

The Circles

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

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family issue

FAMILY

The microcosm, the macrocosm.

*Beginning in a spark,
ending in endless dreams and recreations.*

My family, yours.

*A prairie dog's family chattering over
a feast of flowers.*

A family of fledgling stars.

*A cluster of bacteria as much a
part of family as a universe unseen.*

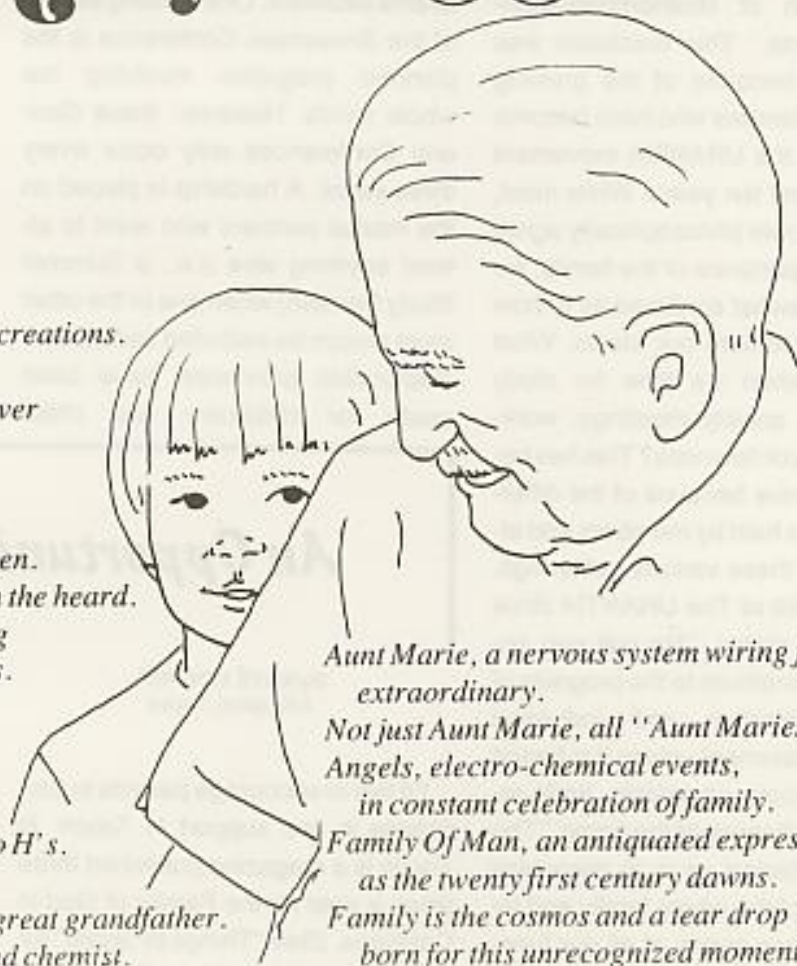
The unseen harmony stronger than the heard.

*Vibrational frequencies separating
these cousins from those cousins.*

Water: bigamous O with two H's.

*Hydrogen, the patriarch,
father, grandfather and great grandfather.*

DNA, master electrician and chemist.



*Aunt Marie, a nervous system wiring job,
extraordinary.*

*Not just Aunt Marie, all "Aunt Maries."
Angels, electro-chemical events,
in constant celebration of family.*

*Family Of Man, an antiquated expression
as the twenty first century dawns.*

*Family is the cosmos and a tear drop
born for this unrecognized moment.*

by Pat Waterman
Eules, Texas

Action on Family Concerns

Family Participation in

URANTIA Book Activities*

By MARY BURTON
Lake Villa, Illinois

And LISA CARR (RENN)
Evanston, Illinois

At the 1979 Triennial Delegate Assembly a resolution was passed called for "ways to facilitate family participation at Brotherhood-sponsored events." This resolution was presented because of the growing number of families who have become involved in the URANTIA movement over the past ten years. While most, if not all people philosophically agree with the importance of the family, we seem somewhat confused as to how best to implement our ideals. What happens when it's time for study group and society meetings, workshops and conferences? This has become an issue because of the differing opinions held by members and attendees of these various gatherings. On page 966 of *The URANTIA Book* the author states, "No cult can endure and contribute to the progress of social civilization and individual spiritual attainment unless it is based on the biologic, sociologic, and religious significance of the home." The challenge facing us is to recognize the needs of the whole family and try to meet those needs at all our functions. In this article our purpose is to aid in finding creative ways to act and react.

The planning for children at the past Brotherhood Conference in

Lake Geneva, Wisconsin was very good, and the program at the upcoming Snowmass, Colorado gathering seems excellent. One exciting aspect of the Snowmass Conference is the planned programs involving the whole family. However, these General Conferences only occur every three years. A hardship is placed on the marital partners who want to attend anything else (i.e., a Summer Study Session) when one or the other must always be excluded because no responsible provisions have been made for child-care and child-

oriented activities. This also occurs on the local level where it affects the vast majority of readers – in the society and study group.

On one end of the spectrum is the thought that children do not belong at any function except those purely social in nature. At the other end is the belief that children should be present at all functions, meetings, and social activities. One would think that the sensible balance would therefore be the attitude that attendance of children is appropriate in some settings and not so in others. This presents a

An Opportunity for Parents

By KAYE COOPER
Arlington, Texas

I'd like to encourage parents to participate in and support *In Touch*. *In Touch* is a magazine published three times a year by the Family of God in California. (See "Things to Share" for ordering information.) Since the editors and staff are readers of *The URANTIA Book*, *In Touch* provides an opportunity for parents to glean child-rearing ideas from other read-

ers and to share their own ideas.

I have many times wished for a good-sized group of parents who are also *URANTIA Book* readers with whom to talk over the challenges of family life. Until the time when we have large concentrations of readers to result in such groups, *In Touch* can offer a substitute – if readers actively participate by subscribing and submitting articles. The more people share via *In Touch*, the more valuable it will be. Ω

predicament as it shifts the issue from place to place and function to function, meanwhile leaving some families feeling like second-class yo-yos.

While the primary responsibility for care of the children lies with the parents, we feel we are firmly supported by the teachings of the revelators in the contention that all of us are responsible to some degree. Consider the following situations and decide in your heart what would be an appropriate solution. A single, working parent desires to join the only study group in her area – the group will not tolerate the attendance of her child – therefore she cannot attend. Or, a family would like to attend a society in which family attendance is tolerated, but the feeling that children should be seen and not heard is prevalent. Consequently, they feel too uncomfortable to attend regularly. These types of frustrations have been felt by many parents in the movement.

Parenthood is a necessary experience; we must adopt the attitude of a parent to be truly God-like. Jesus always had time for children. He kept toys in his shop in Nazareth for the children, who loved to come visit "Uncle Joshua". He would stop a discourse before a crowd of adults to patiently answer a child's question. In a strong statement to the apostles, Jesus had this to say: "But whosoever causes one of these little ones to stumble, it would be better for him if a millstone were hanged about his neck and he were cast into the sea." And then, "But most of all, see that you despise not one of these little ones, for their angels do always behold the faces of the heavenly hosts." (P. 1761)

The examples are endless – we've all read them and been inspired by them. But do we strenuously endeavor to embody these teachings in

A Letter . . .

