

Post-Nashville Reflections - An International Perspective

By: Peep Söber, Tallinn, Estonia

For me the latest USUA Conference in Nashville was a first to learn about and become acquainted with the working methods and ways of acting of American readers. The fact that the conference was held in a Methodist church education center was surprising for me; Estonian Christians are not equally tolerant to others. The whole complex of buildings furnished a good setting for the meetings, breakout sessions, worship; etc. The Nashville Conference was very well planned and organized. The schedule was quite tight, but after all, we hadn't traveled to Nashville for sightseeing tours or because of the country music. We had been challenged to discuss the methods of disseminating our personal understanding of *The Urantia Book* teachings. The same topic was a very fitting one also for the Representatives of the *Urantia Foundation* who attended the USUA Conference after we first had our own Representatives Conference.

The atmosphere of the conference was very joyful, loving, and uplifting. American readers are the true pioneers and have gained a great deal of valuable historical experience in working together. I learned many new things. Actually, I have never before seen so many loving and intelligent people working together in an orderly manner for a common cause. Did we achieve something, and will we now be more successful in disseminating the teachings? Generally speaking, yes, I hope so. The current world situation doesn't allow for us to work on a very large scale. The revelation is still mostly only for those truth seekers who are intellectually and spiritually ready for it. Our world has not yet come to "the

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Meet the USUA Board of Directors



Left to right: Dorothy Elder, Vice President; Morris Kaplowitz, Treasurer;
Betty Zehr, President; Terry Brown, Secretary

Greetings from Betty Zehr - Our New President

USUA is already four years old, and during these years we, its members, have matured and have had many enlightening experiences. These should enable us to go forward with the work begun by others. There is still a great deal to be done. With the election of three new officers for USUA there is fresh optimism and hope.

USUA is now comprised of 22 Local Associations. During these past few years many of us have been working hard to establish Local Associations that are competent working groups. It has taken much time and energy to develop these Associations. We now appear to be at a crucial point in our organization. As I have talked with many people during these past few months, the consensus seems to be that we now want to reach out to other Local Associations in order to pool

our resources. We need to work more effectively and efficiently in this spiritually invigorating task of applying the truth found in *The Urantia Book* to our own life's experience. It then becomes more natural to share this marvelous message of hope and love with the spiritually hungry people of the world who are yearning for a closer relationship with their Heavenly Father. There are so few laborers for this enormous task of assisting our brothers and sisters who are discovering a closer relationship with God through the truth found in *The Urantia Book*. The time seems to have arrived when many are eager for the truth with which we have been so blessed.

I have been thrilled with the quiet, cautious enthusiasm expressed by so many of you. Your Presidents and Vice

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Greetings from Betty Zehr

(continued from front)

Presidents worked very hard during the long day of April 29 when the Council of Local Presidents and Vice Presidents met to work on many issues prior to the annual conference at Nashville. The way in which the members shared their concerns and vision for USUA was very encouraging. There was a harmonious working together which enabled the group to accomplish far more than the sum of the individuals could have achieved.

We decided at the annual meeting that one of the ways in which we can share and learn from each other is through a National Project. The Presidents will compile the various projects from their groups so that we can all learn from their experience. This will be a new opportunity for members to work and share together as a national organization.

As part of our business meeting a formal licensing of USUA took place. Richard Keeler, President of *Urantia Foundation*, and Cathy Jones, IUA Administrator, conducted the licensing ceremony which was very moving. We were pleased that all *Urantia Foundation* trustees were present.

