



DEVELOPMENTS

Number 33

Fall 1991

from: *Golden Gate Circle*

*of students of the Urantia Book**

LAYING DOWN A PATH IN WALKING - a message from the pres

It's time for the re-enchantment of the Urantia Book. For moving beyond the dead ink of its word-symbols to experiential encounter with the living realities they represent; from theology - thinking *about* God, to theurgy - co-creating *with* God.

As an example I offer the following personal experience. In preparation for the 1990 International Conference "Walking With God". I began writing a tongue-in-cheek 'spiritual blues' number entitled "The Agondonter Blues", using as inspiration the description of worship on Paradise found on pages 304-305 in The Urantia Book: "When such angels and mortals of time attain the presence of the Powers of Paradise there occurs the expression of the accumulated emotions of the ages, a spectacle astounding to the angels of Paradise and productive of the supreme joy and divine satisfaction of the Paradise Deities. Sometimes all Paradise becomes engulfed in a dominating tide of spiritual and worshipful expression." An artist's role is an interpretive one, so I imagined myself on Paradise, telling my story, as it were, of my own experience of finding God on an isolated, rebellion scarred world. During my first run-through of the song, I began a gospel style reading/singing of the two paragraphs in which the above quotes are found. Suddenly I experienced an overwhelming flood of spiritual emotions that shook me to the very core of my being. Tears streamed down from my eyes as I experienced myself as *being there*, in real time. Taken up, so to speak - raptured. I was left in a state of indescribable ecstasy, unable to continue (making me a witness, at least on some level, to the Urantia Book's statement on p. 303 that: "Worship...becomes...the highest experiential delight and the most exquisite pleasure known to created beings.").

As readers of a revealed text, our task is a hermenutic, or interpretative one, both in the sense of our attempt to discern the authors' intent, as well as by giving the book's content, especially its spiritual teachings, *validation through lived experience* (a challenge that has ironically assumed a greater imperative in these curious times when the Urantia Foundation has declared in a Federal court, in the Maaherra lawsuit, that the Fifth Epochal Revelation is "a work for hire", written, in part, by one or more human authors).

Patrick Heelan in his book "Space Perception and the Philosophy of Science" describes the hermenutic process. "The hermenutical task is *circular* in a peculiar but "non-vicious" way, because it involves the simultaneous and mutual determination of the (meaning of the) whole by the (meaning of the) parts, and vice versa. On the one hand, the fore-structure of understanding - the "hermenutical circle" - provides a conjectured meaning for the text as a whole and for its parts, but, on the other hand, the kinds of conjectures one entertains about the (meaning of the) whole depends on clues scattered in the text itself. One moves from a partial disjointed set of insights or clues to an understanding of the whole and back to the not-yet-understood portions of the text, the process guided by the attempt to discover the outlines of "the things themselves."...once linguistic signs are read, they...become more like *windows to a room* which by their (more or less) transparent quality give direct access to the contents of the room beyond...one's attention is possessed directly by the *meaning* of the text. The physical character of the text drops out of objective awareness, it becomes to that extent "non-objective," and I take that to mean "belonging to the conditions of the subject."

It follows, then, that we 'own' its contents, with all the joys and responsibilities that ownership entails. We bring its meaning to life, and give life to its meaning. An enchanting thought, that...

Enchantment is living as if in the Presence of God. And further, working (and playing!) with the indwelling Adjuster to co-create the morontial soul in the supernal game of the ages. On page 1204 we read: "Adjusters are interested in, and concerned with, your daily doings and manifold details of your life just to the extent that these are...factors in the solution of your problem of soul survival and of your eternal future." Is it too hard to imagine Jesus' Adjuster taking divine delight in joining him in the spirit of his work as a craftsman fashioning the sturdy yokes for which he was known, trying to bring to Jesus' human consciousness the morontial metaphors, the "spiritual counterparts", of his earthly labors? (cf. yoke, from the Sanskrit *yoga*, or union; akin to *yuga*, a joining of years, of ages). And the human attitude that enabled Jesus to work so effectively with his indwelling Adjuster, and other spirit beings as well, was the same attitude that enabled the human subject responsible for the Urantia Book to succeed in that enchanted endeavor - call it 'enlightened indifference', a necessary balance-weight for such exalted living. (Asked how she practices her Zen, the master replies: "Chop wood. Carry water.").

*Formerly "San Francisco Bay Area Urantia Society"

Laying Down A Path in Walking, Continued...

