

Messenger Service

Area Readers Attend International Conference

by Kittie Norwood

More than a dozen members of the Dallas Society, various study groups, and individual *Urantia Book* readers from the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex attended the 1990 International Conference, sponsored by the Fifth Epochal Fellowship on June 30 through July 5. Scene of the conference was the large conference center at Snowmass Village in the beautiful Rocky Mountains near Aspen, Colorado. Approximately 1000 readers from almost every state and eleven foreign countries attended the daily lectures, study sessions, worship services, and artistic presentations. "Walking with God," the conference theme, was emphasized in each morning plenary session, in three daily sub-sessions, and in evening presentations of original music.

Special activities for children and teenagers were conducted each day, and everyone was welcome to join in the voluntary musical performances, comic routines, and jam sessions each night in "Club UB." Meals were provided in the rooftop garden at the center, and a variety of optional entertainment and dining was available at many restaurants, hotels, and clubs in Snowmass Village. Shopping, mountain climbing, White Water rafting, and other recreational activities were offered each afternoon.

In addition to the wealth of outstanding informative and inspirational speakers, the conference was also an outstanding artistic festival with talent provided by readers from around the world. A popular gathering place was the art gallery of original paintings, prints, handmade jewelry, and other crafts, and an adjoining publications room featuring newsletters, magazines, and books available through various study groups and societies.

Special entertainment in the evenings included a surprise concert by John Denver and a musical drama, "Power from Within," written by Oklahoma readers. Opportunities for sharing the news of *The Urantia Book* were emphasized through a special collection which raised \$3,200 for the purchase of books to be distributed in the Soviet Union. Several readers from Estonia, a part of the USSR, attended the conference and took back to their country forty of the books purchased with the funds. Other foreign readers attending were from Canada, Australia, England, France, Finland, Tahiti, South Africa, Mexico, and Switzerland.

Prior to the conference, one hundred of the participants, including a large part of the metroplex delegation, attended a 2 1/2-day retreat, "Adventures in Spiritual Living," which featured practical exercises and techniques designed to foster closer association and communication with God, establishing much of the mood and spiritual power of the conference.

Attendees at the conference, although lavish in their praise of the inspiring speakers, the outstanding music and art, the awesome scenery, and the excellent accommodations, were unanimous in their agreement that new friendships and an obvious spiritual aura which pervaded the entire environment were the lingering memories carried home. It was almost like a tiny preview of Light and Life right here on Urantia.

Singles Fair Urantia Booth Definitely Worth the Effort

by Diane Trouw

The Urantia booth at the Singles Fair in Richardson was a terrific success! This is the second year that we have been able to participate, and already there has been some recognition from last year. At seeing us again, one lady expressed pleasant surprise and renewed interest in the materials we offered.

All in all, it was a very positive weekend. We, of course, did have a smattering of contemptuous glares and belligerent questions, but those were very few and in no way dampened our excitement at the overall interest ranging from mild to intense. Those who stopped to chat generally had very valid and intelligent questions and conversation.

As with last year's experience, there were a few people who already had the book and were delighted to find other readers and study groups. We received nine names on our list requesting phone contact and further information. That compares favorably with the three names from last year.

As before, Leslie Elana from the Jesusonian Foundation provided us with her usual competence, leadership, and experience. The Jesusonian Foundation only provides financially for Leslie's services for the first year that a booth is presented. She was able to fly down from Seattle this year because of a much appreciated anonymous donation.

John Hyde did most of the footwork, contacts, and scheduling. Leslie and John together led our group of booth volunteers in a brief seminar Friday night in which we focused on anticipated questions and appropriate responses.

Saturday night, the booth workers met at Gene Joyce's house for dinner and fellowship followed by a "night out on the town." Many of us went to the Plaza Room on Forest Lane to hear Rollie Anderson, who sings and plays guitar with a group called "Kenny and the Casuals." Great fun was had by all!

The booths are generally an investment of time and patience. Past experience has shown that at least three years of consistent exposure is needed before noticeable results and response is obtained. We are all very pleased with this second year's experience and are looking forward to next year!

