

# The Circles

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

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## The Spirit of Truth

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## *Spirit of Truth: Study Notes*

The Spirit of Truth is the spirit of Michael of Nebadon. The spiritual power of its arrival on the day of Pentecost (May 18, A.D. 30) was perceived by Jesus' followers. Their loneliness and sorrow at his departure turned to joy and thanksgiving, and they went out and taught and preached and lived with enthusiasm and power. This same Spirit of Truth serves us also—now and forever.

The Spirit of Truth has many, many functions which can generally be described as continuing personal and public proclamation by Jesus of the kingdom of God within and of the gospel of a loving Father God and the consequential brotherhood of all persons. The Spirit of Truth is, among other things, the assurance of Michael that the gospel of the kingdom will not fail. I can't hope to write comprehensively about everything that Spirit of Truth is and does, but I will attempt in the study notes which follow to call attention to some of the things I have recently found interesting, arresting and even startling in reexamining information about the Spirit of Truth.

### **Enlightens, Cleanses, Comforts and Promotes Health**

1. Those who will choose to receive the Spirit of Truth as the guide and counselor of their soul will be enlightened, cleansed, and comforted. (1954:1)

2. The Spirit of Truth is the spirit presence of Michael. Michael promised his anywhere, anytime presence to all who desire his presence. (1948:2)

3. A purpose of the Spirit of Truth is to give us a sense of Michael's presence with us personally. (2061:0)

4. The Spirit of Truth brings joy which can be consciously experi-

enced. The experience of this joy fosters spiritual, mental and physical good health. (2065:7)

### **Produces Spiritual Fruits**

5. The Spirit of Truth is a far more effective spiritual teacher than even Jesus was. (2061:7)

6. Acceptance of the ministry of the Spirit of Truth leads the recipient to organize his life for the purpose of doing God's will and serving his fellows. (2065:7)

7. The Spirit of Truth will teach us compassion, sympathetic tolerance, sublime confidence in Michael and perfect submission to God's will. (1958:2)

8. The Spirit of Truth is capable of working spiritual miracles in the inner lives of men. (1700:1)

9. The presence of the Spirit of Truth in our souls confers spiritual power upon us. (2055:2)

10. The Spirit of Truth directs the loving contact between people. (1950:6)

11. If we maintain our spiritual connection with the Spirit of Truth and commune freely with him, then the spirit will infuse us and we will bear much spiritual fruit. (1945:4)

### **Restates the Gospel**

**Leads Us To Labor for the Kingdom**

12. The Spirit of Truth helps us recall and understand Jesus' words and illuminates and reinterprets his life. (2061:3)

13. The Spirit of Truth helps believers witness to the realities of Jesus' teachings and life. (2061:4)

14. A purpose of the bestowal of the Spirit of Truth was to qualify believers to be more effective preachers of the gospel of the kingdom (2063:3) and to be motivated to labor for the extension of the

kingdom. (1957:3 and 2043:1)

15. The mighty Spirit of Truth resides in the gospel and multiplies the effects of our sincere and loving service. (1930:3)

### **Transforms Us**

16. If we will go forth preaching, teaching and living the gospel message, then the Spirit of Truth is fully capable of working from that to the eventual revelation of all truth in the hearts of men. If we will plant the gospel seed in men's hearts, the Spirit of Truth will attend to its germination, growth and training. (1931:2)

17. As the Spirit of Truth, Jesus—Michael—is our teacher, ready to lead us forward in the spiritual kingdom. (1960:1)

18. Our inner transformation by the Spirit of Truth strengthens our soul by the constant spiritual renewing of our mind. In this way we are endowed with the power of the performance of the will of God. (1609:5)

19. The Spirit of Truth is a spirit indweller of each and every believer in the gospel of the kingdom, and in this way Jesus becomes a spiritual incarnation in the souls of all true believers. (1953:3)

20. Because the Spirit of Truth is in us, Jesus lives in our lives and continues his work through us. (1953:4 and 2061:4)

21. It is true of the Spirit of Truth as it was in the ministry of Jesus in the flesh: nothing is more essential in our social interactions than proclaiming the gospel. (1931:2)

### **Leads Into Truth**

22. The Spirit of Truth will be with us always and eternally and will reveal everything to us. (1961:3, 1948:3,

See NOTES on p. 7.

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# Living With Jesus\*

By Bill Hazen  
Dallas, Texas

*The following exercise was used in June of 1985 at a Dallas URANTIA Society conference the theme of which was the Spirit of Truth. The exercise was done in small groups with discussion afterwards.*

During Jesus' life on Earth, he "made it plain that he had come to establish personal relations with men which should forever take precedence over all human relationships." (1593:6) Because his life and teachings were given to us as an "idealistic and spiritual inheritance suitable for the spiritual guidance of all ages," (1583:3) we can look to our historical record of his life and from it make an interpretation of how he might want us to live ours. But of even greater use are the facts that he is with us in each life situation and that he has given us the ability to view each situation in our lives as he sees it. He has in fact given us access to his mind for we have been told, "if your own mind does not serve you well, you can exchange it for the mind of Jesus of Nazareth, who always serves you well." (553:7) As we live our lives—whether we're dealing with a difficult situation, recognizing a spiritual opportunity, or just trying to make the most of a moment—we can take advantage of the gifts Jesus has given us by remembering his presence and taking some time to view our lives through his eyes.

Below are some outlines of some real life situations. After reading them, try to think how Jesus might act in each situation if he were living in your shoes, not as the historical Jesus of Nazareth in your body but as you.

## Situation 1

You're rushing through a crowded airport with some business associates and are almost late for a plane. As you make your way through the crowd, someone ahead bumps into a small child standing along the edge of the hallway, holding a bag of his toys. The assorted contents of the child's bag go flying across the crowd throughout the busy hallway. The child's parents are not around. As you stop to help the child, your associates become impatient. As you continue until you finish, they become upset and go on without you. Afterwards you do make the plane but only because it was a few minutes late. One of your associates asks you why you would jeopardize a business trip which means not only a lot for you but them as well. What might you say to him if you were Jesus?

