

"BUT TRUTH CAN NEVER BECOME MAN'S POSSESSION WITHOUT THE EXERCISE OF FAITH. THIS IS TRUE BECAUSE MAN'S THOUGHTS, WISDOM, ETHICS, AND IDEALS WILL NEVER RISE HIGHER THAN HIS FAITH, HIS SUBLIME HOPE. AND ALL SUCH TRUE FAITH IS PREDICATED ON PROFOUND REFLECTION, SINCERE SELF-CRITICISM, AND UNCOMPROMISING MORAL CONSCIOUSNESS. FAITH IS THE INSPIRATION OF THE SPIRITIZED CREATIVE IMAGINATION."

"... WHEREAS PRAYER BECOMES THE GREAT UNIFIER OF THE VARIOUS INSPIRATIONS OF THE CREATIVE IMAGINATION AND THE FAITH URGES OF A SOUL TRYING TO IDENTIFY ITSELF WITH THE SPIRIT IDEALS OF THE INDWELLING AND ASSOCIATED DIVINE PRESENCE."

P1459



USCC NEWSLETTER

Northeast Regional News

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NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULED JUNE 8 — 10 AT SIMONS ROCK OF BARD COLLEGE

Study Theme — PERSONALITY — The Gift and The Challenge

UNIFICATION THROUGH FELLOWSHIP

by Leo Czyzewski & Barry Clark

We are pleased to announce to readers of the URANTIA BOOK that the annual Northeast Regional Conference will be held once again at Simon's Rock of Bard College in Great Barrington, Massachusetts on the weekend of June 8-10, 1990.

This conference will be jointly sponsored by the URANTIA Societies of Central Connecticut and Greater New York. The actuality and symbolism of this united undertaking reflect our growing desire and ability to associate and commune with one another and to share the extraordinary work and joys of the Fifth Epochal Revelation.

The theme for this year's gathering will be, **"PERSONALITY — The Gift and the Challenge"**. The topical discussions will examine personality and those universe realities impinging directly upon it, i.e. Soul, Adjuster, Mind, Seraphim, and the Spirit of Truth. Our explorations will consider each of these components, their relationship to personality, and our efforts and responsibilities to synergize these manifold dimensions into an integrated and enduring universe personality.

Customarily, the schedule will permit ample time to socialize, renew friendships, forge new ones, and simply luxuriate in association with one another.

Registration, and all other requisite information will be found below for your review. We ask that you indicate your intention to participate at the earliest opportunity thereby reserving your accommodations and permitting us to make accurate commitments to Bard College for the use of their facility and amenities.

For those participants who will be arriving on Friday evening, two events have been planned.

At 7:30 PM, a 'Prayers and Thankfuls' session will be conducted. This type of gathering was demonstrated in Lake Forrest last June by Bill and Kaye Cooper. Many have found it to be a worshipful technique.

At 8:30 PM, the Great Barrington Study Group will host their meeting. All are invited to attend.

We look forward to seeing you there!

In Loving Service,

Leo Czyzewski & Barry Clark
Coordinators

ROAD MAP TO THE CONFERENCE



NORTHEAST REGIONAL NEWS COMMITTEE

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Northeastern Regional Conference
Program/Schedule

Simon's Rock Weekend June 8-10, 1990
Great Barrington, MA

THEME:

Personality — The Gift and The ChallengeFriday, June 8

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 06:00 PM — 07:00 PM | Pre-conference Retreat
Dinner — Dining Hall (15) |
| 07:30 PM | Prayers and Thankfuls
(Location to be assigned) |
| 08:30 PM | Great Barrington Study Group
Hosting — Crosby Lounge (14) |

