

PERVADED SPACE

MIDWEST

WORSHIP SEMINARS REPRESENT "A FIRST STEP"

An experiment in prayer and worship was conducted in Lake Forest, IL, this summer. The URANTIA Brotherhood Seminars (previously known as workshops) provided an intensive, week-long examination of prayer and worship in early July at Lake Forest College. The college has been the site of several URANTIA gatherings, including the Midwest Conferences of 1980 and 1983 (see PERVADED SPACE, Spring, 1983).

The seminars, or workshops, were initially begun by the Education Committee. It was they who proposed the theme of prayer and worship for this year's sessions. According to Lynne Kulieke, chairman of the committee, Dan Massey, of Sherbourne MA, suggested the topic to her. Representatives of several of the Brotherhood committees met in Oklahoma last November to plan the seminars.

Approximately 175 adults and over 20 children (child care was provided) attended. Logistical considerations were handled by Special Projects Committee, chaired by Chuck Burton. Another member of the committee, Marilyn Kulieke, handled registration and attendant problems, as she has the past several workshops. Gloriann Harris, treasurer and accountant for the Brotherhood, handled finances, while able assistance was provided by June Moritz of the Brotherhood office staff.

The seminar provided morning study sessions on various topics concerning the theme. The afternoon provided many choices of worship sessions, ranging from unusual to traditional, during two different hour-long periods. The opportunity to attend consecutive worship experiences, Lynne explained, was due to the explorative nature of the sessions, providing individuals a chance to see many forms of worship.

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Fijian dancers perform at the Seminars.

K.C. Group Reports

Here is a report about the Kansas City groups from Ila Hall:

Our two study groups, the Pathfinders and the Seekers, had a great day at Larry and Pat Brewer's house on August 21 to celebrate the birthday of Christ Michael. We had a potluck dinner at the noon hour. In the afternoon there were songs and sharing of favorite parts of the Book. There were 41 adults and 15 children present.

Next year's conference (the annual Mid-America Get-Together) is May 4th-6th.

The yearly observance of Jesus' birthday was recently celebrated by readers of The URANTIA Book throughout the world, ranging from a conference in Santa Barbara, CA, to a continuation of nearly a half-century of observing the occasion by First URANTIA Society. August 21, 1983 marked the 1989th anniversary of Michael of Nebadon's incarnation on Urantia.

from the editors

"Throwing out the baby with the bathwater" is a phrase heard various places, including, quite often, in the URANTIA movement. It refers to the indiscriminate bunching of good things with bad when both are discarded due to progress or an outworn decision. It stems from man's tendency to associate his ideas, emotions, beliefs, attitudes, etc., about a given topic, in short providing a simplistic explanation of the reality about him.

The most common application of this phrase with readers of *The URANTIA Book* is in assessing the motivation of people who become dissatisfied with their religion and end up becoming atheists. Thus the religion was the bathwater and God was the baby (which is interesting casting).

But a similar tendency appears to us to be nearly as widespread. That is the tendency to leave a church and not want to have anything to do with any of the practices of that church, as in "I left the church to get away from all that ritual and mumbo jumbo. I sure don't want to have anyone give me a worship service now; I'll do my prayer and worship in private, thank you."

A more subtle form of this prejudice is the desire to eliminate aspects of the worship experience, not the entire thing. If the Protestants have hymns, we better not. If Catholics use candles, they must be forbidden to us. A Jewish service might have a chant, so we cannot. And heaven forbid that

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Swamy Cool is vacationing in Sandmatia. He will return next issue.



we have a Christmas celebration! One can imagine the day, should this line of reasoning be extended, that we cannot meet in a building, sit or stand, speak or sing, because, of course, all these things are done in various religions.

The URANTIA Book provides numerous examples to support the idea that our traditions, when valid and applicable, should be used. Jesus, we are told, would present Scripture passages in such a manner as to illuminate his message with no need of further comment. (p. 1399)* Jesus had a healthy respect for the traditions of his culture and observed many of them. The authors of *The URANTIA Book* tell us that they use the thoughts of humankind where they can in presenting their message. (p. 17)*

The culture of Western Civilization, particularly in music and visual art, was kept alive in great part for centuries by the church, and some of the art and practices therein represent some of the greatest achievements of man, not to mention some of the best traditions of prayer and worship. Should we not use such wonderful tools? Should we ignore such sublime achievements? Should we not utilize effective forms of group prayer and worship simply because the idea had previously

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Publicity Becomes Major Issue

(Editors' Note: The following article is the first of a two-part series covering some of the main issues in the URANTIA movement at this time. The second part will appear in the Autumn issue of PERVADED SPACE.)