Truth seekers all over the world are learning of this life-changing truth. This fact was vividly presented to us during the licensing. Representatives of *Urantia Foundation* worldwide were meeting on the same day and attended the ceremony. As Seppo Kanerva introduced the representatives the reality that the movement has already become globalized impressed me deeply. There before us was a palette of different names, nationalities, dress, tongues and cultures, which produced an exquisite portrait of global diversity. For me it was an emotional experience to see such diverse people come together with sincere unity of purpose to be about our Father's business. It was truly an inspiring experience; the future does indeed look bright. ♦

Message from Dorothy Elder - new Vice-President

Our USUA is experiencing continual growth. Parallel to this growth is the opportunity to strengthen the USUA through developing inter-communication, interaction, exchange of ideas and activities between the associations which will ultimately lead to a sense of cohesiveness to the USUA. The Vice President should keep in

personal touch with the associations. Each group has a personality all its own, and we can benefit from getting to know each others talents and strengths. I hope that I can be of service in this area of fostering our effectiveness as a group and in developing a sense of unity for the USUA. ♦

Message from Terry Brown - Secretary

Service is what elected officers are supposed to offer and it has been my goal to serve you. As your secretary I see all your names frequently, but it's when I get to see you and interact at conferences that I enjoy the most. When I think back to the eight conferences I've attended, I do not remember the meetings or subject matter. I remember personal activities with other members. Participants must participate to help integrate our wonderful teachings and that's what Nashville brought to mind. I loved the Sunday worship with Steve Shinall's wise and funny message. ♦

Message from Morris Kaplowitz - new Treasurer

The next few years are make or break for USUA. Is it for real or is it just four letters of the alphabet? USUA can do nothing without active participation from the National Associations. Even WITH active participation it's difficult to get anything done.

And what needs to be done? Service, service, and service. And service. And more service. USUA needs to know what you're doing and how you're doing it so that others can share your experiences. We all need to know that all of our Associations are actually doing something and not just polishing their IUA charters. The 'Messenger' and the forthcoming web site can be a valuable resource for shared ideas, experiences, talents, and insights. But it requires action and communication from all of you.

As USUA Treasurer I can tell you that there are precious few financial resources to support service projects. I don't know if that will change or not. But money isn't the key here. It's creativity, commitment, work, and faith that will make things happen. Money without mission is just green paper.

First, take care of your family and loved ones. Then look for service opportunities elsewhere. And let us know about them. ♦

Post-Nashville Reflections - An International Perspective

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conclusion of the present ideological struggle." We are ever more living in an age of confusion. But, we readers have been given an opportunity of being somewhat less confused. The worldwide mission of the Revelation may begin one day, but the current age seems to be that of translations and transforming the movement into one that has more of an international character. The movement is still today predominantly an American phenomenon, but it cannot and must not continue to be so. This does not of course mean that the movement needs a confrontation with the American readership, not at all. We need to see ourselves as brothers and sisters irrespective of the national boundaries that divide us and which constitute an undeniable reality in our world.

By and large, the volume of contacts and communication between readers in different countries is insufficient. I had, for example, several times to explain to American readers where my country is located. We are challenged by language barriers, but also the differences in national living standards will remain an obstacle for a long time to come. *Urantia Foundation* has launched a very necessary project in its working with appointed representatives in a great number of countries and becoming more interested in the situation of other countries. IUA is bound to expand in the near future.

We Estonian readers have offered a chance for English-speaking readers to participate in our National Conferences. Last year several Americans visited our conference after the Helsinki event. We also already have a sister organization in the New York Association. Again this year readers from America, Western Europe and Scandinavia will come to meet with us. I consider it essential that we transcend the national limitations and the cultural differences that divide us. As we become increasingly international in our activities, we have a better opportunity for intellectual and spiritual cross-fertilization, as it opens us up to looking at many aspects of life from a different perspective. We all have been reading about the keen interest that Jesus nurtured in other nationalities, cultures, and religions. During the Estonian Conference of last year John Hales, from Chicago, said to me that he felt at home at our Karepa camp. As concerns the Nashville Conference, I may use the same words and say that I truly enjoyed what you had prepared for us, and I didn't feel that I had been too far from my home. ♦

Nashville - Readers Are Challenged

Ancient limestone, beautifully hewn by hand, was the material of choice for the builders of the campus now known as the Scarritt-Bennett Center. Originally built as a teaching university in 1927 by the United Methodist Church, the center has been a conference, retreat and education center since 1988. The manicured greens, stately trees and stone-crafted architecture all blend together in a setting that richly confirms its Southern heritage. Complementing that visual strength is a spiritual serenity gracefully settled over the grounds and buildings. Maybe it's a lingering testament to the students drawn to this peaceful environment to pursue a deeper understanding of spirit realities.

