



## SPECIAL "EDITOR'S ISSUE"

### L.A. Tricks; San Diego Treats

Several members and friends of the First URANTIA Society of Los Angeles went to the San Diego area on Halloween to meet with readers in that area. About thirty-five people gathered at Rich Keeler's custom beach pad, including many members of Rich's study group and Dick and Cheryl Prince's study group.

It was suggested that guests come as characters from The URANTIA Book. Julia Fenderson came dressed in violet, wearing a card asking: "I'm eight feet tall and have 106 children; who am I?" (Eve, of course!)

Barrie Achartz, dressed as a Thought Adjuster, (with toy wrenches, hammers, screw drivers, etc. for adjusting thoughts attached to her leotard,) took the picture at right of her favorite Indian and two aborigine friends.

Following a brief prayer or two, Julia presented her slide show on study groups around the world. Guests were then subjected to an abominable cave man skit.

Some of the San Diegans, cleverly disguised as twentieth-century Americans, may have been somewhat astounded at the antics of the Los Angeles loonies, but then they have their own local loonie, Rich Keeler.



Onamonalonton (Rich Keeler) poses with Andon and Fonta (Chick Montgomery and Ellen Bishop) at the costumed confab of Los Angeles and San Diego Folks at Keeler's ocean view condo in Solana Beach.

### Regional Conferences Set

This year, 1977, we are having small conferences in different regions, and next year, 1978, will be the big conference in Wisconsin which will undoubtedly be attended by people from all over the world. On the West Coast, two conferences are planned this year, as follows:

**OREGON**, May 20 and 21: This will be at Rogue River with the main program on Saturday, May 21, at Indian Mary Park, followed by an evening indoor meeting. This is an informal affair. Readers from the Northwest states and Western Canada are encouraged to come.

Contact: David & Rose Clearwaters  
838 South Side Rd.  
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

**ANAHEIM**, September 3, 4, and 5:

**ORANGE COUNTY**, September 3, 4, and 5, (Labor Day): This will be a FUSLA sponsored event, and readers from the Southwest States and Hawaii are encouraged to come. Transportation from LAX can be arranged.

Contact: Scott & Carol Forsythe  
12815 Pacific Ave. #8  
Los Angeles, CA 90066

### Starting a Group?

URANTIA Brotherhood Field Representative Julia Fenderson would like contact with new study groups, and will, upon request, visit with you to discuss ideas on how to organize your group and obtain study aids. Call Julia at (213) 838-3215.

The Agondonter is the quarterly publication of FUSLA, the First URANTIA Society of Los Angeles. FUSLA is a chartered URANTIA Society and pledges support to URANTIA Foundation in Chicago, copyright holder and sole publisher of The URANTIA Book.

While it is our editorial policy to be consistent with the spirit of The URANTIA Book, the content of this publication in no way represents any official views of any URANTIA organization.

Editor: Charles M. Montgomery (Chick)  
Board: Julia Fenderson & Scott Forsythe  
Correspondence: Marc Denton

All items in this "special editor's issue" are written by the editor.

To the Editor:

In the September, 1975 issue of Scientific American, much new data on the planets is presented, including some important data on the planet Mercury; data which seemingly conflicts with, and possibly lessens the integrity of a Life Carrier's testimony on page 657 of The URANTIA Book, i. e. : that Mercury keeps the same face towards the sun. Modern astronomical science, with the aid of the Mariner and other space probes, now announces that Mercury does not keep her same face to the sun, as was formerly believed, but, on the contrary, rotates three times for every two Mercurian years.

The mandate-tenet of limiting disclosure (page 1109) might be the explanation to this seeming manifest factual contradiction. But on the question of ethics, M. I. N. D. asks: Does the withholding of scientific facts—true facts, as seen from a celestial vantage point—include the promulgating, promoting and reiterating of the previously held beliefs of science which are untrue?

Sincerely yours, in His service,  
Thomas Gately, Secretary, M. I. N. D.  
Mentative Investigations into  
Needed Disclosures  
Captain Cook, Hawaii

## RECONCILING SCIENCE AND Lessons from the Mercury Pa

I know of one staunch reader of The URANTIA Book who simply refuses to accept the new data. He maintains that the Mariner scientists are wrong. What's more, this man is himself a scientist. No matter how strongly we believe the teachings of The URANTIA Book, we should guard against this "sacred book" attitude, the doctrine of infallibility or inerrancy, for it precludes an open-minded searching for new truth.



I too was disturbed when I heard that our scientists have discovered that Mercury still spins on its axis, three times for every two orbits around the sun, for the Book seems to state that it always turns the same face toward the sun. Indeed, if the Book flatly and unequivocally stated as a fact something later proven to be false, then I would have grave doubts about the integrity of the Book, for it would certainly seem unethical to state false facts. I would have to incline toward attitude number two, which would be extremely painful and disruptive to me since I have come to rely upon The URANTIA Book so much.



The URANTIA Book makes no claim of infallibility. In fact, we are advised on page 1109 to be prepared to discard some of its cosmology in the light of future scientific discovery. When I first heard about Mercury, this was the attitude I took. I assumed that this was just the first of many amplifications that science would add to revelation. I knew that regardless of how complete and beautiful a picture The URANTIA Book portrays, true reality is even grander.