The annual cycle of the URANTIA movement appears to begin and end with August 21st. Not only are so many of us attuned to an academic habit, many programs are so geared and several main URANTIA movement events such as the General Council meetings, Triennials and General Conferences occur in the summer as the culminating events of the year.

So, starting with last fall, the predominant issue of this 1983 year has been the publicity issue. Just what measure of publicity is appropriate for The URANTIA Book has occupied many hours of interaction and debate. The emergence of this issue at the present time appears to result from three factors: 1) The death of E. L. Christensen, who effectively blocked attempts at publicity for years; 2) The frustration resulting from the drop in sales of The URANTIA Book due to the price increase, and 3) the recent and apparently natural increase in personal activity.

One of the debates revolves around what constitutes increasing availability of The URANTIA Book versus what constitutes advertising The URANTIA Book. Many hold that attempts to increase availability are appropriate, whereas advertising may not be.

The actual injunction of the Revelatory Commission concerns refraining from the use of "mass media" in the promulgation of The URANTIA Book, and it was further indicated that we would be well aware when this injunction would no longer apply.

Many resolutions and matters at the General Council meeting were directed at the issue of publicity. URANTIA Brotherhood is formulating a very complete statement of policy on publicity at the present time.

A newsletter, Réflexivité, is now being published by URANTIA Book readers in Québec. Those who read French (or know someone else who does) and wish to subscribe may do so by sending \$10 (check or money order) payable to Roxane Proulx "in trust" (sic) to:

Réflexivité
a/s Famille Proulx
5057, 4e avenue
Montréal
QUÉBEC H1V 2V2, CANADA

STUDY GROUPS CAMPOUT

On the weekend of August 12-14, the second annual "Wisconsin-Minnesota" campout came together at Interstate State Park, St. Croix Falls, WI. The reserved campsite provided a group location. Seven tents were pitched during the weekend with 14 adults, and 10 children taking part in this year's activities. This included a trip down
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■ letters

This tropical mind likes to peruse PERVADED SPACE with a banana. Get the drift? There isn't, unless...I go over to the Pacific coast, stick P.S. into an empty bottle and... come the day the quarantine is lifted from this planet, it should hit Chicago Beach.

Mario Caoile
Portland, OR

Keep up the good work. We enjoy every issue. Our check is enclosed so that we will not miss a single copy.

Donna & Harry Rowley
Minocqua, WI

May I make a correction: Our organization is The Christian Fellowship of Students of The URANTIA Book, and not as printed in your last issue (Spring, 1983). We hope that in some future time there might be The Jewish Fellowship etc., The Hindu Fellowship etc., The (any other religion) Fellowship, etc., etc.

Irene Sprunger
Fort Wayne, IN



(Seminars--continued from page 1)

Evenings were set aside for the International Fellowship Committee, which scheduled cultural sharing programs wherein persons from various locations around the world explained to the audience about their home and the activities of The URANTIA Book in their areas. Perhaps the most unusual "cultural sharing" was the Fijian dances performed on the final evening.

Lynne felt that the seminars went well. As person in charge of the program, she commented that, "The general response was positive, although different things appealed to different people."

Lynne said that the best way she could summarize the goals her committee had for the seminars was "to raise consciousness for a week on a subject that is so important. To focus on prayer and worship for a week on this level has not been done before."

Lynne felt that this was a "first step towards trying to cultivate within ourselves a recognition of an energy source to bring to our situation here on earth. It's so overlooked, often because many people are reacting to our rituals."

"Prayer and worship are very real stuff; they're substance, not shadow. We all recognize the personal aspect, but the application can be social as well. Wherever we find ourselves, school, work, family, but also in our task of the Fifth Epochal Revelation, in our organizational work, we can't make a dichotomy: 'here prayer and worship, here committee work. Here time to pray or worship, there time for decision-making.'"

Lynne emphasized the relationship and harmony of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man in pointing out the practical aspects of prayer and worship.

As to the future, regarding what is a surprisingly controversial subject in the movement, with a variety of backgrounds, adherence to and reaction to traditional forms, Lynne said, "This was only a very humble first step. I'd like not to think that this was a closure, that now we'll move on to something else."



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occurred to someone else, probably because it's a good one? In our concern not to become a church, should we seek to escape all habits of all churches, even to the point of eliminating group prayer and worship, which The URANTIA Book tells us is so important?

In answer to all these questions, we think not.

* * * * *

David Renn, a founding member and editor of PERVADED SPACE during its 6½ year existence, has decided to resign from the newsletter, joining his wife Lisa. We would like to thank him for his many contributions over the years, the many articles and editorials, the drawings throughout the newsletter, and the off-the-wall ideas.

Meanwhile, a restructuring of the staff has occurred, including a departmentalizing of our editorial staff. We would also like to welcome Mark Kulieke to our staff. Mark is a member of the Brotherhood Publications Committee and is the new president of First URANTIA Society. Mark is from Winnetka, IL.