We are indwelt by a conspiracy of spiritual forces that originate in the Trinity itself. They are supremely competent to guide us into the high country of Divinity, to help us explore the Kingdom of Heaven within us this very moment. Yet, we forget. *We forget!* Enmeshed in the quotidian drudgery of our existence, we try to carve out a few precious minutes for spiritual reflection; and if we can muster the energy, service to our fellows. But given the current socio-political-economic constraints on our energies and freedoms, it's not realistic to expect that the majority of us can radically alter our lifestyles to allocate much more time to these two poles of the spiritual life (all power to those who have succeeded, or to those world-builders who are in the process of changing their environments to reflect the urgings of their souls). So we are left with the challenge of somehow distilling more meaning out of the circumstances of our current lives.

On the 'outer', or service level, we can focus more on the things that have *survival value*, like the quality of our personal relationships. We can engage in a little 'performance art of the soul', creating moments that last forever; e.g. practicing random kindness, or as the Buddhists say - 'spontaneous compassion'. Some of Jesus' greatest ministry occurred "as he passed by." We can show a lot more enthusiasm for life in general ('en-theus', from the Greek for 'God within'), favorably impressing at least some of our fellows (while irritating the hell out of others!). On the 'inner'

level, we do the will of God by sharing the inner life with that self-same God, primarily through the practice of faith, meditation, prayer, reflection, and worship. And it is in the "...higher levels of the superconscious mind as it impinges on the spirit realm of human experience (that we find) those higher concepts in association with effective master patterns that will contribute to the building of a better and more enduring civilization." (p.1220) Thus we come full circle. Blazing trails into the superconscious we lay paths for enlightened service, transforming the world by transforming ourselves.

If the Urantia Book can be compared to Alice's looking glass, its cosmic mysteries reflected on the surface of each shimmering page, then its high time we stepped into the mirror.

In Michael's Light,
Philip Geiger
11/11/91

Postscript: A few words about the year ahead. You'll notice enclosed in this issue a calendar of upcoming events planned for our community of readers. With the tedious details of structural affiliation behind us, we are all looking forward to a deepening of our fellowship by working, playing, and sharing our spiritual practice together with greater frequency. We welcome your participation.

FALL RETREAT

The weather was quite perfect on the weekend of September 7th when 25 Urantia Book readers gathered at St. Dorothy's rest for the annual fall retreat. St. Dorothy's is an old Episcopal summer camp in the redwoods of Camp Meeker, located on the Bohemian Highway which takes off to the north between Sebastopol and Bodega. These spring and fall retreats are sponsored by Golden Gate Circle, and organized by Dolores Nice of Redwood City.

It was a weekend of relaxation and stimulating fellowship. Dr. Bob Slagle gave a fascinating presentation about the temple at Jerusalem, complete with his artist's conception which may be available as a poster. Sara Blackstock led a discussion of transformation, and Dave Draxton focused our attention on doing the Father's will. There was much beautiful sharing of personal experience in these groups.

We enjoyed using the elegant kitchen at Lydia House. Cooking crews prepared gourmet meals which included baked salmon in polenta, seafood vermicelli, marvelous fruit salads, soups, fresh pies and buckwheat pancakes.

There were walks in the woods, shopping jaunts into Occidental, books to share, a Transformation game, meditation tapes prepared by Stephen Zendt, and Saturday night many of us watched a videotape of Norman Lear speaking to the National Education Association regarding cultural and spiritual values. There was great cheering as we

heard him quote from the Urantia Book.

Sunday morning we met in the little redwood chapel for a worship service led by Jay Peregrine, then we proceeded to the redwood circle outside for a remembrance supper. We left St. Dorothy's feeling uplifted and enthusiastic about all that can be gained from such an occasion. We hope you can join us when we meet at Rancho del Obispo in Healdsburg for our spring retreat. Arrival will be on Friday, March 27th with dinner served at 6:00. We will depart on March 29th at 2:30. We have space for 25 people; reservations with a deposit will be made on a first come, first serve basis. The cost is \$80 for the weekend: 2 nights and 6 meals. For more information contact Dolores Nice at (415) 369-6803. Flyers will be sent out in February.

Cheryl Zents

The Thurstons Pass the Torch...

Developments will reach you quarterly starting next issue with a shorter, more newsy format. A longer creative journal could also be assembled periodically, if there is material to publish.

We hope we've helped to create a closer Bay Area Urantia scene. Thanks to all the readers and contributors that have helped to keep Developments, and our community, alive and well during these recent years of transition.