Saturday, June 9

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 08:00 AM — 09:00 AM | Breakfast — Dining Hall (15) |
| 09:00 AM — Noon | Registration,
Workshop Sign-Up
Crosby Lounge (14) |
| Noon — 01:00 PM | Lunch — Dining Hall (15) |
| 01:15 PM — 01:45 PM | Overview, Plenary Address,
Opening Prayer
Lecture Center (10) |
| 02:00 PM — 03:30 PM | Topicals/Part One
Classrooms Building (9)
#1 Soul
#2 Adjuster
#3 Mind Consciousness
#4 Personality
#5 Seraphic Influences
#6 Spirit of Truth |
| 03:30 PM — 04:00 PM | Break/Refreshments
Building 9 Area |
| 04:00 PM — 05:30 PM | Discussion Groups/Part Two
Classrooms Building (9) |
| 06:00 PM — 07:00 PM | Dinner — Dining Hall (15) |
| 08:30 PM — 10:00 PM | Entertainment — The Arc (3) |
| 10:00 PM — ??:?? | Evening Wine & Cheese Social
Dining Hall — Lower Level (15) |

Sunday, June 10

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 08:00 AM — 09:00 AM | Breakfast |
| 10:00 AM — Noon | Worship Services (To be
Developed — We invite the assistance of the NY/Conn. Societies in this regard). |

Editor's Note: The following articles are reports given by participants at two recent meetings of the council of Fifth Epochal Fellowship. Bart Ice, former president of URANTIA Society of Greater New York and its current secretary reports on the November 18 executive meeting in Chicago and Beth Bartley, currently treasurer of URANTIA Society of Central Connecticut and area coordinator for the Fifth Epochal Fellowship, reports on the January 27 meeting of the council in Scottsdale, Arizona. These reports are presented in their entirety because of the historic significance of these two meetings.

A NEW BEGINNING January 27 in Scottsdale, Arizona

by Beth Bartley

On the weekend of January 27-28, 1990, the general councilors of the Fifth Epochal Fellowship met in Scottsdale, AZ, at the Franciscan Renewal Center. Area coordinators and Society representatives were invited to express the needs and interests of the people they represent.

The meeting began with a worship service on Saturday morning to set the spiritual tone. A high level of enthusiasm and spiritual bonding was evident all weekend.

Area coordinators and Society representatives met to hear a review of recent developments between URANTIA Foundation and Fifth Epochal Fellowship, and to discuss concerns common to local areas. Among these topics were: how we could make contact with and serve the new readers in our areas; assurance that study groups could use "URANTIA" in their names; the results of the survey concerning a permanent name for the Fifth Epochal Fellowship; and suggestions for materials the area coordinators and Society representatives would like to see mailed to URANTIA BOOK readers.

The results of the survey concerning a new and permanent name for the former URANTIA Brotherhood, presently the Fifth Epochal Fellowship, were inconclusive. There is little interest in being involved in a lawsuit. The ramifications of using the name of the URANTIA BOOK in the new name of the organization is still being studied.

The overwhelming feeling among area coordinators and Society representatives was to get about the Father's business and let our representatives at 529 Wrightwood Avenue (our new headquarters in Chicago) handle the activities with the URANTIA Foundation.

On Saturday afternoon, Gloriann Harris skillfully used a story to open the creative visioning presentation that helped participants understand what their concerns, feelings, and outlooks were about the present situation in the organization. The balance of the meeting was devoted to discussion of the future of the Fifth Epochal Fellowship. Paul Snider offered a mission statement and organizational structure for the Fellowship's consideration. He mentioned that the revelators had a long range plan and the

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END OF AN ERA November 18 in Chicago

By Bart Ice

On Saturday, November 18, I had the opportunity to attend a meeting of the Executive Committee of Fifth Epochal Fellowship (FEF) as one of three representatives of URANTIA Society of Greater New York. The meeting was open to all of the Societies, and over 100 URANTIA BOOK readers came to gain a greater understanding of recent events involving URANTIA Foundation and the former URANTIA Brotherhood.

