

# The Circles

## Spiritual Springtime

Vol. XIII, No. 1&2

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# URANTIA Book Prophecies of the Coming Age\*

By Bill and Kaye Cooper  
Houston, Texas

*The quotations from The URANTIA Book referenced below can be found in the study notes of this issue.*

In the process of preparing the spiritual springtime Study Notes, we became very interested in the prophecies we were reading. *The URANTIA Book* clearly prophesies that we are now in the midst of great changes which will last for 950 years and result in a new economic and social order. These changes are part of a new and unrevealed planetary destiny, and they *must* take place to avoid cultural disaster. Religion's part in all this change is to become a forceful influence for moral stability and spiritual progress to see mankind through these times of tumultuous change. It is not religion's proper function to be directly involved in the secular work of social reconstruction and economic reorganizations.

The change that is taking place involves a transition from one phase of civilization to another and from one level of culture to another. (1086:6/99.1.3) Furthermore, these social and economic changes will result in lasting brotherhood, but only by the ministry of religion. (1087:1/99.1.4)

During this transition man needs

more than ever before to seek religious guidance. But institutional religion is not the religion which can provide religious guidance, stabilize man's ideals, or bring true and lasting brotherhood. (1087:4/99.2.1) The religion that is up to this necessary task is the real religion of personal religious experience—Jesus' religion. Civilization is presently in crisis, and personal religious experience is essential to a successful passage. The religion of living experience stabilizes civilization by conserving from age to age the worthwhile culture and the wisdom born of the experience of knowing God and striving to be like him. (1088:1/99.2.6)

In order to fulfill its task, the real religion of personal religious experience needs to be proclaimed to all the world, and it needs to be accepted and practiced by many. The book foretells a new and more spiritual dispensation, one in which Jesus' teachings will enjoy fuller development. (1866:4/170.5.21) In the process of the shift into this new dispensation, the substance of the Christian religion will metamorphose into the revived religion of Jesus—the religion of personal religious experience.

Jesus called the beginning of this new dispensation a "spiritual springtime." He said the new dispensation draws near when the long winter of material mindedness is over and we discern the coming of a spiritual springtime. (1915:3/176.2.6) The book says the worst of the materialistic age was already over in 1934. So we are at least past the worst of the winter, and perhaps we have now

begun the springtime. (2076:9/195.6.4)

*The URANTIA Book* describes our planet as "quivering on the very brink of one of its most amazing and enthralling epochs of social readjustment, moral quickening and spiritual enlightenment." And all of this change will be powered by a new and fuller revelation of the religion of Jesus. (2082:7/195.9.2) *This new and fuller revelation is apparently to be made by mortals* since the authors of the book say that new religious leaders are needed who will depend solely on Jesus and his teachings and who are devoted exclusively to the spiritual regeneration of men. (2082:9/195.9.4)

The spirit-born men and women who practice the gospel taught by the new teachers will quickly supply the leadership and inspiration to reorganize the world socially, morally, economically, and politically. The religion of Jesus will not cause these "social readjustments" by converting spiritual groups into political parties or social agencies. Religion influences social changes by spiritualizing the individual citizen who then becomes active in various social, moral, economic and political groups. (1088:4/99.3.3) This is the means by which the "social readjustments" are to be accomplished—by spiritually transformed practitioners of the religion of Jesus.

The religion of Jesus will dominate and transform the practitioners of this new revelation of the gospel. They will dedicate their very lives to seeking knowledge of God's will, and they will direct their energies of living

*See PROPHECIES on page 18.*



# Spiritual Springtime: Study Notes\*

By Bill and Kaye Cooper  
Houston, Texas



(In the following notes, the quoted material appears in italics. Our comments about the reference follow in regular type.)

*Mechanical inventions and the dissemination of knowledge are modifying civilization; certain economic adjustments and social changes are imperative if cultural disaster is to be avoided. This new and oncoming social order will not settle down complacently for a millennium. The human race must become reconciled to a procession of changes, adjustments, and readjustments. Mankind is on the march toward a new and unrevealed planetary destiny. (1086:4/99.1.1)*

Cultural disaster would probably entail a significant loss of the evolutionary achievement of mankind. A lot of social change has happened since 1934, when *The URANTIA Papers* were completed. There is really no way to know whether this change is part of the solution or part of the problem. It is likely that some of the change is in each category. We can be fairly sure that if economic and social changes are imperative to avoid disaster, then the spiritual government of the planet is working to achieve the changes. Also, to the extent we can discern the spiritual goals, we should cooperate with them, not resist, resent, or regret.

We are probably 50 years into a 1000 year cycle of social change. Skills in coping with change, adjustment and readjustment will be important. This quote says mankind is on the march to a new and unrevealed planetary destiny. That suggests

that the plans for this planet have been altered. It also suggests that the destiny of this planet is not described in *The URANTIA Book*.

*Religion must become a forceful influence for moral stability and spiritual progression functioning dynamically in the midst of these ever-changing conditions and never-ending adjustments. (1086:5/99.1.2)*

Since religion must be a significant part of the disaster prevention program, the necessary religious regeneration needs to occur early in the 1000 year cycle. This regeneration or reformation of religion is the spiritual springtime. It is safe to assume that the spiritual regeneration of the planet has been planned and instituted by the spiritual government of the planet. *The URANTIA Book* is probably the record which provides the factual information needed. It was probably provided at the onset of the 1000 years well in advance of its widespread appeal so that the new teachers of the new religion could find the book and determine what their mission and their message is. Spiritual government is not Laissez Faire. There are plans and even time schedules to be met.

*...the soul of man, as never before in the world's history, needs carefully to scrutinize its charts of morality and painstakingly to observe the compass of religious guidance. The paramount mission of religion as a social influence is to stabilize the ideals of mankind during these dangerous times of transition from one phase of civilization to another, from one level of culture to*

*another. (1086:6/99.1.3)*

The change which has already started is a phase change of civilization and culture. A social effect of religion is to stabilize ideals in the midst of change and transition. There is evidence that people in the United States already need and even already recognize their need for something to believe in which will carry them through the storms and turmoil of change all about them. It is also easy to see that not many are turning to formalized religion for this stability. Until the real religion—the gospel religion of Jesus—is proclaimed to them, perhaps it is best that the world should not know that they need religious guidance more than mankind has needed it in our million-year history. And perhaps it is best that they not know yet that the present storm of economic and

*See NOTES on page 18.*

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*\*Quotations used in this magazine (unless otherwise indicated) are from The URANTIA Book, Copyright © 1955 by URANTIA Foundation, all rights reserved, and are used by permission. Interpretations and opinions expressed in the articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of URANTIA Foundation.*

*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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# Signs of the Season\*

By Brad Tharp  
Kansas City, Missouri



The "Spiritual Springtime" is a season—a season evolved through the love and service of millions of brothers and sisters. Despite the continued suffering of many of God's children—a plague of sin caused by fear, greed, and anger—we are surrounded by millions, even billions, of God-seekers: seekers who each have a unique expression of love and forgiveness, who each have a personal contribution to truth, beauty, and goodness.

"It is forever true: The past is unchangeable, only the future can be changed by the ministry of the present creativity of the inner self." (1221:1/111.4.14)

Humankind's social order is both a reflection and a cause of our spiritual evolution. Today, there are so many individuals and organizations whose sole purpose is helping others: physically, socially, and spiritually—to be about their Father's business. This season's technologies of

communication and transportation are being used to focus the world's attention on the many causes of human suffering—to isolate and identify natural disasters, war, religious bigotry, racism, sexism, nationalism, and greed, to name but a few. These technological tools are being used by God-seekers and Kingdom-believers to serve others, both near at hand and around the globe.

"...the later celestial supervisors

## Springtime

By Diane L. Holland  
Richardson, Texas

**S**ow fields of love this season, like seedlings sprout and bloom.  
**P**raise God, our lives find reason, as he nurtures, shapes and grooms.  
**R**each out to each new morning, with arms spread wide to say,  
**I** thank you, God, for forming a world of brand new days.  
**N**ew doors to you will open as you walk this earthly path.  
**G**o forth with strength and coping. His love will be your staff.  
**T**ake time to thank our Father for gifts he bids us share.  
**I**nto a quiet hour, give thanks with every prayer.  
**M**an soon will learn to do these things. God's love will be the reason.  
**E**ach day for him can be like Spring, a fresh and love-filled season.



of this planet express complete confidence in the ultimate evolutionary triumph of the human race and in the eventual vindication of our original plans and life patterns." (736:7/65.5.4)

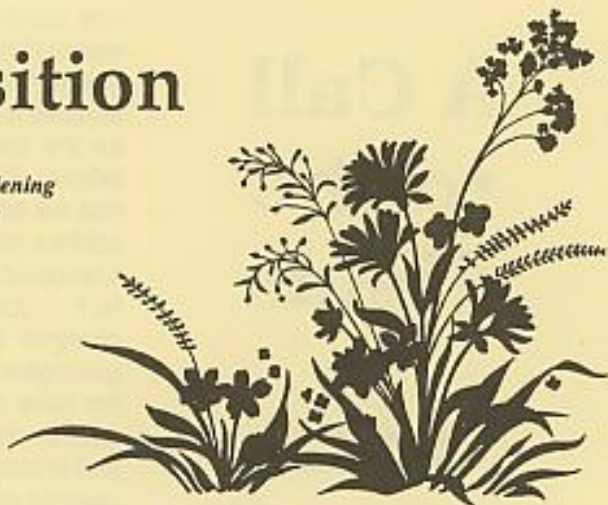
Consider: (1) a recent Gallup poll showing 95% of Americans believe in God, (2) the recent about-face of nuclear confrontation policies and the reduction of armies and nuclear weapons by the two superpowers, (3) the European free-trade economy planned for 1992, (4) the internationalization of ALL industrialized economies, (5) the internal pressures for democratization of the two largest countries in the world—recent enemies who are becoming neighbors for the first time in history, (6) the immediate international response to earthquakes, nuclear disaster, famine, and flood.

We all know dozens of other signs of the season—this spiritual springtime—signs of humankind reaching for God and for each other. We also know that even in the springtime it can snow, hail, flood, and blow. But truly I can smell the freshness of the spring. I can hear the wondrous sounds of the awakening. I can feel the quickening pulse of this season of growth and vitality.