With much love -- Claire & Chuck Thurston

MINI-CONFERENCE IN JANUARY

The January 31st General Council meeting in Los Angeles has been enlarged into a mini-conference with the theme of "Outreach" as the tentative program starting Saturday, 2/1/92, and concluding on Sunday, 2/2. The Fellowship will be notifying its membership soon regarding this development.

The site will be the Holiday Inn near the L.A. airport, which will facilitate easy access to this gathering of Urantia Book readers. The host for this event is the First Society of

Los Angeles, however the School of Meanings and Values will also be giving a presentation. A social/party is on tap for Saturday night, and a worship group is planned for the conclusion on Sunday morning. The General Council meeting on Friday is open to observers for those who choose to arrive early.

This will be an exciting and stimulating mid-winter event, and I heartily recommend your participation.

Lee Smith

CALENDAR THROUGH 1992:

- Dec. 7, 199** Holiday Party at home of Dolores Nice, 3638 Farm Hill Blvd., Redwood City (415) 369-6803. 5:00 PM potluck. Bring a funny gift for a "White Elephant Gift exchange".
- Jan. 6** New Year's Worship possibly at St. Peter's Church, 420 29th Avenue, SF with party afterward. [S. Zendt 415-821- 9363]
- Jan. 31** General Council meeting at Los Angeles Airport Holiday Inn. Open meeting on Friday, mini-conference on Sat & Sun 2/1 & 2/2 on outreach activities. [Lee Smith 408-462-4823]
- Feb.15** Study Intensive in Santa Cruz on "The Supreme" [Lee Smith 408-462-4823]
- March 27-29** Spring Retreat for families at Bishop's Ranch. [Dolores Nice 415-369-6803]
- April 26** Easter gathering, possibly in Yosemite or Sacramento area with Sierra Urantians. [Sara Blackstock 415-672-3340]
- May 17** Spring Business Meeting - election of officers at Half Moon Bay Library. [Dolores Nice and Cheryl Zents 415-726- 0131]
- June 13** Women's Spiritual Group meeting [Sara Blackstock 415-672- 3340]
- June 20** Men's Spiritual Group meeting/retreat [Jay Peregrine 415- 621-4105]
- July 12** Sports day at the Buckman's Pleasanton Gym with potluck, media presentations. [Michelle/Gary Buckman 510-820-9796; Stephen Zendt 415-821-9363]
- August 23** Jesus Birthday Picnic; warm site to be determined. [Jay Peregrine, S.Zendt, Dennis Baker]
- Sept. 18-20** Fall Retreat for adults at St. Dorothy's Rest, Camp Meeker. We provide meals. [Dolores Nice 415-369- 6803]
- Oct. 25** Study Intensive "The Mother Spirit" at home of Dolores Nice 3638 Farm Hill Blvd., Redwood City. [Stephen Zendt 415-821-9363]
- Nov. 8** Semi-annual business meeting at Half Moon Bay Library [Dennis Baker 415-821-9363].

WOMEN'S MEETING

Women from every corner of the Bay Area came together Saturday, November 9th, for the first ever official beginnings of a Bay Area Women's Group. Some of the 13 women had been inspired by the Boulder Women's Corps presentation at the last conference in Snowmass. Hugs of greeting, conversation and good food filled the first hour. We then joined together for some UB quotes from Sara Blackstock on Jesus' attitude towards women and his anointing of the first women's corps.

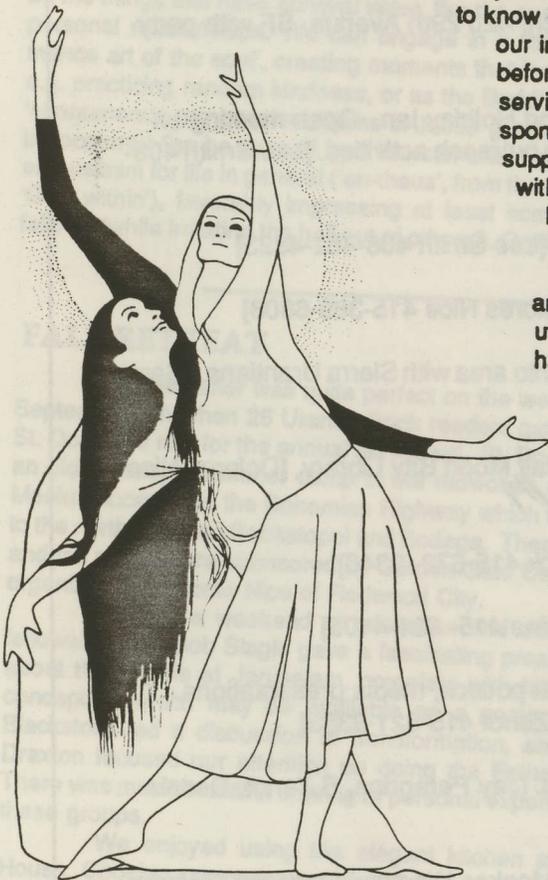
We began our search for the purpose of our group by saying words and phrases that came to mind. The accompanying word poem came from that exercise.