After a period of silent communion, President Dave Elders opened the meeting. He said that recent events should be viewed as an "opportunity for growth and self-government" for FEF without the controlling influence of URANTIA Foundation. Several Executive Committee members then spoke to illustrate the severe problems the former Brotherhood had in working with URANTIA Foundation.

FEF Vice President Marilyn Kulieke pointed out how difficult it has been for many years to implement resolutions made by Society representatives at the Triennial Delegate Assembly due to interference from URANTIA Foundation. One example she gave was the ongoing four year ordeal to publish a resource guide. She emphasized that, while URANTIA Brotherhood's constitution made the General Council accountable to the Societies, in practice it had largely and inappropriately been accountable to the Foundation.

Harry McMullan, Chairman of the Domestic Extension Committee, has been one of the more outspoken critics of the previous Brotherhood/Foundation relationship. He said the Brotherhood had been "enablers" too long, that is it had allowed itself to be manipulated because of fear of retribution (removal of use of the trademarks) by the Foundation. He added that this is "not a disagreement between reasonable people." As the principle architect of the new Area Coordinator program, Harry also complained of the Foundation's recent strong criticism of the program even after each Trustee had individually expressed support for it earlier this year. (This support was given with the understanding that the area coordinators would not be promoters, but rather resources and networkers, as had always been the intent of the Brotherhood anyway).

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Steve Dreier, Chairman of the Judicial Committee, said that the Foundation's argument that they are ending relations with the General Council, but that this should not affect the Societies, is like the President of the U.S. dissolving Congress and saying it doesn't affect the people. He also gave a bit of a historical perspective of the current situation by citing several examples of what he felt were controlling and interfering actions by URANTIA Foundation. One example was 1987 letter from the Foundation to the Brotherhood which said it would consider terminating the licensing agreement if the Brotherhood went ahead with a proposal to undertake market research to make data available to the Foundation to assist it in improving the dust jacket and the distribution and marketing of the book. He also read an August 1987 letter from the Foundation expressing serious concerns about the Brotherhood selling secondary works (such as the *Concordex* and *Paramony*). And he told how the Executive Committee wanted to communicate to the Brotherhood membership some of the recent problems between it and the Foundation, but the Foundation said the membership was not entitled to know the details of the discussions which had been taking place between the two organizations.

Dave Elders spoke briefly again to say that FEF had decided not to pursue lawsuits against URANTIA Foundation even though it had been advised that it would likely win. The principle reason was that FEF didn't want to use large amounts of contributed funds or energies in such non-spiritual ways.

Dave also announced that Bill Hales, who was present at the meeting, had just resigned his position as Trustee Emeritus of URANTIA Foundation due to his inability to "support the recent decisions and actions of the trustees toward URANTIA Brotherhood." Bill is a founding Trustee of URANTIA Foundation, its first President, and has been involved with the fifth epochal revelation since Forum days.

Next, the three resigned Trustees spoke. For me, this was the most interesting part of the meeting. Frank Scaraglino began with some comments and was soon inundated with questions which he, Gloriann Harris and Helena Sprague tried to answer. It was pointed out that as former trustees, they could answer questions related only to the process, not to the content, of Foundation business.

Frank began by saying that when he became a trustee, he couldn't understand why the Brotherhood wasn't getting things done. He now believes it was because of control and interference by the Foundation. He said that the Foundation President, Martin Meyers viewed the Foundation as a controller of the Brotherhood and occasionally even allowed the Brotherhood to go ahead with its plans on specific projects which he intended to veto for long periods of time before actually vetoing them.

Frank said that, while Martin didn't intimidate the other trustees (although not all the ex-trustees agreed with this), he manipulated the process within the Foundation by controlling the agenda.

Martin sought unanimous votes, and so would not bring anything to a vote unless he knew he could get unanimous support. Consequently, many items of business in which opinions diverged were never addressed. Both Helena and Frank emphasized that important Foundation business was not getting done. A typical agenda for a meeting of the trustees contained 40 items and some of these were repeatedly not being addressed.

