



Study of URANTIA® Book on the Increase

The backbone of the URANTIA Revelation is the study group. We know of between 250 and 300 well-constituted and active study groups throughout the world at this time.

A study group can take many forms. From six to ten people seems to be the ideal size, but as few as two and as many as twenty can effectively study the Book.

We have seen groups that resembled afternoon teas, therapy encounters, prayer sessions and philosophy seminars. What distinguishes them as study groups is that time is spent actually reading The URANTIA Book.

Groups in the West

Gerryann Olson sends us good news about the growing number of study groups in Sonoma County, up north of the Bay Area. Three strong groups have evolved and Gerryann feels certain that there are many more UB readers as yet undiscovered in the vicinity.

The Sebastopol group is led by Bob Slagle, who has organized many groups over the last seven years.

The Petaluma group is led by Elizabeth VanBuren (418 8th St. Petaluma, CA. 94952), and this batch recently hosted an all-county meeting where the San Francisco group, led by Steve Zendt, came to show their new multimedia presentations.

The birth of the Santa Rosa group is a story that must be told: The eight-year-old son of Robert and Kathy O'Connor (412 Humboldt St. Santa Rosa, CA. 95404), who host the group, came home one day with a new friend. The friend saw a Big Blue Book on the table and

exclaimed, "My mother reads that Book too!" It didn't take long to find his mother, Susan Stagi, who lived only a few doors away. Thus a lively and dedicated group was formed that now often has twelve to fifteen readers present.

Each of these groups is different in its approach: one is reading the Life of Jesus, one focuses on different themes, while the other orients the meeting around special presentations by each member. Gerryann writes: "It is just so exciting to discover new friends to study with and to feel our lives expand as we share this revelation with others."

Riverside-----Penny Poole and Jeff Oster were married August 28 at the home of Penny's parents, in a lovely garden ceremony. The Osters had long been active in Bay Area URANTIA activities. They have now started a study group in their new home in Riverside, down here in Southern California. On January 15 they hosted a casual Sunday get-together for readers in the region. Thirteen people attended.



UTAH STUDY GROUP: Typical of the dedicated groups springing up throughout the west to study The URANTIA Book. These folks meet in the home of Thern and Rae Blackburn in Woods Cross.



Julia visits Arcata

ARCATA HOSTS MINI-CONFERENCE

Eureka! I've found it! That's how many of us felt when we discovered the URANTIA Book. Eureka (meaning, I have found it) is also the name of a small city on the northern California coast... up in the wild redwood country. And in Arcata, a little town a few miles from Eureka, a regular family of URANTIA Book readers has developed around the nucleus of a few pioneers who located there several years ago, including Bob and Bonnie Hunt, Phil and Cindy Calabrese, and Bob and Cheryl Boden.

Julia Fenderson, long active in URANTIA work and now Membership Committee Chairman of FUSLA, visited the folks in Arcata in early December. During her stay a one-day mini-conference was held culminating in a pot luck buffet supper at the Hunt's home, (which Bob built himself last year.) About 30 readers attended.

Apple Valley-----Mildred Kaunus hosts this new study group which meets every Wednesday night at the Pyramid Book Store. (Phone 714-242-4402).

Santa Barbara-----A solid study group has evolved in this area hosted by Eunice Greaton (333 Old Mill Road, Space 176 Santa Barbara, CA. 93110). Regular attendees include Barrie Bedell, Kenneth Allwood, Pat Singleman, Sandra Handley, and Eric Gates.

Grimsley Proclaims God from Podium and Studio

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

Long-time readers of The URANTIA Book agree there should be no publicity of the Book until thousands of study groups have been formed around the world. Yet the Book urges us to spread truth, to devote ourselves to the spiritual uplift of others, and to work toward the regeneration of men's souls. How do we resolve this apparent conflict?

Vern Bennom Grimsley, student of The URANTIA Book since 1956, discovered the answer long ago. For years Vern has been "bootlegging" URANTIA Book concepts into the public consciousness via international radio and public addresses without ever mentioning or directly quoting the Book. Vern puts out the essential messages of the Book, the true teachings of Jesus, the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man, truth, beauty, goodness, love, etc., but he never publicly mentions The URANTIA Book itself, or its more esoteric revelations. His radio program "ON CAMPUS" is heard worldwide.

Vern is currently on a speaking tour that includes Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, Montana, Idaho and California.

In a recent address Vern remarked concerning the quiet spiritual renaissance going on today, "That which makes headlines goes on the front page; that which makes history is often found on the back page."

[Let us all quietly continue our "back page" work until the time is ripe for a full public proclamation of this great Book. --ed.]



NEWS of the SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA
--by Sue Kantor

In December the Bay Area "parents group" met at the home of Mary and Terry Echlin, where Sara Blackstock led the discussion on parenting. The group had also met in September at the Tilden Park Farm and Nature Center.



