



FUSLA Hosts Third Western Conference

IRVINE, SEPTEMBER 5:

About 180 people from as far away as Illinois, Washington State, Colorado and Hawaii attended the FUSLA sponsored conference held at the Irvine Campus of the University of California, September 3 through 5.

It was a well-enjoyed conference, and special recognition is due to Scott and Carol Forsythe, and to Polly Friedman who worked so well and so hard to make the conference such a success.

The format worked well of holding scheduled speakers to a minimum and leaving plenty of free time for impromptu skits, discussions, slide presentations, meditations, singing and fellowship. This conference represented a significant departure from all previous conferences we have attended in that it was characterized by such a variety of activities and presentations.

By Sunday morning we had all settled down sufficiently to listen with interest to our featured speakers. John Hales, Resident Director of URANTIA Brotherhood in

Chicago gave us an update on activities there, noting that URANTIA Book sales are still averaging about 1000 per month and that the volume of correspondence from inquisitive new readers is increasing.

Meredith Sprunger, URANTIA Brotherhood President, shared some provocative thoughts on the future of the movement. Meredith recently gave up his professional activities, but he still pastors a small church in addition to his Brotherhood responsibilities.

The conference ended with a remembrance supper. We were not conscious of experiencing him personally, but we believe that Jesus was really there.

Update: After the conference we received this letter from Ruby Stewart in Idaho: "Hi everyone, I wanted to write and tell you how very much I enjoyed the Western Conference. It was all such a spiritual feast for me. It is such a fantastic experience to be able to be around other people who love the URANTIA teachings as I do."

OREGON CONFERENCE

GRANT'S PASS, MAY 21:

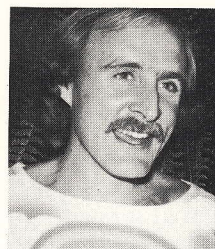
The Grant's Pass study group held its third annual mini-conference on May 20 and 21 on the banks of the Rogue River in beautiful Southern Oregon. About a hundred URANTIA Book readers were there, plus quite a few children and babies.

Almost as if some agency of providence had intervened, the weeks of rain and drizzly weather were interrupted just long enough for the conference to happen. And happily too, for many of the conferees were camping in recreation vehicles and tents (the Camas Valley study group even had a teepee!), or out under the open sky.

Marvin Gawryn spoke on the cultivation of "religious habits" (eight are specifically listed on page 1777 of The URANTIA Book). He suggested the idea of selecting worldly stimuli which elicit spiritual responses in us. For example, we might select our "pet evil" (its presence or the thought of it) as the stimulus to redirect our thoughts to the fact of God's ever-presence.

Janet Quinn spoke on Jesus and the women who loved him, as well as his treatment of women. She pointed out that his first pronouncement of

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REFLECTIONS ON THE THIRD WESTERN CONFERENCE

--by Dick Prince

No conference, and in fact no life experience save for the birth of Christine, has had such a powerful impact on me as did the 48 hours in Irvine.

Certainly one unique feature of this conference was our almost total isolation from those not in attendance. Every pair of eyes was looking straight into mine, and I knew beyond doubt that there was love and fellowship to be had with that person, at some time, even if the opportunity to get to know each other did not arise over the weekend.

A second powerful influence in the success of the conference was the large amount of unscheduled time. This allowed old friends to greet one another, allowed new friendships to spring up, allowed parents to spend some time with children without feeling as though they were missing something important.

Another powerful influence was the nature of the workshops. This was a result that no one could have predicted, but it seems, from those I talked with, to be remarkably frequent on the list of high points of the weekend. Particularly those workshops which resulted

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agondonter

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 the 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 and teachings of The URANTIA Book, this publication does not officially represent any URANTIA organization.

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

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SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION:

The Agondonter is sent free of charge to all who express an interest. The recommended yearly donation is \$5.00. Donations should be in the form of a check, payable to FUSLA.

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On Jerusem, the ascenders from isolated worlds such as Urantia "are known as agondonters, meaning evolutionary will creatures who can believe without seeing, persevere when isolated, and triumph over insuperable difficulties even when alone."*

*UB p. 579

*Quotations from The URANTIA Book, © 1955, used by permission of the URANTIA Foundation, Chicago.

OREGON CONFERENCE (continued from page 1)

his divine nature was to a woman (Nalda), that his first miracle was in response to a woman (his mother), and that his first morontia appearance was to a woman (Mary Magdalene)...all indicative of the high regard in which he held women.

Following the Friday and Saturday program, the Rogue River study group held its regular Sunday morning meeting under a laminated beam shelter in the town park. The conference over, it immediately began to rain again.

In early August we received a letter from Robin and Gerald Wisdom whom we had met for the first time at the Oregon conference, announcing the birth of their baby boy, Machiventa Abraham. God bless.

Concordex Author Wants Suggestions

While a new and further enlarged Concordex is not in sight for the immediate future, I am accumulating new entries to enlarge the next edition, when it is required. No index can ever include every entry everyone is apt to look for. Such an index would be so big as to destroy its own usefulness. Nevertheless, there is always room for improvement and I seek your suggestions, not only for additional entries, but of any kind to improve the Concordex. So please send me listings you feel should be in that are now missing.

However, please first look carefully in the places your proposed entry might now be listed. More than half of the suggestions I have thus far had are already in the Concordex, but not where the reader looked. Some subjects could be listed in three to five places (cross-indexed). But if every item that could be so listed were, your Concordex would jump to 600 pages or more, and be unhandy to use. As it is, some important topics are cross-indexed in three or more places.

