to teach the others. We merely help each other to better understand the Book.

In fact, we are gaining a much better understanding than when we read alone. We make new discoveries and we penetrate the Book and the "spirit" of the Book much better.

A very important additional dimension also occurs. We become totally involved, perfectly available, loving and helpful during the study sessions.

We clearly sense that we are not communicating with each other on an intellectual level only, but we are pene-

trated by a truly spiritual force and we often feel that it is our Thought Adjuster who is speaking to us and to each other.

We definitely think and know that this small study group approach is right.

According to us, The URANTIA Book is essentially a personal communication between the authors and individual man. The Book addresses the intellect, the material and the spiritual levels of man. But it must be read, in our opinion with a true desire to reach an increasingly higher level of spiritual thought.

Change, evolution, progression first happens or occurs within an individual, then automatically it will radiate within the individual's family, then friends, peer group, etc.

The URANTIA revelation and teachings are meant for individual communications and enlightenment. It will create evolution and change only if it is digested, if it becomes part of the reader's life and experience. It has to become an active process.

Large seminars, where you become a more or less passive listener, reacting only as part of a crowd, cannot produce as good results as small study groups, according to us.

Regional meetings and conferences can be helpful in:

1. Having small group participants exchange on their growth experience.
2. Helping to organize better means for dissemination of the Book and to make small study groups more efficient.
3. Allowing URANTIA readers to socialize.

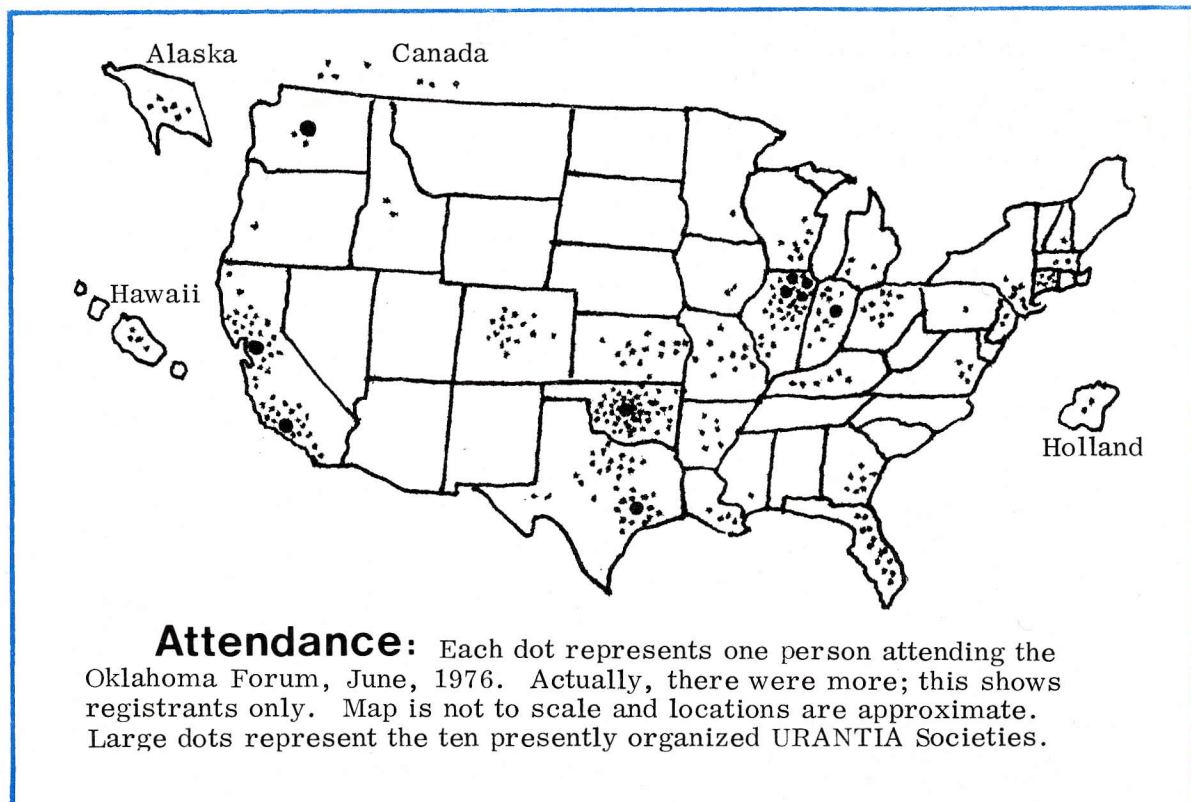
Whatever is done to complement small study groups can only be profitable to individual readers and small study groups should be essential and be multiplied and encouraged.

The needs in ten, twenty or thirty years may call for different means, but right now, at least here in Montreal, study groups are probably the most helpful means to readers of The URANTIA Book.

