

PERVADED SPACE

MIDWEST



Anyone who has visited the Chicago headquarters and managed to find his way to the basement would be amazed to see the transformation this former dungeon has undergone. It is now a bright, cheery workspace. (photo by Cece Forrester)

Headquarters Renovated

(Editors' note: The January, 1985 issue of PERVADED SPACE featured a "tour" of the headquarters offices at 533 Diversey Parkway, Chicago. Since we believe our readers like to know about these behind-the-scenes people and activities that offer material support for the furtherance of the URANTIA revelation, we are offering the following update on the changes--some still in progress--which have been taking place since that article appeared.)

Over the past year a series of improvements has been in progress at headquarters. Continuing maintenance and upkeep projects have been going on since last summer; other alterations are being made to better accommodate the changing needs of URANTIA Brotherhood and URANTIA Foundation office staff and activities.

Exterior changes to the building have included a new roof and a new concrete driveway slab, put in last summer. During the fall of 1985, traffic on Diversey Parkway was reduced to a trickle as the city completed a street-widening and resurfacing project. This summer, sidewalks along Hampden Court will be re-done in cooperation with the city.

Inside, ongoing redecorating has included painting, replacement of floor tiles and carpeting, a new kitchen sink and new wallpaper in the bathroom.

Visitors to 533 in recent weeks noticed a cluster of metallic tentacles snaking their way throughout every recess of the building. This apparent space monster is, in fact, air conditioning ductwork, soon to be concealed

Conferences Bloom

Spring and Summer are the seasons for conferences in the URANTIA movement in general and particularly in the Midwest. As usual, readers have planned two regional conferences, and the Education Committee's Intensive Study Sessions are once again to be held in June.

The Midwest Get-Togethers, annually sponsored by the Kansas City study groups, will celebrate 10 years of getting together this June 6-8. For further information, contact:

Ila Hall
8700 E. 110th St.
Kansas City, MO 64134

The ninth annual Midwest Conference, which rotates from site to site each year

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from the editors

(Editors' Note: The following guest editorial was submitted by Carolyn Kendall of Wheeling, IL, who is currently a member of First URANTIA Society. She was a founding member of the Orvonton Society.)

The outstanding quality of the First URANTIA Society is the outstanding quality of its study of The URANTIA Book. The society was an outgrowth of the Forum, the group that studied the revelation at 533 Diversey Parkway, Chicago, until the book's publication in 1955. Of the 200 to 300 original Forum members, only about 9 or 10 still attend First Society regularly, the others having died or moved away.

The present society reflects two characteristics in its program: 1) thorough study of The URANTIA Book remains the highest priority; and 2) students are to be provided opportunity to develop and refine their skills as teachers of the book. There are two subsidiary guidelines to the society's function: 1) maintain a dependable location and schedule every week, including pre-assigned program and leaders; and 2) the organizational aspects of the society are kept in the background so as not to displace the study and teaching emphasis.

Guidance for First URANTIA Society's emphasis is found in the book itself. In Jesus's organization the apostles set up a simple functional structure, David Zebedee managed the mechanical operation, while

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Swamy Cool by G.Thorsander



trivial details of organization consumed only a small percentage of time in their group deliberations. The apostolic and evangelistic organizations--"schools"--were exclusively occupied with training and practice: preparation and propagation.

The main function of the Garden of Eden was as a university. Students learned about the Father and practiced brotherhood. They were trained as teachers of truth and planetary culture, or as leaders who would establish outposts in the lands beyond. The Garden was the means, not the goal.

Since the day of publication, we have all known what we are supposed to do: train teachers and leaders and establish study groups. First Society is doing an excellent job of training teachers. It has spawned a few study groups, though not to its fullest potential.

Concerns exist throughout the readership about the slow or stagnant spread of the book. When more teachers and leaders are trained, study groups will improve; when

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there are better study groups, they will attract and hold more students. And more students will buy more books to share with friends.