The following letter was written by a participant at The URANTIA Brotherhood 1981 General Conference in Colorado this summer. It was read to the conference attendants.

To Nancy Grimsley and Staff,

Somehow and somewhere, I would like to have the parents of the children in attendance at this general conference hear the following comments:

The overall arrangements, the general theme, the workshops, and the site are, of course, impressive, inspirational, and individually appreciated. But one of the most impressive observations has been the presence of these children.

Their appearance, behavior, uninhibited friendliness, and the truly sincere expressions of happiness which seemingly radiate from their faces is, indeed, a joy to behold. The answer must certainly be that they are the products of love and are the sons and daughters of dedicated Urantian fathers and mothers.

This sixty-two year old participant, attending his first general conference, has been amazed and can leave this conference with the joyful assurance, notwithstanding present-day imperfections, that healthy seeds have been planted in good soil and that the true gospel of the kingdom, as revealed by Jesus will continue to grow and expand from one generation to another.

Anonymous

our activities. It is our position that parents should never be actively discouraged from bringing their children, whether to a General Conference, a Summer Study Session, or a General Council Meeting. All of us should be sensitive enough to realize that the added financial burden of childcare for children in the home, in addition to travel expense, would make it impossible for many to attend. Also, we should trust parents enough to presume they will know when a child's presence is inappropriate. When neither the child nor adults can benefit through interaction, there should always be well-thought-out provisions for care of children.

On page 1089 we read, "Genuine religion renders the religionist socially fragrant and creates insights

into human fellowship. But the formalization of religious groups many times destroys the very values for the promotion of which the group was organized." As societies and study groups, we should periodically evaluate ourselves to guarantee that we are upholding the ideals for which we came together. "Children are permanently impressed only by the loyalties of their adult associates; precept or even example is not lastingly influential." (P. 1094) Our loyalties are on full display for our children in these groups. Children also provide a balanced and wholesome environment in which to study. We feel a study group or society which is not centered on the family risks stagna-

(Continued on page 16)

See "Family Participation"

Preparing for Marriage and Family*

By JULIA K. FENDERSON
Culver City, California

In the spring of 1980 a group of *URANTIA Book* students in the Los Angeles area gathered together to form a study group on the topic, "Preparing for Marriage and Family." Our expressed need for this specialized study was aroused not only by the national scene where three major polls showed that almost half of all marriages are failing, but also by personal experiences. Our young people were scared! All were eager for help and we knew that help was available in our own great guide. It just needed to be pulled together and organized for in-depth study.

We organized information and direction from all parts of *The URANTIA Book* into ten major areas where we had found the greatest needs were evidenced. We were amazed at the large amount of material available in each of the ten areas and larger meanings developed by pulling them together. We are providing only the bare bones in this article but are happy to share details whenever

there is a request. We spent about a month's study on each of the ten listed areas, meeting regularly once a month, but sometimes more often. About 30 of us participated in this pioneer undertaking for strengthening the home. Our major source was *The URANTIA Book*. Certainly this first effort succeeded beyond our fondest hopes, opening up new vistas and widening and deepening our own sense of values. As expected we found many places where the course will be improved and strengthened for a new group study beginning in October. We plan to try meeting once a week for four months.

The great importance of the family is emphasized throughout the Book. "The family occupied the very center of Jesus' philosophy of life — here and hereafter. He based his teachings about God on the family He exalted family life as the highest human duty . . ." (p. 1581)

On page 909 we read: "... modern civilization is at a standstill in spiritual

development and the safeguarding of the home institution." Note that spiritual development and home are tied hand in hand. It is up to us now who have this great guide to *really use it* to upstep our thinking and values to improve family and spiritual life.

We hope that our experiences will be an inspiration for other study groups around the world. (An expansion of the outline below is available. See "Things to Share.")

CLASS OUTLINE

(Instructor: Julia Fenderson; Coordinators: Chick Montgomery, Roxy Allesandro and Bruce Fiero.)

1. CHOOSING A MATE — The differences between infatuation and love. "Two pampered and spoiled youths, educated to expect every indulgence and full gratification of vanity and ego, can hardly hope to make a great success of marriage and home building — a life-long partnership of self-effacement, compromise,



devotion and unselfish dedication to child culture." (p. 928:8)

2. SEVEN HUMAN LOVE STORIES OF *THE URANTIA BOOK* – Analysis of each. How did each couple meet? Were there divorces? What made them successful? (We allowed the group the fun of choosing which seven they wanted to study.)

3. ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCES OF PARENTHOOD – (pp. 516:3, 939:7, 1839:5) Parenthood entails the supreme experience of human existence. (p. 941:3) New role of religion emerging – the teaching that parental experience is essential – the

Success in marriage is much more than finding the right person; it is a matter of being the right person.

enlarged understanding of the privilege of procreation.

4. UNIQUE ROLE OF HUMAN FATHERHOOD – JESUS' ROLE AS AN EARTHLY FATHER. (pp. 1393:6 1397:7, 1398:1, 1389:5, 1389:8, and 1390:1) The Creator of our own Local Universe, Michael of Nebadon, served as an earthly father to Joseph's eight children, more than half of his entire bestowal career on this earth.

5. DISCIPLINE – from the term disciple – meaning to teach. (p.p. 1822:3, 941:7) Start discipline early, Jesus' method in their home (p. 1401:4). Family Council (p. 941:7). Discipline of self first. Self-control the watchword of our planet.

6. HOW CHILDREN LEARN – (pp. 812:4, 835:6, 909:8, 909:6, 1363:2, 1364:3) Each one teaches one on the step just below him. "Even the little tots had their regular duties to perform . . ." (p. 1394:1) Learning by Doing. Before Jesus was eight years old, he learned to milk the family cow and to care for the other ani-

Action on Family Concerns



mals. He also learned to make cheese and weave. He helped his mother with the young children and the house chores.

7. LOYALTY – TRUSTWORTHINESS – "Loyal persons are growing persons . . ." (p. 1094:6) (p.316:1-3, 435:4,5) Definition of loyalty. (pp. 1012, 1403:2, 1094) Children are most impressed by loyalty of their parents and teachers.

8. RELIGIOUS TRAINING OF CHILDREN – Province of home and duty of parents. (pp. 835:6, 811:4, 1089:6, 1094:7, 2090:4)

9. HUMAN SEXUALITY – (pp. 382, 383, 914, 915, 938, 1098) Twenty-page resource report from *The URANTIA Book*, by Julia, for class members.

10. FAMILY AND HOME FINANCES – (pp. 1604, 1389:8, 1390:1, 1393:6) Talk by Gard Jame-

son (specialist in this topic) with references from *The URANTIA Book*.

FIELD WORK FOR OUR CLASS

1. Attending the beautiful wedding of Lori and Michael, performed by Vern Grimsley – *URANTIA Book* quotations.

2. Talks by Ellen and Chick Montgomery on the pregnancy and joy of planning for a new baby, born in April, 1981.

3. Lecture by Gard Jameson on Family Finance.

SLIDE TALKS

(by David and Sue Kantor)

1. Birth and Bonding
2. The Nurturing Father Ω

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Childrens' Exchange

Sandy and Christel Garrick are making a list of families for a "Children's Exchange." This list would constitute a world wide network of places where the children of *URANTIA Book* readers would be welcome to stay during their travels. This arrangement would give the children a unique opportunity to travel and stay with families and individuals who have opened their homes.

