

# The Circles

## What Shall We Do With Our Lives?

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By Oliver Minor  
Colorado Springs, Colorado



## A Word Before You Go\*

With regard to your theme, "What Shall We Do?" an endearing line from *Othello* comes to mind: at the point of death, the Moor says to his captors, "Soft, you: a word . . . before you go." He then explains how even a man great of heart can love "not wisely but too well" and hence lose his way. Such a word—and sentiment—is in me when I ask you to consider first not what to do but rather what to know and what to remember.

What to know is that *The URANTIA Book* is a three-and-one-half pound object. And nowhere in that object does it so much as intimate that one should go forth attempting to turn the world upside down on the basis of *it*. On the basis of having been transformed and empowered by the Spirit of Truth, or, generally speaking, on the basis of courageous decision-making and a wholehearted faith in God—that's to be found on every other page. (1609:5/143.2.4, 2066:2/194.4.2)

But look! Never, to my mind, have so many vitally true facts been revealed to our world as in the in-

stance of *The URANTIA Book*. It is a treasure trove of sparkling revelations and more. But it is not "the Truth." You students of the book certainly know what it has to say about the truth being alive, not susceptible to a definition by words and in no wise ever to be formulated. (1459:2/132.3.2, 1949:4/180.5.2) You know too how the Master exhorted his apostles to first *be*, then *do* (1584:4/140.10.1); how he encour-

aged them to believe that the extent to which they had to *go* to the people with their message was, in a way, the measure of their failure (1726:2/155.1.5); and how he admonished them not to be undone by the mote in their brother's eye while there was yet a beam in their own—that if they were to guide others, they must themselves "walk in the clear light of living truth." (1571:4-5/140.3.17-18)

***"What to do is to have an adventure!"***

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Such references could be multiplied almost endlessly, but they all come to the same thing, which is that we should see to first things first, remember to situate the horse before the cart, and so on. Which is also to say that it is not so many well-chosen words, nor even a book of this heritage and caliber, that will "transform human character," but *it is the spirit* that quickens and gives life.

What to do is as plain as day, and perhaps nowhere spelled out as clearly as on the last page of the book. What to do is to have an

adventure! It is to accept the challenge to advance the borderland of consciousness from self to soul to spirit—and to get on with it now! God and his emissaries all seem to be big fans of NOW.

But let me back up a minute. If it seems as though I am trying to make a nice distinction between "the dancer and the dance" or between the true story and the truth, I am! Which, of course, is to embrace para-

dox. As I make the point that it is not the book that will confer "life more abundantly," but rather the spiritual impress of God, one may ask how I happen to know that and my answer is, "The book says so." Upon a little reflection, that will construe itself as paradoxical, but not as unusual or even novel. John the Baptist said, It's not me, it's him. Jesus said, it's not me, it's my Father. *The URANTIA Book* says, it's not me, it's God and the Spirit of Truth. That's what I'm getting at. In Zen Buddhism it is said that one ought not to confuse the finger pointing at the Sun with the Sun.

So what we must do is introduce the world to the Sun, not to our finger. What we must do—each of us—is to find a way to embark at once upon our "greatest adventure" (2097:2/196.3.34), in consequence of which, surely, *The URANTIA Book* will do little else than continue to fall into better and better hands.

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By Tommie Clendening  
McKinney, Texas

The first four epochal revelations to this planet were presented in the form of entities who lived their lives demonstrating to the best of their abilities the concepts of the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. Two of these first revelations met with defaults on the parts of the entities presenting them (part of the risk involved when allowing free-will creatures to take part). Jesus was cautioned not to leave anything of a written nature on the planet, nothing potentially idolatrous. Yet, here we have the fifth epochal revelation presented in book form. What a switch! Does this mean that after 500,000 years lowly man has finally evolved to the point that the Most Highs feel they can trust us not to form a cult or crystallize this presented "religion"; to study and put the concepts contained therein to work in *our* lives so that *we* become the living revelation?

If we believe what the book says, then we know that, "Trust exists only on high spiritual levels of the realization of divinity and the consciousness of communion with God." (1949:4/180.5.2) Such an experience cannot be wholly contained in any book. The apostles did not have a book to rely on, yet they turned the world upside down! How many of us have studied this revelation and put its stated truths to work in our lives? Are we proving ourselves worthy of the trust of the Most Highs?

Jesus said, "Let me emphatically state this eternal truth: If you, by truth co-ordination, learn to exemplify in your lives this beautiful wholeness of righteousness, your fellow men will

then seek after you that they may gain what you have so acquired. The measure wherewith truth seekers are drawn to you represents the measure of your truth endowment, your righteousness. The extent to which you have to go with your message to the people is, in a way, the measure of your failure to live the whole or righteous life, the truth-coordinated life." (1726:2/155.1.5) "Jesus endeavored to make clear that he desired his disciples . . . to live in the world that men, by *seeing* their lives, would become kingdom conscious and hence be led to inquire of believers concerning the ways of the kingdom." (1593:4/141.7.3) Jesus tried to show us what we must *be*, not what we must *do*. How many of us are truly striving to attain the clear insight and understanding of Jesus by attempting to discern and live God's will in every situation of our lives, following his example. According to the two previous quotes, we should not have to take our message to others, they will be drawn to us. Evangelization is a natural consequence of the experience of true religion. Have we each dared to experience true religion; or have we merely been content to accept *The URANTIA Book* system of intellectual philosophy?

It's so easy to throw out quotes to substantiate and defend our perceived beliefs, so easy to become spiritually smug. What if, suddenly,

"What if suddenly there were no *URANTIA Book*?"

there were no *Urantia Book*? How many of us have internalized the teachings within our lives to the point that we've experienced true spiritual transformation? Are we to the point of being continually strengthened and led by the spirit—not dependent upon "The Book" but upon the sublime experience of true spiritual attainment and the desire to serve our brothers? Do we serve joyously and truly exhibit the attitude of quiet peaceful assurance inherent when one has developed a personal relationship with the Father? Where is our focus? On "The Book"? Or is it on building a personal relationship with our Father and spreading the joy of the gospel through the natural fruits of our transformed lives?

Jesus did not demand instant perfection of his apostles. Nor do I think he would demand such of us. But he exhibited such faith and trust

See *TRUST* on page 6.

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All page references to *The URANTIA Book* are as follows: The page number is first, followed by a colon and then the paragraph number. Each indentation on a page 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. The international citation which follows the slash refers to paper, section, and paragraph within the section.

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# Something Everyone Can Do With His Life\*

By Bill and Kaye Cooper

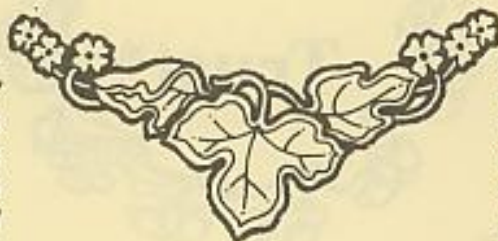
Houston, Texas

*Finding the answer to the question "What shall we do with our lives?" was a very personal quest for us—a journey necessitating wrestling with questions such as "What is our main purpose here?" and "Am I doing all I can for God and my brothers?" We both have a strong determination to do the best we can, especially to give something to this world of our birth before we leave here. While our departure should not be imminent, we are no longer youngsters with what seems (to youthful minds) to be forever before us. So we set out on a very personal adventure to discover the answer to a question we had been seriously asking ourselves for several years—what we personally should do with our lives. To our surprise we seem to have discovered an answer which is relevant to everyone.*

The purpose of your life here on earth in the material world is to express God as well as you are able through your body, mind, soul and personality. That is what Jesus did; and if you choose to follow Jesus wholeheartedly, that is what you are called to do too: to live a God-revealing life.

You discover God. You become enamored with his goodness and beauty. You desire to be like him. Through steadfast faith, sincere decisions and courageous actions, you do grow more like him. You are transformed progressively from the self-centered child to the serving, giving and loving child of the universe. All of these events contribute to your one basic purpose: to express your Father God with your life.

Once you recognize what the purpose of life is, it remains to find a way to achieve that purpose. The way Jesus did it, and the way you can



**do it is to live in daily, intimate association with God, seeking his guidance for your every decision, whether large or small, and following as best you understand it, his guidance.**

This spiritual connection is made through intelligent prayer and sincere worship. Earnestly seeking to do God's will is the place to start; all else will follow.

### Following God's Will

Each individual child of God will seek and find his Father's will in his own unique way, but it does help to know how other people have experienced guidance. Here are some examples drawn from our own lives and those of some of our friends (names are changed).

In Susan's life God's guidance comes for the most part unconsciously. She prays for direction and insight in making decisions. She persistently returns to the question, "What would God do here?" She maintains an insistence that only God's will be done. She seldom feels a leading or hears an inner voice, yet in retrospect she usually recognizes the wisdom of her choices. She feels an assurance that somehow the spirit has led her to choose the highest choice.

On one occasion when a major life decision was demanding an immediate decision, Susan sat down in a natural spot where she was unlikely to be disturbed and laid the problem before God. "I have done all I can, God, to find your will in this

situation. I've given it time. I've prayed. I've gathered information. I've analyzed it from all sides. I still don't know what to do. I must give my answer today. I need your help and I'm not getting up from here until I get it." There was no authoritative voice, no vision, nothing she could put a finger on. Yet after a while, Susan knew the choice which was best for her. She got up and acted on the decision.

Stan frequently carries on an inner dialogue about whatever decisions are upcoming in his life. He asks all sorts of questions and often receives answers. He is not so naive as to presume that each and every answer he hears from the inner voice is God's. Instead he accepts these answers just as he would from a friend whose judgment has proven to be wise. He gives them serious consideration, and often he acts on them.

Richard's inner dialogue is even more constant than Stan's. In presenting seminars he frequently checks for confirmation before speaking to be sure he is in harmony with this inner guiding voice. He accepts every life experience which comes his way with a sense of anticipation in the conviction that he is experiencing his individual life here on earth for God and as God.

Gail receives much of her inspiration in writing. She may wake up in the middle of the night (in the middle of the night probably because her small children keep the daytime hours so occupied) with the feeling that she should do some writing. Sure enough, ideas on the questions she has been pondering will come forth. Gail's dreams also seem to be more instructive than most people's.

See EVERYONE on page 20





# The Now Reality of the Kingdom\*



By Rodney Smoke  
Arlington, Texas

"To Jesus the kingdom was the sum of those *individuals* who had confessed their faith in the fatherhood of God, thereby declaring their wholehearted dedication to the doing of the will of God, thus becoming members of the spiritual brotherhood of man." (1865:1/170.5.11) In other words, as faith sons of God, we are actually part of this spiritual kingdom. We can live in that kingdom right now! That's exciting!