Seek not the shadows nor despair over travails yet ahead. It is absolutely true that the Son is shining stronger and longer than he ever has on Urantia; that his children are responding to the life-giving Son-shine of his love. We are growing toward light and life. "...you should be wise regarding the ripening of an age; you should be alert to the signs of the times. You know when the fig tree shows its tender branches and puts forth its leaves that summer is near. Likewise, when the world has passed through the long winter of material-mindedness and you discern the coming of the spiritual springtime of a new dispensation, should you know that the summertime of a new visitation draws near." The Master speaking to Peter. (1915:3/176.2.6)«

# Transition

By *Tommie Clendening*  
Allen, Texas



Dear Heavenly Father,

What if—through your efforts—the paranoid, defensive, materially-based and clinging mind-set suddenly became obsolete? What if our huge arsenals, armies, navies, and military support systems became unnecessary? I mean, what if everyone became comfortable with letting that country over there be the way it wants to be, even if it isn't the way we are? We will have to begin to deal with the fact that life will become easier for us with goods it has which we do not. In order to come to workable, mutually-satisfying trade relations, we will have to work at understanding each other and our motives—no matter how different. Some cultures are so different from each other in their backgrounds and naturally acquired expectations that just finding a common ground for understandability will be quite complex. Is this, right now, the dawning of a spiritual springtime? I wonder?

What will we do with all the weapons, the soldiers, and their support paraphernalia—all these left-overs of fear-based material mind-set? Can we understand our brother's motives and accept him where and as he is, with the expectation that he, too, is attempting to release the material mind-set and fear? Do we have the courage to bare our souls? Is trust possible when our cultures are so different? Give all of us your help in these

matters, Father; and in particular, guide and inspire all the world's leaders to lead for the benefit of all the world's peoples.

What can we say to our former enemies? Do we say, "How can you feel the way you seem to? Can we ever understand you?" Are we willing to put forth the immense effort to attempt to understand? Are they? Will we ask them to form mutually supporting systems for cleaning up the mess we've made of our earth? Will this newly-begun attempt at understanding develop into the intelligent compassion necessary on all sides to end man's physical suffering as he sojourns here? What about the mental suffering? Have either of us developed techniques to aid in these and will we share them for the benefit of all? What if their techniques are so different that they are not provable by our beloved scientific method? Will we be open-minded enough to develop new, broader-based methods of understanding? Again, in all these things, Father, we need your guidance and your support.

Whewwww! This new accepting way of living may not be easy. I was very comfortable the way things were. At least I knew what to expect.

Father, please grant us the serenity, patience and strength to continue on this new path. Help all of us adjust comfortably to these new ways. Give us the insights that will

See *TRANSITION* on page 7.

# A Call to the Fields

By Kate Gentry  
Houston, Texas



Springtime conjures up images of fresh-tilled earth, moist from the melting snow; fields of neatly-turned earth, fresh from the blade of the plow. Then there is the barely perceptible hint of green that suggests the growth taking place beneath the surface. The new shoots are striving to meet the sun, struggling upward in search of its life-giving warmth. In the cycle of the year spring follows winter. A period of growth and vibrant life follows the dormant winter which is still, cold, and without growth.

Can we draw a parallel with our spiritual lives? If a spiritual springtime is approaching, then we must be living in spiritual winter. This must be a period of no growth, disillusionment, disenchantment. Is it so?

To determine the current season we must backtrack. Just as spring follows winter, so does winter follow autumn. And we did have our glori-

ous autumn. The golden age of materialism with its bright colors and shining moments was upon us. We revelled in its glow, patting ourselves on the back for being such clever fellows. We rested in the realization that we had such intelligence, such abilities to control our environment. Man could control his world. Or could he? Just as nature's autumn changes as the brilliant reds and golds give way to dismal brown when the rains come, so did our spiritual autumn change. We began to realize that in controlling his world man was causing damage. We began to see that cleverness is no substitute for caring about our fellowman. Disillusionment followed disillusionment as we learned truths about our leaders and those we respected and admired. The colors of our glorious autumn began to fade and winter settled upon our souls.

During this spiritual winter many have become disenchanting with their spiritual lives. They have rejected the teachings of their childhoods and regressed into shells. They live their lives without benefit of deep meanings or true commitments. Their days are devoid of joy, completely lacking in spiritual comfort. These children of winter are missing something. Their souls long to bask in the sunshine of God's love. They crave the warmth of true spiritual caring. They cannot find their way. Their souls are like tightly-curved embryonic plants trapped in the seed casing. They want to grow, but they can do little on their own.

What can be done? We can act as springtime facilitators. We can prepare the land for the coming spring. We can till the earth to be ready to accept the seeds of truth. We can open the earth to the sunshine and warmth of true caring. We can live our lives in such a way that light will be poured out upon the land. We can begin our work right now to insure that when the time of harvest arrives it will be a plentiful harvest.

Springtime has ever been the

season of promise, the time of renewal, the resurgence of vitality. Spiritual springtime offers the same promise — all the barren aspects of our lives will be stripped away and replaced with the vibrant, living truths of the love of God for all his children. The possibilities are so exciting.

We are seeing evidence of spiritual springtime all around us. People all over the world are struggling to free themselves from the bondage of spiritual winter. The people are searching for answers. They have deep desires to live free and with dignity. They are searching for meanings and truths. Never before has our world been so ready for the truth of the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man.

The call has gone out for the laborers. We have been called to the fields to plant, to nurture, to protect. Springtime is not without its threats. The tiny seedlings must endure buffeting by strong winds, drenching by heavy rains, lack of proper sunlight. Protecting the seedlings must fall to those who are willing to stand in the fields. Each truth seeker must have a teacher. Springtime would be meaningless without those who are willing to plant the seeds and nurture their growth.

In the parable of the sower, Jesus reminded his apostles that their efforts to spread the news of the kingdom would meet with varying degrees of success. Perhaps we should consider this and plant our truth seeds where there has been some preparation to receive them. Certainly we can share truth with any who will listen, but we will find a better reception in someone who is already seeking after truth. There are many people whom we will encounter in our day-to-day lives who have started their search. They have already made a personal commitment to improve their spiritual lives. Here is the fertile ground. If planted in these prepared minds a small kernel of truth will quickly take root and grow, enabling the recipient to accept even

more truth.

How do we plant these truth seeds? We can share our knowledge of the true gospel of Jesus, portray the nature of our loving Father, illustrate our belief in the brotherhood of man, manifest loving kindness, demonstrate patience and understanding, pattern a search for truth, beauty, and goodness. As we go about our daily lives, let's look for freshly-turned earth willing to bear a seed of truth.

And once planted, that seed must not be abandoned. We must be willing to share a part of our lives with those who need us. We must be willing to illuminate the points we have made. We must not hide our lights. We must let them shine forth giving warmth and inspiring others to shine forth. Then as the light of spiritual springtime begins to grow, we will see the approach of glorious summer and the maturing of the fruit whose seeds we are planting so carefully in these early days of spring."

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*TRANSITION from page 5.*

truly bring the feelings of brotherhood.

Help our fledgling attempts to begin to understand life from the less self-centered point of view. The glimpse of the awesome potential of mankind working and developing a new culture from this viewpoint is breath-taking. Could it ever really be? When my mind dares to picture this, the old habit-pattern of fear is still so close, threatening to slam shut the door! Can we share the fact that we all feel this way—individuals, governments, and nations? Old habits are hard to change. Will we each be willing to make the personal investments required to make these changes established and permanent? Instability is not comfortable. But it seems less threatening if I know others feel it, too.

Can we acknowledge and accept our mutual vulnerability, and

dare to begin to share our feelings? Like the first warm spell of spring—will there be another killing frost or will the days continue to get warmer and the seedlings so carefully and lovingly set out flourish? These can be scary, unsettling times, until we grow to the point of trusting in you and your plan to release fear and self-

consciousness and begin to live in your kingdom one day at a time, becoming your trusting, loving servants wherever we are, whoever we are with.

Will we learn to attune to your very subtle guidance, Father? The dawn of spiritual springtime? Now? Maybe it is up to us. "

## **Truth Farmers**

*I sat on the brow of a hill today  
And watched the farmer a field away.  
As he opened the land to receive the seed,  
I noticed a young boy following his lead.*

*They turned the land to let in the sun  
And they dropped in the seeds one by one.  
Then the spirit of springtime entered my heart  
And I climbed down the hill to go do my part:*

*I'll sow seeds of truth wherever I walk  
And to all who will listen, I'll take time to talk.  
I'll tell them of the love of our Father  
And I'll help when I can because it's no bother.*

*The seeds that I plant I'll nurture and love,  
And I'll hold them up to the light from above.  
The fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man  
Are the truths that I'll teach whenever I can.*

*Come be a truth farmer, too.  
There's room for many more like you.  
The fields, they are many, the laborers few,  
But on earth no greater work can we do.*

*By Kate Gentry  
Houston, Texas*





# Awakening

*By Ronald L. Besser  
Carmel, New York*

I have no doubt that the first few hints of the approaching spiritual springtime have been given. Some may be surprised that it should be so, but the spiritual awakening, so long hoped for, gathers strength in its hour even against the persistent floodtide of the old regime.

Just how a spiritual spring can be accomplished is bound to be controversial even after it is well established. To me, however, it should not be a point of serious controversy that at its root is the creative influence of the Thought Adjuster in cooperation with the other spiritual influences and presences. Controversy is always possible among clearly experiencing but different perspectives, but there is needless controversy introduced when confusion is injected through, for one example, expectations that are not fulfilled in the midst of great spiritual change.

I have difficulty in understanding, even among *The URANTIA Book* readership, why so many place so much emphasis on the Teacher for his example rather than on the self—the student and his Thought Adjuster. Since it is the Adjusters who sit astride our "withinness," it can be safely assumed, aside from ourselves, that it is our Adjusters who are in the most immediate and persuasive control of our minds, the realm of decisions. The Mystery Monitor with his varying degrees of contact affects our commissions and omissions of choice which supremely condition our circle progressions.

And as regards our circle attainment, we are relatively unaware of those spiritual accomplishments in ourselves. But it is through circle attainment that our springtimes develop into recognizable refinements of the self. Many of you, I believe, are

"there;" that is, you have completed much of the preliminary work of full circle attainment and are on the brink of the sudden and dramatic evolutionary steps of Adjuster awareness.

The Christ in his mortal career demonstrated the path to our individual and personal springtime through an iron-clad dedication of self to doing the will of the Father on earth. Who knows just how he would have expressed his reasons for that dedication in today's terms (especially post-revelatory), but it is obvious that this particular son of man knew, somehow, that no other mystery in human life held the promise of the full flower of so many satisfactions when

solved. His factual circle attainment culminated in Adjuster contact. Whatever the length of the contact period was, the end to the mortal part of the Creator Son's career was signalled by the detachment and departure of that Adjuster from the divine mind.

