

The Circles

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

Friendship

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Friends' Thoughts

on Friendship

By United Midweekers Study Group
Fort Worth-Arlington, Texas

Our study group is a very close family, blessed with rich friendships among us. At one of our meetings we discussed our personal experiences of friendship. Then we asked for spiritual guidance as we wrote our thoughts on the subject. This article is a compilation of those ideas.

Steven DeFau

Friendship is feeling as if a person is as important as you yourself, a state of mind that is love. A true friend is someone to whom you would give all you own.

My one particular friend in the group I like because he is fair and even-tempered. He knows more of the world and of God than I do, but he never uses that knowledge to make me feel small. On the contrary he always imparts his wisdom to me in ways that are fatherly, but he doesn't come across as superior. He teaches by being himself, and therefore most of the time he isn't even aware of the impact he has on people around him.

All of the group are my friends and all add to my life in various ways. I am sure that God intended for each of us to give something different to different people.

Diane Lanford

The qualities of my friends that I most appreciate are the unselfish, caring "little things" that appear to be spontaneous. The acceptance of me—flaws and all—they are still my friends!

They understand when I get busy and forget to call them. They call me and share experiences—good and

not so good—express feelings, needs, ambitions—desires.

I guess it's the loving fellowship and communication—we all need it and seek it. Laughter, joy and just the silly, outrageous things.

John and I had a nice experience regarding friendship on our recent trip to Omaha. There is a Pancake House close to where my father lives, and he goes there in the morning for coffee and sometimes breakfast, but mostly, it's the people—the waitress, manager and the "regulars" who are there. They all go in before work—laugh, talk, complain, whatever—but there is a genuine feeling of love and caring.

We were fortunate in getting to meet with the "Cheers Breakfast Club" as we fondly refer to them.

These people rallied around my dad in a time of need—kept him buoyed up and let him know he was really needed and cared for.

John Lanford

The best way to characterize friendship to my mind is by recalling some of my own friendly relationships and drawing generalizations from the warm feelings I have therein. There is one friend who is exquisitely accurate in perceiving my mental/emotional state and ferreting out my motives, dreams, desires, etc., and caricaturing me in those special moments. Making me, in other words, laugh at myself. Another friend has an excellent talent for showing me—and others—the very best facet of myself, and in doing so, opens the door to

brighter horizons of growth and self-realization. Another friend takes me to the artist's world of fanciful creations and shows me beauty in the mundane. Another teaches me patient persistence and gives evidence of the fruits of sincere service. Many friends have lovely, and loving, sensitivities toward the humorous elements in our midst. Laughter, it seems, is a good environment for friendship. I always feel friendly toward anyone whose path leads through honest truth seeking and spirit-minded pursuits—spirit gravity, I imagine.

Leslie Morris

Friends are genuine. When they ask, "How are you doing?" they genuinely want to know. A friend always wants what's best for you. It's someone who builds you up, who listens, who advises, who cares. There is an element of "oneness" in friendship. You can be yourself around true friends. They love and accept you as you are and don't try to change you to be what *they* want you to be. A friend loves *you*.

Friendship includes a great amount of trust. You have to trust a friend before you can confide in him, sharing your innermost thoughts and feelings. And a friend derives pleasure from pleasing you. Friendship is made up of acceptance, trust, respect, honesty, openness, etc.

Louis Morris

A friend is someone who, when I say or do something that embar-

See FRIENDS on page 7.



Friendship Is Forever

By Gene Joyce
Richardson, Texas

Friendship is forever. During the recent holidays a visitor stated, "In all my life I have never lost a friend." She was speaking of those sublime relationships sometimes fused in childhood, but more often in the school years or early maturity, of personalities who came together by seeming chance and chose to remain in each other's orbits for a lifetime. Of course, a friendship can be born at any stage of life if the heart is open—sometimes in the most unlikely circumstances. Unlike the more dramatic and occasionally sudden attachments between the sexes, friendship usually develops slowly—drop by drop and layer by layer. It is a gradual thing and almost without exception is mutually recognized and acknowledged by both parties.

In rare cases for those especially blessed by the Gods, it can develop between the sexes or between parent and child, but more often, in my experience, it is exemplified in its greatest purity and intensity within the same sex. Even the disparity between the generations is not sufficient to override that rare meeting of mind, personality and spirit which can exist between two persons. I have been especially blessed by inheriting two daughters of mothers with whom I shared a friendship. Even though I am almost 70 and one daughter is approaching her 27th birthday and the other is 31, there is that indefinable understanding and deep communion of spirit that I define as friendship. Needless to say, these two attachments are enhanced by a clear understanding of origins and many shared experiences from early childhood on my part.

With me it is usually similarity of mind but diversity of personality

traits which draw me toward another person and produce that magic affinity which I recognize as friendship. I gravitate toward what I lack myself and therefore toward what I most enjoy and admire. Similarity of interests can play a part in nurturing such a relationship, and experiences in common may have some influence.

Being with a friend is consistently a positive experience. Friendship seldom drains one's energy, but refreshes the spirit and enhances the art of living. Commonality and sharing are its deepest characteristics. Friendship is full of the joy of being in each other's company, total trust and surpassing understanding. These three qualities are always present, and the greatest of these for me is understanding.

Although friendship is easy to recognize, it can be expressed in a thousand and one different ways. Never presumptuous, it delights in giving pleasure. It is tolerant and long-suffering; no matter how we mess up we know we will still be loved. Friendship can be doing something for someone—not necessarily because we want to, but because we know it will please the other person. It is putting ourselves out for others, whether it be time, talent or money. And especially is it the desire to give joy and to serve.

Time and space can separate friends, but as in all forms of genuine love, the caring and closeness can remain undiminished. One of my dearest friends from college days lives several thousand miles away, yet always when we meet, there is instant recognition and appreciation of the uniqueness of each other. Three of my friends I shall not see again until we meet on the mansion worlds,



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!

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

but the desire to communicate and share is always present. As for those friends within my inner circle on this planet—they and I will pitch our tents close together for all eternity. ●



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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.



Friendship in Marriage

A very good friend of mine has been asking me for several months to write an article on friendship in marriage. This article was written in response to that request.

For years now on Valentine's Day I have chosen three cards for my husband. One I sign "your sweetheart," one "your lover," and the third "your friend." There is a great deal of truth in that little tradition. Perhaps years ago when I started it, I intuitively recognized that there were three aspects of being married.

Our world is very familiar with the "lover" aspect of being a husband or wife. Sexual attraction is a basic component of a firm marital foundation. Unfortunately, it's easy for people to make the mistake of entering a marriage where sex is the only ingredient holding the couple together.

Being sweethearts equates in my mind to being "in love." That phrase is difficult to define—books have been written trying to do just that. Being in love has to do with the little leap of joy when you see each other at the end of the day. It's the fresh element in the relationship which keeps you eager for each other's company day after day. It's that touch of romance in your life together.

These first two elements usually are what get people into marriages in the first place. But if the two who marry don't become friends, being in love can fade to a tired old cliché and even the strongest sexual attraction can weaken.

Friendship is the core of the marriage relationship.

Friendship in a marriage involves an *intimacy* that destroys your sense of loneliness and makes life vivid and real. Friendship is expressed in a

By Kaye Cooper
Arlington, Texas

steady, underlying *affection* that makes time together so satisfying and mutually enriching. Friendship also involves a *respect* for each other that builds the character and confidence of both. As the friendship grows, the *commitment* to each other which develops provides a nourishing security.

Intimacy

I'm convinced that every person in the world is seeking intimacy—with God and with other human beings. Each person wants to remove the masks and drop the poses that he somehow ended up with. Each one wants to be seen as he is—and loved. Many people don't recognize what they are looking for, and they look in strange places: drugs, sexual liaisons, intellectual prowess, the camaraderie of sports, war, causes, crime. Real, genuine intimacy is hard to find—and it is the strongest mark of a marriage between friends.

Recently I was asked to explain why I was attracted to my best friend (my husband). The first thing that popped into my head was—"because I can reveal myself completely, even when I'm being my worst me, and he still goes on loving me." It's not that I can say anything to him. There are things I don't say because they would do no good, only harm. But I can be me—good, bad and in between. He goes on believing in my basic goodness, knowing I will grow, and taking the less-than-perfect as a part of the package. This acceptance is essential for intimacy to exist successfully.

