



# THE SPIRITUAL FELLOWSHIP *News*

## **Our Mission**

The Spiritual Fellowship is a religious organization whose mission is to bring the spiritual teachings of the *Urantia* Papers to all people.

*"Religion effectually cures man's sense of idealistic isolation or spiritual loneliness; it enfranchises the believer as a son of God, a citizen of a new and meaningful universe."*

*The Urantia Book,*  
101:10.7

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## **Board and Leaders Meet to Establish Vision, Goals**

The Research and Consulting Council (RCC) team leaders met January 11 in Fort Wayne, Indiana as part of The Spiritual Fellowship's Vision 2003 process. At the meeting, the Board's shared vision for 2003 was presented. The mutual vision statement included the focus for the next fifty years and identified items that the Board would like to see addressed in the up-coming year.

The Board envisions a three-fold focus for TSF in the next fifty years:

- Develop infrastructure to support worldwide ministry and establish fellowships. The local fellowships and small groups are the essence of TSF. The overarching purpose of the RCC teams is to develop resources for local fellowships.
- Recruit and train leaders. TSF needs creative, servant leaders.
- Facilitate each person's relationship with God, starting with the delivery of a consistent and simple message: "You are a child of a loving God and a fragment of that God

*resides within you. God has an important purpose for you here on earth."*

TSF's message is a reinforcement and continuation of Jesus' message that we are children of the heavenly Father. It acknowledges the Thought Adjuster and touches on our duty to the Supreme.

In accordance with the chaordic spirit of TSF, the RCC teams established their own vision and goals for 2003. A high-level,

master project plan that integrates all teams will be developed after priorities have been set and resources have been evaluated. The plan is scheduled for completion sometime in early February. Look for it in the next addition of **THE SPIRITUAL FELLOWSHIP News**, along with the information regarding progress of the teams towards their goals.

Look for Vision 2003 at <http://www.thespiritualfellowship.org/SharedVision2003.pdf>. Or, send a note to TSF requesting a copy.

## **The Circles, the Cross, and the Star**

While each element of TSF's emblem conveys core teachings of *The Urantia Book*, there is room for individual interpretation and expression. Here is one interpretation:

The concentric circles in the emblem signify its historic foundation and the value of interpretive diversity. They are the Paradise Trinity emblem, the banner of Michael, the insignia of Machiventa Melchizedek, and a symbol of the Fifth

Epochal Revelation. The cross identifies us as "the world of the cross". It signifies that love is the most powerful value in the universe. The white star in the center represents the spark of God within us.

Other interpretations can be found at <http://www.thespiritualfellowship.org/page2.html>. Or write to TSF requesting copies. Let us know if you would like to submit your own interpretation on TSF's website!



## Missionary Initiative for Latin America

Bruce Jackson, RCC Team Leader, proposed development of a missionary initiative. This work would focus on the development of a network to spread the Spanish *Urantia Book* in Latin America.

Meredith Sprunger, Board Chair, heard the proposal with interest. He observed that any TSF outreach effort is basically a missionary task. He stressed that we first need infrastructure to facilitate our mission in order to have something to share and believes that getting grass-roots groups established locally is fundamental to the future of this missionary activity.

The purpose of the initiative proposed by

Bruce is to broaden the outreach effort by inviting members of other cultures to help us in our fledgling years. We can expect new and exciting contributions of Latin American ministers, musicians, poets, and writers in the development of an effective spiritual mission, particularly in the area of music and liturgy.

The Latin missionary initiative is not about our going out to evangelize them in the traditional sense. When speaking of a missionary enterprise many envision a Christian missionary enterprise that often takes on the imperial guise of their supporting cultures. Aggressive missionary activities of Baptist, Pentecostal and Mormon churches are

recognizable models of this approach. TSF's missionary enterprise looks to avoid resulting cultural imperialism that concerns so many.

