

DEVELOPMENTS

Number 23

Summer 1986

President's Message

Our annual society meeting in February was an opportunity to observe visible energy and excitement among our membership. The challenge before us as URANTIA BOOK students/teachers is to learn to coordinate our energies and communicate our experiences. A significant first step in that process could be the formulating of goals and objectives for ourselves.

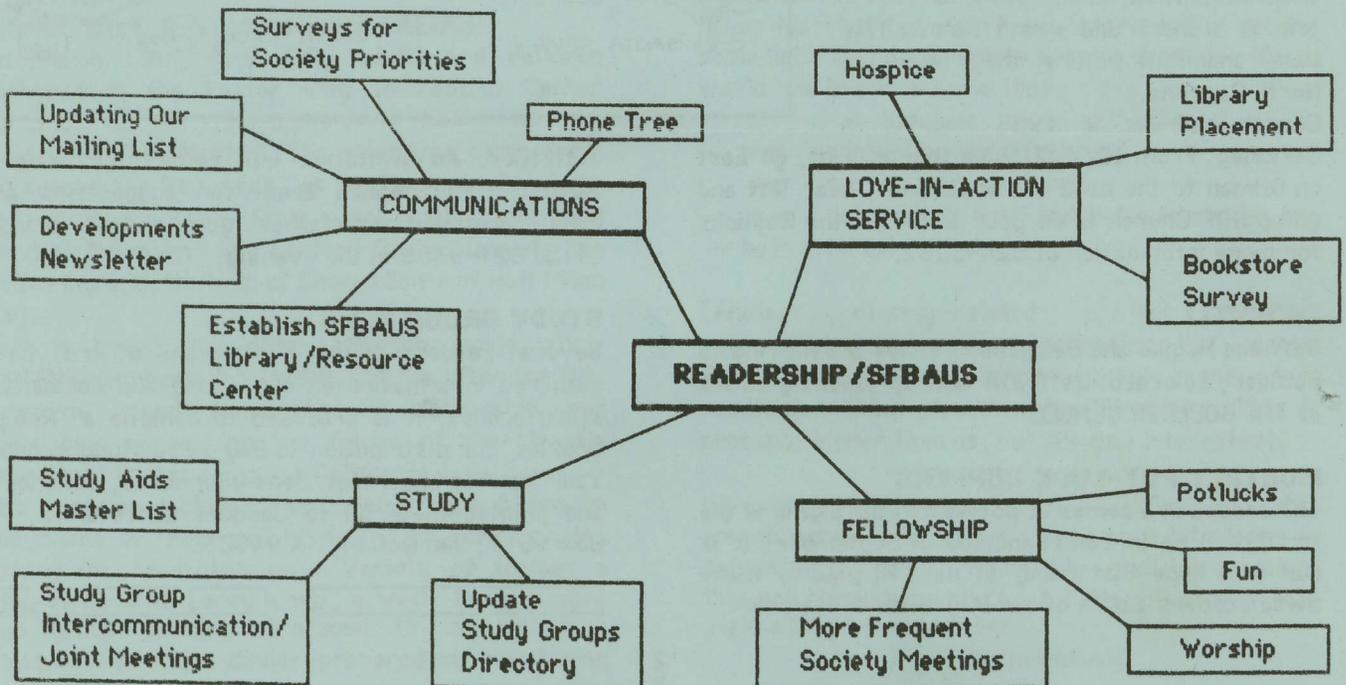
The ideas I propose are not my own. They are a reflection of an emerging consensus from both the society leadership and the local readership, the recent Mid-Peninsula Conference being a prime source for ideas. As I state each proposed goal, I will also add some of the specific objectives being proposed or implemented to attain them.

The best way I know to communicate this information to you is with a visual model called a "cluster". At the center of the cluster is our local membership/readership. Branching out from that nucleus, we connect with our four major goals: increased communication, multiple forms of service, deeper fellowship, enlightened study. Some specific objectives (not all are new) are branched-out from each goal. Obviously, there is much room for elaboration and addition.