* * * * *

The teacher/lecturer method of conducting meetings employed by First URANTIA Society has proven to be effective for a group that frequently numbers more than 20 people at Sunday afternoon meetings. The apostles utilized the lecturer/orator method for addressing assemblies of believers. They usually included a question and answer period afterward. Small study groups seem to follow the shared-reading, little-or-no-preparation method which may be appropriate for 6 to 10 people, but affords participants little training as teachers.

A great deal of thought goes into the planning and execution of First Society's excellent study and teacher training program. A program committee determines the complexity of papers projected for study in the upcoming semester. Each paper is assigned for one or two Sundays to one or two people to prepare and present. Since the goal is to develop teaching ability, membership in the society is not a requirement for assignments. A schedule covering the next four months is mailed to members and other regular attenders.

Presenters research their paper, locate relevant cross-references, Bible verses, maps and outside materials. The paper is read, usually by the reader, and audience discussion is encouraged. An effort is made to finish the paper in the time allotted. A less-than-superior first effort doesn't mean exile. That individual might be teamed with a more experienced teacher next time or gently coached by the program chairman. Over the course of a semester, the differential in quality of presentations ranges from beginner through improving to experienced.

How could First Society's program be improved or expanded? A method of discreet audience feedback might be initiated to enable presenters to emphasize strong points and learn from mistakes. Additional

programs might include the training of study group leaders. Study group teachers and study group leaders--organizers--aren't necessarily the same persons. A second group, an off-shoot of the society, could meet in another location, following the same successful format, thus doubling the opportunities for gaining teaching experience.

In the last issue of PERVADED SPACE, we mistakenly reported that First URANTIA Society would sponsor a one-day miniconference in March and also a series of intensive, monthly study sessions. While those events were planned at that time, site problems and personal considerations of planners have forced the postponement of these events until next year. However, a series of Sunday pre-study meeting sessions on racial migrations will take place on April 13, 20, 27, and May 4. Tom Kendall will lead these sessions, which are open to anyone. For information call David Kulieke, (312) 234-6204.

■ graduations

Another of the venerated old guard of the early years of the URANTIA movement left us recently when Ruth Burton, of Wauconda, IL, died on March 7. She was 92. Ruth was a teacher, a task which she performed both professionally and for the URANTIA Brotherhood School. She also was a member of the Executive Committee, a Forumite, and she was an original and--until recently--active member of First URANTIA Society. A memorial service was planned for 4:15 on April 13 at 533 Diversey.



(Conferences--continued from page 1)

within a five-state area, will this summer find its way to Wisconsin for the first time. From August 8-10 readers will gather at the St. Benedict Center in Madison. The conference theme is "The Presence of God," and the activities are sponsored by the Central Wisconsin Study Group. Contact:

Brad Shrake
Rt.#5 Box 232
Marshfield, WI 54449

And finally, the Study Sessions will once again fill the void left every two of three years when the General Conference is not held. As has been the case for the past several years, the site is to be Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, IL, on June 24-27. This year's sessions will be cosponsored by the Fraternal Relations Committee. As last year's meetings concentrated on Part I of The URANTIA Book, this year's will focus on Part II. For further information contact:

URANTIA Brotherhood
533 Diversey Parkway
Chicago IL 60614
(312) 327-0424

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While this is an off-year for the General Conference, plans are moving forward for the 1987 version planned for August 2-7 of that year, at Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME. Marilyn Kuliecke, chairman of the Special Projects Committee, will chair that conference. The planning committee, representing East, Midwest, and West readers, has been selected. The planning contingent will also feature an advisory group composed of a representative of each society.

* * * * *

The General Council of URANTIA Brotherhood has an unusual meeting planned for April 18-20 in Orlando, FL. Sponsored by Taylor Corporation, this "DesignShop" is intended to help councilors in long range planning of the movement.

■ books

1. The Evolutionary Vision: Toward a Unifying Paradigm of Physical, Biological and Socio-cultural Evolution, Erich Fantsch, editor, 1981, Westview Press.