## Situation 2

You're seated in an airplane with three seats per side. You're seated next to the window. You meet the two persons seated nearest you and find that they're headed toward different destinations. During the flight, the subject of religion comes up in conversation. The person next to you brings up the fact that he would like to get involved in some sort of belief, but he's never been able to get excited about a jealous, angry God. The other passenger tells the inquiring one that God is indeed sometimes angry and that's why he needs God's forgiveness, so he can escape the doom of hell as well as receive the joys of God's love. The person reiterates his lack of interest in that aspect of God. Knowing you aren't going to see that person in the future, what might you say to him if you were Jesus? ●



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**Got An Idea For An Article?**  
**The back cover tells**  
**about our next theme. But**  
**we are most happy to have**  
**articles on other topics**  
**too!**



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*All page references to The URANTIA Book are as follows: The first number refers to the page number. Numbers following the colon refer to paragraphs. Each indentation is counted as a paragraph, even if it is a single line long, as in numbered lists. Paragraph 0 on the page is the one which began on the previous page.*

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## The Endowment of Power\*

*"...by the new way you are first transformed by the Spirit of Truth and thereby strengthened in your inner soul by the constant spiritual renewing of your mind, and so are you endowed with the power of the certain and joyous performance of the gracious, acceptable, and perfect will of God." (1609:5)*

In the years I have been reading *The URANTIA Book* I must have read and pondered the quotation above at least 100 times. For such a long time I could not make a connection with my personal experience. Now I think I may have gained some insight.

I had been seeking an experience of "transformation." Well, I still haven't observed any dramatic transformation occurring in my life. Perhaps transformation is too subtle to observe in most people. Perhaps this gradual shift in the way I look at things and the goals I want to achieve is "transformation" by the Spirit of Truth. At any rate what I have come to recognize in my experience is the endowment of power.

I have had experience with the "old way." "By the old way you seek to suppress, obey, and conform to the rules of living..." (1609:5) I have tried through an act of my personal will to live up to the standards that I thought Jesus set before us. It was like stuffing balloons into a bag; you get some under control and the others pop out. Unaided I'm no match for my selfishness, my temper, my love of ease. Now I find more and more that the spirit endows me with the power to overcome these animal tendencies.

An endowment of power is a gift. It means that we are given the ability to

do God's will. Frankly, that sounds a little too good to be true, but it is.

The thing which I identify as bringing me the power was a wholehearted commitment to God's will. I can remember what I believe was my first experience of wholehearted commitment to his will. I was about to face a very unpleasant evening of criticism and anger. Ordinarily I would have become angry and defensive, eventually counterattacking. But on this occasion I made a commitment to God to serve him by going through the evening without those reactions. I placed myself in his hands. As the evening progressed, it proved to be every bit as unpleasant as I had anticipated. But through it all I was able to listen without anger, to consider the criticism honestly and to respond lovingly. There was a power within me enabling me to do what I had never done before. Occasionally when I would feel the anger beginning, I would recommit myself to his will and relax. The anger would disappear.

It seems that *wanting* to do God's will is the key to receiving the endowment of spiritual power. However, there is a distinction between an overall commitment of our lives to doing God's will and the specific choices we make in the heat of the moment. Both are important. I found the overall commitment to be easier to attain than the specific. I'm still working on those. What I have discovered is that the key is remembering to ask for help—reaffirming my commitment in the thick of conflict.

I find, much to my chagrin, that my teenage son can call forth a return to

my old anger habits quicker than almost anyone else. When I feel the anger begin, I have one last chance to choose the spirit's guidance or to sink into animal reaction. In that moment I have two hurdles. First, I have to remember that I have a choice between anger and the spirit. I don't always remember, and when I don't, I sail right into the battle. Second, I have to overcome my desire to be angry and argue. This is the moment of truth: do I really want God's will, right now? If I get over that hurdle with a "yes" answer, the rest is easy. I release my hold and let the spirit endow me with power. Once I have asked for his help, I relax and proceed in faith that he will guide my words and actions. It always seems to work.

The ability to yield the fruits of the spirit is a *gift* of the Spirit of Truth. All we have to do is to want to yield those fruits enough to lay ourselves on the line—to be willing to be and do anything the spirit directs.

At one time I might have viewed the following quote with despair, not believing that I could ever reach such high standards. Now I view it as a promise.

*"Pentecost endowed mortal man with the power to forgive personal injuries, to keep sweet in the midst of the gravest injustice, to remain unmoved in the face of appalling danger, and to challenge the evils of hate and anger by the fearless acts of love and forbearance." (2064:4) ●*

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**Share The Circles with  
friends: send us their  
names and addresses.**

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## Close Encounters With The Spirit of Truth

*Our study group spent about six months in 1984-1985 studying the Spirit of Truth together. It was a very rewarding study. We decided for this issue of The Circles to accumulate some of our individual experiences in which we had felt the influence of the spirit.*

Beth McLeod

I have always felt a special closeness to Michael, but after the point in my life at which I feel that I was transformed from a secular, materialistic person to a religionist by the Spirit of Truth, there was an increase—a great increase—in the amount and quality of time spent in communion with Michael. Prior to this change my goals were related to my college education, career and money. My life revolved around the collection of material objects: clothes, furniture, books, artwork, etc. But I was so unhappy, so empty. I didn't understand what was wrong. I had everything society said I should have. How could I be so miserable?

The answer came slowly, painfully and at great personal expense. As I began reading *The URANTIA Book*, the changes began. And they are still continuing as I grow spiritually. I realized that my priorities had been confused and wrong. My emptiness had been caused because I had no relationship with God my Father. My misery had been due to the distance I had put between God and me. I had been a forlorn, lost little child.