A consensus emerged that we would join together quarterly to get to know each other and support our individual service efforts before we launch any group service projects. A beautiful spontaneous remembrance supper emerged at the end with fresh bread baked by Kathy Ferguson of San Francisco.

A gold candle, rose and goblet were contributed by others. We held hands and ended with a group prayer.

We all left feeling nourished and excited about future meetings — the next to be held at Susan Kimsey's house in Half Moon Bay. Each quarterly meeting will be hosted by one woman while another establishes the theme for the day.

Any women who want to come to the next meeting contact Susan Kimsey at 726-7139.



affirm
uplift
prayer
healing at all levels
support
worship
empowerment
communion
resource
the gift of being present
listening inspiration encouragement
life changes
transformation/transition
growth

spiritual leadership/mentor
freedom from dogma
release from fear
unity of group
integration of non-UB seekers
fostering creativity
discovering valuing
follow through
permission
concentration/visualization
intuition
humor/reversion
service/outreach

female warrior/righteous indignation
history herstory
connections with other women
circle of friends
sisters
multi-cultural
relationship to national conference

assertiveness
fertility
strength
awareness
channeling energies
establish tradition

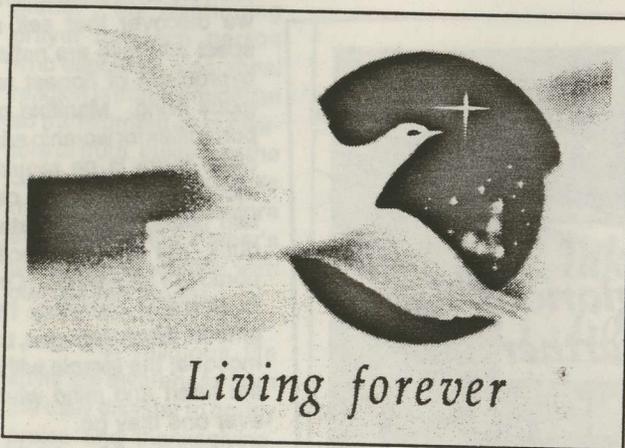
Goddess
Gala consciousness
Mother Spirit

reality response to God within
own personal goals
wholeness
balance
wisdom
completion
harmony
Truth Beauty Goodness
love

**Patricia Fearey:
A Modern-Day Illuminator**

Patricia Fearey, longtime member of the San Francisco study group is reaching the multitudes internationally with spiritual messages through her greeting cards. Within two years, Pat's cards designed for the monks of Printery House will have sold over 500,000 copies. She has designed ten series based on her own chosen themes including Jesus, Saint Francis, Great Women, Peace/Justice, Terminal Illness and her latest, Sacred Earth.

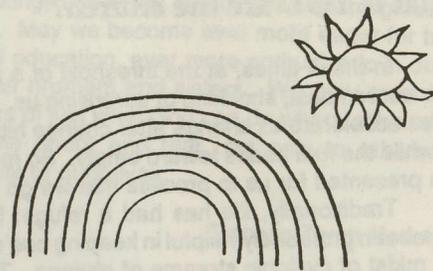
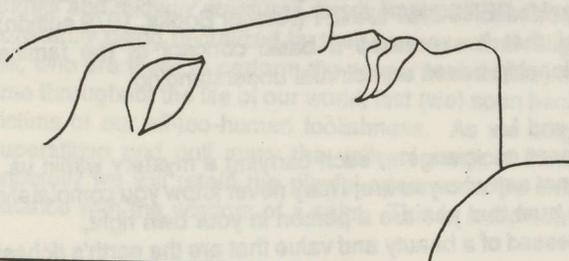
"I enjoy finding ways of expressing the universal values set forth in the Urantia Book without direct quotes. I



feel one can run the risk of enshrining the book itself, rather than espousing the values it presents," she says.