It's a great joy to feel the security

of knowing I am loved just as I am. I can express my hopes, desires and dreams without being laughed at, reasoned with or dismissed. I feel free to share a thing of beauty and know it will be appreciated. I can think through a situation or an idea out loud with a sympathetic listener.

Life can be lived in the shadows without genuinely touching other people, but I don't believe that is truly living. The aching need to know and be known is always there. Being intimate with your life partner destroys loneliness and makes life together *real*—rich and full and solid.

Affection

When I was a young teenager, my mother explained solemnly to me that a girl could fall in love with a man she didn't like and that anyone who had that misfortune was headed for misery. It was a wise piece of advice.

Affection is a basic and simple element in a healthy friendship. It's easy to answer the question, "Do I *like* this person?" when it's simply an acquaintance. But when you're looking through the rose-colored glasses of "in-love-ness" or feeling the heated pull of sexual attraction, it's much harder to determine the answer to that question. Marriage involves spending a phenomenal amount of time together over many years. The partners need to *like* each other.

Spouses who are friends enjoy each other's humor, share at least some common interests and tastes, and are interested in each other's opinions, theories and convictions. Most important, they see in each other things they admire, perhaps even characteristics they would like to have themselves. This last is one of the reasons why husbands and wives



Love and Friendship[★]

By Marlene, Jacques, and Georges Dupont
Blennes, France

Friendship and love are progressive civilization acquisitions. They are divine gifts activated when they are desired by human free will. Primitive man "was not naturally overflowing with the spirit of brotherly feeling and the desire for social contact with his fellows." (763:4) Only necessity brought primitive men close and led them to cooperation. As for primitive woman: by the close of the pastoral age, "she had become scarcely more than a human animal, consigned to work and to bear human offspring, much as the animals of the herd were expected to labor and bring forth young." (769:0)

Love and friendship (amour et amitié) have the same etymological root in the French language. They are derived from the Latin verb "amare" which means "to love" (aimer). But we will have a better understanding of friendship through its differentiation from love.

God the Father is love; he is no respecter of persons. Love is an expression of soul looking for harmony with truth, beauty and goodness in

any being—even an enemy—and in any thing. It is an expression transcending the ego and looking for unselfish service to anyone without distinction. Friendship is focused on one single individual, and its unselfish service is limited to only one person.

Speaking about his friendship with La Boetie, Montaigne in "Les Essais" said, "If you insist on making me say why I loved him, I feel that this can only be expressed by answering: because it was him, because it was me..." Through this simple definition of friendship we notice the subjectivity of this feeling, in contrast to love which is objective. Friendship needs reciprocity, love can do without.

The man-woman relationship has progressed far beyond its initial primitive state. It is now through this privileged relationship that friendship can find a newly broadened and exalted expression, when it is based on the recognition of the Universal Father and the will to be like him.

In human love between man and

which supply proof of the healthy glow of gentle pleasure between two people.

Respect

Good friends treat each other with respect. So often married couples fail to do this simple thing. There is a certain amount of self-discipline involved in treating your marriage partner with respect. Getting intimate with another person reveals the vulnerable spots that everyone has. The one who is closest to you can hurt you most. Treating your spouse

See MARRIAGE on page 10.

woman, what is the part of friendship? Psychologist Pierre Daco used the term "genitality" to refer to all those things which concern sexual mating action, and he used the term "sexuality" to mean the masculine and feminine psychological characteristics seen from the viewpoint of their differentiations. (*The URANTIA Book* talks about these differentiations as being opposed and equal in absolute value.) Using these terms, we could say: human love = friendship + sexuality + genitality.

Affection between man and woman from which "genitality" is excluded may be on a very high level because their opposed sexuality considerably enlarges and completes their relationship through exchanges and observations. It is enlarged friendship.

The way to gain a friendship is to master our own egoism. Each human being feels the need of friendship; he longs to be seen from a point of view other than usefulness. He feels the need to flee that mental appraisal and to be loved for himself. But friendship is only the second step in the growth process: "If once you understand your neighbor, you will become tolerant, and this tolerance will grow into friendship and ripen into love." (1098:1) But, "You are destined to live a narrow and mean life if you learn to love only those who love you. Human love may indeed be reciprocal, but divine love is outgoing in all its satisfaction-seeking." (1739:6)

Friendship has its roots in the soul. It is a fact that the urge of friendship comes from the soul. And to follow this urge is the first step to happiness. ●

who are friends grow from just being together.

It's important too that affection be expressed. One partner reminds the other of a warm memory or one of those private little jokes. Many little non-sexual touches pass between husband and wife—a pat, a squeeze, a soft, soothing rub of the hand, just little things. Small gifts are important too: biscuits from scratch because he loves them, clipping an article on one of her favorite interests. It is these small, simple gestures made a hundred times a day, year after year,

What Kind of Universe Is This Anyway?

By Jeffrey Wattles
Concord, California

Let's begin with a few questions:

1. "God is the sovereign Creator of the universe." To me this statement is (a) definitely true, and something which I have begun to experience; (b) something I believe, but which I have trouble verifying as I observe the way the universe works; (c) doubtful; (d) _____
2. "God is my friend." (a) I KNOW this. (b) I don't KNOW this. (c) _____
3. "We live in a friendly universe." When I hear this statement, I (a) immediately agree; (b) tend to think of counterexamples—wars, earthquakes, disease, crime—that SOMEONE will bring up; (c) suspect that I am hearing another new-age philosophy which fails to take the problem of evil into account; (d) _____
4. "I generally experience nature as good." (a) Yes, definitely! (b) somewhat; (c) not much; (d) _____
5. "I have a basic trust in my body as a part of creation." (a) Yes; (b) No; (c) Somewhat (d) _____
6. I usually think of my mind as (a) a barely adequate tool for coping with the constant challenges of reality; (b) a gift of God to facilitate my evolving participation in the universe; (c) a superior talent that sets me above others; (d) _____

A friendly universe? "The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims his handiwork," says the Psalmist. The author of Ecclesiastes finds otherwise: "All things are wearisome...there is nothing new under the sun." How

many paintings depict human beings dwarfed by impersonal mountains and mists? How many times has science's effort to control nature backfired? And how many philosophers take earthquakes, disease, or the eventual extinction of the sun as evidence against the existence of God?

All evidence is gathered from a certain perspective. The great decision before each of us is whether or not our lives say YES to God. If we are prepared to say that the basic laws of creation are the legislation of God, that evolution is a worthwhile enterprise (a universe of eternal perfection already having been created), and that imperfect finite freedom is a legitimate part of the divine plan—then we have the philosophical foundation for saying that this is a friendly universe.

To make this claim is not to imply that every grain of sand is animate and smiling. It is poetically true to speak of inanimate nature as if it were friendly only because the presence of the loving God so thoroughly pervades nature and its laws. A scientist, strictly speaking, should not say that the universe is friendly.

Of course when we speak of the friendly universe we are not only speaking of nature. Personalities are included in the universe. But this observation raises a question about our enemies. One answer is that the only real enemies of a son of God are the enemies of God, and in eternity they do not exist. Therefore, from an eternal perspective, the entire universe is friendly. Indeed, in the

cosmic process of rehabilitating us lost sheep, that which became involved in evil gets recycled, and that which is good gets integrated and supported. And the Father's friendship can shine brightest in the most antagonistic situations.

Plato observes that there are true friends and false friends; the true friends are few indeed, and the false friends may be unaware that their affection is not directed to what is essential. Our culture has an international reputation for being wonderfully friendly in superficial situations and for being "too busy" for abiding and deep friendships. Our ambition is to build a better planetary society ("society" comes from the Latin *socius*, which mean comrade or ally). We do this by being, in every encounter, ambassadors of the friendly universe. What is an ambassador? An undercover agent? A cultural imperialist? Or a friend? ●

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.