Internal problems within the Foundation came to a head back in February, 1989, when, in response to the poor state of communications between URANTIA Foundation and Urantia Brotherhood, an ad hoc committee was requested by some of the trustees, and Hoite Caston, Frank and Gloriann were appointed. In establishing the committee, Martin agreed to resign as president if two or more members of the ad hoc committee thought he wasn't performing his functions properly. By March, the committee had developed a comprehensive program to improve the functioning of the Foundation. This program included both general and specific recommendations to assure a healthy working relationship with the Brotherhood over both the near and very long term. The committee felt that if Martin were to change his operating methods and carry the program out, it would have made the Foundation a stronger organization. In a meeting with the committee, Martin accepted the plan and agreed to try to communicate more appropriately and effectively with the Brotherhood.

However, soon thereafter, contrary to the principles in the program he had just agreed to, Martin told the ad hoc committee that "we cannot trust the Brotherhood," and Frank said this was the final straw, the point at which he decided to resign his position as trustee. After two and a half years as a trustee, Frank felt he could no longer accept the interference and deception and the compromising of himself and his principles. Frank intended to make his resignation official only after the CUBS litigation, which he supported, was settled. Until that time, Martin asked that he not say anything about his decision. Frank now believes he made the right decision to resign.

Meanwhile, after some discussion among members of both the ad hoc committee and the Foundation, it was felt that removal of Martin from the position of Foundation President (which takes three votes; removal of a trustee takes four votes) would not have solved the internal problems of the Foundation as Martin would have still remained a trustee. Frank said one just had to experience working with Martin first hand to understand his ability to manipulate Foundation operations.

Shortly thereafter, on April 29, 1989, Martin was unanimously re-elected President. Based on discussions I have had with many people since the November meeting, I have come to the following conclusions about this vote:

Frank voted for Martin primarily because he had already announced his intention to resign (on April 24), and he was concerned that a negative vote would give the wrong impression that the trustees were divided over the issue of the CUBS lawsuit. I believe he now thinks his vote was a mistake because of the

unforeseen implications of that unanimous vote in light of subsequent events.

Helena voted for Martin under the mistaken impression (since she was not present at the ad hoc committee meetings) that he still intended to abide by the principles outlined in the ad hoc committee's report.

Gloriann voted for Martin because she had not given up hope that Martin would modify his management style with the help of the ad hoc committee's reorganization plan. But within a few weeks she also came to the conclusion that this wasn't going to happen, and on May 15, she announced her intention to resign once the CUBS lawsuit was settled.

Helena, who became a trustee in April 1985, also shared some other experiences. At her first Foundation meeting, she said she disagreed with Martin on some issues, and from then on she was "bracketed". At that first meeting, Martin named four people (all URANTIA BOOK readers and personal friends of Helena's) whom she was not supposed to talk to anymore. Helena felt free to talk to them anyway, and this was part of Martin's case against her that "she could not be trusted." Helena said she had not resigned earlier because she wanted to wait until the CUBS lawsuit was settled. Like Frank, she supported the lawsuit and did not want to give the impression that the trustees were divided over this issue. Like Frank, she resigned in part because she could no longer accept the interference, deception and compromising of herself.

Gloriann emphasized that the three resignations were three individual decisions, not a single political decision. She also said that she had no knowledge of illegalities or fraud by any current or former trustee.

After the former trustees spoke, a few former Brotherhood presidents made brief comments. In particular, past president Paul Snider reiterated that we need to choose the spiritual perspective when viewing the current situation. We should not stand aside and let the spiritual nature be sucked out of the movement. He felt that now we can get on with the real work and mission of the organization.

During the latter half of the meeting, the following additional comments and information were given:

With 80% of new readers being introduced to the book through personal contacts, we should not be concerned about new readers being unaware of FEF. Besides, FEF is not in competition with the Foundation's new URANTIA Brotherhood Association (UBA); we should in fact welcome membership in both organizations (although the Foundation apparently strongly opposes this).

