

PERVADED SPACE

MIDWEST

Area Addresses

Autumn

Editors' Note: Even as Autumn is a time of dying in nature, it is also a time of renewal in human relationships and organizations. The URANTIA movement and its activities are good examples of this, for after a summer of conferences, seminars, and assorted meetings, the Fall is often a comfortably traditional time for societies and study groups to begin their yearly rhythms. In this issue we look at the current state of Midwest URANTIA societies in the following article and at where current study groups are in a map on pages four and five. We also learn how Autumn affects three different readers in "Commentaries" on page seven, and include a famous poem by John Keats, "To Autumn," on page five.



Bob Solone entertains at the Midwest Conference by doing his best imitation of that famous Russian musician, Igor Bivor. The story is on page 3. (Photo by Cece Forrester)

Fort Wayne URANTIA Society

This society continues to meet on Sundays at the Sprunger home from October to May. The group reads and studies for one-and-one-half hours, led by a different leader each Sunday. Occasionally a topic or "special" is studied. Refreshments follow. Contact Irene Sprunger (219) 745-4363.

Glenview URANTIA Society

The Glenview group is trying a different approach this year. To help spur attendance and enthusiasm, the group will meet monthly instead of twice-monthly. Two special, all-day meetings (one p.m. to seven p.m), featuring five prepared presentations and dinner, will highlight this new approach. The first is to be Saturday, November 1, and it will cover the five Thought Adjuster Papers. Interested individuals should contact Mary Snider (312) 251-2948.

Orvonton URANTIA Society

This group meets on Wednesday nights, rotating between Oak Park, a western Chicago Suburb, and the northern suburb of Highland Park. The first Friday of each month finds the group has a special program. About 10 to 12 attend on the average. The group has used a newspaper ad to try and reach new members for several years. Call Frank Sgaraglino, (312) 432-8807 or Mike Painter, (312) 383-3178.

First URANTIA Society of Western Springs

This study group continues to meet on Fridays in the home of Inez Burch, though her husband Art died last Spring. They have about 9 or 10 attenders for study and socializing. Call Marion Oestmann, (312) 482-3915 or Inez Burch, (312) 246-0488.

(Continued on page 8)

from the editors

There has been some discussion lately among various readers of The URANTIA Book as to what to call ourselves.

One opinion deals with the generic term "movement" in referring to the phenomenon surrounding the spreading of the teachings, the distribution of the book itself, and those who believe the teachings of the book. Some would do away with this non-official word because of its association with phenomena of the past with which we might not want to be associated, such as the "temperance movement" or the "labor movement" or the "Pre-Raphaelite movement." Some feel an impersonal, or political quality to the term that does not reflect the highly personal aspect of the relationship with the Universal Father and his children and among those believing children.

Another association some would like to avoid would be to other religious movements such as Protestantism. We may not know exactly what we are, but we have some thoughts of what we are not or what we don't want to seem like.

The problem is how to refer to ourselves if not as a movement--the URANTIA phenomenon? No, even more impersonal. Some argue for a "brotherhood." After all, the Pre-Raphaelites had a brotherhood. Unfortunately, so do we, as in the name of

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Managing Editor: David Kulieke
Circulation Editor: Marilyn Kulieke
Production Editor: Cece Forrester

Staff: Mark Kulieke, Sally Schlundt,
Glen Thorsander

Swamy Cool by G.Thorsander



the organization, the URANTIA Brotherhood. Even if we are all part of a brotherhood of man, it would be confusing to refer to the movement as a brotherhood unless the organization changed its name.

Which brings us to another controversy: Is "Brotherhood" a good a name for the Brotherhood? The most obvious objection is its sexist quality.

Aside from the mundane problems that would attend such a change, such as the cost of changing stationery, publications, literature, mind sets, the constitution, legal documents, gold leaf on the front door, etc., the major difficulty is figuring out an acceptable new name.

