

C.E.R.D.H. \*\*

Center of Study and Reflexion on  
Human Destiny



URANTIA \* Book Study Group



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# THE LETTER

*"By the spirit fruits of your lives impels souls to believe the truth that man is a son of God, and that all men are brethren" (193-5-2)*

SUMMER 94—N°34

## SUMMARY

Good news for the French-speaking readership

p.2

URANTIA Foundation opens an office in France

p.6

He is alive!

A narrative from a trip to Israel

(second part)

Urs & Nicole Ruchti

G. & M. Michelson-Dupont

P.7

Availibility of the new revised edition of Le Livre d'URANTIA

p.11

## EDITORIAL

The Apostles were submitted to a training that would make them feel "high" and then, like steel, they would be tempered, they would feel downcast and crestfallen. The same thing applies to us, but today we are flying high.

After so many years of longing and yearning we should feel enthusiastic as the revised version of Le Livre d'URANTIA is, at last, available to all the French speaking readership.

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\*\* C.E.R.D.H. a non-profit association, getting together readers of the URANTIA Book.



## GOOD NEWS FOR THE FRENCH-SPEAKING READERSHIP

Dear readers and students of the Livre D'URANTIA,

It is a great pleasure for us to let you know of the availability, of the revised version of le Livre d'URANTIA which had been first translated in the late 50's and published in 1961.

We would like to pay a sincere homage to the first translator. He showed a great intelligence in the understanding of the concepts which he offered us in a most agreeable literary form. The rest was due to his collaboration with his Thought Adjuster and the Spirit of Truth. We find here, a living testimony of the divine-human association, and the spiritual message which the invisible brotherhood wanted to communicate has been communicated.

Then, would you ask, why a revision ? We would refer you to the article "Is the French translation of the URANTIA Book reliable?" which was published in The Letter N°27 dated Autumn 1991.

We have thought, nevertheless, that the reader deserved some explanations, that is why we will hereinafter present a summary of the historical backgrounds of this revision, the spirit in which it was undertaken, the working process, the linguistics and the material setting of the Book.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

After reading and studying the Book for some twenty years, a number of readers felt the need for a revised version. But revising a text is sometimes more difficult than starting anew.

As early as 1976, contacts were made with Henry BEGEMANN, the then field representative of Urantia Brotherhood of Chicago for Europe (He was also, we think, one of the best thinkers of our times) to undertake a correction or a retranslation. So, early as 1977, Urantia Foundation was aware of this necessity.

In the year 1980, and after much hesitations, Urantia Foundation opted for a correction and appointed H. BEGEMANN as its official representative and asked him to find benevolent people and

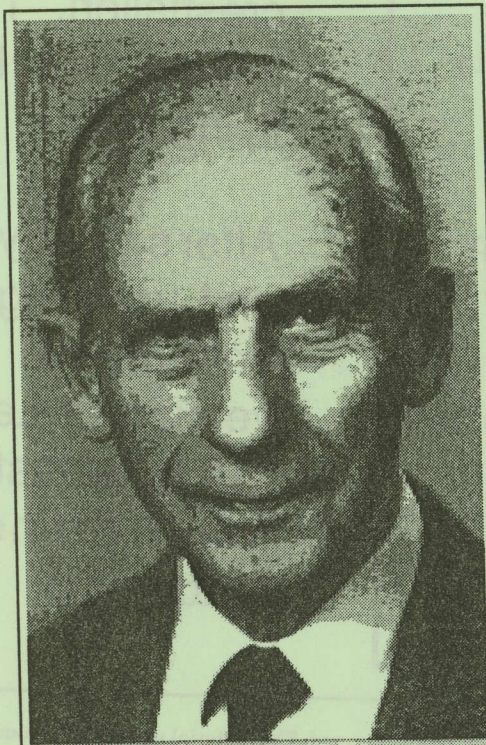
So, Henry BEGEMANN gathered two teams of readers who engaged voluntarily in the task. One of them was formed with members of

C.E.R.D.H. and, since April 1982 has been working without a break during 12 years. This team ended its job in April 1994.

However, on January 3rd 1990 Henry BEGEMANN died and contact were directly established with Urantia Foundation. During August 1993, Philip ROLNICK and Richard KEELER visited the french team and plans were made for the publication of the book in France.

By the end of 1993, the text was punctuation and

spelling revised in Quebec. The Foundation agreed to an edition of the revised text and asked for a last



Henry BEGEMANN  
1913-1990

form teams for correction in order to work under control with the help of his finish agent.