Despite the general feeling among the Executive Committee members and most meeting attendees that the committee had made the right decisions in response to Foundation actions, several Society representatives expressed their continued sadness and/or frustration regarding the separation of the two organizations. The long term hope of many URANTIA BOOK readers is

that the relationship between the Foundation and FEF can be renewed at the level it was before. Unfortunately, one current trustee had very recently expressed his opinion to one of the meeting attendees that this is very unlikely, and implied that the Foundation would be unwilling to establish communications with any organization it does not control.

But on a note of optimism, Meredith Sprunger pointed out that the history of religious movements on this planet is that they generally start with unity under a strong leader, split up (which may be the Spirit's way of instilling dynamism through diversity), and finally re-unify.

Conclusion:

For me, the meeting last November resolved most of my confusion regarding many issues. The central issue motivating FEF actions is one of control — FEF (correctly, I believe) should be an independently run organization representing its membership according to its constitution, willing to work with but not be controlled by the Foundation. And it is important to understand that this independence should by no means conflict with FEF's ongoing responsibility to support the legal mandates and ideals specifically shared with URANTIA Foundation as outlined in its Declaration of Trust.

A separate but obviously related issue, I believe, is the internal management problems in URANTIA Foundation. I have no idea how these problems will or should be resolved within the Foundation, but however things turn out, we should continue to pray for and support all individuals involved and strive to act wisely and lovingly, even mercifully, in response to those who disagree with or hurt us.

Finally, I believe the events of this past year will, over the long run, allow the former Brotherhood to become more open, more spiritually motivated, and more effective. As I talk to more people and my understanding of recent events has progressed, I have become increasingly optimistic that, despite the daunting challenges facing us, the future of the dissemination of the fifth epochal revelation is brighter than ever.

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mission of the Fellowship is to determine that goal and to act on it. It is presumed that the revelators may have other organizations on Urantia ready to step in and take over if the present organizations aren't successful in the mission they have been given. We need to translate the meaning of the Fellowship's constitution into action. After a break we resumed our work in small groups to evaluate the mission statement and structure that Paul Snider presented. Cooperation, humor, and fellowship characterized the mood of the meeting.

Sunday worship service and remembrance supper were followed by a plenary session at which the small groups summarized their deliberations. Themes that were common to the reports were to: fully implement the present constitution to determine its effectiveness; consider the potential of a constitutional confer-

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OFFERINGS

BE CAREFUL

by Charles Lawrence Olivea

As is said in baseball, we need to "keep our eye on the ball" if we expect to win the game. The recent divorce between the URANTIA Foundation and the URANTIA Brotherhood (now, Fifth Epochal Fellowship) has raised the risk in an already difficult evolutionary process.

If we are to be successful in transforming our world with the URANTIA Book, then it seems to me that we must meet four requirements:

- a). safeguard the content of the URANTIA Book;
- b). safeguard the registered marks; i.e., the word URANTIA and the three blue concentric circles;
- c). distribute the URANTIA book and spread its teachings;
- d). create universal association of the word URANTIA and the three blue concentric circles with the URANTIA Book.

I would like to suggest that safeguarding the content of the URANTIA Book takes precedence over spreading the teachings of the book. The content of the URANTIA Book must remain unadulterated in order for the dissemination of its teachings to retain power. In my opinion, any discussion or argument on the most effective strategy/tactics for spreading the teachings of the URANTIA Book ought to be conditioned upon a prior consideration of protecting the book's content (especially) and registered marks.

I am mindful of charges and counter-charges over issues such as trust, secrecy, expediency, isolation, accountability, respect, fear, love, command, and coordination. In my view, these matters are of a secondary nature insofar as concerns the fifth planetary revelation. I do not think they warrant a divorce, notwithstanding the aggravation they cause.