Vern, in address to well-known lecture bureau, urges a spiritual renaissance

"On Campus" Broadcast Times

The Family of God program is heard on hundreds of local radio stations in all 50 states and reaches into dozens of foreign countries. Here are a few examples:

<u>San Francisco:</u>	KFAX, 1100AM, Sunday, 9:00 PM.
<u>Chicago:</u>	WEAW, 1330AM, Sunday, 10:00 A.M.
<u>New York:</u>	WWDJ, 970AM, Saturday, 6:00 P.M.
<u>Los Angeles:</u>	XEMO, 860AM, Saturday, 9:00 P.M.
<u>Oklahoma City:</u>	KBYE, 890AM, Saturday, 1:00 P.M.
<u>Europe:</u>	Radio MANX, 188 Meterband, 89mhz/91.2 mhz, vhf, Wednesday, 7:00 P.M.
<u>Asia:</u>	Radio Sri-Lanka, All-Asia Network, Tuesday 9:45 P.M. 9.720 megacycles, Thursday 8:45 P.M. 4.968 megacycles, 5.020 megacycles.
<u>Africa:</u>	SWAZI Radio, 4.785 megacycles, Friday, 9:45 P.M.

For a more complete listing of local stations in any state, region, or portion of the world, write to the Family of God Foundation, Inc., Box 347, Berkeley, California 94701.

The annual meeting of SFBAUS was held on February 5 at the home of Vern and Nancy Grimsley. Reports from officers were heard and one new member, Mike Hagan of San Jose, CA., was installed. Officers for 1978 were elected and are: David Gray, President; Terry McCade, Vice-President; Joanne Eichmann, Secretary; and Gard Jameson, Treasurer.

On February 17, a daughter, Lara, was born to Bob and Gail Eash, volunteers at Family of God.

agondonter

The AGONDONTER is the quarterly publication of FUSLA, the First URANTIA Society of Los Angeles. Our coverage emphasizes the Western United States.

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, the AGONDONTER is not intended as an official interpretation.

Items of common 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.

Ad Hoc Editorial Cmte.: Lucile Faw, Julia Fenderson, Scott Forsythe, Andy Remon. Editor: Chick Montgomery.

TO RECEIVE THE AGONDONTER:

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".

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

* Quotation from The URANTIA Book, ©1955, URANTIA Foundation, Chicago, used by permission.

TAKE HEART!

Please don't fear that you've been removed from our mailing list. We simply did not print a Fall or Winter issue. (The Agondonter is a labor of love—no one gets paid for working on it—except the printer and the U.S. Postal Service.) We intend to publish quarterly from now on, God willing.

Prince, Slagle Serve at Celebration '78

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

Dick Prince is an M.D. He works in a hospital emergency room. He has chosen this type of medicine because it affords him the greatest opportunity to comfort the bodies and souls of individuals who are in pain, and because the days-on-days-off schedule gives him more time to relax and be with his family. (His wife, Cheryl, presented him with their second daughter, Laurel Marie, on February 9th.) It also gives him time to study, worship, and serve without pay as a URANTIA Brotherhood Field Representative.

In addition, Dick serves part-time as one of the six staff members of the Center for Life Enrichment, an adjunct of the Community Church of the Pacific in Pacific Beach. This Center is dedicated to serving "the whole person."

On Saturday, January 21, Dick worked with others at the Center to stage "Celebration '78," a day devoted to integrating the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health of the individual.

Impressed with the experiential workshop conducted by Dr. Robert Slagle at the September URANTIA Conference in Irvine, Dick invited Bob to direct a similar workshop at the Celebration.

Those who participated in this unique workshop said it was such a powerful spiritual and emotional experience that it simply cannot be described.

One need not be an M. D or Ph. D to begin adding the "leavening" of truth one finds in The URANTIA Book to local organizations in the community. Dick believes that each of us can begin right where we are, taking up whatever skills we have, and building on our experience to date to perform this service of spreading the truth and love we receive from the Father.

MOSCOW BOUND

Bill and Dorothy Hazzard depart in April for a six-month trip to Russia. The Hazzards have had a study group in San Diego for five years and are responsible for placing a number of URANTIA Books throughout the world, including in the South Pacific and New Zealand.

FUSLA MEMBER GETS HAWAIIAN WELCOME

--by Beverley J. Wold

The URANTIA Book talks all the way through about Truth, Beauty and Goodness. I found these qualities in overwhelming abundance in a two week trip to the Hawaiian Islands late last year.



Eva Sepp met me at the airport in Honolulu with her friend Lynne.

Then I was whipped off to the first of five Study Group meetings that I attended on Oahu. This was overlooking Honolulu at the penthouse apartment of John (J J) Johnson.

Skip, Connie, JJ, Eva, Carol and Tom, and others helped me poke into the Paradisical spots, so that I could record the beauty of the Islands.

The papers written by JJ, Study Aids for children compiled by Ruth Tyau, and the philosophical work of Tom Gateley are some of the tangible examples I saw of genuine Truth Seekers.