Likewise, we do not have on public record how, or in what way, the Adjuster mindedness of Joseph's eldest was experienced by the mortal, Joshua Ben Joseph. Perhaps it is too personal to discuss and, as a courtesy, is not presented. Or, more likely, the omission is because the descriptive material of direct Adjuster contact is unique to the individual; hence, it is not especially helpful to us

*See AWAKENING on page 22.*

## Renewal of Self

*By Jeannine Izquierdo  
Houston, Texas*



Springtime comes once a year. A newness is in the air, flowers are in bloom, and the old is renewed. There is a "springtime" in our lives that we can experience as many times as we choose, depending upon our willingness to let the Father work through us. It is our spiritual springtime. It is experienced as we expand our consciousness and become more aware of our oneness with the Father.

To me, spiritual springtime is the healing of self when a burden has been lifted and a deep feeling of release comes over us. What we prayed for, meditated on, or visualized has come to pass. The gift has been granted. It can manifest very slowly or it can be instantaneous. It is the renewal of self. As we are willing to venture towards "home," to surrender ourselves unconditionally to the Father, to see each experience with the eyes of God, we can have many renewals of self. It is more fulfilling and rewarding each time. Our consciousness expands to



greater heights. This is my version of "Joie de Vivre," to live each moment with praise and "thankfuls," to live each day with excitement and joyful expectation in the Father's love.

My renewal of self came in March, 1989. After several years away from my country, I returned home to France where I was born. The relationship with my mortal father had to be renewed. As long as I can remember, he had always been my greatest teacher and my greatest adversary. We practically never saw eye-to-eye. Through the years, because of the differences, I had gone home as seldom as possible. The gap widened by time had to be narrowed. I prayed to the Father, visualized the relationship in a new way, and meditated for the healing of our hurts and misunderstandings. No matter what the outcome, I had to see my earthly father as the being of love that he is, for his sake as much as for mine.

After a lengthy plane trip, I reached my destination. However, due to some mix-ups, no one was at the airport to meet me, and I proceeded home. I remember going through the door. My father, standing tall and straight, did not look a day older except for his white hair. Instantly we hugged and a deep warm, loving feeling surrounded us. I felt the love we had never expressed, the closeness we had never shared. The oneness was not in the sense of father and daughter, but the spiritual connection of one being with another. The miracle had occurred. My prayers were answered.

As the days went on, we communicated and shared as never before. I saw him in a different light, in a loving, understanding way. For the first time, I saw him as God sees him. I blessed my shortcomings as well as his. I knew I had forgiven myself for all my wrongdoings as I had forgiven him for all the things he should have done and didn't. Our relationship was new again. My spiritual springtime was in bloom. My father is 78

years "young." I may not be at his side when he leaves for the mansion worlds, but I know he will be at peace. We had learned the lesson.

As I remember, my spiritual winter was long and harsh, doubtful at times, with ups and downs, setbacks, tears and hurts. Not for a moment did my faith in the Father waiver. Not for a moment did my prayers cease. I was willing to let the Spirit work through me. Many times

I called on the Father. I also thanked him for all the steps great and small accomplished along the way. I believe I have not yet arrived at my destination or my spiritual summer as I define it. Then again, I have no desire to limit myself; there is so much I do not comprehend, that I cannot grasp. The Father in his infinite wisdom may grant me the experience of a spiritual summer in this lifetime. Then, so be it."

## **A Good Way To Live Our Lives**

**One law the Master shared with all of us;  
One precept that surpasses every thought:  
He taught that men in timeless brotherhood  
Are sons of one true Father. Truth has sought**

**To be the center of our outward love:  
The truth of mortal sonship with our God;  
The global and the universal truth  
That gives us heav'nly glory. We have trod**

**Upon this planet several years and seen  
It's gaping ironies and unjust sorrow;  
But we do know that should we now proclaim  
God's timeless truths, there will be a tomorrow**

**In which the conflicts of our present globe  
Can be refashioned in a better light,  
In which the Father's bidding will be done.  
Then Truth shall spread its beams and bright**

**New energies for loving restoration  
Of all that on our world has gone awry.  
And in this blessed service all shall join,  
Transforming earth beneath the Father's sky.**

**It is an opportunity to serve:  
To live our lives proclaiming Jesus's truth,  
That all may be ingathered to his heart  
And nevermore shall brothers stand aloof.**

**By David Glass  
Fort Worth, Texas**

# Adventures in Spiritual Living\*

By Kaye and Bill Cooper

Kate Gentry

Jeannine Izquierdo

Adrienne and Jim Jarnagin

Ted and Sharon Lanier

Ed and Sarah Nachtweh

Skip and Carol Weatherford

The fragrance of the coming Spiritual Springtime is even now discernible. Daily there are more and more people who are seeking spiritual answers to the questions raised by their daily lives. More and more do we see our brothers turning their faces to the true spirit of Jesus' gospel, the true meaning of his portrayal of our Father as a loving, merciful and accessible friend of every person.

The Adventures in Spiritual Living Team was formed to develop a program that will help adventures program attendees to learn how to experience a very close relationship with the Father. Each Adventures Team member has made a commitment to explore techniques for deepening the relationship with the Father and to share these techniques with others.

The initial team spent almost a year designing a program to be presented at The Adventures in Spiritual Living Retreat at Mo Ranch in October, 1989. They learned many things from their preparations: making group decisions through consensus processes rather than through majority rule, seeking and being receptive to help from our unseen friends, involving Michael and our Father in every step of the process. They learned to value each other's talents and motives even while recognizing deficiencies and flaws. They learned to listen with their hearts, to be receptive to ideas without barriers or arguments, and they learned to accept and pool their guidance. Each exercise that was to be presented at the retreat was tested, improved, and tested again. With each testing, new insights into God's readiness to be personally and ac-

tively involved in every person's life were learned.

The retreat itself was a moving experience. The participants still describe it as illuminating and uplifting, even life-changing. They walked away with a better awareness of their relationships with our Father. The Adventures Team was pleased beyond their expectations. They yearned to bring this experience to still more people. A new and larger group was born, augmented by some participants in the first retreat.

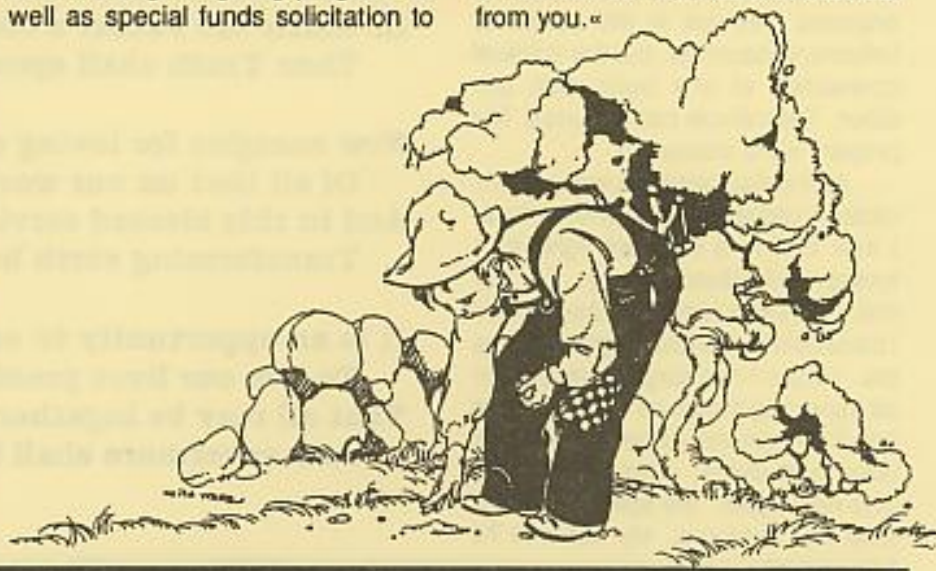
The Adventures Team members have committed a portion of their time, energy, and resources to bringing this type of experience to anyone who seeks it. The team has evolved into an on-going association of God-loving individuals whose goal is to serve the God-seeking. The plans at present include four more retreats in 1990. There are various printed materials that will be made available soon. Ideas for new projects occur much more rapidly than they can be implemented. Plans are underway to initiate a regular giving program as well as special funds solicitation to

support out-of-pocket expenses for publication and travel related to the programs.

We are excited about what we are doing. We see our activities as a part of the coming spiritual springtime. We feel that teaching the good news of the kingdom to our brothers and sisters and assisting them in establishing a closer relationship with our Father will enhance their perception of the spiritual opportunities that are available to them. This in turn will bring about spiritually uplifting events in their lives.

The joy of this type of spiritual sharing uplifts our lives. If each of us shares his joy with others and they with others, soon our planet will be bathed in the joy of spiritual attainment. Then the spiritual springtime can begin in earnest and lead our planet to what is promised as "one of its most amazing and enthralling epochs." (2082:7/195.9.2)

If you would like more information about our group, please write to Adventures in Spiritual Living in care of *The Circles*. We would love to hear from you. "





# Pioneers

By John Malaby  
Hancock, Maine

Just what is this so called spiritual springtime? I believe it is a form of awakening from the depths of material despair, when the person first begins to realize that he or she is a spirit in a body and not the other way around.

Are we entering the spiritual springtime? Perhaps, we are on an individual basis. At least, it feels that way to me.

Do each of us have a spiritual springtime in our lives? Yes, I believe so, and for *URANTIA Book* readers the beginning may be marked by the realization (which occurs over and over and over again as we progress) that what *The URANTIA Book* is introducing us to may be more real than the reality that we perceive with our five senses.

What are the signs of a spiritual springtime? For me, it is a desire to do the will of the heavenly Father and to make a commitment to Michael of Nebadon to do whatever I can to help steer the planet toward the era of light and life. It is doubly important for us to do something on an individual basis—whatever it is we feel strongest about. The beauty of this is that we are individuals and each and every one of us is going to have a different idea about what he should do.

What can we do to aid the coming of the spiritual springtime and summer? All we can do is find our own sense of purpose and then try to find a way to apply ourselves to that goal, even if it is going to take an entire lifetime to achieve. In fact, especially if it is going to take that long!

What is the spiritual summer? Perhaps, it is when you have moved through all the doubting and entered the atmosphere of pure belief. Perhaps it is when the book itself is just a book, but the information that came from it has been transformed by and through your unique personality until it becomes a part of you—a "living reality!" In essence, you become a spokesman for the fifth epochal revelation and the important concepts contained therein

## Mother Courage

Mother Courage, be not afraid  
In times of tribulation, be not dismayed  
The triumphs will come as the circles are attained  
Seasons of summers follow storm-clouds of rain.