With continuous work, patience and love, all will come.

Jean Desjardins  
16 Fere, St-Eustache,  
Quebec, Canada

\* by Julia K. Fenderson, Winter, 1976 Agondonter.



## Personal Notes on the Forum

We really enjoyed the Forum! We were so fired up, it didn't seem to matter that we hardly slept for six days. Love: the fellowship of the faith-brotherhood! That was the glue that kept over three hundred diverse and individualistic people together... people from thirty-four states, (including Hawaii and Alaska,) Canada, and the Netherlands.

It is this fact of the diversity of people who are attracted to The URANTIA Book that continually amazes us and drives home our conviction that this book is indeed a mighty Revelation to all.

Only Truth can speak to all types of people, right where they are, no matter what their orientation, and command their attention and adherence.

These people had certain things in common though. They all seemed intelligent, willing to share themselves in a spirit of fraternal affection, and they were all "into" The URANTIA Book.

One of the most noticeable phenomena was this friendliness of people. Several attendees commented on how natural it seemed immediately to engage perfect strangers in very deep, personal and frank conversations. People trust others when they know without asking that their new acquaintances are fellow faith-sons of God, even followers of Jesus.

The program itself was enjoyable and thought-provoking. Max Lawrence did a fine job emcee-ing the various prepared and spontaneous talks.

While there were many memorable presentations, this writer was particularly impressed by the show on the history of religion, "Our Heritage of the Spirit," This was produced by Stephen Zendt, Chuck Thurston, Larry Geis, Jay Newbern, and the others at New Dimensions Foundation in San Francisco.

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### Fellowship, purpose and expectancy.....

We heard more than one person say that the Forum had been one of the most profound experiences they had ever had, or even the most profound experience of their life.

There seemed to be a great sense of fellowship, purpose, and expectancy. There was an awareness of the fact that we, as individuals, are not alone in this Revelation—that we have literally hundreds of amazingly able and loyally loving brothers and sisters throughout the world who are sharing the burden and the joy of carrying this great truth to others.

### Loving God for All that He is.....

Some powerful things happened. At one of the workshops, during a beautiful time of group prayer and worship, a number of people just broke up completely and began crying, tears of joy and gratitude and love streaming down.

We were becoming conscious of what it feels like to actually love God. Not just to believe in him, or just to know and feel that he loves us, but really to love him for all that he is. And that, after all, is our highest duty and greatest joy.

Many thanks to Berkeley Elliott, the Oklahoma Society, and their associates who planned and worked to make the Forum such a success. And to demonstrate the truth that the giver is even more blessed than the receiver, we include this excerpt from a note we received from Berkeley. She writes:

"We are still on cloud nine, and the nice letters we continue to receive seem to keep us there. Judging from some of the comments, it must really have been a great spiritual and intellectual experience for many, and I know our rewards for our small efforts have been ten-thousand fold! Our efforts were nothing compared to what we have received."

God bless you, Berkeley. And may the Father bless and guide each of us as we go through life, sharing His love with our brothers. --CMM

# 34 States Represented at Oklahoma Forum



Emma Christensen ("Christy"), Trustee Emeritus of URANTIA Foundation in Chicago, dines at the Forum with the Henry Begemans. Henry is URANTIA Brotherhood Field Representative in the Netherlands.

## Meredith Sprunger Succeeds Paul Snider as Brotherhood President

At the Triennial Assembly in Chicago in June, 1976, the delegates elected Meredith J. Sprunger as the eighth president of URANTIA Brotherhood, replacing Paul Snider who has served for the past three years. Congratulations to Meredith, and many thanks to Paul for the active and able service he rendered to the Brotherhood during his term of office.

In January of this year, our URANTIA Brotherhood celebrated its 21st birthday. Therefore, it could be said to have "come of age." But in URANTIA circles we know that it is still an infant...but with a long life ahead.

During those twenty-one years the Brotherhood has had seven Presidents (see scroll). Each of these seven Presidents has served faithfully, in his own unique and devoted way, giving of his talents and time to this cause to which we are all dedicated. --JKF



l. to r.: Jim Allen, (FUSOK President,) Mary Snider, Paul Snider, (former Brotherhood President,) Berkeley Elliott (Forum Organizer,) and our own Lucille Faw, (FUSLA Treasurer.)

## Meet the New President

Dr. Meredith J. Sprunger was elected to a three-year term as President of the URANTIA Brotherhood on June 23, 1976.

Dr. Sprunger became acquainted with The URANTIA Book in December of 1955, and has since been actively connected with organizational work related to the Book.

He organized the first Indiana study group about 1957, and helped initiate the Fort Wayne Society in 1969. He was one of the first persons to be appointed Field Representative for URANTIA Brotherhood.