Now my goals are spiritual ones: making my will compatible with God's will, trying to mature spiritually, learning to be more loving in my relationships with others, etc. And I know that the harder I try to attain my goals, the more help I will get from the Spirit of Truth, the angels, and other beings.

During the first several months of 1984—one of the most difficult times of my life—I depended strongly on my relationship with Jesus to pull me through. Even though there were many bad judgments and decisions made by me during this time (Were they really bad? Or do all things work for the good?), I felt "guided" most of the time. When the going got tough, the Spirit of Truth led me through the crossroads.

I definitely do have a new life purpose (2065:7) since that time, and it is exhilarating. *Nothing* can compare to the high I get from believing that I am attempting to do the will of God and from my willingness to do that. (It *is* my will to do the will of my Father.)

Another area where I experience the Spirit of Truth is in my relationships. The spirit directs loving contact between people. Very often I have met complete strangers with whom I have an immediate rapport. When David Glass first began attending our study group, I felt that he was a very special person who would have a positive influence on my life. Yet I did not know David nor had I heard anything about him. Now we are close friends, we attend the same study groups, and we work together on *The Circles*. I appreciate the spirit's urge towards friendliness with David. He is indeed a positive force in my life!

Mark McLeod

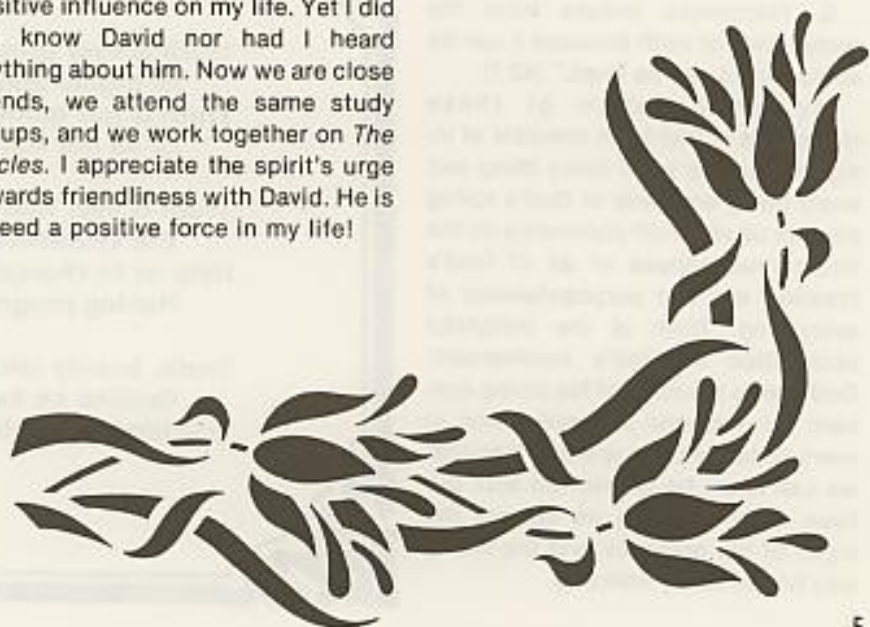
I have had occasions on which I felt led to a certain course and have dedicated myself to the pursuit of both the understanding and selection of the path. I am certain that there is a purpose in my life and that day by day I am led along a path to that purpose. I can't define the destination but I recognize the course. I have faith that even though I am unable to see the final destination and I can't define my course, that I will get to where I need to be if I follow the leading.

In the past I have had precognition of future events that have been validated, and I am ever alert to subtle changes in course. If I don't sense a change in course, I assume I am on the correct course. The results have been a new, rewarding life and eager anticipation of the future. I know the course is hard, but I am comfortable when I am on it.

Bill Cooper

I have recently become aware of

*See ENCOUNTERS on p. 6.*



# What Is Truth? \*

By Bill Cooper  
Arlington, Texas

Since Michael is the truth and because we shall know the truth and it will make us free and because the Spirit of Truth is the master teacher of truth, I decided it was high time to have a better understanding of what truth is. Here, very briefly is what I found:

1. Fact is not equivalent to truth.
2. "When man searches for truth, he pursues the divinely real." (42:5)
3. "...love is the greatest relationship in the world—in the universe—just as truth is the greatest pronouncement of the observation of these divine relationships." (1615:5)
4. "The bestowal Spirit of Truth...is unerringly responsive to truth—the living spirit relationship of all things and all beings as they are coordinated in the eternal ascent Godward." (647:4)
5. "Truth is always a revelation..." (1109:4)
6. "Happiness ensues from the recognition of truth because it can be acted out; it can be lived." (42:7)

My interpretation of these references is that truth consists of insights into the ways every thing and every being are parts of God's loving plan for us all. Truth comments on the interconnectedness of all of God's creation and the purposefulness of everything. Truth is the insightful recognition of God's involvement. God leaves the mark of his loving concern for everyone and everything in every possible thing and event so that we can know he is involved with our lives. Truth is when we discern the signs of his presence and the loving way his universe works. ●

another avenue of truth: music. Our friend Jonathon Johnson plays guitar and sings with a beauty and expertise I admire very much. Just recently I was listening to a tape of an instrumental piece which he had composed when it struck me that the strong feeling of recognition within me which occurs each time I hear the piece is the same one that I call a truth reaction. It is that feeling which fills me when I read or hear something which I recognize as truth. Somehow the combination of rhythms and notes which Jonathon had composed represents truth to me.

Kaye Cooper

Aside from those flashes of truth recognition at something said or done which are probably our most common experience with the Spirit of Truth, I find that I seem to feel his influence most when trying to help someone else. I can remember one particular time when a friend was seeking a willing ear and advice on her marriage. I felt rather inadequate to help. My experience didn't include the kind of problems she was having. I shot up a quick request for help and then concentrated on her and what she was saying. She talked for a long time and I made a few comments as they occurred to me. Afterward she

thanked me for giving her just the answers she needed.

Since then I depend heavily on the spirit's help in such situations. I may not know what a friend needs to hear, but the spirit does and many times seems to find a way to use me to say it.