To effectively proclaim the gospel of the kingdom of God, we need to define our goals. My focus is on self-improvement as a starting point.

The *URANTIA* Book gives us"... 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 transcendency of the spiritual over the material in human personality." (1863:6-11/170.4.8-13)

"The Father has freely bestowed himself upon us without limit and without favor. He is no respecter of persons..." (46:4/3.1.12) The Father freely offers us his spiritual fellowship. It is our own power of choice that determines the degree and limitations of the Father's divine influence in our own hearts and souls.

As individuals, each of us gradually realizes that the purpose of his life on this planet is to grow spiritually. Each should allow the indwelling

Adjuster to spiritualize his thinking, even though he must walk through this earthly proving ground. This is easier said than done, but it is facilitated by and culminates in taking the step to say to the Father, "It is *my* will that *your* will be done."

Many people call on God in times of trouble, but we should also talk to him as a son to a father when things are going well. I do just the opposite sometimes, but I'm getting better at recognizing that he is beside me to lighten my burdens. Talk to God daily! In the morning ask him to remind you to talk to him again at midday and at night. It works for me. Praise him for his goodness in the morning and thank him for his faithfulness at night.

Man's goal is to transcend his attachment and attraction to the material world. When we embrace this effort, "The self has surrendered to the intriguing drive of an all-encompassing motivation which imposes heightened self-discipline, lessens emotional conflict, and makes mortal life truly worth living." (1100:6/100.6.4)

"One of the most amazing earmarks of religious living is... sublime peace..." (1101:1/100.6.6) If you have a conflict with another person, practice thinking about everyone you see as having a Father Fragment within him or her. If you sincerely want to release a desire or thought that is bothering you, ask your Thought Adjuster to remove it. We all benefit or suffer as a result of the actions of each member of the group. Improve yourself to improve the world.

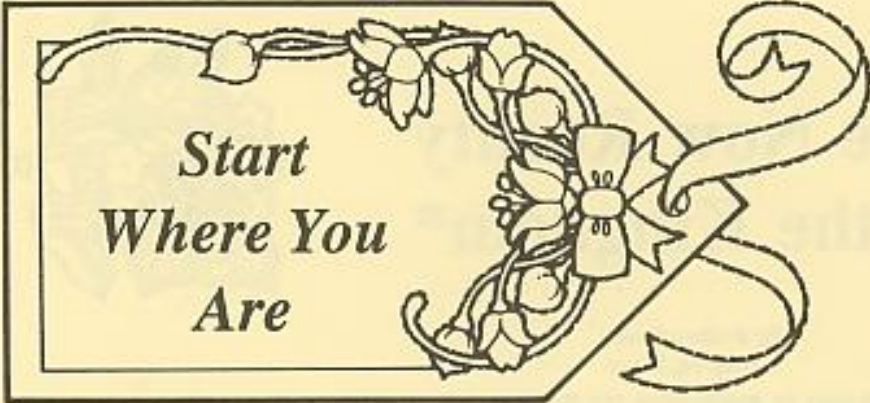
When sharing the good news, "Make your appeals directly to the divine spirit that dwells within the minds of men," rather than appealing to the emotions or resorting to forceful persuasion. (1765:4/159.3.2) And just what is the good news that we are to proclaim? What Jesus called, "the two truths of first import in the teachings of the kingdom, and they are: the attainment of salvation by faith, and faith alone, associated with the revolutionary teaching of the attainment of human liberty through the sincere recognition of truth." (1593:7/141.7.6) "Happiness ensues from the recognition of truth because it can be *acted out*; it can be lived." (42:7/2.7.6) Let's live the truth, and the gospel will spread as we pass by."

**You are writing a gospel,  
A chapter each day,  
By deeds that you do,  
By words that you say.**

**Men read what you write,  
Whether faithless or true,  
Say, what is the gospel  
according to you?**







*Start  
Where You  
Are*

*By Billie Cooper  
Rogers, Arkansas*

Some people probably are born with a certain job to do, a leadership position to take. Even though all of us are not born to be such leaders, each of us has jobs to do, things to overcome, and specific areas of challenge. You have a life plan which you can choose to follow or to reject. At each step along the way, there are certain truths to be learned, certain experiences to be had before you move on to the next step.

When you learn what you need to learn from the situation you are in right now, you will make a decision to make a change, and you will make the changes necessary to move you into a new life circumstance. **So if you don't like where you are right now, determine what you are to learn at this time.** As you make the necessary changes, you will have freedom to grow and become a more loving person.

Your area of service does not have to be a project separate from the rest of your life. There is a great need for spiritual people *in the everyday world*. People have contact with you as you go about your life. They see your fruits and are influenced. Young people especially may pattern themselves after you. This, of course, requires that you should be an excellent employee (or boss or brother, etc.), that you live your values, that you should do a good job at whatever you do.

This may seem a mundane path of service, hardly worthy of a "calling," but I don't believe you can go on to some grandiose scheme of serving until you have mastered this way

of living. A few may be called to lead in a very visible way or to organize communities separate to some extent from the rest of society, but for most of us our job will be to live in society and be a quiet example.

Whether your ministry to your fellows is public and grand or quiet and humble, there are certain principles to follow. When you learn to follow these principles, you experience a greater freedom and a greater understanding.

First, you must deal fairly and honestly with everyone. Manipulation is so common in life, but it has no place in service. For example, in working with children, while you should suit what you say to their level of understanding, you must still be honest and avoid telling untruths which will become obvious to them as they mature.

The second principle is that you must genuinely care what happens to the persons who come into your life, even if they come into your life only briefly. Always reflect a loving life. As you work right where you are, you will see others responding to you in a way you have never experienced before. Your relationships will become more like you would like them to be.

Third, your beliefs are what limit you. When you believe that you can do something, you do it. When you change your beliefs, you change your life. Changing your life helps others to change theirs. The fact that you can become happy and enjoy life, no matter what the circumstances around you makes others

feel happy and enjoy their lives more.

The fourth principle is the most important: You are where you are supposed to be. You are right where you are supposed to be at this time for your development—your attitudes, thoughts, ideas, and ideals. If you don't like where you are, it is these attitudes, thoughts, ideas, and ideals which must first be changed.

You have certain qualities and characteristics to work with. Your job, where you live, your companions, your environment—all have come together in response to these characteristics and qualities. Start today, where you are, and work towards the next step. To do this, you need to do three things: (1) stop and look around where you are, (2) assess your strengths and weaknesses, and (3) assess the skills you have acquired and the talents you were given. Then, start where you are. Get up every morning and say,

*"Hello, God.  
What have you got  
for me to do  
today?"*

---

*TRUST from page 3.*

in them that he dared leave the presentation of the gospel in their hands, knowing full well that they had barely glimpsed a minuscule portion of what he had come to portray. He warned them to be wise as serpents but gentle as doves, not to judge one another, but to trust and have faith in



each other. I feel he would expect the same of us today.

He had perfect faith in the Father's plan. He knew, without a doubt, that the Most Highs truly do rule in the kingdoms of men. We must grow through prayerfully sought insight to have that faith, too. We must be gentle with each other, not so quick to judge each other's perceptions or methods, but content to accept each other exactly at the point of growth and enlightenment we realize. We must be quick to serve when a true need is perceived. If we are mindful of the truth quoted above, we will find our brothers drawn to us inquiring of the ways of the kingdom which we exhibit and they desire. And if we notice this flow of truth-seekers ebbing, we must fearlessly look within ourselves for the source of the hindrance. We must dare to view ourselves from the viewpoint of others. We must have the courage to recognize our shortcomings and the habits, methods of living and being which cause us to be less than fragrant to our fellows. We must always remember that we have no control over anyone's behavior or attitudes but our own. True, Jesus exhorted us to judge not lest we be judged, but the reality of the world in this day and age is that new revelations, movements, even we ourselves are judged by people. If we truly desire to be instrumental in helping bring this fifth epochal revelation to man, we will do everything to perceive ourselves as we appear to others and make ourselves as fragrant to those around us as lilacs to bees, becoming the living testimony of the truths of this fifth revelation.

I challenge those in this movement to accept God's calling! Remember, the acts are ours, the consequences God's. Will we live up to the trust placed in us by the Most Highs? Will we prove worthy of the honor of being among the first to recognize this revelation and present it wholeheartedly and appetizingly to our beloved brothers in the form of the very lives we dare to live?«

## *Our Father's Love For His Children*

*Wonderment and revelation  
Span the cosmos with their joys,  
And among the hosts of heaven,  
Each his spirit-love employs*

*Just to win another mortal  
To the Father's timeless plan,  
And to cheer him in his progress  
Toward the bliss awaiting man.*

*Never can there be an ending;  
Never can adventure halt,  
For each level of the journey  
Leads each person to exalt*

*Everything the Father wishes,  
All the love he would express,  
Giving us the joys of sonship  
And eternal happiness.*

*How can I withhold my service?  
How can I allow a day  
Here to pass without exhorting  
Everyone to find his way*

*Through the tumult of this planet  
To the time he must depart,  
Soon again in loftier mansions  
To resume? In truth, to start*

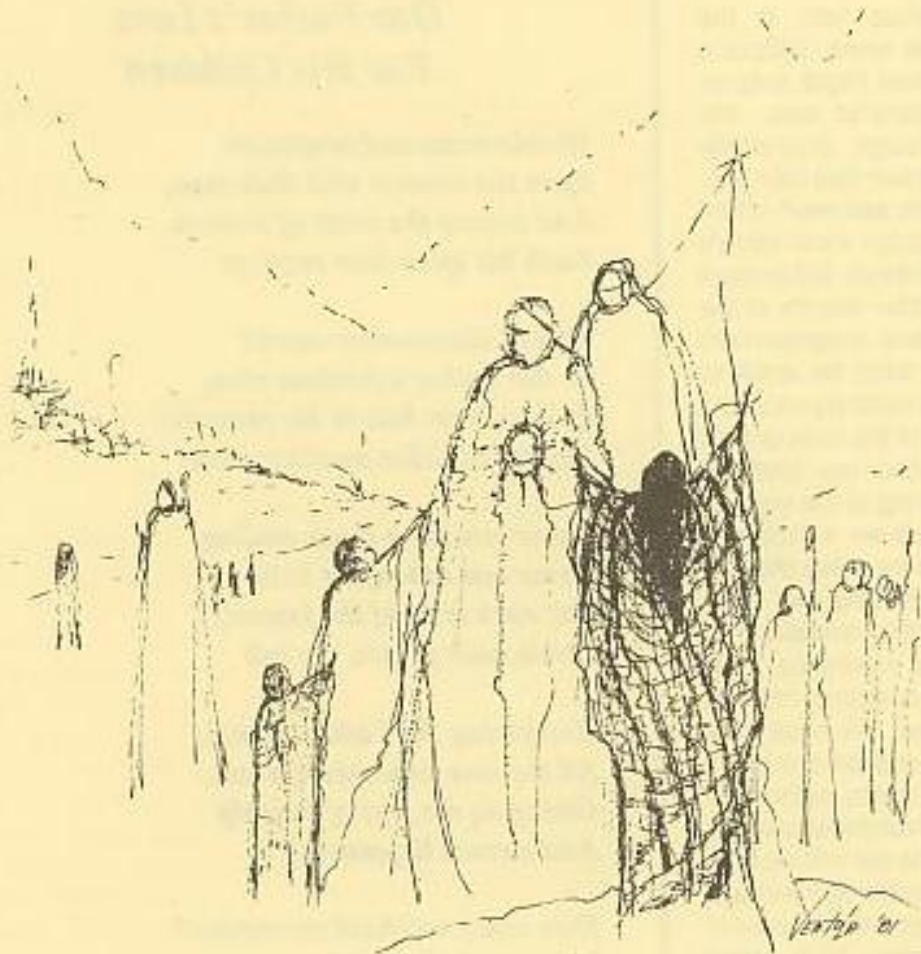
*In that climb that leads him Godward,  
Ne'er again to be a man  
On this splendid world of wonder,  
Ne'er to be its dust again.*