I hope, in fact I expect that you will call or write to me upon receipt of this model to fill me in on those ideas and projects not represented. In each succeeding issue of Developments I will elaborate on one of these major goal areas and on the specific work being done (or proposed) to carry it out.

We have been blessed with life, with a loving Father and with our incredible brothers and sisters. Let's work with that powerful combination to create formulas and strategies for significant spiritual achievement. Let's aim as high as we can: we will go no higher.

In the Father's name,
Mike Hagan



COMING ATTRACTIONS

JESUS' BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Butano State Park, San Mateo County
Saturday, August 23rd, 11:00 AM

Enjoy a drive along the ocean via HWY 1, traveling inland past Pescadero and south through rolling countryside to the peaceful Redwood forest setting of Butano State Park. Carpooling is strongly encouraged as parking is limited and will be allowed in designated areas, only. A \$2 fee for day use will be asked for each car at the entry kiosk. Then, people can be shuttled the short distance to Campfire Center.

POTLUCK - Bring your own everything, utensils, too. Please bring musical instruments you can play. Bring folding tables for food, if you can.

INFORMATION - Call Cheryl Zents at (415) 726-0131

P.S. There will be a lecture by a local park ranger on the Ohlone Indians at 7PM.

JULY 26th

A question and answer session with Phil Rolnick on the General Council and Brotherhood Workshops that took place at Lake Forest College outside Chicago in June of this year. Come to Epworth United Methodist Church at 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM. Then, from 9PM to 10PM, join in a short and sweet farewell to Jane and Phil before they move to North Carolina.

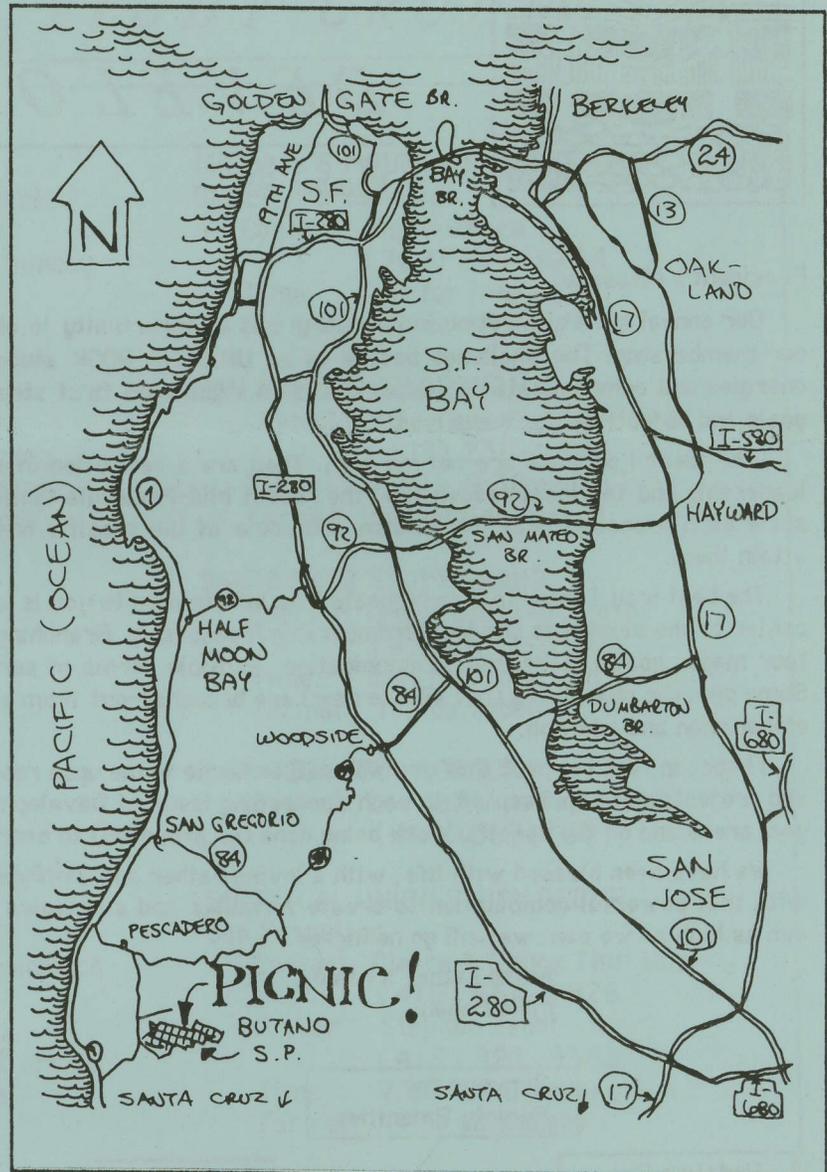
Church address is 1953 Hopkins in Berkeley. From HWY 80, use Gilman exit, go East on Gilman to the dead end at Hopkins, bear left and go up hill. Church is on your left. Call the Rolnicks for more information at 524-8282.