## WORKING PROCESS

The three team-mates who were gathered together by Henry Begemann have worked for 8 years of voluntary and unpaid service, each paying for his own expenses. This task, both exciting and enriching was a blessing for the participants in that it has enhanced their spiritual life and gave them the feeling of working for the Supreme, they have, therefore, decided to remain anonymous.

We will then call them "A" "B" and "C"

"C" was in charge of the material organization, which meant photocopying the text of what was then called la Cosmogonie d'Urantia and setting it so that only one column was placed in the centre of the page leaving enough space on both margins for corrections. Two copies were made of each page thus presented, one was destined to receive all the suggested changes and the other one the finally accepted changes.

The three team-mates being separated by hundred of miles they had to work through the post.

"C" would send a Paper to "B" who would note down his suggestions on the left margin; then he would send the Paper to "A" who would give his opinion on the suggestions made by "B" and also add his own suggestions; he would then send the Paper to "C". The latter would either agree or disagree with the previous suggestions and also offer new remarks. End of first round. Followed a second round from "C" to "B" from "B" to "A" and finally from "A" to "C". "C" would then note down on the second copy all the points agreed upon by the three "revisers"

Of course, there were still a number of unsettled issues, these would be dealt with in a three day meeting that reunited the team twice a year.

Moreover, when agreement had been reached, the text was tape recorded in English and played while reading the new French version. This technique revealing a few minor errors or inconsistencies that had been overlooked by the previous method.

## SPIRIT OF REVISION

One of the main problems raised from the start when one wants to revise a text is : just how far to go ? When we started we did not have a new translation on our minds, but a general improvement whether by

- 1) reinserting missing words or sentences;
- 2) a relative consistency of the vocabulary, at least within a given Paper;
- 3) correcting light and sometimes heavy misunderstandings;
- 4) correcting the punctuation. In relation to this last item only some 6000 changes were proposed.

Reading and studying the Book for twenty years or so had also allowed for the in-reach of some concepts which were not within our grasp at the time of the first translation. Thus, one word was used to translate both thought and mind (*pensée*), a traditional translation that was pleasant to read and apparently satisfied those who read the book for the first time. We adopted two words, (*pensée* for thought, and mental for

mind) to prevent what was in fact sheer confusion. And now, knowing that a thought is the product of the mind, a French speaking reader can at last understand that a Thought Adjuster may act upon the presentation of a result without interfering in any way with our free will, which was utterly un-understandable before. Had we made this change only, our action would have been justified.

We have been working on this revised text for over 12 years, and naturally it had to evolve towards a greater precision towards more "nuances".

But there is the limit of revision and it is sometimes crossed thus becoming a new version; that is what happened, or so we think, with the Foreword and a few other paragraphs. Some, no doubt, will think we have done too much, consistency excludes variety, others will say we could have kept nearer the text. We think that our contribution was necessary for the evolution of a better understanding of the text, but it will also carry along an evolution of



the concepts and, no doubt, an evolution of language, for, we should always remember that: "Today, there is great need for further linguistic

development to facilitate the expression of evolving thought." 81.6.6

## THE LINGUISTICS

### GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Consistency wanted us to choose the same spelling for a place name or a proper noun. For instance, it had been adopted for the English Kheresa, Kéresa in 1538:2 then Gergésa in 1694:6 and 1698:0, we have decided to keep the english spelling since it is not a name found in the Bible and it seems to be unknown in French. However we have frenchified it by adding accents and written it Khérésa.

If a number of those names raise no problems because they have the same spelling in French and in English as is the case with Sidon, or they are well-known and fixed such as Tyr and Capernaüm known in French as Tyr et Capharnaüm, some were more troublesome because they have been spelt in many different ways at different times, in different places and Bibles. We have had to make a difficult choice. An example is *Bethsaida-Julias* which had been rendered as *Bethsaïde-Juliade*. The more usual spelling seems to be *Bethsaïde-Julias*, as it is nearer the english spelling we have adopted it. Proper names have generally been kept as before

### NEW WORDS AND COMPOUND WORDS

New words have also been kept such are morontia or absolutum. Changes, however, have been made in compound words representing a concept, often a new concept, at least for us. So, "Unqualified Absolute" which was translated as "Absolu Inconditionné" has become "Absolu Non Qualifié" as the original also uses the word "Unconditioned" at times, and we have felt there might be a nuance worth pondering over.

### COMMON NOUNS.

We won't speak here of regular words like "mental" for mind or "moi" for self etc... The reader will refer to "The Letter" N° 27 quoted earlier.