First the monks direct by outlining the kind of quote they want, then Pat does the research. Interesting contacts and discoveries emerge during the research process. In her great women series Pat uses a quote from Sister Dorothy Kazel, a nun killed in El Salvador. Based on a contact with Kazel's sister-in-law, a large print of the card design was used for the ten year memorial service. Each series uses a different technique including photography, collage, watercolor and computer graphics and sometimes combined media.

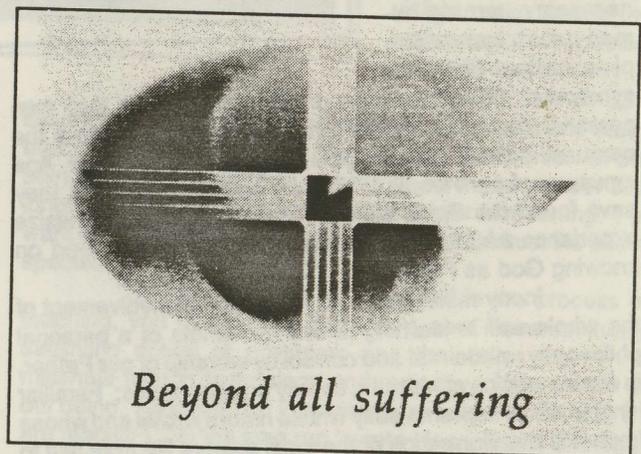
"We need to be extremely self-critical regarding aesthetic interpretations, especially on the heels of floods of 'new age' schlock over the years. That tide has tended to bury and/or discredit core insights that do have value."



Pat's dedication goes beyond high aesthetic standards. Since she doesn't own the high-tech hardware and software required for her art, she has worked out an arrangement with a computer graphics company. She commutes down to Palo Alto and pulls all-nighters using the computers on off hours on the weekends.

Pat's interest in combined word with image goes way back. In the 60's, she admired the work of Sister Mary Corita Kent who also meshed verbal and visual ideas. Although she dabbled in humorous line drawing cards in college, it wasn't until the 70's that Pat's spiritual and visual interests took some shape. She became co-editor, artist and art director to a small rag called the Word, the precursor to the national publication the Yoga Journal. Further study at Findhorn and with Dr. Chaudhuri solidified her interest in illuminating quotes. The Brosnan Basement (the meeting place for the San Francisco Study Group during the '70's) housed many of Pat's beautiful poster sized calligraphy. Finally in 1983, Pat sent off her first sketches to the Printery House and the rest is history.

Future opportunities such as licensing her images for mugs and bedsheets are imminent, but Pat's dream revolves around a Urantia Book inspired media production



company. If she were to win the lottery, the Urantia movement would be replete with shows, films, cards, large paintings and poetry. Even without the lottery, Pat is planning to do a worship show for the Montreal conference next year. The quote from her boarding school graduation picture still fits: "my brain it teems with endless schemes."

- Interview by Claire Thurston

"What if YOU are the church?"

In these times, at the threshold of a new century, events careen past, shocking or surprising us. We hear the engines accelerate as change after change hits our awareness while the fuel heads toward empty. So much information is presented for us to process that we go numb.

Traditionally, life has had a refuge: Religion has always been profoundly helpful in keeping one's place while in the midst of cyclonic streams of change. The religions conserve the best and explain the rest, or seemed to do so until lately. Now, however, our science has whittled away the traditional explanations, placing institutional theologies on the defensive. An alarm sounded which brought forth legions of so-called "fundamentalists" to protest the erosion of religious authority and the loss of strict adherence to the rules. These fundamental religionists have appeared in all the major world religions to guide the gullible and disillusioned back into the fold of true believers, no matter what.

However, many persons still can think they are not simple sheep. Others have developed a philosophy which makes God unnecessary, turning human nature into a complex animal-behavior syndrome. Still others have pressed on, through their own personal darkness toward inner light, convinced that the carousel ride of fad-cult-guru-priestess in the New Age amusement park would lead them nowhere. Instead, they have found the Spirit, within. They learned to synthesize experience and faith into a personal religion centered on knowing God as Father.

In my mind, personal religion is an involvement of the whole self in learning to live the tenets of a personal philosophy, made real and correct by worship of our Father, in contemplation of his truth, beauty and goodness: Familiar kinship with a supreme deity whose nature is love and whose impact is transformation of the focal point of life from self to others. Jesus said, "Love one another as I have loved you."

