



SPECIAL "EDITOR'S ISSUE"

L.A. Tricks; San Diego Treats

Several members and friends of the First URANTIA Society of Los Angeles went to the San Diego area on Halloween to meet with readers in that area. About thirty-five people gathered at Rich Keeler's custom beach pad, including many members of Rich's study group and Dick and Cheryl Prince's study group.

It was suggested that guests come as characters from The URANTIA Book. Julia Fenderson came dressed in violet, wearing a card asking: "I'm eight feet tall and have 106 children; who am I?" (Eve, of course!)

Barrie Achartz, dressed as a Thought Adjuster, (with toy wrenches, hammers, screw drivers, etc. for adjusting thoughts attached to her leotard,) took the picture at right of her favorite Indian and two aborigine friends.

Following a brief prayer or two, Julia presented her slide show on study groups around the world. Guests were then subjected to an abominable cave man skit.

Some of the San Diegans, cleverly disguised as twentieth-century Americans, may have been somewhat astounded at the antics of the Los Angeles loonies, but then they have their own local loonie, Rich Keeler.



Onamonalonton (Rich Keeler) poses with Andon and Fonta (Chick Montgomery and Ellen Bishop) at the costumed confab of Los Angeles and San Diego Folks at Keeler's ocean view condo in Solana Beach.

Regional Conferences Set

This year, 1977, we are having small conferences in different regions, and next year, 1978, will be the big conference in Wisconsin which will undoubtedly be attended by people from all over the world. On the West Coast, two conferences are planned this year, as follows:

OREGON, May 20 and 21: This will be at Rogue River with the main program on Saturday, May 21, at Indian Mary Park, followed by an evening indoor meeting. This is an informal affair. Readers from the Northwest states and Western Canada are encouraged to come.

Contact: David & Rose Clearwaters
838 South Side Rd.
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

ANAHEIM, September 3, 4, and 5:

ORANGE COUNTY, September 3, 4, and 5, (Labor Day): This will be a FUSLA sponsored event, and readers from the Southwest States and Hawaii are encouraged to come. Transportation from LAX can be arranged.

Contact: Scott & Carol Forsythe
12815 Pacific Ave. #8
Los Angeles, CA 90066

Starting a Group?

URANTIA Brotherhood Field Representative Julia Fenderson would like contact with new study groups, and will, upon request, visit with you to discuss ideas on how to organize your group and obtain study aids. Call Julia at (213) 838-3215.

The Agondonter is the quarterly publication of FUSLA, the First URANTIA Society of Los Angeles. FUSLA is a chartered URANTIA Society and pledges support to URANTIA Foundation in Chicago, copyright holder and sole publisher of The URANTIA Book.

While it is our editorial policy to be consistent with the spirit of The URANTIA Book, the content of this publication in no way represents any official views of any URANTIA organization.

Editor: Charles M. Montgomery (Chick)
Board: Julia Fenderson & Scott Forsythe
Correspondence: Marc Denton

All items in this "special editor's issue" are written by the editor.

To the Editor:

In the September, 1975 issue of Scientific American, much new data on the planets is presented, including some important data on the planet Mercury; data which seemingly conflicts with, and possibly lessens the integrity of a Life Carrier's testimony on page 657 of The URANTIA Book, i.e.: that Mercury keeps the same face towards the sun. Modern astronomical science, with the aid of the Mariner and other space probes, now announces that Mercury does not keep her same face to the sun, as was formerly believed, but, on the contrary, rotates three times for every two Mercurian years.

The mandate-tenet of limiting disclosure (page 1109) might be the explanation to this seeming manifest factual contradiction. But on the question of ethics, M.I.N.D. asks: Does the withholding of scientific facts—true facts, as seen from a celestial vantage point—include the promoting, promoting and reiterating of the previously held beliefs of science which are untrue?

Sincerely yours, in His service,
Thomas Gately, Secretary, M.I.N.D.
Mentative Investigations into
Needed Disclosures
Captain Cook, Hawaii

Dear Mr. Gately,

Thank you for raising an important issue.

The following is how I would respond to your question; additional viewpoints from our readers would be welcomed, as would any corrections in the scientific facts here presented.

There are many attitudes one can take when confronted with an apparent contradiction between The URANTIA Book and scientific facts, including:



1. The Book is infallible; the scientists must be wrong.



2. The Book states false facts; is not dependable.



3. The Book's cosmology is being outgrown as predicted.



4. There is no real conflict; there only appears to be.

RECONCILING SCIENCE AND Lessons from the Mercury

I know of one staunch reader of The URANTIA Book who simply refuses to accept the new data. He maintains that the Mariner scientists are wrong. What's more, this man is himself a scientist. No matter how strongly we believe the teachings of The URANTIA Book, we should guard against this "sacred book" attitude, the doctrine of infallibility or inerrancy, for it precludes an open-minded searching for new truth.