*For each person is an offspring  
From the Father's will to love,  
And He'll draw his far-flung family  
Home to endless joys above.*

*By David Glass  
Fort Worth, Texas*







By Vince Ventola  
Venice, California

## *The Light*

By John and Jan Andrews  
Juneau, Alaska

*And God sent his Spirit  
into the world saying:  
"Indwell their minds,  
that they may see;  
And guide them,  
one day home to me.  
Create with them  
their surviving soul,  
And pursue as one  
my eternal goal."*

*And by this  
true light,  
we may worship our  
perfect Father.*

*And God sent his Son  
into the world saying:  
"Live out my truth,  
for all to see;  
Empower each one  
to become like me.  
Proclaim their freedom  
to know inside,  
That with them,  
we will each abide."*

*And by this  
light of the world,  
we may commune with his  
perfected Son.*

*And God sends us  
into the world saying:  
"Love one another,  
even as  
I have loved you.  
Serve one another,  
even as  
I have served you."*

*And by thus  
living in the light,  
may we carry forward  
our perfecting careers.*



# What Shall We Do With Our Lives?



## Study Notes\*

By Bill Cooper  
Houston, Texas

[In the following notes, the quoted reference appears in italics. My comments about the reference follow in regular type.]

*Jesus said to Nicodemus: "Already does the spirit of the Father in heaven indwell you. If you would be led by this spirit from above, very soon would you begin to see with the eyes of the spirit, and then by the wholehearted choice of spirit guidance would you be born of the spirit since your only purpose in living would be to do the will of your Father who is in heaven. And so finding yourself born of the spirit and happily in the kingdom of God, you would begin to bear in your daily life the abundant fruits of the spirit" (1602:6/142.6.7)*

Spiritual magic! If you assent to be led by your Thought Adjuster, you will very soon begin to see things from God's point of view. Then if you will wholeheartedly choose Thought Adjuster guidance, you will be transformed into an experiential son of God whose only goal in life is to express God's will, God's way in the decisions and actions of your life. You don't have to earn this high state. You do not have to achieve righteousness, goodness, by human will before you are recognized as a son of God. All you have to do is assent to be led, and then when you have seen as God sees, you may wholeheartedly choose Adjuster guidance. Righteousness is the fruit of this. It is a gift from your Father as you live in his kingdom, not a human achieve-

ment prerequisite to your admission. Your Father will train you to do your part of the work he has established, but you need to be willing, ask questions, and pay attention.

*Jesus advised his followers, "And when the feelings of service for your fellow men arise within your soul, do not stifle them; when the emotions of love for your neighbor well up within your heart, give expression to such urges of affection in intelligent ministry to the real needs of your fellows." (1745:1/157.2.2)*

Give expression to your service urges by intelligent ministry to the real needs of your fellows. I have sometimes wondered whether "real needs" meant only spiritual needs, but I have tentatively concluded that real needs can include physical, emotional, and spiritual since a balance of all three is the objective of a successful life.

*"Most of the really important things which Jesus said or did seemed to happen casually, 'as he passed by.' There was so little of the professional, the well-planned, or the premeditated in the Master's earthly ministry. He dispensed health and scattered happiness naturally and gracefully as he journeyed through life. It was literally true, 'He went about doing good.'*

*"And it behooves the Master's followers in all ages to learn to minister as 'they pass by'—to do unselfish good as they go about their daily duties." (1875:4-5/171.7.9-10)*

Jesus' service style was to make


service a part of his other activities. He didn't do much questing for service opportunities. He found his service opportunities as he was working or teaching or traveling or just visiting. Of course, he led an active life in terms of his contact with others and he was always aware of the real needs of others. That is a pretty good model for everyone's service efforts since it is easy. One doesn't have to reorganize one's life to find appropriate service. There are real needs—physical, emotional and spiritual—all around us and among both the rich and the poor. Jesus served them both, as he passed by.

*"Never forget there is only one adventure which is more satisfying and thrilling than the attempt to discover the will of the living God, and that is the supreme experience of honestly trying to do that divine will. And fail not to remember that the will of God can be done in any earthly occupation. Some callings are not holy and others secular. All things are sacred in the lives of those who are spirit led; that is, subordinated to truth, ennobled by love, dominated by mercy, and restrained by fairness—justice." (1732:4/155.6.11)*

The will of God can be done in any earthly occupation. Honestly trying to do the will of God is the only adventure more satisfying and thrilling than the attempt to discover God's will through Adjuster leading.

*"I lived my life in the flesh to show how you can, through loving*  
See NOTES on page 17.





# Potpourri

## A Proposal\*

By John Hyde  
Richardson, Texas

In the course of the many discussions I have had with people on the subject of religion, many times I have been asked the perfectly natural question, "What is your religion?"

Now, this is not so easy a question to answer. "Urantian" is not a proper response, since that means the same thing as the word "earthling." I have tried using the word "Jesusonian," but that has drawn a somewhat bewildered reaction, and besides, I don't feel Jesusonian. The word sounds too formal and intellectual for my tastes.

Although I believe in Jesus, I do

not consider myself a Christian, since the fundamental belief of many Christians, the atonement doctrine, has no place in my beliefs. To launch off into an explanation that my religion has no name but is based upon the teachings of *The URANTIA Book* sounds confusing and perhaps a little bit evasive. I would like to be able to give a simple, direct, and friendly-sounding reply to this perfectly valid question which often arises. People seem to feel quite uncomfortable if they are not able to pin at least some type of label on you.

A label is not necessarily to be

despised, either, but any connotations that might be associated with a label should first be well thought out. *The URANTIA Book* itself says that religion "must develop a new and appropriate symbolism....adequate ... for [man's] new and expanding ideas, ideals, and loyalties." (966:1/87.7.6)

For many *URANTIA Book* readers, the teachings are not truly a religion, and that is certainly fine. But those same teachings are, in fact, the basis of *my* religion, and this is particularly true with regard to the life

See *PROPOSAL* on page 11.

## Some Proclamations by the Pope During His Visit to the United States

Contributed by David Glass, Fort Worth, Texas  
and John Hyde, Dallas, Texas

The progress of humanity must be measured not only by the progress of science and technology, but also by the importance given to spiritual values.

Cooperation, mutual love, and helping each other make us know one another better and make us rediscover what we have in common.

Make peace the desire of your heart, for if you love peace, you will love all humanity, without distinction of race, color, or creed.

Strengthen the bonds that unite us and eliminate all that has divided us in the past.

The Pope wishes to be your voice; the voice of all who cannot

experience it and make it our own, and if we do not participate intimately in it, our life is meaningless. Without love we remain incomprehensible to ourselves.

Do not be afraid of the truth.

The message of love is always important, always relevant. It is not difficult to see that despite its beauty and grandeur, despite the conquests of science and technology, despite the abundant material goods it offers, today's world is yearning for more truth, for more love, and for more joy.

Human life is precious because it is the gift of God whose love is infinite; and when God gives life, it is forever. «

My own spiritual and religious mission impells me to be the messenger of peace and brotherhood and to witness to the true greatness of every person.

The absolute and yet gentle power of the Lord corresponds to the whole depths of the human person, to his loftiest aspirations of intellect, will and heart. It does not speak the language of force but expresses itself in charity and truth.

We cannot live without love. If we do not encounter love, if we do not



*PROPOSAL from page 10.*

and teachings of Jesus. I therefore feel compelled to answer my question truthfully but also to somehow avoid launching into a detailed explanation of all of this, (unless of course, the listener is truly interested in something more than just superficial conversation). It would be just great if there were some word or phrase which somehow is open-ended in its possible interpretation, interesting sounding, and non-threatening in its connotations.

Such a phrase does, in fact, exist. On page 2085 there are several such phrases, including, "the Jesus brotherhood," "the spiritual brotherhood," and "the invisible brotherhood of the kingdom." But the phrase which I feel best meets the above-stated criteria is at the end of the page, and it is simply, the "brotherhood of Jesus." (2085:3 & 6/195.10.11 & 14)

This phrase, "The Brotherhood of Jesus," as a name for a set of religious beliefs, embraces not only all *URANTIA Book* readers, but all Christians as well. Indeed, it in fact includes all the intelligent life forms in the entire universe of Nebadon! It implies friendship on a familial level of devotion and is pregnant with the concept of cosmic consciousness. "The Brotherhood of Jesus" is simple, direct, and descriptive. It would be non-offensive to a broad range of people, and yet is still likely to draw additional interest from the sincere truth seeker. Perhaps the phrase "The Brotherhood of Jesus" might also be used interchangeably with the phrase "The Jesus Brotherhood."

These two phrases represent a more accurate description of my religious beliefs than does any other descriptive word or phrase. I do in fact consider Jesus as a sort of "elder brother" (a phrase which he once used himself), even more than I do as universe creator. And I would like to be able to convey this spirit of my beliefs adequately. For me "The

*See PROPOSAL on page 17.*

## The Man Who Risked Everything—a Story

Once there was a man who kept a bottle of bitterness with him at all times. He carried it in a crumpled paper sack under his coat. Whenever something happened that upset him, he would reach for his bottle and take a few quick gulps. This would happen many times a day, for few things in life pleased him. His habit kept him financially and emotionally drained, as bitterness is expensive, what with inflation, lost opportunities and all. It could be said that he had become what he drank, that what he consumed had consumed him. He was a bitter man.

Then, he changed. Just when it was thought that he was a hopeless case, he changed. He threw away his bottle. He was no longer bedeviled by recurring outbursts of temper and self-pity. He stopped sneaking around in the shadows. He began to walk taller and look people in the eye and greet them warmly. His family and friends said, "It's a miracle!"