Diane and John Lanford

This last summer on the beach in California we stopped to watch an instructor give a lesson to a woman student in wind surfing. Three boys, 10 or 11 years old, came riding their bikes along the beach. One came to a screeching halt and began watching the lesson. His two friends began at once to nag him. "OK, OK, just a minute," he replied, "I want to see this." It was obvious, however, with each passing minute that he was becoming more and more fascinated.

Finally, he leaned his bicycle against the wall where we were sitting and went to sit in the sand near the man and his pupil. The instructor clearly considered the boy a nuisance until the wind began tangling the lines and the boy jumped up to help with them. The man softened and began to let the boy actually help.

All the while the other two boys kept up a constant stream of cajoling and subtle threats: "Are you coming? We're going on. You won't be able to

## Truth

Truth is ever growing, a gradual knowing  
Of higher and better ways.  
Truth is our guide, the companion  
Of all our days.

Truth is ever moving, alive and proving  
The evolutionary plan.  
Help us to change within our range,  
Making progress as best we can.

Truth, beauty and goodness are  
Godlike we know,  
Teaching us gently we reap what we sow.

By Gene Joyce  
Richardson, Texas

find us where we're going." They even rode off and then returned to increase their threats, "We don't let just anybody be our friend. Our friends do what we say. Don't you want to be our friend, Justin?"

Justin never gave in. He encouraged his two friends to join him, saying, "Come watch this. This is neat. I'm learning something here. We can ride our bikes later." In spite of their pressure, he continued doing what he felt inside was right for him. We felt sure that Justin would sail high one day because already he was heeding the call of the Spirit of Truth. ●

NOTES continued from p. 2.

1951:4)

#### Establishes Our Direction

23. The Spirit of Truth leads man upward and urges him onward. The spiritual forward urge is the most powerful driving force present in this world. (2063:1)

#### Prophecy

24. The Spirit of Truth will declare to us what God has revealed to the Son, and he will even show us things to come. (1951:5)

#### Draws Believers Together

25. The religion of Jesus is the most powerful unifying influence the world has ever known. The Spirit of Truth lessens the self-assertiveness of individuals, groups, nations and races. Mankind can be unified only by the spiritual approach. (2065:5-6, 1941:1)

#### Facilitates Our Relationship With God and Michael

26. The Spirit of Truth was bestowed on all the honest of heart throughout the whole world. Every soul received him in accordance with the love for truth and the capacity to grasp and comprehend spiritual realities. (2063:4)

27. The chief mission of the Spirit of Truth is to teach men about the truths of the Father's love and the Son's mercy. (2062:10)

28. The Spirit of Truth never creates a consciousness of himself, rather he creates a consciousness of Michael. (2061:2)

29. The Spirit of Truth helps men to know that they are the sons of God. (1642:2)

## Affirmations

By John Hyde  
Dallas, Texas

Affirmations are positive phrases we repeat to ourselves, preferably out loud, once or twice or even 200 times a day. As we repeat them, we should picture ourselves already doing that which we are saying. Soon we will notice that our outlook is changing. That which we are affirming is becoming real.

The spiritual urge is the most powerful force in the world today.  
I am finding it easier to yield to the guidance of my Thought Adjuster; and  
I am learning the technique of cooperation with the Spirit of Truth.  
I am aware that the Spirit never drives, only leads;  
I follow with wholehearted sincerity and give thanks for the privilege of serving God.  
I am allowing the Spirit of Truth to aid me in formulating a life purpose single to the will of God.



## Letters to the Editor

**We'd like to hear your  
opinion too. Write to us.  
Everyone enjoys reader's  
letters.**

August 7, 1985

*Hello Friends,*

*I am a URANTIA book reader passing through Vera Cruz, Mexico. My vehicle broke down here and through a series of amazing "coincidences," I've met some people here in the poor part of town who have meetings on religious studies. They absolutely went crazy when I shared The URANTIA Book with them. They wanted to get one, and I was wondering if between all of you there you could manage to get one and send it to them. It will bring them more joy than you can imagine. They might also be interested in your newsletter.*

*There is a man in the group, Mateo, who speaks both Spanish and English and translates it for the rest. They are most*

*wonderful people and if any of you are ever down here, I would highly recommend contacting them.*

*I am going on to Costa Rica where we are building a school for children which is private and has a unique curriculum. The three R's, some spiritual teaching, gardening and back to nature.*

*Well, I hope somehow you can get a book to them. Until sometime we meet, God bless you all, and do write to me in Costa Rica.*

*With love,  
Ken Upcraft  
La Virgen de Sarapiquí  
Costa Rica*

*[The Fort Worth Arlington study group has sent a URANTIA Book to the group in Vera Cruz and they have been placed on The Circles mailing list.]*

# Spirit of Truth

WORDS AND MUSIC BY:  
JONATHAN JOHNSON

I've been hear - ing these words  
Soon the nass will all tune in,

all a-cross the land  
to the one who's al-ways been

bro-ther-hood of man  
look u-pon the past

rise  
light.

These peo-ple  
To know we

start-ed  
and they've  
and that this

learned to know him well,  
and that through  
There's an e-

faith he's plain to see,  
lov-ing and  
for the child-ren of

ter ni-ty be-yond,  
List-en to the

Alphabe Music Corp.  
Hollywood Calif. M 121



B $\flat$ 6 Am7  
 spi-rit speak-ing  
 G B $\flat$ 6  
 to us. Lis-ten to the spi-rit  
 Am7 B $\flat$ 6 Am7  
 speak-ing through us. It's the spi-  
 G rit B $\flat$ 6 rit of  
 rit the spi- rit of truth and it's  
 truth Am7  
 on-ly here for us to  
 1. G  
 fol-low. 2) Soon the  
 2. G  
 fol-low.