And what lies ahead is the mystery to face  
Trust in the Lord and grow in His grace  
Cling not to the past, for yesterdays die  
But sure as the new morn, reach to the sky  
And stretch to the heavens  
Vast galaxies on high  
Upward and onward and inward - so try  
To shed the old garment, leave it behind  
The Father of Forever is our future - so find

The pathway beyond, full of wonder and glory  
The home of the brave is our saviour's story  
And as we break through and gain greater ground  
We delight in His love  
In His love we are found  
We delight in His love  
As we go 'round and 'round  
We delight in His love  
In His love, in His love  
We delight in His love  
In His love.



By K. Brendi Poppel  
Santa Barbara, California

without having to use the book itself or quote from its pages.

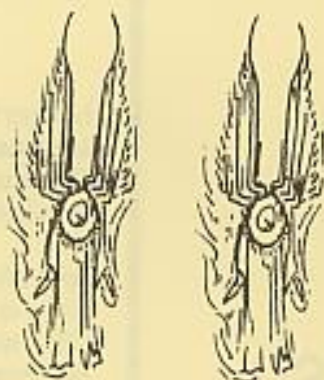
I believe this awakening is similar to what many *URANTIA Book* readers go through when they finally become aware of their spiritual essence, of their connection to the spiritual hierarchy, and of their commitment to the goals which that hierarchy has for this planet. In essence, what we are talking about is a new form of reality, a new way of thinking and believing, a new form of knowledge that goes far beyond the norm on this planet, at this point in time. This actually comprises a kind of vigorous re-education of the mind of an individual. The biggest obstacle to this new point of view is our own built-in form of ignorance and arrogance, which is always with us, almost like a ball and chain.

Does a new visitation mean another bestowal? I believe that *The URANTIA Book* is here in place of a bestowal, and that what we do with the information that we glean from it is most important. In my mind, it is up to all of us (you, me and everyone who reads the book) to take some kind of responsibility on themselves. Of

See *PIONEERS* on page 12.

# 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)**

"Angels are powers which transcend the logic of our existence."

Let us imagine a message from our Guardian Seraphim about love: Love, our dear ones, is the most important gift of the universe. Love is the giving of gifts in time and effort. Love doesn't always seem appropriate, but it is the way to go—to live—to be. You seem almost to forget about the virtues of its gifts when you are confronted with a situation which challenges you to share love beyond what you are capable of giving. That is the measure of how much you ap-

*PIONEERS from page 11.*

preciate love for its own sake. course, this is not something that can be forced on anyone, but I do believe that those of us who understand and accept this responsibility should own up to it. What form that takes is up to each and every one of us.

However, I am sure that each person accepting his responsibility would eventually create an army of artists, writers, actors, musicians, businessmen—you name it. People from all walks of life will choose to allow the messages in *The URANTIA Book* to come through their own personalities and be transformed into something more palatable to the masses. I am not speaking of *The URANTIA Book* being repeated or whole paragraphs memorized. I am talking about readers transforming themselves and then setting about helping to affect those people around them in whatever manner they are

preciate love for its own sake.

Love is all there is. Love is everything that we are. Love brings love to life. You can't forget about love when you know the value of love of itself. Ask yourself these questions: What is love and how shall we spend it? Why save love until the right time?

Use love and it continues to grow. No one forgets true love extended to them. Love comes by and shows the way you would want to be. Love always wins. Love never loses its appeal to any age nor in any adventure. Love belongs to all and comes from all.

*(See Parenting column for examples of love beyond our capabilities.)*

able. More often than not, this will occur in subtle, not direct ways.

Of course, something like this could take a lifetime to fully develop into something significant. It took eighteen years in my particular case. That may seem like a long time to us, but don't forget that this perception of time is only from the finite point of view and therefore quite in contrast to the viewpoint which *The URANTIA Book* is urging us to take in our outlook upon things on this plane.

My personal commitment to Michael has to do with using my writing skills in his name, to form organizations dedicated to doing his will. These are his companies, and whatever function they perform will be done in his name. I have been saying this over and over for years now, but this is the first time I have ever written it down so others can read it. It feels

good, and makes it that much more difficult to avoid owning up to my word!

Furthermore, there is no doubt in my mind that we are the vehicles through which the fifth epochal revelation is going to be revealed to the world. It will not be through the book itself, but through you and me, that the messages of *The URANTIA Book* are spread throughout the world. How we do that is up to us to determine on an individual basis. If we all do our bit, then there will be thousands of ways in which the revelation spreads. What comes about must come through us, since it is fairly obvious that the majority of the world is not ready at this point in time to commit themselves to the book itself. We all have our separate opinions about this, of course, but I believe that all of us must become the "living reality" of the book.

We would be falling in line with the spiritual hierarchy. They are there to help us; and we, in turn, would be helping them do their jobs. From this partnership, the power that can be tapped is unlimited and far, far beyond what we could do on our own! But, there is one important ingredient that must go along with this concept—pure and simple belief. That is one of the goals of the fifth epochal revelation: to get us to believe in the reality that our spiritual brethren represent.

Naturally, this is not something that is going to happen overnight. It takes time to transcend all of our finite concepts, and this is what we have to go about doing in order to get to that point where we are able at least to consider the reality of the infinite—not that we can understand it, or anything having to do with it for that matter. Only that we are willing to open our minds to the possibilities that it lays before us. As we know, those possibilities are without end, absolute, and far, far beyond our ability to comprehend.

What does it take to get to this level of comprehension? We can start with humility. We must get off

our high horses and realize that we know almost nothing in the larger context. We are here to learn and grow, not to think we know everything. Being adults means almost nothing to our more important spiritual growth.

Everything we know must be put in the proper perspective; that, in itself, is quite a job, especially in light of what the fifth epochal revelation is trying to teach us. We must not take it lightly lest we forget that it is the most profound piece of literature on the planet. The revelation is allowing each of us to re-educate ourselves, with it as the basis of that education. Whatever is going on, it is pretty amazing when you take the time to step back and see it from afar. This process is going on inside each and every one of us at this very moment in time. Perhaps this is what the spiritual springtime is all about: readers of this revelation ready to believe with all our hearts and souls what *The URANTIA Book* is saying to us.

When we are without doubt whatsoever, there is a beginning for each and every one of us. Perhaps that beginning is our individual spiritual springtime.

One thing I am sure of, however, is that we are pioneers, and like all pioneers we will have hardships and disappointments along the way. But there is little that anyone can do to dissuade us from our beliefs when those beliefs have become our way of life. In reading *The URANTIA Book* over and over again, we gain knowledge and form our belief systems. These belief systems border on transcending the finite point of view—if only here and there. Eventually, what becomes real to us is the “transcendental” which allows us to ignore all the false, finite-oriented perceptions under which most of us labor for much of our lives.

What is left for us to believe in? Our own unlimited potential, perhaps? My feeling is that we have not even come close to recognizing the potential that all human beings har-

*See PIONEERS on page 17.*

## Tidbits

Communication is discouraged by the attitude, “I’m okay and you’re not okay.”

Communication is encouraged by the attitude, “I’m okay and you’re okay” or “I’m not okay and you’re not okay, but that’s okay.”

There is nothing noble about being superior to somebody else, but there is true nobility in being superior to your previous self.

Contributed by Rich Keeler, Evanston, Wyoming

### PREPARATION FOR THE SPIRITUAL SPRINGTIME?

“...1989 was a vintage year for democracy. The Freedom House survey monitors political rights and civil liberties in 167 nations and 58 territories, classifying each as 'Free,' 'Partly Free' or 'Not Free.' Of the earth's 5.2 billion people, 2 billion, or 39 percent, now live in freedom; 1.2 billion, or 22 percent, live in Partly Free societies; 2 billion, or 30 percent, are Not Free. For the first time in the 18-year history of the survey, more countries are free (61) than Not Free (59).”

U.S. News & World Report, Jan. 8, 1990

### Let Us Join In Prayer\*

*“When a group engages in community prayer for moral enhancement and spiritual uplift, such devotions are reactive upon the individuals composing the group; they are all made better because of participation . . . . Confession, repentance, and prayer have led individuals, cities, nations, and whole races to mighty efforts of reform and courageous deeds of valorous achievement.” (999:5191.5.2)*

We invite you to join us for the next few months to pray daily or weekly, as you prefer, on the following topic. (We would be happy to have your suggestions for future topics.)

### Prayer

**Father, help us to realize the importance of our role in the coming spiritual springtime. Give us the energy and the power to reach as many of our brothers as want to hear the good news of the true gospel of Jesus.**



# PARENTING

By Gene Joyce  
Richardson, Texas

## Estrangement

Who has not been confronted with an opportunity to share and show love that is clearly beyond his or her capability? By this I mean a situation which calls for more love to be demonstrated than you are willing to give. However, if you consider the importance of love for its own sake, upon reflection you will see the necessity for acting above and beyond your first instincts. I had such an experience this Christmas.

I dearly love my daughter who is currently attached to a man whom I do not admire or respect in any way. For the past nineteen years she and I have always been invited for Christmas Day by some very dear friends, but this year the invitation was not extended to her friend. They had met him last summer at a swimming party at their home and after making several attempts to get to know him said, "We do not trust that man. He seems to have very low ethical standards. We would love to have Lisa for Christmas, but we do not want him in our home."

When Lisa asked what I was doing for Christmas Eve, I knew that I must invite both of them for supper and also come up with an appropriate present for him. She is very loyal and would not have come if he had not been included. This story has not run its course, but I am glad I chose not to become estranged from my daughter. I am convinced that neither Lisa nor her boy friend was

aware of how much effort I put into that evening. To that extent it was a qualified success. Maybe next time I can come up with some genuine good will toward him.

How do we let estrangements come about? Remember "parenting" — being a parent or being a child — goes on for life. Recently I heard of a sad case which might have been prevented. It involves three generations. My very dear friends Sam and Julie and their two children are an ideal family — loving, disciplined, and quite intelligent. Incidentally, Julie had five miscarriages and premature births before she successfully gave birth to John and Catherine who are now twelve and fourteen. You can imagine how much both parents appreciate the blessing of their children and how dedicated they are to raising them with love and wisdom.