Many other words are equally sexist. "Fraternity" is not only too sophomoric, it also doesn't confer equality nor does it liberate us from the onus of brotherhood. Sisterhood is the same problem in reverse, as is "sorority" and besides, does anyone really want to go through rush in order to join? The word "fellowship" is not imposing enough and it's also sexist.

Perhaps there are some non-sexist terms that would work. The "URANTIA Siblinghood"? Implies rivalry. The "URANTIA Relationship"? Maybe a little trendy.

(Continued on page 3)

Midwesterners Meet in Madison

The annual Midwest Conference for readers of The URANTIA Book took place the weekend of August 8-10, 1986. The site was the St. Benedict Center, an ecumenical conference and retreat center overlooking Lake Mendota in Madison, WI.

The conference was attended by 92 adults and 40 children, setting a record for the most children ever at a Midwest conference. It was estimated that close to one quarter of those present were attending a URANTIA Book-oriented conference for the first time.

The conference began Friday evening with registration and a campfire. The theme, "The Presence of God", was reflected in Saturday and Sunday discussion groups and talks by Kurt Cira, Milwaukee, WI; Gayle Moravec, Eagle River, WI; Meredith Sprunger, Fort Wayne, IN; and Sherry Zopel, Wausau, WI. Other events included a presentation about Paradise by Timothy Young, Muscatine, IA; a Saturday evening remembrance supper followed by an entertainment program; and a Sunday morning worship service with dramatic readings and music. During free time, recreational opportunities included a swimming pool, nature trail and ceramics studio, and the "Brotherhood of Man" computer bulletin board was demonstrated by David Missavage of Coal Valley, IL.

The gathering was organized by the Central Wisconsin Study Group, a geographically widespread but nonetheless cohesive fellowship of about 10 families, which first took shape after the 1981 URANTIA Brotherhood General Conference in Snowmass, CO. (See "Wisconsin Readers Conquer Distance", PERVADED SPACE, Vol. 5 No. 1, Summer, 1981.) The group now meets for study on a monthly basis. The main organizing committee was comprised of Stella Hladilek, Brad Shrake, Susan Weller and Sherry Zopel. Many other study group members assisted in various capacities. Commented one of the organizers, "We had so many people behind the scenes, it made it very easy. Although we live all across the state, this project

really brought us together. It was a rewarding experience and we'd love to do it again."

They'll have to wait at least a year before doing so, however. It was announced that the baton has been passed to the River Bend Study Group, which will host next summer's Midwest Conference in the Quad Cities area (see story on page 8).

(Editorial--continued from page 2)

The word family has some appeal, but "Family of God" might be a little presumptuous for a group which desires coexistence with existing religion, and besides, hasn't that been used somewhere before? The "URANTIA Family" might be nice, but we think Andon and Fonta have copyright on "Urantia Family."

"Flock," "herd," "swarm," and "gaggle," are a little too bestial, though "tribe" sounds like a a group leaving the primordial ooze with some upward mobility. The "URANTIA Throng" goes a long way to reflect the nature of some URANTIA meetings we've attended, as does "mob" and our personal favorite, "rabble," but we have a sneaking suspicion there might be objections in some quarters.

"Party"? We wouldn't be a party to it.

In short, we see nothing remotely substitutable for the informal "movement" and the name "URANTIA Brotherhood," and until we do, those words are what we'll use in this publication.