When asked what had happened to so change him, the man replied, "I decided one day to risk listening to the truth within me... you know—that 'still, small voice' that you hear when you honestly listen and stop drowning it out."

"What did truth say to you?" asked everybody, leaning forward.

"The voice said, 'You've been blaming everybody and everything for your unhappiness. You are in charge of your choices. You choose bitterness. It has robbed you of your best, most worthy dreams. Choose the truth. It will set you free.'"

His friends marveled. Some also risked listening to the truth within them. This caused others to try it. Which shows how quickly things can get out of hand!

By David Jaquith  
Newberg, Oregon



## Writing to God\*

By Kaye Cooper  
Houston, Texas

I would like to share a technique which several of us on *The Circles* staff have found to be very satisfying. We make it a practice to communicate with God in writing—not all of the time but whenever we feel like it and especially during times of decision.

### Emotions

One of the things we communicate to God in writing is emotions. If you would like to try it, express any feelings you may have to God, all of them—good, bad, apathetic, discouraged, exuberant. Writing about emotions is a good psychological practice. Recent research indicates that writing about the events of your life which are emotionally traumatic invigorates your immune system and improves your health.

There is great emotional comfort in sharing your emotional life with a sympathetic, willing listener. God is all of that and more. He is infinitely wise. He can and often will heal the unhealthy, raw emotional wounds and replenish your needy spirit with strength and peace.

### Ideals

Confide in him your goals, your dreams, your sincere yearnings—especially the spiritual ones. Writing these down on paper clarifies them and helps to organize you for success. But since you are engaged in a two-way communication with God, you will be providing him an opportunity to make suggestions, to adjust your direction to a better one, to confirm the best of your ideas.

How can God have input? One way is by the ideas that occur to you as you write. Another is ideas and motives that emerge later. Many of

these ideas will be your own. Writing in this way is an excellent method of maturing your own thoughts. But there can easily be spiritual influence as well. The Master Seraphim of Planetary Supervision are able to "intensify some higher ideal which has already appeared within a human intellect." (1256:9/114.6.19) Our Thought Adjuster is able "to contribute factors of spiritual import to the human mind when it flows freely in the liberated but controlled channels of creative imagination." (1199.2/109.5.1) You may receive the influence of your soul. "By and with the consent of your will, the Adjuster has the power to subject the creature trends of the material mind to the transforming actions of the motivations and purposes of the emerging morontial soul." (1191.5/108.5.4)

Another way in which you might receive spiritual guidance could be through the manipulation of your environment by the seraphim. "The guarding seraphim is constantly manipulating the mortal environment for the purpose of augmenting the cosmic insight of the human ascen-

der to the end that such a survival candidate may acquire enhanced realization of the presence of the indwelling Adjuster and thus be enabled to yield increased co-operation with the spiritual mission of the divine presence." (1245:4/113.4.4) In addition the Master Seraphim of Planetary Supervision are able to "so manipulate planetary conditions and so associate circumstances as favorably to influence the spheres of human activity to which they are attached." (1256:8/114.6.18) So be aware of the circumstances of life which "happen" to occur. The events of your life often have things to teach.

### Questions

Another aspect of writing to God is questioning. Ask questions of God and write answers. Once again writing down your questions can help clarify just what you seek an answer for, and it can elicit your own best thinking on the subject, as well as possible spiritual aid.

Don't start in with the big, crucial questions. Ease into this mode of communication with yourself a little at a time. If eventually you ask the big

See *WRITING* on page 13.

### Pamphlet Sample

A sample of one of the Spiritual Living Pamphlets has been included in this issue. We hope you enjoy it and find use for it in your personal ministry. For further information on other titles and how to obtain copies, see *Things to Share* in this issue.



WRITING from page 12.

questions, do not be disappointed if you do not get revelatory answers. Know that eventually (if you are sincere in your desire to know God's will) he will help you.

Realize that any answers you get are coming from you and that the input of the Spirit of Truth and the Thought Adjuster will vary from time to time with your attunement and over time as you grow. Some answers will be proven ineffective as you try them, but others will surely provide you with a much-needed solution. The key is (1) to be grateful and thankful for any help you receive (even if it is only the temporary relief of having a new idea to try which will eventually fail) and (2) not to blame God when any individual answer is less than a great and wise revelation.

Thankfulness for every helpful thought (even the ones that come completely from the human you) is appropriate because any good idea comes ultimately from the rather amazing gifts of intellect and personality which God has given you. Blaming God is inappropriate because any time you fail to receive this assistance at the time you want it, the problem is never that God does not want to help you. The problem is always something God can do nothing about—you may not yet be mature enough to deal with the answer, you may be unable to perceive his response, you may be unwilling to understand or follow his leading. In all but the last case your failure to receive God's aid is not something you can do much about either—except be patient. In the case of unwillingness, of course, the solution is to actively seek a sincere willingness to trust God.

#### Brainstorming

Several of our staff use a technique which is almost always successful in bringing up new ideas or ways of seeing things. This particular technique is useful as a regular periodic type of communion. It is simple.

Sit down in a comfortable place with a pen or a pencil and several

sheets of writing paper (some may prefer a typewriter or computer). Select a period of time during which you will write. Five minutes would be a good time to start with. Focus your attention briefly on your desire for God's input into the events of your life. Then you begin writing.

What you write first is not particularly important, but it is important that you start writing instead of waiting until something comes to mind which is worthy of being written. It is also important that you *keep writing* and that you *not spend time judging* the worthiness of what you have written until the time you have allotted for writing is finished. With practice some find it rather easy to write for thirty minutes or more in this fashion.

Thinking about the quality of

what you have written interrupts your receptive frame of mind and waiting for a worthy idea can prevent the flow of ideas from ever starting. Editing, deleting, accepting or rejecting are all appropriate for the post-writing period. The writing period is analogous to brainstorming in which any idea is accepted without judging in order to encourage the flow of ideas.

Again, much of what you receive will be from your own mind, not necessarily even your best thoughts, but that is OK because you are sharing those with God. In doing so, he can lift the burden of those thoughts. It is probably just psychological, but it works.

The object of this writing process is not merely to receive from spiritual

See WRITING on page 18.

## Tidbits

### The Parable of the Horse

There was a man who had a horse. One day the horse got out of the corral and ran away, and the man's neighbors said, "Oh, that's bad," and the man said, "Well, I don't know about that."

That night the man's horse came home and walked into the corral with several wild horses, and the man's neighbors said, "Oh, that's good," and the man said, "Well, I don't know about that."

The next day the man's son was breaking one of the wild horses and got bucked off and broke his leg. The man's neighbor said, "Oh, that's bad," and the man said, "Well, I don't know about that."

The following day some men came and took all the able-bodied young men to go fight in a war. They didn't take the man's son because he had a broken leg. The man's neighbors said, "Oh, that's good," and the man said, "You never know."

Submitted by Richard Keeler  
Evanston, Wyoming



By Matt Neibaur  
Porte Verda Beach, Florida

## Computer Analysis of Dates in The URANTIA Book

In 1572 a former professor of law from Bologna named Ugo Buoncompagni became Pope Gregory XIII; ten years later the Gregorian calendar was introduced. The Julian calendar, founded sixteen centuries earlier by Julius Caesar, was inaccurate and the need for reform was widely recognized. Its principal failure was the discrepancy between the mean length of its year, 365.25 days, and the tropical year, then averaging 365.24232 days. This is nearly eleven minutes and four seconds shorter than the Julian year. This small discrepancy had continued to accumulate until it was no longer a matter of minutes but days. By the time of the Gregorian reform, this error had grown to eleven days. Understandably, this was of concern to the Pope; if the calendar had continued unchanged, Easter would eventually have been celebrated in the summer.

The attempts at reform set off a wide range of debates, both academic and religious. At one point excommunication was threatened by the Pope against anyone who refused to accept the new calendar. The details and controversies created by the reform are presented beautifully in an article in the May 1982 issue of *Scientific American* by Gordon Moyer entitled "The Gregorian Calendar."

Readers of *The URANTIA Book* should find the calendar reform and methods of measuring time interesting. In part four of the book, "The Life and Teachings of Jesus," there are numerous references to dates. Dates and weekdays are listed un-

equivocally. Is there any way to check on these dates? Was April 14 A.D. 2 really a Friday as stated? Would it make any difference if the dates and weekdays did not correlate? Would *The URANTIA Book* be true if major discrepancies existed? Whether or not one accepts or rejects *The URANTIA Book* is determined more by its spiritual impact rather than possible scientific correlations. Still, it would be nice to know if there existed independent verification of these dates and times.

Using information obtained from the book, *Astronomical Formulae for Calculators* by Jean Meeus, a program was written to calculate dates and weekdays. The program takes into account the Gregorian calendar reform. All dates are first converted to Julian Day numbers and the results are divided by seven to obtain weekdays from the remainder. A calendar is then generated using this information. Even by computer standards, it is a rather tedious process.

The results were reassuring. The odds of merely guessing the correct day would be one in seven for each day or the product of the separate probabilities for all of the dates listed. This calculates to one chance in 5,764,801 for correctly guessing the eight dates listed. (Now you know why bingo games are a great way of making money.) The following dates were sampled and showed correct dates with corresponding weekdays:

April 14, AD 2 Friday  
June 24, AD 5 Wednesday  
January 9, AD 7 Sunday  
April 17, AD 9 Wednesday

April 26, AD 2 Sunday  
March 3, AD 26 Sunday  
February 23, AD 26 Saturday  
June 18, AD 26 Tuesday

There are more dates in *The URANTIA Book*. Perhaps, other readers would like to experiment with the program. Future projects could include construction of a calendar with corresponding events listed for specific dates during the life of Jesus. A chronological guide with specific maps could become an important aid in studying part four of the book. The calendars are already available that encompass the time periods from 8 B.C. to 30 A.D.

If anyone is interested in such a project, they can contact me at the address below. The program was originally written in Microsoft Basic. Later, program enhancements were made and it was rewritten in HyperTalk to run on a Macintosh computer. A "talking" demonstration and presentation of this paper will be given at the Science Symposium in May at Nashville. For further information contact: Matt Neibaur, 211 North Roscoe, Ponte Verda Beach, Florida 32082."

### Address Changes

Remember to send us any  
change of address to  
avoid missing issues of  
*The Circles*



*"Jesus deplored that so little of the spirit of thanksgiving was to be found in the prayers and worship of his followers." (1640:4/146.2.15)*

## A Urantian Group Prayer of Thanksgiving, AD 1987

**Individual:** Heavenly Father, Holy Mother . . .  
Beloved Christ Michael, Beloved Creative Daughter Spirit,

We humbly offer you great praises of thanksgiving  
for being our perfectly loving Divine Parents.