Despite these changes, PERVADED SPACE will continue its policy of reporting on the individuals and their opinions, the groups and events of the Midwest URANTIA movement. We will also utilize our proximity to headquarters in providing an independent view of Brotherhood and Foundation activities.

* * * * *

September is the time that many URANTIA Book study groups which took a vacation during the summer months begin to meet again. Those in the Midwest are no exception. The autumn is a good time to join or form a group if one does not already belong to one. If you are interested in belonging to a group, contact the Brotherhood offices, (312) 327-0424, to find the groups or readers near you, or contact the officers of a nearby society. Those in the Midwest include: First URANTIA Society (Chicago), Glenview URANTIA Society, Orvonton URANTIA Society (Oak Park, IL), Western Springs URANTIA Society, and the URANTIA Society of Fort Wayne, IN.

people

You can't miss Marjorie Runkle at URANTIA gatherings. Her bright-eyed enthusiasm coupled with a never-ending positive outlook captures the attention of others immediately. Marjorie has been active in the Fort Wayne URANTIA Society for seven years. She had been a student of The URANTIA Book, though for nearly ten years before coming to the Fort Wayne Society.

Marjorie has been a member of the Church the Brethern all her life, in fact, it was through the church that she first encountered The URANTIA Book. She was a member of a church study group and was meeting with four other couples every Sunday night. Curiosity about The URANTIA Book arose when one of the members introduced her to the book. At first she was skeptical, but "little by little I was drawn into The URANTIA Book," she said. Interestingly, the group developed into a URANTIA Book study group.

Marjorie was one of five children who grew up on a farm in the middle of Indiana near Peru. There she was extremely active in her local church. In 1952 she married Don Runkle. "We were just a couple of farm kids", she explains. Don was a conscientious objector and therefore was assigned by the draft board to alternative service in 1953. They ended up in Fort Wayne with him working in a hospital for two years. Together they raised two sons, Dennis and David, who are roughly a year apart. Today they enjoy five grandsons with one on the way. She's certain it's another boy--it runs in the family.

With her son David in college, she fulfilled a long held dream -- to go to college. Marjorie attended Indiana-Purdue University regional campus located in Fort Wayne. She majored in English and Psychology.

Currently Marjorie is an executive secretary for the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission in Fort Wayne. It is a local civil rights agency that handles multiple forms of discrimination.

Her main interests center around her love for nature. Her home environment resonates with the basic simplicity of nature. "My landscaping is deliberately designed to draw wildlife into my backyard. There I have my



MARJORIE RUNKLE

trees, my birds and my bunnies", she says. Besides tinkering in and about her very own nature preserve, she loves reading, listening to good music and attending plays.

Her involvements are many and varied. Another challenging venture on her part is that she rents out rooms in her house to college students. This is something she finds both rewarding and full of surprises. As for URANTIA related activities, Marjorie has served in varying capacities in the Fort Wayne Society, including that of secretary. Presently, she is on the board of Dr. Meredith Sprunger's brain-child, "The Christian Fellowship of URANTIA Book Readers."

How is The URANTIA Book important to her? "I've learned to laugh at myself, through The URANTIA Book, not to take myself so seriously, to accept my own ambiguities and polarities as an ongoing, unending process. It is both appropriate and acceptable to do so because I don't feel inadequate for not having all the answers. As a perfectionist who never quite gets organized, as a pacifist who has come to recognize the intensity of my own submerged anger, as one concerned with justice and fairness in a very unfair world, I find in The URANTIA Book a perspective of God's unfolding plan for individual and cosmic growth and development that my spiritual and emotional self sorely needs." And that is quite appropriate for someone who involves herself so thoroughly with others and likes bunnies in her backyard.

■ Commentaries ■

This issue's commentaries deal with the quality of the experiences of each of the commentators at the recent Brotherhood Seminars on prayer and worship.

I am pleased to say that I had a delightful and very meaningful experience at the Intensive Study Seminar on Prayer and Worship at the Lake Forest College this past July. Along with this go my thanks to all who made it possible.

Such warmth and friendship and sincere love, as I experienced, would be even more phenomenal if it could be carried on on a daily basis in our everyday lives within our families and with people who are not fellow Urantians, but our brethren nevertheless.

It was interesting to witness the different approaches to the study of prayer and to share comments with those within the groups. A feeling of real brotherhood was created as each individual shared some personal experience.

I was emotionally moved by Dr. Sprunger's worship service in the traditional manner and again by the simplistic spontaneity of worship in Steve Dreier's group. I mention these two as they were the only ones I had the privilege of attending. I'm sure others were equally moving--the loss was mine.