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# Potpourri

## Go Then Into All The World With the Good News\*

By Julia K. Fenderson  
Culver City, California

"Go, then, into all the world telling this good news to all creatures of every race, tribe, and nation." (2054:2) The morontia Jesus delivered this message to a group of Samaritans at Jacob's well and soon afterwards again gave a similar command to a group at Tyre: "My Father sent me into the world to proclaim this salvation of sonship to all men. And so send I you abroad to preach this salvation of sonship." (2054:3)

Over and over we are told to go into all the world with the good news, the gospel, the message.

What is this good news? What is this "good news" as expressed in *The URANTIA Book*? How does the definition of "good news" in *The URANTIA Book* differ from that found elsewhere. Certainly the good news includes the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, but these two concepts are more all-embracing and multifaceted than one might think at first consideration. The fluidity and evolving nature of the gospel is pointed out in a quotation from page 2060:6. Jesus sent in his place

### CHANGES OF ADDRESS

We appreciate your sending us notice of any address changes. If we aren't notified, three things happen: (1) we have to pay for each change of address the Post Office sends us; (2) the person who has moved doesn't get that copy of *The Circles*; and (3) people who leave no forwarding address no longer receive *The Circles*. Thank you for your help in this detail.

...his Spirit of Truth, who is designed to live in man and, for each new generation, to restate the Jesus message so that every new group or mortals to appear upon the face of the earth shall have a new and up-to-date version of the gospel, just such personal enlightenment and group guidance as will prove to be an effective solvent for man's ever-new and varied spiritual difficulties.

Jesus taught a dynamic and many-dimensional gospel because he recognized that, at least initially, one feature of the gospel might appeal to one personality type while another aspect would appeal to a different type of personality. We must also recognize that the way in which we teach the gospel of Jesus may vary from group to group for Jesus said:

Go, then, into all the world proclaiming this gospel of the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of men to all nations and races and ever be wise in your choice of methods for presenting the good news to the different races and tribes of mankind. (2042:1)

So the good news can be proclaimed with or without *The URANTIA Book*. As William S. Sadler, Jr. has said:

The Book itself is not an End—it is a most important Means to an End. It is designated to bring God closer to man and to bring man closer to God. We may minister to our spiritually hungry brothers with or without the aid of *The URANTIA Book*. But, if the Book ever becomes mandatory in our ministry, then have we truly become sectarian. Our primary objective, as Urantians, is the service

of God, and the Book is an important Means to that End. Here we should make a vital distinction between that which *is* value and that which *has* value.'

On page 1766:5, we are told that: "In preaching the gospel of the kingdom, you are simply teaching friendship with God." We also read, in answer to Thomas' question, "Who is this God of the kingdom?" Jesus replied: "God is your Father, and religion—my gospel—is nothing more nor less than the believing recognition of the truth that you are his son. And I am here among you in the flesh to make clear both of these ideas in my life and teachings." (1590:5)

The importance of knowing Jesus' life is again pointed out on page 2090:4.

One of the most important things in human living is to find out what Jesus believed, to discover his ideals, and to strive for the achievement of his exalted life purpose. Of all human knowledge, that which is of greatest value is to know the religious life of Jesus and how he lived it.

Some of the varied aspects of the gospel are indicated in the following passages:

The gospel of the kingdom has taught you that all men are the sons of God. And this good news concerning the love of the heavenly Father for his children on earth must be carried to all the world. The time has come when you worship God neither on Gerizim nor at Jerusalem, but where you are, as you are, in spirit and in truth. It is your faith that saves your souls. Salvation is the gift of God to all who believe they are his sons. *But*



# Outreach

We are eager to continue to report on reader's experiences with sharing the concepts from *The URANTIA Book* with others or introducing the book itself to new readers. Please send us your experiences.

the editors

## First Light Productions

By Jane Roper  
Lafayette, Colorado

This has been a public service announcement brought to you by... FirstLight Productions! A group of readers—Robin Gillespie, Jane Roper, and Joanne Brummett—from Denver/Boulder area, have recently produced a 10-second spot for our local ABC station, KUSA, which has aired during much of August. We have three other 20- and 30-second P.S.A.'s that will be going into production in September and October.

The concepts that are portrayed in the spots are restatements of Jesus' gospel messages in "modern phraseology" with a special emphasis on kindness, friendship, the family, education, and brotherhood. Our first spot said, "You learn how to love when you're little, let it grow and grow your whole life long." The television station has been very en-

thusiastic about this work and has agreed to produce all of the P.S.A.'s for free as we are part of a non-profit organization, the Dallas Fellowship.

Our P.S.A. work was enlarged recently when the Denver Metro bus service, RTD, agreed to use 100 posters inside the buses in the over-the-seat advertising spaces. They usually charge \$2.00 per bus but agreed to display these posters for free. They will extend this free service for us every three to six months. One of our *URANTIA Book* reader friends, Archie Anderson, just happens to be a

sign maker and agreed to create our signs.

This is an exciting opportunity for spreading the teachings. Every television station, radio station, bus, and movie theater has space available for public service announcements. As a matter of fact, radio and television stations must devote a certain amount of air time to announcements of this kind in order to keep their licenses. What better use of this free media exposure than to infuse our culture with positive messages of love and brotherhood? ●



### We Need Your Help!



The usual format for FirstLight public service announcements is horizontal color slides of clear pictures with themes that are immediately recognizable, as they pass by very quickly in a 20-second spot. We need lots more slides. Unfortunately there is no way we can credit the photographers whose work we use, so this would be an opportunity to "serve without human recognition."

Please send us copies of your best slides and share in this outreach. We need lots of different subjects: families, children, nature, religious scenes, architecture, and abstracts. We also would be delighted to receive short, beautiful sentences that could be used as themes of pieces. We ask that they be generic and universal in their content. We also enlist your help in sharing original music that would be used as background and introduction.

And of course, financial donations to this work will be gratefully accepted.