**Group:** We sincerely offer an expression of gratitude to our Paradise Parents of Trinity:

Thank you, Universal Father, for your gifts of unique personality and the indwelling of our minds by your perfect Thought Adjusters. We are in awe that as the least of all your children, we host the highest spirit entity in all of creation.

Thank you, Eternal Son, for the bestowal of your Paradise Son, Michael of Nebadon, Master Sovereign Creator Son of our universe, who came to our planet as Christ Jesus. Glory to you, Great Spiritual Lure, for ever attracting us homeward.

Thank you, Infinite Spirit, for our mindal connection to reality, and for your supernal seraphim who guard us as infants and later deliver us from death. You keep us sane on a world that kills God's messengers.

**Individual:** We are your loyal agondonters of Urantia, dear Lord. We are your peerless creatures who can believe without seeing, who can overcome insuperable obstacles, and who can persevere even when isolated. We commit ourselves and our offspring to the dedication of attempting to do your divine will, rather than our own.

**Group:** Thank you, Master Michael, for bestowing yourself as a mortal of the realm. For choosing our World of the Cross as the only one in eternity for your human incarnation, we offer you undying gratitude.

We are thankful for our planet's Midwayers who have brought to us the Fifth Epochal Revelation.

**Individual:** Dear God, we appreciate the incredible privilege of being of service to your spiritual family on a quarantined sphere where your love is so desperately needed.

**Group:** Thank you, incomparable Jesus, for your merciful ministry to us through your Spirit of Truth. You indwell us also.

Thank you, Father, for our human brothers and sisters: our parents, our children, and all other relatives in our five-billion-member family.

**All:** We extend thanksgiving to our adorable Father/Mother God who is ever our friend, always forgiving, perfectly patient, and in whom we move, live, and have our being. Always will it be so. Amen.

Jay Newbern  
Santa Rosa, California



# about angels

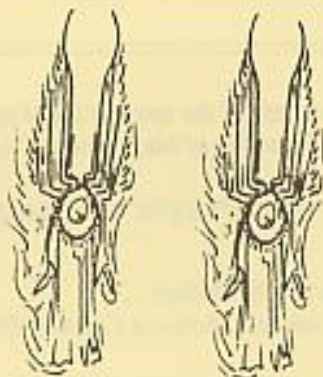
By Gene Joyce  
Richardson, Texas

The angels "love human beings and only good can result from your efforts to understand and love them." (419:1/38.2.1)

"Thou shall not be afraid for the terror by night . . . nor the arrow that flieth by day. A thousand may fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand, but it shall not happen to you. . . For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to guard thee in all they ways. . ." Excerpts from the 91st Psalm

We've had quite a few experiences with angels through the shared descriptions from various members of FUSE (Fellow URANTIA Book Students in Eureka). One friend shared this: "I heard beautiful music coming from behind your husband [he's a composer] during study group. I looked around and no one else seemed to hear it, so I just sat back and enjoyed. He seems to be enjoying it also. One night I saw a shimmering presence float through the room after a particularly intense prayer time."

Not long after this, my husband became aware of a strong,



sympathetic presence. He described it this way: "I would find myself staring off in space, then become aware of a very sympathetic presence that made me get teary eyed." Another member shared a similar description of feeling teary eyed when first becoming aware of her angel's presence.

My husband and I were in a restaurant on his birthday a couple of months ago. I was asking him about his angel when suddenly he said, "She is right there," pointing behind my right shoulder. Somehow, I too could sense a power—presence. "What's it look like?" I asked. "It's about eight to nine feet tall, smaller at the top widening to the bottom. I can't see it with my eyes. I just sense this shimmering outline, with wing-like protrusions but not wings. Now, she's over there. She was sitting, now she's standing."

A few days later, we were considering buying some property. I asked my husband to consult the angel about it. He did and received the impression he should go to a certain book store and look on a lower shelf for a book about God and Birth or creation, something like that. He

went to the store, and after 15-20 minutes of searching, he found a slim book on a lower shelf called *The Birth of God*. My husband is a composer and has been looking for two or three years to find a new libretto for his next opera. This small play written by a Nobel prize winning playwright in 1920 was perfect—just what he was looking for. The theme is man's search for a personal God.

I told my husband, "This is a no-nonsense angel. She was just waiting for your attention. She must be interested in your musical development primarily.

Another time, he received a message like, "Shape up, Buddy." Of course, we interpret these messages through our own ego screening, but I'm sure he got the gist of the message.

A few of us were sharing our angel experiences after study group one evening. Another member shared this: "On my fortieth birthday (the month before) I felt that I should do something special, so I meditated all day. In the afternoon I sensed a presence. The guidance I received was that I was entering a new phase in my life and that things I'd been striving for would fall into place now."

Then he recounted his experience as a conscientious objector in the early Viet Nam War days. This was a very difficult time that involved many days of prayer and meditation for help and guidance. It finally culminated in a court hearing with a hostile judge and a potential six-year prison sentence. Before



sentencing him, the judge for some reason retired to his chambers for a few minutes. Suddenly our friend perceived a huge angel, the same general shape as the one described above only much, much larger. It filled the whole front of the court room. The angel descended into the court room briefly, then left. When the judge came out, he only sentenced our friend to 18 months, six months of which had already been served during the legal proceedings. In addition, he was transferred to another prison and put in with the Jehovah's Witnesses instead of the more dangerous types of cell mates. He was able to spend the year meditating and reading *The URANTIA Book*. What a blessing that even the mighty angels take interest in the affairs of the average mortal who persistently seeks our Father's guidance!

*The URANTIA Book* says angels have been involved in every major world crisis. I certainly believe it. They are, indeed, our teachers. Mine (I've not seen it) presents me with systematic lessons. They come one at a time and I must master each one before moving on. My Christian friends have helped me get in touch with the day-to-day guidance that is awaiting. Jesus never assumed he knew his Father's will. He always conferred for confirmation, every day.

By K. Stover  
FUSE  
Eureka, California

*PROPOSAL from page 11.*

Jesus Brotherhood" and "The Brotherhood of Jesus" do that best.

I would be very interested in any comments or feedback with regard to these ideas. I feel that it is important to have something to belong to (965:7/87.7.3), and the URANTIA movement is simply too broad based in its goals to ever become a religion—and rightfully so. I feel that if this issue can be addressed, discussed, and partially resolved, we may find that having something more clear-cut which we stand for (i.e. the religion of Jesus) may lead to a greater interest being aroused within the general populace.

Please write me, care of *The Circles*.

*NOTES from page 9.*

*service, become God-revealing to your fellow men even as, by loving you and serving you, I have become God-revealing to you." (2053:1/193.0.5)*

Jesus didn't go about fixing every problem in every person he encountered. He ministered lovingly and wisely to all in need who were receptive and desirous of his help. He invites us to join him and he says this type of service reveals deity love to our fellows.

*"Jesus endeavored to make clear that he desired his disciples, having tasted of the good spirit realities of the kingdom, so to live in the world that men, by seeing their lives, would become kingdom conscious and hence be led to inquire of believers concerning the ways of the kingdom." (1593:4/141.7.3)*

Live nobly and thereby attract others into the kingdom. This statement certainly takes doing God's will out of the limitations of a special ministry and mixes it into our daily lives. All of us can have this adventure—not just apostles, evangelists, preachers, nuns and such.

*"The animal must adapt itself to the environment, but the religious man transcends his environment and in this way escapes the limitations of*

*the present material world through this insight of divine love. This concept of love generates in the soul of man that superanimal effort to find truth, beauty, and goodness; and when he does find them, he is glorified in their embrace; he is consumed with the desire to live them, to do righteousness." (2096:8/196.3.32)*

Through your acts and words foster in your fellows insights of divine love. There is a spiritual magic to this divine love. It mysteriously generates in the soul of man the effort to find truth, beauty and goodness which when found consume him with the desire to live them. That seems like a miraculous result—even from a successful effort to share an insight of deity's love, protection and support. Imagine, even a brief witnessing to God's love for us could redirect a person's life as a consequence of this magical effect of divine love.

Jesus said, *"If you will maintain this living spiritual connection with me, you will bear abundant fruit. If you abide in me and my words live in you, you will be able to commune freely with me, and then can my living spirit so infuse you that you may ask whatsoever my spirit wills and do all this with the assurance that the Father will grant us our petition. Herein is the Father glorified: that the vine has many living branches, and that every branch bears much fruit. And when the world sees these fruit-bearing branches—my friends who love one another, even as I have loved them—all men will know that you are truly my disciples." (1945:4/180.2.1)*

It is possible to abide in Jesus and to allow his words to be alive, active, influential and motivating in our lives. He promised that if we will do this, we will be able freely to commune with him and then his Spirit of Truth can so infuse us that we may ask whatever his spirit wills and know that God will grant this petition. If we get our stuff together, this says even deity authority of the sovereign of the universe is delegated to us.

*See NOTES on page 21.*





## Letters to the Editor

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

December 11, 1987

Brothers and Sisters,

Bless you and thank you for your wonderful work, *The Circles*. Three of the most exciting times in each year is when *The Circles* comes in the mail! The flavor and aroma which is a constant of *The Circles*, is one of the bigger sources of understanding I have of the completed gospel found in *The URANTIA Book*. Outside the book itself, *The Circles* is the most joyous, enlightening, readable, and agreeable publication I have found from any source.

I am very excited that you are expanding your available materials to include the *Spiritual Living Pamphlets*. Study aids and sharing aids will have tremendous value and impact in spreading the gospel. I believe we cannot wait for the world to embrace and understand a 2000-page monstrosity before we share the teachings in that book for those who are starving for the bread of life. Indeed, the readership of *The URANTIA Book* would probably grow much quicker if its message of hope and guidance were more focused and offered in bite size pieces. Of course, there is no substitute for reading the entire book many times but the need for your work is very real and vital! Keep it up and bless you forevermore!

Love to you and yours,  
Brad & Julie Tharp  
Eureka, California

Dear Friends:

I have been studying *The URANTIA Book* in French for ten years, and I'll continue to do it. Please publish this notice in the next issue of *The Circles*. It is a call addressed to those English-

speaking esperantists readers of *The URANTIA Book* who can translate our "big blue" into the international language Esperanto. Thank you very much.

Antonio Moya Cerpa  
Sevilla, Spain

### ALVOKO AL LA TUTA ESPERANTISTA LEGANTARO EN ANGLA LINGVO DE LA URANTIA LIBRO

La idealo el ciuj ni, kiuj studas LA URANTIA LIBRO estas la monda kunfratigo, kaj Esperanto estas granda al-paso al tio, la homara interkomprenigo.