No age limit has been imposed. Persons using the list are asked to

make proper arrangements with their hosts well in advance of their arrival. Courtesy, neatness and willingness to help in the home are also encouraged.

If you would like to have your name added to this list as a host home and if you would like a copy of the list to use for your children, write to Sandy and Christel Garrick
62 Richmond St.
Richmond Hill, Ontario
CANADA L4C 3Y4

Reflections on the Meanings And Values of the Family

Some Benefits of Parenthood

Parenthood in one form or another is an inescapable fact of universe life. It must, then, provide some experience essential to our growth as sons of God. I'd like to share what I think are some essential lessons to be learned from the experience of parenthood.

As parents we can develop an experiential empathy for God that I don't think we would otherwise achieve. Having a small, totally-dependent being in ones care draws forth a depth of love unmatched by any other experience. Once we have been transformed by this almost involuntary response, we are able to understand more clearly how the Father can love us no matter how selfish and hateful we may temporarily be.

On the other hand, we also can become sensitized to God's pain. As we watch our growing children make self-destructive errors, as we feel their temporary rejection, we are able to place ourselves in the Father's position as He watches His children make mistakes. We are able to feel the Fatherly pain which He must feel for us.

Possibly more important than these two insights is an opportunity to develop Fatherly love. In the Ordination of the twelve, Jesus urges his apostles to reach for a standard even higher than brotherly love, the ulti-

By **KAYE COOPER**
Arlington, Texas

mate standard – Fatherly love. Fatherly love consistently maintains the attitude of looking for the best in men (or children) as well as being tenderhearted, sensitive to human need and forgiving. But the most important and most difficult characteristic of Fatherly love is the positive love response: doing something good in exchange for an injustice or evil received.

Living up to the standard of Fatherly love is extremely difficult. Having children provides us with an introductory step. We are usually more motivated to learn to love our own children with this exquisite love than to begin with others. But eventually it is our goal to love all people as Jesus loved them. Parenthood provides many opportunities, but surely one of the greatest is this initial experience with the challenge of Fatherly love. Ω

The Garden of Family

By **JOHN AND TERRA LIDDIL**
San Carlos, California

We are together as mates to seek God, to grow close to God, and to do the will of the Father. Our duty to one another is loving admonishment toward that aim. Our daily thoughts and actions are the tools, indeed the very path itself. Reflecting back to one another the Truths that are often hard to perceive is the most valuable service to growth that we can share. Establishing a bond of trust based on truth-seeking and effort-making is the first step in realizing the Brotherhood of Humankind.

And this is the very basis of the family – the establishment of a seed

from which sharing and caring can grow.

Children are the gifts, a temporary loan with permanent effects. Our children are our teachers: through them we learn patience, responsibility, generosity. With them we experience joy, innocence, curiosity. To them we pass all that we have thus far accumulated in our learning experience. Most of what we teach comes from our actions, not our words. Therefore, our duty to our children is really our duty to ourselves. The

(Continued on page 16)

See "Garden"

Questions

By SHERRY ZOPEL
Wausaw, Wisconsin



One important aspect of parenting is how we answer our children's questions. Some days can be overwhelming, like the day I just had with my two sons, Adam age 4 and Justin age 7. Fortunately, the questions were spread throughout the day and usually the boys weren't together so I was able to adapt the answer to the age. Some were challenging and thought provoking and we were able to make speculations together.

????????????????

Adam: Is it dark in heaven?

Can I bring my blanket there?

Do they have potties there?

Will we eat?

Will George Washington be there?

Will he be standing up?

Will I see Abraham Lincoln?

Does God go to church?

Is He for real or pretend?

What part of your body is God in?

Justin: Do they have oranges and peanut butter on the mansion worlds?

Do we have to work on the mansion worlds?

How did God get started?

What do the angels do for us besides love us?

If we can talk to Jesus now, why can't we hear Him?

How can God be in so many places at one time?

Justin: If you're Japanese, then God will have to speak Japanese to you, right? Then God must have to know every language!

Ω

Let Us Be As Guides . . .

Let us be as guides
with our children
traveling through the universe hand in hand
an adventure.

Our experience and knowledge acquired along the way
qualify us as guides

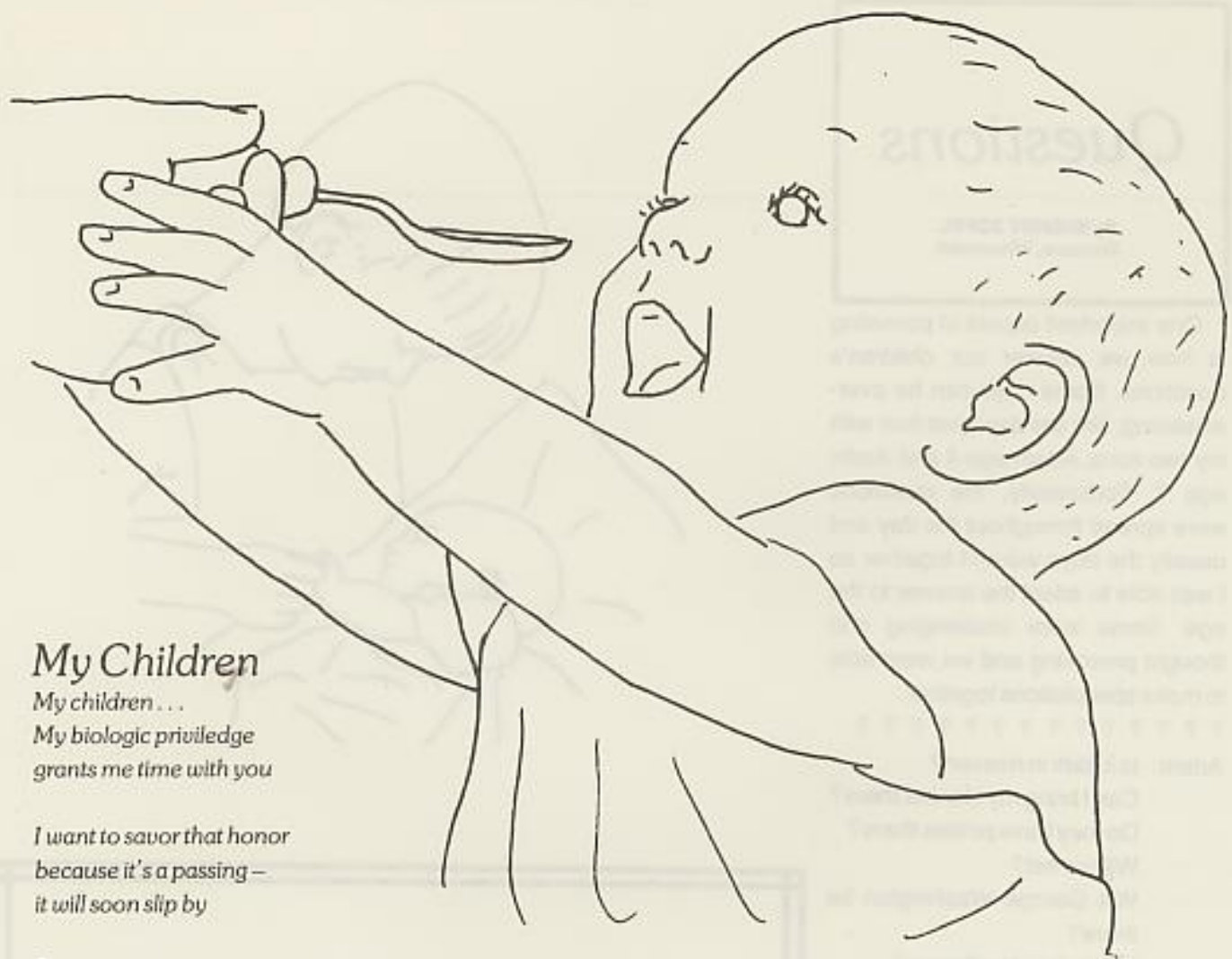
not experts -
(expert maybe in our own field of experience)
but not experts in being human.