Sam's mother died this past year after a long, painful illness and scarcely six months later the grand-

father chose to remarry. This was an emotional shock to Sam and Julie, but to make matters worse the bride-to-be requested "no children at the wedding." I don't know if the family had had a chance to get to know the prospective bride or if Sam talked to his father about the stipulation of no children at the wedding. Julie did say, "I wondered what kind of woman this was who didn't want her husband's grandchildren at the ceremony." The upshot of all this was that none of them went to the wedding, and now there is an ongoing estrangement. The children have not seen their grandfather since and, of course, the longer this state of affairs exists, the more hurt and resentment accumulates.

I recently met the children, John and Catherine, and they are the most charming, gracious young people imaginable. What a loss for everyone! It is easy for an outsider, after the fact, to work out a possible solution. Surely Sam and Julie could have approached his father at the time of the wedding invitation, and if that didn't work, could have explained to the soon-to-be-bride how close John and Catherine had always been to their grandfather, how much they loved him and would like to get to know and love his new wife. Did they announce that no one would be attending the wedding or just not show up? I don't know. All I am sure of is that this was a situation which called for love beyond their capabilities — love for its own sake, and that there must have been a way to smooth things over at the very beginning."

### The Circles Calendar

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

|               | Articles Due | Mail    |
|---------------|--------------|---------|
| Spring-Summer | Dec. 15      | May 1   |
| Fall          | April 15     | Aug. 15 |
| Winter        | Aug. 1       | Dec. 1  |

# Sometimes a Picture is Worth a Thousand Words\*

By Julie Dubuc  
Winnipeg, Manitoba

When I began to read *The URANTIA Book*, it answered every question I'd ever had and suggested some that I'd never even thought of. It was wonderful! Like everyone else, as a new reader, I talked to everyone I knew about the book. No one wanted to listen, and those who did thought I had joined some strange religious cult! I know you recognize the feeling—utter frustration! I knew my friends and family were searching, and I knew I had the answers, but they wouldn't listen.

Even after I became a more seasoned reader, I tried discussing topics from the book on a purely intellectual level, but most people could not relate to what I was talking about. One day I realized that I understood concepts visually and up until this point I assumed everyone did. I began drawing my visuals and trying them out on friends, even my children. It seemed that because the presentation was different, the idea was received with more enthusiasm, more openness, and understood quite easily. Maybe the visual just makes it more fun but whatever the reason, art seemed to be the simple way that I had been looking for to minister to those around me.

They say a picture is worth a thousand words, and maybe for some, this will be the way. *The URANTIA Book* says, "The high mission of any art is by its illusions, to foreshadow a higher universe reality, to crystalize the emotions of time into the thought of eternity." (557:7/38.7.23) It also says "The supreme beauty, the height of finite art, is the drama of the unification of the vastness of the cosmic extremes of Crea-

tor and creature. Man finding God and God finding man—the creature becoming perfect as in the Creator—is the apex of cosmic art." (646:4/56.10.3) When I read this, I was encouraged. Spiritual art has a place in service and ministry. I hope you enjoy the drawings and explanations.

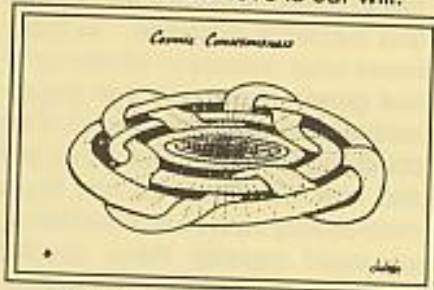
[If you are interested in obtaining prints of these visuals, see *Things to Share* in this issue.]

I have focused on 12 concepts in this presentation and have included the artwork for each one. The concepts are presented in a specific order as one concept seems to build on another. The first six deal primarily with personal spiritual growth while the second six focus more on a growing cosmic awareness.



1. "Trinity" represents the three aspects of God as they relate to mortal beings. The first aspect being the fragment of God, our Thought Adjuster bestowed upon all mortals when they make their first moral decision. This is our spiritual guide who, if we choose to follow his leading, will guide us to grow spiritually, to grow closer to knowing God and to doing his will. The second aspect is the gift of mortal mind, our intellect, bestowed upon us by God the Infinite Spirit. It allows us to compute, to take in knowledge. Using that knowledge

and our experiences, we are capable of making decisions that will affect the course of our spiritual lives. God depends upon us to make intelligent decisions, ones that will allow us to listen to his voice within us. The third aspect is personality given to us by God the Father. This bestowal allows us to be personal beings, to have individuality and to have free will. This teaches us the love and faith that God has in mankind. He gave us the free will to choose to follow him. The only gift we can give back to show our love is our will.



2. "Cosmic Consciousness" also depicts the Trinity of mortals but adds in the embryo of the morontia, the soul. The soul is a combination of influences—influences of our Thought Adjuster, the freewill decisions of the personality, and the experiences and relationships that occur within the mortal mind. The soul is all that is good in a person. It is that part of us which transcends this world and proceeds into the next.



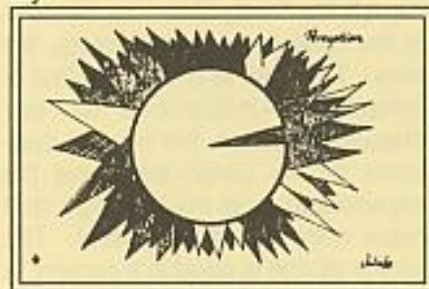
3. "The Development of the Soul" shows the different aspects of learning that take place during our existence in this world and in the next. We may be very developed or progressed in some areas of our learning and not at all in others. If we are aware that we are lacking understanding in some areas, it should be our concern to avail ourselves of opportunities that will help to develop

See *SOMETIMES* on page 16.

SOMETIMES from page 15.  
these areas.

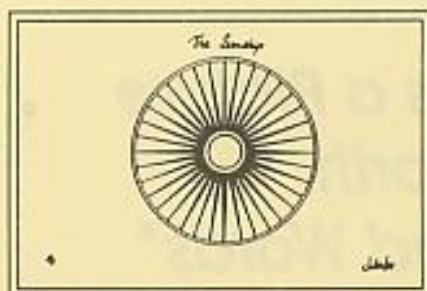


4. "Fusion" shows the seven levels of spiritual understanding through which we have the opportunity to progress during our physical and morontial existence. In many cases what restricts or inhibits spiritual growth is our own ego (represented by the darkened areas). If we could only focus less on our own self and how life affects us and focus more directly on the will of God for us, we could traverse these psychic circles of growth much more enjoyably.

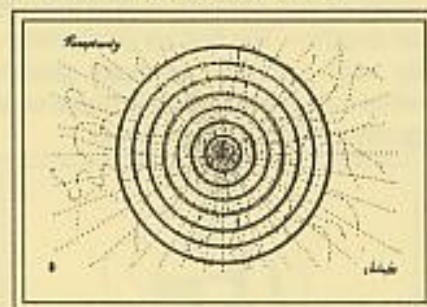


5. "Perception" is the key to being at one with God. If we can understand that our view of life and any situation is very narrow and certainly not the explanation of the whole idea, then we can begin to realize how much we don't understand. Our objective in life is not to impose our narrow perception on others but rather to come closer to knowing God by trying to widen our perception. We can do that by trying to understand life through the eyes and thoughts of others. The wider our perception, the more we see life through the eyes of God.

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

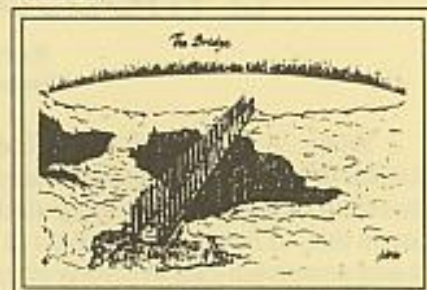


6. "The Sonship" is the key to world peace. Our first attempt at peace should be inner peace resulting from our attempt to widen our own perception. As we focus on the will of God, central to our being, we naturally serve mankind by seeing life as others see it. Total perception is being at one with God, the peace of Jesus. Inner peace in a person will radiate from him (represented by the narrow black lines radiating from the middle). Therefore, by doing the will of God in serving the brotherhood of mankind, you will also teach this way of being to others. When all of us can live in this light, we will truly be at peace with ourselves, with mankind, and we will be one with God.



7. "Receptivity." To be in tune with God's will requires some action on our part. Imagine, if you will, the mind as the sky and our thoughts as the clouds. We must learn to vaporize the clouds so that God's direction can be seen more clearly, as the sun is seen on a cloudless day. Practice makes perfect and although it may seem to take forever at first to dissolve even the smallest cloud, meditating on this procedure regularly will improve our capability. After we have cleared the way, we must be willing to give up everything that we think we are. All of our attitudes, ideas, feelings, and who we think we are must be given to God. In other words our

free will is given over to God's will. This is the beginning of receptivity. At this point we can be receptive to what God would have us do. All you need do is ask and God will answer you. Our willingness to receive God's love and direction is all that is needed.



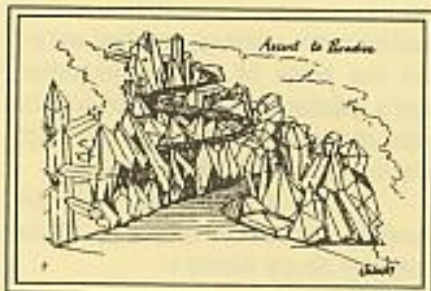
8. "The Bridge" connects us to God. Every time we make a conscious decision to do the Lord's will, we add a little onto our bridge, bringing us closer and closer to knowing God, to being able to communicate with him.

What always seems to get in our way is that deep dark hole we can fall into—our ego—if we do not consistently and continuously stand firm on the bridge. It is so enticing and so easy to slip and fall into that hole. Once in, it is very difficult to climb out of it again. We are very fortunate to have the Holy Spirit and the Spirit of Truth all around us. If permitted, they will serve to lift us up and place us securely back on the bridge. We only need to wish it so.

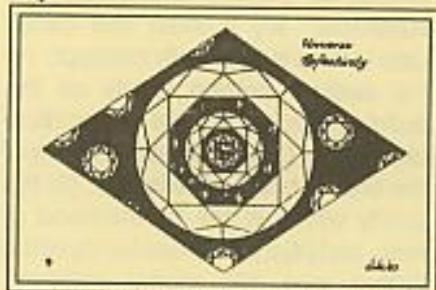


9. "Communion." To be in communion with God, to feel his presence and to bask in the warmth of his light and love! I cannot imagine a greater joy and a more wonderful feeling than to be immersed in love and peace and harmony. Once across the bridge, and all of us are certainly capable of getting there, we will enjoy that eternal peace and the intensity and warmth of God's love.