FAREWELL

Jeff and Hagiko and Benjamin Wattles are moving to Boulder, Colorado. Jeff will take up teaching duties at THE BOULDER SCHOOL.

MONTHLY POT-LUCK SUPPERS

The second in a series of pot-lucks (the picnic is the first) will be in San Francisco in September. It is our fond hope that many of us will plan to make these suppers a part of our Bay-wide fellowship



activities. An invitation will come your way in August. Call Stephen Zendt for suggestions and menu contributions (what you should bring), (415) 821-9363 in the evening.

STUDY GROUP NEWS

Several readers (Dave Kantor and others) have gathered information on organizing and conducting study groups. It is proposed to compile a "Recipe Booklet" for distribution to Bay Area study groups. Your input is important. Send your ideas, comments and printed material to Jacques Lecouturier, PO Box 6019, San Rafael, CA 94903.

RECENT DOINGS

REVERSION WEEKEND

On June 21 and 22 the Full-Moon-Summer-Solstice Santa Cruz Reversion Weekend was attended by folks from the far reaches of the San Francisco to Monterey Bay Areas. On Saturday night a fresh salmon bar-b-que and potluck dinner was held at the home of Phil Geiger. Hot guitar playing and singing by Phil and the Doo-wah-ditty chorus (featuring Kim Tunella and Lee Smith) and baton twirling by Audrey Dean highlighted the evening's entertainment. A beautiful view of Monterey Bay became the backdrop for the incredible Summer Solstice moonrise.

On Sunday we gathered at Aldo's Beach for a day long picnic celebration to further welcome summer. Kudos to all the hearty folks who braved the traffic and foggy weather (not to mention the wind!) and plunged into the cool surf!! A pizza dinner followed the beach activities and then we all settled down to a reading of The Foundations of Religious Faith from the URANTIA BOOK. All in all it was a most enjoyable reversion weekend. (Look for our next reversion weekend at summers close!)

- Chrissy P. Smith
Santa Cruz "Correspondent"

This event marked the first of what we hope and plan will be regular, informal, and uncomplicated social get-togethers round and about our Society hinterland. Stay Tuned!

- Norm Hetland

WHAT NEXT?

MID-PENINSULA MINI-CONFERENCE

On March 16th, over fifty adults and children gathered in the Foster City Recreation Center complex for a mini-conference based on the question "What Next?". The attendees came from all around the Bay Area, as far North as Petaluma and South to Santa Cruz. Jack Mulqueeny and Dennis Neumann of Foster City planned the gathering with the help of Cheryl Zents of Half Moon Bay.

It was hoped that this gathering would allow SFBAUS members and students of the UB in the Bay Area to spend some time in fellowship and discussion concerning the future of the Urantia Movement in this region of California.