This personal religion cannot accept the institutional explanations of all things, as orchestrated by the political/theological hierarchy. Neither a hideout for the timid nor a safe haven for the confused, this religious life demands courage and action: A willingness to plunge into living with the inner life alight and the Spirit piloting the way. I believe that this way of living is one satisfying method for dealing with

a personal God-relationship which carries the duty of sharing the fruits of that relationship with all others in an all-enveloping family. Jesus said, "I am the vine and you are the branches. And the Father requires of me only that you shall bear much fruit...Every branch which bears fruit the Father will cleanse that it may bear more fruit." (p.1945, pt.2) All secondary relationships which might intervene between our Father and our inner lives are removed. We become personally responsible to a God of love who cares for us, as individuals, equally. We grow up to a mature philosophy of living with a personal faith in a living reality. We have the opportunity and the privilege to introduce this loving deity to humankind, everywhere.

The discoveries attending this religious awakening are very encouraging since we discover that self respect and love are natural byproducts of honest religious living. Manifold opportunities for worship arise since there is no requirement that one be in a certain place, wear a certain outfit, nor read a specific portion of holy words. One is literally carrying the church, the synagogue, the mosque, the temple within the heart and mind wherever one may go.

As understanding of this personal religion deepens, increasingly one finds openings with other persons in conversation where religious living can be confirmed. It remains proportional, however,

to an ability to refrain from trying to convince another that your way of seeing or interpreting is the better way. Competition for the top concept is not our job. However, confirming what you experience as truth in another's beliefs is a superb way to permit that other person to be openly real. It might just stimulate sincere interest in the way you see things so that a dialogue might begin that may ripen into friendship. Perhaps you may even experience the thrill of sharing your inner life to such a degree that you and your newfound friend will confirm the selfsame Father eternal. A seed will have been planted which takes root and grows.

The following passage is taken from the Theodore Roszak's PERSON/PLANET (Anchor Books, 1979 edition). I feel that it expresses a basic concept of the familiar relationship based on spiritual understanding.

You and I...
we meet as strangers, each carrying a mystery within us. I cannot say who you are; I may never know you completely. But I trust that you are a person in your own right, possessed of a beauty and value that are the earth's richest



treasure.

So I make this promise to you:

I will impose no identities upon you, but will invite you to become yourself without shame or fear.

I will hold open a space for you in the world and defend your right to fill it with an authentic vocation.

For as long as your search takes, you have my loyalty.

As we move through life we may have a moment to touch the inner life of someone or of many who will become abiding friends. The basic personal change we must strive for is openness to others. We need the skills of listening with an open heart and mind, listening for the moment when a pearl of personal insight might be shown or a revelation-seed dropped effectively into place. My continuing prayer for each person who espouses a personal religion is that we might be so transformed as cultivators of truth, guided by the Spirit within, that our lives might well shine before the world to the Father's glory, in cooperation with our unseen friends.

A religious life shifts the awareness from the daily disaster to hourly praise and thanksgiving. The place of worship is carried within the heart. We experience a deepening relationship with our world. As children in one planetary family, we are learning stewardship, as if for the first time. We are responsible for what happens.

If our planet is in peril, how shall we relieve the suffering this awareness causes? How shall we share "the peace that passes understanding"? How do we combat the dread of the dark side of life? I suggest that each of us has an answer wrapped up in our inner lives, waiting to be brought to light as we walk the second mile, as we listen to another's story, as we gently reassure the fearful with the confidence of our faith.

In this service to others, our awareness should begin to include the helpers whom we cannot see, not only angels and midway creatures, but humans whose lives are constantly being revitalized by their own personal religious life, who are there to perform the proper task at the proper time throughout the life of our world, lest (we) soon become victims of our all-too-human foolishness. As we outgrow superstition and pull away the veils of magical thinking, hopefully we will retain the playful openness of a child in balance with the wisdom of a saint. This is a momentous

undertaking, this living of our lives as religious men and women. May we become ever more eager for transformation and education, ever more enthusiastic in our desire to serve our brothers and sisters. We may even hope to be revealers of just what God can do when faith and love have overcome doubt and fear, not only to others, but most especially to ourselves.

Stephen Zendt November, 1991

LEAR SPEAKS ON VALUES

Norman Lear is using his high profile to promote some high values. Here is an excerpt from his talk given to the National Teacher's Association in Kansas in 1990 which was broadcast on public television last month:



"I have a deep, deep concern about what I consider to be a unhealthy reticence in our culture generally and in education in particular to discuss what may be the most distinctive trait of this remarkable creature (the human being) - her mysterious inner life; the fertile, invisible realm that is the wellspring of our species' creativity and morality. It is that portion of our-

selfes that impels us to create art and literature and study ethics and philosophy and history. It is that portion of our being that gives rise to our sense of awe and wonder and longing for truth, beauty and a higher order of meaning. For want of a better term, one could call it the spiritual life of our species...