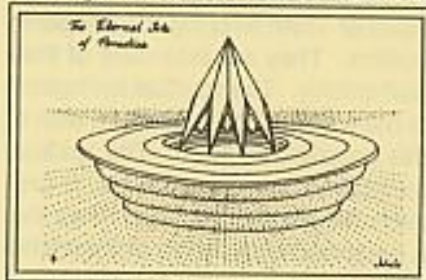
10. "The Ascent to Paradise" is a wonderful journey that is not only breathtakingly beautiful, but exciting, challenging and spiritually enlightening. Our existence is, by comparison, as the egg is to the chicken or the caterpillar is to the butterfly. We are in an embryonic stage of existence and limited by our capability to understand, we cannot even begin to imagine the exquisite road of eternity.



11. "Universe Reflectivity" is my meager attempt to look at eternal creation through the eyes of God. How is it that God can connect to a particular being on any one world, in any circumstance and at any time he chooses? It occurred to me that memory could be a physical pattern of this spiritual concept. The way we lock in to a particular memory involves localizing the experience in terms of when, where, with whom, and so on. It may be that God localizes in much the same way by bringing to mind the right connections so that he can focus on whatever situation he desires.

For those of you who would like to get into this in more detail, I have attempted to show the workings of a superuniverse from an internal view, rather than external as John Byron has so beautifully done in his paintings! The diamond face is the view from Uversa and Paradise of our superuniverse Orvonton. You will

note that there are 10 crystals in the outside or first progression, each one representing a major sector. Each face of the crystal represents a minor sector 100 faces on each crystal. The open face on the large crystal (representing Splandon) is a view of our minor sector, Ensa. There are 100 universes in each minor sector represented by the 100 crystals in the second progression. Again, each crystal has 100 faces for the 100 constellations contained in each universe. The crystal representing the universe of Nebadon has an open face so that the Constellation of Norlatiadek can be viewed. There are 100 systems in each constellation, although because of space not all 100 can be shown. The innermost crystal represents the system of Satania and each face of which (there should be 619) is one inhabited world. The open face views—you guessed it—Urantia. I choose to use as the symbol of our world "The Bridge" as it represents our objective during mortal existence—to come to know the Fatherhood of God while serving the brotherhood of mankind.



12. "The Eternal Isle of Paradise" is my visual conception of where God permanently resides. The crystal enclosure represents his ability to transmit and receive communication from all of creation. If you can imagine being inside the enclosure and viewing the faces of the crystal from that vantage point, each face would look like that of the diamond-shaped crystal in "Universe Reflectivity." As space originates with God, I have tried to depict it here as flowing from the underside of Paradise.

Although the concept of true spirituality, or I should perhaps say

total spirituality, is beyond our mortal capability of understanding, I believe there are physical patterns of spiritual concepts that we can relate to and use as guides for growth in this existence. I have attempted to do just that in this visual and written presentation and hope that my sharing with you has in some way benefited you."

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See back cover

*PIONEERS* from page 13.

bor within their bosoms. Perhaps as we grow and expand our thoughts outward, we are able to occasionally think, or maybe even see, beyond our limitations, if only for a split second here and there.

It is true that we are stuck here on the physical plane at this particular moment in time, but that doesn't mean that we have to always be thinking in a finite manner.

Just imagine. Imagine what it must be like on other worlds not stuck in the rut of a quarantine. Imagine what it will be like when we step onto the sea of glass for the very first time. Imagine the excitement we will be feeling right before our face-to-face meeting with Michael. Just imagine your emotion when you talk with your parents, your children or friends who preceded you. Will you be speechless before the heavenly Father?

This is exiting stuff, my friends, and when you begin to see that it is just as true and authentic as your own flesh and blood life here on the finite level of existence, when you believe it with all your heart and soul, with every ounce of your being, then, and perhaps only then, will you know for sure that you are well on your way to your own spiritual springtime!"

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PROPHECIES from page 2.

to unselfish service to other people. (2083:2-3/195.9.6-7) The religion of Jesus is the greatest spiritual treasure ever offered to mortal man.

It is entirely possible for Jesus to live again on earth in the experience of spirit-born mortals who effectively reveal Jesus to all men. (2084:1/195.10.1) Jesus' disciples can and should be overflowing sources of inspiration and enhanced living to all men. And the technique for rising to this exalted level is the technique of personally experiencing the presence of God. This personal spiritual experience cannot be contained. It will affect one's relationship with his fellows. Jesus' disciples serve their fellows because they *enjoy* serving them. They really pour themselves into service because it is their pleasure to see people respond to such love. They thrill to watch people grow and yield fruit when they are watered by showers of loving service. (2084:5/195.10.5)

The call to build a new and transformed human society by a rebirth of Jesus' brotherhood of spirit-born individuals will thrill and attract all who believe in Jesus. (2084:6/195.10.6) Jesus' brotherhood exists even now. It consists of those who cooperate with the spirit of God who is teaching and leading their souls. (1536:6/137.8.9)

Jesus' brotherhood will consist of dynamic believers—men and women who test and try their beliefs continuously in life and make appropriate changes. It is the task of such believers to affect the spiritual transformation of successive generations of mankind. (2083:6/195.9.10) Since Jesus was wholly concerned with the individual's inward and spiritual fellowship with God, this should also be the object of the brotherhood of believers. (1862:6/170.3.9) Jesus delineated the technique for enlarging the kingdom: (1) love one another (those within the brotherhood of believers) with a startling affection and (2) serve all of mankind with a new and amazing devotion.

(2044:3/191.6.2) He said this would cause others to perceive that we are faith fellows in the kingdom. They will follow after the Spirit of Truth they see in our lives and achieve salvation thereby.

This long list of prophecies and revelations about the coming age fails to specify its timing, but we know that its realization is tied to the spread and fruition of Jesus' gospel. This provides what may be an interesting insight: *the coming of the spiritual springtime may depend on factors within our control.* The spiritual springtime will be initiated by the proclamation of the true gospel of Jesus. The spreading of Jesus' real gospel is to be done by mortals; and there are very, very few who know and are spreading Jesus' gospel of the availability of a loving inner spiritual relationship of each individual with his Father God. More workers in the vineyard and more assets behind missionary programs would hasten the worldwide proclamation.

Once the proclaimers of the gospel have done their work, it is the responsibility of God within and the Spirit of Truth to bring the gospel to fruition. They will take care of their part quickly. The spiritual springtime is not waiting for the spiritual side of this cooperative effort. The spiritual springtime is waiting for us to proclaim the gospel, the good news that a personal relationship of friendship with God is available for the asking and doing. *The timing is up to us.*

Each of us can individually contribute to the transformation of the world today. Let's practice this religion of personal spiritual experience. Let's love one another with a startling affection and serve all people with an amazing devotion. Let's band together to train and support gospel missionaries. Let's run schools if necessary or seminars at least. Let's take a family attitude toward everyone and strive to help them succeed in life. God has promised that the gospel will spread and come to fruition—if it is proclaimed. He has promised that the next dispensation

will be more spiritual and that we are on the brink of this dispensation. Let's challenge God to perform his part of these promises by proclaiming the gospel to all people.

*For the quotes listed here and further discussion of them, please see the Study Notes.*»

Got an idea  
for an article?

The back cover tells about our next theme, but we are happy to have articles on other topics, too.

NOTES from page 3.

social change is only an early squall.

It is interesting to speculate what should be morally conserved and stabilized. My number one candidate for this is the family concept: (1) the nuclear human family as the building block of human and spiritual civilization, (2) the extended family of the brotherhood of believers, (3) the family which is the brotherhood of man, and (4) the intimate family of the Father and his mortal children. Jesus loved these concepts and they are all poorly understood and insufficiently valued.

Related concepts of love and unselfish service are worthy of religious stabilization. They are, after all, absolutely immutable universal goals for everyone's life. Worship, experientially relating to God within, is the greatest stabilizer of all.

*These new social relations and economic upheavals can result in lasting brotherhood only by the ministry of religion.* (1087:1/99.1.4)

Since only religion can bring lasting brotherhood, it is a safe bet that the spiritual stimulators of religion are working overtime all over the planet to achieve receptivity and readiness for the proclamation of the new religion, the religion of the spirit, the religion of a real experiential inner relationship with God.

*Institutional religion cannot afford inspiration and provide leadership in this impending world-wide*

social reconstruction and economic reorganization because it has unfortunately become more or less of an organic part of the social order and the economic system which is destined to undergo reconstruction. Only the real religion of personal spiritual experience can function helpfully and creatively in the present crisis of civilization. (1087:4/99.2.1)

Institutional religion can't perform the stabilizing function during these changes. Only the real religion of personal religious experience can do it. It will function helpfully and creatively in the present crisis of civilization. This quote clarifies that the crisis is happening right now and that the need for the real religion of experience is right now, not in the future. So, if the spiritual springtime has not started, it is due or even overdue.

The religion of living experience finds no difficulty in keeping ahead of all these social developments and economic upheavals, amid which it ever functions as a moral stabilizer, social guide, and spiritual pilot. True religion carries over from one age to another the worth-while culture and that wisdom which is born of the experience of knowing God and striving to be like him. (1088:1/99.2.6)

It must be hard to get the carry-over effect when few practice a religion of living experience and where there must be very little culture and wisdom being born of the experience of knowing God and striving to be like him since so few live this way.

...this church is only the larval stage of the thwarted spiritual kingdom, which will carry it through this material age and over into a more spiritual dispensation where the Master's teachings may enjoy a fuller opportunity for development. Thus does the so-called Christian church become the cocoon in which the kingdom of Jesus' concept now slumbers. The kingdom of the divine brotherhood is still alive and will eventually and certainly come forth from this long submergence, just as surely as the butterfly eventually emerges as the beautiful unfolding of

its less attractive creature of metamorphic development. (1866:4/170.5.21)

A cocoon becomes useless when the butterfly has emerged. A larval stage disappears into the butterfly. It transfers life but is unrecognizable when its job is done. If this analogy is accurate for the destiny of the larva and cocoon (Christian church), then this suggests a transformation that leaves it either non-existent or totally changed.

The resulting religious butterfly is clearly Jesus' brotherhood of the spirit-practitioners of personal experience of friendship with God. And this butterfly is about to emerge.