2. The Looking Glass Universe: The Emerging Science of Wholeness, John P. Briggs and F. David Peat, Simon and Schuster, 1984.

A whole new corps of extremely competent scientists are sounding as if they've been reading The URANTIA Book's outlinings on the nature of physical reality and human behavior and reading it well.

Subatomic physicists are penetrating into the realm of the Unqualified Absolute and pre-reality levels of matter, and are saying as much in their own subjective terminologies. Biologists and paleontologists are finding that evolution proceeded by quantum leaps, and that man is not a direct ape-descendant.

Astronomers and geneticists are discovering the organismal nature of the universe and the integrating oversight of cosmic mind that investigation makes increasingly obvious.

In short, the long-entrenched mechanistic view of the cosmos finds itself challenged by a burgeoning phalanx of evidence marshalled by some of the brightest minds of contemporary science. These books are fine introductions to a growing body of findings arising from this emerging vanguard of serious fresh inquiry.

Jon Greer
Chicago, IL

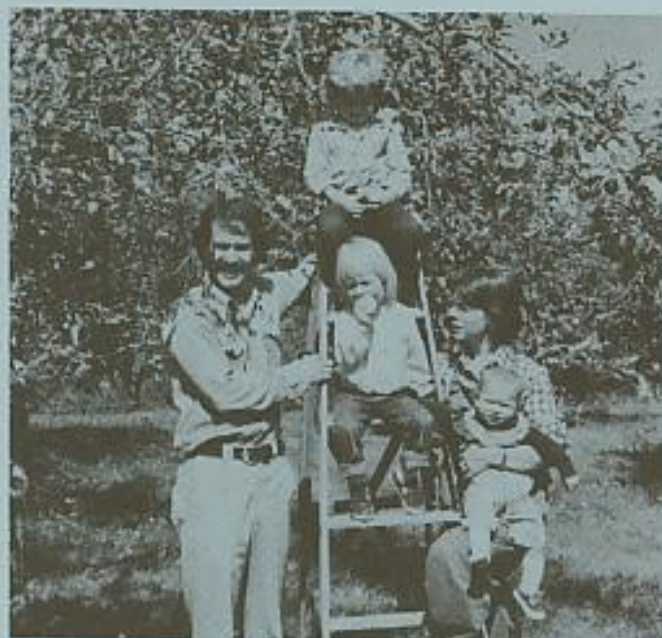


people

Of one married couple who both read The URANTIA Book, one might view as most impressive combined accomplishments which include Brotherhood Publication and Charter Committees membership, membership in two societies, and countless conference presentations. But we at PERVADED SPACE like to think that all of these achievements are eclipsed by the fact that our biographical subjects for this issue, David Renn and Lisa Carr, were co-founders of this newsletter. They, however, might point to other circumstances of their lives as more noteworthy.

David Renn was born in Evanston, IL and grew up in nearby Wilmette. His parents and grandmother were readers of The URANTIA Book. Dave has no single recollection of being told about the book--"It was kind of wrapped up in everything else." David attended a local Sunday school at a Protestant church, but in later childhood he was also one of a "junior study group" of youngsters taught by his grandmother, Ruth Renn. A group of parents who read The URANTIA Book approached her to help teach their children about it, so for a period of about three years, she prepared lessons and activities based on the book for the group, which met on Sundays. (This group could be considered the nucleus of a succession of study groups formed in later decades by many of the same participants.) Despite this early exposure, David found that there still came a time when he had to evaluate the validity of the book for himself. "The fact that it is revelation stood out with close study. I've never heard of anyone reading the entire book, front to back, who did not come to the conclusion that it's a genuine revelation."

Lisa Carr was born and spent her first three years in Baltimore, MD, after which her family lived for 9 years on the Main Line of Philadelphia. When Lisa was 12, the family moved to the Washington, DC area. Having been brought up and baptized in the Reorganized Latter-Day Saints Church (the branch of the Mormon Church led by Joseph Smith), Lisa early understood the concept of revelation. Moreover, she says, her parents emphasized the importance of a personal



The Renn/Carr Family

relationship with God, whether or not one went to church on Sunday--which they did.