No one is an expert human being.

Such a posture is fallacious
and it erodes our true function -

as companions
in an ever evolving universe.

by Sally Schlundt
Urbana, Indiana



My Children

*My children . . .
My biologic priviledge
grants me time with you*

*I want to savor that honor
because it's a passing –
it will soon slip by*

*For you see,
you are not mine
not really.*

*God has granted you
and is continuing to create you –
my function is not to
interfere with that process.*

*by Sally Schlundt
Urbana, Indiana*

The Path of Family

By SCOTT TIGERT
Seminole, Oklahoma

The path of Family is all that there is against the calamity of darkness. When you deny a member his rightful adjusted space you deny the Family and then its death is assured. Ω

The Family: A Teacher's Viewpoint

By ROBYN HARRISON
McCoy, Colorado

The breakdown of the American family unit has been quite a topic for discussion in recent years, and the effects of this phenomenon have become quite apparent to me as a teacher. In my classroom alone, thirty percent of the students live with one natural parent and his/her third mate, and another ten per cent live in single parent homes. And yet, it is not actually whether or not a child lives with his natural parents but the quality of

the relationships among the current family members that makes a difference in the attitude and emotional stability of the child. Unstable children with emotional disturbances are just as likely to come from a home consisting of natural parents and siblings, as an emotionally stable child is to come from a "broken" home where there is love and respect among the remaining family members.

Every parent desires the best for

Reflections on the Meanings And Values of the Family

Motherhood

My son, Tavis, once said:

"Mothers are the most important people in the world."

What an honor!

Where else could I be so recognized?

Odd thing about it —

nearly everyone would agree with him,

(his child status doesn't imperil his wisdom — maybe it allows for it —

unencumbered yet by adult-world values)

and yet

motherhood is so ill-regarded in our society,

why?

Why has it become more prestigious to escape

than to embrace?

I have the most important job in the world!

Think of it!

I am so unbelievably fortunate!

Thank-you Tavis

for your unifying trust in me

(that's something else the world doesn't give me)

I only pray that I can live up to your pure belief

keeping your lovely faith alive

never spoiling your vision.

Thank-you, Tavis, for showing me that motherhood

is a privilege.

by Sally Schlundt
Urbana, Indiana



his child. Following are some ways you as a parent can help your child establish emotional security:

1. Be secure and positive yourself — your attitude affects his as a child tends to model after his parents,

especially in the early years.

2. Help him develop a positive self concept and self respect.
3. Be wary of over-abundant, non-specific praise — it may become like the little boy who cried "wolf"

and therefore lose any meaning at all.

4. Be supportive in school work and school functions, but let the child

(Continued on page 19)

See "Family Participation"



The Infinite Family

The Extended Family

Comprehension of the word "family" can range from the fundamental family, parents and children, to those living under one roof, to the clan or blood relations or even as far as the family of God, which potentially includes everyone. First, let us consider what I call the extended family – those persons whom an individual considers his family, acts toward as his family, experiences as his family. They might or might not be related by marriage or blood, live under one roof, etc. They would, in a sense, be chosen, and their number would depend upon the desire and capacity of each individual to share with others at his deepest emotional level. As with all character traits, this ability to share varies from individual to individual, but with practice (experience) it is possible for a person to enlarge his capacity for love, increase the volume of love he can adequately handle. As he uses the love available to him his supply will enlarge. The flow from above and outward to others will equalize and become more balanced. As the desire for more love motivates the individual to make higher loving decisions, supermortal ministry always increases the supply available so that balance can be achieved. It is well to remember that sometimes a person's elevating

By GENE JOYCE
Richardson, Texas

values may cause him to put forth more love and energy toward others than he is accustomed to using. This total expenditure of resources may even exceed the supply available. In such cases a sense of panic may be experienced. As in physics where we are taught, "Nature abhors a vacuum," so in the realm of psychology, when love is expended on others, a kind of psychic vacuum is created. But gradually, as the technique is practiced and the individual perseveres, he can become a mortal pipeline for divine affection toward his fellows.

How often have you heard someone say, "But they aren't 'family'?" Many people limit themselves by their own thought patterns from feeling their deepest love toward anyone not related by blood or marriage. It behooves all of us to break down some of these restrictive concept barriers that stand in the way. How would it feel to love more and more people in the way Jesus loved them – as if, according to age, they were a parent, a child, a sister or brother? This sort of love transcends acquaintanceship, even overrides our understanding of the word friendship.

If we consider ourselves Jesusonians, then everyone is a potential member of our family under God. Realistically we must face the fact that such an amazing transformation is not going to take place instantly, but must come about gradually, step by step, with intelligent effort exerted on our part. As a result of our decision to exert effort, we can receive increasing guidance. The constant assistance of our guardian seraphim leads us into ever more challenging situations in which to portray a higher love than we used yesterday. The perfect guidance of the spirit of the Universal Father which indwells each of our minds also comes into operation. We must start where we are and proceed at our own pace toward the goal of loving more and more of our fellows as God loves us.

The first prerequisite for enlarging an actual family to the potential family is to divest ourselves of certain prejudices and attitudes to which most of us in the western world are unwitting heirs. The step-parent, the adopted child, the mother-in-law concepts are all good examples of those ideas which influence and limit everyone to some degree. Who among us was not raised with Cinderella, mother-in-law jokes, and "You're not my *real* mother so you can't tell me what to

do?"

Fortunately (I now say "fortunately" from the vantage point of some fifty years) I was introduced to these worn-out social customs early in life and forced to see how false and pernicious they could be, so I shall resort to personal experience in discussing the above subjects at greater

depth in subsequent articles.

1. Step parents and children
2. Adopted children
3. In-laws
4. Friends and acquaintances
5. Social groups and fraternal organizations
6. Strangers

(to be continued)

Ω

Race and

By EARLENE A. GREEN
Silerspring, Maryland

The URANTIA Book*

I was recently reminded of the difficult time I passed through when I reached sections in *The URANTIA Book* which dealt with the races. I had loaned a copy of the Book to a girlfriend. After a week or two, she called to say to me that whoever wrote Paper 64 was prejudiced. Those were my exact sentiments upon my initial reading.

I also recalled to mind the fact that only seven black adults attended the conference in Wisconsin the summer of 1978. The combination of these two events has led me to feel that if more black people are to benefit from the teachings of *The URANTIA Book*, perhaps they will have to be gingerly guided over certain portions, as I was.