Please send slides to us, FirstLight Productions, 1732 Race St., Denver, CO 80206, and thanks so much for your help. We are also available to help develop P.S.A.'s for your area. Write us and let's talk.

be not deceived, while salvation is the free gift of God and is bestowed upon all who accept it by faith, there follows the *experience of bearing the fruits of this spirit life as it is lived in the flesh.* (2053:4) [Emphasis mine]

At Pella, when Jesus gave his last sermon there, he spoke of five points as representing the cardinal features

of the gospel of the kingdom:

1. The pre-eminence of the individual.
2. The will as the determining factor in man's experience.
3. Spiritual fellowship with God the Father.
4. The supreme satisfactions of the loving service of man.
5. The transcendancy of the

spiritual over the material in human personality. (1863:2-6)

If we are not careful, we can make the same mistake with the fifth revelation that the well-meaning leaders of the Fourth revelation made. They changed the religion of Jesus and the story of his matchless life into a religion about Jesus. On page 2051:5,

See GO on p. 14.



## The Road Less Traveled

By Richard Bain  
St. Petersburg, Florida

*The Road Less Traveled, M. Scott Peck, M.D. Published by Simon and Schuster, New York. Copyright 1978. Paperback, \$5.95.*

Dr. Scott Peck is a practicing psychiatrist, apparently a Christian, and was involved with Buddhism for a number of years. All of these influences are in evidence in his book *The Road Less Traveled*. Dr. Peck frequently uses case histories to illustrate some point he wishes to make in this book. His Christian and Buddhist backgrounds are likewise fully evident. He sees spiritual growth as not only relevant to our lives and psychological health but as the primary purpose of our lives. He freely admits that he might not be considered typical as a psychiatrist; he says that many psychiatrists consider religion either to be irrelevant or actually harmful to our mental health.

Dr. Peck has a great deal to say on the subject of love. His refreshing and unique definition of love is perhaps a one-line summary of one of the book's main messages. He defines love as, "The will to extend one's self for the purpose of nurturing one's own or another's spiritual growth." He goes on to debunk the concept that infatuation is true love and uses the concept of the ego boundary to show the difference between infatuation and true love. In infatuation, the ego boundary temporarily disintegrates (until disillusionment sets in), but in true love, the ego boundary is permanently extended to include others. For the truly enlightened individual, the ego boundaries expand to include all people, perhaps even the universe. This is an example of Eastern philosophy flavoring his writing.

Is science a religion? Dr. Peck makes a good case for so considering it. He sees the religion of science as one that is setting us free from the stultifying authoritarian religions that many of us have inherited from the past. He cautions however that science can never be a satisfying religion, that we rather should see it not as a destination but as a road sign pointing us toward a new religion free from the limitations of the old.

In the fourth section of his book, Dr. Peck examines his concept of grace. He cites evidence regarding health, the operation of the subconscious and evolution as indications of God working in people's lives but outside of human consciousness to promote spiritual growth and physical and mental health. Students of *The URANTIA Book* will likely see the operation of Dr. Peck's grace as the operation of the Thought Adjuster

in our lives. This comparison is strongly reinforced by Dr. Peck's statement, "I know of no hypothesis as satisfactory as the postulation of a God who is intimately associated with us—so intimately that He is a part of us. If you want to know the closest place to look for grace, it is within yourself."

Dr. Peck has some other interesting definitions and concepts in this book. He defines original sin as laziness and evil as laziness carried to the extreme, in effect, antilove. He deals with the concept of entropy in the section on the miracle of evolution. He tells us that entropy is a force that pulls us down or retards our spiritual progress and that that force which opposes entropy and allows our progress is love.

Dr. Peck seems to start his book off in a negative way. The first sentence

See *ROAD* on p. 14.

## Elfbert,

## Santa's Reluctant Helper

By Mary Daly  
Garrison, South Dakota

*Elfbert, Santa's Reluctant Helper* by Errol Strider, P.O. Box 583, Boulder, Colorado 80306. Book \$5, Book and tape, \$11.50, postage paid.

*Elfbert, Santa's Reluctant Helper* is the cheery legend of an elf who can no longer bear to drown the spirit of Christmas in gifts. For one year, he turns back the tide of materialism and sends virtues (Christmas Qualities) to the children.

I shared the story and its jolly woodcut illustrations with my five-, seven-, and eight-year-old children. All enjoyed reading it and liked the tape

(music plus professional voices) even more. They didn't completely understand that qualities were *all* the children received (oh, horrors!), but they did agree it was a good idea. As long as my children are into a morally and artistically excellent work, I am not much troubled that they partly missed "the plot."

I look forward to having this little jewel around for many winters and hope it may serve as a gentle reminder.

For more information, see "Things to Share" in this issue. ●

# A Brief Introduction to The Urantia Book

By Meredith J. Sprunger  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

*A Brief Introduction to The URANTIA Book, Cliff Larsen. Available from: Cliff Larsen, P.O. Box 835046, Douglasville, GA 30135, \$1.00, including postage.*

Many years ago when I first finished reading *The URANTIA Book* I composed a twenty-six page summary of the essential teachings of the book to help me internalize the salient truths it presents. I submitted it to Dr. Sadler to double check its accuracy and received his hearty approval.

Over the years I have recognized the eventual need for a good summary of the basic teachings of *The URANTIA Book* to serve both as a reliable introduction and orientation to the book and as a concise study aid. One of the reasons I did not work on this type of introduction is that condensations do not present truth as effectively as firsthand sources and often tend to distort or inadequately portray concepts.

Experience has shown, however, that the absence of such a document has not resulted in getting people to read the entire book before making an evaluation of its contents and even writing reviews of the book. Furthermore, most people need help in understanding original sources in science, philosophy, and religion. The majority of those who identify with the Christian faith have never read the entire Bible. Catechisms, condensations, summaries, and study aids are a practical necessity for the great masses of people and even for scholars to keep up with knowledge and information outside of their area of expertise.