My Friend Jesus

By Bud Bromley
Upland, Indiana

Imagine with me, if you will, for a few minutes what it might be like to be able to read someone else's mind completely (and without disturbing him). Let's give you, further, enough additional units of attention so that you can attend to your own life efficiently, yet also sense his life entirely--see what he sees, hear what he hears, feel what he feels, experience with him whatever he does, and know what he thinks. Yet more! Let us give you complete access to his memories, conscious and unconscious, so that when he makes a decision, wise or foolish, you can track down all of the causes that culminated in that decision. You can truly understand him: why he is whatever he is and how he got that way. Moreover, you still have enough spare mental capacity to think about what you are sensing from him and to compare his experiences thoughtfully with yours, gaining more insight than either of you could get alone.

Remarkable as they already are, let us expand your abilities again, a thousand fold, to let you now mentally pick up and follow as they grow one hundred babies in each of ten differing major cultures. Within each culture you can sense ten children from each of ten levels of intelligence. And you can follow each one of these one thousand people throughout his entire life and recall, at anytime, anything you have ever sensed. Not only that--you again have the additional mental power necessary to compare, to analyze, to synthesize, drawing upon every experience of every person.

Now let us give you immortality. As one person dies, you acquire another baby so that you can sample the

planet's diverse flow of human experience for tens of thousands of years. One last expansion of power--you are experiencing, in all this detail, a thousand inhabited planets simultaneously and are continuously reflecting wisely upon it all. What a nearly infinite store of varied mortal experiences would be available to you!

Consider how deep and unerring would become your understanding of values so fundamental that they hold across all cultures, affecting all levels of mortal success, irrespective of differing human intelligences.

I truly believe that this description hardly scratches the surface of the immense insight and wisdom of the awesome mind of the mighty Son of

God who chose to live in, and speak to us through, the human body of Joshua ben Joseph, my friend and yours, Jesus. ●

FRIENDS from page 2.


resses, humiliates, or hurts him, thinks I made a mistake or feels it was for his own good. A friend never thinks I am out to get him, take advantage of him or cause him harm. I trust my friends and they trust me. If it looks like a friend has cheated me, than I am not looking at the situation from his viewpoint. When people are on their guard to be sure you don't cheat them or take advantage of them, they are not your friends.

Mark McLeod

Friendship is divine in nature, loving in orientation, and mutually rewarding. You look forward to seeing a friend and are never disappointed. The joy you get from being with a friend cannot be hidden. It pours over you and your friend sees the happiness he brings you. How can this help but elevate him in his own happiness? A friend loves you as you love him and you are each better for that experience.

The feeling of divine presence is

See FRIENDS on page 8.



Giving and Receiving Friendship

By John Hyde
Richardson, Texas

I have a plaque hanging on the wall which says, "Love isn't love until you give it away." The same applies to friendship.

It has been said that a pint container cannot hold a quart, which is to say that you can only experience (receive) as much friendship as you have capacity to absorb. It is only by giving that we open up the capacity to receive. That produces a double pleasure, first when we give friendship and then second when we receive it in return (not necessarily from the same direction in which it was given). The reason why we are

guaranteed of receiving it in return is some type of cosmic law related to the one which states, "Ask and ye shall receive, seek and ye shall find." Nature abhors a vacuum, and when that capacity to receive increases, then the blessings immediately start to flow into it.

It follows, then, that the way to enjoy a happy, full life is to be always giving away much more love, friendship, service, etc., than we could ever possibly receive. Pretty soon we will be so overwhelmed with goodness that praise and glory for the source of all goodness will be inevitable! ●



Friendship: Study Notes*

By Julia Fenderson
Culver City, California

1. "The crowning glories of human friendship." (1776:2-5)
2. The birth of friendship in early man. (714:2)
3. "Noblest of all memories are treasured recollections of the great moments of a superb friendship." (1779:4)
4. The New Commandment. "That you love one another even as I have loved you." (1944:4) "It is *loyalty*, not sacrifice that Jesus demands." (1945:3)
5. "The impulse of friendship transcends all convictions of duty, and the service of a friend for a friend can never be called a sacrifice." (1945: especially paragraph 3)
6. "Some degree of moral affinity and spiritual harmony is essential to friendship between two persons; a loving personality can hardly reveal himself to a loveless person." (30:4)
7. "So conduct your lives that you make eternal friendship with the forces of righteousness in order that when all things earthly fail, you shall be joyfully received into the eternal habitations." (1854:1)
8. "Real men simply could not actually desert a revered teacher who had lived so close to them and had been so devoted to them as had Jesus. Through the dark hours of the

Master's death, in the hearts of these apostles, all reason, judgment and logic were set aside in deference to just one extraordinary human emotion—the supreme sentiment of friendship-loyalty. These five months of work with Jesus led these apostles, each one of them, to regard him as the best *friend* he had in the world. And it was this human sentiment, and *not* his superb teachings or marvelous doings, that held them together until after the resurrection and the renewal of the proclamation of the gospel of the kingdom." (1546:3) ●



FRIENDS from page 7.

present in all true forms of brotherly communion. Having friends is like having security in numbers, like a warm fire when the wind and snow blow outside. Having a friend is a recharging of the power supply of life, a pillow to soften the blows of life, and having a living opportunity for service. There is a cosmic and unseen aura to true friendship that transcends the basic five senses. In this aura is proof of God's willingness to be with us, like a bolstering of faith.

Beth McLeod

Friendship is an aspect of love. It is warm, thoughtful, caring and sharing.

I have several friends with whom I am very close. They are similar in several ways: They are fun to be with. They laugh with me, and when appropriate, they cry with me. They truly care for me and about my experiences in life. They are each willing to do things for me—to give me what I need. I can depend on them. They are loyal and trustworthy. By seeing these attributes in them, I find similar qualities in me. I love my friends dearly and there isn't anything that I would not do for them. In a strange way, this elevates my level of self-esteem—it helps me to see positive qualities in myself.

Jennifer Ellard

Among the qualities I admire and love in my friend: Never before have I known a person like him who truly listens to, not just physically *hears*, my lamentations and complaints

Affinity

**Friendship is a form of kinship,
A blending of two personalities,
A unique and tangible blendship
Of like and dissimilar qualities.**

**Who can say what draws one to the other
With a rare and lasting attraction,
Kindles a flame which nothing can smother,
Yet still yields a warm satisfaction?**

**A friend is one who will always dare
To comfort in sorrow, rejoice for tomorrow.
A friend is one who understands, making no demands
But to please and be willing to share.**

Gene Joyce
Richardson, Texas



about life. After a conversation with him, I have often realized that in that conversation I spoke wholly of selfish matters or concerns of mine that dealt with self-esteem, self-love, self-hate, self-etc. But I realize how wonderful and thoughtful of my friend to *still listen* to another person (me) complain and rattle on about herself. I realize that my friend listened to all my babbling because he was truly interested in getting to know me further and interested in helping me view myself in a more optimistic, hopeful, and self-loving light. Or, in other words, this friend of mine helped me to realize I also have good points and strengths within me in addition to my weaknesses. One day this friend said to me after class, "You are a beautiful person on the inside as well as on the outside." That praise really made me feel wonderful.

John C. Hyde

I have found that friendship is a very high spiritual intangible, a spiritual reality that defies description by its very nature. It is a sort of an *essence* that does not need expression because it is constantly being expressed, spontaneously.

With my friends, friendship, once it has been established, flows freely in both directions. To establish a friendship I single a person out and make it a point to do friendly things; I take a genuine interest in the person and try to do nice things.

And despite occasional ups and downs, and sometimes long periods of no communication, I have found that a true friendship is a bedrock-solid reality—living and *growing*—always refreshing, and always soul-expanding.

Kaye Cooper

When we are together, my friend and I, there is a rich golden glow in which we live. It is a special feeling, a place made of the two of us. It is this way with each of my friends. (I am exceedingly fortunate to have many.) This special place is a safe haven where I am loved and where I love freely. The giving and receiving flow back and forth, mingling. There my sight is keener for I see my friend as God sees him or her with all the beauty, grace, courage and nobility shin-

Affirmations

By John Hyde
Richardson, 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.

Trust and Love

I will trust in the Lord with all my heart.
He knows my needs before my prayers even start.
I shall never doubt
That his love abounds throughout
My heart and soul, if I will just
Freely give him all my trust.

I fully trust when times are good,
And I trust him when times are bad;
I rejoice when I am happy,
And I rejoice when I am sad.
He who made the world and the heavens all above
Has the power to fill all my needs with his love.