### FRENCH SPELLING REFORM OF 1990

We have followed the recommandations of the *Conseil Supérieur de la Langue Française* in their efforts to simplify our language. The reforms were presented in 1990 in the French Academy and adopted by the same as well as by the *Conseil de la Langue Française of Quebec* and the *Conseil de la Langue Française of Belgium*. They deal mainly with: hyphenation, the plural of compound words, the circumflex accent, the past participle of pronominal verbs and a few anomalies. We'll give you one or two samples:

Hyphanation: figures will be written with a hyphen separating each digit, thus we shall write; mille-neuf-cent-quatre-vingt-quatorze; vingt-et-un etc... But the hyphen will be suppressed in words like *supraconducteur, préélectronique, contreélectromotrice, entredéchirer, Posthavonien*.

The circumflex accent: For example; Maitre and its derivatives will loose their circumflex, so will diner and the whole conjugation of the verb but "jeüne" (fasting) will keep it, so as not to be confused with "jeune" (young).

Anomalies: combattif will replace combatif, appats will replace appas, ognon will replace oignon. Also, assoir instead of asseoir, nénufar instead of nénuphar, etc...

## MATERIAL SETTING OF THE BOOK.

During visits paid to Urantia Foundation, in Chicago, it has been decided to produce a book identical to the original one in its material setting.

Pagination: Confronted with the difficulties

encountered by the readers of "la Cosmogonie d'URANTIA" or "le Livre d'URANTIA" and the readers of "the URANTIA Book" when trying to locate a quotation, the C.E.R.D.H., as early as 1985, thought of the possibility of



presenting the revised text in one column and of using the same page number as the original version.

We discussed this possibility and the idea was adopted. Thanks to the new techniques, computers, the use of effective CAP programs, the Finnish, Spanish and French will have the same presentation. It makes it much easier to locate any given quotation. Indicating the page and number of paragraph will be sufficient, whatever new version is used. It must be understood that a paragraph is any length of text beginning with an indention, and that if a page does not start with a new paragraph that part, which is indeed the end of a paragraph started on the previous page, is counted as 0.

Thus, for instance, we can read on page one thousand five hundred and thirty six, eighth paragraph (1536:8) ;

“In my Father’s kingdom there shall be

neither Jew nor gentile, only those who seek perfection through service, for I declare that he who would be great in my Father’s kingdom must first become server of all.”

Now the same text will be found using the same references in the Finnish, Spanish or French versions.

*Format* : For several reasons having to do with the length of the French text (a translation is always longer than the original), the european standards of printing paper, and the weight of the book, the inside dimensions of the printed page will be slightly different (in width) from the original, however the overall dimensions will be the same.

*Paper* : It is a bible paper of 36g/m2 , the same as the one used for the URANTIA Book. It will maintain the weight under 2 kilos and thus allow us to benefit from an interesting postal rate

## CONCLUSION

Taking everything into account, the reader may well ask whether what is being offered is a revised text or a new version. The fact is that an average of more than 20 changes per page have been made (that is some 44.000 changes overall) some papers having been modified in depth so that many times the new text will certainly appear quite different from the 1962 version.

We have tried to get nearer the english text while avoiding an uncomfortable word for word translation. We have also tried to be more consistent in the regular use of words while being more precise in the many nuances that had escaped the first version, but, we have specially avoided the stumbling block of subjectivity—inevitable when working alone—by team work.

We would like to dedicate this fourteen year long effort to the french-speaking readers. While we have had times of intense joy and deep satisfactions we also feel that this task has helped us to grow and progress. First intellectually, for, as we tried to approach the thoughts of the different authors we had time to meditate on the beauty and majesty of the plan we, their universe children, owe to the Father Love, the Son Mercy, and the Spirit Service. Then, spiritually, by establishing unique human relationships within the team as well as outside the team with the many others we were in contact with. And, lastly, on a more personal level, by a growing sensitivity to the everywhere present Spirit of Truth.

*May your reading help you grow and bring you nearer the Father.*

C.E.R.D.H.



COINCIDENCE ?

*Where are mentioned the three azure blue concentric circles on a white background in the book?*

*answer : page 606 !*



## URANTIA FOUNDATION OPENS an OFFICE in FRANCE

**U**rantia Foundation is pleased to announce the opening of an office in Paris which will be directed by Marlene and Georges Michelson-Dupont. The address of this office is :

URANTIA FOUNDATION  
8, passage de la Bonne Graine  
75011 PARIS  
FRANCE

The principal tasks of this office will be :

- to distribute *The Urantia Book* in french-speaking countries.
- to represent Urantia Foundation and its interests
- to answer inquiries of french-speaking readers and to facilitate communication between readers and Urantia Foundation.

### DISTRIBUTION OF THE URANTIA BOOK.

**Printing.** In close cooperation with its Parisian office, Urantia Foundation originated the process of printing the revised and corrected version of *Le Livre d'Urantia* in France. This printing, the first of its kind undertaken outside the United States, has been a good learning experience for Urantia Foundation. If the social, economic, and material conditions are favorable, a similar process may take place for other translations in other locations.