Miracle in Our Midst

by Nancy Johnson

At a special meeting of our society held the latter part of September, Diane Holland, society president, announced that she was forced to resign from her duties as president because of her health.

Diane has been a severe diabetic since early childhood, a condition which eventually caused the loss of her sight and one of her kidneys. Her mother donated one of her kidneys to save Diane's life. That was six years ago, and at that time a donor kidney was expected to last about five years.

(Cont. on pg. 2)

Arlington Study Group Leader Recognized for Community Service

by David Glass

Lawrence Schkade, whom we refer to as "Schkade" (pronounced "Scotty"), has just recently been honored for having been successful in bringing to fruition the interest of hospital officials at the South Arlington Medical Center in having a cardiac catheterization unit. As the *Fort Worth Star Telegram* reports:

"When it opens in October the cardiac facility will be dedicated to Schkade, a UTA business professor who suffered a heart attack two years ago....Now, thanks largely to Schkade's efforts, cardiac patients can be diagnosed through cardiac catheterization—an X-ray and dye procedure that produces a clear picture of the heart and its functions—and treated in the \$3.2 million unit," said hospital President Michael Spurlock.

"In Schkade's own case of having a heart attack, 'After being stabilized, Schkade could not be treated at the hospital where he served as chairman of the board of trustees because a cardiac unit was not available.'

"Although hospital officials considered the project five years ago, Schkade got it up and running," Spurlock said. 'A cardiac unit where patients could be diagnosed, undergo open heart surgery and go through rehabilitation was Schkade's vision.'... 'He was the overriding force in getting this accomplished; he is the reason why there is a cardiac unit here.'

"Schkade downplays his contribution. As a business professor, Schkade's administrative skills came into play as he analyzed the cardiac unit from every angle.

"It is gratifying to work on a significant project and to be able to contribute in some small way to something that will help a lot of people," Schkade says. 'My experiences as someone who has had a heart attack no doubt has given added impetus to the project, but clearly there was a need for this.'

"That need is expected to grow dramatically in the next decade. Approximately 250 cardiac catheterizations are projected for the unit's first year.

"My first responsibility as a hospital trustee is to guarantee the quality of care a patient receives," Schkade said. 'By having a heart catheterization lab here it conveys to the public our commitment to quality care and expertise.'"

What's in It for Me?

by Kate Gentry

Why join a study group? All of you are probably aware of the benefits of studying with a group of people. Each member of the group can add his or her own unique perspective to the lesson at hand. Mutual support fosters better understanding of the subject matter. Attending a regular meeting increases the likelihood of a formatted, study schedule. From an intellectual level, it just makes good sense to study with others.

These benefits are worthwhile and easy to understand. What you may not be aware of (and I have just relearned) are other benefits to be derived from regular study with like-minded students.

First, commitment to a study group helps you to set priorities in your life. If the subject matter is important to you, it is worth the effort to attend a group meeting on a regular basis. I have learned over the years that there is always enough time for the things I really want to do. When time seems in short supply it is usually because I have tried to find time for things that are not really important. For instance, there might be something going on the night of my study group that I would like to attend. Then I am forced to examine the issue and determine what is really important to me. I have learned that making a choice based on my highest values always elicits a feeling of accomplishment. So, not only do I get the benefit of the study, I also get to feel good about going to study group.

Another valuable benefit is the socialization that occurs when I attend my study group. Support from loving, caring people who share my values and beliefs is enormously strengthening for coping with the stress of daily life. It is as if I am constantly "giving out" in my everyday life and "taking in" when I am attending study group. I receive something even more valuable than the knowledge and increased wisdom which I obtain at every meeting. I receive love, acceptance, and strength. I feel renewed and refreshed.

Study groups are an opportunity to reap real benefits. For the investment of two or three hours you can receive increased knowledge and wisdom, the satisfaction of group loyalty, and the joy and refreshment of spending time sharing ideas with like-minded fellows.

I recently was without a commitment to a study group for several months. I didn't realize how much I missed it until I finally "came home." Now I know just **what is in it for me** and I will not let myself be parted from the benefits of a study group again.

