



# HARMONY

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## ORCHESTRATING THE MOVEMENT

by RICHARD BAIN

The body of groups and individuals who study The URANTIA Book is often referred to as the Urantia movement, but there is a question of whether or not this body fits the definition. "A movement is an organized effort to promote or attain an end" according to Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary. True, a portion of this movement is organized as URANTIA Brotherhood and its associated societies, but these probably represent less than one percent of the movement. Granting for the moment that the conglomerate of students do indeed constitute a movement, there are a few questions about this movement suggested by the definition just given. What end or ends do we hope to attain? How will we go about attaining these ends? Before we decide on ends and means, however, we need to ask ourselves, "ISN'T IT TIME TO GET ORGANIZED?"

The vision of the Brotherhood has been that societies would proliferate over a period of time until they embraced most of the students of the book, but at the same time the requirements for societyhood have been made more difficult, thus slowing the rate at which new societies appear. An additional factor that inhibits the appearance of new societies is the distaste many in the movement have for

organizations. It is possible that the Brotherhood recognized these problems and initiated the Study Group Fellowship to forge at least a tenuous link with the mass of people in the movement. The problem with this fellowship is that there is little communication in either direction. There are those who will say, "So what? What do we have to communicate?"

Today, the Brotherhood and a portion of the movement find themselves embroiled in a controversy regarding the prophetic messages of someone who has been prominent in the movement for a number of years. URANTIA Brotherhood and URANTIA Foundation have both issued statements disavowing any connection with such prophetic messages. Even though this problem began about a year ago, there are people who are just hearing about it and reacting to it. No doubt there are those who heard about the messages but who did not see the statements issued by the Foundation and the Brotherhood. It is possible that the best of communications and organization would not have averted this problem, but as in a good marriage, communications helps quickly clear up problems that would otherwise linger on for weeks or months.



At least two benefits would have been realized from having good lines of communication between the Brotherhood and the rest of the movement. First, most of the movement would have immediately been made aware of the statements issued by the Brotherhood and Foundation and consequently would have known the stand of these two organizations on this issue. Second, the people in the rest of the movement could have provided immediate feedback and reaction to the position taken by these two organizations.

Effective communication channels require some degree of organization to initiate and maintain, but many people think only of the problems that come with organization. It is not to be denied that corruption and indifference have too often been a part of government, yet we need to remind ourselves that it is not preordained; it doesn't have to be that way. The governments of the morontia existence are not perfect but they must certainly seem perfect compared to those on our planet. Better government IS possible. Furthermore, there are problems that can be solved only by teamwork. Imagine a symphony orchestra playing a Beethoven symphony without a director to coordinate them, with each person selecting his own tempo. What chaos would reign!

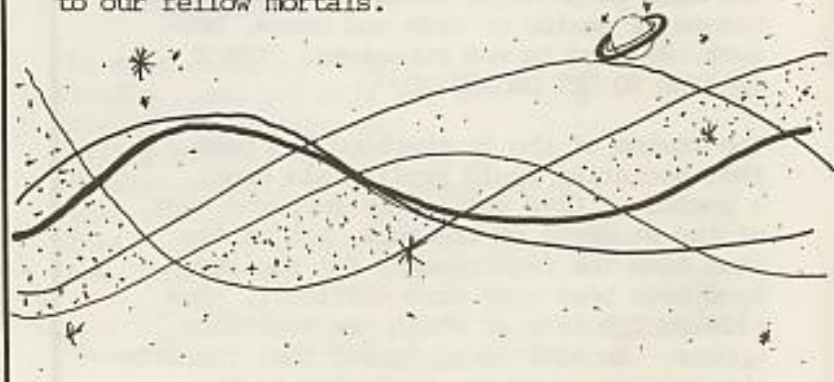
Much as organization would be desirable, it would not do for the study groups to be simply absorbed by URANTIA Brotherhood. The independence of all these study groups is essential to their function as sources of corrective feedback to the Brotherhood and the Foundation. They are also the sources of new and innovative ideas for spreading the teachings of the book, much as small industries are the source of more inventions and new concepts than are the larger and longer established industries. Yet some sort of organization could be valuable to the movement.