Somehow, sometime, we are going to have to rebuild what has been separated. Somewhere down the line, forbearance, patience, and forgiveness failed. Perhaps, the failure occurred on both sides. Until there is an effective re-structuring of the URANTIA movement, I doubt that much can happen to meaningfully, permanently advance this revelation.

The Foundation will still be needed to fulfill the first two requirements listed above. An organized, growing Fellowship will be indispensable to actualize the second two requirements. I do not see any way around the necessity to place the basic authority of the Foundation over a fellowship, a brotherhood. This relative positioning would fall within an institutional framework.

See "Careful" on Page 7

BE YOU PERFECT . . .

by Martin Greenhut

I once heard a rumor that circulated among URANTIA BOOK readers about the original contact commission and the events that took place in the establishment of the URANTIA Foundation which was to publish the book and administer its affairs. People said that midways appeared to the human contacts and among other things, were surprised at their tendency to fool around. A midway reportedly said to the small group of mortals in Chicago, "How can you tell jokes and fool around at a time like this when we are dealing with an epochal revelation of such importance to the entire planetary welfare?"

I, for one, tend to doubt the report, however, marvel at the miraculous achievement of the inditement of the papers and subsequent organization of its careful publication and introduction to a truth-starved world.

From the earliest days and throughout the preparation of the papers, secrecy was a necessary factor. A world war was in progress and the papers were very vulnerable. In addition to the work in progress there was the requirement of the commission that the

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'Careful' from Page 6

Regardless of what opinions there may be over various strategies/tactics concerning the best way to distribute the URANTIA Book and spread its teachings, every effort should be made to preserve the Book's integrity as the top priority. I think this priority is compatible with the person-to-person approach that has been followed for a number of years.

Anyway, in the current circumstances, both sides only have one oar in the water. The separation is probably worse than the original unease between both parties.

The wisdom to proceed effectively with the revelation itself can only come from a true discernment of God's will. Each of us ought to act according to our highest understanding of our Heavenly Father's wishes.

At the present time I am abstaining. I do not have sufficient information or deep enough understanding to choose, if I must, between one side or the other.

When I do make a decision, my intent will be to honor God's will to the best of my ability. I say this knowing full well my own limitations. Each of us should remember that God knows us and loves us, and that He is with us through spirit.

NORTHEAST BULLETIN BOARD

URANTIA BOOKS available through USCC. Contact Bill Rocap (203)628-6939.

TRANSCRIPTS AVAILABLE of 1987 regional conference, "RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD". Send \$5.00 to USCC, P.O. Box 88, Farmington, CT 06034. Ask for TRANSCRIPT.

USCC ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING — May 12, 1990. Location to be announced. Call George Park (203)455-0269 for information.

USGNY ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING — April 1, 1990 at Am. Legion Post, Throgs Neck, Bx, NY. Call Barbara Drier (201) 224-7548 for details.

USGNY SOCIAL — June 1, 1990. Call Barbara Drier (201) 224-7548 for details.

WESTERN MASS. READERS meet third Sunday of each month in Unitarian Society, Northampton, Mass. 2-7 PM Call Steve Cadarette for details (413)772-2647.

MASSACHUSETTS BAY AREA will Meet April 15 in Sherborn, May 20 in North Harwich. Call Alison Gardner (508) 653-8850 for details.

FARMINGTON, CT. STUDY GROUP meets monthly. Call Helena Sprague (203) 677-8392.

REGISTRATION FOR GENERAL CONFERENCE in Snowmass, Colorado should be in by April 30 for savings and to insure proper food service. Call (312) 327-0424.

WE'LL SEE YOU IN GREAT BARRINGTON JUNE 9-10!

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human subject remain anonymous. Secrecy was of paramount importance to the fledgling foundation and became its modus operandi.