I know he loves my friends in need,
I know that he will gently lead
Everyone who seeks him out;
He will show us all about
The love that lights us from within
If we will only trust in him.

ing clearly. We touch in spirit, and though no words pass, we have shared so much. I come with great thanksgiving into the presence of a friend.

Bill Cooper

The way I feel about my friends is outside my ability to express. It is like the joyous emotion stirred by great music. It is similar to the insight into relationships which is evoked by poetry. It is even a little akin to the beauty of a sunset. It is calm yet exalted. It is being in love without wanting. It is giving without needing to receive. It is helping without keeping track of any debt. It is trusting and

being trustworthy. It is feeling really safe with that person and knowing that he places my welfare at least as high as his own.

Kathryn Gentry

Friendship is putting into practice your belief in the Brotherhood of Man. Friendship is God's plan for preventing feelings of isolation. Human friendships prepare us for a future of relationships with other beings on our Paradise journey.

Friends are special people. They love you not just for who you are, but for who you can become. Friends are not judgmental. Friends give you

See FRIENDS on page 10.

about angels

By Gene Joyce
Richardson, Texas

Who would have imagined that the first multiple sighting of angels by human beings in recent times would have been reported by six Russian cosmonauts in *Weekly World News*? The angels appeared twice as though to emphasize their actual presence. On the 155th day of their flight aboard the orbiting Salyut 7 space station the first sighting was reported by three cosmonauts: Vladimir Solevov, Oleg Atkov and

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

Leonid Kizim. "What we saw," they said, "were seven giant figures in the form of humans, but with wings and mistlike halos, as in the classic depiction of angels. Their faces were round with cherubic smiles."

Twelve days later the figures were seen again by three other Soviet scientists including woman cosmonaut Svetlana Savitskaya. She commented, "They were smiling, as though they shared in a glorious secret." ●

FRIENDS from page 8.

room to grow—space to develop into what you should become.

Friends are always there when you need them to share your life—the challenges as well as the conquests. Life without friends would be desolate indeed.

David Glass

Jesus said, "Greater love has no man than that he would lay down his life for his friends." Laying down his life nearly became a reality for Jesus on many occasions. Ultimately he was willing to die in the same way that several of his ardent and loyal followers would eventually die because of their allegiance to his teachings.

On less absolute levels, human friendship can be based on the educated awareness, through revelation, that one or both parties bring with them to the friendship with regard to their identical eternal destinies. In the cosmic family, all are brothers already and ultimately will become friends. Knowing that ahead of time will make it possible to love people now and not only as they are but also in acknowledgement of their

infinite value to God and all Godlike personalities in all future experiences. Knowing about the destiny of all mortals gives one extra patience, tolerance, and joy in relating to those brothers who become your friends.

Friendship is a context within which love can grow. It can be nurtured and enriched throughout one's shared future together with one's friends. But the present is very important, too. The Golden Rule is a cornerstone to personal friendships.

Conversely, in the context of love, friendship can grow, and love grows from the awareness of one's true identity: a planetary mortal, yes, but also a son of God—an incipient Paradise pilgrim. Friendships are constructive when they are developed from a sense of caring for the other person.

It is well to remember that love connotes the interrelationship of *whole* personalities and that personality relationships are *always* of survival value.

We can be devoted to "the spiritual regeneration of men", helping them become friends to others and to ourselves as a major service both for

those individuals and for the Father.

God yearns for human friendship, and by manifesting friendliness towards others, we reveal God's true attitude toward them. ●

MARRIAGE from page 5.

with respect means exercising the discipline to refrain from hitting in those tender spots. When the arguments heat up, there are still things you hold back from saying or doing because that's where your partner is vulnerable.

The attitude of respect grows out of liking your partner. If you have a basic appreciation for your mate's strengths and an understanding acceptance of her faults, that affection shows in your treatment of her. You have faith in her. You allow her to make her own mistakes. You're very sparing with criticism and liberal with encouragement. You maintain an awareness of her particular likes and dislikes. You are courteous and considerate.

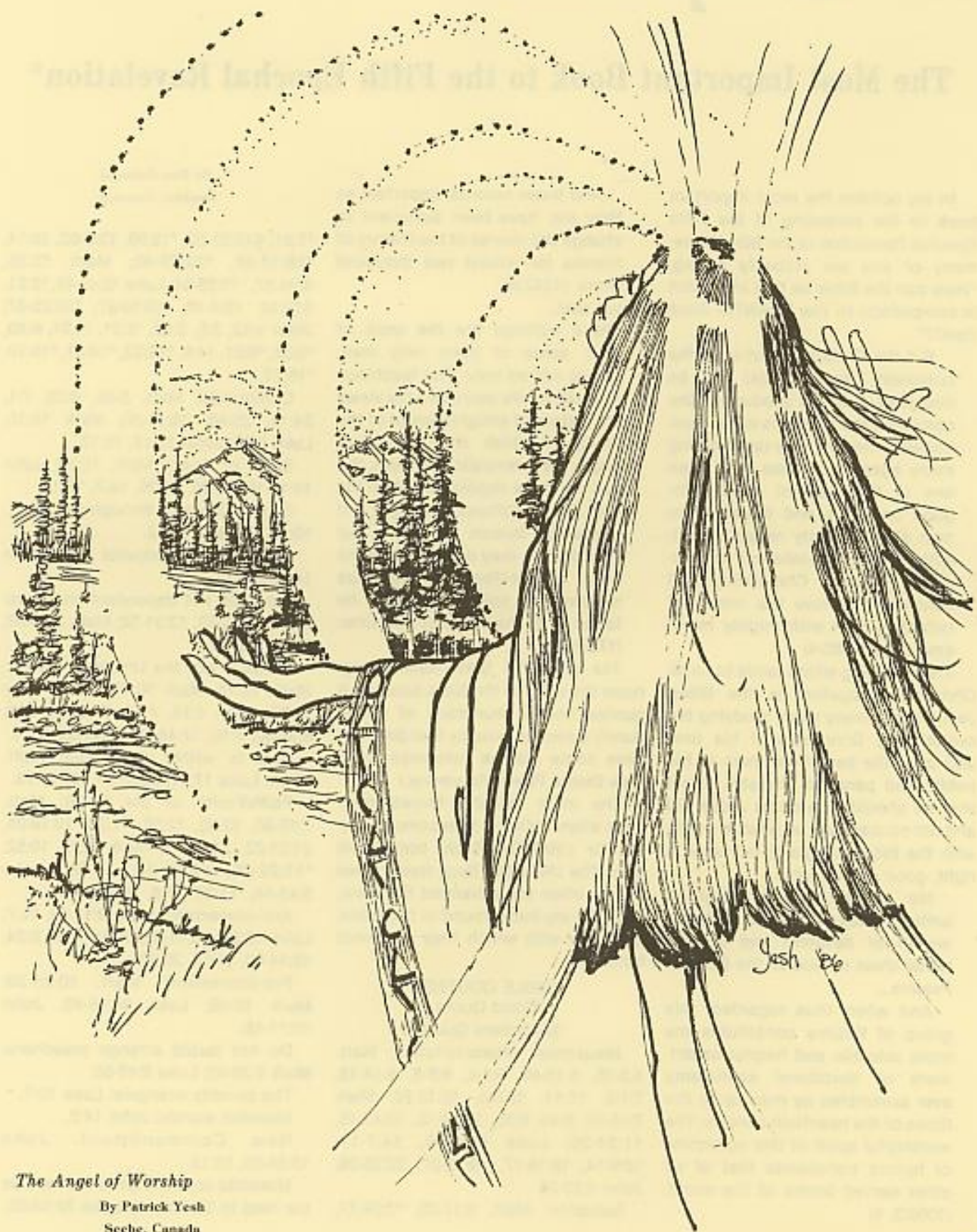
I know of nothing which will feed healthy self-respect like the obvious respect of those closest to you.

Commitment

In our culture it has become popular to look down on security in relationships, to equate it with boredom, possessiveness, or being taken for granted. Security is none of those things. People need to feel secure in their relationships so that they can relax, be themselves and then grow into better and better selves. A child whose parents do not adequately convey their love for him or her does not grow and develop optimally. He is psychologically stunted. A person who is unsure of the love of his spouse does not grow and develop as he should either. Security is very important. It comes from commitment on the part of both partners.