Miracle in Our Midst (Cont)

Those of us who are in regular contact with Diane could see that her energy level was rapidly deteriorating as her donor kidney was becoming dangerously dysfunctional. Her other family members would have gladly donated a kidney for a second transplant, but none had the proper match. The doctors placed her on a waiting list for a donor kidney and there were many ahead of her—more than she had time for.

Friends were feverishly praying for her—praying for a miracle, because it seemed that was what it would take.

One evening in early October she received a call saying a cadaver kidney had suddenly become available which was a perfect match for her, and she could have transplant surgery that very night. There was no time to ask questions, so she readily accepted, and the surgery went as perfectly as it could have. The new kidney

immediately started functioning, which is not always the case, and the high blood pressure which has plagued her for years returned to normal.

Afterward Diane asked how she happened to be chosen to receive this kidney. It seems the very first person on the waiting list for a kidney transplant was also a perfect match for this kidney that became available so suddenly. When he was called to see if he wanted to undergo transplant surgery that night, he said he really didn't want to miss out on his dinner and that he felt he was doing quite well on dialysis. So he declined.

We consider this was a miracle, and now we offer thanksgiving and pray that Diane will have a speedy recovery from her surgery and that our heavenly Father will grant her many more years of productive living.

STUDY GROUP AND UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 1990

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 Schkade SG Part IV	5 G. Joyce SG Part I	6	7 Gott SG Part III	8	9	10 Topic SG D. Trouy Paper 136
11 Schkade SG Part IV	12 G. Joyce SG Part I	13	14 Gott SG Part III	15	16	17 POULUCK Bill Hazar's 7 p. m.
18 Schkade SG Part IV	19 G. Joyce SG Part I	20	21 Gott SG Part III	22 THANKSGIVING	23	24
25 Schkade SG Part IV	26 G. Joyce SG Part I	27	28 Gott SG Part III	29	30	

DECEMBER 1990

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Topic SG M. Wisenbaker
2 Schkade SG Part IV	3 G. Joyce SG Part I	4	5 Gott SG Part III	6	7	8 Topic SG K. Norwood Paper 137
9 Schkade SG Part IV	10 G. Joyce SG Part I	11	12 Gott SG Part III	13	14	15 Christmas Party 7 p. m. S. Matassa & M. Stetzel's
16 Schkade SG Part IV	17 G. Joyce SG Part I	18	19 Gott SG Part III	20	21	22
23 Schkade SG Part IV	24 G. Joyce SG Part I	25 Christmas Day	26 Gott SG Part III	27	28	29 Topic SG S. Matassa The Soul
30	31 New Year's Eve					

Upcoming Events

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, there will be fellowship and pot luck at the home of BILL and JAN HAZEN, in east Dallas. This is a good opportunity to introduce friends to other *Urantia Book* readers. To get there, take I-30 East to Jim Miller exit. Go north on Jim Miller two blocks and turn left at Leeshire. Take the next two right turns—at Hunnicutt and again at Coolgreene. Their house is at the end of the cul de sac—8327 Coolgreene. Phone: 328-3282.

The CHRISTMAS PARTY will be held at the home of SHEILA MATASSA and MICKIE STETZEL on SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15 at 7:00 p.m. Christmas buffet will be provided. Guests are asked to bring champagne, wine, or other beverages. The address is 5440 Longview (one block north of McCommas just east of Central Expressway). Please help them make adequate provisions with an R.S.V.P. by December 8. Call 827-9710.

Then, possibly in January or February, we are hoping to have a MUSICAL FELLOWSHIP MEETING at the clubhouse of MIKE and KIMBERLY GOTT's Irving apartment complex. Bring your guitar, keyboards, tambourines, voices, or ears!

In late March, we are (tentatively) planning to do a BOOTH at the ARLINGTON SINGLE'S FAIR, which is sponsored by the same company which hosts the Richardson Single's Fair.

On May 17-19, the readers in Oklahoma City will be sponsoring SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM II for readers of *The Urantia Book*. The first one, in Nashville three years ago, was chock full of amazing insights into the scientific information that is presented in the book. Also, this time, local reader MIKE WISENBAKER will be giving a presentation.