"So wouldn't it be wonderful, if in the process of teaching, you uncover or discover a new more spiritually satisfying notion of progress; one that relies less on a millennia faith in technology and rediscovers the center of our being. No institution in society is as suited to this task as are teachers. 'In the long run,' wrote Henry David Thoreau, 'men hit only what they aim at. Therefore, though they should fail immediately, they had better aim at something high.'"

Mr. Lear's talk struck home. The 8,500 teachers who attended from around the country gave him two standing ovations and 10 rounds of applause.

- contributed by Sara Blackstock

UB CONTACT WITH NIGERIA

TO:
Beloved Chrissy Smith
3782 Vista Drive
Soquel, CA 95043
United States of America

Monday, June 3, 1991

Beloved and Precious Chrissy Smith,

Greetings to you all in the Holy and merciful Name of our dear Lord, the Father, I pray that this mail will meet you in good health and I hope that you will read thru it in good faith. Beloved, kindly extend my brotherly salutations to those loving Saints with you over there.

I am really very convinced that you will be wondering who must have written you this mail from that far away country like (Nigeria), West Africa. I so much believe that, this is just the very way the Lord wants it, as to join us together in this form. My prayer is that let no man put this great relationship of ours asunder, unto the End.

To start with, I am in the person of REVEREND GODWIN A. IKORO, the founder and General Superintendent of Faith Bible Church of Africa, Inc. As well as the leader of Study Group of Urantia Books, in Nigeria. And I am based in Lagos, the Federal capital of Nigeria. And I came to know of you thru one of the newest Magazine published by the Fifth Epochal Fellowship, called "THE STUDY GROUP HERALD, VOL 1, No. 1, SPRING 1991", issue. In fact, I have been praying that I should one day have a friend and brother whom I would be corresponding with. And who is also a reader of Urantia Books. I thank God, because, He Has done it for me by making me to know you today.

It now seems like my thoughts and dreams on this issue have become a reality. I hope you may be sending me from time to time, some Urantia Books for our use here. We are numbering over 45 members. While we have our newly constituted Board Members of Urantia Study Group. I am therefore, enclosing to you, the picture of these our newly constituted Board Members, for you to see them. While I plead that you should try your very best and send me some of your USED MATERIALS OF URANTIA BOOKS.

Beloved, I am a Missionary, and I am 45 years of age with 11 children, whom God has blessed both my wife, Sister Mercy and myself. I would love to have your own picture as you reply to this letter Beloved. Because, there is something very special about having a visual image of the person one writes to, or pray for. Therefore,

try your best and let me have and share your picture with my family and the entire members of Urantia Study Group here in Lagos. I am therefore, looking forward to having your soon coming reply within the week and I pray that you should try and mail me some of your USED URANTIA BOOKS. Beloved, I love you and I continue to back you day by day in my prayers. I also pray for all the members of your loving family as well as the members of your Study Group over there.

May god our Father, bless you all, as you reply within the week Beloved.

Yours United in the Spirit of Christ Jesys.

Rev. Godwin A. Ikoro, (Leader)
URANTIA STUDY GROUP, Lagos

3782 Vista Dr.
Soquel, CA 95073 USA
June 28, 1991

Dear Rev. Godwin:

It was with much joy that I received your letter and immediately shared it with our study group. You really gave us all such a gift by writing to us and we have taken up a collection to get you your requested Urantia Book. We want to send to you a copy of the Concordex to the Urantia Book and the Paramony of the Urantia Book and the Bible. We have found both of these secondary works to be very valuable in our studies. You should be receiving these books in a few weeks as I have to collect them and then send them on their way. Also we would love to remain in contact with you and hear all about your ministry and promise to keep you in our thoughts and prayers. We hope to be able to send you more books as they become available.

Enclosed please find a picture of our group though there are a few members who were not present the night we took this picture. Our study group has been meeting since 1975 and was basically started by Lee and myself with many of our members joining shortly after. So you can see we have had many wonderful years together growing spiritually with each other and continue to enjoy learning about the wonders of our universe and the sublime beauty of the Paradise Father's plan for all of us.

We look forward to hearing from you again. Please let us know when the books arrive — they will be shipped in about a week. God bless you all.

In His Light,

Chrissy and the Santa Cruz Study Group

RISING FROM MY FLESH

What is this soul
 which shall arise
 yes, rise up
 when I have laid me down?