As I sat down to study the matter to determine just how badly fact had contradicted my beloved Book, I suddenly noticed that there is in reality no conflict! The Book does not actually state that Mercury always turns the same face toward the sun. Close examination of the passage reveals that it was carefully constructed to say no more than that

Dear Mr. Gately,

Thank you for raising an important issue.

The following is how I would respond to your question; additional viewpoints from our readers would be welcomed, as would any corrections in the scientific facts here presented.

There are many attitudes one can take when confronted with an apparent contradiction between The URANTIA Book and scientific facts, including:



1. The Book is infallible; the scientists must be wrong.



2. The Book states false facts; is not dependable.



3. The Book's cosmology is being outgrown as predicted.



4. There is no real conflict; there only appears to be.

\*Quotations used in this publication are from The URANTIA Book, © 1955, URANTIA Foundation, Chicago, and are used by permission, obtained in writing from URANTIA Foundation prior to publication.

"Mankind should understand that we who participate in the revelation of truth are very rigorously limited by the instructions of our superiors. We are not at liberty to anticipate the scientific discoveries of a thousand years. Revelators must act in accordance with the instructions which form a part of the revelation mandate. We see no way of overcoming this difficulty, either now or at any future time."  
(U. B. p. 1109)\*

"The planets nearest the sun were the first to have their revolutions slowed down by tidal friction. Such gravitational influences also contribute to the stabilization of planetary orbits while acting as a brake on the rate of planetary-axial revolution, causing a planet to revolve ever slower until axial revolution ceases, leaving one hemisphere of the planet always turned toward the sun or larger body, as is illustrated by the Planet Mercury and by the moon, which always turns the same face toward Urantia." (U. B. p. 657)\*

## REVELATION: Message

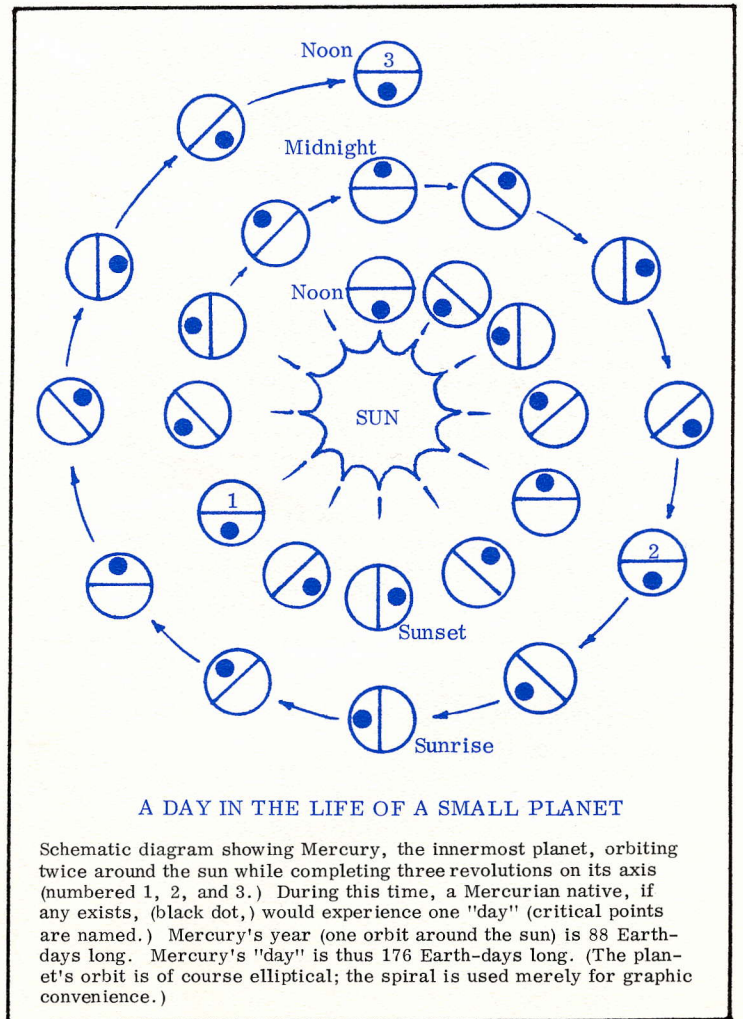
Mercury illustrates the phenomenon of progressive slowing, which indeed it does. As our scientists have so recently discovered, the little planet's rotation has slowed so much that its "day" is longer than its year! Now that is an example of slowing if there ever was one! But why, a skeptic may ask, is the Book not more explicit about the facts? Why is it not clearly stated that Mercury has almost slowed to the point where it always turns the same face toward the sun?



I believe it is because of the limitations placed on the revelators to include only known or about-to-be-known facts and observations. (Again page 1109.) I am satisfied that the revelators carefully constructed the language of the statement on page 657 so that it would not conflict either with the knowledge of Urantian scientists in 1934 or with the true facts as they would eventually be discovered, more than forty years later!

