

# PERVADED SPACE

## MIDWEST

### Michigan Says "Yes!"

(Editor's Note: This is the latest in a series of articles examining the nine states in the PERVADED SPACE Midwest coverage area. Previously we have looked at the activities of URANTIA Book readers in Missouri, Michigan, Wisconsin and Ohio. The other states will be covered in future issues.)

URANTIA Book readers in Michigan have become considerably more active since the autumn of 1981, when the annual Midwest Conference was held at Camp Storer in Napoleon, MI. This gathering was planned and organized by the Toledo, Ohio group. Perhaps this event stimulated the Michigan readers to seize control of their own territory.

The Winter, 1982 edition of PERVADED SPACE showed four study groups in Michigan: Ann Arbor, Flint, Grand Rapids and Muskegon. In our last issue, the map indicated seven groups based upon information on file at URANTIA Brotherhood headquarters. Further investigation revealed that the three Detroit area groups are, in fact, one, and two other groups were defunct, with one about to re-form. This leaves us with a net total of three to four groups in the state, but two of these are relatively recent and all appear to be growing.

#### GARDEN CITY

This group, which currently meets in Garden City, a Detroit suburb, began in 1985, though it had roots in the former Ann Arbor study group. The group, originally formed by Catherine Belesky, John Causland, and Mark Anger, meets weekly on Sunday evenings at Catherine's home, "Our Place."

These weekly meetings begin with "a time of sharing the good news in our lives," followed by a meditation period. Study



- |                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Detroit          | 5. Flint        |
| 2. Garden City      | 6. Bad Axe      |
| 3. Windsor, Ontario | 7. Grand Rapids |
| 4. Toledo, Ohio     | 8. Muskegon     |

consists of reading and discussing a complete paper at each meeting. The group is expanding from its original three-member base. "Old friends are starting to get curious about the book. Just in common conversation, the word has traveled and attracted a friend of a friend," says Catherine. Adds John Causland, "The consistency of Catherine's meetings seems to keep bringing other lone readers regularly out of hiding." One member of the group, Diana Kivella, has also been active in placing URANTIA Books in local libraries.

The Garden City group also acts as host for a monthly "family gathering" which typically attracts 20 to 30 people and is intended to be geographically wider in scope. Groups

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## ■ from the editors ■

An anomaly, in URANTIA Brotherhood terms, of current organizational set-up is the Chicago area. Until recently, when the First URANTIA Society of Los Angeles fissioned itself into the Orange County society, the Chicago area was the only region with more than one URANTIA society sharing the same geographical space. There are four in Chicago or thereabouts.

Why are there so many societies in that area? There are about 100 active, group-attending readers, a healthy number, but certainly not enough to support so many organized groups as opposed to the more informal study groups, of which there are about 10 including the four which represent most of the activities of the societies. Other areas which have seen a society emerge may have as many or more involved readers but with only one society and several study groups.

The evolution of Chicago groups occurred earlier than elsewhere, since the movement originated there. About 200 people were original members of First Society in 1956 and all four current societies were in existence by the early 1970's. (A fifth, the Second URANTIA Society of Chicago, ended its existence in the early '60's.) The early development in Chicago came at a time when people were thinking society and not necessarily study group; it's questionable whether so many of these groups would have become societies had things happened a little later.

## PERVADED SPACE

MIDWEST

Published quarterly at  
320 Forest View Drive  
Lake Bluff, IL 60044

Subscription price: \$5.00 per year

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## Swamy Cool by G.Thorsander



Now that we have so many societies, the question is whether that's the way things should be. What are the advantages of having several? Multiplying the services one can provide, such as helping to organize study groups, distributing books, coordinating communication among readers, helping to plan special events such local conferences or seminars, and generally serving as a local agent for the Brotherhood are some considerations for being a society, but these activities are not being conducted in numbers commensurate with the quantity of societies in Chicago. In fact, the only significant product of of the multiple societies in contrast to what one might expect from the same number of study groups which had not achieved the organization of societal status is the four votes coming from the Chicago area at each Triennial Delegate Assembly. But we question the ethicality of this, since the numbers of active members and the activities of the area above the study group level do not seem to support this much representation within the Brotherhood.

We suggest that with one constitution and one set of administration and bureaucracy, there would be no less amount of serious study of the book, and perhaps more, as a better coordinated effort to attract new readers and create new study groups would

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## News from the Midwest

### REFERRAL SERVICE PLANS EVENTS

The Chicago Area Referral Service, known as CARS, which is a cooperative effort of four Chicago area societies, met late last fall in the Lake Bluff home of David Kulieke, its organizer. Representatives on CARS include Frank Sgaraglino, Orvonton URANTIA Society, Lillian Nicholas, First URANTIA Society of Western Springs, Mary Snider, Glenview URANTIA Society, and David Kulieke, First URANTIA Society.