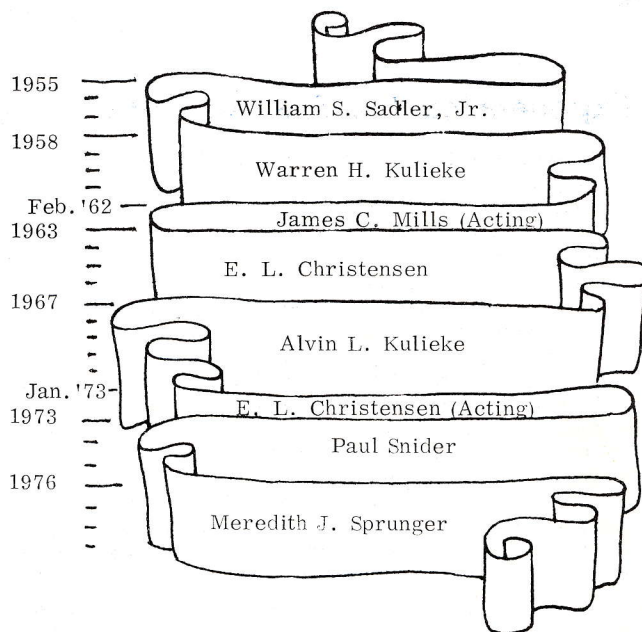
Dr. Meredith J. Sprunger

Dr. Sprunger is a full Professor at the Indiana Institute of Technology in Fort Wayne, where he is head of the Department of Psychology and Chairman of the Division of Liberal Arts.

He obtained his Ph. D. from Purdue University in the field of Psychology in 1947, and holds a Private Practice Certificate in Psychology in the State of Indiana. He is also an Ordained Minister in the United Church of Christ.

Next year, Dr. Sprunger expects to retire and devote full time to URANTIA activities. He begins this new role as President of the Brotherhood with its many and deep responsibilities, with our full and warm support and continued good wishes. --JKF

## The History of the Presidency of the Brotherhood



# As the Revelation Gathers Momentum ...

As The URANTIA Book enters its third decade of being abroad on the planet, what kinds of developments can we expect, and what should we do to prepare for them?

1. Many more books will be sold. We must be prepared for faster growth. During the first decade, fewer than ten thousand books were sold. During the second decade, just ended, fifty thousand more were sold (see chart). How many will be distributed during the next ten years? Even without any publicity, and assuming continued patient word-of-mouth expansion, it is entirely possible that half a million million or more books will be in circulation.

2. Many readers will be "coming out of the woodwork." We know of only one or two thousand people, world wide, who read The URANTIA Book. Where are those other 58,000 books? Are people reading them? It is quite common to have someone finally make contact with other readers after having read the book alone for a number of years. This will happen increasingly in the future as our communications improve.

3. There will be increasing unsolicited publicity. Despite our attempts to avoid publicity, there will be instances of unsolicited publicity in various forms, and these are likely to increase in number and in scope. Already several write-ups on the movement or its people have appeared in national magazines. (Notable examples include August, 1976 *Oui*, and August 20, 1976 *New Times*.)

4. There will be attempts to destroy the integrity of The URANTIA Book. We can expect increased instances of

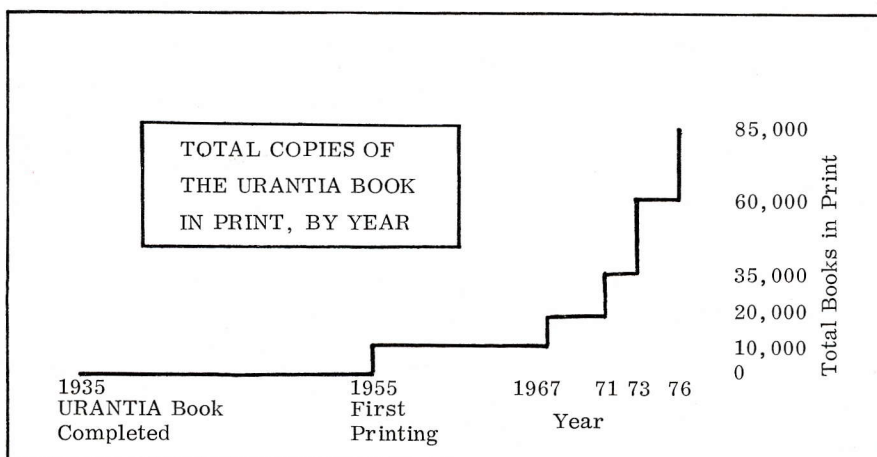
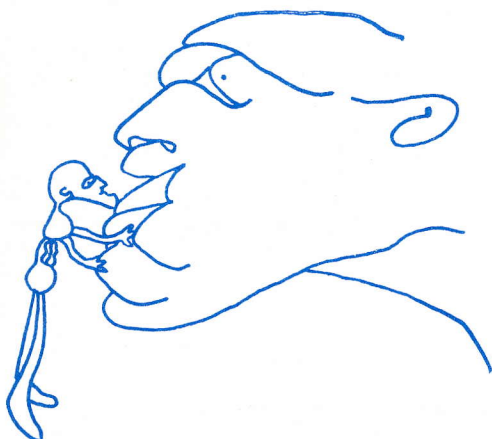
unauthorized publication of abridgements, excerpts, and translations of the book, by well-meaning people unaware of the danger and folly of such a course.