LA URANTIA LIBRO nur estas publikigata angle kaj franclingve. Kiom da jaroj estos bezonataj por sia publikigo en la aliaj 3.000 idiomaj parolataj surmonde, por ke siaj instruaj estu atingebaj do la lasta versercanto en nia planedo? . Cu dekoj au centoj da jaroj . .

Se LA URANTIA LIBRO jam ekzistus E-lingve ja minimume okazus jenon:

1. Gi estus la plej bona speguligo de la originala teksto en angla pro la apartaj esprimeblecoj kaj adapteco de la Internacia Lingvo.

2. Povus gin legi miloj da personoj kiuj nekonas la anglan, la francan au aliajn malminoritatajn lingvojn.

3. Povus gin legi kiu ajn ne scipovanta lingvojn nur pere de kelkmonata E-lernado, kio estas tute nekredaĵo se temas pri aliaj statlingvoj.

Do estante la libro en Esperanto, siaj instruaj estus tuj haveblaj al kiu ajn tre mallonge.

Ni ciuj scias ke la neutrala kaj frateca paclingvo estas Esperanto: gi nenies kaj samtempe kies apartenas. Samkiel LA URANTIA LIBRO. La Zamenhofa

WRITING from page 13.

sources, but it is also to communicate your longings, aspirations, desires, fears, etc. and thereby create an atmosphere for relevant spiritual response. It is a little like a conversation. Often this process leads to insights and understandings which suggest spiritual response through your mind and hands.

### A Promise

In any of your attempts to communicate with God in writing you are promised success: "... every honest attempt of the material mind to communicate with its indwelling spirit meets with certain success, notwithstanding that the majority of all such magnificent human experiences must long remain as superconscious registrations in the souls of such God-knowing mortals." (1475:3/133.4.10)

We find that writing our feelings, ideals, and questions to God and writing the ideas that occur to us as we express ourselves results in some of our best human thinking and some true inspiration as well. "

---

idealo estis: unu homaro, unu lingvo, unu religio. Se vi do scipovas Esperanton kaj volas taugi senprofite por miloj da homoj estantaj kaj estontaj, tiam esperantigu LA URANTIA LIBRO!

Nur vi, angllingva esperantista leganto de LA URANTIA LIBRO povas fari tiun ci laborservon.

Antonio Moya Cerpa  
San Francisco Javier, 4-1º 0  
41950 CASTILLEJA DE LA  
CUESTA  
(Sevilla, Espana)





## Listening: How to Increase Awareness of Your Inner Guide

By Kaye Cooper  
Houston, Texas

*Listening: How to Increase Awareness of Your Inner Guide* by Lee Coit. Published by Swan Publishing, So. Laguna, California. Copyright 1985. Paperback \$5.95, 76 pages.

This little book is an excellent source for anyone serious about seeking and following God's will. Lee Coit describes his discovery of a voice within himself which quietly and gently injects values into his decision making. It is not obvious, being quieter than his ordinary self-oriented mindal voice; and it does not demand or direct so much as advise when consulted and teach when allowed. This voice is amazingly accurate and seems to be well-coordinated with both external circumstances and the highest spiritual realities.

Coit's suggestions for learning to listen include a very helpful chapter titled, "Ten Suggestions for Better Listening." Briefly paraphrased, these suggestions are: (1) Still your mind of its usual chatter. (2) Have no strong desire for a particular answer. (3) Trust that you are being taken care of. (4) Watch for answers everywhere. (5) Be patient and open to an answer that may not be the one you wanted. (6) Recognize truth no matter what its apparent source. (7) You will know by your internal peace when the true answer arrives. (8) Live in faith, expecting God's guidance and being alert for it. (9) Listen to *understand* what is happening. (10) Spend time each day devoted to

getting in touch with your guide. His chapter, "Fifteen Listening Principles" is also excellent.

I have personally experienced a phenomenon similar to Coit's voice, although it is less a voice than a "knowing." I would not suggest that this voice might be the voice of God, but it does seem to be operating on a source of data larger than that to which my own conscious mind has direct access. It certainly seems probable that this other voice or "knowing" is better able to utilize the values registered in our souls by the action of the Thought Adjuster.

Becoming aware of this source of guidance for one's daily life is highly desirable and leads to greater peace, enhanced service opportunities, enriched values and spiritual growth. *Listening* has much to offer someone who would like to learn to listen to his inner voice.

*If you are unable to locate the book locally, you may order it from New Age Books, 1006 S. Lamar, Austin, TX 78704 or call (512)443-6794. The cost per book is \$5.95 plus \$1.50 shipping and handling and \$.48 tax.*

### *Prayer in the Pentagon*

There is now a Pentagon Meditation Club in action. In the April 25 issue of *Time Magazine* an article entitled "Peace Shield" reported on the group. They meet each Friday at noon to visualize "world leaders, friends and adversaries, joining together in fellowship to resolve issues, forgiving each other. . ."

The President of the club, Edward Winchester, a Pentagon financial analyst, has withstood Fundamentalist Christian complaints and convinced them of the benefits of the group.

This is an excellent opportunity for us to join with these courageous religionists. The club meets at lunchtime every Friday,

so we propose to take five minutes for prayer at 12:30 (Washington, D.C. time) each Friday. We will pray for the **peaceful resolution of conflicts among all nations, for the realization of the potentials of all peoples, and for God's will to be done on earth.**

It strikes us that this is an opportunity to put in action Jesus' admonition, "Pray for you enemies." We can visualize the enlightenment, upliftment and spiritual blossoming of our "enemies."

We hope you will join us in this commitment. The rewards in personal growth and world harmony are sure to exceed by far our small expenditures of effort.



EVERYONE from page 4.

imparting some helpful insight into herself or her life challenges.

Robin starts each day with a prayer that God will use her for his ends during that day. This habit keeps her sensitive to opportunities which arise during the day to contribute to someone else's life in some meaningful way. Her life has grown steadily richer and more fulfilling. She makes sure to have prayer time each morning because it always seems to make the day go better. She can always be counted on to take the time to pray when friends have special needs.

Linda expects God's active participation in her efforts to help others. She relaxes into the moment in confidence that her desire to help the person in need will call forth the spirit. Whether it is through her words or actions or some direct ministry to the one in need, the spirit works with her and through her.

These are only a few examples of ways in which people we know are seeking to find and do God's will on a daily basis.

### Loving and Serving Man

The first priority of life is to establish your own unique personal relationship with God, to seek to know his will, to be led by the spirit. Then follows the doing of his will: serving your brothers. A real relationship with God is the first priority because God is the *source* of your desire to serve and your ability to serve.

You are not alone here in your attempt to live a God-revealing life. Your sincere desire to do God's will sets in motion all sorts of spiritual aid. If doing his will is your true goal, then God will help you to do it, whether he leads you unconsciously or with your conscious awareness and active cooperation. He has promised you this. You have only to believe this promise and maintain a sincere desire which includes being willing to act on what you think is his will.

If you truly and sincerely seek to know and follow God's will, you will begin to feel an urge to help others.

Your next step is simply to give in to those urges. Your service need not wait until you feel you have attained a high spiritual level. The urge to serve usually comes quickly. It can and should be followed quickly—with caring, loving actions in your daily life.

Serving starts right where you are. Such service does not require major planning or changing your earthly career. It should not get put off until some remote future when the children are grown, when you have more money, when the job allows more time, when you retire, or when you heed the call to service, leave your job and go into full time ministry. You can be serving in a very meaningful way right now by becoming aware of the real needs of those around you and ministering to them intelligently. It does not require rearranging your life, but it does require an inner change of attitude. (Even that you only have to desire and then cooperate with God's efforts. He will give you the new attitude you have asked for.)

The baby sees its older siblings running off to school or play and longs to do likewise. In the beginning, however, he must take one step at a time and cling to the furniture. In your early service life you can keep your eye on the inspiring future while mastering the simple gifts of daily life. In fact, your relationship with God is fed by these small acts of service as well as by prayer and worship.

What does serving in your daily life look like? It can be a kind or encouraging word, a smile, a door held open, a meal for a shut-in, financial assistance, a clean house, a job well done, a helping hand, advice when it's sought, a wise silence, ignoring errors, critical feedback given in love, setting an example, cleaning bedpans, teaching useful skills, creating inspiring beauty, listening from the heart, forgiving, deciding justly, behaving mercifully, a quiet visit, an exhortation to excellence, living according to your values. The possibilities are endless.

This description of service is attractive, yet there is something still missing.

### Proclaiming the Gospel

Jesus said: "Remember that you are commissioned to preach this gospel of the kingdom—the supreme desire to do the Father's will coupled with the supreme joy of the faith realization of sonship with God—and you must not allow anything to divert your devotion to this one duty."

He went on to make what he was saying even more clear: "Let all mankind benefit from the overflow of your loving spiritual ministry, enlightening intellectual communion, and uplifting social service; but none of these humanitarian labors, nor all of them, should be permitted to take the place of proclaiming the gospel." (1931:2/ 178.1.11)

Jesus said that to his apostles and close disciples, but does he say it to you—today?

To virtually every group to whom he made a morontia appearance, Jesus said, "Proclaim the gospel." You—and all of us—are *called* to proclaim the gospel! The question is whether or not we respond.

This must be it. This must be where you are supposed to leave your family and job to travel around preaching the gospel, right? Well, not necessarily. Let's explore this call to proclaim the gospel a bit.

Just what is the gospel you are to proclaim? It is, quite simply, the very experience we have been discussing. *God is a living reality—a loving Father—whom you can personally know and experience by faith. He will guide you into spiritual maturity if you will seek to know and do his will. Men are your brothers whom your Father will help you to love and serve as you mature.*

Proclaiming the gospel can be as simple as sharing your own spiritual experience with a friend. In fact, that's probably the most effective way to proclaim the gospel because your friend can observe the fruits of your spiritual experience in your daily life. You can proclaim the gospel to a



casual acquaintance or even a total stranger if the moment seems right (if the spirit leads).

It's a simple process: When you live daily in partnership with the spirit, it shows in your life—your actions, attitudes, and interests. The spiritual comes up in your conversation naturally and opportunities arise to share truth. When these opportunities arise, you want to be sure to share *the most important truth of all*—God is a real and living Father whose presence we can feel. We are his cherished and carefully nurtured children, and we can consciously live our lives in partnership with him.

#### **And that is proclaiming the gospel.**

Without question, the gospel must be lived—but it needs to be *proclaimed* as well as lived. You cannot simply live a loving life and expect those who participate in your life to understand that the motivation for your loving life style is God's love flowing through you. Proclamation of the gospel includes the direct expression of your motives for living as you do.

Such a simple process may seem too easy, but proclaiming the gospel with your life can require courage. Dropping the spiritual into your conversation can be daunting at first. Taking an ethical stand in your business decisions can cost money or even a job. Proclaiming the gospel can require determination as anyone knows who has raised a child with good values in spite of the constant media message—"self gratification is *all*." Living the gospel will eventually reprioritize all of your life. It will invade all of your choices about where to spend your time and energies. It will color all of your thinking.