For the one hundred and forty-four *Urantia Book* readers who came to Nashville to expand their spiritual understanding, the Scarritt-Bennett Center provided the perfect combination of facilities and hospitality. Southern Kindred Spirits, the hosts of this year's symposium, set a standard of excellence with this locale and their first-rate organizational efforts. They also secured the talents of Jeffrey Wattles in helping to create the curriculum. It was an ambitious and well-researched call to examine the many ways of ministering the truths found in our own process of spirit discovery, enhanced by focusing on the effective techniques of the Master.

Perhaps the overriding challenge of the symposium was to those readers unaccustomed to being offered the parallel truths of Christianity and the *Urantia Book*. Attendees were encouraged to read (or re-read) the gospels to get the flavor of the first dissemination efforts of believers and to associate with the tactics of Jesus in

using existing scripture. While the symposium did not focus on the Bible, three of the four plenary speakers highlighted the positive aspects of their social Christian activities. Other scheduled events utilized symbols and ceremony observed by the religions about Jesus. The beautiful and ornate chapel with its impressive pipe organ reinforced that connection in its use for the remembrance

faiths loving our Creator Son helps undo the socioreligious loneliness which can afflict our readers.

From a study standpoint, the symposium offered many opportunities in breakout sessions to communicate the compelling desire, the variable approaches and the frustrating defeats often suffered when we enter the dissemination arena. As always, the spirited discussion of these issues in focused settings led to beneficial exchanges of important personal truths. It is the beautiful, yet challenging rainbow of these truths that give pause and call for sustained humility when setting out to increase the yield of faith-believers. Dr. Wattles reminded us of a good exercise when he advocated our ongoing prayers for the extension of the kingdom. The other participatory exercise was an enthusiastic hit. The parables that attendees were encouraged to compose were wonderful insights into their author's own vision of truth, and the sharing of them in a loving group was like a satisfying tonic for the soul. The nature parable that Steve

Shinall presented at the worship service, invoking family, faith, humor and even props was original, thoughtful and especially entertaining. When readers set out to creatively express the divine revelations within their own mind, they are truly holding hands with God.

This conference succeeded in moving peoples' minds and hearts toward thoughts of inner growth, active service and renewed commitment to the Father's will. All of the organizers and volunteers deserve our gratitude for their efforts of service on our behalf. ♦

By James Woodward

The Cast



of Nashville

celebration and Sunday worship service. The result was an air of tolerance and respect for the loving behavior exhibited by Christians who find the Master's truth in the pages of the Bible. The whole tone of the symposium served several noble ends: facing one's unease with facets of organized religion can be the first step in a process of inner healing; getting to know personalities who minister *Urantia Book* truths through channels of traditional outreach was inspiring; realizing that Christians represent fertile ground for accepting the truth of the Revelation is encouraging; and realizing we have millions of brethren in organized

What Has the Nashville Symposium Meant to You?

