

The Circles

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*"Life is but a day's work—
do it well."**

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Spring 1978

SEVEN PSYCHIC CIRCLES

by Kaye Cooper
Arlington, Texas

The really significant work of our lives on this world boils down to two sides of a single coin: coming to know God and striving to be like him. The seven psychic circles is a way of measuring our progress in the latter of those twin goals. *The Circles* is dedicated to the idea that by sharing our experiences, insights, speculations, et cetera, we can help each other in the work of making our circles — striving to be like God.

Preparation for the work of circle attainment begins early in life. The baby who struggles to guide his hand toward an object he wants is working to bring his body (the material) under control of his mind (the intellectual). The child continues to perfect that control of mind until, when he is approximately five years old, another element is added. The child decides on an action motivated by his spiritual faculties. In that moment, his spirit is controlling his mind and his spirit-led mind is controlling his body. He has stepped into the seventh circle.

From that time on his real progress will be measured by his success in using that chain of command: spirit to mind to

body. Said another way: he will be striving to unify his own spirit, mind and body under the over-control of personality. How is that striving to be like God? Because God does precisely that

— he unifies spirit, mind, and matter (Goodness, Truth, and Beauty). In fact, the experiential God, the Supreme, is even now striving to unify the spirit, mind

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Soldiers of the Circles

by
Meredith J. Sprunger
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Few concepts are as intriguing to seasoned students of *The URANTIA Book* as the seven psychic circles. This growth in the Supreme determines how real and how effective we are.

Over the years I have found that there are almost as many interpretations of what it means to have achieved the third circle or the first circle as there are students of *The URANTIA Book*. Probably this is good. We need this "sublime uncertainty" to stimulate us to be vigilant and persevering soldiers of the circles.

I should like to congratulate

the Dallas Fellowship for the Study of *The URANTIA Book* on their inauguration of *The Circles*. The emphasis of this publication on living and experience reflects both the discriminating insight of its founders and the desire to serve URANTIA Brotherhood by amplifying a theme of major importance to the human situation. We wish this new journal a bright, circle-stimulating future.

(Editors' note: Thank you, Dr. Sprunger. We hope The Circles will serve as an instrument for all of us in the learning-teaching cycle.)

TECHNIQUES

Synthesizing What We Know about Peace

By Pat Waterman

Eules, Texas

May we have the consciousness to expect peace . . .

May we have the consciousness to participate in peace . . .

May we have the consciousness when knowing peace within ourselves to radiate it to others . . .

May we have the vision to see what needs to be done to open the avenues of such a consciousness.

Synthesis is the key note to Urantia's next evolutionary spiral; a peaceful assimilation of the proven concepts from all peoples and cultures. Our neighborhood has expanded to a sphere within our lifetime. Urantia's entirety is now the neighborhood. Boundaries are but crystallized thought patterns in our mind, meaningless when viewed from a higher point than the ego.

In the past ten years "peace" has become a cliché, worn and scuffed, hanging on by only the essence of its potentiality. Everyone says, "Yes, I want peace," but in the subconscious the practicality of it happening is too often dismissed.

Thought is a vital force. Reality is a vital force. Reality is first sown by thought. We may not always have control of our surroundings, but we can think. We can demand it to happen in our minds. Expect peace to become the reality. Let your soul convince your mind that peace is available and it will be.

Peace dwells in the soul. Our minds, clouded by the illusions of the external are holding back the peace that is our natural birthright. So, play a trick on your mind; your mind has been playing tricks long enough on your eternal essence. Make a groove through the labyrinth of thought patterns. Meditation is

the most efficient tool to forge out this groove, to bypass the inner loudspeaker of the mind, blaring out its propaganda of negativity.

When you've done this and I've done this, and the example inspires another and another toward a personal centering, peace will no longer be given just lip service. Peace will become universally expected.

Participating in peace is also an unfoldment. We each have a crystal tone that is unique. You may hear the beginnings of a cosmic concert in an artistic

expression or a group joined by purity of intent. Perhaps it was the melodious understanding of an individual who has control and understanding of his personal vibration and can artfully project it. Each gains understanding, as we are exposed to disciplines and knowledge which are assimilated into daily intercourse. The quality of your note or tone is left up to you. The sound, hows, and whys of its expression are what compels us upward.

The joy, spoken of by the prophets, is beyond our knowing now on the evolutionary stage; but it can be found and perfected when we understand our relationship to the entire orchestration of a particular time/space.

Some learn their parts sooner than others. Some may write themselves in and others write themselves out of the action of evolution; but from this point on, the masterful effort of individuals will give way to group effort: individuals coming together for loving strength, pooling of understanding, and sharing positive experiences that will make this a better world to live in.