Commitment in a marriage does not come from the marriage license nor the vows. Commitment is an attitude on the part of each partner which grows as they live together and build a loving, strong relationship. Commitment is a basic loyalty to each other.

See *MARRIAGE* on page 13.



The Angel of Worship
By Patrick Yesh
Seche, Canada

Potpourri

The Most Important Book to the Fifth Epochal Revelation*

In my opinion the most important book to the spreading of the Fifth Epochal Revelation is the Bible. Now, many of you are probably saying, "How can the Bible be that important in comparison to *The URANTIA Book* itself?"

But the Christianity of even the twentieth century must not be despised. It is the product of the combined moral genius of the God-knowing men of many races during many ages, and it has truly been one of the greatest powers for good on earth, and therefore no man should lightly regard it, notwithstanding its inherent and acquired defects. Christianity still contrives to move the minds of reflective men with mighty moral emotions. (2085:4)

The one thing which tends to tie all Christianity together is the Bible. Jesus spent many years studying the evolutionary Scriptures of his time and used the best from them in his public and personal ministry. I feel that we should also do as Jesus did and not concentrate on what is wrong with the Bible, but point out what is right, good and valuable.

No collection of religious writings gives expression to such a wealth of devotion and inspirational ideas of God as the Book of Psalms...

And when thus regarded, this group of Psalms constitutes the most valuable and helpful assortment of devotional sentiments ever assembled by man up to the times of the twentieth century. The worshipful spirit of this collection of hymns transcends that of all other sacred books of the world. (1060:3, 4)

And these records, imperfect as they are, have been sufficient to change the course of the history of Urantia for almost two thousand years. (1342:6)

Jesus said,

These writings are the work of men, some of them holy men, others not so holy. The teachings of these books represent the views and extent of enlightenment of the times in which they had their origin. As a revelation of truth, the last are more dependable than the first. The Scriptures are faulty and altogether human in origin, but mistake not, they do constitute the best collection of religious wisdom and spiritual truth to be found in all the world at this time. (1767:5)

The URANTIA Book itself recognizes the value of the Bible because it quotes from it hundreds of times. Barely a section goes by that does not have some biblical reference in it. (See Duane Faw's *Paramony*.)

The most valuable knowledge I have when trying to turn someone on to *The URANTIA Book*, comes not from *The URANTIA Book* itself, since this is often too advanced for them, but from my background in the Bible, a source with which they are more familiar.

BIBLE QUOTES

*Good Quote

§Excellent Quote

Jesusonian characteristics: Matt. 5:3-15, 5:43-48, 6:1-4, 6:5-8, 6:14-15, 7:1-5, 15:11, 18:3-5, 18:15-22; Mark 7:15-16, 9:40, 9:50, 10:14-15, 10:42-45, 11:24-26; Luke 6:20-49, 14:7-11, 18:9-14, 18:16-17, 19:12-27, 22:25-26; John 4:23-24.

Salvation: Matt. 5:17-20, *7:24-27,

By Don Gulmond
Boulder, Colorado

*7:21, §12:31-32, *12:50, 13:3-52, 18:14, *19:18-26, *22:37-40; Mark *3:35, 8:34-37, *12:29-34; Luke *6:42-49, *8:21, §12:10, 15:4-10, *18:18-27, *20:25-37; John 1:12, 3:5, 3:16, *3:21, *5:24, 6:40, *8:31, *8:51, 14:6, *14:23, *14:21, *15:10, *15:12.

Commands: Matt. 5:48, 6:33, 7:1, 24:14, 25:40, 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 6:27; John 15:17, 15:12.

Spirit of Truth: Matt. 18:20; John 14:15-16, 14:26, 15:26, 16:7, 16:13.

Spirit will speak through you: Matt. 10:19-20, Luke 12:12.

Spirit will teach/guide you: John 14:26, 16:13.

Salvation not dependent on Jesus: Matt. 10:32-33, 12:31-32; Mark 3:28-29; Luke 12:8-10.

Jesus is not the Universal Father: Matt. 19:17; Mark 10:18, 13:32; Luke 18:19; John 1:14, 4:34, 5:19-21, 5:30, 6:38-40, 7:16, 12:44-50, 16:27-28, 17:4.

God is within you/Jesus: Matt. 10:20; Luke 17:21; John 14:10, 14:23.

Faith/Fruits of the Spirit: Matt. 7:15-20, 12:33, 12:50, 17:20, 19:18-26, 21:21-22, 21:27-31; Mark 3:35, 10:52, *11:22-26, 12:28-34, 14:36; Luke 6:43-44, *11:28, 17:6, 18:20-27.

Anti-atonement: Matt. 9:12-13, 12:7; Luke 12:32, 15:11-32; John 1:29, 5:24, 12:44-50, §17:4, 20:23.

Pro-atonement: Matt. 20:25-28; Mark 10:45; Luke 24:46-49; John 10:11-18.

Do not forbid strange preachers: Mark 9:38-40; Luke 9:49-50.

The seventy evangelists: Luke 10:1.

Mansion worlds: John 14:2.

New Commandment: John 13:34-35, 15:12.

Morontia appearance to the men on the road to Emmaus: Luke 24:13-33.

EPISTLE QUOTES FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Jesuanian Characteristics: Acts 20:35; Rom 2:1, 2:10-11, 12:1-2, 12:10, 13:8, 14:10, 15:5&7, I Cor 1:10, 9:22; II Cor 5:10, 9:6-7, 13:11; Gal 5:13, 5:22, 6:2&9-10; Eph 4:25&32, 5:17&19-20, 6:6-8&14-18; Philippians 1:10, 2:11, 3:15, 4:8&13; Col 1:9-12, 2:16, 3:12-17&23-24, 4:2&6, I Thess 5:11-23, II Thess 3:3&10&13-15, I Tim 2:1, 5:1-2, 4:11-12, 6:11-12; II Tim 2:22-25, 3:17, Tit 1:6-9, 2:2&7-8, 3:2&8-9; Hew 10:36, 12:14, 13:1&21; James 1:4-5&12&16-17&20&22-23&25-27, 3:13&17-18, 5:9&16, I Peter 1:13, 2:13-17, 3:4&7-9&11-12, 4:2&8-11&16-19, 5:2-8&10; II Peter 1:5-10; I John 1:6-10, 2:4-6&17&29, 3:19-22; II John 1:9; III John 1:3-5&11.

Faith: Rom 1:17, 3:22&27-28&31, 4:9&16, 9:30, 10:8, 12:3, 14:23, 16:26; II Cor 5:7; Gal 2:16&20, 3:11-12&26, 5:6, Eph 2:8-10, 3:17, Philippians 3:9; Col 2:7&12, I Tim 3:9, II Tim 3:15; Heb 6:1&12, 10:38, 11:1-33&39; James 1:3&6, 2:14&17-20&24&26, 5:15; I Peter 5:9.

Love: Rom 12:10, 13:8&10; I Cor 8:3; Gal 5:6&13; Eph 2:4, 3:17&19, 4:2, 5:2; Philippians 1:9; I Thess 3:12, 4:9; Heb 10:24; James 2:8; I Peter 1:22; I John 2:10, 3:10-11&14-18&23, 4:7-21, 5:1-3, II John 1:5-6.

Children/Son of God: Acts 17:28-29; Rom 8:14&16-19&21; II Cor 6:18; Gal 3:26; 4:6-7; Eph 5:1&8, Philippians 2:15; I Thess 5:5; I John 2:1-2, 3:10.

Spirit Dwells Within You: Rom 8:9-11; I Cor 3:16, 6:19, 14:25, 15:49; II Cor 6:16; Eph 2:6; II Tim 1:14; I John 3:24, 4:4&13.

Pro-(Global) Atonement: Rom 5:11-19, 6:6&17-18&22-23; II Cor 5:21; Heb 2:14, I John 3:8.

Anti-(Personal) Atonement: Rom 5:10; II Cor 4:10-11.

Salvation: Rom 10:9&13; Eph 2:8; II Thess 2:4; II Tim 3:15.

The Spirit Not the Letter: Rom 2:29; II Cor 3:6.