Lisa came to the Chicago area in 1971 to attend the National College of Education in Evanston. It was there that she met David, who had attended school in Texas for a couple of years before returning to the area. About six months after their meeting, David handed The URANTIA Book to Lisa, saying simply, "This is something that's been important in my life." Back at her dorm, Lisa recalls, she flipped through the book and quickly realized, "Aha! This is what I've been looking for all along."

After graduating, the two were married in June, 1975. David's work experience has encompassed such diverse occupations as teaching, restaurant work, office clerking and painting; Lisa has worked as a primary school teacher, a nursing home cook and a co-director of the Evanston Free School. Since 1983, they have owned and operated a thriving chimney-sweeping service, which, while requiring time and hard work, also provides them with a certain degree of independence, not to mention picturesque costumes and numerous anecdotes about raccoons. For the most part, David handles the chimney work and Lisa the business end. Says David, "Self-employment has worked out well." The couple now make their home in

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■ commentaries ■

The topic for these commentaries is:
 "Given the pace of life in America today,
 how do you make room for activities
 concerning The URANTIA Book in your life?"

* * * * *

Those of us who have been studying the URANTIA teachings for many years may assume that all others who have encountered the same teachings must, of necessity, believe as we do and be willing to devote their time and effort fully to the activities concerning The URANTIA Book. This is not necessarily so.

Each of us grows in different ways and at different rates. All that is really required of us is that we sincerely seek our Father's will and live our lives accordingly. But once we reach this stage we face yet another choice: whether to limit ourselves by stopping here or to go forward learning as much about God and his creation as we possibly can and then entering our long career of service to others.

As we become more fully saturated with our love for God, our values and priorities change; these teachings and activities take precedence over every other thing in our lives. Now "making room" is supreme joy, not an effort.



Ticky Harries
 Lawrenceville, GA

As much as I enjoy any of the various activities, being as discriminating as possible is a "must". Knowing that time is limited, I have set up priorities. My wife has her interests and activities, so I must adjust the overall balance of things.

Communication with my wife, Mary, is most important because she is not a URANTIA Book reader and she does not drive. At times we have driven together downtown and Mary goes to mass and shops while I attend the First URANTIA Society meeting.

Planning just a few days ahead sometimes works well if I am fairly certain of my work schedule. For the two or three day long events, I try to plan far in advance. However, most of the time I plan day by day playing it by ear.

Harold Schomas
 Park Ridge, IL



Time is the "one talent" that each of us is endowed with. We can use that time well or squander it (p.315*). Given our society today, each day we are bombarded with external suggestions as how to use our time. Media, friends, and family all contribute to suggesting how we spend our time. Internally, we use these external suggestions in addition to our own priorities to determine our use of time. Time is only fatally squandered when we fail to use it to make certain that our soul survives (p. 315*). "Service--more service, increased service, difficult service, adventurous service, and at last divine and perfect service--is the goal of time and the destination of eternity." (p.316*) The goal of service then appears to be an essential priority in our use of time.

We can fulfill the goal of service by serving numerous others. Family, friends, other URANTIA Book readers, others within our sphere of existence are all examples of those we can serve. We prioritize those that we can serve according to our own circumstances. For myself, I am in a situation where URANTIA Book readers provide a major outlet for my own service activities. Nonetheless, it takes conscious effort to decide that they are a priority in my life. I have found that setting goals for myself in terms of activities helps to translate my belief that the URANTIA movement is important into action. "To keep pace in [man's] life experience with the impelling demands and the compelling urges of a growing religious experience means

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incessant activity in spiritual growth, intellectual expansion, factual enlargement and social service." (p.1120*)



Marilynn Kulieke
Lake Bluff, IL

(Headquarters--continued from page 1)

by ceiling tiles. The system, one designed especially for older buildings, is being installed to replace several less-efficient window units, to provide the proper climate for the computer equipment, and to control humidity in the basement.