Participation in establishing peace will take a transforming effort; cooperation with your Thought Adjuster, of course, being imperative. Once the pattern of things has been imprinted, the detailing tends to flow more easily. Those behind will have the benefit of a blazed trail.

Enthusiasm and intuitive insights must be generated to have participation of any sort; also, glowing examples of the ideals we have come to recognize as truths. It comes back to

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Give Life

by Henry Maxwell
Southlake, Texas

Loving service to our brothers and sisters is the key. It is safe to say that we all realize this, but sometimes I cannot think of anything to do. Perhaps you have experienced this; maybe you have not. If you have, here is an idea that can and will save lives. (Remember Lazarus.)

Donate a pint of plasma to a blood bank. I believe it is a worthy cause. It does not hurt, I promise; and you will encounter there some of the kindest and most considerate people working anywhere. Apple juice, orange juice, coffee, peanut butter and crackers are provided for all donors.

It's a curious thing about trying to give away love and "life". We always walk out with more than we had when we went in.

To be of use in this world is the only way to be happy.

—Hans Christian Anderson

This category is intended as a place where readers can share techniques which we can use in our lives here on Urantia. These may include techniques for meditation, for handling life situations, for building closer relationships with people, for self-awareness, for obtaining and maintaining balance, for learning, for teaching, for using The URANTIA Book, etc.

A Few Thoughts on Growth

By Dave Pearce
Lexington, Kentucky

Growth can occur to a limited extent just through day-to-day living; however, planned activities usually seem to give better results. Growth is obtained through working at it. Hopefully, our growth will never end.

Let me tell you a little about one aspect of my growth — part of my religious/spiritual growth.

About two years ago a friend introduced me to *The URANTIA Book*. Soon thereafter, I started going to a Baptist Church which is very active in helping people. Then I married a fine woman, a student of *The URANTIA Book* for more than six years. We went to the 1976 Oklahoma Conference where we met many fine and talented people. I had much to think about from many of the sessions; a fine chance to grow.

Marriage is a tremendous growth period. Living with and loving another person requires a lot of work resulting in growth.

In August of 1976, my wife and I attended a one-week seminar at the University of Kentucky on Rational Behavior Training (RBT). RBT has been a great tool we've used. I was so impressed with RBT that I took two evening college courses in Human Potential (PSY) based on RBT. I have read and studied several books about RBT and worked through written exercises to put the skills of RBT into practice in my life.

RBT has many aspects. Let me pick a small part of RBT and show how it has helped me to grow spiritually. RBT has a definition for what is rational. If an idea or action is "rational" it must fit at least three of the following five rules:

1. Is it based on true facts or colored with emotion? What would a camera see or a tape recorder hear? I do not want to lie or to distort the truth when communicating with others, let alone when communicating with myself. I believe that *The URANTIA Book* and the Bible support this.

2. Will it help me to protect myself from probable harm? This encourages me to keep myself alive — in fact, to care for my health.

3. Does this action help me achieve my long or short-term goals effectively? This third test for rational thinking reminds me of my goals and the importance of pursuing them. I am challenged to ask myself, "What are my goals in this situation?" A very important goal to me is to bring the love of God and

The most drastic and usually the most effective remedy for fear is direct action.

—William Burnham

Michael to those with whom I have contact. Often I may fail to demonstrate this love because I do not keep my goals in mind.

4. Will this thought/action aid me in avoiding significant conflict with other people? Paul writes to the Romans (12:18): "If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all." And Jesus said to love all men even as he has loved us.

5. Will this thought/action aid me in avoiding significant conflict with myself? When I find myself in internal conflict I tend to feel guilty, even worthless. I know that I make mistakes. I have failures. I am not perfect, but I am loved by an all-loving and merciful God.

When I find I am getting angry, depressed, guilty, or some other negative emotion that I don't want, I take time to

examine the event using the five rules. I like to do so in writing. Often, I find that my thoughts were not rational. Then I can change my thought and overcome the negative emotions, thus freeing myself to grow. Paul writes to the Philippians (4:8): "In conclusion, my brothers, fill

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Time for Meditation

By Tommie L. Clendening
Plano, Texas

One of the common problems among Urantians I've talked with is the lack of time for meditation and communion with the Father. Most Urantians I've met are very much like myself, in that they are "doers" and not just "watchers". They're motivated people with many high goals they're striving to achieve. This keeps you physically very busy!

Not long ago I was facing a somewhat frustrating phenomenon of not having enough meditation time. Then I realized that I spend about two hours a day in my car going to and from work — plenty of time for meditation. So I learned to let the angels watch over me and the car and let my Thought Adjuster communicate. How many times have you arrived somewhere and realized that you haven't been consciously aware of the trip itself? What a perfect time for meditation! All we have to do is ask. The angels love to be of service to us and our Thought Adjusters most certainly appreciate our undivided attention.