The program included discussion-groups based on the theme of "Personal Ministry"; a questionnaire asking for feed-back on a variety of topics; a sing-along with Larry Love, a well-loved singer and group leader introduced to us by Jack Mulqueeny; and a dinner prepared by a catering

group. In the setting of the handsome Recreation Center, alongside the Foster City lagoon, with the help of some good weather and a glorious sunset, everyone seemed to have a great time. It awakened a sense of how much we have to offer one another when we get together for fellowship activities. It also pointed up the former lack of such opportunities.

In the future, as the responses to the questionnaire indicated, many more occasions for gathering together should be scheduled. In the next issue of DEVELOPMENTS, a full exposure of the results of the questionnaire will be included. Thanks to all who could attend.

- Stephen Zendt

BAY AREA/NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BOOK PROJECT

One of the first steps in attracting new readers to the Urantia Book is to put copies of said book where said potential new readers can spot them. Primarily this means in libraries and book stores. For some time now, Tom Allen and the Domestic Extension Committee of Urantia Brotherhood have been sponsoring a library book placement program. Also during the past year, Claire Thurston has been surveying local bookstores. These two efforts represent a sound base on which we can build further.

An evolving function of the Society Vice Presidency is the direction and coordination of our local book placement/sales efforts. I'm very interested in doing this--but I'm even more interested in getting some help. So I'd appreciate hearing from you if you would like to put in some time:

- == contacting librarians
- == contacting bookstores
- == doing other nuts-and-bolts work for one or both efforts.

(Another closely-related project involves reclassifying and cross-referencing the Urantia Book for wider, more useful, and less occultish-looking placement in libraries. This is probably bigger than us, but are you interested?)

Give me a call evenings at (415) 526-9396. With enough people power, we can come a lot closer to saturating our area with readily available copies of this hot revelatory stuff. A little effort now may yield a long-term harvest.

--Norm Hetland

LOVE IN ACTION

AN ADVENTURE CALLED HOSPITAL MINISTRIES

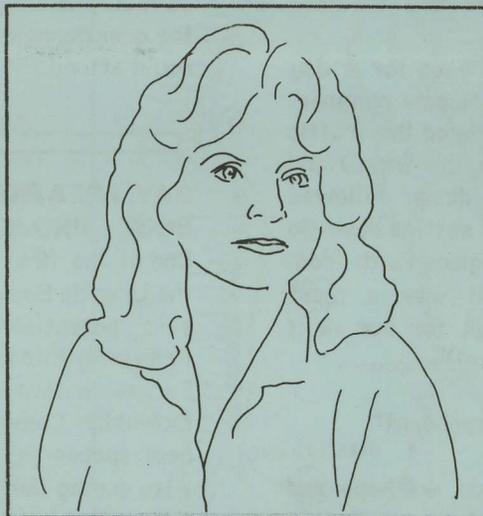
The first person I visited was a woman who was gazing at the ceiling, her eyes roaming back and forth in an agitated way. I introduced myself but was not sure she heard me. I decided to find her hand in the maze of tubes running all over her body. As I held her hand I looked clearly into her eyes. I was feeling a lot of compassion for her and without thinking I said, "I want you to know that someone out here cares for you." Suddenly, her eyes riveted on mine. She made some incoherent sounds, squeezing my hand very tightly. She calmed down and began to smile ever so slightly. It seemed to me we both had a deep, caring experience. Knowing that conversation was impossible, I just stood there, trying to communicate through touch. She seemed at peace when I finally left. Her nurse told me she'd had several strokes in the past two weeks. . .

Once or twice each week, I make my way to Valley Hospital in Petaluma where unexpected glimpses of humanity reveal to me the way the Father's love and mankind's frailty work together. I volunteer time with people in intensive care. I rarely see someone more than once or twice. It is an experience of being in the present, enjoying the moment with the patient. Going up in the elevator, I always ask my angels to be with me and use my visit for some good. They seem to love this kind of work.