**Sales.** The sales policy of the Foundation has three purposes :

- first, to offer Le Livre d'Urantia at a reasonable price to the greatest number of potential readers, which has necessitated setting up a more direct distribution system, one which can go directly from the publisher to the bookstore. And this more direct distribution system is possible because of certain volunteer efforts and the functioning of the Parisian office.*
- second, to make the book broadly available through as many sales outlets as possible, thereby increasing its chances of coming into the hands of truth seekers.*
- third, to avoid pressure groups interjecting themselves between the book and potential readers.*

This distribution policy constitutes one of the developmental links of the fifth epochal revelation, and readers can participate in its establishment. In order to do so, readers who want to buy *le Livre d'Urantia* need only go to their local bookstore and request it. The bookstore owner, if he does not know the publisher or, as is often the case, the title itself, will consult the database "Electre", available on 36.15 for France or by international server for the other French-speaking countries, and can proceed to order it. The bookstore will then receive an offer from the French office of Urantia Foundation for additional discount if it agrees to order an additional copy for display on its shelves in its "humanities" section, a copy which would be available for browsing or for purchase.

**The Sales Price.** After consulting with its Parisian office, Urantia Foundation has set the price of *Le Livre d'Urantia* at :

- 327,05 French francs, which corresponds to the following prices (as of June 18, 1994) :
- 1982 Belgian francs
- 80,35 Swiss francs
- \$81 Canadian

In the majority of European countries, the price of books is fixed, which means that *Le Livre d'Urantia* will be sold in all bookstore at the prices indicated above. This price is not the real net cost. Taking into account the true overall costs of correction, of wordprocessing, formatting, printing, distribution, and bookstore markup, it would be necessary to sell the book at a considerably higher price. Fortunately, due to a great deal of volunteer work and the financial contribution of readers, a work of high quality at a quite reasonable price has been made available for truth seekers.

It is possible that the placement and availability will not be immediately accomplished in one location or another : nevertheless, the Urantia Foundation team will do everything it can to remedy any problems which may appear. Please, do not hesitate to contact our Parisian office if there is a problem with getting the book in your location.

### AGENCY OF URANTIA FOUNDATION

Readers of *Le Livre d'Urantia* will find in the Parisian office of Urantia Foundation an understanding conversation partner, one which is attentive to their needs. This office will represent the Urantia Foundation and its interest. It will act in its name in all its commercial and social relations.

The Urantia Foundation and all its offices have always been entirely dedicated to the fifth epochal revelation and to intelligently serving its readers, students, and truth seekers; however, since a recent personal change among the Trustees, a new breeze is blowing and much progress has already been accomplished. Urantia Foundation has already begun a broad program of translations and of derivative works (a dictionary, an audio version, an electronic version, etc...) requiring major financial funding. Thus it asks all readers to personally and financially support its efforts to translate and to disseminate *the Urantia Book* and its teachings.

leaving the last word to Jesus :

“Love one another as I have loved you. And by this will all men know that you are my disciples if you thus love one another” (*The Urantia Book*, p.1944)



# HE IS ALIVE!

## A narrative from a trip to Israel

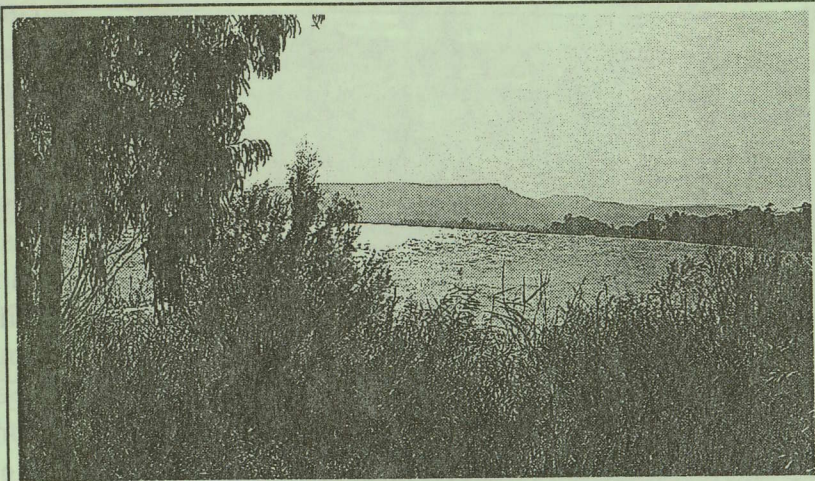
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### 2. The Boatbuilder.