You will never "find" time for anything. If you want time you must make it.

Charles Buxton



We are told that humor is essential to life here. We are also told that too much of our humor is coarse. We want to encourage everyone to discover or create and share worthy humor.

Jesus encouraged his apostles to speculate on the meanings of his parables but not to take their speculations too seriously. This is the spirit in which this section is offered. We invite readers to comment on the speculations presented, as well as to submit their own speculations on other topics.

A Unique Spiritual Service

by Bill Cooper
Arlington, Texas

Jason, Kaye and I are fortunate to share our home with a very graceful looking and behaving schnauser-poodle. Her disposition is so uniformly loving and unselfish that I have frequently wondered whether she was circumstanced into my home by my slightly higher spiritual brothers and sisters so that I might observe these qualities in her and perhaps eventually find and adopt a human equivalent. Anyway, I am sure they will be delighted for her to have that effect on me.

Occasionally I have wondered whether I might not effect my greatest service to my mortal brothers and sisters by breeding schnauser-poodles by the thousand and giving them to anyone who could appreciate and want them. Now that would be a unique spiritual service. Dog breeder for the Kingdom.

ONCE IN A SAINTLY PASSION

Once in a saintly passion
I cried with desperate grief,
"O Lord, my heart is black with guile,
Of sinners I am chief."
Then stooped my guardian angel
And whispered from behind,
"Vanity, my little man,
You're nothing of the kind."

—James Thompson

"Birth is attended by labor, and without it, any talent remains an unlaidd egg."

—Anonymous



SPECULATIONS ON PHYSICAL SENSES

by Bill Cooper
Arlington, Texas

Sight, smell, taste, hearing and touch are the physical senses classically recognized. The average number of special physical senses for humans is twelve, according to *The URANTIA Book*, p. 564. It seems fair to infer from the information on pages 561–563 that humanity of this planet probably has approximately the average number of physical senses. Let's be conservative and say we have only 10 senses. So, then, what are the other 5 which are not commonly recognized?

I have found only one reliable indication of an additional sense. A sense of univarse orientation is described as a partly-conscious sense which we possess (see pp. 378–379). I wonder what unrecognized effect this sense has on us. Perhaps it is the source of our kinesthetic sense, our sense of physical position and body motion.

Perhaps some of the classical senses involve more than one "real" sense. For instance, the sense of touch may involve both a sense of pressure and a sense of hot and cold. Sight may involve a sense of spatial perception and a sense of color perception. Perhaps the sense of balance is a separate sense.

I would appreciate hearing from you as to your guesses at identifying the missing senses. Write me, c/o *The Circles*.

"Puritanism' is the haunting fear that someone, somewhere, may be happy." — H. L. Mencken

"Good judgment comes from experience; experience comes from bad judgment."

Great and wise men have ever loved laughter. The vain, the ignorant, the dishonest, the pretentious, alone have dreaded or despised it.

—Elbert Hubbard

SPEC - U - LATIONS



What to Expect

by Randy Harwick
Arlington, Texas

Having spent my entire life so interested in the hereafter and the yet to be, I cannot help speculating on Christ Michael's, Jesus', return. It is taught and believed that the Son of God will return on a white horse riding in from the sky, with his assembled hosts, to do battle with Satan and his armies. (Bible, Rev. 19)

I rather think that the Son of Man has already achieved this victory while still in the flesh as the Son of God. He did promise to return, but the exact time is known only on Paradise. I have read that our celestial brothers of light believe that Michael may return many times and that just such a return may be on the occasion of a world crisis. Jesus never directly linked the two events, but he did say that as the Kingdom of God grew, he would return in spiritual power and divine glory. (*The URANTIA Book*, pp. 1603, 1863, 1914-19)

We are also told that Machiventa Melchizedek's imminent appearance, as the personal representative of Christ Michael, is looked for at any time, day or hour (p. 1251). I am sure that his return in this capacity would be to unify the truth of all beliefs, thus again to prepare the way for our Creator Son's arrival.

We know from our study of the earth and our solar system that certain possibly catastrophic events are soon to take place. One might be the Jupiter effect,

due to happen during 1982. That is when the planets in our solar system will complete a solar cycle, meaning that they would align themselves in a straight line in the same plane. This could apply extreme gravitational stress on the earth's crust, causing world-wide earthquakes. And who knows to what extent this could shake man's technological society to the ground. If this happening does not prove to be too unsettling, it could force us into a stronger awareness of our need for good will within the global brotherhood of man.

The man who cannot wonder, who does not habitually wonder and worship, is but a pair of spectacles behind which there is no eye.