(This Question Was Posed to Randomly Selected Participants)



Voyette Perkins-Brown

Today I asked someone how they were enjoying the conference, and they said it was just so illuminating, and then they asked me

what I thought. I said well, it's like having an opportunity to take a nice long hot bath in the tub, just soak, put some bath salts in it, and that's what it feels like to me – a good warm luxurious soak in truth and goodness. Everyone has been so kind, and I've listened to the conscious things that people are trying to relate to one another. I haven't heard anything about politics, I haven't heard anything about the evils of the world, and I guess that is the purpose of the conference, but I think that people already came here with these values in their mind initially. It's refreshing to hear all these different points of view, and do you know what happened today? I was so impressed. In my class we had someone, I think, from both Chile and Mexico. They couldn't speak English but fortunately there was an interpreter to help relate their thoughts about the nature of religion in their lives. I told them afterward, and I really meant it, had they not been there we would have lost out on the great insights they shared from a South American's perspective about religion and culture. I hope I am not sounding prejudiced. When I see movies about the experiences of South American people, as it relates to religious things or spiritual things, I always see them in a big Catholic Church, they are very devout, but I never hear what they have to say about the Lord. Here I heard these gentlemen express concern not only for their sisters and brothers, but they suggested very spiritual ways that we as *Urantia Book* students can contribute towards spiritual awakenings and growth. We can only do that by interacting and helping other people. They talked about confusion and they talked about the difficulty of trying to share spiritual truths

with people who have only been taught dogmatic facts - how dogma holds so many people in bondage. I never thought I would hear a Spanish speaking person say these things. I always got the impression that they were fixed in their ideology but they, too, have problems and if they have problems, everybody has problems – we are all alike, we are basically all alike. When one is able to share, when the language barriers breakdown, I think that we're going to begin to understand that we are more alike than we ever imagined, that we have a lot in common. This is a blessing for me to experience all these ideas and ideals. In my house, over on my block I get accustomed to hearing the same perspective on things, and to be honest, I just kind of turn it off because I know what that person is going to say, and they may know what I am going to say, too. Then I hear all this refreshing information and it's like drinking a Dr. Pepper on a hot day. ♦

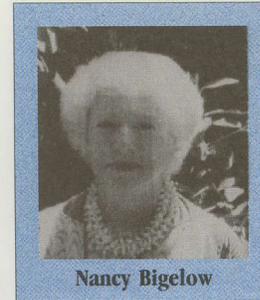


James Perry

This has been a wonderful opportunity to meet my sisters and brothers whom I had not met before and talk with them about

their experiences, and their spiritual lives, and how they reacted to the life they are living. And to discuss with them the teachings from *The Urantia Book* to gain new insights in the direction we are going.

I especially like the way the conference is set up with the small groups where we can all get together and discuss topics and have a little more intimate sharing. To just enjoy this environment which is so beautiful. Springtime - it's such a beautiful day, the sun is shining, to just be in this atmosphere that is so simulative of beauty, truth and goodness. I wish that every body could be here. ♦



Nancy Bigelow

Iknew it was going to be meaningful, but I did not have any idea it would be the same type of value that I found at the planning

sessions in Chicago last November. At that time I attended a sacrament supper and I really felt the presence of our Creator Son, and this was very, very meaningful for me. Last evening we had a sacrament remembrance, it was communion, but it was not a traditional communion. I again experienced the same feeling and felt the real meaning and the value that I did in Chicago. I met with many, many new people and I feel they felt the very same thing, so again, something very, very special. I think we are learning many valuable things with regard to dissemination just in one day. The morning plenary sessions were very nice – wonderful speech from Jane Ploetz, who must be a wonderful teacher. In the afternoon session we discussed all the difficulties that a teacher of truth encounters, and what are the major difficulties, and how do we deal with them. The sessions probably gave us more definite answers on the problems we need to face, and we discussed every possible difficulty of disseminating the teachings without doing it from the standpoint of imposing our interpretations on people, so that was a very, very valuable lesson. At the end of that session we were asked to go and spend 30 minutes praying for a person, praying for one person, and the results will be ours to keep and learn from. I expect it was an exercise in getting in touch with the Father. Has it been valuable so far? Yes, no question about it, and I think the remainder will be equally successful for everyone. ♦

The Light

There is a light
That burns so swiftly
Not 100 buckets of water
Could put it out

It burns brighter than a candle
And brighter than the sun
And your eyes begin to weaken
As you grow closer to it