Following the Spirit: Rom 8:1&4&6, 8:27, 14:17-18; I Cor 2:11; Gal 5:16&18&25, 6:8.

Fruits of the Spirit: Rom 7:4; Gal 5:22-23; Eph 5:9.

Spirit of God and Spirit of Jesus: Rom 8:9.

Jesus is the Prince: Acts 3:15; 5:31.

Trinity: I John 5:7.

Gamaliel's Instructions to the Sanhedrin: Acts 5:34-39.

Speaking in Tongues: I Cor 14:4-5.

Melchizedek's Life: Heb 7:1-3.

Satan Can Appear As An Angel of Light: II Cor 11:14-15.

Michael The Archangel: Jude 1:9. ●

MARRIAGE from page 10.

The committed partner is going to be there when the relationship goes through difficult periods. It is amazing how much effect your attitude can have. The partners who are determined to stay together and improve their marriage can frequently do it. The committed partner is not going to question the fairness of the arrangement when he has to carry more than his share at times. He's not keeping score. He knows the marriage is worth whatever the cost.

The security of mutual commitment is the soil from which two

strong individuals draw sustenance.

It's easier to talk about intimacy, affection, respect and commitment than it is to make them a way of life. So I'd like to share two things which have occurred to me which I feel are very beneficial in building friendship in a marriage: choosing to risk and giving without measure.

Choosing To Risk

Marriage is a risky business. By that I am not referring to the high percentage of marriage failures. A good marriage—one where the partners are fast friends—cannot be had without taking some risks.

Any time you reveal your weaknesses to another person, you run the risk that he or she will exploit them for his selfish ends. Weaknesses can be used to hurt in retaliation, to enhance a bargaining position, to manipulate. The dangers are intimidating.

See MARRIAGE on page 16.



Letters to the Editor

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

*Fraijanes, Guatemala
12 November 1985*

*Bill Cooper
The Circles
Dear Bill,*

*As a result of re-reading your comments on *The Call of the Spirit* by Merritt Horn, I have just sent him an order for several copies to be sent to friends. Since I continue to read the book frequently and admire it tremendously, I was somewhat dismayed by the use of the words "reproachful" and "scolding" as the tone used by God in Merritt's poems. I hope no one was put off from reading them by such words, even though they may be accurate. On reading pages 46 and 47 again, I see why I felt no reproach. I am surrounded by people seeking "outward signs" or more knowledge of an occult nature.*

Since the signs and their interpretations are generally so unreliable, I should think it would be a great relief to be offered an alternative.

Also, I wish you had mentioned the beauty, precision and simplicity of language as befits the majestic personality of God. And the dynamism! This is no passive description. The goals are peace and adventure—there for those who look for them, work for them, strive for them. Merritt really stimulates response. I love the book!

*Sincerely,
Audrey Ayers
(Peace Corps)*

The Call of the Spirit can be ordered for \$5.95 from Merritt at his new address:

*Merritt Horn
310 W. Washington Street
Paris, IL 61944*

SPHERES of INFLUENCE



The Friendship Factor

By David Glass
Fort Worth, Texas

The Friendship Factor, Alan Loy McGinnis. Published by Augsburg Publishing House, Minneapolis. Copyright 1979. Paperback \$3.75.

As is frequently the case with high quality books, the attempt to introduce them through a book review format encounters not the task of finding the salient ideas presented therein but rather reveals the need to *limit* what can be reported in a brief treatment such as this. I, for one, have never encountered a better book on friendship! *The Friendship Factor* is a highly readable and brief book of 192 pages of which more than 640,000 copies have been sold.

One quality that makes this book so important is that it is not a compendium of Alan McGinnis' personal wisdom, however valuable, to the exclusion of other thinkers upon the subject of friendship. Rather, on every page McGinnis cites insights and maxims of the wisest men and women of our planet's history and present day thinkers as well. Here are two examples: "Life is to be fortified by many friendships. To love, and be loved, is the greatest happiness of existence," wrote Sydney Smith. "Love must be learned, and learned again and again; there is no end to it. Hate needs no instruction, but wants only to be provoked," expressed Katherine Anne Porter.

McGinnis affirms the uniqueness of each personality and respects what he calls "the infinite complexity of the human personality." He says that friends are people who encourage others to fulfill the potentials which God has bestowed upon them. His entire concept structure is highly religious and spiritual as well as being psychological, social, and

ecumenical. He cites Jesus' commandment: "Love one another," as the cornerstone and foundation of personal relationships leading to new friendships.

He acknowledges the unhealthy and undesirable aspects of personality isolation, and he values as the *highest* priority the making and maintaining of friendships (an idea with which we, as *URANTIA* Book readers, can agree, if the making of a friendship with God has already been established.)

McGinnis describes the experience of forming a new friendship as "a feeling of discovery, that something here inside you seems to be growing and opening and expanding"—an appealing spiritual and social experience we

would agree. McGinnis believes that there is an inner and innate penchant for human personality, as there is for divine personality, to seek to reveal itself to other personalities. He highly values interpersonal relationships which achieve authenticity, integrity, and sincerity. He points out that Jesus said, "I have called you 'friends'" and, in doing so, Jesus reveals the friendliness of the Heavenly Father as well. Thus the very highest of personality relationships, those between an individual mortal and God, are founded not only on devotion and love but also on *friendship!*

McGinnis recommends that the parties of a new and potential friend-

See *FACTOR* page 15.



The Boulder School Summer Intensive

By Bill Cooper
Arlington, Texas

Kaye and I and about 60 other people attended the August 1985 week-long intensive study at the Boulder School in Boulder, Colorado. Our sincerest appreciation is given to all the loving, serving persons who helped make the Summer Intensive possible. It couldn't have been more relevant or effective if it had been planned in heaven specifically for those of us attending!

The emphasis was on experiencing the truth of what was taught as distinguished from learning the topics as facts. The topics

themselves were practical and immediately useful ones dealing with improving our relationships with God and with our mortal associates, understanding the ways Jesus taught, listening and sharing skills in communication and exploring what it is like to be sincere, intimate, vulnerable and self-revealing with friends. It was a high, joyous, spiritual experience from beginning to end.

Don't miss the intensive this summer. It will change your life. (See Things to Share). ●



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

American Academy of Religion Consultation

By Meredith Sprunger
Fort Wayne, Indiana

The call for papers evaluating *The URANTIA Book* for religious studies by the American Academy of Religion at their national meeting at Anaheim, November 23-26, was a milestone in the book's journey into the public sector. The American Academy of Religion is the ranking umbrella organization for scholars of religion in universities, colleges, and seminaries.

This first AAR Consultation on *The URANTIA Book* was initiated by Dr. John C. Meagher of St. Michael's Col-

FACTOR from page 14.

lege should not fail to express their interest in each other if that is genuinely felt and experienced by the individuals. Between good friends, the vocalized expression, "I love you," is sweet music to the ear, the heart, and the soul. He recommends that we speak well of others and avoid unnecessary negative comments about other people. After all, they are creations of God even as all personalities are, and we should refrain from criticizing the Father's handiwork

See *FACTOR* on page 16.

lege at Toronto University. Dr. Meagher is a former president of the AAR. Most of the people presenting papers have been acquainted with *The URANTIA Book* for a number of years. The following papers were read: "The *URANTIA Book* and Religious Studies" by Meredith J. Sprunger of the Christian Fellowship, "URANTIA: Religion as Texture" by David L. Miller of Syracuse University, "The Origin and Proliferation of Reality Seen from the Perspective of *The URANTIA Book*" by James C. Mills of Florida State University, "The Cosmology of *The URANTIA Book* and Contemporary Scientific Cosmology" by John E. Collins of Wake Forest University, and "The God-Concept of *The URANTIA Book*" by Thomas J. Clarke of Stonehill College.

In this AAR Consultation it was observed that *The URANTIA Book's* claim to revelatory status presents numerous problems, especially if we associate revelation with infallibility. The science of *The URANTIA Book*, it was pointed out, is much closer to the science of the 1930's and 1940's than the 1980's. The book's claim of differential genetic quality among races opens it to charges of racism and elitism. Its language, judged by present day standards, is sexist. *The URANTIA Book* qualifies the Augustinian view of salvation by grace and rejects a God of judgment. Finally, attention was directed to the danger of "texts" in the history of religion and, although *The URANTIA Book* disavows authoritarianism and dogmatism, it does claim to be the latest "text." Closer inspection will also reveal historical, Biblical, and logical errors or discrepancies.