Florence Burton
Wauconda, IL

The Intensive Study Seminars were an occasion of learning and discovery for me in understanding worship and prayer. I truly did come to see them "with new eyes."

Hearing people share their different experiences and viewpoints really brought home the message that each individual's prayer and worship life is completely personal and unique. I observed people exploring ways of expanding, deepening and redefining these experiences, which impressed upon me that while we can and should share whatever is meaningful for us personally, we should avoid any attempt to mold others' prayer and worship practices in the shape of our own.

Many people are moved and uplifted by group prayer and worship as led by those whose modes of feeling and expression are harmonious with their own. But many others, I learned in the course of these workshops, were like me in having experienced difficulty, frustration and even guilt from attempting and failing to conform to what they had assumed to be the more "spiritual" techniques in which others had previously tried to lead them.

This quandary is best resolved by a simple change in perspective. What have been the most spiritually significant situations for this individual? Study, work, reading, music, recreation, social fellowship... any or all of these may prove to be occasions of spontaneous prayer and worship, more so than any planned session or special occasion. It is truly liberating to discover the simple truth that we may share our lives with God where we are, as we are, without having to concern ourselves with technique, preparation, time, place or any other circumstance.



Cace Forrester
Chicago, IL

This year's summer seminar was our first but it will not be our last.

During the week, I was reminded that finding God in human experience is the chief goal of this life; that a living relationship with God is a consistent source of both power and peace; and that a desire to communicate and grow toward God is the natural outcome of knowing God.

But more than anything else, I was moved by discussions of the importance of praying for others and for groups. I was reminded that we should all "pray for the extension of the kingdom of heaven." (p. 1640) * I am unclear as to how my prayers can have an effect on that which God already desires or on those with whom I have little or no contact, but I am beginning to experience that those prayers have a powerful impact on me.



Jim Johnston
Toledo, OH

books

Much as Ferguson did in The Aquarian Conspiracy, Fritjof Capra, in The Turning Point, leads us to examine the Cartesian views which have determined our systems of thought and action in the fields of biology, medicine, psychology and economics. It becomes evident that what has gone wrong with the world is that we've been running it using the wrong model--looking at the wrong set of directions. Science itself is beginning to tell us that there are valid ways of knowing beyond "scientific method." People and things are not separate, but inter-related. Cooperation is better than competition. And much, much more. The Turning Point is real, and here now. Read and rejoice!

Annis M. Warsh
Western Springs, IL

(continued from page 2)

the St. Croix River on a paddleboat, some nature hikes and a friendly trading of stories and food. The good conversation, scenic surroundings and some-mores around the campfire insured that the tradition will continue next year.

* * * * *

An intensive Independent Study Program is being considered for possible sponsorship by First URANTIA Society. Such a program would be conducted flexibly enough to include URANTIA Book students from around the Midwest by meeting only every one to two months with reading, study and tasks assigned in between. Such a program need not end in any particular period of time so a topic can be treated thoroughly. Also, it would fulfill the desire of those who seek intensive topical study. The Education Committee will likely be approached for input and observation. Cece Forrester has volunteered to develop and administer such a program. If interested, please contact her c/o First URANTIA Society, 533 Diversey Parkway, Chicago IL 60614.

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(Note: If you are now a subscriber, you will be notified when your subscription expires.)

Here are the major officers of the five Midwest URANTIA societies as of September 1, 1983:

First URANTIA Society:

President: Mark Kulieke
Vice-President: Martin Myers
Secretary: Cece Forrester
Treasurer: Helen Carlson

URANTIA Society of Glenview:

President: Scott Forsythe
Vice-President: Mary Snider
Secretary: Carol Forsythe
Treasurer: David Renn

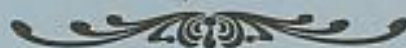
Orvonton URANTIA Society of Chicago:

President: Cletus Van Vreede
Vice-President: Michael Painter
Secretary: Verna Van Vreede
Treasurer: David Lindell

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* * * * *

Planning for the next General Conference of the URANTIA Brotherhood has begun. The conference will be held in early August of 1984, at Green Lake, WI. Chuck Burton, John Hales, Gloriann Harris, David Kulieke, Lynne Kulieke, Lillian Nicholas, and Mike Painter recently met at the home of Carolyn Kendall in Wheeling, IL. The format and a working title emerged: "Reaching Out: Learning, Living and Spreading the Teachings."



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Make checks payable to David Kulieke.

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Ft. Wayne URANTIA Society:
 President: Everett Sloffer
 Vice-President: Clarence Lange
 Secretary: Irene Sprunger
 Treasurer: Isabel Masel

First URANTIA Society of Western
 Springs:
 President: Marian Oestmann
 Vice-President: Clarence Schicht
 Secretary: Lillian Nicholas
 Treasurer: Elsie Kupka



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