—Thomas Carlyle

But if Mother Nature does not choose this moment to be a natural turning point, she will soon offer another. It is expected by geologists and other scientists that the earth's magnetic field will flip-flop, like it has many times in the past. Also, the earth may shift on its axis. That this has happened in the past is another historical fact. When we observe the earth turning, we find that it also wobbles as it spins. This happens in a seven-year cycle called precession, and the present year 1978 is a peak year in this wobbling cycle. (Samual W. Mathews, "The Changing Earth", *National Geographic*, Jan., 1973; *Time Magazine*, Summer 1974, TV specials)

But these are just a few of the variables in our planet's future. These phenomena may occur in the near or distant future with respect to our present generation. I would now like to conjecture on some of these points as probable overlapping events.

Let's suppose within the next few decades some natural or manmade catastrophe occurs. We would see much human suffering and more clearly understand our experiential interdependence for survival. At this same time our celestial brothers may decide to apply a little pressure from above. This could be with the advent of the vicegerent Planetary Prince of Urantia, Machiventa Melchizedek's appearance.

He might then choose to collaborate, as he has in the past, in the fullness of this age with those mortals of a more sensitive and spiritual insight. This would certainly be the most wonderful and spiritual springtime of the coming of the Kingdom of God to our little earth.

But what if these new teachers of truth are labeled false prophets or Machiventa is called the Anti-Christ? Then these days would sadly be a time of great tribulation. Those people who hold to the fundamentalist views

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Today's troubles
are yesterday's
unfaced problems.

We would like to provide a clearinghouse for ideas helpful to parents. We hope readers will share techniques gained from personal experience, courses of study, *The URANTIA Book*, or other sources. We hope to receive reviews of books, toys, games, etc., for children which help parents to raise a well-balanced child (physically, mentally, and spiritually.) Reviews of "how to" books for parents would also be appropriate. We especially request that the more experienced (those who have already reared their children) share their hard-earned insights with younger parents.

PARENTS

FROM DIAPERS TO . . .

by David Clearwaters
Grants Pass, Oregon

I'm so glad for the information in *The URANTIA Book* on children — only there's not enough! Jesus used the positive injunction to motivate right doing (p. 1401:3). That's not as easy as it sounds.

Picture coming into your home and finding your child jumping on the bed. The "natural" thing to do is scream, "Stop jumping on the bed," or something to that effect. I guess the thing to do is calmly say, "You shall keep your feet on the floor." I grit my teeth, point to the floor, and sputter and say very loudly, "Get off the bed!"

Now, we also allow our kids to get hurt — even if our intervening would prevent it (p. 941:1). It does make strong, wise and cautious children. But it is up to the individual where to draw the line and I believe this is true of discipline as well. Jesus had the offender agree to the punishment before it was carried out (p. 1401:4). Our older children participate fairly well and you are guaranteed of being fair using this wonderful technique.

A man should never be ashamed to say he has been wrong, which is but saying in other words that he is wiser today than he was yesterday.

—Alexander Pope

We've also found the grandparent's influence on our four young ones to be extremely beneficial. It seems to solidly secure their feet on the ground in many ways, as does parental loyalty (p. 1094:5).

It generally "costs" our kids one or two good reports about someone for the privilege of tattling on that same person. After the singing tale of so and

(Continued on page 10.)

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

By Kaye Cooper
Arlington, Texas

In subsequent issues of *The Circles*, we will have reviews of books for children and young people by a variety of authors. (Hopefully many of the reviews will be written by our readers.) In this first issue, however, the works of one author will be reviewed: Lloyd Alexander. (Reviews of these same books written to children can be found in the children's section.)

Lloyd Alexander fills his books with excellent examples of the values we are hoping to encourage in our children. His characters grow and learn about living with others and themselves.

Alexander books have a second attribute which recommends them. They are excellent for reading aloud together. Family reading sessions can be a wonderful experience. They can draw members together and build memories and traditions. Many books can be enjoyed by children and adults alike. We will feature other books in the future which are well-suited to family reading. When readers send book recommendations, we hope they will indicate those that are particularly good for family reading.

The Prydain Chronicles include five books, published one each year from 1964–1968, in the order listed: *The Book of Three*, *The Black Cauldron*, *The Castle of Llyr*, *Taran Wanderer*, and *The High King*. All are published in hardback by Holt, Rinehart, and Winston and in paperback by Dell (interest level: grades 3–7; reading level: grades 4–7).

The Prydain Chronicles are fantasy set in Wales in the time of castles, princesses and magic.

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CHILDREN

Speculation

by Jason Cooper, age 9
Arlington, Texas

Did you ever wonder why God made us? I have thought maybe God created us because he was lonely. So he would have more friends when we die. And for his knowledge and ours — not selfish reasons at all. He created us so there would be more children instead of building us like electricity.