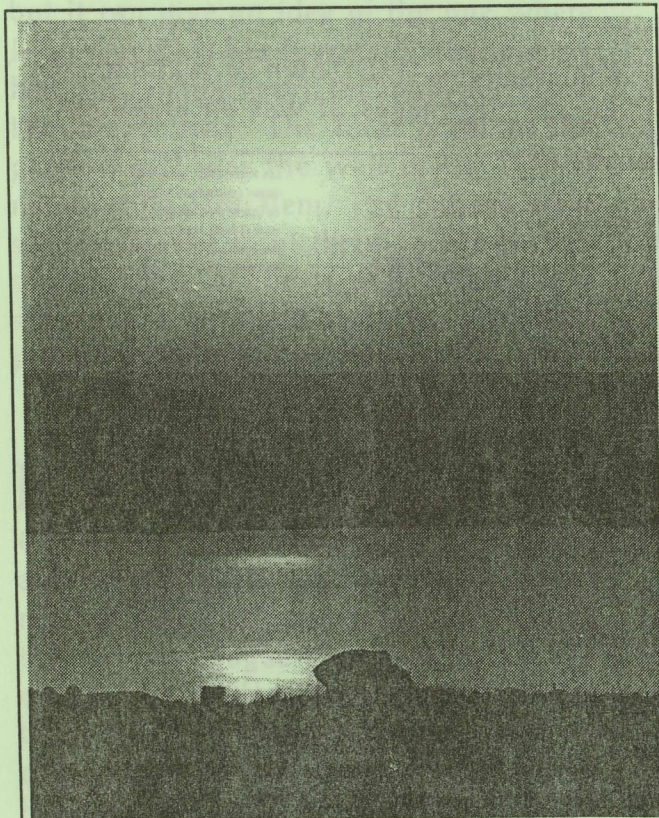
*The years during which Jesus was a boatbuilder where almost all spent around lake Tiberiade. It is there, as well that he started his public work. He came back many times during his ministry, and a lot of his life episodes are linked to this marvelous region. He appears in it three times after his resurrection.*

Even if the actual territory of Israel does certainly not show the face it had 2.000 years ago, the surroundings of lake Tiberiade certainly gives an idea of what Jesus knew.

On no other part on earth, does one find this peace, this magnificence, this perfection of landscape, colours, lights, and fragrances. In Spring it flowers. How easy it is to understand that Jesus liked to remember these beauties !



a vue from the lake Tiberiad  
(authors picture)



Sunrise on the lake Tiberiad

In Getsemani, racked by anguish, he managed to calm himself by remembering the pleasant souvenirs of Capernaum, the sunrises and sunsets on the shimmering Sea of Galilee (U.B. 1969)

This shimmering quality of the waters of the lake can only strike the visitor. In front of it, one is naturally taken to meditation, and one is induced to partake the emotions that our Creator knew.

Jesus taught : "the appeal to the emotions as the technique of arresting and focusing the intellectual attention. He designated the mind thus aroused and quickened as the gateway to the soul where there

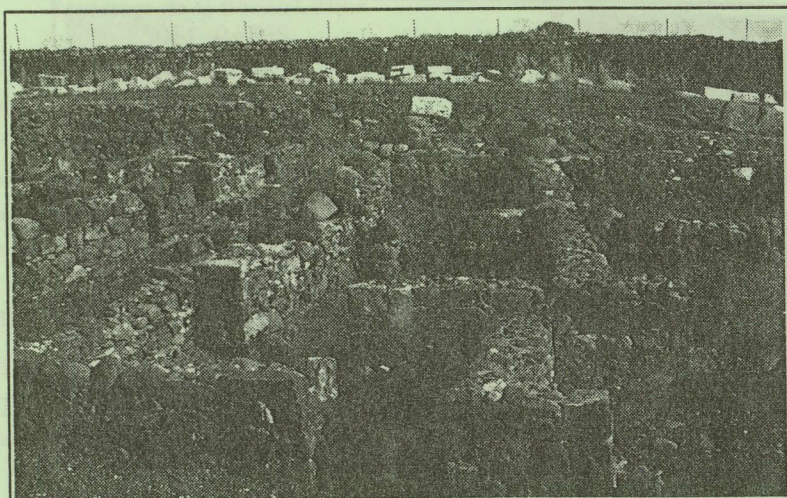


## Capernaum

At 26, Jesus moves in and works more than a year in the shipyard of Zebedee. He pays his taxes. It is there that John Zebedee bought for him a small house, that Jesus gives to James, and in which, Mary and Ruth will live, according to Jesus' wish, until Mary's death.