Being ready. Of course anything is possible with this revelation, but in view of present trends and developments it would appear that the fulfillment of the above predictions is inevitable. What should we do to prepare?

1. We can make sure plenty of books are on hand to supply the growing demand. We had best leave the details of this to the Foundation, which has done the job so well in the past. If and when they need our help, they will let us know. At that time we should be ready to provide concrete assistance.

2. We can improve our organizations and communications to provide a framework within which to accommodate and welcome the rising stream of new readers. Specific suggestions of ways to do this are invited.

3 and 4. To anyone who approaches us proposing to do an article on the movement, or a review of The URANTIA Book, or who proposes to publish an excerpt or abridgement of the Book, we can explain the Foundation's position and then make the following suggestion: "In all fairness, shouldn't you read the entire Book before deciding to do this? And knowing of the Foundation's policy prohibiting your intended action, shouldn't you at least talk with them first to find out their reasons?" --CMM



## Experiencing The Spirit of Truth

Jesus, functioning as and through the Spirit of Truth, is, in part, a social experience. The apostles along with a large group of fathers were gathered together when Jesus' circuit first functioned on Urantia, and they were so excited by this experience that they stayed up all night talking and planning. Jesus was trying to dramatize this for us when he chose a social supper as the material symbol of his desire that we remember him.

On the other hand, prayer and worship, the attempted communion with the Father/Adjuster is a deeply personal and individual experience in which Jesus, as and in the Spirit, also participates.

I infer from all this that the "Spirit of Truth" is at once both a social and a solitary spirit, one that serves us throughout the entire range of mortal experience, from the good times and friendly laughter of a social supper to the most sublime and solitary individual worship experience. It is at once both a Brotherly and a Fatherly experience.

Jim Rowlands, California

Agondonter, Summer, 1976, page 8

## Family of God Begins N.Y. Broadcast

Vern Grimsley's agent called him from New York City and asked if Saturday evening, August 21, 1976 would be all right to begin Family of God (FOG) programming there. Vern, who had been gunning for the New York City area for a long time, gulped and agreed that the particular date of August 21 (Jesus' birthday!) would be fine. The program airs at prime time, Saturday evenings at 6 PM, over WWDJ (970 on AM dial) and covers an area of twenty million potential listeners. Congratulations FOG and NYC!

In Southern California we hear FOG every Saturday evening at 10:30 PM over XEMO (860 on the AM dial.) This is a very powerful station in Mexico which can be heard in San Diego, throughout the entire Los Angeles Metropolitan Area, and in Arizona. Remember to listen every Saturday night. We can also hear Vern locally over KGBS (1020 on AM dial) at 7:00 AM on Sundays, and over KEZY (1190 on AM dial) at 4:00 AM on Mondays. --JKF



## Tips on Personal Work

We are the recipients of a new and great revelation. The import of the appearance of The URANTIA Book is awesome. Those days are about over when few people had heard of the Book; more and more people are dimly aware that it exists.

What should be the attitude and conduct of each of us who are already acquainted and familiar with this epochal revelation, in explaining it to those who are not? Here are some tips on personal work that will help you in the work ahead:

1. First, redouble your efforts to become thoroughly familiar with the Book and its teachings, so that you can be sure to keep one jump ahead of those whom you will be called upon to teach. . . and you will have to deal with both sincere seekers and potential detractors.
2. Employ prayer and seek to know and follow the Father's will in the matter of revealing the Book to others. If you have your eyes open to it, you will discern that divine agencies are guiding you into apparently chance meetings. Make the best of them.
3. Be sincere. Frankly admit your ignorance and reservations where appropriate. This will make your affirmations all the more convincing.
4. Make it clear that you yourself are not a superhuman being. Some people constantly fantasize about such things. Emphasize your humanness by being friendly, sharing experiences, telling how you found the Book, etc.
5. Be a worthy example of the Book. Avoid relating experiences or using language which you feel might be offensive to the inquirer.
6. Never attack the other person's beliefs. You will find that all belief systems contain at least a kernel of truth. Find that kernel, the essence of truth in the belief, acknowledge it, affirm it, and build on it, raising it to a higher truth, without ever attacking it. Always add something to a person's belief; never take anything away. If you simply can't handle what he is saying, tactfully change the subject to the God within him.
7. Be loving. Get to know a person before laying a URANTIA "trip" on him. Sometimes this happens quickly as immediate rapport sometimes develops. Still, it is best to know something about the person's background, beliefs, and aspirations. Think of him as a friend; not a project. He should be a friend. And your transmittal of truth to him should be the result of your seeing his need for truth, and your caring desire to fill that need because of the love you feel for him.
8. Avoid the more esoteric teachings of The URANTIA Book. Use judgement in this based on their person's background, interests, concerns and attitudes.
9. Give as much as can be received. Sometimes we know that God has sent a person to us who desperately needs to hear words of comfort and be encouraged to faith and we fail to speak up. We are too frightened, too busy, or too ashamed of the truth we bear. Be fearless!
10. Give no more than can be received. Sometimes, having mustered the courage to broach the spiritual subject, we press on too far. We go beyond the person's present ability to hear and understand, and we alienate him. For example, sometimes all a person needs to know is that God loves him and that he can follow Jesus for guidance. He may not need to know about The URANTIA Book.
11. Be prayerful. At these important moments of personal work you should immediately establish contact with the higher powers within and around you, praying that your words will be gracious and effective, and the person receptive. And you should check in with God each time you reach an impasse, sense difficulty, or need words.
12. Follow up. If you have a potential "convert" to the URANTIA Book, see that he actually gets the book, read to him from it, explore it together. Assume the responsibility for guiding the new reader into an existing study group, or, if none exists nearby, study with him yourself, even if it must be by correspondence over the miles.

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## "How The URANTIA Book Found Me..."

Much of my life I had searched for a wholesome and non-contradictory form of truth which was both intellectually beautiful and spiritually invigorating. I couldn't find it. It had to find me.

About five years ago (I was 12) I made my break with standard Christian thought (Baptist). This was the beginning of a long struggle for truth. I began in ignorance, and of my own free will.

I still don't know exactly why I decided then to forge out on my own. I remember my first relationships with Jesus as being highly emotional and active.

Presently my thought evolved through: materialism, psychicism, witchcraft, spirit communication, satanism, polytheism, almost a year of nothingness, and then a period of 'free search' leading to my "discovery" of The URANTIA Book.

September, 1975 marked the end of my spiritual melancholy, and around the beginning of November my 'truth antennas' were extended almost one hundred percent. I was really receptive to all that seemed good to me.

About this time I met a new friend, Shirley Long, and she soon introduced me to her friends, Gail and Richard, and their son, Jeremiah.

One morning Gail, Richard, Shirley and I were sitting around the coffee table sing-singing some general chit-chat about possibilities, philosophically.

Gail was explaining that she was a Mormon, Rosicrucian, Astrologer and all-around Mystic. Richard had been rather quiet up until the end of Gail's dissertation when I said something to the effect that I still hadn't even loosely defined my religion. Suddenly, he made a statement and gesture which I believe I'll remember for eternity.

"Well, here's my Religion!" he said, and handed me that beautiful blue book.

As soon as I opened it and started reading I was amazed. Each word I read excited me more and more, and I decided then and there that that "book" was what I was searching for. "I have found it at last," I said to myself. I really felt good. On December 25, 1975 I was presented with my own copy of The URANTIA Book.

I started my second reading a few days ago, though I've read many papers two, three, or even four times over already. The inspiration I've acquired from the Papers is unparalleled by anything else I have ever come across. This Good Book is truly beautiful.

It is still exhilarating for me to reflect on those events of October-December of last year. My mind had been like the first century of Christ: cluttered with dozens of philosophies and smatterings of numerous religions, but extremely receptive to truth.

I believe that The Book came to me at that point in my life when I needed it most, was most receptive to it, and could use it best. There is little doubt in my mind that The URANTIA Book found me and not vice versa.

I have now decided to devote the whole of my earth life to the proclamation of the Brotherhood of Man, because of the Fatherhood of our Bountiful and Gracious Lord.

It would be disastrous for us not to activate in our lives those exquisite truths, the supreme good, that boundless beauty which the URANTIA Papers have revealed to us.

Norman S. Basye  
5353 Greenvalley Rd.  
Placerville, CA 95667

Last issue we sent you a form on which to indicate your desire to continue to receive the Agondonter. We included a place for your comments. The response was encouraging and heartwarming. We wish we could thank each person individually, but for the time being we'll just send this general great big THANK YOU to every one who returned the form, and to those who sent checks, and to those who included comments, and to those to sent letters. We have reproduced some of your comments here. Thank you and enjoy!  
--ed.

Thus far, a beautiful publication in which the beautiful ideas of beautiful people are beautifully expressed. A refreshing, clean stroke on the otherwise muddied canvas of contemporary spiritual expression. Keep on truckin'!  
--Lawrence Hildonen, Steilacoom, Wash.