You begin to walk faster
And then you think you are alone
But you are not

You are suddenly embraced in the light
And you are no longer afraid

The light is calm
And so are you

You begin to feel as if this is
A familiar light
As if you've known it before

And you realize that you are not
Being hugged or helped -
You are stronger
And are being risen from the depths
Of depravity

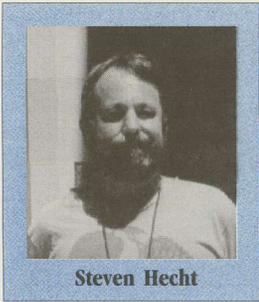
Again, you know the light

It is God's angel
And she is holding your hand

For His love is blinding
But not hurt-piercing
And a well-known gift from
Heaven

Erica Layton
Age 10
January 17, 1999

Editor's Note: Erica is the daughter of Sherry Layton, of the Virginia-Carolina Readers local association. Erica and Sherry had come back from a group meeting on the night Erica wrote this poem. Erica had been watching "Touched by an Angel" on television, when she suddenly sprang up from her seat, ran upstairs yelling "I'm inspired!" and went to her computer, where she sat writing furiously. Her mother eventually fell asleep listening to Erica typing away. Sherry woke up the next morning to find on her dresser the poem that Erica had completed. ♦

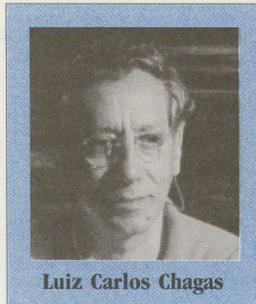


Steven Hecht

It is absolutely a beautiful setting here but more than matched by the beauty of the participants. As always, it's the fellowship here that's

the most rewarding, and can take place either in the workshops or outside the workshops. Just to hear other people's viewpoints, and to engage in very meaningful dialogues, because we're all reading off the same page, at least when we are here. And so, that makes the conversations somewhat unique, because you don't have this kind of opportunity in your normal everyday life, outside of study groups. And so that's what makes this a very fruitful time, because you can gain insights from people you rarely see, maybe once a year if that, and so it's a very rich harvest that comes through the conversations of different insights. The other side of it is that this is my first IUA related meeting. I'm Fellowship background, and so it's even more exciting for me to get in touch with people that belong to IUA. And, I am in the process of joining the IUA. I am just very excited about the coming together, the two cultures, and I hope the two cultures can remain on an interactive, interfacing level and help to fertilize one another. You know, you can't have spirit unity without diversity, and I think we can have a healthy diversity more easily than an unhealthy diversity. I think that IC99 will represent that - it will be another opportunity for spirit unity. ♦

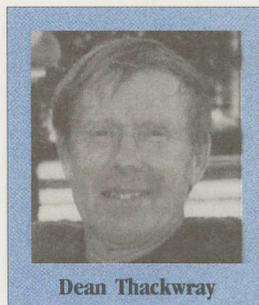
New England region. My last big conference was Bowdoin College, Maine, in 1987, the third international conference by the old Brotherhood. I am so glad to be here. Not only is this place beautiful, and I like the tight schedules, (some people complained about it, I liked it). I am so glad to see this merging back of people from new and old, and whatever side of the ideological struggle (I'll jokingly call it) they come from. I am really glad to see that, as I myself, am coming back into some activity, I am so glad to see that happening as a whole. That is my feeling in a nutshell. ♦



Luiz Carlos Chagas

I am from Brazil, and this is the second time that I am here in Nashville. I am very impressed with the good will that is always