...Jesus said: "...this will be a new beginning out of which the gospel of the kingdom will go to all the world and this salvation will spread to all peoples. And when the kingdom shall have come to its full fruition, be assured that the Father in heaven will not fail to visit you with an enlarged revelation of truth and an enhanced demonstration of righteousness, even as he has already bestowed upon this world him who became the prince of darkness, and then Adam, who was followed by Melchizedek, and in these days, the Son of Man." (1914:4/176.2.3)

This quote is not a spiritual springtime quote. This is a spiritual summer quote. The new bestowal comes after the spread and fruition of Jesus' gospel. The Christian gospel has been spread to all the world, but the true gospel of Jesus has not. There will be a new beginning of the spread of Jesus' gospel. This proclaiming of the uncompromised gospel of Jesus will initiate the beginning of the spiritual springtime. Later comes the fruition of the gospel and then the new bestowal. *The URANTIA Book* is not the spread of the gospel. The gospel is in the book, but the book is not the gospel. The gospel is experience, not words, not even wonderfully inspiring words. The gospel is experiencing the friendship of God within. It is simple to proclaim and simple to experi-

ence. It is capable of changing the entire world in one generation, and there is no earthly or heavenly reason to delay. No restraint, the world is ready right now for the gospel of Jesus.

"However, you should understand that, when this gospel of the kingdom shall have been proclaimed to all the world for the salvation of all peoples, and when the fullness of the age has come to pass, the Father will send you another dispensational bestowal, or else the Son of Man will return to adjudge the age." (1915:2/176.2.5)

This quote suggests the possible return of Jesus when the consequences of the proclamation of the gospel are mature. If not a new dispensational bestowal, then Jesus. However, I rather expect it to be a new dispensational bestowal. While today may be the beginning of the springtime, it is likely to be many lifetimes before the new bestowal or Jesus arrives.

"But you should be wise regarding the ripening of an age; you should be alert to discern the signs of the times. You know when the fig tree shows its tender branches and puts forth its leaves that summer is near. Likewise, when the world has passed through the long winter of material-mindedness and you discern the coming of the spiritual springtime of a new dispensation, should you know that the summertime of a new visitation draws near." (1915:3/176.2.6)

This passage gives us two clues as to the timing of the spiritual springtime. One clue is that it will come at the end of winter—the long winter of material-mindedness. *The URANTIA Book* tells us that in 1934 we were through the worst of the materialistic age (see following quote). That puts us within the time when the spring could come.

The second clue suggests that we watch for the first signs of spring (similar to the budding of plants in early spring). The spiritual springtime is a time when there is spiritual

See NOTES on page 20.

growth everywhere, when many people will be establishing a personal relationship with their heavenly Father. The first signs of springtime, then, should be a small but growing number of people who have begun to display the spiritual fruits of their inner relationship with God. What I observe right now among readers of *The URANTIA Book* is just that—spiritual fruits showing in the lives of many readers!

I also observe all around me in readers as well as other friends and acquaintances a new interest in the spiritual. I do not observe a new or increased interest in the organization of the universe, the history of Urantia, or the many other fascinating pieces of information in the book. What I see instead is a hunger for spiritual sustenance. When I mention our spiritual support group or the spiritual exercises we are doing, people's faces get animated and interested. They pursue the conversation. I am convinced that this new interest in spiritual nourishment indicates a readiness for the spring seed planting—the proclamation of the gospel of personal spiritual experience.

I also suspect that the Most Highs are taking steps to prepare our world politically for the spring planting of the gospel. One example of this spring plowing is the freeing of people from communist dictatorships. These countries which were once virtually closed to any spiritual evangelism will now be accessible to ministers of the uncompromised gospel of Jesus.

*At the time of this writing the worst of the materialistic age is over; the day of a better understanding is already beginning to dawn. (2076:9/195.6.4)*

This quote says the worst of the winter is over and the movement into springtime has begun. The quote relates to the time of the writing of *The URANTIA Book* (1934). Since *The URANTIA Book* is probably a result of the initiation of spiritual plans for the new era, the personality who

wrote this probably well knew that our planetary destiny had already been irrevocably redirected even as of 1934.

*But paganized and socialized Christianity stands in need of new contact with the uncompromised teachings of Jesus; it languishes for lack of a new vision of the Master's life on earth. A new and fuller revelation of the religion of Jesus is destined to conquer an empire of materialistic secularism and to overthrow a world sway of mechanistic naturalism. Urantia is now quivering on the very brink of one of its most amazing and enthralling epochs of social readjustment, moral quickening, and spiritual enlightenment. (2082:7/195.9.2)*

This quote tells us what will cause the social readjustment, moral quickening, and spiritual enlightenment. It is "a new and fuller revelation of the religion of Jesus." The personality writing this is really looking forward to seeing what happens. "...quivering on the brink" of an "amazing and enthralling epoch..." It sounds like a great adventure. Let's go for it.

*Religion does need new leaders, spiritual men and women who will dare to depend solely on Jesus and his incomparable teachings. If Christianity persists in neglecting its spiritual mission while it continues to busy itself with social and material problems, the spiritual renaissance must await the coming of these new teachers of Jesus' religion who will be exclusively devoted to the spiritual regeneration of men. And then will these spirit-born souls quickly supply the leadership and inspiration requisite for the social, moral, and political reorganization of the world. (2082:9/195.9.4)*

It seems to me that Christianity in the 56 years since 1934 has continued to "busy itself with social and material problems." I think that the spiritual renaissance is up to the new teachers. I wouldn't be at all surprised to see the new leaders of religion arise in our lifetimes. We can

even be among the new leaders if we will choose to do so. The new leaders will lead the world to practice the religion of Jesus and then the regenerated followers of this religion will quickly supply the leadership and inspiration for the social, moral, economic, and political reorganization of the world. This sounds to me like the spiritual government's plan for how this new epoch is supposed to unfold. There is much essential mortal participation involved. I am sure our spiritual brothers and sisters would appreciate it if the new religious leaders would please hone their personal experiential religion skills and then get out there and start proclaiming the gospel of sonship, friendship, and the experience of God's presence. The new leaders of religion are the next step, but they won't be ready until they can speak of experiential religion from personal experience. Until then, the vast spiritual reserves of the universe wait.

*The religion of Jesus does, indeed, dominate and transform its believers, demanding that men dedicate their lives to seeking for a knowledge of the will of the Father in heaven and requiring that the energies of living be consecrated to the unselfish service of the brotherhood of man.*

*Selfish men and women simply will not pay such a price for even the greatest spiritual treasure ever offered mortal man. Only when man has become sufficiently disillusioned by the sorrowful disappointments attendant upon the foolishness and deceptive pursuits of selfishness, and subsequent to the discovery of the barrenness of formalized religion, will he be disposed to turn wholeheartedly to the gospel of the kingdom, the religion of Jesus of Nazareth. (2083:2-3/195.9.6-7)*

If you wonder what the will of God is for your life, you can start by knowing that he wants you to practice the religion of Jesus and be transformed and dominated by it. He wants you to dedicate your life to finding and doing his will. And he wants you to

consecrate your energies of living to unselfish service to the brotherhood of man. This is the way the new religious leaders are going to live.

This method does not require that you drop everything and live this way. It does require that you reprioritize your life so that God comes first. Service comes second and self is lovingly relegated to a lower priority. It does require that you become progressively more supportive and enabling of other people's achievement. It may be that you will remain a mechanic, accountant, attorney, plumber or school teacher, but your goals in life and your motives will have shifted to supporting truth, meanings, and values because they are like God and you will do what you do to serve others as best you can. And what you do will be more meaningful to you. You will work harder and do better and enjoy it more because it is an avenue of service which has become a supreme motive in your life.

The religion of Jesus is the driving force and the stabilizer of all this change. It is called "the greatest spiritual treasure ever offered mortal man."

This passage gives us an idea of the timing of the spiritual springtime when it talks of man turning to the gospel after his disillusionment with selfishness and his discovery of the barrenness of formalized religion.

The shrinking of mainline denominations in our country suggests that the discovery of the barrenness of formalized religion may already have begun. There are also some indications that the "me" generation is discovering the disappointments resulting from the pursuits of selfishness. These observations suggest to me that many people may soon become very receptive to the gospel of the kingdom.

The disillusionment and sorrowful disappointments resulting from the pursuits of selfishness may occur on an individual basis or perhaps something is to be done to give everyone special impetus to learn this.

It is an important lesson since selfishness is a barrier to receiving the greatest spiritual treasure ever offered. Those who really love us are going to do everything they can to prepare us to receive this treasure.

*Christianity has indeed done a great service for this world, but what is now most needed is Jesus. The world needs to see Jesus living again on earth in the experience of spirit-born mortals who effectively reveal the Master to all men...Modern culture must become spiritually baptized with a new revelation of Jesus' life and illuminated with a new understanding of his gospel of eternal salvation. And when Jesus becomes thus lifted up, he will draw all men to himself. Jesus' disciples should be more than conquerors, even overflowing sources of inspiration and enhanced living to all men. Religion is only an exalted humanism until it is made divine by the discovery of the reality of the presence of God in personal experience. (2084:1/195.10.1)*

Practitioners of Jesus' religion are supposed to be sources of inspiration and advanced living to each other and to all people. We are unquestionably supposed to love one another as Jesus loves us, and we can learn what that means by opening ourselves to the leading and teaching of the Spirit of Truth. Jesus said if we would live to express his amazing love, others will know we have a relationship with him and will be drawn to know him, too. It sounds as if there is some spiritual law of magnetism here. I am inclined to believe this is a significant part of the method by which modern culture will be spiritually baptised with a new revelation of Jesus' life. It will be a joyous, friendly people who are telling others that their religion of spiritual experience fills them up. Ours does not have to be a perfect portrayal of the love of Jesus to be very spiritually fragrant.

*In winning souls for the Master, it is not the first mile of compulsion, duty, or convention that will trans-*

*form man and his world, but rather the second mile of free service and liberty-loving devotion that betokens the Jesusonian reaching forth to grasp his brother in love and sweep him on under spiritual guidance toward the higher and divine goal of mortal existence. Christianity even now willingly goes the first mile, but mankind languishes and stumbles along in moral darkness because there are so few genuine second-milers—so few professed followers of Jesus who really live and love as he taught his disciples to live and love and serve. (2084:5/195.10.5)*

Going the second mile is the spiritual challenge for us today. It is the way of life that will reveal Jesus to the world around us. Going the second mile is the living truth which will move others to seek after the truth we have. It is the way Jesus loved!

So what does it look like to go the second mile? It mentions here "free service." Service can have a price tag attached. "I will do this for you, if you will love me for it." Or "I will do this because you are my buddy, and when I need something, you'll help me." These aren't such bad attitudes, but they don't startle the world with their generosity! Free service can do just that. Free service refers to giving your time, talents, energies, money, etc., with no expectation of return. Free service is not giving out of a sense of duty, either. It is giving for the joy of giving.