Besides functioning in crises, an organization linking study groups would give the groups a feeling of belonging to a large brotherhood of like-minded people. The communications channels could provide for lateral flow of information between groups as well as a common channel to the Brotherhood and Foundation. It might enable creative and talented people from different groups to find each other and to collaborate on writing projects, advanced seminars on The URANTIA Book, etc. There are undoubtedly many other advantages to such an organization. Given the need for such an organization, what form might it take?

An organization linking the various study groups might take many forms; the following is my idea of the form such an organization might take. First, divide the U.S. into ten regions of equal population of study groups. Then divide each region into districts containing equal numbers of study groups. The study groups in each district select a representative, who then meets with the other district representatives at the regional level. Each regional group selects a representative to attend national meetings with the other regional representatives. This group could meet with the Brotherhood and Foundation in an advisory capacity. They would bring proposals for action, feelings from the rest of the movement on current issues, suggestions for new concepts in spreading the teachings of The URANTIA Book and so forth. Conceivably the national and regional councils might publish newsletters with news germane to the areas encompassed by each group. Information would thus freely flow both directions.

If organization is needed and the form can be agreed on, who can get the project under way? It is possible that the initiative to begin such a project could come from some large study group, but it seems likely that URANTIA Brotherhood is in a better position to initiate such a project. It is after all the best known and longest established fraternal group within the movement; it has the prestige and organization needed to start such a project. Promotion of a strong movement that has a sense of unity and purpose seems to be one of the underlying principles of URANTIA Brotherhood.

Whatever winds of change that may chance to sweep over us, whatever hurricanes of destruction that may batter us and change our lives, a close and unified movement will be a sturdy bulwark against forces that might otherwise turn us from the task of bringing The URANTIA Book and its teachings to our fellow mortals.





# And Now A Word From Our Sponsor

by CURT AVERY

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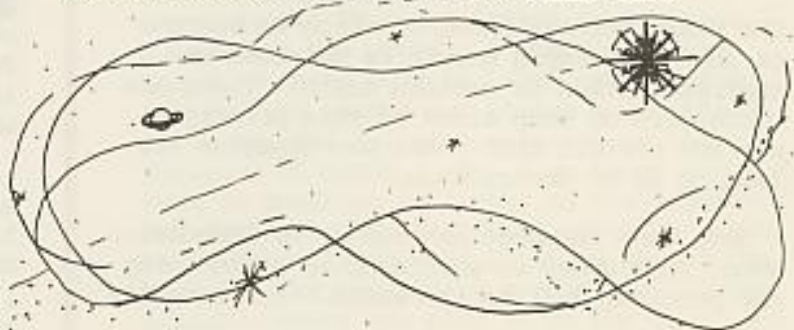
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You can obtain your copy of The URANTIA Book ONLY by calling this toll-free number tonight. Call 1-800-MELCHIZIDEK. CALL NOW, operators are standing by to take your call. Residents of the Tigris-Euphrates area add six percent sales tax.





## Are We Going Too Fast? Are We Going Too Slow?

by TOM ALLEN

*Given at the September 1983 Conference  
in Los Angeles, California.*

Oh Lord, I just don't know!

This is the theme of my presentation. I really don't know. I have talked to so many people here and there in the Urantia movement who do know--at least they say they do. They will expound with certainty about the best way to spread the 5th epocal revelation and will back up their views with a multitude of quotes from The URANTIA Book or from some of those mysterious "mandates" which have become a tradition in our movement.