To prepare for these adventures, we (friends and readers too) attended a seven-week program called Hospital Ministry with Ken Meese, a Santa Rosa chaplain, and a beautiful woman named Natalie McCreary. It was as if our group of twenty-five strangers had come together to learn to be of service in the face of pain, sickness and death. During those seven weeks, many of us had to face these things in ourselves. It was as if the fear and sickness we all carry with us had to be struggled with and faced, then left behind, before we could get on with our service work. We touched on subjects such as "Listening", "Pain, Suffering and Comfort: Emotional and Spiritual Dimensions", "Healing, Helping and Affirming God's Presence", "Dying", "Aging, Loss, Grief and Spiritual Growth", "Faith and Self-Care". Each week's discussion was rich in deep, sensitive insights.

We discussed how best to visit with hospital patients. The approach Ken suggested was to take the other-centered way with people, focusing on them. We then offer a fundamental attitude of acceptance and forgiveness for being who they are. Listening is our main function, asking questions is our main reaction to elicit more meaningful responses from them. Let them realize more who they are from our visit. Let them be the star! We offer empathy over their condition, but allow there to be boundaries between us so they can have their own experience.

Since many of these Jesusonian responses do not come automatically to us, we practiced them during our training sessions, mostly in the form of role-playing. Some found it difficult to respond to "a patient" so selflessly with everyone else watching. Slowly, we learned from our mistakes and from watching others that our mock visits went best when we got ourselves out of the way, to be there for the other person. We learned not to try to rescue the patient, not to try to fix things



up, but to listen without judging, allowing them to be who they are. It occurred to me that this attitude must come close to the way the Father feels about us.

Out in the field, marvelous visits have taken place for all of us. The second room I entered was occupied by a seventy-year-old man, alert and planning to go home the next day. His wife had brought him in when he awoke one day feeling dizzy, totally disoriented and losing his memory. He passed this off to "getting old". He felt no bitterness about old age because he said God had given him seventy wonderful years. He and his wife had raised three good children who had never caused him disappointment or pain in all their years together. He said faith was the binding element in his family; faith that allowed him not to fear old age, body decay or death. I commended him on being a very inspiring patient.

We discussed the importance of allowing every person to develop their own relationship with God. Having recently seen the President of the United States on T. V. talking about his impending visit with the Soviet Chief, he commented that if we could all acknowledge our relationship with God and allow many paths to God, there would be no need

LOVE IN ACTION

Hospital Ministries, continued ...

for war or weapons. We could begin to pool our resources to manage this planet. (Since Hospital Ministries is non-denominational, I did not tell him how his ideas paralleled my Urantian belief that human acknowledgement of God, as our Father, will help transcend all national boundaries to bring about the Brotherhood of Man.) Since he had these ideas all sewn up, I just said joyously that his faith and his conclusions about how to bring peace to our world were illuminating and rang true in my experience. Then, he told me what a great job I was doing by reinforcing other people's faith. We both told each other how we had been strengthened by our time together. The visit ended as the nurse brought his dinner.

Giving service takes extra time, energy and commitment in my life. Sometimes, it is difficult to squeeze it in with all my other jobs and roles. Yet the moments of doing Hospital Ministry often stand out as the most significant of my week. I feel glad to follow in Jesus' footsteps, my dear older brother, who showed us the way by being there for those who are sick, lonely and in need of spiritual refreshment.

- Elizabeth Van Buren, Petaluma

THE BOOK AND THE CHURCH

After completing the URANTIA BOOK in 1980, Jack Mulqueeny pondered whether he should leave the church he had attended all his life. The beauty and clarity of Christ's teachings which Jack found in the URANTIA BOOK weren't offered in his parish. Through meditation and contemplation the decision came. By becoming more involved he could get other churchgoers to understand key Urantia concepts. Six years later, Jack is still attending St. Lukes Catholic Church in Foster City and here's how he solved his dilemma...