This quote also mentions "liberty-loving devotion." Spiritual liberty is freedom from ecclesiastical authority, rigid ceremonials and outdated dogmas. The liberty Jesus brought also includes freedom from the demands of our selfish selves, freedom from the tyranny of an overblown ego. Spiritual liberty means freedom from the animal fear which is our inheritance from our primitive ancestors. Finally, liberty includes the freedom to choose for oneself. I can imagine that liberty-loving devotion would want to give all of these freedoms to one's brothers and sis-

*See Notes on page 22.*

ters. Liberty-loving devotion is a dedication of all that one is and has to spreading the experience of spiritual liberty to all who will listen.

Free service and liberty-loving devotion covers the mode of behavior and the attitude of a second miler. Now, what does he do? He reaches out to his brother and introduces him to his spiritual father and the availability of his Father's guidance for his life. The second miler gives his brother a new and higher goal in life—to express his Father's love with his life.

That is how Jesus lived, and that is the ideal for us to strive for.

*The call to the adventure of building a new and transformed human society by means of the spiritual rebirth of Jesus' brotherhood of the kingdom should thrill all who believe in him as men have not been stirred since the days when they walked about on earth as his companions in the flesh. (2084:6/195.10.6)*

This suggests that mankind is invited to an adventure of transforming society by means of the rebirth of Jesus' brotherhood of the practitioners of experiential religion. This call to adventure will thrill those who believe in him more than anything religion has done since he was in the flesh. There is a pent-up desire among Jesus' believers for his real religion. There is a latent real religiousness waiting to be liberated by proclamation of the gospel that we are all God's sons and have the right, everyone of us, to the actual experience of the friendship of our heavenly father.

*"And this kingdom is even now among you, for where the spirit of God teaches and leads the soul of man, there in reality is the kingdom of heaven." (1536:6/137.8.9)*

Kingdom dwellers are those who are taught and led by the spirit of God. This is experiential religion. It is more or less conscious and calculated spiritual association with God. There are some, even now, who are kingdom dwellers. Many, many more

will quickly become kingdom dwellers upon the energetic proclamation of Jesus' gospel. The kingdom is available now, it has an open border. One of the responsibilities of its dwellers is to enlarge the kingdom by the way they live and by proclaiming the good news of the privileges of sonship.

*... a brotherhood of dynamic believers as Jesus commissioned continuously to effect the spiritual transformation of successive generations of mankind. (2083:6/195.9.10)*

There is supposed to be a brotherhood of active, growing, changing believers who continuously affect the spiritual transformation of succeeding generations. This includes, but is not limited to, mortal believers. This is a tremendous honor and responsibility. God places a lot of confidence in us to initiate the reformation of religion by proclaiming the gospel.

Dynamic believers are active. They are doing things. They are testing, trying, defining what works. They are discovering every bit of truth they can find and testing it all by the experience of living it.

*He was wholly concerned with that inward and spiritual fellowship with God the Father which so certainly and directly manifests itself as outward and loving service for man. He taught that the religion of the kingdom is a genuine personal experience which no man can contain within himself; that the consciousness of being a member of the family of believers leads inevitably to the practice of the precepts of the family conduct, the service of one's brothers and sisters in the effort to enhance and enlarge the brotherhood. (1862:6/170.3.9)*

The religion of Jesus is the inward and spiritual fellowship with God the Father. Jesus taught this is a genuine conscious experience. It is not self-delusion.

Consciousness of being a member of God's family leads to the practice of the precepts of family conduct. This sounds peculiarly like the func-

tioning of spiritual law. This rule of cause and consequence is not conditional. It is inevitable.

And what is family conduct? It is fostering, supporting, and encouraging. It is helping to get started or established. It comforts, encourages, and reassures over the hard spots in life. It confirms that life has purpose and meaning. It gives unselfishly what is needed. It helps without expectation of specific repayment. It acts generously because it wants to and takes pleasure in it.

Enhancing and enlarging the brotherhood of believers is a goal of kingdom dwellers.

*"And you are all to proclaim this gospel of love and truth by the lives which you live in the flesh. You shall love one another with a new and startling affection, even as I have loved you. You will serve mankind with a new and amazing devotion, even as I have served you. And when men see you so love them, and when they behold how fervently you serve them, they will perceive that you have become faith-fellows of the kingdom of heaven, and they will follow after the Spirit of Truth which they see in your lives, to the finding of eternal salvation." (2044:3/191.6.2)*

Sharing spiritual experience among practitioners of Jesus' religion makes new and startling affection and amazing devotion easy. Such sharing bonds people spiritually, and it is a strong love-filled bond. This is the only thing I know of that gives the experience of this startling affection and devotion. Practice the experience of Jesus' religion and share your experiences with others of its practitioners, and the amazing love arises. Really it does.◀

*AWAKENING from page 8.*

as a guide as to what to expect when it happens in our lifetime.

I would agree, just as in the mortal life of Christ, we experience many kinds and degrees of springtime as we mature. And I emphatically assert that the real springtime, in terms of the mortal spiritual life, must be and is Adjuster attenuated.

Those who have the concept of the Adjusters are greatly helped in meeting the exigencies, the perplexities, the challenges, and the joys of the accommodation of the real Adjuster's voice in the daily mental life. My experience conditions my words to you, for I know whereof I speak: My Adjuster communicates clearly with me on a routine basis. This has been the focus of my attention for the past fifteen months and continues to be so, more or less, twenty-four hours a day.

From the perspective of those fifteen months on the subject of spiritual springtime, I leave you to your consideration of a message: Prepare yourself, if you are willing to let change happen and old attitudes fall away, for a very different self-awareness. I do not pretend to know why the indwelling Mystery Monitor of my mind has chosen this time and place for me, so I could hardly presume to hold forth on the intentions of your Adjuster to initiate a quantum leap in experience for you. But I do suspect that mankind, collectively, is about to find a new emphasis on values as Adjusters begin to make their literal presence known. Of the very few things I have been told concerning the presence of Adjusters in others, the Adjuster of my indwelling is clear about the coming out, the speaking, of indwelling spirit to clear mortal minds as the planet reawakens to its natural heritage of many spiritual springtimes.

The clarion call will be produced in your minds; not by my telling you, but by your own indwelling spirit, the Father of Spirits, the Thought Adjuster. If you seek understanding for the self as it comes to grips with success (Adjuster's conscious activities with you), revitalize your understanding of the Adjuster and the concepts attendant thereto. I would also suggest that it is pointless to try to predict how your, or any other Adjuster, is going to open the door to direct contact with you or with others.

In many ways, with the coming of direct Adjuster contact, the Spiritual

Springtime we seek within and without may be observed to be made easier through learning the concepts of the revelatory material we are familiar with. Adjuster attunement and contact can also be helped in other ways by our willingness to look beyond *The URANTIA Book* to ourselves through whom our Adjusters will take hitherto undisclosed paths and new journeys into the places of our personal truth. We are obliged to seek our renewal and refreshment in the presence of spirit; no other premise survives, and that Spirit is intimately within and conversant with the work you must do in liaison with him beyond your circle attainment.

Attainment, as always, is a singular experience, and not without its difficulty. Springtimes, as seasons go, are mechanical and can not appreciate themselves. But the will to achieve and the presence of beauty are among the catalysts that inspire the human mind and form the human soul in gratitude. God's re-

sponse to such thought-provoking souls should not be viewed as settled in content, but, rather, viewed as settled only in its appropriate reaction through a surprising variety of techniques.

Direct conversations with the Adjuster may use many techniques in their process with you, and even in the future such contact may be understood as rather less than an event for every living mortal on the planet to experience. However, in the present, I suspect conscious Adjuster contact is to be viewed in its epochal context as entirely reasonable given the conditions of the planet at the moment.

Mobilization of man and spirit for participation in a visionary seachange requires the mastery and wisdom of Supremacy. Be prepared for your part to be offered to you in the drama of the future without the preconceptions that will want to hold you from the most important thing in your life: May the Father's will be done!-

## Things to Share

### ARTISTS AND WRITERS NEEDED

The Circles and Jesusonian Foundation are hoping to produce materials for children. We need people to write and illustrate them. If you are interested, please write to us. A little sample of your work would be appreciated too. Contact:

The Circles  
P.O. Box 1203  
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### CATALOG OF SECONDARY WORKS

The Good Cheer Press is an excellent source of secondary works: books, pamphlets, art prints, and more. Contact:

Jesusonian Foundation  
1790 30th St. #400  
Boulder, CO 80301

### PRINTS FROM

### "SOMETIMES A PICTURE . . ."

If any of you are interested in obtaining prints of the visuals on page 15 of this issue, I have received quotes on printing them. They would be available in a 5"X7" size and can be ordered individually or in any combination. I would require sufficient orders to make the printing feasible, so if you are interested, please write as soon as possible. Send your name, return address, the titles of the drawings, how many prints, and payment for the amount ordered. Delivery: 4-6 weeks. Cost: \$2.50 each, \$25.00 for the set. (Please add \$1.00 for postage and handling.)

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## The Joy of Service

*"And so I give you this new commandment: That you love one another even as I have loved you. And by this will all men know that you are my disciples if you thus love one another."*

*"When I give you this new commandment, I do not place any new burden upon your souls; rather do I bring you new joy and make it possible for you to experience new pleasure in knowing the delights of the bestowal of your heart's affection upon your fellowmen."*

*"...I have ordained you to go forth into the world to yield the fruit of loving service to your fellows even as I have lived among you and revealed the Father to you. The Father and I will both work with you, and you shall experience the divine fullness of joy if you will only obey my command to love one another even as I have loved you."*

*Keep in mind: It is loyalty, not sacrifice, that Jesus demands. The consciousness of sacrifice implies the absence of that wholehearted affection which would have made such a loving service a supreme joy. The idea of duty signifies that you are servant minded and hence are missing the mighty thrill of doing your service as a friend and for a friend. (1944:4-1945:3/180.1.1-6)*

*The Circles' Winter, 1990 issue will have as its theme "The Joy of Service." Join us in exploring the implications of this concept.*

- 1. The quote above seems to be saying our service comes down to being a friend. How can we be friends to the people in our lives?*
- 2. How can we enlarge our concept of who is our friend?*
- 3. Why does doing our service "as a friend and for a friend" result in our experience of joy? What effect would this attitude have on the one receiving our service?*
- 4. What are the joys of service? Have you enjoyed that experience?*
- 5. Why does a sense of duty or sacrifice reduce the joy of service?*
- 6. What does loyalty have to do with service as a friend?*

*Please send your articles, poetry or artwork by August 1, 1990 to:*

*The Circles  
P.O. Box 1203  
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