BOOKS

THE TRUTHFUL HARP

By Kaye Cooper
Arlington, Texas

Did you ever hear of a harp with a mind of its own? Ffleuddur Fflam is given a harp like that. Ffleuddur likes to stretch the truth just a bit to make a better story. He soon discovers that the harp knows every time he tries to stray from the truth. (You can read more about Ffleuddur in the Prydain Chronicles.)

The Truthful Harp, by Lloyd Alexander. Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1967 (interest level: grades 2-6; reading level: grades 4-6).

THE BOOK OF THREE

by Kaye Cooper
Arlington, Texas

Long ago the kingdom of Prydain was threatened by the evil ruler of the next kingdom, Arawn Death-Lord. When the war leader of Prydain disappeared, the only one who could give Prydain a chance was a young boy named Taran. Taran was only a simple assistant pig

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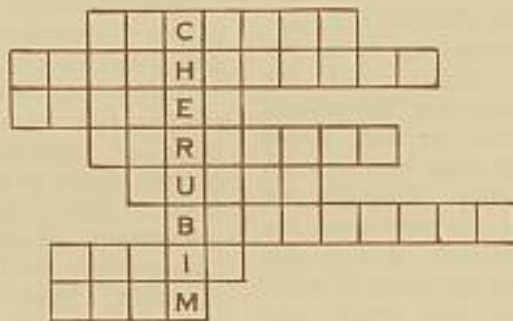
COLL AND HIS WHITE PIG

By Jason Cooper, age 9
Arlington, Texas

Coll and His White Pig is a good book because it starts out that the pig knows lots of secrets. Coll, who used to be a warrior, finds out how to understand animals. This mighty warrior, Lord Arawn, wants the pig to help with his scheme to take over the kingdoms. He steals the pig. Coll goes after him. He meets a deer, an owl and a mole who help him. The end is exciting and funny, too. The best part is where the moles dig a tunnel to help Coll and his white pig. (You can read more about Coll and the white pig in the Prydain Chronicles.)

Coll and His White Pig, by Lloyd Alexander. Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1965 (interest level: grades 2-6; reading level: grades 4-6).

PUZZLE



1. Another name for Jesus
2. Abraham's teacher
3. Chief of the apostles
4. The angels who guard us
5. The apostle who betrayed Jesus
6. The town where Jesus was born
7. The boy with whom Jesus went to Rome
8. The Material Son of God

— Answers on page 10 —

Can YOU make a puzzle?

This section will be for the children and teenagers. Since this is a wide age spread, it would be helpful if items were labeled with the age range for which they are suited. We would like to include books, toy and game reviews, stories, songs, art work, puzzles, speculations, etc. Items can be submitted by adults, teenagers, or children.

We invite our readers to submit reviews of books which have contributed to their lives.

SPHERES of INFLUENCE

By
Gene Joyce
Richardson, Texas

Second to the work of this world and the way in which it is done, probably the area of greatest interest and importance to the individual Urantian is a working knowledge of what is going on in his world — the newest discoveries and techniques on the material level, the most creative ideas on the mindal level, and the highest insights and revelations of the spiritual realm. Therefore, it will be the goal of this column to bring to your attention those books which best illustrate the above categories. We will not necessarily limit ourselves to current books alone, believing that it will prove more beneficial to present occasional classics in order to accumulate a "Book List" of the *absolutely cannot afford to miss* selections — the

highest of the old as well as the new.

Books chosen for reviewing may fall under many subject heads — anthropology, religion, archeology, philosophy, cosmology, to name the most obvious, but they will always relate in some direct manner to *The URANTIA Book*, which presents total reality as truth, beauty, and goodness and emphasizes the importance of elevating the individual's level of meanings and values in conformity to God's universal law of progress.

The function of books is to instruct and to enjoy. Occasionally an author will strike a harmonious chord in both of these areas. Richard Bach's *Illusions* is just such a balanced blend.



ILLUSIONS, by Richard Bach,
Delacorte Press / Eleanor
Friede — 1977

What a challenge for Richard Bach — to be faced with producing an encore to *Jonathon Livingston Seagull*! Succinctly said, "He's done it again." His latest book, the first since *Jonathon*, is entitled *ILLUSIONS*, and is also a mind-stretcher and a reality-bender. The story of a reluctant Messiah who decides to give up his job in order that *each* person may have the opportunity and the joy of becoming his own Messiah, this 137-page book eventuates into real entertainment.

There is even a "Messiah's Handbook" full of ideas comparable to the morontia mota concepts of *The URANTIA Book*. For example: "There is no such thing as a problem without a gift for you in its hands." "You seek your problems because you need their gifts." The bits of wisdom in the handbook have been restated and upstepped to such a high degree as to capture the attention and stimulate the imagination of sincere truth seekers.