Indeed, I am more than satisfied; I am amazed and intrigued! Here we have a case of intentional double-meaning, designed to be consistent with undiscovered facts without revealing those facts! How many more such "revelational aftershocks" will be felt as future discoveries throw new meaning into apparently innocent but, on closer examination, carefully worded statements in The URANTIA Book?

I think there are a couple of lessons to be learned in the Mercury experience. First, be prepared for the day, perhaps not in our lifetimes, when the Book's cosmological presentations will be made obsolete by the discoveries of advancing science. On that day, count the years that it withstood obsolescence, count the times that it grew via legitimate reinterpretation to keep step with science, and marvel at the wisdom and wordcraft of our revelatory benefactors. And until that day, be open to new ideas. Be willing to thoroughly and honestly compare The URANTIA Book against the new factual discoveries of science. And be slow to reject either scientific facts or the Book, for in all likelihood there will be many future instances of what at first appears to be disappointing conflict turning out to be amazing consistency □ --cmm



# The New Apostles...

What a wonderful privilege it is to be involved in this great URANTIA Revelation. I think we sometimes take the URANTIA Book for granted, even those of us who believe it is, in fact, a revelation from higher universe personalities. We forget how young this movement is and how few people there are on this planet who are aware that this book exists. At the present time there are probably fewer than forty thousand people on the planet who take The URANTIA Book seriously, and since the population of the planet is about 4 billion people, we can conclude that only about one person in one hundred thousand has read much of The URANTIA Book. Compare this to around one person in three who has been exposed to some degree to the teachings of Jesus, or at least to the Christian churches that have grown up in reaction to his mighty life on earth.

The implications for social, institutional, economic, governmental, technological, and spiritual change which are contained in The URANTIA Book are enormous.

It is entirely possible that The URANTIA Book will become as influential and as controversial during the coming millenia as the life of Jesus of Nazareth has been during the last two thousand years.

The apostles and disciples of Jesus were fortunate to have had actual, personal contact with the Master. They were also privileged to be among the first to carry the gospel of the Kingdom to the world.

While we today who are the recipients of the most recent epochal revelation to this planet, The URANTIA Book, are not privy to any special or advantageous access to the truth as were the apostles and disciples, we do share with those men and women of old the great privilege of being among the first to receive this new truth and to carry it to the world.

I am reminded of what one speaker remarked at the International Forum in Oklahoma last summer: "How can we sit here reading this book twice when there are people out there who haven't read it once."

Many of you have probably had the experience of having a period of tremendous initial enthusiasm upon "discovering" The URANTIA Book, followed by attempts to get other people interested in it, only to meet with suspicion, contempt, or indifference. You have learned to your great sadness that most people simply will not share your enthusiasm for The URANTIA Book.

Moreover, we have been definitely advised that the growth of the knowledge of The URANTIA Book must be evolutionary, gradual, and solid. We must avoid mass publicity and emotional appeals. Growth must be by word of mouth, preferably from the informed believer to the sincere truth-seeker.

As a reader of the Book and a believer in its teachings, you can be the vehicle whereby another individual "discovers" this great Revelation. We believe that the best way to do this is, first, to live the teachings of the Book, faith in God and loving service to man. By such a life you will

attract sincere seekers of the truth to whom you will explain this great gospel of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man. When you find one who is receptive to this truth, and who inquires as to the source of your wisdom, then may the situation be right for you to enjoy the great privilege of introducing another son or daughter of God to the URANTIA Papers.

—cmm

## "Late" News

### EDITOR PLEADS GUILTY TO PROCRASTINATION

We know people like a sense of continuity. And since our little journal, the Agondonter, is billed as a quarterly, we are herewith providing you with two issues.

We didn't expect that our mailing list would double in a year or so. And that we would have to maintain that growing list. (Actually, we love it. We now have around one thousand names, all of you neatly placed on 4x6 cards, and we are gathering more names like a philatelist gathers stamps: lovingly and possessively.)

Nor did we ever expect to be receiving hundreds of letters every year. Regretfully, most letters go unanswered. Bear with us. Write us again, or write Chicago if we don't answer. Don't feel miffed! We're not Newsweek! We have a very small staff. (And don't feel miffed if Chicago doesn't answer either. They're not the Ford Foundation! They're several months behind too.)

At any rate, we apologize for the many months that have elapsed without an Agondonter. But we're proud to be sending you these two issues, and you will be happy to know that the Spring 1977 issue is nearly ready for the printer, and we've begun work on the Summer 1977 issue. So we do intend to catch up!

By the way, as our mailing list grows, we will soon have to trim it. If you can't afford the \$5 a year subscription rate, even a dollar will show your sincerity and insure your remaining on the list.

And please, when you write us include a few lines about yourself, your experiences with the Book, with other readers, your plans, news from your area, etc. Be sure to mark it personal if you don't want it published! Otherwise your letter may well end up in a future issue of the Agondonter. Even if we don't print your letter, we enjoy hearing from you.

God bless you. Keep on truckin', do good, love your neighbor, and read that Book!

To those we know, we love you.

To those we don't, we would if we did!

*Chick*

Charles Montgomery  
Agondonter Editor

agondonter

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