Do You Have a Question?

Where's the best place around to buy a book? How can I put my brother in Cleveland in touch with other readers? What's the significance of this latest letter out of Chicago? Are there any children's books conveying *Urantia Book* themes? Should I bring my Baptist roommate to the next social function?

In 1989, the former *Urantia Brotherhood* established what it called the "Area Coordinator" program, and Fifth Epochal Fellowship has continued to support it. The primary purpose is that one person in each area would volunteer to be a clearinghouse for information, and would exert his/her efforts in the support and possible coordination of any *Urantia Book*-related activities.

Area Coordinators consider it a privilege to be able to serve the individual readers, and hence the movement as a whole, in this fashion. If there is any way in which they can make your service of mankind easier and more fruitful, please give them a call. In Dallas County (and all points east and north) call John C. Hyde, (214) 497-4829 (leave message if he's not in). In Tarrant County (and all points west and north) call David Glass, (817) 294-2511.

The David Zebedee Messenger Service

is a publication of the Dallas Society
for Readers of *The Urantia Book*.

Readers may contribute articles, news items, etc. to
Sheila Matassa, 5440 Longview, Dallas, TX 75206
or call her at 827-9710.

Dallas/Ft. Worth Area Study Groups

Where: Richardson, near Coit & Arapaho
When: Mondays, 8:00 p.m.
Phone: 214/235-1724
Ask for: Gene Joyce
Format: Read sequentially a paper a night (hopefully) in the book with discussion as they go along. This group comfortably accommodates both new and long-time readers.

Where: Northwest Garland near Sam Houston & Buckingham
When: Every other Saturday afternoon at 2:30 p.m.
Phone: 214/517-8084
Ask for: Dianne Trouy
Format: Rotating leader selects a topic, researches it, and leads a discussion on it. Most attendees are familiar with the book, allowing for a more "in-depth" discussion of the material. Co-hosted by Dianne Trouy and Jim O'Brien.

Where: Arlington, near Fielder & I-30
When: Sundays from 7 to 9 p.m.
Phone: Metro: 817/265-5740
Ask for: Lawrence or Mary Schkade (pronounced "Scotty")
Format: Read sequentially a paper a night (hopefully) with discussion

Where: Fort Worth, southwestern part
When: Sunday evenings, 7 to 9 p.m.
Phone: 817-782-1401
Ask for: Larry or Linda Cockrell
Format: Read sequentially a paper a night (hopefully) with discussion

Where: Irving, near Hwy. 183 & Valley View
When: Wednesdays at 8 p.m.
Phone: 214/513-0183
Ask for: Mike or Kimberly Gott
Format: Read sequentially a paper a night (hopefully) with discussion

Arlington Study Group

This group is a very conscientious one, meeting weekly for more than seven years. While there is a wide range of topical studies which they have pursued, currently they are engaged in a study of Part IV, with less than 300 pages to completion.

This group enjoys a "spiritual support group" feeling, as well as a *Urantia Book* study group closeness, and there are always lively exchanges on whatever paper or topic they are considering.

This group is hosted at the home of Lawrence and Mary Schkade (pronounced "Scotty") where many enjoyable social get-togethers have taken place.

Fort Worth Faith Sons and Daughters Study Group

Two is a relationship—three is a social unit. Hence, what we have in Fort Worth is a study group which consists of three readers: Larry and Linda Cockerell and David Glass. This study group meets at the home of the Cockerells in Southwest Fort Worth every Sunday from 7 to 9 p.m.

Our approach to the study of the book is to complete a read-through of the entire book. This group took form in October, 1989, and has hosted visits from six people during its almost one year of meetings. Notably has our group been visited by three readers from Dallas: John Hyde, Kittie Norwood, and Rollie Anderson.

This group has passed the 400th-page progress marker and is well into Part II. Our approach is to read and comment for the two hours of study time (after some socialization) and stop at the subsection to which we are closest at the end of the period.

We are certainly open and interested in welcoming readers and beginners for a visit and others who are interested in becoming a regular weekly reader. The Father's love can only be experienced by man as that person passes on to his brothers or sisters such liberating love.