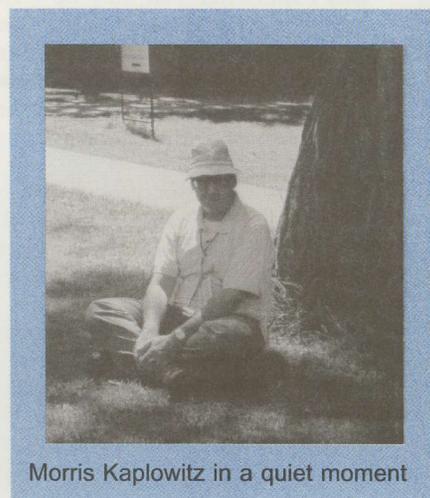
present. And in every meeting, I am very impressed with the supra-mental forces that are present all the time, and that are uniting people. There is something very important that is going on which is love. I think that in a conference like this everyone is open to give love, to receive love, to participate, and we have the book that is always orienting us. This makes it all very, very beautiful, and everything goes very deep inside of our hearts. The intellectual part of it is obvious, we profit from it, but the heart gathering is very, very touching. Thank you. ♦



Dean Thackwray

Well, I personally see this as a pivotal conference on two levels, personal and organizational, because I

have been out of things for a number of years due to family and other matters in my life. I used to be involved in the Brotherhood before the Fellowship was even created, before the split, and I was right there in the middle of things in the



Morris Kaplowitz in a quiet moment

Cornerview: Introducing the USUA Publications Team

Recently I accepted the appointment of our president, Betty Zehr, to the position of Publications Chair and Editor In Chief of the USUA **'Messenger'**. I accepted with some trepidation, but was reassured by being able to assemble a great publications team. The Publications Committee positions have been filled by two exceptional volunteers. Versatile Morris Kaplowitz, USUA Treasurer, will be multi-tasking as USUA Webmaster. Morris is a previous **'Messenger'** Editor, and a valuable resource. Suzanne Kelly-Ward of Texas is a very talented writer who will be helping us coax study articles from our readers for future issues and publications. Don't be surprised if one day you, Dear Reader, receive a call from Suzanne, asking for an article. You all have valuable experiences to share and we are always on the lookout for pieces of interest to *Urantia Book* readers, especially if they are courteous, insightful and humorous.

For our editorial staff, we are most fortunate to have the continuing services of James Woodward, as Editor and Jeanette Schafer as Publisher. James' writing ability, thoughtfulness and energy, and Jeanette's thorough desktop skills and wonderful esthetic sense will continue to enhance the image of USUA around the world in upcoming issues. The Publications Committee and the **'Messenger'** staff serve you in several ways: by providing our officers a means of communication to the general USUA membership; giving members and *Urantia Book* readers an opportunity to address issues of interest and study; and as a forum for international students to address U.S. readers. Our overall goal is to enhance cohesiveness among Local Associations and to foster effective working relationships with our global colleagues, via the printed word, in the best traditions of *The Urantia Book*. With your help, we'll succeed. ♦

Janet Quinn Nilsen



FAREWELL TO A FRIEND

All who ever met Eva Van Sant, of the Oklahoma Association, couldn't help but be enthused by her joyful, forthright and energetic personality. Her enthusiasm was matched by her faith. Her belief in *The Urantia Book* teachings was chief among her many interests.

It is not hard to imagine Eva reunited with her beloved husband Chuck, enjoying every phase of her new morontia career with her customary enthusiasm. Her positive presence will be valued on high and much missed by her friends here. ♦

Our Thought Adjuster, Our Eternity Partner, Our Endless Love

By Jeanette Schafer

There is such a love bond between a mortal creature and their Thought Adjuster. The depths of that love are beyond expression - a fathomless and timeless connection. This love relationship is the very core of our existence - it is life itself. It's a devotedness to one another, an interdependence of the will creature with its Adjuster and the Adjuster with its human partner - "it is the romance of the ages."

As the human partner begins to value and grow in appreciation of their divine monitor and actually seeks the divine will, therein develops and unfolds conscious awareness of divine guidance. Since Thought Adjusters function in the realm of pre-personal existence prior to the technique of fusion with their human host, they are not personalizable (not personality identifiable), but they are certainly spirit identifiable by the creature.