To obtain an objective view on the relationship of black people to *The URANTIA Book*, I have read and re-read Papers 51, 52 and 64 many times. This is in addition to having completed one reading of the entire book and being three-fourths of the way through on a second reading. Focused attention on one particular subject such as race, without full knowledge of how and why it fits into the whole, may have a tendency to reduce ordinary reasoning to an emo-

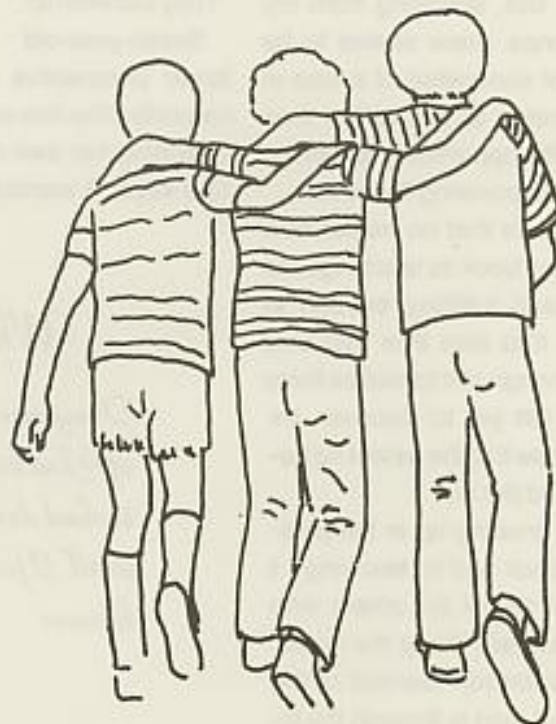
tional exercise in futility. During my first reading of the Book, I placed X marks opposite several paragraphs to indicate my displeasure. Now, however, after a period of careful attention, I feel that my original interpretation lacked reasoning. It is my hope that the statement I make here will ease the passage across these pa-

pers for those serious readers who would initially find them offensive.

I will venture to proffer that there are few blacks in America today who have not experienced racial discrimination. Hence the overly sensitive response to certain words and phrases such as misfit, backward, you people, degenerate, boy, inferior, etc. Under Parts II and III of *The URANTIA Book*, some of these words appear repeatedly. Consequently, emotions gradually displace concentrated reading and objectivity takes a vacation. At such moments of frustration, one can feel that even God is not on his side, and a deep sense of helplessness follows. How can this lack of objectivity be overcome? "The true perspective of any reality problem . . . can be had only by the full and unprejudiced study and correlation of three phases of universe reality: origin, history and destiny . . . The study

(Continued on page 17)

See "Race"



Urantian Youth Speak Up

The Urantia Book at Home

By MARIA SCALZO, age 16
Clinton, Connecticut

Dad has been reading *The URANTIA Book* for about 16 years now. For as long as I can remember friendly, familiar faces of *URANTIA Book* readers have come from far and wide to learn and teach in our home and we have traversed many corners of the country ourselves.

Being a 'second generation' *URANTIA Book* reader is an interesting position to be in. It is wonderfully convenient to have been brought up in the light of its teachings, it is needless to say. But, speaking from my own experience, there seems to be the feeling of somewhat of a loss in having it handed to you rather than being given the opportunity to feel the fulfillment of discovering it yourself.

While it is true that no matter how you receive the book its teachings are fascinating and fulfilling enough in themselves, it is also true that until one reads enough of it to realize there is so much left yet to discover, he can't appreciate it to the extent he believes he would like to.

As a child growing up in the presence of the book and its teachings, I believe I can speak for others who have done and are doing the same. The very first lesson learned of the brotherhood of man is through the togetherness and companionship of

URANTIA Book readers.

Throughout the years of these loving, caring, sharing interactions between people, faces become so familiar to children and friendships blossom so elegantly that these visits and visitors are greatly looked forward to. They become distant relatives, an extended family one might call it, the family of God.

When asked what the people do when they come to our house to read, three-year-old Gerald exclaims, "They eat with us!"

Seven-year-old Angela has a larger perspective on conferences, naturally. She has expressed interest in owning her own copy of the book. She says, "I wanted to read the first

page to find out what it was about."

She doesn't remember if she understood the first half page that she read but, to the best of her knowledge, *The URANTIA Book* is about God and His universes.

When asked what she observes when people gather together for meetings, she says they take turns reading, sometimes show film strips, talk and eat. But they also have activities planned like the kite flying and castle building in Cape Cod last summer. Angela and Gerald both admit, though, that the three or four other children who are brought along by their parents are what makes the days so special. And they play together harmoniously until it is time to

What Makes Us Human?

Fragment
of God himself
tucked deep inside my brain
until I found it, I wasn't
human

by Megan Bedell, age 15
Santa Barbara, California

part.

Twelve-year-old Billy says that *The URANTIA Book*, as he understands it, is about God, Jesus' birth and life, the stars and planets of the universes and where we go when we die.

The wonderful thing about Dad being a student of the book is that whenever one of us has a question, Dad can answer it with the best source of knowledge on the face of

It always comes as something of a shock to realize that we teach sewing to girls and baseball to boys with infinitely more care and design than we teach them – or rather permit them to learn what they can – about the dynamics of living and working with each other.

Saul W. Gellerman

the earth. "Go find a book, let's look it up," is his inevitable answer. One evening not too long ago Billy had a question about the seraphim and how they interplanetary travel. This discussion expanded into a study of the universes, and they spent almost two hours looking at an artist's concept of the structure of the universes and reading passages from the book.

Weekly study groups used to inspire Billy and me to lie in the hay under the house and read about Jesus together. It didn't last long but it's a nice experience to look back on.

Now Dad and a very good friend and I read together on Thursday nights when it is convenient. I read a lot on my own and Mom reads when she has time in between raising four kids, keeping house, and helping at the office. We're a happy family. And we know that we not only have our Heavenly Father but our expansive family of earth which stretches not only across the continent but to the farthest reaches of the planet Urania. Ω

Family Ties

By JASON COOPER, age 12
Arlington, Texas

The ties are the most important things about the family. In China when the Communists came in, they tried to destroy the family ties and make everyone a working machine. After a while they discovered it didn't work. It was a bigger tragedy than they realized. When the people weren't loyal to the family, they weren't loyal to the government. So they tried to put it back the way it was. But it was never the same.

When you're a baby who would protect you? Who would help you get started in the world, if you didn't have family ties. When you get to be a teenager, you need a family to help you get things in the world that you



want and need, to introduce you to religion. Without a proper introduction to religion who knows which way you would go? The world would probably fall apart and go back to worshipping stone gods.

Think of what the world would be

Children need models more than they need critics.

without family ties—pretty bad. A person doesn't normally love the stranger walking down the street. The only difference between you and that person are the ties. He's just the same as your parents, yet the ties make you love your parents. Families help you learn to love other people. When you fight with your family, you usually make it up. When you fight with your friends, you don't always make it up. Your parents help you to learn how to get along with your friends.