Think you do a really professional job with the Agondonter. Was especially happy with your inclusion of an artist's conception of the Master Universe.  
--Preston & Kathy Thomas, Earlsyville, Va.

Please put me on your mailing list. I observe the Father's loving plan unfolding all around every day. I have great faith that in our lifetime we will observe our planet take a giant step towards the era of Light and Life. It all seems so easy. During my short life, (I am twenty-five,) I have felt the wonderful joy of Love and never forgotten it. What a wonderful thing Love is! In fact, I'm feeling so joyous now that I am stopping this letter!  
Our house is made of Love,  
And what we're dreaming of.  
--Gary Sanger, San Diego, California

The Agondonter gives me a feeling of warmth, belonging and happiness by knowing that one day the miles that keep us apart on this planet will be no more when we embrace each other on the Mansion Worlds.  
--Jeanine Tarmond, San Luis Obispo, Calif.

I feel pretty isolated back here in Davenport, Iowa where there are no study groups. The Agondonter does an excellent job of keeping me informed of the activities of the Brotherhood, and also as a source of new insight and inspiration. I am so thankful to receive each issue of this "tether to reality."  
--Mark Baxter, Davenport, Iowa

More - more - more. Need more unity and communication between members or interested people.  
--Bill Martin, Torrance, California

Good work, heep it up, well balanced. I agree with Julia: more study groups, less publicity.  
--Don Truman, Richmond, California

An excellent medium for bringing a variety of minds together in a single unity of purpose. Would like to see more editorial-type work and creative writing. The subjects that can be written about are plentiful, varied and fabulous!! We have a virtual gold-mine worth billions in that big blue book! Let's use our wits to mine it to the depths to retrieve precious revelations that we can project and offer our brothers and sisters through our own written words. We are a growing community of powerful, future orators, writers and creators.  
--Terrell P. Watson, Rogue River, Oregon

Praise be to our Father, blessings to you beautiful reflections of his love. We are pleased to be a part of the ever expanding network of communications. We hope to send as well as receive. Bless you all.  
--Doug and Lissa Parker, Corvallis, Oregon

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In the last issue we mentioned the availability of a so-called "URANTIA Cookbook." Well, there is no such book, nor could there be legally, unless URANTIA Foundation endorsed it.

The error was due to my jumping to conclusions. It happened this way: A couple of years ago, while visiting Buck and Arlene Weimer I noticed some copies of a cookbook they had written and printed, entitled I believe the "Cosmic Cookbook." I was impressed but thought no more about it, and in fact had forgotten the name when, a few months ago, an Agondonter reader wrote asking for "the cookbook." I knew I wasn't handling it, and assumed it must be the one Buck and Arlene had done, so I printed the notice that anyone wanting the "URANTIA Cookbook" should write to them. How I came up with that name, I honestly don't know.

By the way, I saw Buck and Arlene at the Oklahoma Conference and they informed me that their cookbook is now sold out and they have no plans for reprinting it.

Now it turns out that some URANTIA Book readers are working on a different cookbook. However, if and when it becomes available, it will certainly not be called the "URANTIA Cookbook" since that name would imply publication or endorsement by URANTIA Foundation. It would in fact be illegal for an individual member or group of members (or non-members for that matter) to use that title, since the word URANTIA is a registered mark of URANTIA Foundation.

All this points up the necessity to double check facts before putting them in print, and underscores the wisdom of submitting all material to an Editorial Board prior to publication. We have such a policy at Agondonter, but I had slipped this notice in at the last minute, thinking it was of little consequence.

How wrong I was. It turned out that many people thought a precedent had been set permitting the unrestricted use of the word URANTIA. Such is not the case. The name URANTIA and the concentric circle symbol are registered marks used to identify official activities and publications of URANTIA Foundation.

The article you have just read (and everything else in this issue) has been approved by our editorial board, and if there are mistakes or misleading statements herein, blame group fallibility, but as for the cookbook error, I take full responsibility.  
--Chick Montgomery

## (raZy (la&ifiEds

Ads such as might be seen in the year 2005:

Just Published: Ten-volume discourse on unpervaded space by noted Paradise-watcher, Randall Cloudbender. \$129.50 shipped postpaid.

For Sale:

URANTIA Book once owned by Vern Grimsley, marked up with various colors of ball point pen, peanut butter, and jelly. Slightly chewed. \$595 firm.

Snapshot of Mo Siegel reading The URANTIA Book and drinking Morning Thunder. 50¢ or best offer.

Complete set of early Agondonters. Trade for early issues of The Urantian, The Finaliter, or Playboy.

## LETTER FROM A PRISONER

### "truth came in bursts..."

"I've been in and out of prison like a yo-yo on a string,  
But don't knock me, baby, I'm just doin' my thing!"  
(Excerpt from my poem, "Walla Walla Willie")

And that's literally true; at forty-six I have been imprisoned well over twenty years. Lack of direction, poor understanding of spiritual values, and subsequent negative orientation were the principle reagents in my personal pot of problems.