Where shall my life be borne
 when all heartbeating
 time has stopped
 and breath is gone?

The stars have beckoned me
 since my childhood days,
 the cloaking dark pierced
 by pinpoint light and silver.

Arising from my own familiar flesh
 I would put off mortality
 to garb this most personal one
 I am in infinite awakenings of love.

Yet now my fledgling self seems ready
 to dissolve when I assume a
 vast infinity as universal goal
 and destination of my soul.

These old and mouldy fears are mine to lay
 away for wisdom says I shall
 break forever free discovering
 a universe of possibilities,

For one companion, wisdom's friend and welcome,
 ever onward enthuses me in
 preparation for this long-sought
 voyage beyond my mortal frame.

My Father, friend, your steady presence
 has become my golden guide and rule
 and all the stars and time are but
 the firstfelt evidence of your eternal home.

Stephen Zendt

San Francisco
 1976 (revised 1991)

BENEDICTION by Manitongquat

Hear O Humankind, the prayer of my heart.
 Are we not one?
 Have we not desire,
 to heal our Mother Earth,
 to bind her wounds?

Are we not all sisters and brothers?
 Are we not all grandchildren of the same mystery?
 Do we not all want to love and be loved?
 Do we not want to work and play and sing
 and dance together?

Hear my heart's prayer, O Humankind!
 Life is the only treasure.
 We are custodians of it.
 It is our sacred trust.
 Life is wondrous, awesome, and holy.
 Life is burning glory
 and its price is simply this: courage.

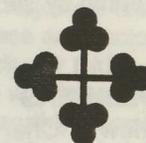
We must be brave enough to love.

(MONITONGQUAT IS A MEDICINE MAN OF
 THE WAMPANOAG NATION.)

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STAYMENTS

**SAN FRANCISCO AND MONTEREY BAY AREA
URANTIA BOOK STUDY GROUPS**

OK.

CARMEL STUDY GROUP

Contact: Jackson and Linda Smith
(408) 625-0997, or
Todd Bliss (408) 375-5089
Time: Alternate Wednesdays (call first)

COLE ST. STUDY GROUP

San Francisco
Contact: Charle Lamar
(415) 386-6072
Time: Sunday, 5:00 PM
Format: Topical, followed by dinner

CONCORD STUDY GROUP

Contact: Sara Blackstock
(415) 672-3340
Time: Monthly, 4th Sunday, 7:00 PM
Format: Topical, rotate leaders

MARIN STUDY GROUP

Contact: Jacques Lecouturier
(415) 479-8269
Time: Monthly, 1st Thursday, 7:00-9:00 PM
Format: Theme studies and individual papers

MILL VALLEY STUDY GROUP

Contact: Carol English
(415) 383-4157
Call if interested

PENINSULA STUDY GROUP

Contact: Cheryl Zents, (415) 726-0131, or
Dolores Nice, (415) 369-6803
Call first
Time: Alternate Thursdays, 7:30 PM
Format: Sequential by section

PETALUMA READERS

Contact: Matthew or Cheryl Rapaport
(707) 762-0329, Call if interested

SAN BRUNO STUDY GROUP

Contact: Cherie Burns, (415) 676-2043 (eve)
or, (415) 943-6100 Ext. 17 (day)
Time: Alternate Sundays, 2 - 4:00 PM
Format: Study group for new readers

SAN FRANCISCO STUDY GROUP

Contact: Claire or Chuck Thurston
(415) 564-1826 or
Stephen Zendt (415) 821-9363
Time: Every Sunday, 7:30-9:30 PM
Format: Topical, Sequential

SAN JOSE STUDY GROUP

Contact: Mike Hagan, (408) 272-8458
Time: Every Tuesday, 7:30-9:30 PM
Format: Sequential, topical

SAN RAFAEL STUDY GROUP

Contact: Margaret Cechettini
(415) 499-5706
Time: Wednesday evenings, 7:00 PM
Format: Jesus papers with discussion

SANTA CRUZ STUDY GROUPS

Contact: Larry and Elizabeth Jones
(408) 425-1882
Time: First Wednesday of the month
Format: Reading and personal sharing

Contact: Lee and Chrissy Smith

(408) 462-4823
Time: Every Wednesday, 8:00 PM
Format: Theme studies and Jesus papers

New readers: Angel Shore

(408) 462-5553
Time: Fridays, 7:30 PM, as needed
Call if interested

SEBASTOPOL STUDY GROUP

Contact: Bob Slagle
(707) 823-0876
Time: Saturdays, 10-12:00 AM (Call first)