The family is more beneficial than most people might think. They tend to take it for granted. There are endless numbers of ways that family ties are beneficial. Can you think of any? If so, write in. Ω

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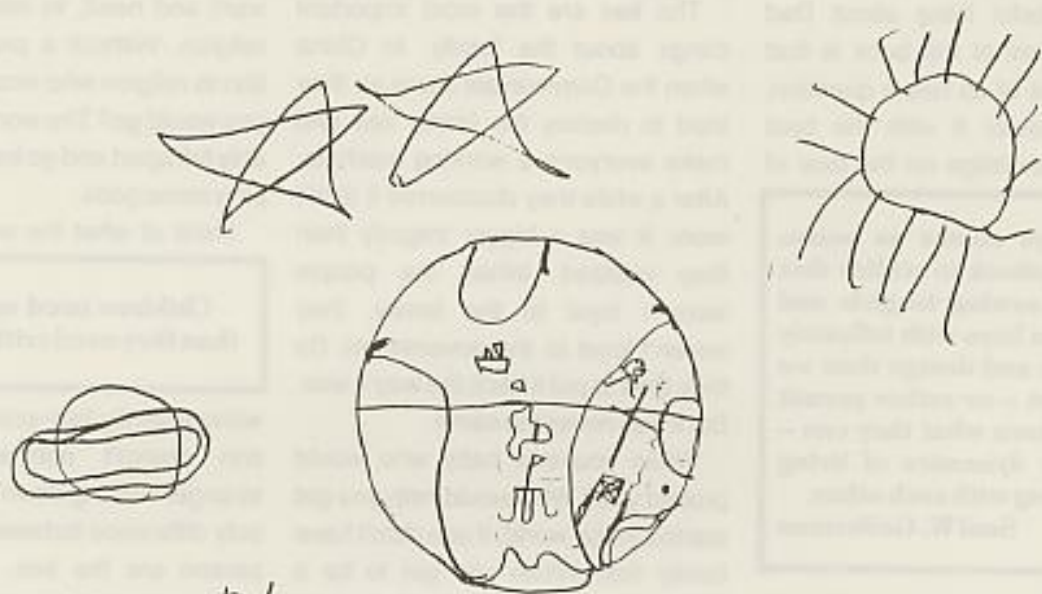
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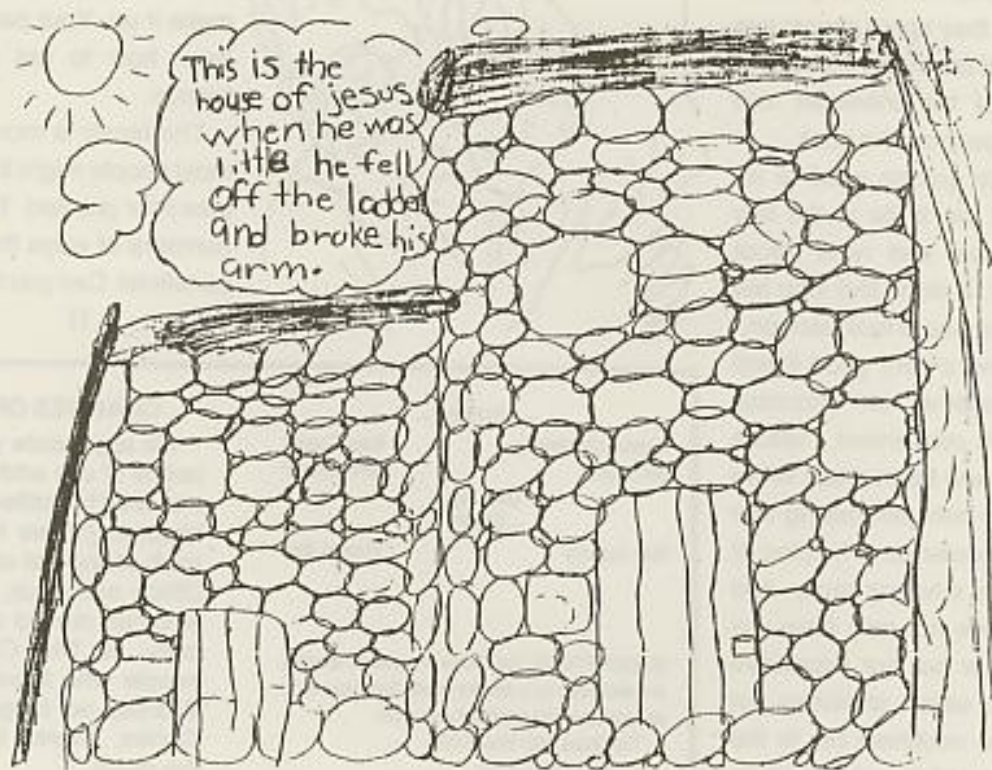
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The Children's View



Earth
By Justin Zoepel

By JUSTIN ZOPEL, age 7
Wausau, Wisconsin



This is the house of Jesus when he was little he fell off the ladder and broke his arm.

By ANGELA SCALZO, age 7
Clinton, Connecticut

WHEN JESUS WAS SEVEN*

From *Tales of Joshua*

by Robert Slagle

(This story comes from a book about Jesus when he was a little boy. He was called Joshua by his mother and father so the book is called Tales of Joshua.)

SCHOOL DAYS

At age seven Jewish children began school at the temple or synagogue. Pupils sat on the floor in a semicircle around the chazan or teacher. They had no books so the chazan read aloud. The pupils learned by saying their lessons out loud, over and over again.

Children studied only the Hebrew Scriptures until they were thirteen. Joshua could speak Greek and Aramaic. He was eager for school.

Soon Joshua was a master of Hebrew. At times he was asked to read in the temple. Certain Sabbath days he would read the Hebrew Scriptures in the synagogue.

Joshua was a good student. The chazan learned more from Joshua's searching questions than he taught the lad. But Joshua's real education came from people. He learned from mingling with his fellows, all kinds. In time he understood men all the way through and deeply loved them.

It was a Jewish custom for each child to pick a saying when he started school. This saying was to guide the pupil through his days of synagogue studies. Joshua picked his saying from the Scriptures.

The Spirit of God is upon me,
God has touched me,
He has sent me to bring glad news,
To mend the brokenhearted,
To proclaim freedom,
And to set the Spiritual prisoners free.

(But Joshua did not become a potter when he grew up, he became a wonderful teacher. He taught people to love God and to love each other. We are still learning these same beautiful lessons today.)

WALKS WITH JOSEPH

Nazareth was not too strict about Jewish customs. Nazareth was liberal. It was a rule not to walk far on the Sabbath. But at Nazareth Joseph took Joshua for Sabbath walks.

They would climb the high hill near their house. And they would look out afar.

On clear days they could see to the north. Snowy Mount Hermon raised its sparkling peak. Far to the east was the river Jordan. Westward they could see sailing ships at sundown on the ocean. To the south were Greek and Roman cities.

Joshua liked these times in the countryside with Joseph. They felt and studied the many moods of nature.

Often Joshua walked to the town spring. It was not far from his house. At the spring he met all the mothers and girls in Nazareth. These women came to carry water home and to talk with friends as they filled their jugs.

At home Joshua learned to care for the animals. He learned how to milk the family cow, and to make cheese. He learned to weave. Soon he was skilled at working the loom.

NATHAN THE POTTER

Near the flowing spring Nathan's fingers shaped the soft clay. Joshua and his close friend, Jacob, liked to watch. Nathan gave the boys clay for play. He got the lads to use their imaginations in making things.