Several years ago, Norm Chamberlain "turned me on" to The URANTIA Book. I glanced through it and put it down as a super-intellectual, contemporized and esoteric Bible. However, my glimpse of the History of Urantia and the Life of Jesus was a hook that could not be denied; I received a gift-copy from Norm while incarcerated in the Washington State Penitentiary at Walla Walla, and I got into the book with a passion. I was still not ready for the truth, beauty, and goodness revealed in the papers, and, although I was enthralled with the mind-blowing concepts contained in nearly every page, I thought of the book as a masterpiece of science-fiction, and failed to internalize its many positive messages. I gave my book away upon release and went about my usual business of getting back into prison.

During my 1972-1974 federal confinement, I purchased a copy of The URANTIA Book and spent over a year pouring over its pages. Took the book out with me. Carried it with me for a few days, but it interfered with my drinking, so I left it at the Halfway House and commenced my "normal pattern" of irresponsible, wild and drunken behaviour with the usual results. Caught a new bank robbery beef and am currently doing a seven year jolt.

About six months ago, I purchased another URANTIA Book and have been making it a practice to read a few pages every morning. Slowly, finally, the direction became evident to me: Onward - inward - upward. Onward through natural evolution of mind-body-spirit, inward toward the Thought Adjuster, the Father Fragment, and upward toward Havona through transcendence. Dimly, at first, but increasing in brilliance, the Light of Truth came in bursts, more and more frequent and intense as I humbly set my "mortal ego" aside and let the Spirit of Truth minister to me. I've always known what is right and what is wrong, but I really didn't understand—because I wasn't ready to understand. I am beginning to understand, now; and as I become more and more willing to let the Father's will be done, it is very evident that it is the will of our Father that we allow our Greater Selves, our Thought Adjusters, access to our mortal faculties so that the love of our Universal Father may be expressed through us in service to our fellow Urantians. I see no further "reason" to self-destruct, socially or physically or mentally or spiritually. When, at last, we find that there is nothing to fear in death, we then begin to live.

Lawrence Hildonen  
Box 1000-35183  
Steilacoom, WA 98388

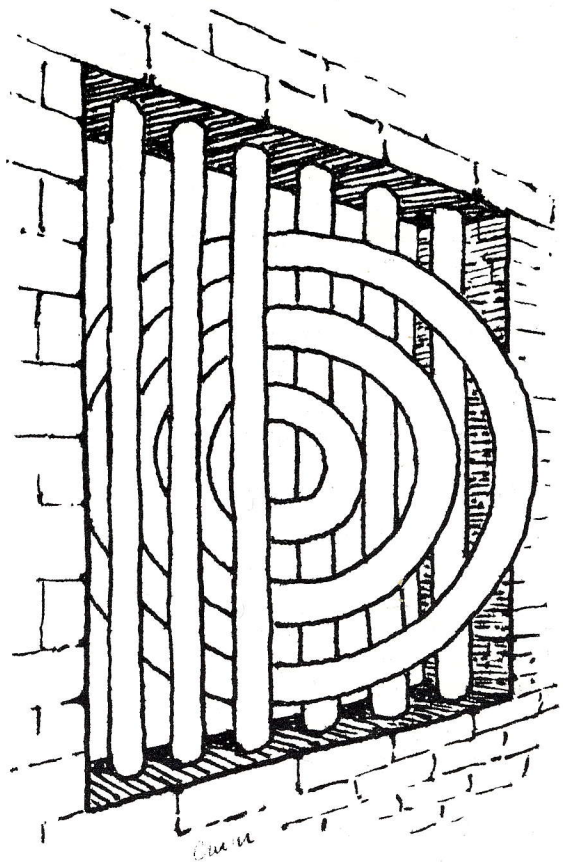
## GOD IS!

God is! That's it! That's the message! That's the gospel, the good news. There actually is a God. He actually is. He really exists. The Universal Father is actually existent... out there, in there, up there on Paradise, and right here in our hearts.

Know it. Believe it. Know it of a certainty. It is the truest truth in the Universe, the most actual fact.

God is. Contemplate that fact until you believe it. Believe it until you know it. Know it until it becomes the faith that motivates you to love him, to worship him, and to share him with others.

Know that God is.  
Worship Him.  
Share Him.



## GOOD WORKS TO BE DONE

We are Agondonterers because we can see without seeing and it is truth that cosmic truth is more often hidden than not. Jesus said it only matters what comes out of you, not what goes in, which is to say it doesn't matter where you are or where you're at, it doesn't matter what kind of lifestyle you lead or whom you associate with, because wherever you are there are good works to be done.