Mostly unused prior to this year, the lower level has been remodeled to create additional workspace and free up some first floor rooms for other uses. A large and pleasant workroom, used mainly for mailing projects, was created by removing dressing booths formerly used by Dr. William S. Sadler's patients when he had his medical practice there. Printing and addressing equipment are now kept in this area. Other basement rooms house filing cabinets, URANTIA Foundation's computer, and desk space for Foundation trustees and Brotherhood officers when they come in from out of town for meetings.

Upstairs, rearrangement of offices used by Foundation and Brotherhood staff is still in progress. The large front room, formerly used as a work room and meeting area, has been partitioned into offices used by Gloriann Harris, director of office operations, and Marcia Lansu, who provides accounting services under Gloriann's direction for URANTIA Brotherhood and URANTIA Foundation. Mike Painter and Scott Forsythe, administrative assistants for the

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Foundation, continue to occupy the middle room behind the reception area.

The room off the hallway in front of the kitchen, which had been an office shared by two secretaries and the URANTIA Brotherhood computer, is now used as a lunchroom and copier room. The computer has been moved to the room in the rear formerly occupied by Marian Rowley, who has worked for many years as a permanent volunteer on the Brotherhood staff, handling correspondence and record-keeping. Marian's desk is now located in the office across the hall on the east side of the building. A room to the far rear, formerly used for storage, has been converted to an office which is currently occupied by Ginny Kuenster, who now processes book orders for the Brotherhood. By the time this issue is published, a new person will have been hired to fill a general office position which is expected to involve operating the computer, completing the long-awaited computerization of URANTIA Brotherhood's mailing list, and taking on some of Marian's duties.

The former copier room between Marian's office and that of John Hales is being converted into still another office. John, who is Resident Director of URANTIA Brotherhood, continues to occupy the same office in the middle of the first floor.

He is the liaison between the Brotherhood organization and the office staff and is responsible for the day-to-day operations of URANTIA Brotherhood, including maintaining contact with distributors and bookstores to further the availability of The URANTIA Book, and working with URANTIA societies, study groups and new readers.

The division of duties among Brotherhood staff members is still evolving, with corresponding rearrangement of offices, to keep pace with the increased activity taking place at headquarters as the URANTIA movement grows. In any event, alterations and improvements to the building will probably continue as needed. According to Mike Painter, who has been supervising the recent renovations, "This building will probably be headquarters for the next 10 to 15 years, so it's important to continue upkeep and maintenance to make it livable."

(People—continued from page 5)

north suburban Glenview, with their son and two daughters: Kevin, 8, Bauerle, 5, and Corlin, 2.

Both Lisa and David have contributed to the URANTIA movement in many capacities. Both were originally members of First URANTIA Society and now belong to URANTIA Society of Glenview, currently holding office as Treasurer and Vice President, respectively. They were active in several study groups which existed on the North Side over the years, and also served on the Planning Committee for the 1980 Midwest Conference held in Lake Forest, IL. Lisa serves on the Publications Committee of URANTIA Brotherhood as its secretary, and David is a member of the Charter Committee and has attended installations of new URANTIA societies. They were co-founders and original editors of PERVADED SPACE and

continued in an editorial capacity for several years.

Lisa's favorite parts of The URANTIA Book are the sections in the Jesus Papers describing the characters of the apostles, and Jesus' Final Admonitions and Warnings to the apostles. "It's emotionally touching the way he hits on many of our own weaknesses. Yet, I feel that the strongest message of the book as a whole is that with God, nothing is unattainable. The fact that we live on a troubled planet is not an excuse for anything, either in our own lives or in the URANTIA movement."

Asked what other guiding principles they have drawn from The URANTIA Book as well as their separate backgrounds, David says: "One thing that we believe, based on everything we came from and are working toward, is that family life is the single greatest educator and uplifter of mankind."

John Hay
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Are your name and
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