I sometimes have to look in three or four places for a reference I want. Readers of The URANTIA Book may occasionally have to do that. One reader told me "spittle" was not listed, and he wanted that reference in connection with a miracle healing. He could not find the word under "S". Instead of giving up he might have looked under "JESUS, healing", where he would have found it. He could have looked under "healing", in "H". That would have referred him to "healing", under "JESUS". Thus he would have found his word.

A woman remembered, she thought, that the orange race believed in reincarnation. She wanted to confirm that opinion. Since she didn't find the reference under "orange man" or "orange race", it would be logical to look under "reincarnation". There she would have found it.

Still, I know there are some grievous omissions in the Concordex. Send me entry suggestions and your ideas about how I might improve the Concordex.

Clyde Bedell
120 Camino Alto
Santa Barbara, CA 93103

WELCOME TO FUSLA

TWELVE NEW MEMBERS JOIN FUSLA THIS SUMMER

From March through August, the First URANTIA Society of Los Angeles took in twelve new members, the most ever accepted during such a short period in the 20-year history of FUSLA.

On April 3, 1977, Jackie Anderson, Hank Zucker, and Raymond Caliguiri joined FUSLA, members 122, 123, and 124, respectively.



Ray Caliguiri Hank Zucker Julia Fenderson Jackie Anderson

On July 10, eight more were welcomed: Don Alexander, Paul Cooke, James Froates, Robert Hudspeth, Mary Marks, Laurie Mitchell, Pauline Tyszka, and Thaddeus (Ted) Tyszka - members 125 through 132, in that order. Both the above groups were initiated at the Veteran's Memorial Center in Culver City at regular first-Sunday-of-the-month FUSLA meetings.



Left to right: Ted and Pauline Tyszka, Laurie Mitchell, Mary Marks, Bob Hudspeth, Jim Froats, Paul Cook, and Don Alexander

On August 12, Ellen Bishop, FUSLA's most recent member, number 133, entered the Society in an informal ceremony at the home of Julia Fenderson, FUSLA's Membership Chairman.

Among the requirements for membership in FUSLA are familiarity with The URANTIA Book and acceptance of its teachings, and attendance at a series of six monthly orientation meetings conducted by Julia. In becoming a member of any URANTIA Society, such as FUSLA, one automatically becomes a member of the URANTIA Brotherhood.



Ellen Bishop

Dear Fellow Urantians!

I have enclosed a \$100 check for a lifetime subscription to the Agondonter. Thank you for sending me free copies over the last few years.

Was just looking at the Spring '77 issue on "Improving Communications #5 [Agondonter format changes.] I like it the way it is now. Maybe it is too expensive, but I like the quality. [Full page size, good paper, two color printing.]

I am in the Tampa Study Group. Last month we met with the Lakeland and Sarasota Study Groups for a weekend of relaxation and fellowship. We met at a retreat (advance?) area called "Unity in the Pines." It was really nice. We had about 35 big and little kids. It had been awhile since we had all gotten together, and we had really missed each other.

P.S. I really like the idea of putting maps and study aids in the Agondonter that would fit in our URANTIA Books.

Love, Kevin D. Goodman

[Thanks to Kevin for the generous donation. Keep in mind that when you subscribe for a lifetime, that means yours or ours, whichever occurs first! By the way, some of you other procrastinators might send in checks too; we need money right now. In the near future, finances permitting, we will expand to an eight or more page format for every issue. Our first study aid will be a chronology of the life of Jesus, with maps showing his Mediterranean and homeland travels. --ed.]

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FUSLA ELECTS NEW COMMITTEE

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

President..... Kermit Anderson
 Vice President..... Lucille Faw
 Secretary..... Scott Forsythe
 Treasurer..... Andy Remon
 Membership Chairman.. Julia Fenderson
 Education Chairman... Polly Friedman
 Newsletter Chairman... Chick Montgomery
 Hospitality Chairman... Bob Hudspeth
 Book Chairman..... Greg Harris

Many thanks to retiring committee members, Dorothy Hicks, Carol Forsythe, Michael Long, and Felice Long for their much-appreciated service to FUSLA this past year.

* * *

NEW GROUP BEGINS ORIENTATION MEETINGS

Thirteen persons began the series of orientation meetings in September preparatory to becoming FUSLA members. They are: Major Emory Balkovic, April L. Darracq, Mary Lou Hooten, Karen Jeppeson, Lucille Kettel, Richard MacDonald, Dennis Nicomede, Karrie Louise Nicomede, Bob Alan Darracq, Saskia Palay, Michael Praamsma, Irving Townsend, and Gregory Wyedevu.

Orientation Chairperson Julia Fenderson says that this group should be ready for initiation in the Spring. Others on the Orientation Committee include Paul Cook, General Duane Faw, Charles Hicks, and Andy Remon.



REFLECTIONS (continued from page 1)

in new levels of understanding, new ideas of the meaning of love and brotherhood. Let me give you an example. I attended Bob Slagle's workshop. I don't know quite what to call it, but for lack of a better term I shall simply say the workshop on soul-to-soul communication. Very few of us who went into that auditorium came out without a lasting (I hope) change in the way we look at our fellow man, on many levels.

Finally, and certainly most importantly, the nature of the individuals participating in the conference made it unique. There were so many people who had been with the book for some time. They were not embarrassed or withdrawn with their love for the Father, but were hungry for more. There was a dedication in the vast majority of those in attendance which was almost palpable.

It was a real joy to share all of that with all of you.

TAKE A LOOK

--Lee Armstrong
Iowa City, Iowa

<p>1</p> <p>take a look and come alive the day you saw is not leaving now the sound of a leaf blowing on the drive is only the sound of Believing</p>	<p>2</p> <p>take a look at winter's tide take a gift to be alive taste the joy of those who survive and hear the One who makes streams go</p>
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