It is clear from this first brief scholarly evaluation, as it always has been to many of us, that *URANTIA Book* fundamentalism is just as untenable as Biblical fundamen-

talism. In the same way that higher criticism established sound foundations for Biblical studies, so must critical scholarship prepare the way for creative study of *The URANTIA Book*. Just as the theologians of mainline Christianity have transcended the doctrine of the literal inspiration of scripture, viewing the Bible primarily as a channel through which spiritual truth is revealed; so must contemporary scholarship deliver us from any illusions of literal infallibility regarding *The URANTIA Book*. We will then be free from defensive, fundamentalistic attitudes and open to study it as a new, enlarged, and enhanced revelation of spiritual truth.

At the close of the meeting we decided to hold another Consultation on *The URANTIA Book* next year at the AAR meeting at Atlanta, November 22-25. The members of the Steering Committee for this meeting are Thomas J. Clarke, Duane L. Faw, John C. Meagher, James C. Mills, John E. Collins, and Meredith J. Sprunger (Chm). A proposal was submitted to the Planning Committee of the AAR, however it was turned down. The Steering Committee is presently deliberating further action. ●

Want to Receive
The Circles?

See the back cover
for information on
subscribing.

Chances have to be taken in order to make progress. If you keep your true self hidden from your partner from fear of exposure and vulnerability, you don't get the security of observing that your partner has *not* used that knowledge against you. Trust and growing intimacy is built upon just such risks.

Risking exposure and hurt is frightening, but the alternative is defeat. The one who holds back on revealing himself to his partner through fear of being hurt, insures that there will not be genuine intimacy in the marriage. He has given up on friendship before he has even given it a chance.

To choose fear is to be sure that you will fail. The result will be either a broken marriage or a lifeless one devoid of the intimacy which might have made it great. Choosing to risk self-revelation may result in pain, but it is also the way to a rich friendship and solid marriage.

Giving Without Measure

A marriage in which one or both partners are holding back has got two strikes against it. Marriage is a situation that requires wholehearted efforts. It's like baking a cake. The chemical reactions which produce a light, fluffy cake take place at approximately 350 degrees. You can't turn the oven on to 175 degrees and promise to turn the temperature up if things go well. What you get is a disaster.

A good marriage can't be had without each partner giving of himself. Somewhere along the way I heard that if you don't feel like you're doing 75% of the giving in a marriage, you're probably giving too little. I think that's true. Each person perceives his own giving differently from the way his partner does. What may feel like a sacrifice to one person may appear insignificant to his partner. He may feel that he's given 125% and she hardly noticed.

The best approach is not to keep score—to give without measure. Give because your partner needs or wants it not because she deserves it. The universe isn't run on the basis of getting what you deserve. God sets the

pattern. He gives because you need. The more you need, the more he gives. And giving like that—giving without measure—has wonderful effects: it makes the recipient more than he was.

It occurred to me only days ago that one of the reasons my husband treats me as he does is *the way I have treated him*. There were times, especially early in our marriage, when resentment or antagonism on my part could have brought out a very different person in him—a rigid, vicious opponent. The mutual nurturing of our relationship has brought out the best in him. He is flexible, giving and considerate. Love and giving really do bring out the highest potentials in people.

But to bring out the best in people, giving needs to be genuine. You need to act from a sincere desire to give. Sometimes people give for other reasons. People may give because it is expected of them. I have talked with many women who learned to do things for family and friends, not because they wanted to but because they felt it was expected of them. Unfortunately they resented feeling that they were being taken for granted in this way. Their giving was weakened by the resentment inside of them. That kind of generosity does not have the same miraculous effect of a freely given gift.

A second harmful reason for giving is the selfish desire to tie the other person down with a sense of debt. Giving with "strings" attached frequently causes the other to pull away.

Sometimes people mistakenly enter a marriage only tentatively. A wife may be waiting until her husband shows he loves her, then she will respond by giving freely. By doing so she is withholding the very thing which would make possible a successful marriage: her love. Her love is the sunshine which would bring forth the blooms of his maturing love. The same is true when the husband withholds his love. The situation is a mutual one: each nurtures the other and receives in turn. And the love that grows exceeds all logical expectation.

Giving that is genuine and free has

the miraculous effect of uplifting both people. Giving without measure produces a bumper crop of love.

Originally I spoke of three elements in a marriage: sexual attraction, being in love, and friendship. Perhaps you wondered why I mentioned *being in love* but not *loving*. Being in love is a wanting condition. You want the person you are in love with. You want his presence, his attention, his comfort, his partnership. Love, on the other hand, is a giving condition. Love is the desire to give to the loved one—whatever he may need. In the final analysis it is friendship which matures into love. ●



FACTOR from page 15.

even though its manifestation may yet be incomplete. (Are you, reader, already beginning to sense the joy and wisdom that this little book offers?)

McGinnis counsels the observance of courtesies among friends and an attentiveness with which to discover their favorite things and ideas and experiences. He commends verbally expressing our appreciation for the special projects and goals of our friends through which we can better understand the true values of these created sons and daughters of God. Giving gifts and sharing meals can increase the enjoyment and the development of one's friendships, McGinnis suggests.

The author points out that there is a ripple effect in goodness and friendship, stating (in effect) that if each individual would only become a divine focus of benign affection, the human emotional streams would become suffused with love and establish the reality of the brotherhood of man. Friendships can do good beyond their immediate contexts.

We can enrich our friendships by encouraging our friends in their positive activities, doubling their joys and dividing their sorrows, while allowing them to have the privacy they need for contemplation and communion with the Father. He recom-

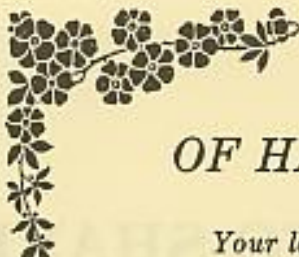
mends we remember that we "never have exclusive rights to anyone"... "no one person can meet all our needs"...and that "multiple friendships are desirable."

McGinnis favors physical touching as a part of friendship and we remember how many times Jesus laid an understanding hand upon the shoulder of the mortal with whom he spoke.


We should be generous with praise of the good and improving qualities of our associates and friends, McGinnis advises, forgiving our comrades when they have done or said some thoughtless act or word. McGinnis points out that Jesus was a great conversationalist and he enjoins us to make provision for time to converse with our friends, bringing attention to the fact that silence may be interpreted as estrangement or even antagonism. Maintaining the confidentiality of whatever a friend may choose to share with us is of paramount importance, McGinnis emphasizes. And he recommends listening to what a friend is saying in moments of emotive expression rather than responding only to the emotional outpouring. The individual's words are a clearer guide to what can be done to comfort him than are the exhibited feelings themselves.

When friendships encounter difficulties in the relationships between the individuals, McGinnis recommends first the pinpointing of the specific problem that is causing the misunderstanding; second, the frank inquiry between the friends as to the other's perspective on the problem; and third, determination of the individuals' personal needs within the relationship which can alleviate the problem.

McGinnis rightly recognizes Jesus as the best friend any mortal could ever have, second only to the eternal Father and his infinity of love for each of his universe children. He points out that Jesus did not leave a body of writing behind on our planet, but instead lived as the embodiment of love and service. McGinnis writes, "When all is said and done, Christ is our source for the art of relating." It was



THE GIFT OF HAVING A FRIEND



*Your loving presence
beside me
fills my heart
with gladness.*

*We sit sharing
this moment together.*

*I prize you
for the friendship
you have offered
And take great joy
in our growth together.*

*You have been
my companion
in those times
when there was no one.*


*You have filled
the empty holes
and kept afloat
my little ship.*

*I see in you
a glimpse now and then
of your Father
who has given you
all the treasures
that you are.*

*And I think,
I think if he had given
just one gift to his children,
I think he might have chosen
above all others
the gift
of having
a friend.*


*Kaye Cooper
Arlington, Texas*

© 1982 Kaye Cooper



Jesus' custom when forging new relationships to be aggressive in extending himself in loving outreach to all people.