Joshua and Jacob had contests to model the best animal. The lads wanted to be potters when they grew up.

*From pp. 72-78 of *Tales of Joshua*. Copyright © 1980 by Robert W. Slagle, Ph.D. Used by permission. (For information on ordering the book see "Things to Share.") Dr. Slagle's book is derived from the copyrighted work, *The URANTIA BOOK*, ©1955 by URANTIA Foundation, all rights reserved, and he was granted permission to use the material from *The URANTIA Book*.

dictated 1-10-81

"Hi God,

Please come down and let me see you.

Thank you for making our people and thank you for our world and for letting us survive."

Justin Zopel, age 6
Wausau, Wisconsin
April 27, 1981



Garden (Continued from page 6)

greatest thing we can do for our child (or family) is to fulfill our own lives. Thereby will we be teaching life fulfillment.

Children learn to trust their world when their daily needs are met. They learn that the world is a friendly place when they are given the shelter of Love and Belonging. It doesn't matter how a child's needs are met — or by whom. It only matters that the adults around them provide security, discipline, examples, and an understanding ear.

Children reflect to us our own child within. When we are willing to discipline ourselves, we will be willing to discipline our children. When we have mercy and patience with ourselves, we shall also be righteous with our children. And when our children remind us of these lacking virtues, then we will have the opportunity of seeing that which we often shade from our own eyes.

Children learn to react to their world. If we want our children to have confidence, then we must reassure them; if they are to be courageous, we should admonish their fears; if we wish them to be proud, then we must take pride in them. We can show them the path we have found and

share with them the strength and faith of the Father. And when we have given the best we know how, then must we in turn have faith in our children and support them as they carry forth the Torch of Humanity.

With Love to all of
God's children! Ω

Family Participation
(Continued from page 3)

tion; eventually people will not attend if it separates their families.

Although we have been concentrating on children and families, this issue is more far-reaching. If within our societies and study groups we experience difficulty in creatively dealing with family needs, how will we view other "problems" which will inevitably arise in the future? If tolerance comes slowly within our movement, how will we represent ourselves outside our movement? Even now we must realize that this revelation is for Christians and non-Chris-

tians — all races and peoples of the world. Will we be guilty of refusing to "dine with publicans and sinners"? Or will we strive to exhibit that "startling affection" within our own groups and in turn make these teachings attractive to all people. "This gospel of the kingdom belongs to both Jew and gentile, to rich and poor, to free and bond, to male and female, even to the little children." (P. 2044) Ω

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The Children's View

A NOTE TAKING ANGEL

This is a ANGEL THAT EVERYBODY HAS.
This is the ANGEL THAT TAKES DOWN
All the good things you do All during
your life. And when you die maybe
your ANGEL will show you your
long long lifetime list of good
things.



By WENDY ZOPEL, age 10
Wausaw, Wisconsin

WENDY ZOPEL - AGE 10

Race

(Continued from page 11)

of causation is the perusal of history. But the knowledge of *how* a being becomes does not necessarily provide an intelligent understanding of the *present* status and true character of such a being." ("215) (Emphasis added).

For an individual to gain an understanding of *The URANTIA Book* and of his relationship to the environment he lives in as well as to the universe, it would be helpful to seriously consider: (1) Completion of the book as a basis of understanding; (2) God's purpose for six evolutionary races of color; (3) The time factor regarding the six evolutionary races; (4) The defaults of the Planetary Prince and Adam and Eve, and (5) An understanding of the Supreme Being and our relationship to him.

We are twentieth century beings who are intelligent, curious, well-rounded and spiritually motivated enough to be interested in the con-

(Continued on page 19)

See "Race"

SPHERES of INFLUENCE



Reaching High

By TOMMIE CLENDENING
Plano, Texas

There are many parts of the individual. Our vehicle is the body. Our mind thinks thoughts and feels emotions. Our evolving sense of truth, beauty, goodness, and love is the soul; the inner spirit is always devotedly leading us. Then the captain of the ship of personality is the will. One of life's most challenging tasks is unifying, balancing and integrating this personality. *Reaching High: The Psychology of Spiritual Living* is a new book about this unifying process with a spiritual twist. Many long time students of *The URANTIA Book* may recognize the author, Marvin Gawryn. The basis of his philosophy is very evident to anyone familiar with the beautiful Blue Book, though the Book is never mentioned.

Mr. Gawryn is a Marriage, Family and Child Counselor in California. In this book he progresses from psychological definitions to down-to-earth spiritual and psychological guidelines to spiritual living. His unique illustrations and techniques make the task of reaching for fulfillment and happiness a tangible, step-by-step process. He describes in simple words the facets of the individual and the importance of relationships with others (especially marriage and family). Then he progresses to realms seldom touched in a psychological light: spiritual growth and religion.

I, personally, can envision *Reaching High* as the basis for counseling

group sessions, workshops, crisis prevention, etc. I'm so excited about this new tool I just had to let all my brothers and sisters know about it. Softcover editions are \$7.95 and hard-bound copies are \$11.95 (California residents please add tax), with discounts on quantity orders.

Order from:

Spiritual Renaissance Press
P. O. Box 347
Berkeley, California 94701

Hope you all enjoy it as much as I do. It's a great way to introduce skeptics to the philosophies and basic spiritual concepts of the Blue Book! Ω

Tales of Joshua

By KAYE COOPER
Arlington, Texas

In the children's section of this issue is an excerpt from the newly-published *Tales of Joshua*. *Joshua* is composed of stories from Jesus' childhood up to but not including the death of Joshua and is based on information in *The URANTIA Book*. The sophistication and age appeal varies from beginning to end since the stories were written as the sons of the family grew. The book is handwritten in large, attractive printing which is easy to read. The line drawings illustrating the stories are frequently whimsically expressive and certainly add to the charm of the book. The printing and drawings make the book a very personal work.

Some suggestions from the author's experience with his own family are contained in a letter at the beginning of the book. A lengthy bibliography of commercially-available re-

ligious books for children is included. *Tales of Joshua* is an 8½ by 11 inch paperback of 152 pages. For ordering information see "Things to Share." Ω



tents of *The URANTIA Book*. Personal emotions are a waste of energy when we are considering what our racial status on earth was nearly one-half million years ago – The time period referred to in Paper 64. This was about the time of the arrival of the Planetary Prince and long before the arrival of Adam and Eve. Equality, as we perceive it today, did not exist among early evolutionary people. At that time, a great majority of the people did not have thought adjusters, that individual spark from God which makes us all spiritually equal.

Papers 51, 52 and 64 discuss the progress of the six, or sometimes three, evolutionary races of color which are found on an average evolutionary world, and from this information we can measure our own progress. Harmonization of the Urania races has slowly proceeded but not through the prescribed technique. The Book further states that our planet "... is a full dispensation and more behind the average planetary schedule". (*593) And further, that on a normal inhabited world the races are practically blended by the end of the Adamic dispensation.