And all the above is achieved in the deceptively simple form which has made the earlier books of Bach so thoroughly readable and occasionally caused his publishers difficulty because they did not recognize a book with universal appeal, thinking it only for children. The author exhibits true genius in his ability to present high philosophical truths in palatable form for all ages. It is easy to obtain mindal nourishment from *ILLUSIONS* whatever the level of one's meanings and values. This intriguing tale of the Messiah who quit may not be fact, but it bears the unmistakable imprint of truth.

PASSAGES, by Gail Sheehy, E.
P. Dutton & Co., Inc. — 1974

In her book *PASSAGES* Gail Sheehy is attempting to do for adults what Spock did for children — describing the general pattern of the normal stages through which men and women achieve maturity. Though the paths trod by the two sexes are somewhat different, due to our culture and the demands of early adulthood in the male and female roles (an obligatory lifework for men and childbearing for women), the desired goal is the same — self-mastery and relative human maturity. Emphasis is placed upon attaining self-knowledge and self-respect, which inevitably gives the individual the courage to make decisions.

The greatest variance between men and women centers on those

mid-life years (40–45) when for most men self-esteem receives its biggest challenge, while for most women opportunity for progress and growth are on the rise.

This book should be required reading for those couples whose lines of communication have broken down or were never there from the beginning. To understand opens the door for cooperation and love. Highly readable, Miss Sheehy's case histories reveal many easily recognizable missing pieces to the puzzle of what life is all about. For the young reader the book will provide insight into that common problem of feeling he is the "only one." An eighteen-year-old commented, "I learned so much from that book." It should also be of great help to those women who claim,

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and matter of the grand universe. (See *The URANTIA Book*, p. 1274.)

The unification process within each person is inevitably expressed in that person's relationship with the rest of the world. And that relationship reflects how balanced the person's growth is. Balance is significant because circle progress is only achieved by balanced growth — proportional progress in the spiritual, intellectual and material aspects of a person. (See p. 1209.)

We can hypothesize a person of balanced growth with some confidence because we have a superb example of such a person in Jesus.

A hypothetical balanced personality would provide the

PEACE - cont. from pg. 2

examples, doesn't it? We are not about anything really new. The message has been given in each and every language, presented from many viewpoints and under many guises.

Perhaps the deeper insights from the broader overall picture we have available to us now will make the difference. *The URANTIA Book* has culminated what has brought us to this point. Since we have been directed to a higher understanding, perhaps we will finally see the message with such clarity that we can take it as our own.

Faith alone does not make

GROWTH - cont. from pg. 3

your minds with those things that are good and deserve praise: Things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and honorable." I was very surprised to find that I can control my feelings!

In January of 1977 a friend gave me a book, *Handbook to Higher Consciousness*. One of its main concepts is to get to a level of love. One will find it most helpful to modify "needs" to "wants", and "shoulds" to "likes". I have found the RBT methods helpful in digging out a lot of hidden "shoulds" and replacing them with "wants" and "likes".

material necessities of life for himself and his family without allowing material possessions to become the primary goal of his life. Nor would he neglect those necessities because he is too busy with intellectual or spiritual affairs. That personality would depend on his intellect to serve him well without tying intellectual knots around every idea, situation or person entering his life. He would not go to the other extreme in rejecting rational thought for exclusively "gut" reaction. This balanced person would have a personal one-to-one relationship with his

Life is not a having and a getting, but a being and a becoming.

—Matthew Arnold

the type of mass changes needed to bring about the Brotherhood of Man. Reasoning and scientific proofs of vast inner and outer horizons will counterbalance the spiritual approach. Both are needed for balance.

Jesus chose twelve to initiate an age. Twelve of one mind, but different approaches. Thousands of one mind, with peace as an objective, with thousands of individual approaches can

Father. He would not be found hidden away engaged in nothing but communion with God, nor would he be a person who knows about prayer and worship but does not engage in them.

Coming to know God on a personal basis is the core of our maturing process, but in order to become like him, we must go a step further. We must make our decisions based on the divine chain of command: spirit to mind to body. When we do, we will see ourselves emerging as beings of balanced growth. And while we may not know which circle we are in, we may be sure we are making progress.

(Editors' note: This is the first in a series of articles on the seven psychic circles. The series will continue as long as we are able to expand on the theme.)

certainly do a vast job of transforming.

We will never settle for less again. Peace can unfold before us; uncurl the petals of our being. We have grown within the security of the seed long enough. The warmth of the "sun" is pulling at our potential. We're ready, and we know it.

Humanity is ready to blossom. Urantia is ready for peace.

Violence is the last resort of the incompetent.

I have a lot of work to do to get to a level of love for a significant period of time. But I am working on it.

Growth, for me, takes work! Books and people may help me gain insight, but I must apply the thoughts to my life. I must develop a practice period for best results.