Co-partnering with your Adjuster culminates in the soul. As we accept divine guidance, as we build and grow our divine counterpart (our soul), as we accept the will of the Father, we become that will. And herein matures those sublime melodies that produce the splendor of soul symphony, the beautiful synchronicity of spirit, harmony expressed. When we wholeheartedly dedicate ourselves to the Father, this very act of giving completes us, we experience wholeness within ourselves and the fruition thereof is eternal peace.

Divine communion does satisfy our soul's longing to be with the Father - this experience can only be termed the ultimate expression of a finite creature to the creator. In the "Eternity Cycle" - the never ending bestowal of divine gifts, the will creature freely receives these sublime gifts and in return gives of their most precious gift - the gift of self, the only true gift of enduring value to the Eternal Father. The natural outflow of this receptivity of divine love within us manifests as loving service to others.

In faithfulness, our pledge of loyalty and commitment to our Thought Adjuster - "it is my will that your will be done," culminates in Adjuster fusion. A betrothal - the divine embrace that identifies the creator and creature as one forever more in time and eternity, an irrevocable union. ♦

"The Adjusters are loving leaders, your safe and sure guides through the dark and uncertain mazes of your short earthly career; they are the patient teachers who so constantly urge their subjects forward in the paths of progressive perfection. They are the careful custodians of the sublime values of creature character. I wish you could love them more, co-operate with them more fully, and cherish them more affectionately." (pg. 1203)

Focus on The Father . . .

By James Woodward

“Growing in Grace”

There are several things about Jesus that we are often reminded of in the *Urantia Book*. Chief of these is how he revealed the Father in every aspect of his living. He achieved this by acting as if the Father were present in himself as well as the men and women he came into contact with all his life. This behavior reflects the living of a truth that we know as fact: we are indwelt with a personal representative of our Paradise Father. When humans behave in a manner consistent with the faith/understanding of this truth/fact, a remarkable trait of character invariably assumes dominance in that personality. Such folks are said to be full of *grace*.

We hear this word a lot but what does it mean? Consider some definitions: *Elegance or attractiveness of form, movement, manner or attitude; Mercy; Favor, good will; God's unmerited mercy toward mankind; Influence of God's spirit; Condition of one who enjoys God's special favor; Trait of moral excellence.* How about graceful: *Displaying beauty in form, manner, movement or expression.* And gracious: *Showing or bestowing goodness, kindness or mercy.* We find all the words synonymous with grace to be exclusively positive and harmonious: *beautiful; favorable; kindly; benevolent; courteous.*

This small word, grace and its relatives, graceful, grateful, gracious, congratulations, gratitude, gratified – all connote attitudes or behavior that invade the sincere religionist commensurate with ever-increasing faith. “In all praying, remember that sonship is a *gift*. No child

has aught to do with *earning* the status of son or daughter. The earth child comes into being by the will of its parents. Even so, the child of God comes into grace and the new life of the spirit by the will of the Father in heaven. Therefore must the kingdom of heaven – divine sonship – be *received* as by a little child. You earn righteousness – progressive character development – but you receive sonship by grace and through faith.” (1621:02) “The transformations of grace are wrought in response to the living faith of those who are the beneficiaries.” (1686:05) These passages establish the source of grace, its cost (gratis!) as well as the technique for accessing it. “His last words that night were: ‘Grow in grace by means of that living faith that grasps that you are the sons of God while at the same time it recognizes every man as a brother.’” (1656:06) Jesus gives the apostles a pure nugget of condensed truth: the spiritual summation of the Fifth Revelation is disclosed as comprehensible through sincere consecration, which opens the heart to accept God's infinite mercy.