Mathew Levi is a custom collector in Capernaum, his office is in the east of the town, and he lives there with his family. Simon the Zelote lives there, as well as Simon Peter.

Jesus conducts the divine office of the synagogue, built and given to the Jews a little before the arrival of Jesus at Zebedee's place, by a roman officier, where his brother Jude



Digs at Capernaum  
(Authors picture)

comes to listen to him. He studies the books of the library and heads talks on ideals in politics, sociology, science and philosophy.

Jesus is very happy in Capernaum, his work gives him pleasure.

There, Jesus will make important speeches: "Sabbath has been made for man", "Happyness of a rightfull life". But Jesus will condemn its inhabitants who will dismiss the light.

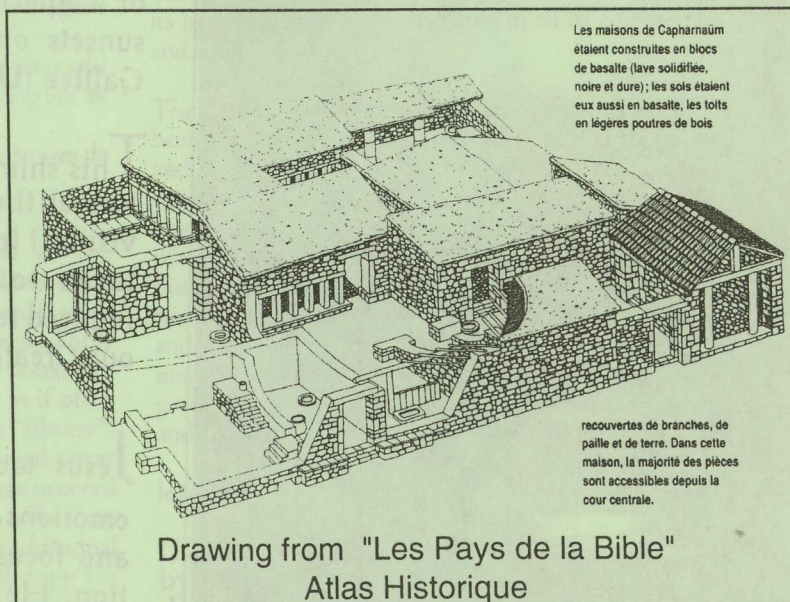
The town is an important

roman military post, there is a caravanserai, which permits Jesus to meet, as in Nazareth, a lot of people from all horizons.

Capernaum is the old palestinian town of Kfar Nahum: tHE Town of Nahum, of which the tomb was shown during the middle age pilgrinages. It was an important roman garrison and custom post on the caravan road to Damascus and Syria.