I too was disturbed when I heard that our scientists have discovered that Mercury still spins on its axis, three times for every two orbits around the sun, for the Book seems to state that it always turns the same face toward the sun. Indeed, if the Book flatly and unequivocally stated as a fact something later proven to be false, then I would have grave doubts about the integrity of the Book, for it would certainly seem unethical to state false facts. I would have to incline toward attitude number two, which would be extremely painful and disruptive to me since I have come to rely upon The URANTIA Book so much.



The URANTIA Book makes no claim of infallibility. In fact, we are advised on page 1109 to be prepared to discard some of its cosmology in the light of future scientific discovery. When I first heard about Mercury, this was the attitude I took. I assumed that this was just the first of many amplifications that science would add to revelation. I knew that regardless of how complete and beautiful a picture The URANTIA Book portrays, true reality is even grander.



As I sat down to study the matter to determine just how badly fact had contradicted my beloved Book, I suddenly noticed that there is in reality no conflict! The Book does not actually state that Mercury always turns the same face toward the sun. Close examination of the passage reveals that it was carefully constructed to say no more than that

Quotations used in this publication are from The URANTIA Book,
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"Mankind should understand that we who participate in the revelation of truth are very rigorously limited by the instructions of our superiors. We are not at liberty to anticipate the scientific discoveries of a thousand years. Revelators must act in accordance with the instructions which form a part of the revelation mandate. We see no way of overcoming this difficulty, either now or at any future time."
(U. B. p. 1109)*

"The planets nearest the sun were the first to have their revolutions slowed down by tidal friction. Such gravitational influences also contribute to the stabilization of planetary orbits while acting as a brake on the rate of planetary-axial revolution, causing a planet to revolve ever slower until axial revolution ceases, leaving one hemisphere of the planet always turned toward the sun or larger body, as is illustrated by the Planet Mercury and by the moon, which always turns the same face toward Urantia." (U. B. p. 657)*

REVELATION: sage

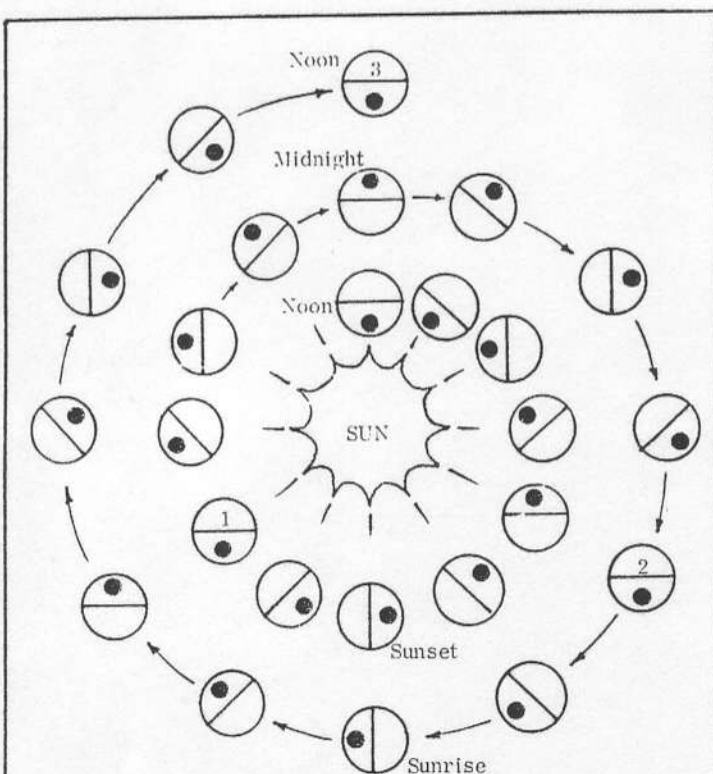
Mercury illustrates the phenomenon of progressive slowing, which indeed it does. As our scientists have so recently discovered, the little planet's rotation has slowed so much that its "day" is longer than its year! Now that is an example of slowing if there ever was one! But why, a skeptic may ask, is the Book not more explicit about the facts? Why is it not clearly stated that Mercury has almost slowed to the point where it always turns the same face toward the sun?



I believe it is because of the limitations placed on the revelators to include only known or about-to-be-known facts and observations. (Again page 1109.) I am satisfied that the revelators carefully constructed the language of the statement on page 657 so that it would not conflict either with the knowledge of Urantian scientists in 1934 or with the true facts as they would eventually be discovered, more than forty years later!