The most immediately impacting decision the group arrived at was the idea of having four yearly socials in order to facilitate the socialization of members and attenders of the four societies. First URANTIA Society has been assigned the first quarter of the year in which to host an event. It responded by having a potluck supper and travelog at the home of Tom and Carolyn Kendall in Wheeling on March 21, with John Hales presenting a program of slides from his 1986 trips abroad. Orvonton URANTIA Society was assigned the Spring quarter, First URANTIA Society of Western Springs the Summer quarter, and Glenview URANTIA Society the Fall quarter of 1987 in which to host such a function.

Another topic of discussion at the CARS meeting was the advertisement currently sponsored by Orvonton which appears weekly in the Chicago Sun-Times and announces the Orvonton group meetings. First Society agreed to help pay the bill and the ad will change to reflect all the groups in the area. Two phone numbers will be given and they will belong to people who can refer callers to any interested area groups. Other groups are currently discussing the possibility of contributing to this ad.

Other topics discussed at the Fall meeting of CARS dealt with library and book store book placement, and updating the CARS brochure detailing local study groups. This went out to all area residents in 1985. The group plans to meet again in March.

### STUDY GROUP NEWS

#### River Bend Study Group

Tim Young of Muscatine, IA reports that the River Bend (Quad Cities) study group is co-sponsoring an Iowa Mid-Winter Mini-Conference together with the Great Plains (Mason City, IA) study group. The one-day gathering will take place on Sunday, March 1 in Marshalltown, IA. About 20 people are expected to attend.

The River Bend study group recently finished its first complete reading of The URANTIA Book, begun four years ago. The group is now starting a program of topical study, mixed with sequential reading.

The Brotherhood of Man Computer Bulletin Board is not currently in operation, but plans are being made to resume the service at some future date.

#### Central Wisconsin Study Group

The Central Wisconsin Study Group has been meeting once a month, in alternating homes. Approximately 10-20 readers have been meeting together as they "regroup" after the Midwest Conference that they sponsored last summer. The group is planning a campout in Door County next summer, possibly over the 4th of July, at Mark and Barbara Kulieke's farm in Bailey's Harbor, WI.

#### Glenview URANTIA Society

Glenview URANTIA Society has been meeting monthly at the home of Paul and Mary Snider, Wilmette, IL. The society hosted a half day seminar on the Thought Adjuster on November 1, 1986, which attracted about 12 members and friends to the Northbrook home of Pepper and Gloriann Harris. A further seminar is being planned by the society on March 28, at the home of Lisa Carr and David Renn in Glenview.

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from Toledo and Windsor, Canada (just across the border from Detroit), often attend these meetings, which begin with a pot luck meal and include topical study. In fact, this group has even formed international ties, since it is also assisting with the Father's Day weekend conference being held in June in Geneva Park, north of Toronto in Canada.

#### FLINT AREA

The Flint area group, currently led by David Biggs, began some 10 years ago, though it has led an on-and-off existence during that time, and has met in various places with a changing cast of participants.

For the last two years, the group has met in Grand Blanc, near Flint, at the home of Ken and Jan Mathenia. The group is about to begin holding every other meeting at the Grand Blanc public library, alternating with meetings in members' homes. Meetings are once a week, on Wednesday evenings, for two hours.

Typically eight people attend an average meeting, with perhaps thirty different people currently coming to meetings at least occasionally. New members are usually gained by word of mouth, according to David.

The format tends to be one of casual, open discussion, though the group has been considering more formal methods of study and ways to add a feeling of spiritual uplift and support. Also under discussion are outreach activities to bring in new members. One member, a former bookstore owner, had estimated that about 300 URANTIA Books exist in Genesee County.

#### BAD AXE

A relatively new but thriving study group meets in Bad Axe, due north of Detroit near the tip of Michigan's "thumb." Eric Richards and Dean Dorman formed this group in the winter of 1986. Meetings are held on alternate Thursdays, except during holidays, moving between two homes. About seven people attend a typical meeting, with about fourteen interested people attending in all.

Meetings open with dinner at 5:30, followed by a brief discussion about the previous

meeting and discussion of current newspaper or magazine articles which relate to topics dealt with in The URANTIA Book. Four papers are covered at each meeting, two sequentially from the first three parts of the book and two from the Jesus papers. Rather than reading aloud at the meeting, participants come prepared and one person acts as group facilitator for page-by-page discussion. One focus of discussion is "Urantian" approaches to traditional scripture. The group has placed URANTIA Books in the county library.

All of the members of the group are members of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Most of them have been reading The URANTIA Book for one year or less, and discussions are open to anyone's questions. Says Eric Richards, "All of us thoroughly enjoy The URANTIA Book."

#### OTHER GROUPS

Two groups we contacted had ceased to meet. Rick Brunson of Grand Rapids reports that a group which was formed in 1980 by Reggie Mullenix, who later moved away, dissolved in 1984.