I hope that some of you are interested enough in change and growth to read about RBT and try it out for a couple of months. I would like to know what you think of its techniques.

(Help Yourself to Happiness, by Maxie C. Maulsby, Jr., M.D.)

(Handbook to Higher Consciousness, by Ken Keyes, Jr.)

— STAFF —

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of the end of the world would quite possibly reject all that this Melchizedek Son of God could offer as enlightenment. But just as the winter is subdued by the coming of a new spring, those material-minded and fear-ridden mortals would soon blossom in the spiritual light of the Son.

Now, concerning any catastrophe that would doom the survival of our human race, we need not worry our minds on these trifles. The Father, who knows all, sees all; and in his plan, he cares for his own (p. 582). He has given of himself that in our time of personal need or world crises, the opportunity of perfecting ourselves is revealed. By each individual decision and every act of love, we allow the Father to live in our hearts. Now with God in us, and we in him, throughout the supreme experience of the universe, we will know what to expect.

ANSWERS TO PUZZLE:

1. Michael
2. Melchizedek
3. Andrew
4. Seraphim
5. Judas
6. Bethlehem
7. Ganid
8. Adam

Love is a tolerance of all people on all levels.

"Science without religion is lame; religion without science is blind."

—Albert Einstein

SELF-ESTIMATE

I do not know what I may appear to the world; but to myself I seem to have been only like a boy playing on the seashore, and diverting myself in now and then finding a smoother pebble or a prettier shell than ordinary, whilst the great ocean of truth lay all undiscovered before me.

—Sir Isaac Newton

so did such and such we say, "Now tell me something that's good about so and so." That generally not only stops the accusation dead in its tracks but also seems to direct their thinking in the right direction.

Such a responsibility — you'd think one mistake — and that's it! When I'm feeling unsure of a decision or particularly inconsistent, Rose will smile and softly say, "WE made it, didn't we?"

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN continued from pg. 6

Each book can be read by itself, but the total sweep of the story is so enjoyable and takes form best if the books are read in sequence. After all, the books are full of adventure, but the values developed by the characters (which we follow through all five books) are true and strong. *The Black Cauldron* and *Taran Wanderer* in particular follow the maturing experiences of the main character, Taran.

Each of the main characters has his individual faults and weaknesses as well as attributes that elicit love from the readers. The villains are genuinely evil and threatening, at times evoking horror. This combination of heroes and villains makes the rapid-paced adventures engrossing. Equally absorbing is the turmoil which goes on within the characters. The books may be fantasy, but the feelings and decisions that the characters have to cope with are real.

Coll and His White Pig and *The Truthful Harp* are illustrated books which tell the story of two of the characters in the Prydain Chronicles. Since they both take place before the beginning of *The Book of Three*, they serve quite well as an introduction to the series.

I read the entire set to our son at the beginning of the third grade. He was spell-bound by the adventures and thoroughly involved in the characters' internal struggles. We shared a beautiful experience together that we will both remember always.

keeper, but he had some amazing friends. His guardian was the most powerful wizard in all of Prydain. His closest friends were a princess with a sharp tongue and a magic glowing ball and a travelling singer with a harp whose strings broke when he stretched the truth. And then there was a monkey-like creature who could talk. But Taran was an ordinary teenager with no magical powers who must use his own wits and sword to take the message to the High King: Arawn had sent his army to attack the High King of Prydain. *The Book of Three* is exciting and what happens is never what you expect. If you enjoy *The Book of Three*, there are four more books which follow: *The Black Cauldron*, *The Castle of Llyr*, *Taran Wanderer*, and *The High King*.

The Prydain Chronicles: *The Book of Three*, by Lloyd Alexander; Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1964. (See the Parents' section for information on other books in this series.) (Reading level: grades 4-7; interest level: grades 3-7.)

"Men are so strange," and men who state, "Women are so complicated."

I feel the later "passages" are less clearly delineated than the earlier ones — possibly because Miss Sheehy has yet to live through them; however, it is fascinating to run into word pictures of yourself and those you love and realize the common denominator of a "passage". This is not the real you, but a phase of growth shared by most of humanity.

Altogether, *PASSAGES* is a helpful book in knowing yourself and understanding others — particularly the opposite sex.

SURVEY

Some of you believe you have seen seraphim, cherubim, or midwayers. We are interested. Will you share your experiences with *Circles* readers? If so, write us describing what you saw or heard. Tell us if you want your identity withheld in the event of publication.

The Circles welcomes articles aimed at helping us achieve balance in the areas of education, organizations, politics, self-mastery, etc., which are of common interest and treated objectively.

BALANCE

Who Is the Urantia Brotherhood?

by Phil Eversoul
San Francisco

I don't think there ought to be an official URANTIA Brotherhood, meaning a brotherhood chartered or licensed by the Foundation.