Environment undeniably has a great effect upon our lives and beings but ultimately our relationship with the Father is the only thing that matters.

While true self-government is accorded only the highest spiritual beings, the most rudimentary beginnings of self-government are even now dawning upon man's consciousness as part of our world's advancement towards the new age. And we, as individuals in an advanced spiritual movement, must know that we can make great changes in our world in subtle and hidden ways not perceivable to those around us.

Knowledge of The URANTIA Book is soon to grow by leaps and bounds whether we like it or not, and while it pays to be prepared for that certainty, there are things we can do right now to bring deep spiritual illumination to our daily lives. It seems not the time to openly or directly promote the book, but we can promote and live the book's teachings by striving each one of us, wherever we may live, to make our neighborhoods and communities into pleasant and beautiful places that enrich and encourage people's higher aspirations.

As brothers, feeling brotherhood, there are ways, possible in today's American society, and to every style of individual, to design our lives around the aspirations of man's soul and spirit.

And beginnings are feasible wherever you are. I've been discovering in my personal experience that there are ways not directly related to The URANTIA Book that can help bring love to the fore.

We are one in the Father.  
--Stan Kahn, Portland, Oregon

## In the Circles of the Universes

I can tell you of wonders!  
(Few there are who listen...)  
It is a tale of light:

It is a tale of glory;  
In all the grand universe,  
It is the grandest ever known.

All things material pass away,  
All things spiritual last eternal;  
(The lowest sons of God are we,)  
In the circles of the Universes.

Ahead lies the eternal adventure,  
Progressing inward to eternity,  
Through the cycles of time.

Eternally swinging through space,  
All the universes circling,  
Progressing to perfection.

Choose the way my brothers!  
The wonders of universes  
Are ours for the striving.

Throw off superstitions.  
Seek truth in all things.  
Give love to all brothers.

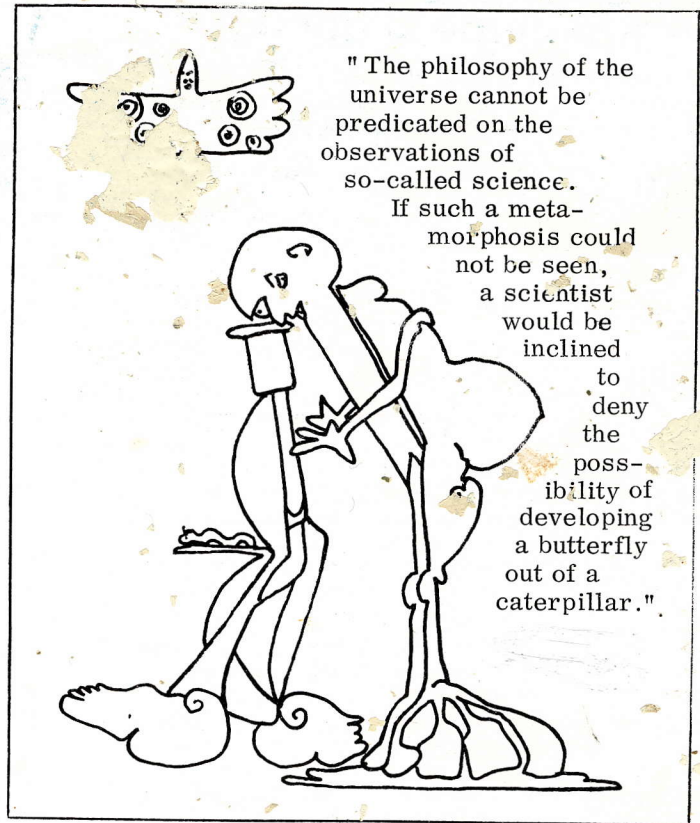
Myths and poorly written records,  
Tell of a God of anger and fear,  
Tell of a God of jealousy and wrath.

(The Father of universes,  
The Father of all things,  
Material and spiritual,  
Is above wrath and fear.)

Reach within and find peace;  
The spirit of the Father  
Lives inside your heart.

Choose the glorious way,  
And He will lead you  
Through the circles of the universes,  
To Paradise.

--Laura Mabery



"The philosophy of the universe cannot be predicated on the observations of so-called science.

If such a metamorphosis could not be seen, a scientist would be inclined to deny the possibility of developing a butterfly out of a caterpillar."

\*Quotation from page 480 of The URANTIA Book, Copyright © 1955, URANTIA Foundation, Used by permission. (Cartoon by Felice Long.)

## The Gravity Engine of Plate Tectonics

Primordial skies of steam, condensing,  
Rain a vast ocean upon a crusted molten sphere,  
Pressing up a bulge of land:  
The ancient mother continent.

A hundred-million-year moment later,  
The miles-thick faces of the mammoth island  
Separate,  
And begin their sluggish seaward slide.

--CMM

agondonter

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