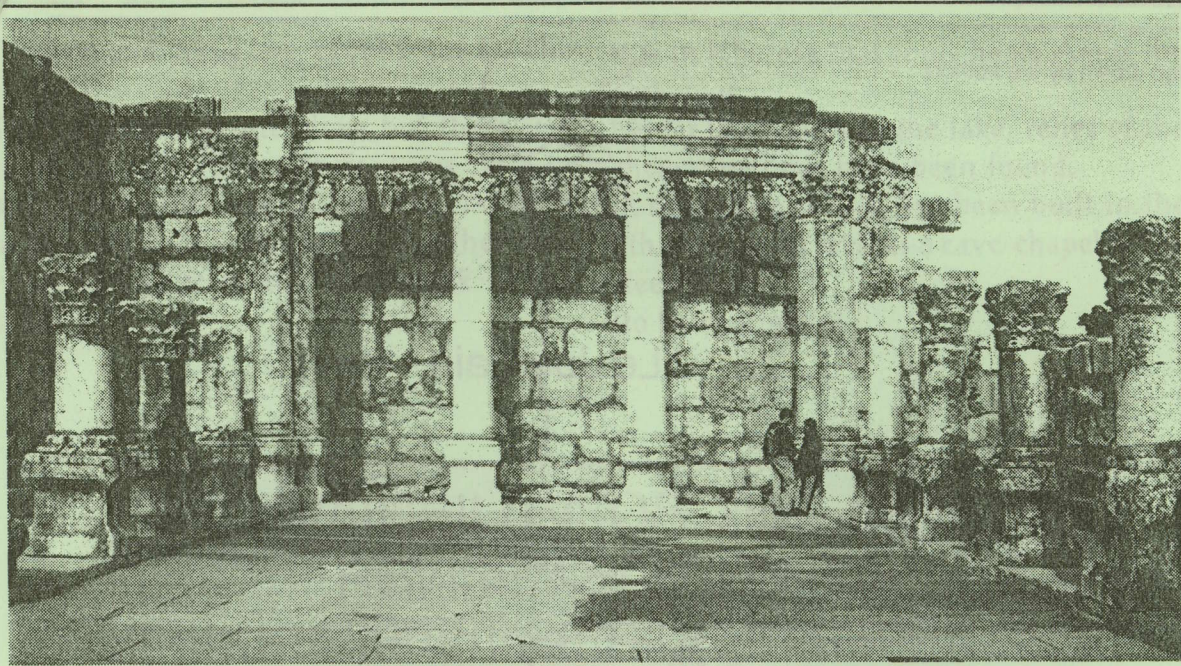
### The town

It has been rediscovered in 1838 and since dug up. It covered about 14,8 Acres along the lake. About 1500 inhabitants lived at the byzantine epoch. Very many olive press have been found. The digs which were started in 1968 gives you a fair idea of the old town, of which the houses were built



with basalt stones, they did not have any bath-rooms nor drainage system. Today a view of this town spreads itself in front of the synagogue. Christian tradition situates Bethsaida in its





The White Synagogue as it is presently  
(Authors picture)

### The White Synagogue and the synagogue where Jesus preached.

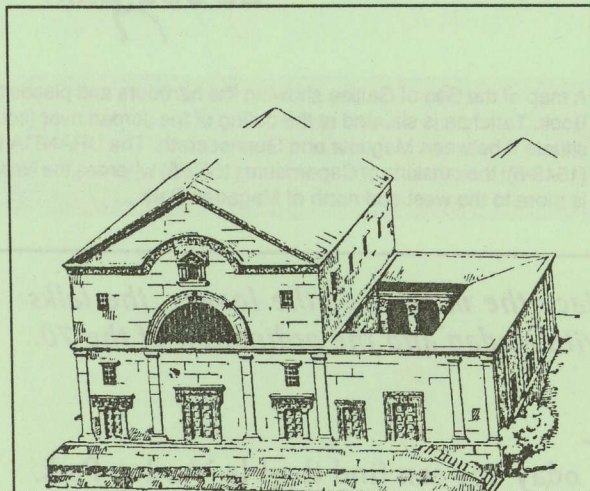
Situated about 3 miles to the west of the place where the Jordan empties in the lake, its remains have been dug up since 1905 by franciscan monks. The "White Synagogue", the once which ruins can actually be seen, has been built between 450 and 650 A.C.; but it can give an idea of the one where Jesus taught. It has four units, the praying hall, the oriental court, the south porch and the lateral aisle. The focal point of the praying hall was the wall of the central nave facing Jerusalem. The prayers were said facing the front three openings. The central space of the trapezoid court was surrounded on three sides by a covered porch reserved for the women.

But in 1969 digs were began by brother Carlio, under the White Synagogue, where an other synagogue has been found. Serious reasons may lean towards the fact that it is the very synagogue that Jesus knew. The ornamental tiling which was discovered there is much too vast to belong to an ordinary house. Further more it has always been the custom to built the cult premises

At last for us readers an important result of the digs is the discovery, in this synagogue, of a lintel on which may be seen a vase which is the one : "Jesus, pointing up to the device of a pot of marma which decorated the lintel of this new synagogue, and which was embellished with grape clusters." (U.B.1710)