Now, more than fifty years later, the midwayers might well appear in our councils and say, "Lighten up! Why are you so wrought up and fearful? You have in your hands the Fifth Epochal Revelation to Urantia and it is taking root among the peoples of the world. Be glad! Let your joy abound! The new age of spiritual enlightenment on our planet is dawning. Soon our planetary isolation will end and the spiritual government will enjoy direct communication with the rest of creation. Michael is Sovereign and his spirit is poured out upon earth." And one might imagine many other words of encouragement that we are given at this time.

The URANTIA Foundation is to be congratulated for its work. The book is in print and more than 200,000 copies are said to be out there in peoples' possession and in libraries and book stores. Tens of thousands of people are aware of the existence of the URANTIA Foundation and the work of the former URANTIA Brotherhood, The Fifth Epochal Fellowship. Numerous other unaffiliated, though dedicated groups of URANTIA BOOK devotees are working at the dissemination of the teachings and sales of the book. An international fellowship of readers is developing. This great beginning was achieved under the supervision of the URANTIA Foundation, imperfect though it may be.

We anticipate that with the settling of the dust of the current confusion and controversy in our movement The Urantia Foundation, The Fifth Epochal Fellowship, and the dedicated teachers of this revelation will find themselves reorganized and hopefully ready for the next phase of ministry which our spiritual supervisors require.

We commit ourselves to trust in God and to trust in our brothers and sisters.

Let each of us in our own place of responsibility call on our Father's guidance and lay down our confusion at the feet of our Universe Mother who can correct our understanding.

We are all one and only suffer the problems of ossification of our thought processes. Let the scaffolding of the first phase of this revelation to Urantia drop away that the second phase of our work may get underway.

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"New" from Page 5

ence proceeded by an intense study of needs of the group; be sure that all members (of Societies and members at large) have representation; evaluate whether we need to change our form of selecting our representation; have the Triennial Delegate Assembly meet more frequently and longer; establish a method to protect and preserve 'inviolable' the text and translations of the URANTIA BOOK to back up the URANTIA Foundation; develop a better communications system; have an international vision for the Fellowship; and emphasize accountability with responsibility.

The weekend schedule closed after lunch on Sunday.

It was a pleasure to attend two recent meetings of the General Council. Over the years I have been curious about the procedures of our governing body, and although councilors were always open in answering questions, I always had this feeling that something secretive was involved. For others out there who have had thoughts or questions along this same line, I would like to share some personal observations.

The URANTIA movement has attracted creative and productive men and women, people who's abilities have led them to successful careers, people who are accustomed to being in charge. For years I have been intrigued by the question of how do you run a meeting when you have a room full of leaders? The answer is simple. You begin with worship. In Scottsdale, each day and every meeting, large and small, began with time to get in touch with our heavenly Father.

The general councilors, meeting with area coordinators and Society representatives, reflected a genuine interest in what we had to say or report about our groups or areas. We were asked specific questions about where we thought we should go from here and the best way to proceed. The General Councilors' attitude is that they are our servants, not our rulers or even our leaders, it is their job to reflect what the members and readers want.

With any large group of dedicated and capable people, situations can become tense and this group was no exception. At these times humor invariably released the tension and returned things to a workable level. It was good to see how people were able to laugh at themselves and see the light side of the situation. We are told that "humor is the divine antidote for exaltation of ego" (P. 549:18-19) and it seemed apparent that ego's were well under control.

It was exciting to watch the skills and creativity of the people at this meeting, e.g. Gloriann is a storyteller like few that I have heard, weaving details to illuminate a visualization. Meeting facilitators were diplomatic and adept at the job of keeping things on track. The fact that the participants were obviously goal oriented and spiritually motivated had a lot to do with the single minded determination to reach unity in the deliberation. During the meetings the emphasis was on work. Between the meetings the people were relaxed and sociable.

In my view the general councilors' eyes are forward, their commitment to the Father's business is unquestioned, and their spirituality is exhilarating. Our Father has directed capable people into this all important work, and the Fellowship is in good hands.

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