
ON PASSING BY IN THE SKY...

In February, 1984, Ernestine Henning was flying to Chicago, a trip she makes often to visit family and friends in St. Louis and Memphis. Sitting next to her was a gentleman with a big blue book in his lap. Since her husband is a minister, and thinking it to be a concordance, Ernestine was inquisitive. The gentleman introduced himself and said that, though he taught a Bible class, this was The URANTIA Book. Ernestine was interested. By now her fellow traveler must have known she was bound for Missouri. Rather than tell her about the book, he proceeded to show her. Words came to her eyes about strange new worlds and beings unlike anything she knew from the Bible. "Who wrote it?" she asked. Her friend turned to the table of contents and showed her the authors' names. "The more I saw, the more mystified I became, and intrigued. Before long I was beginning to soar. I even said to him, 'How can you be content to read anything else after reading this!?' " Soon Ernestine came down from the clouds and went her way, then back to LA where she teaches Jr. high English. She got two books, and gave one to her husband. "I had often wished to send that gentleman a note with the message in bold, 'EUREKA!!' just to let him know that I'd found the book, but I didn't know where to find him."

Ernestine's friend, Hazle Mitchell, had been invited to attend the May meeting of First URANTIA Society, and she asked Ernestine to come along. Recalling her discovery of The URANTIA Book at the meeting that day, Ernestine said: "There was this very nice gentleman who sat next to me on the plane. His name was Duane Faw, but I haven't seen him since." Duane was standing behind her, and you can guess the rest.

The appropriate ending to this story is that Duane also first learned of The URANTIA Book from a fellow traveler on a plane. She didn't have the book with her; she only talked about it. But Duane listened, and never forgot. Since then, he says, he always carries one with him when flying. Ernestine is grateful that he did. She, too, now takes to the sky with The URANTIA Book.

NEWSNOTES

*After a discussion at February's monthly meeting about the future of the "Agondonter" the governing committee of FUSLA decided that completion of the project to the original standard envisioned for this publication was not feasible, and the project was dismantled. Considering the long and difficult history of the "Agondonter," it was not an easy decision. All pre-subscription funds will be returned. "Agondonter" material will be retained for our Society's historical archives. If you were a subscriber and do not receive a refund, you may contact Treasurer Kermit Anderson, (714) 894-5417.

*Jackie and Kermit Anderson will host an evening of food and fellowship on Saturday, June 14, 6:00 P.M., with a chili-cornbread-salad spread featuring the Andersons' own

ON GOALS

Both URANTIA Brotherhood and our Society have determined to promote religious fellowship while avoiding prescribed creeds or rituals. In this same spirit, we as religionists may benefit by agreement on common goals, which will enhance our fellowship together, promote clarity of thought, and provide a stimulus for action.

The International Fellowship Committee of URANTIA Brotherhood has adopted the following "Guidelines for Progress". Similar goals statements have been seen before, but as Will Rogers once said, "None of us are so smart that we can remember all we know." See if you agree with these:

1. The spiritual foundation of our group is our belief that by faith we can know God as wheour Father and thus realize the brotherhood of man.
2. We believe that God is the only true end. The URANTIA Book is a means to the end. Our group function is a means to the end.
3. As a group, our primary purpose is to study and disseminate The URANTIA Book and its teachings. As individuals, our primary purpose is to begin the supreme adventure of actually attempting to live these teachings -- to practice the presence of God in our daily lives through prayer and worship and through ministry and love.
4. Members of our group may belong to other established religious groups or may be unaffiliated religionists. Our main requirement for membership is the desire to know God.
5. We have created our group to serve people, and not the other way around. We respect the dignity of each individual. Our focus is on the growth of the individual. We cherish our differences (unity not uniformity), but we are each seeking to become perfect as a creature as God is perfect as a creator.
6. In matters of spirit we recognize but one authority -- the loving God of all creation as he may express himself to each of us. Our leaders are but trusted servants, they do not rule.
7. As a group, we will in no way become involved in politics or issues of social or economic change that would divert us from our spiritual purpose. We will announce no 'group' opinion on outside issues. We will do everything possible to prevent the name "URANTIA" from being drawn into public controversy by group actions. We will be obedient to the laws of the country in which we live.
8. As a part of a worldwide movement for planetary progress, we will work with other groups in a spirit of cooperation. In particular, we will assist URANTIA Foundation when-

ever possible in its task of protecting The URANTIA Book, the word Urantia and the concentric circles symbol that identifies the URANTIA organizations.