Freida Stegink of Muskegon, on the shores of Lake Michigan, reports that the group which had been meeting in that area broke up when Lola Hahn moved away. However, several people have recently expressed an interest in forming a new group, and an announcement is expected in the near future.

#### MICHIGAN STUDY GROUP CONTACTS

##### Garden City/Detroit area

Weekly meeting

Catherine Belesky 313-422-7629

Monthly meeting

John Causland 313-665-0824

##### Flint/Grand Blanc

David Biggs 313-732-5373

##### Bad Axe

Eric Richards 517-269-2323

##### Muskegon

contact URANTIA Brotherhood  
headquarters, 533 Diversey  
Parkway, Chicago IL 60614



## people

A crisis approaches in the life of one Judy Cosky. Expecting her first child in October, she anticipates the event with enthusiasm. But she feels conflict because she knows that the long trek from her Michigan home to Bowdoin College, ME, where this August's General Conference will be held, is not compatible with what will then be the advanced stage of her pregnancy. What's a URANTIA Book reading mother to do?

The path leading towards this moment in history began in Farmington, MI, where Judy was born. She was raised in Clawson, MI, her current home, by her parents, Elizabeth and Ted Cosky. Raised in the Catholic faith, she attended parochial grade and high schools. As a child, she said, "I alternated between wanting to grow up to become the the first female Pope and the first female astronaut."

She married Mark Williams this past December.

Her professional and educational career followed a slightly different but no less essential direction from her early Papal and cosmic urgings. She received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Oakland University, Rochester, MI. She worked as a pediatric nurse prior to attending graduate school.

Since receiving a Master of Science in Nursing from Wayne State University, Detroit, she has worked in several related positions. First she taught psychiatric nursing at Mercy College of Detroit, following which she practiced child psychotherapy at the University of Michigan Hospital. Prior to her current position, she coordinated the infant psychiatry program at Fairlawn center. Now she works at Havenwyk Hospital performing psychiatric screenings and evaluations.

It was while she was a high school student working as a part-time waitress that she served the individual who would later introduce her to The URANTIA Book. Years later as a customer at the same restaurant, she met this former customer, who began to enthuse about the book. Judy borrowed the book and began reading Paper 1, "The Universal Father."



She said, "Almost immediately, I felt deeply moved within my soul! I had been searching for an adequate and appealing concept of God. I had examined various Eastern and Western religions without feeling satisfied. Finding The URANTIA Book was a tremendous spiritual breakthrough for me--God was a personal Father who epitomized truth, beauty, and goodness!"

Judy has been active in various Michigan study groups; currently she both participates in the Garden City group upon occasion and studies in her hometown of Clawson. She said that she's optimistic about the future growth of study groups in Michigan. She also has attended numerous local and general conferences and summer seminars. She is especially proud of having successfully introduced the book to several co-workers and friends.

Her favorite parts in the book include those concerning our destiny: "...the mansion, constellation, and Havona worlds. It's so thrilling to learn about our universe careers! Knowing what to expect from the future helps me to make sense out of the past and present.

"Most of all, I love reading about the Universal Father and the Thought Adjusters.

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## ■ commentaries ■

The topic for these commentaries is: What techniques have you found to be most effective in study groups you have attended?

\* \* \* \* \*

The importance of establishing and maintaining study groups cannot be overstated. Disseminating The URANTIA Book via library placement, personal introduction or the media is of little value without a backup system of high quality study groups.

The revelators gave careful consideration as to which truths and facts to include in the book. Scholarship is vital to unlocking revelator intent. In a study group, only "hitting the high spots" of a paper may be satisfying in the short run, but it cheats the serious student of the opportunity to savor each truth nugget in company with other minds.

Experienced students ask: "Why did they 'say' it this way?" or "Why didn't they include that?" Relevant cross references amplify passages at hand, as do outside reference materials.

The best leader is a guide and invites discussion; the pedantic approach is inappropriate. There are no officially sanctioned interpretations, nor does the group vote to accept or reject an opinion. Long-time readers and beginners alike are all fellow truth seekers of this great epochal revelation.



Carolyn Kendall  
Wheeling, IL

An important factor to consider in study group technique is the impression it makes on the newcomer. Some things I've seen in groups would discourage most newcomers from returning.

In one group, everything went fine until the end, when suddenly, everyone joined hands in a circle and began chanting OOOHHMM...it turned me off. If you didn't believe what

"the group" believed about chanting OM, you didn't fit in.

In another group I've attended, everything went fine until the end, when suddenly, everyone stood up and in unison, began reciting from memory a very long and complex sentence proclaiming their beliefs about The URANTIA Book (a sort of "apostles' creed" for the book). The poor newcomer, say, of Jewish background for instance, finding himself in the middle of a group chanting the Christian creed, will think twice about returning.