But I stand firm, I don't know. I think my skepticism is healthy, but I hate to be a fence rider. But I am comforted when I gaze at the perplexing immensity of the problem. It is really too big of an issue for me to solve, so I will leave the details of launching a major revelation of truth to the wisdom of individuals and groups who have tried and failed and who have tried and succeeded.

I really enjoy my skepticism, because it leaves me with a totally open mind. I am eager to hear the admonitions of those who would disallow any dissemination of The URANTIA Book except through bookstores, libraries and especially the one-on-one approach. I am thrilled with the convictions of those who would spread the book to the four corners of the earth through any and every media method available. I am distressed when I hear criticisms aimed at those who are cautious and I grieve at the comparison between Eve's folly and the media promoters.

The basic principle out of which we operate is that over-rapid growth is suicidal and that stagnation is certain death. There are contenders on both sides of this principle who are certain that those who disagree are leading us to destruction.


I have been somewhat ashamed by my indecision about what speed we should go in introducing our precious book to the world. But recently

I have come to a certain amount of peace of mind concerning my predicament. I came to this peace when I realized that the celestial personalities involved with this revelation probably don't agree about the right speed all the time. The seraphic planetary government is probably faced with differing contentions about our book's proper dissemination each administrative day. The URANTIA Book is full of examples where various personalities propose differing speculations about the same phenomenon. For example, on page 116, differences are considered about whether our future as Finaliters will eventually consummate in our being children of the Deity Absolute. Another example on page 1251 expounds on differing speculations about who and when our Planetary Prince will be. And if the rumors I have heard are correct, then all of these speculations about our Planetary Prince are wrong. There are many such examples of disagreement in the book.

How can we be so sure about our methods on an issue as complex and difficult as this one. Very few times has a planet even had a book as an epocal revelation in our local universe. Nobody can be certain about what techniques are going to be the most effective. This uncertainty can be illustrated by this story. Imagine that celestial beings present to us a seed from another world. We are told to plant it and nurture it and allow it to come to full fruit for the edification of the world. But we are not told what the fruit will look like or what to expect about any aspect of the plant's nurturance and growth. We are only told to do it well to the best of our ability. The plant begins to grow. It has few of the horticultural properties that plants from our world have. We all agree that the value and the beauty of the plant is worth preserving but we disagree about the maturity of the plant. Some view the plant as having come to fruition while some look at the strange plant and insist that it has not yet ripened. What do we do? The plant is so foreign to us and the techniques for harvesting are brand new. We certainly don't fight over the tender foliage and thus destroy it. Only by working together, praying together and by recognizing our common ideals can we come to those effective compromises that will eventuate in the best way to disseminate the seed to the world.

We are human and we will and have made mistakes. Only hindsight can tell us what should have been done. How many times have I and you looked at what the Apostles did, and said, "Why didn't they see that they





## Are we going too fast?

a song by TOM ALLEN

What is the speed  
to launch revelation  
Are we headed for stagnation  
or over rapid growth?

Trying to find  
the right speed to go  
Are we fast or slow  
do you know?

And we're looking for the time  
that is the right time.  
Are we going too fast?  
Are we going too slow?

And we're looking to the Son  
to find the right time--  
Are we going too fast?  
Are we going too slow?

Looking to spread  
the word of God to Man  
Wondering if we can use media

In spreading the book  
throughout Urantia.  
Tell me why can't ya  
use Radio?

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should have done this instead of this? How could they have been so blind?" Future generations will look at us and say the same things about what we have done and failed to do.

My comfort is further strengthened when I realize that the tug of war which seems to have emerged among earnest contenders for the right speed for proper dissemination of The URANTIA Book is reflective of the struggles between the Angels of the Churches and the Angels of Progress. Stability is the balance between opposing views. We need the stimulation of a variety of differing ideas while we remain united around the bonds of spiritual ideals.

William Sheldon in his book, Psychology and the Promethean Will describes the conflicts both within ourselves and among groups to either take creative untried steps or to maintain the status quo; to take risks even in the face of the more inhibitive forces which wish to conserve things as they are. He describes this as a positive conflict; one that is needed to maintain stability.