Several years ago Cliff Larsen recognized the need for such an aid to help introduce people to *The URANTIA Book* and to understand its basic teachings. He repeatedly tried to persuade me to work on such a summary. Being occupied with other things and

not sure about the timeliness of such a project, I urged Cliff to work on his own brief introduction to the book. I really didn't think Cliff would exert the effort and discipline required to produce such a document. I underestimated the creative ability and industry of Cliff Larsen!

Early this year I was surprised to receive a paper from Cliff entitled, "A Brief Introduction to *The URANTIA Book* and Its Most Basic Teachings." I read it and was much impressed with its thoroughness and quality. The paper has gone through several revisions and now is published in an attractive booklet which, I predict, will be of great service to the URANTIA movement.

The booklet covers topics like "What is *The URANTIA Book*?" "The Origin of *The URANTIA Book*," "The Foreword," "The Life and Teachings of Jesus," and a "Conclusion." It is a twenty-three page booklet which summarizes the basic teachings of *The URANTIA Book* quite well and with good taste. Cliff does not regard the present edition as a final product but an introduction which is "in process" and invites all who read it to make suggestions for improvement.

Cliff says, "My personal experience leads me to believe that many, many people are ready to appreciate *The URANTIA Book* if they are given a proper introduction to it. By proper in-

See INTRODUCTION on p. 14.

## Gifts to Michael

By John Hyde  
Dallas, Texas

*Gifts to Michael. A cassette recording from the Center for URANTIA Book Synergy, P.O. Box 3915, Santa Barbara, CA 93130-3915. \$8.50. copyright 1984 side one by Center for URANTIA Book Synergy and side two by Joel Andrews.*

Side One: Gifts to Michael. This side was recorded at a Michael's Birthday Celebration in Santa Barbara. The problem with giving a gift to Michael is summed up by one participant who asks rhetorically, "What do you give to the person who has almost everything?"

Parts of this tape are funny, some of the gifts are predictable, while some of the statements are truly original and inspiring. My biggest complaint with Side One is that it is too short.

Side Two: A Celestial Odyssey Through Michael's Mansions. This side of the tape is somewhat difficult for me to explain. Having never heard a long harp solo before, I have nothing with which to compare it. However,

when I listen to an instrumental whose title depicts a visual "scene," I go on the assumption that the musician is painting that scene with notes. And I must say, Joel Andrews has enlarged my concept of architecture with this rendition of the mansions of Satania. The Mansion Worlds abound in gems and precious metals, and Joel clearly seems to believe that they have been used extensively by the celestial artisans to construct and embellish the heavenly abodes.

Some of the patterns Joel seems to be depicting on the walls are absolutely breathtaking. Some of the rooms are restful, some are harmonious, some are deep, and some are quite conducive to worship. The dominant theme seems to be a sort of refined and delicate, balanced, yet flowing, beauty.

Some parts of the tape depict a beauty which utterly transcends descriptive words. But then, really good music should. Over all, I found this tape to be pleasant, original and inspiring. ●

# about angels

By Gene Joyce  
Richardson, Texas

**The angels "love human beings, and only good can result from your efforts to understand and love them."**

How Many Coincidences Does It Take?

Due to a change in residence, I started taking my laundry to a public laundromat. There was always time to kill, so I brought along something to read, usually my *URANTIA Book*. Of course I had a second reason for taking my book, and that was the probability that someday someone might ask me about it.

After a couple of months I found it more convenient to change to a laundromat a little further away which was newer and open twenty-four hours a day. For some two or three weeks I didn't bring my book, spending my time listening to the radio instead. Then one night last week I felt an urge to take the book with me again: however, that same even-

ing I was delayed in leaving by about thirty minutes because of the unexpected arrival of friends.

Later that evening, as I was folding my laundry near the front of the laundromat (usually I would go to the back, but the air-conditioner was blowing right on me) with my *URANTIA Book* on the table, I walked a man. He stopped, looked at my book and then at me, and asked if he might examine it. After leafing through it and some discussion, he explained that he was a taxi-driver. Some six months before a passenger had told him about the book. He had not yet bought one, he said, "because I felt sure I would run into it again at an appropriate time."

He went on to explain that he usually waited until his wife, the laundromat attendant, had finished her work for the evening before coming to drive her home, but that on this one occasion he had decided to come over early and help her finish her work!

This type of thing has happened to me before, and even though events (apparently) unfolded naturally, I am convinced that the "just right" combination of coincidences means that once again our unseen friends have been doing that which they do so well, if only we will let them!

By John Hyde  
Richardson, Texas

to "all creatures." If we are not able to personally "go into all the world," we can certainly support those who are able. We can also support those scholars of the book in various countries who will use many methods to share the gospel of the book with non-readers in their own languages and dialects.

On page 2090:5, we read: "The common people heard Jesus gladly, and they will again respond to the presentation of his sincere human life of consecrated religious motivation if such truths shall again be proclaimed to the world." And that is up to us—that is our challenge—to see that those truths are again presented to the world. ●

'From William S. Sadler, Jr.'s 1957 *URANTIA Brotherhood Triennial report*.

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*ROAD continued from p. 12.*

of the book states, "Life is difficult." Dr. Peck seems to be of the "no pain, no gain" school of thought. Perhaps his book is a harbinger of the end of the "do your own thing" era. His elevation of self-discipline, responsibility and delay of gratification as virtues seems to express a different spirit than many of the self-help psychology books of the past few decades. His equating growth with pain may be a bit overdone for those who accept change and growth as a natural part of life, but for those who have not grown to this point, the pain may be as severe as Dr. Peck says it is. The point is, true happiness comes from fulfilling our potentials and this cannot be done without growth.

In *The Road Less Traveled*, Dr. Peck gives us not only a roadmap for spiritual growth, but he also identifies God as our destination. He offers no easy shortcuts to spiritual growth. In fact, he assures us that it will at times be uncomfortable (even painful) and risky and will require a good deal of effort on our part. But he assures us that the rewards more than outweigh the effort. In an age when self-gratification seems to be the chief aim of much of our culture, Dr. Peck is giving us a message we need to hear: consider taking that less-traveled road of spiritual growth. ●

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*INTRODUCTION continued from p. 13.*

roduction I mean they must be given sufficient information to arouse their interest in a way that will motivate them to tackle such a large volume. I believe it is often unfair to give a copy of the book to someone and expect him or her to be able to handle its complex contents without guidance."