We look to the Fifth Epochal Revelation for new models of missionary outreach. TSF missionary activity is about each member working in their own part of the world through the development of local fellowships. The missionary initiative is not about "taking the gospel to them" so that we can somehow "save their souls." Rather, it is an invitation to our Latin American brothers and sisters to share in our efforts, to teach us, and to help us develop grass roots spiritual fellowships to present *The Urantia Book* to those around us.

The missionaries have been called. Who will respond? If you wish to comment on this initiative, please e-mail Bruce Jackson at [jacksonb@lincolnu.edu](mailto:jacksonb@lincolnu.edu) or write him in care of The Spiritual Fellowship.

*"Go, then, into all the world proclaiming this gospel of the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of men to all nations and races and ever be wise in your choice of methods for presenting the good news to the different races and tribes of mankind. Freely you have received this gospel of the kingdom, and you will freely give the good news to all nations. Fear not the resistance of evil, for I am with you always, even to the end of the ages."*

*The Urantia Book 191:4:4*

## Message from the Board

The Life and Teachings of Jesus in the *Urantia Papers*, in our judgment, has the greatest potential of spiritually advancing our world of any event since the coming of Jesus. The history of religion shows that spiritual value systems are always established and promoted by some kind of religious organization.

The Spiritual Fellowship is seeking to establish the grass roots religious foundations that will carry the transforming message of the *Urantia Papers* to the spiritually hungry people of the world. The Spiritual Fellowship is non-creedal and we support that living the teachings of love, forgiveness, and service is the most important thing a person can do. We invite you to join us in this outreach mission.

We of The Spiritual Fellowship recognize that religion is a personal experience and affirm the importance of our relationship with God. We move in faith, knowing that God's love follows all of us now and throughout the endless circle of the eternal ages. We believe that all cultures, all religions, all people can be united by spiritual love, for it is forever true, in the spirit we are equal. So, it is with the greatest joy that we invite you to celebrate God with us in the spiritual unity of love, not in the intellectual uniformity of creeds and dogmas. May you know that you are surrounded by God's love and grace.



**Cordially, with loving fellowship,**

Richard Bain, Treasurer  
Larry Mullins, President  
Nancy Long, Secretary  
Irene Sprunger, Director  
Meredith J. Sprunger, Chair  
Tom Choquette, Vice-President

## Archive Project

Project Archive has been initiated. The 5-year goal of the project is to establish a central location to house historical Urantia-related documents and media, as well as other spiritual resources. The longer-term goal is to establish a library of spiritual resources. Eventually documents will be made available on-line.

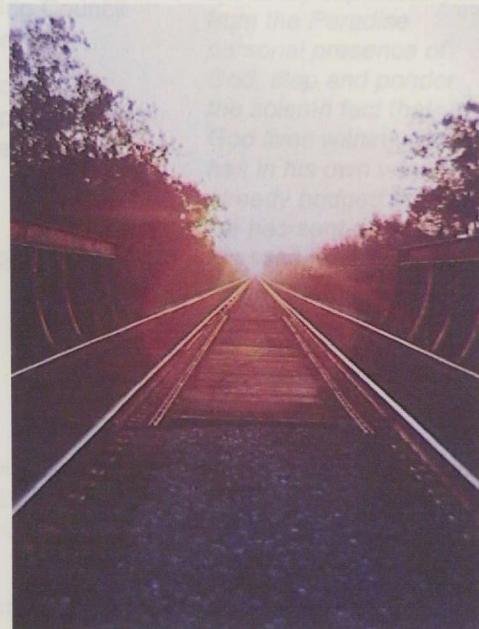
Project Archive is currently an individually-sponsored project. When the facility is up and running, it will be turned over to TSF.

Dr. Meredith Sprunger has donated a majority of his correspondence and other writings over the years, to the project. Ken Raveill,

who is also collecting such documents, has offered to supply copies once an adequate location has been secured.

Transcription of available lectures, seminars, etc., will be attempted as part of the project. Software is being investigated to possibly facilitate that effort.

The estimated date for a facility is targeted for 2005. If you have any items, such as letters, publications, papers, etc. which are appropriate for the Archive, please e-mail Nancy at [nlong@rnetinc.com](mailto:nlong@rnetinc.com) or write her in care of The Spiritual Fellowship.