Other Study Group News

DAVID GLASS, Area Coordinator in Fort Worth and surrounding areas and acting president of our society, is fine after his surgery for a ruptured disk. He will be up and about by the end of October and will be able to start driving again soon.

MIKE and KIMBERLY GOTT have started a study group especially for new readers in IRVING. They will be meeting on WEDNESDAY NIGHTS at 8:00.

DIANNE TROUY's every-other-Saturday study group, for readers already familiar with the book, is getting so large that they have moved their meetings from Dianne's townhome in PLANO to her parent's house in GARLAND.



To Touch the Sky

What delight is mine when I see the sky.

It takes me into itself

To wander aimlessly through the blue reaches of space.

The sky is free and boundless.

It knows no limit nor accepts restraint.

Dreams float free here, unfettered, loosed by the wind.

To touch the sky is to touch God,

To perceive infinity, to taste eternity.

Then I am home again, here on earth, steady, solid, safe.

I have the best of both worlds:

Feet rooted securely in Mother Earth,

Hands reaching and touching Father Sky.

—Kate Gentry

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Some of the regular members of the Richardson Monday night study group at Gene Joyce's took time out for this photo.

Resources Available

There is a large assortment of resources available, both locally and nationally, to *Urantia Book* readers attempting to understand the book better, or to explain or share it with their associates. Nationally, most of the broader interest materials are available from the Fifth Epochal Fellowship headquarters in Chicago or the Jesunonian Foundation in Boulder, CO.

These include such items as the Study Group Guide, the Resource Guide for Secondary Works, the *Life after Death* and *Introduction to the Urantia Book* magazines, the Merideth Sprunger brochures, and the Mustardseeds handouts. Most of these are also available locally, as we make it a point to keep most of the valuable and helpful literature on hand.

In addition, we also have a word index which is easily photocopied, cassettes of *Urantia Book*-inspired music, and the second half of the Jesus papers on cassette, for loan to responsible readers.

This is just a brief listing of what is available. The best way to find out everything that is currently known to be available nationally is to write or call Fifth Epochal Fellowship at 529 Wrightwood Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614, (312) 327-0424, and ask for the *Resource Guide for Secondary Works*, a compilation of all known written and electronically stored *Urantia Book*-related materials. For information on materials available locally, contact me, John Hyde.

Greater Involvement Locally

This newsletter has been printed thus far on an as-needed basis, which has resulted in three issues over a period of two years. However, a large reason why it has not been published more often is that, with my activities as an Area Coordinator, plus the regular demands of an active life, I have been unable to insure a more regular publication schedule. This may soon change.

The experience of manning *The Urantia Book* booth at the Richardson Single's Fair showed people (local readers) that there are very real and exciting possibilities, at the local level, for active involvement. What is even more exciting is when these local efforts yield tangible results, which is ALWAYS eventually the case. Several people have expressed an interest in helping out with local projects, and this newsletter is one local project which very much needs to be given a higher priority. Thanks to SHEILA MATASSA and KIMBERLY GOTT for expressing an interest in helping to put this together in the future. Ideally, we would like to publish this at regular, four-month intervals.

By the way, if there is any way in which you would like to contribute to the efforts locally to bring the enlightenment of this marvelous revelation to more and more people in an organized fashion (I assume everyone is already doing as much as possible one-on-one), then I urge you to GET INVOLVED — VOLUNTEER. Because WE NEED YOU! We definitely have more projects to be tackled than we have people to tackle them!

Well, goodbye, and may God bless you with lots of challenging opportunities in life!

—John Hyde

The Dallas Society asks for donations to cover the expenses which result from various activities throughout the year. For example, the shipping cost to bring the booth down here, and Leslie's airfare, were covered by two generous anonymous donations totaling over \$500. But the cost of the booth rental space (\$200), plus the cost of printing and mailing this and other materials still need to be covered.

If you believe in the value of these projects, we are asking for donations...\$10, \$20, \$35—anything will be greatly appreciated!

The Dallas Society for Readers of *The Urantia Book*
910 Glen Cove
Richardson, Texas 75080

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