If you believe that grace is an elective in our personality growth, perhaps just a pleasant by-product of moral behavior, or maybe a virtue that you might come to possess someday, consider these statements from the Master: “Entrance into the Father's kingdom is wholly free, but progress – growth in grace – is essential to continuance therein.” (1682:04) “You cannot stand still in the affairs of the eternal kingdom. My Father requires all his children to grow in grace and in a knowledge of the truth.” (1917:01)

“Make sure that the truth abides in your lives, and that you daily grow in grace.” (1920:01) “Life in the Father's eternal creation is not an endless rest of idleness and selfish ease but rather a ceaseless progression in grace, truth and glory.” (1953:04) And courtesy of the fallen apostle we also have a negative example: “But his being an isolated type of personality would not, in and of itself, have wrought such mischief for Judas had it not been that he also failed to increase in love and grow in spiritual grace.” (2056:00)

Everywhere we turn in our tutorial papers we find grace positioned with truth, love, beauty, mercy, goodness and faith. It truly merits our attention and meditation, as it did Brother Lawrence, the seventeenth century monk who noted, “The higher the perfection to which a soul aspires the more dependent it is upon grace.” The Christian author, Philip Yancey, attempts the difficult definition of grace in relation to God: *Grace means there is nothing we can do to make God love us more. And grace means there is nothing we can do to make God love us less.* A very worthy effort but the best definition walked the dusty roads of Urantia two milleniums past. “Jesus spread good cheer wherever he went. He was full of grace and truth. His associates never ceased to wonder at the gracious words that proceeded out of his mouth. You can cultivate gracefulness, but graciousness is the aroma of friendliness which emanates from a love-saturated soul.” (1874:04) ♦

The licensing agreement between USUA and the Urantia Foundation establishes USUA as a non-profit organization and was signed by Foundation President, Richard Keeler, the officers of USUA and IUA Coordinator, Cathy Jones.



Left to right: Kwan Choi, Mo Siegel, Dorothy Elder, Terry Brown, Betty Zehr, Morris Kaplowitz, Cathy Jones, Richard Keeler

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- ◆ *Nashville Readers Are Challenged*
- ◆ *What Has the Nashville Symposium Meant to You?*
- ◆ *The Light*
- ◆ *Cornerview: Introducing the USUA Publications Team*
- ◆ *Our Thought Adjuster, Our Eternity Partner, Our Endless Love*
- ◆ *Focus On The Father "Growing in Grace"*

Upcoming Events



- ◆ August 7 - 12, 1999: **IC '99, Fellowship International Conference** at Vancouver, British Columbia.
- ◆ August 11 - 14, 2000: **Second Millennium International Urantia Association Conference** in New York City, NY.

'From The Editors'

WE NEED YOUR HELP! We would like to continue to be about our Father's work. The messages in the '**Messenger**' are a reflection of the Father's "light" in us and the work done on this planet in His behalf. What we need is your financial support. The USUA is a nonprofit organization and is separate from the IUA. We have our own treasury, and it is from this source that we receive funding to publish this newsletter. This treasury is depleted - in need of money. Please contribute collectively within your local associations or individually (in any amount) to support the continuance of this newsletter. Thank you. ◆

Send your check made out to USUA to:

Morris Kaplowitz
USUA Treasurer
2114 Salt Kettle Way
Reston, Virginia 20191-4124

Did You Know . . .

It's not too late to sign up for *The Urantia Book* Internet School.

The courses are 8 weeks long with a maximum of 10 students per course. Web site: www.urantia.org.

Course offerings and instructors are:

- Aug. 23 - Understanding the Gospel of the Kingdom; Richard Jernigan
- Aug. 23 - The Evolutionary Unification of Man and the Supreme Being; Suzanne Kelly-Ward
- Sept. 6 - Marriage and Family Life; Morris Kaplowitz
- Sept. 13 - Introduction to The Foreword; Polly Friedman
- Sept. 13 - Sermons & Discourses of Jesus; David Glass
- Oct. 4 - The Four Stages of Michael's Bestowal & Their Implications; Conrad Lavallee

*"When men search for God, they are searching for everything.
When they find God, they have found everything." (1289:02)*

The Urantia Book