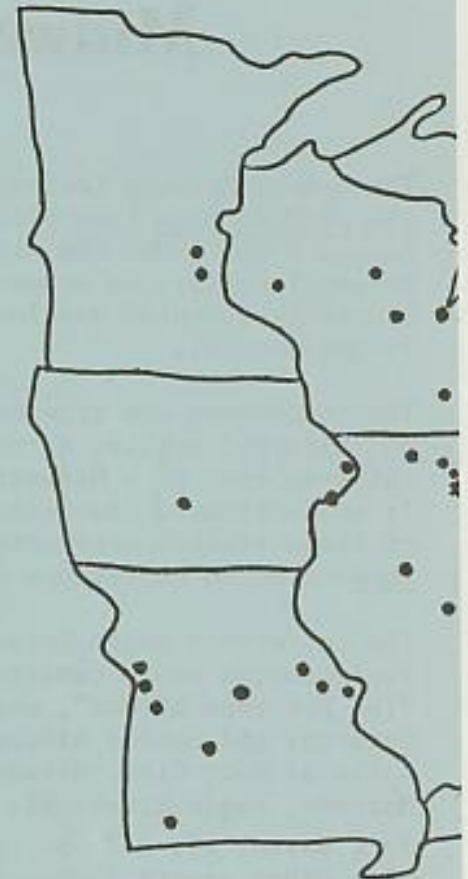
* * * * *

As we enter our 10th year of publication, we would like to point out that our issue dates are retroactive. Thus this issue, printed in October, is a look at what has transpired in our pervaded space during the past summer.

Midwest Study Groups

The accompanying list and map show the location of URANTIA Book study groups known or believed to exist in the 9-state area, based on the latest information available at URANTIA Brotherhood headquarters. The next edition of the Study Group Directory of URANTIA Brotherhood, first issued in 1984, is expected to be published in the spring. Groups shown (or not shown) on this map are encouraged to contact headquarters with updated information, not only for the directory, but also for the benefit of readers who may want to get in touch with the nearest study group in the interim. (Names and phone numbers of contacts for the groups shown can be obtained from URANTIA Brotherhood, 533 Diversey Parkway, Chicago IL 60614.)

Since PERVADED SPACE last published a study group map in the Summer/Fall 1984 issue, three or four groups have ceased to exist, but seven new ones have formed: four in Michigan, two in Missouri and one in Ohio. PERVADED SPACE plans to publish a feature on the seven Michigan study groups in an upcoming issue.



ILLINOIS

Bloomington "Pilgrims of Time"
 Charleston Study Group
 Chicago--North Side Study Group
 Crystal Lake Study Group
 First URANTIA Society (Chicago)
 Orvonton URANTIA Society
 of Chicago
 URANTIA Society of Glenview
 Lake Forest "Ordinary People"
 Naperville Study Group
 Rockford "Jesusionians"
 First URANTIA Society of
 Western Springs

INDIANA

Beverly Shores Study Group
 Fort Wayne URANTIA Society
 French Lick--Sycamore Valley
 Study Group
 Hammond--URANTIA Book Study Group
 of Northwest Indiana
 Indianapolis Study Group

IOWA

Clinton "Destiny Guides"
 Des Moines Study Group
 Quad Cities--River Bend URANTIA
 Book Study Group

KENTUCKY

Fredonia "Truth Seekers"

MICHIGAN

Ann Arbor Study Group
 Bad Axe Study Group
 Farmington Study Group
 Flint Area URANTIA Book Study Group
 Garden City Study Group
 Grand Rapids Study Group
 Muskegon Study Group

MINNESOTA

Excelsior Study Group
 Minneapolis Study Group

MISSOURI

Cassville URANTIA Book Fellowship
 Columbia "Mid-Way Group"
 Creve Coeur Study Group
 Gravois Mills--Lake of the Ozarks
 Study Group
 Kansas City North "Seekers"
 Kansas City South "Pathfinders"

Lee's Summ
 Martinsvil

St. Louis

OHIO

Cleveland
 Columbus "
 Lebanon UR
 New Lexing
 Toledo--Mi
 St

WISCONSIN

Bailey's H
 Fou
 Central Wi
 Ephraim St
 Green Bay
 Menomonie
 Muskego "L
 Wausau Stu

To Autumn

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
 Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
 Conspiring with him how to load and bless
 With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;
 To bend with apples the mossed cottage-trees,
 And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
 To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel-shells
 With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
 And still more, later flowers for the bees,
 Until they think warm days will never cease,
 For summer has o'er-brimmed their clammy cells.

Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store?
 Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find
 Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,
 Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind;
 Or on a half-reaped furrow sound asleep,
 Drowsed with the fume of poppies, while thy hook
 Spares the next swath and all its twined flowers:
 And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep
 Steady thy laden head across a brook;
 Or by a cider-press, with patient look,
 Thou watchest the last oozings hours by hours.

Where are the songs of Spring? Ay, where are they?
 Think not of them, thou hast thy music too,—
 While barred clouds bloom the soft-dying day,
 And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;
 Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn
 Among the river shallows, borne aloft
 Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;
 And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;
 Hedge-crickets sing; and now with treble soft
 The red-breast whistles from a garden-croft;
 And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.

John Keats (1795-1821)



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people

David Burleson left Chicago for Atlanta this summer, but not before we managed to interview him for this biographical sketch. David has always moved a lot. Born in 1947, the son of a Disciples of Christ minister who worked in Tennessee, Kentucky and Alabama, David never spent more than two years in one place. Even in college, he spent just two years at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and two years at the University of Cincinnati. He majored in music and psychology, two continuing areas of focus in his life. David worked as a musician in Washington, DC, New York, and finally Carbondale, IL, where he discovered The URANTIA Book in 1974.

A church organist at age 12, David found that his fundamental religious upbringing had become a predominantly musical experience. During and after college, he explored other religions, joining a Buddhist organization, studying Hinduism, meditating, and "dabbling in the occult." David "had thrown out Christianity" altogether. He remembers realizing that he "didn't know where to place Jesus" and "prayed to know Jesus." Not long after, he found a copy of The URANTIA Book in a friend's library--a friend who still hasn't read it himself. David "just believed it from the start."

David moved to Chicago in 1975, principally because it was the headquarters of the revelation. He worked as a house parent for exceptional children, as a mental health worker in the psychiatric units of two Chicago hospitals, and in data processing, when he wasn't working as a musician. He worked in music for about six of the last 11 years. David plays piano and has done coaching and accompanying work. In a different vein, he produced and directed the musical Godspell at an Old Town church.

David started attending First URANTIA Society in 1975 and has been a regular contributor to the study sessions. He has also served on the Governing Committee. In addition, he became involved in the north side Chicago study group that has met for



David Burleson
(Photo courtesy of Nancy Brown)

the past 10 or 11 years, coordinating the meetings himself from 1979 to 1985. As cooking and entertaining are two of his hobbies, they matched well with hosting a study group.

David took up another interest--painting--in 1973, working in watercolor, pen and ink, and acrylic paints. His favorite subjects are morontia landscapes and scenes. David enjoys the mansion worlds, Paradise, "the cosmic element" of The URANTIA Book, which for him ties in with his artistic interest.

Perhaps David's most notable accomplishment is that he has introduced The URANTIA Book to over 200 people, averaging a new contact once every week to two weeks, and he is always looking for ways to talk about The URANTIA Book. Of those 200 introductions, he knows of 12 who went on to read it. David feels many more people could spread the teachings like this. They "need a sense of excitement and community within the teachings of Jesus. People will be led by the spirit."

commentaries

The subject for these commentaries is:
"Keats described fall as a season of 'mellow
fruitfulness'. How is your autumn a
reflection of this thought?"

* * * * *

As a material being living in this sphere, I
take pleasure in the physical beauty evident
on our planet as the seasons change. Autumn
is an especially beautiful season with its
colorful panoramas of crimson leaves, and
fields of flaxen-colored crops, ripe for
harvest. I see autumn also as a time to
reflect on the invisible, but just as real,
spiritual panoramas of my soul.

On page 1216 The URANTIA Book states "...the
soul--the morontia self--will faithfully
portray the harvest of the temporal
decisions which the mortal self is making."*
I would like to imagine my soul as an entity
of brilliant spiritual colors and harmony--
the harvest of lots of wonderful temporal
decision-making.

Alas, my soul is more likely a pale wisp of
vapor--reflective of how distractible my
decision-making usually is. This autumn I
would like to focus more of my energies on
making God-centered decisions, decisions
which will result in the "mellow
fruitfulness" of true soul growth.