Since the Foundation does need workers to serve its legitimate aims, it ought to create an organization called, perhaps, the URANTIA Foundation Service Organization. That is what the official URANTIA Brotherhood mostly is, anyway.

I don't think it's wise for the long-range interests of our planet, Urantia, to have an official brotherhood, chartered by the URANTIA Foundation, called the URANTIA Brotherhood. I believe that this is the seed of an official religion, no matter how well-intentioned the members are, because that is what the seed is. The official URANTIA Brotherhood claims a global religious mission, and that is the beginning of an official religion even if it makes no claims to infallibility or exclusivity of salvation. The problem is that it claims to be the only real or true Urantia Brotherhood on the grounds that it is officially licensed by the Foundation to bear the word "URANTIA".

The issue is: What does one mean by the term "Urantia Brotherhood"? My sense of it is that the spiritual Urantia Brotherhood is not licensed by the Foundation but initiated by the Father and the Creator Son, Michael. Everyone on the planet is an official member of *this* Urantia Brotherhood, whether he knows it or not.

Spiritually speaking, the Urantia Brotherhood is not created by nor beholden to the

URANTIA Foundation, and I think we all know this. Therefore, I do not like to see the name "Urantia Brotherhood" under the supposed control of the URANTIA Foundation.

I think all Urantia Brotherhood organizations ought to be unofficial in the legal sense. I think it is unwise for the long-term good of our planet to have the term "Urantia Brotherhood" apparently controlled by legalities. It's a question of whether you see the concept of the Urantia Brotherhood from a material-legal perspective or from a spiritual perspective.

The political problems of the Foundation versus the Brotherhood, as we have experienced them historically, have had their origin, I think, in the attempt of the Foundation to use its legal power as the basis of control or supervision of what is — or ought to be — a spiritually-founded organization, the Urantia Brotherhood. Legally, the official Urantia Brotherhood is an offshoot of the Foundation, and that is the problem, spiritually speaking.

I would like to see, and I hope others would also like to see, the confusion ended between the official and unofficial versions of the Urantia Brotherhood. Therefore, I propose the elimination of the official Urantia Brotherhood and its replacement with a service organization for the Foundation. The point is to get the right concept and the right name for this service organization so that it cannot be confused with the spiritually founded Urantia Brotherhood. I would leave the term "Urantia Brotherhood" free

to be a universal spiritual organization, rather than a limited particular organization having its basis in the legalities of Caesar and in the constitution of the Foundation.

I believe that the URANTIA Foundation should have an official staff and an official organization to handle its tasks related to the production, distribution, protection, etc., of *The URANTIA Book*. I would also include the tasks of public relations and being an information center. These are essentially material tasks in the sense of taking care of the material thing that *The URANTIA Book* is, or in the sense of processing information related to the book.

I believe that the Urantia Brotherhood should be organized independently on the basis of spirit guidance. In the spiritual sense, the Urantia Brotherhood *can't* be chartered by the Foundation, and the brotherhood is essentially a spiritual organization, a living organism.

Spiritually speaking, the brotherhood controls and includes the Foundation. Spiritually speaking, the Foundation is a tool of the brotherhood. Spiritually speaking, the brotherhood charters the Foundation.

There will continue to be political trouble between the Foundation and the brotherhood, which will continue to inhibit the growth and cohesion of the Urantia "movement", until a clear separation is made between the material powers of the Foundation and the spiritual powers of the brotherhood.



INSPIRATIONS

Drawings, poetry, music, stories . . . any artistic endeavor which lends itself to publication is welcome.

WORSHIP

by Bill Cooper
Arlington, Texas

COMMUNION

by Jean-Pierre Heudier
Manchaca, Texas

When I express beauty
You sing with me
I express
you

You express yourself
Through your son
In time and space

When I manifest truth
You work with me
I reveal
you

And you reveal yourself
Through your son
In time and space

When I express goodness
You rejoice with me
I reveal
you

And you reveal yourself
Through your son
In time and space

When you fill your temple
With your divine love
I become
A fountain of love
On men
I shower my love
On men
I pour your love
In time and space

When I radiate true love
Men feel this love
They receive my love
your love
Through your son
In time and space

When men receive true love
They give true love
They reveal
you

And you reveal yourself
Through your sons
In time and space

I rest
Smiling
Recalling blessings in abundance
Blessings of love; of friends; of beauty
recognized, remembered, invested
within my soul.

Angles are near
I await my Father's presence
which comes to me from the
mystery center of everywhere.

He is present!
Our loves overflow
The thrill, the exhilaration of his
presence explodes around me in
meanings and insights.

Slowly, his presence recedes
but joy remains.
I cannot yet endure long seasons
in his presence.
But that too shall come.

