



INTERNATIONAL URANTIA ASSOCIATION  
SOUTHWEST URANTIA READERS FAMILY  
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February 3, 1994

Dear Friends and Members,

## Greetings

from the ravaged torn Los Angeles area. As far as we know, we are all Survivors (no pun intended). This is our first correspondence (Inaugural newsletter? Nah!) as the Southwest Urantia Readers Family (SURF) and it is wonderful to say hello to our new beginning. Since this is our first missive, we want to begin with a communique that will encourage us to stay in touch and maintain support for each other. So, to aid in this beginning, a list of our charter members' names, addresses and phone numbers is enclosed.

## Congratulations to us!

Our charter membership is the largest group so far — 31. Not that it really means all that much, but we could have some fun putting a little competitive energy out there. Texas and other areas are getting their associations ready. If you know someone in those areas, you might want to hassle them a bit, see if they can beat us in charter members and in assisting the Urantia Foundation and its trustees in earnest. (Of course, we know that we'll always have the quality no matter what anyone else's numbers might be).

If you want to serve without glory and be a member with us but either didn't attend our installation meeting or haven't filled out an application, contact one of our membership co-chairs, Carole Jett or Shirley Pelland. They'll help you get started.

## Oh, the fun we can have . . .

1) IUA's international conference, July 8-12, 1994 at Vanderbilt College promises to be a fabulous event. Darlene Sheatz is keeping her eyes open for discounted air fares. Maybe 25% off SW Airlines' lowest (\$400.00) LA to Nashville round trip fare!

2) With the number of our group interested in astronomy you can believe that there would be a "Star Party" or two this coming summer. If you've never been to one, they are memorable! A group camp site is usually selected where we can all be together. Imagine. Roaming the mountains by day. Enjoying the splendor of a vast universe at night! Also, this might be an opportunity for us to have our yearly meeting (read "picnic"). Three new moon weekends have been reserved, in June, July, and September (however, July conflicts with Nashville) at McGill Campground, Mount Pinos, Frazier Park, CA. Details later. Interested?

## Service, Service, And More Service!

Many of us have expressed the desire to participate and be of service. To get the ball rolling, here's a list of things that we either need to accomplish as a part of our charter agreement or that have been suggested as possibilities:

**1) We need to incorporate** in either California or Arizona. Since we're more familiar with Non-Profit Incorporation in CA, we already have this is well underway, but we'll be asking you to reimburse the costs associated.

**2) We need to collect dues.** According to our charter agreement we will donate \$10.00 per member per year to the Foundation. We also have a variety of possible projects that we may want to implement. For now, why don't we each send a check for \$10.00 to International Urantia Association, 533 Diversey Pkwy, Chicago, IL 60614 and \$5.00 to Tim Froncek, Treasurer that will cover incorporation fees. You can make it out to him, too, for now). This way we'll keep our momentum.

**3) Stationery? Membership cards?** Do we want them bad enough to pay for them?

**4) Newsletter?** Do we want to produce a newsletter? It would be a great way to speak our piece, maybe to even calm the troubled seas of misinformation. It's a commitment. In both time and money. With about \$2,000.00 a year for printing and mailing a quarterly pub. Any ideas? Suggestions? Volunteers? Will Sherwood is willing to design and produce the first issue, maybe resurrecting the name "Agondonter", but he needs writing help and photos. Would you be willing to:

- a) Write a paragraph about your reactions to our January 15th meeting?
- b) Write something about the advantages of personal dissemination of the teachings?
- c) Do a survey on how much the UB should (or does) cost? Maybe exploring perceived value issues?
- d) Remember Tom Burns' allegory about the grains of rice and the spread of our movement? Do you know any similar stories?
- e) Cost comparison of the UB with other books? Compare authors royalties as well?
- f) Advantages of distributing through bookstores? Maybe several paragraphs by people who found the UB in a bookstore?
- g) Write a paragraph about your vision for us as a group?
- h) Send Sherwood copies of photos you took on Jan 14th & 15th?
- i) Write something about the disadvantages of other-than-personal dissemination of the teachings of The URANTIA Book?

j) Given that only 5% of the people on the planet even read books, what kind of penetration of the teachings can we really expect in our lifetimes?

k) Tell your story. How you found the book. What you do for a living. Your family life. Who reads the book in your family. Social or religious affiliations/commitments. Personal causes. Any personal crisis that the Urantia teachings specifically helped you with? (Items that help us know **who** you are and are particularly touching, seem to be of most interest)

l) Come up with a name for the newsletter?

m) Let the spirit move you. What's in your head?

**5) Regional Conference?** Wouldn't it be great to have a regional conference the summer after next. (Conference 2001 — to celebrate Jesus' 2001 birthday!) It looks like the Claremont Colleges have very reasonable room and board rates — about \$120.00 per person for 3 days. We need to come up with a conference committee to work with Tammy Peterson and a deposit to hold the space. It could be a lot of fun. Any volunteers?

**6) Urantia Phone?** Imagine that you have recently found The URANTIA Book. You're incredibly enthusiastic and it occurs to you that there might be other people out there reading this book. And you would love to meet other readers! You pick up your phone, call information, and you're given an 800 number that puts you in direct contact with SURF! — Wouldn't that be great? How much will it cost? In what cities should the phone be listed? Who wants to run with this project? This is a great service, especially when you consider that the book is primarily distributed through bookstores.

**7) Library placement?** This idea has lost some of it's momentum in recent years. But the potential for service is still terrific. Many libraries have the book but it has been checked out (stolen) for six months! Or your branch shares 1 copy with 5 other branches! What is the likelihood that you or any other person browsing through the library is going to find The Urantia Book in either of these cases?

## Yahoo! Whoopee!

It was wonderful for us all to get together and the timing couldn't have been better (2 days later and the earthquake might have precipitated the world's biggest impromptu slumber party)! We look forward to hearing from you and perhaps seeing you soon as well. Send us your ideas today!

Sincerely,

The SURF Governing Committee: Tim Froncek, Carole Jett, Mary Ann Jurgens, Alice and Joseph McCoy, Shirley Pelland, Tammy Peterson, Darlene Sheatz, Will Sherwood, and Carmen Ulibarri.

# URANTIA FOUNDATION

## NEED LIST

1. Translation, Revisions, and Perpetual Printing Fund
  - a. French Translation
  - b. Spanish Translation
  - c. Finnish Translation
  - d. Dutch Translation
  - e. Russian Translation
  - f. Korean Translation
  - g. Swedish Translation
  - h. Endowment for Future Translations and Derivative Works
2. Audio Version
3. Computer Version
  - a. Portable Electronic Version
  - b. Computer Version
4. Braille Version
5. Concordance
6. Dictionary and Thesaurus
7. Legal Expenses
  - a. Maintenance of Copyright and Marks;  
Agency, Translation, and Licensing and  
Licensing Agreements plus other Non-  
Litigation Matters
  - b. Copyright and Service, Trade, and Collective  
Membership Mark Protection
8. Library Placement and Gift Books Worldwide

Implementation of the programs, projects, and activities will proceed as the funding is available. Anyone interested in assisting the URANTIA Foundation with fund-raising, please call Richard Keeler at (312) 525-3319.