This quiet personal ministry is powerful. Even so, it may seem too small, too insignificant to be the service to which you are called. It may well be that you will have additional tasks, even a public ministry to perform, but it is essential *first* to establish your own personal relationship with God and grow into the habit of

responding to the needs of those in your personal presence, otherwise you cannot accurately know what God's will for your public ministry is.

If at some point you choose a service more public than daily personal ministry, **being experienced in seeking and following God's will for your life will insure that what you choose to do will be done God's way**, and that your every activity in your public ministry will be done with the benefit of a dynamic communion partnership with God upon which you may rely to adjust your will to God's will. ◊

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#### *NOTES from page 17.*

I think you abide in Jesus by talking to him, thinking about him, listening to him, verbalizing what he would say. You do it by living your life with him as your friend with whom you share everything, remembering not to degrade or shame yourself. You allow his nobility, love, mercy, graciousness, etc. to be expressed through you. You strive to be his friend just as much as you long for him to be yours.

*"I admonish you ever to remember that your mission among men is to proclaim the gospel of the kingdom—the reality of the fatherhood of God and the truth of the sonship of man. Proclaim the whole truth of the good news, not just a part of the saving gospel. Your message is not changed by my resurrection experience. Sonship with God, by faith, is still the saving truth of the gospel of*

*the kingdom. You are to go forth preaching the love of God and the service of man. That which the world needs most to know is: Men are the sons of God, and through faith they can actually realize, and daily experience, this ennobling truth. My bestowal should help all men to know that they are the children of God, but such knowledge will not suffice if they fail personally to faith-grasp the saving truth that they are the living spirit sons of the eternal Father."* (2052:4/193.0.4)

Proclaim Jesus' good news of the love and service relationship among God and men. Tell your associates that it is a fact that we are all sons of God and that, for no other price than believing and trying, we can each experience daily that we are God's children. Tell them too that it is not the fact that we are God's children which matters; what transforms and ennobles our lives is the experience of living our lives faithfully as the children of a noble, just, loving, good and beautiful Father. The prodigal son's father was just as loving, supporting and enriching before the son reformed his ways as he was after, but the son was transformed in his experience of his father's love when he chose to accept on faith that his father's way of living would be better than his own. That is every person's choice and the choice must be joined to action, to living the consequences of trying to be like God. Mere thought, factual knowledge or intellectual assent to God's fatherhood does not suffice. ◊

**Got an idea for an article?—The back cover tells about our next theme, but we are happy to have other articles too.**

#### *The Circles Calendar*

*The Circles* is published three times a year. (We also solicit donations in November and March.) Our yearly calendar:

	<u>Articles Due</u>	<u>Mail</u>
Spring-Summer	Dec. 15	May 1
Fall	April 15	Aug. 15
Winter	Aug. 1	Dec. 1





# Things to Share

## THE SPIRITUAL LIVING PAMPHLETS

The Spiritual Living Pamphlets are designed to enrich people's lives by sharing experience inspired in the writers' lives by contact with *The URANTIA Book*. Each one (whether a reprint of a *Circles* article or new material) is appropriate to share with friends and family who might not be interested in *The URANTIA Book*, since any references to the book have been removed. We hope you enjoy the sample included in this issue of *The Circles*.

### Cost

The cost of publishing and mailing each pamphlet is approximately \$.75 for single copies, \$.50 each for five copies or more (any combination of titles). Anyone who is unable to help us with the cost is, as always, most welcome to have them free. We appreciate the assistance of anyone who can send extra to help cover the cost of the free copies. In each issue we will list the pamphlets still available as well as new publications. (Pamphlets are 7 by 8 1/2 inches.)

### New Pamphlets

*Achieving Forgiveness* suggests a step-by-step method for forgiving the injuries and insults of life. By Kaye Cooper

*Action* stresses the importance of overcoming hesitations in order to take action. It gives some hints for getting started. By Adrienne Jarnigan and Gene Joyce.

*Asking for the Mind of Jesus* describes a very effective way to cope when you have ex-

hausted all of your own resources. By Jonathon Johnson.

*Faith in God* clarifies the rather abstract concept of faith and offers methods of exercising and strengthening your personal faith. By Kaye Cooper

*Forgiving God* explores the somewhat startling idea that you may have hidden resentments against God and provides very usable exercises to dissolve those resentments. By Billie Cooper

*God's in the Shower* provides a delightful insight into those times when it seems that God just is not listening. By Joanna Cassetti.

*Group Decision Making* introduces a God-centered way to function together effectively in small groups. By Kaye Cooper.

### Pamphlets Still Available

*Living the Spiritual Life* explores your individual relationship with God and the effects it can have in your daily life. By Kaye and Bill Cooper.

*Communicating Feelings* describes a successful way to enhance the marriage relationship through the honest and loving sharing of each partner's feelings. By Tommie Clendenning.

*Friendship in Marriage* discusses techniques essential for a mature and successful marriage. By Kaye Cooper.

### Contact:

The Circles  
P.O. Box 1203  
Arlington, TX 76004-1203



## POEM APPROVED FOR DISTRIBUTION

URANTIA Foundation has given its permission for the distribution of a 630-line, 45-verse poem which begins with the history of Urantia, and moves through its five epochal revelations, through the ages of light and life into the unending universe ages of the future. The poem is available for \$4 which includes non-profit reproduction, covering, and mailing expenses. Contact:

David Glass  
4324 Hulen Circle East  
Fort Worth, TX 76133

### THE SECOND OREGON URANTIA BOOK FAMILY REUNION

Theme: Spiritual Teamwork  
Dates: July 23-25, 1988  
Place: Silver Falls Conference Center  
near Salem, Oregon  
Contact: Nancy Votrain  
P.O. Box 2046  
Corvallis, OR 97339

### DAVID ZEBEDEE AND RUTH

The novel, *David Zebedee and Ruth*, is now available. It is built upon the character of David Zebedee, unsung and faithful business manager, who watched and listened to Jesus from the closest vantage point of any "ordinary" person. They shared daily events as devoted friends, while each centered great affection on the same girl, Ruth—Jesus as a father/brother, David in a slowly blossoming love.

For Jesus and the Twelve, David managed runners, pack animals, tents and campgrounds. A devoted son with a strong sense of family, David knew heartache and a long delay before he could establish a family of his own. Longer still was his journey through the maze of tradition and doubt to a livable faith.

Helena Sprague, the author, has extensively researched historical sources for details of lifestyle, religious practice, family life and customs, and the relations between Roman conquerors and conquered Jews.

The 300 page novel has been printed in a limited, non-profit hardback edition. It is a splendid gift for a teenage or adult friend, whether acquainted with *The URANTIA Book* or not.

Cost: \$12.95 plus \$1.50 postage. (Connecticut residents add \$.95 tax; Outside the USA add \$3.50.) Send check or money order (U.S. dollars) to:

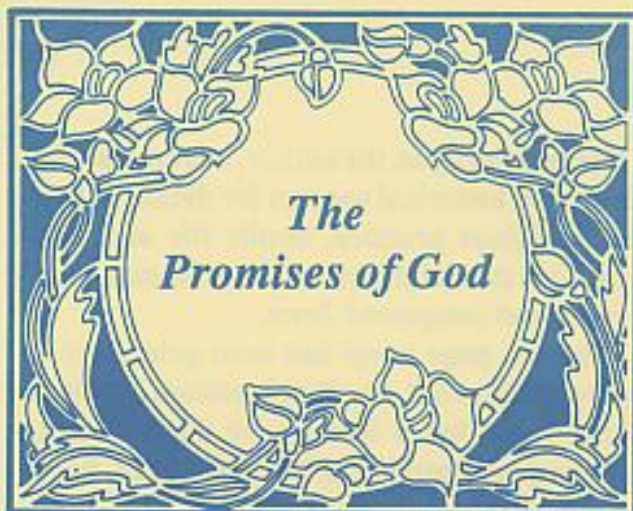
The DAVID PROJECT  
P.O. Box 921  
Farmington, CT 96034

### SOURCES OF MATERIALS

<u>The URANTIA Book</u>	<u>\$22.00</u>
Asoka Foundation P.O. Box 82009 Oklahoma City, OK 73148	
<u>Concordex</u>	<u>\$10.00</u>
<u>Concordex/URANTIA</u>	
<u>Book Set</u>	<u>\$27.50</u>
Center for URANTIA Book Synergy P.O. Box 3915 Santa Barbara, CA 93130	
<u>Case of 5 Concordexes</u>	<u>\$40.00</u>
<u>Paramony</u>	<u>\$10.95</u>
<u>Case of 5 Paramonies</u>	<u>\$40.00</u>
The Jesusonian Foundation 620 12th Street Boulder, CO 80302	







## *The Promises of God*

*Jesus said, "Forget not—it is your personal faith in the exceedingly great and precious promises of God that ensures your becoming partakers of the divine nature." (1609:5/143.2.4 emphasis ours)*

*We are to have faith in God's promises. In fact, it is our faith in those promises which enables us to become more Godlike, to grow in spiritual fruits. It must, therefore, be important for us to know what they are!*

*The Winter 1988 Circles will have as its theme, "The Promises of God." What are these great and precious promises? Choose one or more of God's promises which are very meaningful to you and share your understanding and experience with us.*

*To receive a partial list of God's promises taken from The URANTIA Book, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to us at the address below.*

*Send your articles, poetry or art work by August 1, 1988 to:*

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

### STAFF

Tommie Clendening      John Hyde  
Bill Cooper              Adrienne Jarnagin  
Kaye Cooper             Gene Joyce  
David Glass               Beth McLeod  
Sarah Nachtweh

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## Living the Spiritual Life

By Bill and Kaye Cooper

The spiritual life is a two-fold experience. First it is your experience of sonship with God—a personal, two-way relation with the spirit that lives within you. This relationship is so mind-changing, so behavior-transforming that your relationship with every other person is changed as a result. . . . And that is the second experience which the spiritual life encompasses: your family relationship with your Father's other children. First sonship with God; then familyhood or brotherhood with your brothers and sisters. *Brotherhood is the result of sonship.*

The spiritually mature person is like

the paperclip which one might select from a bowl full of paperclips. When placed in intimate contact with a magnet, it becomes progressively more magnetized. Once returned to the bowl, its relationship with every other paperclip has changed. It now draws the others to it, just as the magnet does. The person who has an experience with God is a changed person. He is spiritually magnetized.

### A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH GOD

When I talk about having an "experience with God," I am not talking primarily



about a dramatic conversion experience such as the apostle Paul had, although on occasion people have these sudden realizations. The experience with God which I am talking about is not a single event but a living, growing, daily blossoming of your friendship with God. This experience is *knowing God as your Father*.