In the most progressive and growing group I've found, the format is not rigid, there is serious reading and open discussion of each paper (no steadfast rule that they must reach a certain point by a certain hour). And no group tradition or ritual was required. A newcomer's delight!



Bob Solone  
Chicago, IL

What I've found in my experience is that it's necessary to have a definitive plan for conducting a meeting, letting people know what will happen at specific times. For instance, we begin with a meditation time, followed by a time for study. This may be either reading a whole paper or studying a topic picked ahead of time. If we have picked a topic, I send an invitation with the reference pages from The URANTIA Book. When we've prepared ahead, our study time seems to stay focused and our time is better spent. It's easier to keep discussion centered on The URANTIA Book when we have a format and stick to it.

At times, we are so thrilled to be together and have so much to share that if we don't have a topic or a focus, things tend to become scattered. By maintaining a focus, we have found our meetings evolving into a much more meaningful experience.



Catherine Belesky  
Garden City, MI



## 1987 MIDWEST CONFERENCE

Plans are moving ahead for the 1987 Midwest Conference, organized by the River Bend (Quad Cities) study group, to be held June 19-21, 1987 at St. Ambrose College in Davenport, IA. The conference theme will be "The URANTIA Book and You: A Spiritual Fellowship Conference".

Registration forms will be mailed in late February to readers on the URANTIA Brotherhood mailing list in fourteen states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Wisconsin. The organizers will also be looking for volunteers to lead small groups.

For more information, contact:

Timothy Young  
507 Woodlawn  
Muscatine IA 52761

(319) 263-8018

## NOVEL PUBLICATION ANNOUNCED

The publication of the first novel based on Part IV of The URANTIA Book is in progress. David Zebedee and Ruth, a story written by a long-time student of the book, follows the history of the families of Zebedee of Capernaum and Joseph of Nazareth. Historical details of lifestyle and customs are woven into the story, as are many of The URANTIA Book's teachings.

URANTIA Foundation has granted permission to print a limited edition of this work. The book is hard cover, about 300 pages long. The DAVID Project Committee, which is handling publication, reports that delivery is expected from the printer in late February.

The price of the book is \$12.95, plus 1.50 for postage and handling. \$2.00 should be added for sales outside the US. For further information, write to:

The DAVID Project  
P. O. Box 921  
Farmington CT 06034

## FIRST SOCIETY SPONSORS SEMINAR

First URANTIA Society will sponsor a seminar at its meeting place in Brotherhood headquarters, 533 Diversey Parkway, Chicago, on Sunday, March 15. The program will be based on the theme of "Spiritual Influences and Our Responsibilities." Beginning at 10:00 a.m., various talks, discussion groups, a lunch break, and a closing Remembrance Supper will last until 5:00 p.m. A mailing inviting residents of northern Illinois, southeast Wisconsin, and northwest Indiana has been sent. Anyone interested in attending who has not received an invitation should contact Cece Forrester (312) 549-4835 or David Kulieke (312) 234-6204.

## NEW BROTHERHOOD VP ELECTED

Bill Hazen was elected to the position of URANTIA Brotherhood Vice President at a special meeting of the General Council on January 24, 1987. Bill, who recently moved to Chicago from Dallas, TX, was actively involved in the URANTIA Society of Dallas. He has also been involved on Special Projects Committee of URANTIA Brotherhood. He replaced Frank Sgaraglino, who resigned as vice president when he became a Trustee of URANTIA Foundation.



## ■ graduations ■

Mrs. Josephine Myers, of Newton, KS, and a member of First URANTIA Society died in January of this year after a long illness. She joined her husband, Dr. Robert Myers, who preceded her to the mansion worlds in 1983. Her son Martin, president of URANTIA Foundation, commented on the work she had performed bringing the book to people in the her area. He said that he was impressed by the positive feelings so many evinced when he saw them at her funeral.



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result. The current New Reader Referral Service is the necessary leavening influence among the four groups, but its existence would be unnecessary if there were only one organization. The individuality and independence of each study group would prosper just as well with only one governing board and interaction among area readers would be heightened.

We submit that, at this point in the development of the Chicago area URANTIA activities, we would be better served by one society, not four.

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What a wonderful God we have, and what a wonderful gift He has given us to reside within our minds!"

Judy feels positive overall about the movement. She said, "There are so many wonderfully diverse, creative, and interesting people I have met over the year at the various conferences.

"Areas which I feel could be further strengthened in the movement include more emphasis on true spiritual growth and continuing the gradual evolution of The URANTIA Book revelation on this planet."

And despite the inconvenience of missing this year's general conference, she feels pretty wonderful about having her first child: "I'm very much looking forward to gaining this vital parenting experience, a also to giving birth to a new universe citizen."

John Hay  
c/o The Boulder School  
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