It is only through this social homeostasis that we can finally make the right decisions.

One of the mysterious so-called "mandates" is that the Angels of the Churches will have control of the URANTIA revelation for the first 100 years and that the Progress Angels will take over its dissemination after that. If this is true, and if this means that the Angels of the Churches are opposed to any mass media now, then perhaps we should slow down. But this might not be the correct interpretation, and if so, the anti-media people should heed Gamaliel's sage advice to the Jewish rulers when he said, "Refrain from these men and let them alone, for if this counsel or this work is of men, it will be overthrown; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them, lest haply you be found even to be fighting against God." (U 2067-8)

I am finally and fully comforted by the inevitable outworking of God's will on our planet. This revelation is destined to conquer the world. I don't think we can do much to stop it. Too many factors are working toward our planet's acceptance of "a new and fuller revelation of the religion of Jesus." So, I am happy and content to continue to listen to the arguments and contentions between the opposing views while I humbly do what I can to spread the book and its message in my own way, always allowing every one else to do the same, for after all, I really don't know.





# HARMONY

A semi-annual journal of the southeast.

*Harmony is a continuing effort of the Southeastern readers of The URANTIA Book to collect and present articles that will have the effect of harmonizing the movement.*

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*Editorial Guidance References  
(U 507:3-5) (U 1591:3) (U 1592:1)  
(U 500:2) (U 500:6)*

*Unless otherwise indicated, the quotations within this journal are from The URANTIA Book, © 1955.*

*Articles and editorial contents reflect the opinions of individual authors and not necessarily that of the URANTIA Foundation*

*Subscription: \$4 annually-2 issues. When subscribing, please react to this inaugural issue, and make suggestions for future issues. Like a music composition book, it is blank, awaiting your scoring.*

## "Our Task" Considered

by JIM MILLS

This contribution, regardless how titled, appears to have little to do with "spiritual guidance". It is concerned with a very mundane matter. The matter is the manner in which, as an organization, we approach our task of disseminating the teachings of The URANTIA Book; the stated work of the URANTIA Brotherhood. It is also very interesting that the bulk of the individuals who read this will actually not be members of the URANTIA Brotherhood in one or the other of its two membership categories.

I am not suggesting a membership promotion scheme but this is a plea asking us to take a good look at ourselves and how well we approach "Our Task" of disseminating the teachings which are our precious heritage.

I imagine I have attended about as many URANTIA Conferences as most people. I have faithfully and diligently studied the URANTIA "Papers" since before they were published. I have given lectures on and written commentaries about some papers. I have held every office in the Brotherhood except Treasurer, Secretary and Secretary-General. I have been chairman of several committees and have been a member of the Executive Committee and Trustee of the Foundation. Also, I have been a member of the General Council since its first meeting, only recently resigning. I have also been a Field Representative for the Brotherhood and a Special Agent for the Foundation. I speak from this background.

As I attend conferences, listen to the presentations, talk with individual members, I see a reinforcement of the wisdom of the revelatory commission in regard to the original restraints imposed upon us. Their prohibitions on unwise methods of promotion of the revelation have been amply reinforced by the behavior of a few people who, guided by questionable intuition, have attempted to "do things their own way." The results have caused a great deal of concern to those who regard the revelation of prime importance to our world society. In some instances it



has been necessary to impose legal sanctions upon them. The reaction of emotionally guided individuals to this procedure has not been one of "understanding" and often has been one of uninformed protest and misdirected effort.

There is, however, another aspect to this situation which rarely seems to surface; its effect upon level-headed individuals who are sincere devotees of the revelation and wish to see it spread throughout the world in a strong and stable manner. One effect appears to be the danger of turning in upon ourselves and attempting to become small cells of close-knit individuals. I see this in conference presentations and conversations with attendees. This is a negative effect which tends to thrive upon itself.