**Daybreak, spring promise ~  
Adventure beckons, God calls!**

**Why do you falter?**

## Some RCC Team Updates

### Spiritual Outreach Team

Dick Bain, team leader, reports they are working on a worship booklet for those who primarily study *The Urantia Book*, but wish to interject worship into their study sessions. The booklet will be made available to any group, regardless of affiliation.

The booklet will have a chapter for each week of the year. Chapters will contain opening and closing prayers and opening and closing meditations. Meditations could include poems, writings from another spiritual texts, or quotes

from *The Urantia Book*.

A future addition to the worship-booklet package will be a CD containing music appropriate for the meditation, to be used if the group wishes to have music.

For those weeks that precede special group events, special ceremonies will be available.

The Spiritual Outreach team is also serving as the point of contact for those requesting information and other general communications, such as this newsletter.

### Music, Rituals and Liturgy

The Music team and the Rituals and Liturgy team have been combined. Bruce Jackson, team leader, explains that the teams are so closely coupled, it made sense to join them. He has formed sub-teams, with a higher-level team to integrate the output of each team. The sub-teams are Music Composition, Music Collection, Liturgy Writing, and Liturgy Collection.

The team is also creating a database to make music accessible on-line, thereby allowing members to hear the tune as well as print the sheet music.

*"Incline your hearts, O people of God, unto the counsels of your true, your incomparable Friend. The Word of God may be likened unto a sapling, whose roots have been implanted in the hearts of men. It is incumbent upon you to foster its growth through the living waters of wisdom, of sanctified and holy words, so that its root may become firmly fixed and its branches may spread out as high as the heavens and beyond.*

*Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh  
pp. 93-94*

## Happenings

### Our Core Values

The Spiritual Fellowship is committed to motivating, empowering, and supporting all people in their growing relationship with God and encouraging loving service, forgiveness, and ministry among all of God's children.

The Spiritual Fellowship believes the *Urantia* Papers present an expanded revelation of the Life and Teachings of Jesus and a fuller revelation of God and our relationship to God.

While recognizing that any revelation is incomplete short of the attainment of God, our Universal Parent, The Spiritual Fellowship recognizes the value of a continuing study of the *Urantia* Papers and other spiritual sources for inspiration and guidance.

Let us know what is going on in your community!

- 03-May, Research and Consulting Council Team Leader, May 3, Ft. Wayne, IN.
- Fall 2003, Heart-of-America Society Fall Conference, "Living with The Spirit of Truth", Unity Village, Missouri (tentative location), more information to follow
- Oct. 10-13, Urmia Symposium, <http://www.urmia-symposium.com>, info@urmia-symposium.com

"... notwithstanding all that physically and spiritually separates you from the Paradise personal presence of God, stop and ponder the solemn fact that God lives within you; he has in his own way already bridged the gulf. He has sent of himself, his spirit, to live in you and to toil with you as you pursue your eternal universe career."

*The Urantia Book*, 2:5.6

### About The Spiritual Fellowship News...

The Spiritual Fellowship News is published quarterly to keep members and friends of The Spiritual Fellowship up-to-date with our activities and progress.

If you wish to request copies of items mentioned in the newsletter, include your event in the *Happenings* section, submit a poem or artwork, e-mail us at:

[tsfnews@thespiritualfellowship.org](mailto:tsfnews@thespiritualfellowship.org)

Or, you can write us at:

*The Spiritual Fellowship*  
9554 Lick Creek Road  
Morgantown, IN 46160

We look forward to hearing from you!

"For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations."

*Psalms* 100:5

## A Dream of Spiritual Unity

As our world enters a new era of spiritual enlightenment, The Spiritual Fellowship would like to share a larger vision – one reflective of the vast family of Our Heavenly Father, where we serve together in spiritual unity, not philosophical or creedal uniformity.

Ours is a spiritual proclamation:

### We are all children of a loving God.