McGinnis reminds us that, "The lovers of this world are not the weak ones. They are the strong. They are the builders. They are the creators."



And he advises that we allow ourselves to commit imperfections of conduct and decision-making in friendship relationships without being overly distressed at our own mortal fallibility. McGinnis bids us farewell on the last page, restating: "Remember the primacy of love." ●



THINGS TO SHARE

URANTIA BROTHERHOOD 1986 INTENSIVE STUDY SEMINAR

Theme: Part II of
The URANTIA Book
Dates: June 23-26, 1986
Place: Lake Forest College
Lake Forest, Illinois
Contact: URANTIA Brotherhood
533 Diversey Parkway
Chicago, IL 60614

BOULDER SCHOOL 1986 SUMMER INTENSIVE

Theme: Becoming Wholehearted:
Integrating Your Secular
and Spiritual Life
Dates: July 19-25
(July 26-27 optional weekend
on Going the Second Mile)
Place: Boulder School
Boulder, Colorado
Contact: Lou Meyer
Boulder School
1622 18th Street
Boulder, CO 80302
(303) 443-8154
(See Spheres of Influence for more information.)

BROTHERHOOD OF MAN RADIO NET

The Brotherhood of Man Radio Net is still alive and well, the only long distance study group via amateur shortwave radio. We meet every Saturday morning at 9AM Pacific time at 7.295 MHz. We're still hoping to get a Sunday night group going but are experiencing some temporary technical difficulties. Hoping for some help from the Midwayers and Power Directors.

When we have solved our antenna problems, our Sunday night schedule will be 8PM Pacific time somewhere between 3.9 and 3.925 MHz.

A FAMILY MEETING HANDBOOK: ACHIEVING FAMILY HARMONY HAPPILY

After many years experience with family meetings, counseling families, and giving workshops on family meetings, Bob Slagle has completed a book on the subject. Topics covered include: how to begin family meetings, meetings with different types and sizes of families, special sections for single and divorced parents, why and how to keep a family meeting notebook, detailed examples and anecdotes, games, activities, and annotated references. Cost: \$7.95 (Canada, \$8.95), plus \$1.00 shipping and handling (6% sales tax in California). Orders outside the continental United States: \$8.95, plus \$1.00 handling, plus postage. Reductions for multiple copies.

Family Relations Foundation
P.O. Box 462
Sebastopol, CA 95472



INTERNATIONAL MEETING FOR URANTIA BOOK READERS

Readers from the USA, Canada, Mexico, Oceania, and Europe are being invited to this international meeting near Paris, France. The aim of the meeting is to allow any reader willing to enter into relationships with readers coming from other cultures and speaking other languages to share ideas and meanings, to build a friendship network outside his country frontiers and to live for a week "the supreme experience of living." (U.B. 1431.1)

The aim being personal relationships, we will analyse and comment on Jesus's way of doing things, how he was spreading the message of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of men.

The talks and workshops will be expressed either in French or in English with simultaneous translation. Every French question will be immediately translated into English and conversely, and so will the answers. Thus, a real dialogue will take place between participating persons. A bilingual reader will be present in every group.

The meeting is being organized by C.E.R.D.H. a non-profit society, headquartered in France, for the purpose of getting together readers of The URANTIA Book.

Date: August 3-11, 1986
Place: The castle of Montvillargene
Chantilly, France (40 Kms north of Paris)
Cost: 7 days and 8 nights lodging with meals
single room \$ 407 per person
double room \$ 300 per person
children to 12 yrs. \$ 171 per child
(Prices are approximate. Please send for a brochure for exact information.)

Reservation

Deadline: June 15, 1986

Contact: Berkeley Elliott
14 Southwest 97th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73139

Or: Monsieur le secretaire du C.E.R.D.H.
3 bis Grande Rue
77940 Blennes
FRANCE



NORTHWEST CONFERENCE

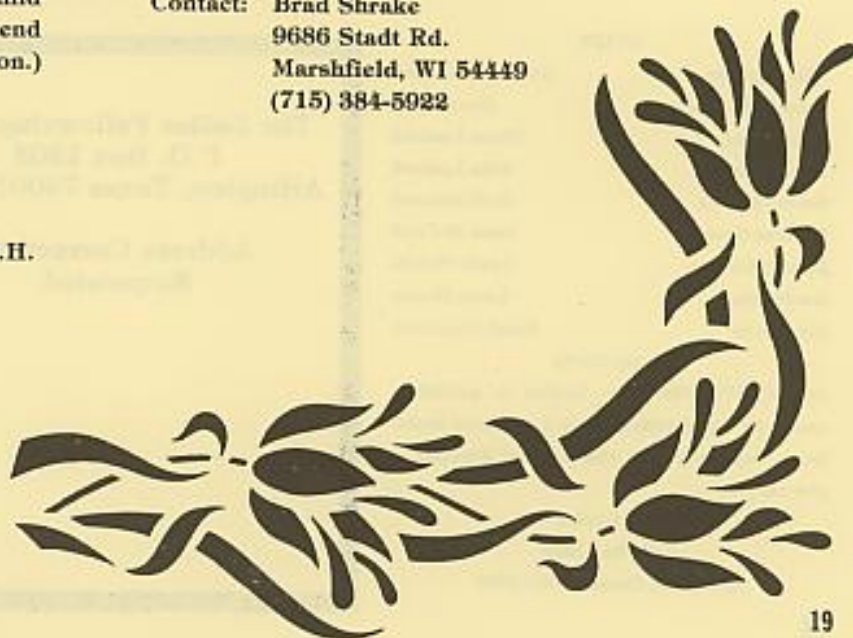
Theme: Reaching In, Reaching Out
Dates: August 17-20, 1986
Place: Warm Beach Camp & Conference Center
Stanwood, Washington (north of Seattle)
Contact: Northwest Conference for Students of
The URANTIA Book
3506 Corsica Way
Vancouver, B.C.
CANADA V5S 4J3

KANSAS CITY CONFERENCE

Theme: Spiritual Aerobics:
Exercising Our Emerging Being
Dates: June 6-8, 1986
Place: Park College
Parkville, Missouri
Contact: Ila Hall
8700 E. 110th Street
Kansas City, MO 64134

1986 MIDWEST CONFERENCE

Theme: The Presence of God
Dates: August 8-10, 1986
Place: St. Benedict Center
Madison, Wisconsin
Contact: Brad Shrake
9686 Stadt Rd.
Marshfield, WI 54449
(715) 384-5922



The Will Of God



"...the heart of Jesus' religion consisted in the acquirement of a compassionate character coupled with a personality motivated to do the will of the Father in heaven." (1582:4)

"The doing of the will of God is nothing more or less than an exhibition of creature willingness to share the inner life with God..." (1221:2)

"This choosing of the Father's will is the spiritual finding of the spirit Father by mortal man....This choosing does not so much consist in the negation of creature will—"Not my will but yours be done"—as it consists in the creature's positive affirmation: 'It is my will that your will be done.'" (1221:7)

"Even the work of this world, paramount though it is, is not nearly so important as the way in which you do this work." (435:6)

"The keys of the kingdom of heaven are: sincerity, more sincerity, and more sincerity. All men have these keys. Men use them—advance in spirit status—by decisions, by more decisions, and by more decisions. The highest moral choice, the choice of highest possible value, is...to choose to do the will of God." (435:7)

"The will of God is the way of God, partnership with the choice of God in the face of any potential alternative. To do the will of God, therefore is the progressive experience of becoming more and more like God..." (1431:2)

The theme for the Winter 1986 Circles will be The Will of God. No concept is more important to advancing mortals; few concepts cause more confusion. Let's explore together this interest so central to our lives. Starter questions:

How does one share "the inner life" with God?

What is the difference between a negative submission of your will to God's and a positive choice of God's will?

It has been said that God's will is not so often what to do as it is how to do something. Do you think this is true?

Why is sincerity so important in our attempt to do God's will?

What do you think about this viewpoint?—If you are trying to do God's will, you are doing God's will.

What do we know about the "way of God"? What is he like? Who is our best picturization of him? How can knowing more about the way of God help us to discover his will?

Send your poetry, artwork, and articles (typed and double-spaced if possible) by August 1, 1986 to:

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

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