One has to have a good working knowledge of The URANTIA Book in order to give a reasonable presentation of a topic from it. One has to have only a reasonable enthusiasm for its content to recommend it to others for reading; not on the basis of what it will do for them, but simply that it is a new and interesting approach to religion and philosophy, that it has a superb understanding of the human situation and is replete with a marvelous presentation of human psychology, direct and unadorned. It has answers to a lot of perplexing questions, especially "why am I here"? Its answer of "simply for the experience of experiencing this experience", is simple, direct and provocative of other questions.

The main point of this discussion is that if you are a Brotherhood member in one of its categories, your first obligation is spelled out in the preamble to the constitution of the URANTIA Brotherhood which states the primary purpose of that body is to "disseminate the teachings of The URANTIA Book." That's it--period. It does not say "your interpretation of it." Now I can speak somewhat pejoratively, but with authority, on this practice because I have been guilty of it for years. My rationale, in common with a lot of others, has been that interpretations are helpful to the understanding of the book's content by other people.

One result of this practice is that our conferences have become increasingly structured around topics from the book, personal interpretations of the speakers on such topics as love, social awareness, brotherhood, altruism, ad nauseam. Now

this is good practice for the speaker if he/she is well-grounded in the teachings at point. It is also a great support for an ego which may need it as mine does from time to time. But it is questionable as an ongoing practice, and to continue to structure conferences around this practice alone is of questionable value to all concerned.

I'm in favor of structuring conferences around needs. And if we are to train teachers and leaders(?), it is basic that we do everything to assist people to ever greater understanding of The URANTIA Book teachings themselves. Therefore, I believe a part of every conference should consist of studies on teaching methods, not as they are promulgated in the manuals developed for our schools of pedagogy, but structured around the pragmatic methods we have learned from practice while remembering that change is indigenous to the finite.

We also might again consider the needs of new attendees and attempt to do things for them, such as providing question and answer sessions for the new students of the book, provide a separate study program for them and, in general, attempt to teach them how to make effective use of the contents of the book in life situations. Philosophy is excellent, but let us apply it to our world view or, better still, the universe view which the book propounds. The URANTIA Book suggests a Weltanschauung which is incomparable in the presence of all other world views.

I must confess that my patience is somewhat tried when, in conference after conference, I am forced to sit and listen while some thirty-five year old attempts to expound, in pseudo-academic terms and manner, upon serious universe problems on a foundation which is nearly pure intuition. I've heard all about love from an unknown number of self-appointed experts who unfortunately are still "hung-up" on its emotional aspects only. Jesus rarely discussed love without equating it with service. To serve, one must have enough analytical ability to be able to understand the other's needs, or else be able to ask the right questions to develop what they are; then to serve the suffering individual in such a manner that eventually he/she can learn to help themselves. This is done without any desire for gratitude.

Maybe we ought to have a conference on "How to Run a Conference."



# The Fruits of Study

by RICHARD BAIN

There are those times when we sit back and try to assess the value and meaning of our lives. You've studied The URANTIA Book for three, five, or twenty years. So what? Has it changed your life? Has it helped you grow spiritually? If you are like me, you may have studied the book for years without ever giving questions like these much consideration. It is profitable to stop sometimes and assess how our lives were changed as a result of studying this book.

There are two significant areas of our spiritual lives that may be affected when we study the book; the first is our system of beliefs, the second is our faith. It can provide a satisfying set of beliefs for those who have found the conventional beliefs of their religion inadequate. Belief is only intellectual assent, according to The URANTIA Book, but faith is a soul attitude that permeates and changes all areas of our lives. The intellect is the gateway to the soul; belief is a good place to start but it shouldn't be a final destination.

At a workshop in West Palm Beach, Florida, we considered the benefits we had derived from studying the book. The following list is derived in part from that workshop.