Judy Cosky
Clawson, MI

It must have been a bottle of good wine--a
satisfying spring and summer--that would
lead Keats to describe Autumn as a season of
"mellow fruitfulness". Or perhaps an
exceptionally beautiful autumn with many
awakeningly cool, deep blue, sunny skies,
and many, many colorful tree crystals
shimmering in the wind, dancing in the air,
mellowing in the ground. Green dreams

*The URANTIA Book, (c) 1955 URANTIA
Foundation. All rights reserved.

yielding into yellow, red, burnt orange
transformations of "Undying Hope."

"Undying Hope" is the fruit of the spirit
that comes to my mind with this season's
accumulating memories and vivid sights of
fall. The skies have been very gray;
occasionally a distant aqua blue sky peeks
between fluffy wet floating statue
continuum. Disappointments have been more
obvious than usual; the fruitful colors of
mellowly armored wooden soldiers stand guard
on seemingly endless and hilly borderlands
of defeat. Yet, at the same time, with the
spirit of "Undying Hope", this season's
declination of a cycle of life shows a
valuable path to the triumph of spiritual
realities--recognition of our desires to
survive and grow old gracefully, being
spiritually fertile.



Michael W. Pittman
Oak Park, IL

"Mellow" indeed is the bountiful produce of
the autumn harvest which renders up its
wares for man as does a wave cast itself
upon a narrow beach with fullness and
abandon.

But then again does a wave subside.
Autumnal hues, garish in their crimsons and
yellows, radiate, shining in the passion of
the death of leaves. This temporal
senescence, both ghastly and good, "sings
out", like a thorn bird, in an ardent
affection, peeling forth in the brashness of
orange and the muted power of the maroons.
"After the fall" the sun-storing leaves take
graceful leave of their bowers and are
humbled gaily in color and sadly in descent
to the ground. And there they are impaled
upon an iron rake.

The destiny-completing leaves descend,
achieving a transmogrifying rendering of
themselves, becoming a source of new
fertility and cyclic immortality through

(Continued on page 8)

(Commentaries--continued from page 7)

which they afford LIFE to the leaves of next year's trees. For implicit in the autumnal dissolution are three Giant Spirits, insuppressible: the Winter-vanquisher, the escalating hope for Spring, and the swelling jubilation of the uncontainable expectation for life's Easter resurrection.



David Glass
Fort Worth, TX

1987 MIDWEST CONFERENCE QUAD CITIES BOUND

Plans are already under way for the 1987 Midwest Conference for readers of The URANTIA Book, to be organized by the River Bend (Quad Cities) study group. The conference will be held from Friday to Sunday, June 19-21, 1987 at St. Ambrose College in Davenport IA. Several Committees, coordinated by Tim Young, have begun work on the arrangements for the conference, whose theme will be "The URANTIA Book and You: A Spiritual Fellowship Conference." Further information and registration forms will be mailed after the first of the year to readers in about a dozen states from Ohio on the east to Kansas

and Oklahoma on the west. For more information, contact:

Timothy Young
507 Woodlawn
Muscatine IA 52761

(319) 263-8018

(Societies--continued from page 1)

First URANTIA Society

As it has done for thirty years, First Society meets in the second floor meeting room at 533 Diversey Parkway, Chicago, Brotherhood Headquarters. Its Sunday afternoon meetings combine topical with paper by paper reading with rotating prepared leadership. Attendance varies from a dozen into the twenties. The group is also involved in library book placement and planning a Spring mini-conference. Contact Cece Forrester (312) 549-4835 or Marilyn Kulieke (312) 234-6204.

* * * * *

Additionally, the four Chicago area societies have a cooperative effort called the Chicago Area Referral Service. Anyone interested in specifics of Chicago area study groups may call David Kulieke at (312) 234-6204.

John Hay
c/o The Boulder School
1636 18th St.
Boulder CO 80302

Are your name and
address shown correctly?



PERVADED SPACE
c/o Kulieke
320 Forest View Drive
Lake Bluff IL 60044