9. We desire to experience sonship with God in our daily lives, a new and higher way of living.

(Approved: URANTIA Brotherhood, 5/20/86)

"SOMEDAY RELIGIONISTS WILL GET TOGETHER AND ACTUALLY EFFECT COOPERATION ON THE BASIS OF UNITY OF IDEALS AND PURPOSES RATHER THAN ATTEMPTING TO DO SO ON THE BASIS OF PSYCHOLOGICAL OPINIONS AND THEOLOGICAL BELIEFS. GOALS RATHER THAN CREEDS SHOULD UNIFY RELIGIONISTS." 1091.

NEW DIRECTOR FOR BOULDER SCHOOL

Jeff Wattles of sister San Francisco Bay Area URANTIA Society has been appointed Director of the Boulder (Colorado) School for Students of The URANTIA Book. The appointment was announced by John Hay, President of the School's Board of Trustees.

Jeff brings to the School an impressive background of academic training and teaching experience. He completed undergraduate studies at Stanford University, a PhD in philosophy at Northwestern University, a year at the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium, and a year at Fuller Theological Seminary. Jeff has taught courses in philosophy, world religions, and the humanities at Stanford, California School of Professional Psychology, Western Kentucky University, and several community colleges. He and Hagiko, his wife, and 10-month old son, Benjamin, live in Concord, CA.

When asked about his goals for Boulder School, Jeff responded as a philosopher would, by first presenting an idea about patterns of epochal revelation for this planet. Among the four previous that have occurred here, the first and second were "full range" revelations -- material, intellectual, and spiritual. The third and fourth, Melchizedek and Michael, were spiritual missions. The fifth, says Jeff, is like unto the first and second. The implications of this provide direction for the School and its new director. Its purpose will be to train and equip students who have service goals throughout the "full range" -- for the upstepping and advancing of material knowledge, human wisdom, and divine truth on our world. Jeff foresees special forums and intensive seminars as well as continuing the regular terms of study and practicum. It's an ambitious vision, and promises exciting things for the future of Boulder School.

Classes for the new term begin September 8. For more information, contact Jeff directly at (415) 672-2186, or Boulder School (303) 443-8154.

FUSLA/USSFV HOSTS MARTIN MYERS

The May monthly meeting was especially noteworthy because of the visit of Martin Myers from Chicago. Both societies hosted a wonderful evening of potluck and fellowship at Chick and Ellen Montgomerys' home for Martin on Sunday, May 3. At the meeting in West LA the following Sunday, Martin's presentation, entitled "Mankind Service," was eloquent and inspiring. He recalled speaking before the first Western URANTIA Conference here in 1973, the first outside of Chicago. He reaffirmed the central importance of the personal religious experience of the individual, and that our greatest task is to bring God closer to man, and man closer to God, as we live in today's confused global culture. As President of URANTIA Foundation, Martin shares with four other Trustees the responsibility of protecting and preserving for future generations a literary document that happens to be an epochal revelation, while at the same time fostering the translation and distribution of The URANTIA Book for those who seeks its enlightened perspectives, today. Thanks, Martin, for taking time from a busy schedule and flying out to the west coast to visit with us!

HALLEY'S COMETWATCHERS

FUSLA's own Halley's Cometwatchers Club braved the cold and rarefied air of the mountains overlooking Palm Springs to view that famous wispy wanderer of the heavens, on Saturday, April 12. To Ernie Barbosa and Carmen Ulibarri go special thanks for planning and coordinating the trip, and to Carmen for providing the telescopes. But without the hospitality of Ed Geisler who lives in Pinyon Pines, this event would likely not have happened. Ed generously opened his mountain home to us, providing shelter for this hardy band.

Just before midnight, we bundled and wrapped ourselves like Santa's elves and started the long arduous trek by vehicle up to the mountain top, an hour's drive each way. Someone even thought to compare it to the Paradise ascent. It really did seem that age upon age had passed before we made it back down.

Twenty of us pitched our bed rolls both inside and out of Ed's house, and enjoyed a special kind of camaraderie known only to those who have ever passed the time around an open fire, or have slept with clothes on inside a sleeping bag.

Those who made the trip: Stella Religa, Carmen, Bruce Fiero, Darcy Lima, Joe Burstein, Cherrye Martineau, Dick Ziglar, Jim Wanlass, Paul Elofson, Ron Cyr, Sandy and Deborah Rhodes, Randy and Lyn Holmes, Frank Rangel, Ernie, Tony Juarez, and Charles Arterburn.