## The Benefits

1. I have gained an understanding of the nature of God the Father, God the Son, God the Spirit and their composite being, the Trinity.
2. Part IV of the book has shown me Jesus as a real person who laughed and cried in life circumstances, but who met all the challenges of life with consummate courage and grace. The book has also shown me the high and worthy purposes for which our Creator Son came to our humble planet.
3. I have gained an intellectual awareness of the fact that I am indwelt by a fragment of the Father, and an understanding of the nature of this Thought Adjuster. Further, I have been made aware of the possibility and desirability of attempting to contact this divine indweller.
4. The book has given me the soul-satisfying message that I will not only survive this life, but I will awake in a new and better

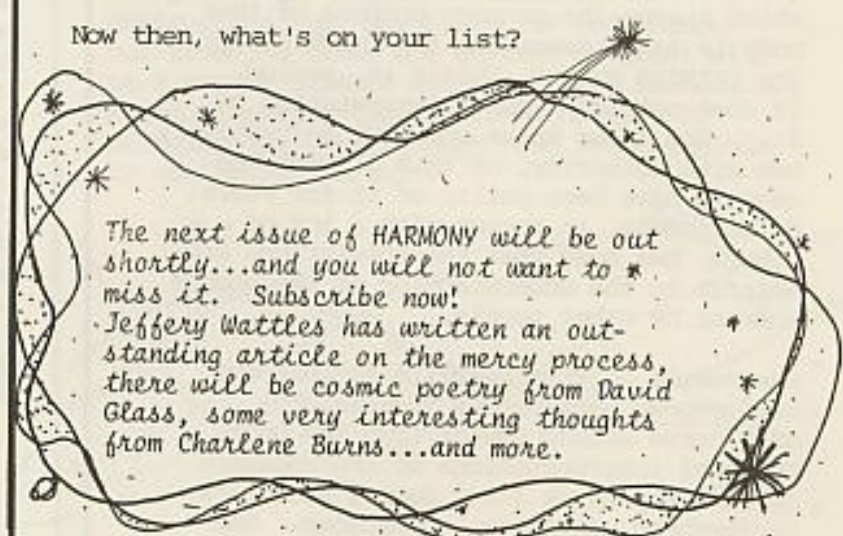
place, knowing who I am and knowing that all my striving toward the good was not in vain.

5. I also now have a clear picture of human destiny, first as an ascender, then at last as a Finaliter out in the nearly infinite cosmos eternally serving the Trinity and my fellow beings.

6. I have a greater appreciation of the nature and value of prayer and worship. Knowing these things increases my desire to pray and participate in worship.
7. For me, the book has also been a revelation of the love-dominated nature of the Father, as revealed by Jesus in his life on our world.
8. I have been made keenly aware that service to my fellow mortals is a pleasure and a privilege, not a burden to be borne.
9. Last, knowing who I am, where I am going and that I am loved by my Eternal Father has given me a great inner peace. I can now see the problems of life from a cosmic perspective, I can make mole-hills out of mountains, so to speak.

The URANTIA Book is destined to leaven the spiritual affairs and be a catalyst to the spiritual evolution of our planet, but it can also be the light that illuminates the spiritual path of each of those who study it. In fact, if the book is only an intellectual experience for those of us in this movement, if it does not inspire us to a closer relationship to the Father and each other, can it be expected to sway a whole planet with its teachings? It is our privilege to have this book to study, but privilege implies responsibility. Because we proclaim ourselves students of this book, many will look at the quality of our lives to decide if this book contains spiritual truth with the potential to change lives. It is our responsibility to insure that they are not disillusioned by what they see.

Now then, what's on your list?



The next issue of HARMONY will be out shortly...and you will not want to miss it. Subscribe now!  
Jeffery Wattles has written an outstanding article on the mercy process, there will be cosmic poetry from David Glass, some very interesting thoughts from Charlene Burns...and more.