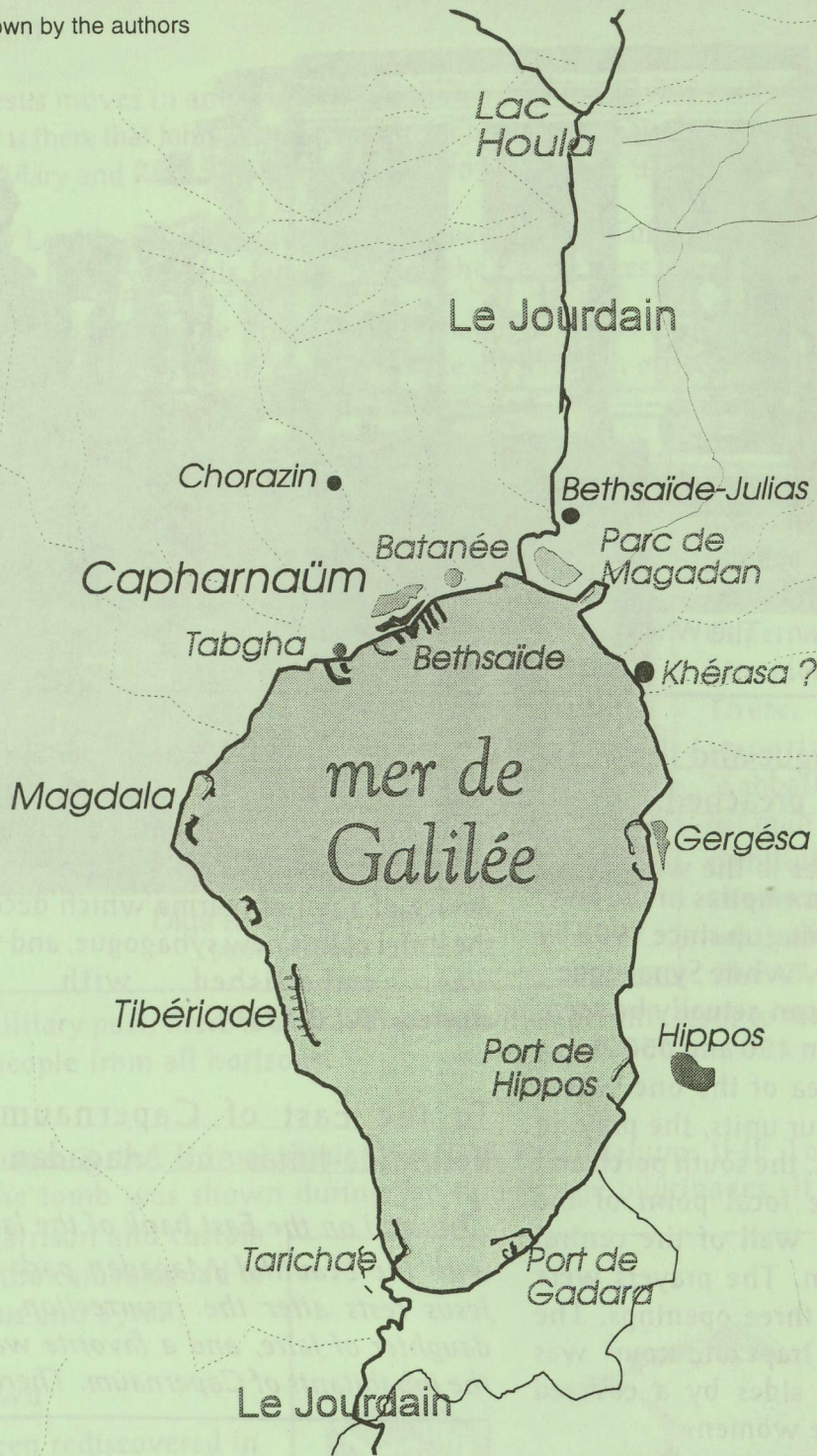
### To the East of Capernaum : Bethsaide-Julias and Magadan

*Situated on the East bank of the lake, with the beautiful Magadan park where Jesus rests after the resurrection of the daughter of Jaïre, and a favorite walk for the inhabitants of Capernaum. There takes*





Map drawn by the authors



A map of the Sea of Galilee showing the harbours and places for mooring at the time of Jesus. According to the URANTIA Book, Tarichae is situated at the outing of the Jordan river (southern end of the sea : 1561-2) whereas present days maps situate it between Magdala and Gennesareth. The URANTIA Book gives Bethsaïda as the fishing harbour of Capernaum (1548-5); the outskirts of Capernaum (1552-5) whereas the New Testament identifies Bethsaïda with Bethsaïda-Julias which is more to the west and north of Magadan Park..

*place the miracle of the loaves, the talks with Rodan and the ordination of the 70.*

**T**oday one can find the Ha Yarden Park,

On the East bank of the lake : Kheresa.

"Facing Galilee", the antic greek Ghorsia of the Decapole. It is the village from which came the Alpheus twins, where they caught the fish. Going there, the



Twelve and Jesus are caught out by the storm.

The bank is a gentle slope but there is a steep hill with sheer cliffs. Jesus rests in one of the caves dug in the rock. At mid-height there is a steep slope rather flat. (very visible from the west bank of the lake)

It is in Kheresa that Jesus heals Amos the demoniac.

Under the waters of the lake, relics of the ancient harbour have been found.

A byzantine church has been built in the 5th century, as well as a cave-chapel in the steep slope.

(to be continued)

AVAILIBILITY OF THE NEW  
REVISED EDITION OF  
" LE LIVRE D'URANTIA "

The new revised version of *Le Livre d'URANTIA* will be available :

—In French speaking european countries in September 1994

—In French speaking Canada in early January 1995. The delay is due both to the setting of a distribution network and to shipping. This delay will, however, find a compensation in a better availibility (the

book will be available over 140 bookshops) as well as an exceptionally reasonable price in view of the present unfavorable change rate of the Canadian dollar. (see our article page 6)

—In the DOM-TOM in January 1995

—In French speaking Africa in October 1994.

Availability of the new revised edition of Le Livre d'URANTIA

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