Connie and Richard Holmberg, with their adorable three-year-old blond twins—Krista and Sanssa—certainly demonstrated a family life most beautiful to come to know.

I had the thrill of helping shrink the distance between fellow URANTIA Book readers by leading a meeting at Sue and Bob Smith's, where about thirty keenly interested brothers and sisters saw the slides from our FUSLA Irvine Conference.

Each individual I had the pleasure of meeting (and there were over fifty) seemed to radiate the spirit of goodness and helpfulness. (If you want an experience of "instant friendship" just find a group of URANTIA Book readers.)

RECENT FUSLA MEETINGS

FUSLAns have enjoyed a variety of presentations and participation in small study groups at the recent monthly meetings:

October, "World Religions" by Duane Faw and Greg Harris; November, "The URANTIA Book In Our Lives" by Chick Montgomery; December, "The Christmas Spirit" by Dorothy Hicks; January, "Love-A Workshop" by Chris Heimer and Ellen Bishop; February, "The Role of Disappointment in Spiritual Growth" by Kermit and Jackie Anderson; and March, "Unity Without Uniformity" by Duane and Lucile Faw.

PRAYING IN THE NEW YEAR

FUSLA President Kermit Anderson had a pot-luck in his and Jackie's home on New Year's Eve. About 25 readers shared in a remembrance supper, seated in a circle around the living room, giving thanks, petitions and praise. Highly spirited group singing followed.

At the same time, Julia Fenderson and nine readers were praying in the New Year at her home in Culver City.

Another group was gathered at Vince Ventola's home up in Arcata. How many other URANTIA Book readers met together in homes throughout the world that night, to pray in the New Year?

KERMIT VISITS CHICAGO

Shortly after being elected President of FUSLA last fall, Kermit Anderson flew to Chicago for a few days to acquaint himself with the people and policies of the Brotherhood and Foundation. Toni Richey and Ralph Schmidt, recognizing the value of such a trip, organized the collection of funds from FUSLA members to make the trip possible. Riding with Kermit from the airport, Christy pointed out the very intersection where, decades ago, a vehicle "accident" resulted in her first meeting with Dr. William S. Sadler, and marked the beginning of her long career of service to the URANTIA Revelation.

1978 GENERAL CONFERENCE
at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin
in August. Write Chicago for
details.

Study Groups Convene in Wenatchee

--by Lew and Alice Clark

After a soggy week, the morning of October 1 dawned bright and sunny, and not even the wind came to mar perfect autumn weather for our weekend event.

Following the keynote address on Saturday morning by Bettina Gray, twelve small discussion groups were formed and they scattered to various places inside and outdoors in the sunshine.

The evening session included an address by Marvin Gawryn, special music, and an inspirational message by Vern Grimsley. Following this, marshmallows and hot dogs—a touch of "country" under the starry sky and mellow moon.

Sunday morning worship time included songs by Joanne Iverson and Dan Sullivan, and a chant conducted by Francyl Gawryn and Bettina. Gordon Bellamy read selections from The URANTIA Book, and Dr. Meredith Sprunger, President of the URANTIA Brotherhood, spoke on activities at the Chicago headquarters.



Seattle study group making new friends



Victoria B. C. group on Clark's back lawn

We closed at about 12:30 PM so our far-away guests could meet plane and ferry-boat schedules.

We feel that the weekend was a great success. For the first time we had representatives from the Spokane area. They now have a study group started there.

Assisting in planning the weekend were Steve Johnson and Janice Goben from the Seattle area, Fran Huntington from Portland, and Nathan Zadden from White Rock, Vancouver, B.C.

Our largest delegation came from Canada, and they were an inspiration to the others who have vowed to work harder in their areas.

[Note: As we work to develop interest in The URANTIA Book among prospective readers, remember that we are to do this without publicity or fanfare of any kind. --ed.]

CONCORDEX AUTHOR PLANS UPDATE

Clyde Bedell, creator and publisher of the Concordex to The URANTIA Book, wants your suggestions for additional entries to include in a new edition.

The Concordex is a unique combination of index and concordance. Those of you who would like to obtain a copy of the current edition by mail may do so by sending Clyde \$12.00. Clyde and his wife Florence recently moved from their Santa Barbara home, so send your checks and suggestions to Clyde Bedell at 2390 Via Mariposa West 3E, Laguna Hills, CA 92653.

[Normally the Agondonter does not print any type of advertisement or commercial announcement. We make an exception for the Concordex because it is a uniquely valuable study aid and the product of over thirty years of continued work by this very dedicated student of The URANTIA Book, Clyde Bedell. --ed.]

VANCOUVER CONFERENCE SLATED

Nathan Zadden is organizing a conference on May 13 and 14 in a private lodge on Bowen Island in Vancouver, B.C., Canada. You can write him for details at 15312 Thrift Avenue, White Rock, B.C., V4B 2L5.

agondonter

P. O. BOX 563
LOS ANGELES, CA
90053

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Los Angeles, Calif.
Permit No. 33948

PRINTED MATTER