Understanding with your mind the concept that God is your Father is an important first step. But *experiencing* God is quite a different matter. I want you to try an experiment with me. Imagine right now the President of the United States. You have probably never met him personally, but you read or hear on TV the things he says from time to time. You know what he does for a living and what kind of reputation he has as a person.

Now imagine someone you love, an adult you are very close to. Think of the things you enjoy about him or her. Remember what it is like to sit quietly sharing your feelings and thoughts. Think of what a pleasure it is to put your arms around her or him and share a great big hug. Wonderful, isn't it?

Now contrast the two people in your experience: the President you "know about." The second person you "know personally." You experience them—perhaps every day. There is a lot of difference between your experience of the two. The amazing thing is this:

### **There is a *personal experience* with God to be had.**

You can actually know him rather than being limited to knowing about him.

Maybe it seems a little strange to compare knowing God with knowing a material person, but *you can experience God*. Sometimes the feeling of worship is very much like the feeling you would get when you are sharing a great big joyful hug with someone you really love. While you are not able to touch a material body, you can still feel God's presence. You can sense your response to him.

You can also experience his influence in your life through the circumstances which provide opportunities to grow and learn. Have you ever gone through a difficult time and then looked back and said, "Gee, that was rough while it was happening, but I wouldn't trade what I learned for any amount of money." Your Father helps you to learn and grow from such events. If you will be alert, he will turn them into opportunities to make great progress.

### **God Answers Prayer**

You can experience his answers to your prayers. There are times when you may receive immediate and definite answers to your prayers. Have you ever asked God to change your attitude about a person or a situation? If you are willing,



that kind of prayer may be answered within a few moments. You will feel your attitude being transformed.

But frequently it takes time before you realize that your prayers have been answered. Because you are, like all of us, an immature mortal, it is probably hard for you even to recognize the answers to your prayers. There are, no doubt, times when it takes so long for you to grow to the point where you are ready to receive what you asked for, that you may not realize the present event as an answer to that long-ago prayer, and you may not even remember that you made the prayer request.

And then there are those times when your Father smiles and says, "You know not what you ask." But he does not stop there. He gives you what you really need. Once, many years ago I prayed day after day after day for someone I loved. I did not even give any thought to the possibility that I might not know what my loved one needed. I just begged God to give him what I wanted him to have. Well, that was not what he needed. In fact, it would have been disastrous for him, spiritually. *God in his infinite wisdom and grace gave him what he needed.* The result was years of struggle and uncertainty, but the rewards were a life freely and joyfully dedicated to the Father's work and a material existence adequate to enable him to pursue that work.

It was eight or nine years after I had prayed so hard before I recognized that my prayers had been answered—and answered beyond anything my young mind could have imagined.

God answers your prayers with a generosity you may not yet recognize. And you can become more aware of him as you learn to discern his answers.

### **God's Watchcare and Guidance**

Another way in which you can experience your Heavenly Father in your daily life is to recognize his watchcare and guidance. Once you understand that the real and important things of this life are not material but spiritual, you begin to view your life differently. You see that the disasters were only hurtful in a material way. Indeed, you may see that they have been very beneficial spiritually. Given some time, you begin to see the true pattern: *spiritually you are most cherished and nurtured.*

The wise parent does not cushion the toddler's every fall nor stuff the child's mouth full of food before he has even had the opportunity to feel hunger. What he does do is to provide the things the child really needs, such as healthy food, love, opportunities to learn, and protection from truly harmful elements.

This is the same way that God watches over you and provides you with what you



really need. And as you mature, you begin to perceive this truth. Not only can you perceive it, you can take great pleasure in it.

He also gives you his guidance. Certainly you may find guidance in scripture and the example of worthy lives. But beyond these helpful guides, God gives you his personal daily guidance.

Now, I have had people look at me with narrowed eyes when I said that. "But," they say, "God gave me a mind to use. I don't ask God to solve my problems and give me the answers."

No one really wants God to give him all the answers. That would be like someone who, just when you have started a really intriguing riddle, gives you the answer. . . . The riddle is ruined forever.

No, God's guidance is more like that true friend who, when you are totally stumped on a really difficult riddle, gives you *just a little hint*. God guides you, and yet he leaves you totally free to make your own decision, even if it is not the best one, and then he never ever nags or says, "I told you so." God trusts you to learn to choose his way, and consequently he never follows up to make sure you have done so. God is a guide, not an employer or a drill sergeant. He is an unimposing friend who graciously permits you to ignore his advice if you wish.

God's guidance is usually so subtle,

you really have to look hard sometimes to perceive it. And when you look back on it, you wonder if you are fooling yourself about having been assisted.

### Faith

And that brings me to that key element in this whole business of experiencing God: Faith. None of these experiences of God is what is referred to as objective. None can be confirmed by scientific experiment.

But they can be confirmed by *spiritual experiment!* You can step beyond belief to living faith: you can live in faith—feeling God's presence in worship, acknowledging his answers to your prayers, depending upon his watchcare, following his guidance. And your experience will tell you that you are happier, more successful, more aware physically, emotionally, and spiritually, more *alive* than you have ever been before. Your experience will testify to the truth and reality of your relationship with the Father.

Your Father shares your life with you. He is your partner in the faith experience. Your part of faith is to believe that you can know God and to be willing to live your life in intimate association with him. And your Father within you responds with open arms. Your Father confirms even the tiniest flicker of faith.

Faith is that something inside of you



that says, "Even though I'm not yet able to feel God's presence in worship, I *know* that I can grow to experience him. I will keep on trying."

**Faith** says, "Even though it looks like I have made a total mess of my life, I know God will help me transform this disaster into goodness and growth."

**Faith** is his presence within you that strengthens and guides you even though you cannot yet see or hear him.

This faith relationship between the Father and each child is the "kingdom within." This experience between you and your Father is the spiritual seed from which all else meaningful in your life grows. From your personal relationship with your Father will flow your increasing interest in and love for your brothers and sisters. Each one will become uniquely and individually fascinating to you. From this flowering union with God will emanate those transforming fruits of the spirit and those urges to service which you will begin to give expression to. And eventually you, who are a material being of animal origin, will grow into a resemblance to your new family. You will become more and more like your Heavenly Father.

### SERVICE

Serving your fellows is not an onerous duty, not some price you must pay in order

to become "good." Sometimes life is viewed this way, as a battle of wills—your higher will overcoming and controlling your selfish lower will. But such self discipline is not the way you become like your Heavenly Father.

You become more like God because you are attracted by his beautiful nature, you love his bountiful goodness. His poise and mercy inspire you to higher and higher behavior. You long to be like that which you love. Knowing God's nature does not cause you to be like him. But knowing his nature *and loving him* does cause you to become progressively more like him. Out of your personal experience with your Father, arises an urge to serve and to share the joys of this relationship. You become more loving, serving, sustaining, feeling, giving, and forgiving. Service for your brothers and sisters flows naturally from the change within you.

### Fostering Growth

You can foster the this internal change of heart by testing life's every small choice and decision by this standard: "Is the decision I am about to make Godlike?"

You can foster your growth by choosing to live loyally by your highest concepts of truth, beauty and goodness. By the word "loyally," I mean you love that which you value so much that you will readily and reliably choose to foster and support it



even at the expense of your personal, material goals. This is a way of saying with your life, "It is truly my will, my Father, that your will be done." *And it is wanting to do God's will more than you want to do anything else which will unfailingly cause you to become more like your Father.*

You can foster your own growth in God awareness by incorporating simple spiritual growth habits into your life. If you regularly, frequently, and habitually ask to know God's will for you and if you remain alert for indications of his will, you will begin to know God's will for your life. If you also apply yourself to learning about God's nature—intellectually by study and spiritually by communion—then you will be able more accurately to predict and understand his will for you.

#### **The Power of Love**

The desire to do good to others is the essence of God. This is love. God in his infinite plan has given each of his creatures an instinctive response to this kind of unselfish love. *The experience of being loved evokes love as a response.* We love because we have experienced unselfish love. Those we love will desire to give their love. It is an innate response. If you learn to join in God's love for your fellows, then you will be spreading the infectiousness of this desire to do good to others, this

Godlike love.

Modern man does not yet know it, but he has both a capacity and a *need* to express this kind of love. This desire to do good to others—when it becomes our shared experience—will transform our world.

This concept of love as the desire to do good to others is applicable to your relationship with deity also. It sounds strange to say you want to do good to God, but this is exactly what wanting to do God's will is.

Who among us does not long to do at least one thing during this life which will advance truth, beauty, goodness, justice, mercy, fairness, equality, or some other real value. Well, that is a desire to do good to others and that is love. Loving service even to the least of your fellows is loving service to your Father. How grand it will be to be able to look back on your life and say, "I achieved something for God. Thank you, Father, for the opportunity, the boundless assistance, the guidance and the experience of doing something for you."

#### **Love in Action**

Service is a fruit or consequence of your relationship with God and of your growing ability to love others. It is a natural outgrowth of love. When you really feel the desire to do good to others, then you have merely to put your sincere desire into action and you will be serving.



Service which is a fruit of the spirit is not a burden or a duty, obligation or debt. It arises from your desire to do for others, and it is a joy and a reward in itself. *Service is love in action.*

It is impossible to define certain acts as being service because the motive of an act is the real determiner of whether it is true service. **Any unselfish act done for the good of another person is service.** Sometimes service is self-giving; at other times it is self-restraint; but always it is self-forgetful—done for the purpose of benefiting others. Within these bounds, service can be anything from a smile to giving up your life, from sharing your sandwich to sharing the gospel of Jesus, from a minute of prayer for a friend to a life wholeheartedly dedicated to the doing of God's will.

#### **Transformation:**

##### **Personal and Planetary**

Your world can be transformed by love—now. This transformation begins within you. Your transformation is only a realization and a decision away. The *reali-*

*zation* is that you already love others. . . . I say that you love others because already you desire to do good to them. The *decision* is to live your life consistent with that loving desire.

**Living a loving life is the secret.** It is the magic you long for to transform your life and your world—and this will happen if you live the spiritual life loyally and lovingly and allow time and the magic to work.

The spiritual life is based on a simple, basic philosophy of life which, if it is lived loyally, is guaranteed to bring about transformation—first in your life, then to your personal world, and ultimately to the culture of our entire planet.

That philosophy is: Love and worship God. Love and serve your fellows. Have faith in both God and your fellows. Forgive, be unselfish, be merciful as well as just.

*Acceptance of this philosophy of experiential love will bring man to God—and God to man—and in the process, it will bring man to man.*



For further information or to obtain  
copies of this and other pamphlets, write:

## **Spiritual Living**

P.O. Box 461

Arlington, TX 76004-0461