(For information on ordering, see Things to Share in this issue.) ●

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*GO continued from p. 11.*

we are told that, "Already had begun the first steps of changing the gospel of the kingdom—sonship with God and brotherhood with man—into the proclamation of the resurrection of Jesus." And in the next paragraph we are further told that

...under the vigorous leadership of Peter and ere the Master ascended to the Father, his well-meaning

representatives began that subtle process of gradually and certainly changing the religion of Jesus into a new and modified form of religion about Jesus.

And we, with the same sincerity and best intentions, can change the religion of Jesus into a religion or gospel about *The URANTIA Book*.

We should continue to work for the dissemination of *The URANTIA Book* into all the world for those who can read it and will read it and will go on to serve as lighthouses in their native lands for those who cannot read. But let us be clear that the instructions given to us are to take the *gospel*—the good news—to all creatures of every race, tribe and nation. Nearly one-half of the world's 4.7 billion population cannot read and certainly more than that are not able to read *The URANTIA Book*, yet we are admonished to take the *message*

## Wanted: A Few Great Books

Kaye and I are planning to start a mail order book selling business next year which will sell books and tapes we have judged to have content of extraordinary and real worth. We are looking for 25 to 50 titles to be sold to the general public. We would appreciate your suggestions for books or tapes to include.

We want the best, the truest and the most beautiful. (We are concerned with the quality of the thoughts portrayed and very little with the physical appearance of the books.) We are looking for books or tapes that touch lives, that are virtually truth revelations on important aspects, such as:

- parenting
- family life
- friendship
- the marriage partnership
- communication techniques

- prayer and worship
- service
- growth

We are interested in books of stories portraying meanings, values, ethical behavior, friendship, unselfishness, service, faith, etc. Tapes of spiritually inspiring music are also needed. We'd like to hear about any book or tape you feel in your soul to be truly special, which brought you spiritual joy or truth responses.

If you know of a book, tape or pamphlet which might be of interest to us for this purpose, please send me the title, author, publisher, subject matter and little note about it. If it is difficult to locate, information on how to obtain it would also be appreciated. Thanks.

Bill Cooper  
P.O. Box 1203  
Arlington, Texas 76004-1203

## THINGS TO SHARE

### CONDENSED BIBLE CROSS-REFERENCE

Handy for readers who attend church or have an interest in the Bible. The major episodes from the four gospels are cross-referenced to The URANTIA Book. The cross reference printed on one sheet of heavy card stock fits in the inside front or rear cover of your URANTIA Book. Cost: \$1.00.

Randy Moser  
713 Fort Hall Ave.  
American Falls, ID 83211

### GIFTS TO MICHAEL

Side one of this cassette tape contains a recording of the gifts presented to Michael for his birthday by participants at the Art of Living URANTIA Book Conference in Santa Barbara in 1983. Side two is a harp concert performed by Joel Andrews at that conference entitled "A Celestial Odyssey Through Michael's Mansions." For more information see the review in Spheres of Influence in this issue. Cost: 88.50.

Center for URANTIA Book Synergy  
P.O. Box 3915  
Santa Barbara, CA 93130-3915

### A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO THE URANTIA BOOK AND ITS MOST BASIC TEACHINGS

A twenty-three page introduction to The URANTIA Book and summary of its basic teachings is now available. For more information see the review in Spheres of Influence in this issue. Cost: \$1.00 (including postage).

Cliff Larsen  
P.O. Box 835046  
Douglasville, GA 30135

### A CHRISTMAS CHILDREN'S BOOK AND TAPE

Error Strider has written a Christmas book for children with emphasis on values. He and his wife Rochelle, who are professional performers of wonderful original skits of meanings and values, have recorded the book on tape. The book is \$5. Book and tape together are \$11.50. (Postage is included in the price.) For more information see the review in "Spheres of Influence" in this issue. To order contact:

Error Strider  
Creative Spirit  
P.O. Box 583  
Boulder, CO 80306

# Learning To Love



*"If you love your fellow men, you must have discovered their values.... You can best discover values in your associates by discovering their motivation. If some one irritates you, causes feelings of resentment, you should sympathetically seek to discern his viewpoint, his reasons for such objectionable conduct. If once you understand your neighbor, you will become tolerant, and this tolerance will grow into friendship and ripen into love." (1098:1)*

*"You cannot truly love your fellows by a mere act of the will. Love is only born of thoroughgoing understanding of your neighbor's motives and sentiments." (1098:3)*

*"The more fully we bestow ourselves upon our fellows, the more we come to love them..." (1419:2)*

*"You will learn to love your brethren more when you first learn to love their Father in heaven more, and after you have become truly more interested in their welfare in time and in eternity. And all such human interest is fostered by understanding sympathy, unselfish service, and unstinted forgiveness." (1955:6)*

*The Fall 1986 issue of The Circles will have as its theme Learning to Love. Won't you share with us your experiences of loving and being loved? Help us focus on this very essential aspect of our spiritual lives. Here are some questions to start your thinking:*

*How can we discover our brother's motives?*

*Should we try to make our own motives more obvious to others?*

*How do you feel about the vulnerability of revealing your motives?*

*What difference does it make to sympathetic when seeking to discern our fellows' viewpoint?*

*Why do we come to love those to whom we freely give ourselves?*

*Love for our brothers flows out of our relationship with our Father. Share your personal experience of this truth.*

*Why is forgiveness important to learning to love?*

*Send your poetry, art-work, and articles (We suggest articles be limited to three double-spaced, typed pages.) by April 15, 1986 to:*

*The Circles  
P.O. Box 1203  
Arlington, Texas 76004-1203*

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