He decided to form a Men's Choir which would sing once a month at a designated Mass.

"Could I speak to the congregation on the topic of service just prior to Mass?" he asked the pastor.

With index finger extended in a warning gesture, the priest consented,

"But only for One Minute!"

That Sunday he told his story.

"The Men's Choir was formed to publicize the need for service by all people. God is our Father,

we are all brothers and sisters; some we have not met as yet; many have needs that we can fill. God is love and service is love in action, God acting through each individual. As this idea is transmitted to others, it can then slowly, in pyramid fashion have great effect."

Three years later, Jack recalls a memorable "service commercial." It was the 20th anniversary of John F. Kennedy's death. Jack referred to Kennedy's famous quote,

"Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country."

Inadvertently, he reversed it. The entire congregation burst into laughter. Realizing what happened, Jack smiled and spreading his arms said,

"Well, you know what I mean!"

The laughter grew louder. After the service, some of the parishioners asked if he deliberately reversed the quote - for it seemed to drive home the message.

Not only has Jack inspired others, he too has changed. Prior to founding the Choir, Jack considered himself an introvert. Being partially deaf, he had difficulty singing or being comfortable interacting with groups larger than four. He no longer has those concerns.

Contributors to this issue of DEVELOPMENTS:

Patricia Fearey
Mike Hagan
Norm Hetland
Jack Mulqueeny
Chrissy Smith
Chuck Thurston
Claire Thurston
Elizabeth VanBuren
Stephen Zendt
Cheryl Zents

*The next issue will come out before
Thanksgiving - any announcements? any
ideas you would like to present to the local
readership? Would you like to submit an
article for the Love in Action or The Book
and the Church columns?*

Please call or write:

Claire Thurston (415 564-1826)
237 Rivoli St.
San Francisco, CA 94117

BAY AREA STUDY GROUPS

BELMONT STUDY GROUP

Contact: Don and Dorothy Jackson
(415) 593-7360
Time: 7:30 - 9:30 every Sunday
Format: Sequential reading

BLESSING'S STUDY GROUP, Clayton

Contact: Mary Blessing
(415) 672-3337
Time: 7:00 every 4th Sunday
Format: Topical, rotate leaders,
rotate meeting places

EL CERRITO STUDY GROUP

Contact: Norm Hetland
(415) 526-9396
Time: Call if interested
Format: Topical

FOSTER CITY STUDY GROUP

Contact: Jack Mulqueeny
(415) 574-4957
Time: Monthly, 2nd or 3rd Tues
Format: Topical

LAMAR'S STUDY GROUP, San Francisco

Contact: Charlie Lamar
(415) 386-6072
Time: Every Sunday, potluck at
6PM, study follows
Format: Topical

MARTINEZ STUDY GROUP

Contact: Frank Baca
(415) 672-2186
Time: Every Friday, 8PM
Format: Sequential reading

MICHAEL'S MOUNTAIN MANSE STUDY GROUP, Forestville

Contact: Jay Newbern
(707) 887-1234
Time: Call for info
Format: Topical

SAN JOSE STUDY GROUP

Contact: Mike Hagan
(408) 238-6884
Time: 7:30 - 9:30 every Tues
Format: Sequential/topical

SANTA CRUZ STUDY GROUP

Contact: Lee or Chrissy Smith
(408) 429-6193
Time: Call for more info
Format: Topical/open

SARATOGA STUDY GROUP

Contact: Joe Pattin, call for info
(408) 867-1881

SPIRITUAL UNION STUDY GROUP, San Francisco

Contact: Claire & Chuck Thurston
(415) 564-1826
or Stephen Zendt
(415) 821-9363
Time: 7:30 - 9:00 every Sun
Format: To be announced

SUNNYVALE STUDY GROUP

Contact: Ron Nakagawa
(408) 749-1834
Time: 7:00 - 9:00 every Sun
Format: Topical/sequential