Remember, the period of time referred to in Paper 64 is after the arrival of the Planetary Prince and long before the arrival of Adam and Eve. The shortest paragraph of Paper 64 is the most troublesome: "Notwithstanding their backwardness, these indigo peoples have exactly the same standing before the celestial powers as any other earthly race." (*725) It is my personal opinion that this paragraph is quite unnecessary, but the real fault is one of tense. This statement might appropriately refer to that time long ago, yet it is written as though its application is always current; as it could have been read

then, can be read now, and will continue to be read fifty to one hundred years from now when the status of the black man will, no doubt, be a record of continuous advancement. "However wise it may be to glean wisdom from the past, it is folly to regard the past as the exclusive source of truth..." (*888) Again, it should be borne in mind when reading the sentences that contain some of those "touchy words" that cause social reflex flinching, that unfit and inferior strains are found in all races of people just as higher strains are found in all races. These differences sometimes manifest themselves within the same family. "... all humans beings are not born equal." (*774) Some are superior at one thing and perform at unacceptable levels at other things.

Mankind is now divided into approximately three classes: The caucasoid, mongoloid and the negroid, the first two groups containing some secondary Sangik admixture. (*905) Mankind is further intellectually divided into three classes: the subnormal minded; the average, normal type of human mind; and the supernormal mind. (*1241) We must think of ourselves as one part of a whole people we are to become. "There are no pure races in the world today." (*919) There are only two races representative of early evolutionary people of color – the yellow man and the black man – and they are admixed with extinct colored peoples. Even our modern white race contains much less than one-eighth to one-sixth percentage of the blood of Adam which characterized the Mesopotamian Andites over eight thousand years ago. (*871) Paper 80 could be just as disturbing to certain groups of whites as Paper 64 is disturbing to blacks, in that it is stated in more than one place that whites absorbed a considerable amount of

secondary Sangik blood through the Saharans who were the superior group of the indigo race. Indeed, the white race has been blended too much to be classified as nordic, alpine or mediterranean.

The URANTIA Book states that "Race mixture is always advantageous in that it favors versatility of culture and makes for a progressive civilization..." (*880) The Book further states, among other things, that "Race mixtures of the average or superior strata of various peoples greatly increases creative potential, as is shown in the present population of the United States of North America... The chief troubles of 'half-breeds' are due to social prejudices..." and "Mixtures of the white and black races are not so desirable in their immediate results..." (*920)

Immediate results in North and South America, as well as on the nearby Caribbean Islands, were during the height of slavery. Lerone Bennett, Jr. in *Before the Mayflower*, (p. 24), wrote that most black slaves came from an area bordering a 3,000 mile stretch on the west coast of Africa. They were a bewildering mixture of various stocks. Centuries of contact and interbreeding had already produced different types. Some of the West Africans were short and broad nosed. Some were tall with straight hair and aquiline noses. They were of all colors: chocolate, asphalt, cafe' au lait, persimmon and cream.

Family (Continued from page 9)

fight his own battles.

5. Don't ask him to grow up too fast – allow him to be a child while he is a child. Expecting him to think like an adult and giving him adult responsibilities is often an adult's way of shirking his own responsibilities. Let him know what you expect of him and don't be unreasonable. Ω

I am of the opinion that today in the United States of America over half the black population is of mixed ancestry, long since past the stage of hybridization which was an immediate result referred to above. This is not where the harm lies. *The URANTIA Book* says that "the real jeopardy of the human species is to be found in the unrestrained multiplication of inferior and degenerate strains of the various civilized peoples rather than in any supposed danger of their racial interbreeding..." (*920)

It is no longer relevant that the earlier evolutionary races were somewhat superior than the later; that the red man was endowed with a higher intellectual ability; north of the Rio Grand, he is all but extinct. (Shades of an inverted version of the parable: The Talents and the Servants.) And about eighty percent of the chinese population are peasants because of China's underdeveloped agrarian economy. At this period of time on Urantia, intellectual ability seems to be relative to one's environment.

As a result of slavery and wars, the modern day black man's presence and influence is now firmly rooted in four continents. Here in America, numerous blacks live around, nearby and with whites and other ethnic groups. Through the mechanism of slavery, the black man developed a unique insight into the psyche of the white man, which contributed greatly to his ability to survive. In general, the white man has not availed himself of opportunities to know the black man in a similar manner. Only lately have some whites made overt overtures to blacks, often being rebuffed in so doing. The cause and solution to this problem, however, is not the subject of this narrative.

Students of *The Urantia Book* have learned that there exists a unique op-

portunity to reconcile some of the existing social problems during this phase of life, thereby greatly enhancing the prospects for advancement on the Mansion worlds where we will be "mingling with diverse groups of personalities, orders very different from one's own fellows." (*526)

The one great truth Jesus taught was the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. It is personally debilitating and ungodly for any one of us to rebuff another who is earnestly seeking knowledge through us to enhance his or her personal growth. Each of us must willingly serve our fellowman to fulfill our duty to God the Supreme. Some of us, as

individuals or as a group, have difficult tasks to perform. On the whole, and from our limited perspective, it might seem quite unfair. But remember, our attainments are the result of individual effort and actual living. Finally, it is the task of each of us to let our light so shine before men that they may see our good works and be led to glorify the Father who is in heaven.

(See "Things to Share" for information on reprints of this article.)

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FAMILIES STANDING AS PILLARS

Praising Divine Spirit.

Doing service to the

spiral of evolution is cradled in the home.

Meals offered to the altar of being.

Love consummated in the interaction of growth

and understanding, in mutual respect and service.

Churches have blocked too many corner views,

streamers of dreams attached to kites of vision

catching on their spires that only *point* to the

heavens.

The positive/negative alchemy of love – God –

is open ended, neither beginning nor ending in

any time or space.

More light is ever available to those whose vision

has made out the terrain of a lesser reality.

Deep reverence is needed to nurture body mind and

spirit, in the homes of this tattered planet.

Families need to step beyond appearances of love.

It is safe.

Love is the only true safeguard for the transformation

that is before us.

Standing with God, standing with the love bond of

brotherhood, families standing as pillars of

light, love and wisdom for a new order to build on.

by Pat Waterman
Euless, Texas

The YOU BE

A new journal intended as an editorial forum for issues of concern to readers of **The URANTIA Book**. If you would like to get a copy and be on the mailing list, contact:

Matthew Rapaport, Editor
1306 34th Ave.
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Coming Attractions . . .

Is It Time to Be About Our Father's Business? (What Is Our Father's Business?)

Are you feeling the urge to contribute to the spread of this revelation? Is talking and thinking all there is to doing the Father's will?

Should we . . .

- teach the gospel
- "sell" the Book
- minister in the churches
- establish study groups
- give Books
- comfort the afflicted
- prepare teachers
- see that Books are readily available

Or — should we, perhaps do all these things and more? What are your ideas? How can we be about our Father's business? What are you doing? What would you like to do? For the winter issue we have chosen the theme:

OUR FATHER'S BUSINESS

Send your articles by October 15, 1981. Please limit articles to three pages, typed and double-spaced if possible.

THANK YOU

*The editors of **The Circles** wish to express their appreciation to the readers who have called, written notes or made personal comments to us concerning the Unity Issue. The many messages of interest and support not only encourage us but fill us with optimism regarding open communication among readers of **The URANTIA Book**.*

*Due to space limitations the letters commenting on the Unity Issue will be included in the next issue of **The Circles**.*

the editors

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do it well."**



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Thank you,

The Circles Editors & Staff

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