Indeed, I am more than satisfied; I am amazed and intrigued! Here we have a case of intentional double-meaning, designed to be consistent with undiscovered facts without revealing those facts! How many more such "revelational aftershocks" will be felt as future discoveries throw new meaning into apparently innocent but, on closer examination, carefully worded statements in The URANTIA Book?

I think there are a couple of lessons to be learned in the Mercury experience. First, be prepared for the day, perhaps not in our lifetimes, when the Book's cosmological presentations will be made obsolete by the discoveries of advancing science. On that day, count the years that it withstood obsolescence, count the times that it grew via legitimate reinterpretation to keep step with science, and marvel at the wisdom and wordcraft of our revelatory benefactors. And until that day, be open to new ideas. Be willing to thoroughly and honestly compare The URANTIA Book against the new factual discoveries of science. And be slow to reject either scientific facts or the Book, for all likelihood there will be many future instances of what first appears to be disappointing conflict turning out to be amazing consistency □ --cmm



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A SMALL PLANET

Schematic diagram showing Mercury, the innermost planet, orbiting twice around the sun while completing three revolutions on its axis (numbered 1, 2, and 3.) During this time, a Mercurian native, if any exists, (black dot,) would experience one "day" (critical points are named.) Mercury's year (one orbit around the sun) is 88 Earth-days long. Mercury's "day" is thus 176 Earth-days long. (The planet's orbit is of course elliptical; the spiral is used merely for graphic convenience.)

The New Apostles...

What a wonderful privilege it is to be involved in this great URANTIA Revelation. I think we sometimes take the URANTIA Book for granted, even those of us who believe it is, in fact, a revelation from higher universe personalities. We forget how young this movement is and how few people there are on this planet who are aware that this book exists. At the present time there are probably fewer than forty thousand people on the planet who take The URANTIA Book seriously, and since the population of the planet is about 4 billion people, we can conclude that only about one person in one hundred thousand has read much of The URANTIA Book. Compare this to around one person in three who has been exposed to some degree to the teachings of Jesus, or at least to the Christian churches that have grown up in reaction to his mighty life on earth.

The implications for social, institutional, economic, governmental, technological, and spiritual change which are contained in The URANTIA Book are enormous.

It is entirely possible that The URANTIA Book will become as influential and as controversial during the coming millenia as the life of Jesus of Nazareth has been during the last two thousand years.

The apostles and disciples of Jesus were fortunate to have had actual, personal contact with the Master. They were also privileged to be among the first to carry the gospel of the Kingdom to the world.

While we today who are the recipients of the most recent epochal revelation to this planet, The URANTIA Book, are not privy to any special or advantageous access to the truth as were the apostles and disciples, we do share with those men and women of old the great privilege of being among the first to receive this new truth and to carry it to the world.

I am reminded of what one speaker remarked at the International Forum in Oklahoma last summer: "How can we sit here reading this book twice when there are people out there who haven't read it once."

Many of you have probably had the experience of having a period of tremendous initial enthusiasm upon "discovering" The URANTIA Book, followed by attempts to get other people interested in it, only to meet with suspicion, contempt, or indifference. You have learned to your great sadness that most people simply will not share your enthusiasm for The URANTIA Book.

Moreover, we have been definitely advised that the growth of the knowledge of The URANTIA Book must be evolutionary, gradual, and solid. We must avoid mass publicity and emotional appeals. Growth must be by word of mouth, preferably from the informed believer to the sincere truth-seeker.

As a reader of the Book and a believer in its teachings, you can be the vehicle whereby another individual "discovers" this great Revelation. We believe that the best way to do this is, first, to live the teachings of the Book, faith in God and loving service to man. By such a life you will

attract sincere seekers of the truth to whom you will explain this great gospel of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man. When you find one who is receptive to this truth, and who inquires as to the source of your wisdom, then may the situation be right for you to enjoy the great privilege of introducing another son or daughter of God to the URANTIA Papers.

—cmm

"Late" News

EDITOR PLEADS GUILTY TO PROCRASTINATION

We know people like a sense of continuity. And since our little journal, the Agondonter, is billed as a quarterly, we are herewith providing you with two issues.

We didn't expect that our mailing list would double in a year or so. And that we would have to maintain that growing list. (Actually, we love it. We now have around one thousand names, all of you neatly placed on 4x6 cards, and we are gathering more names like a philatelist gathers stamps: lovingly and possessively.)

Nor did we ever expect to be receiving hundreds of letters every year. Regretfully, most letters go unanswered. Bear with us. Write us again, or write Chicago if we don't answer. Don't feel miffed! We're not Newsweek! We have a very small staff. (And don't feel miffed if Chicago doesn't answer either. They're not the Ford Foundation! They're several months behind too.)

At any rate, we apologize for the many months that have elapsed without an Agondonter. But we're proud to be sending you these two issues, and you will be happy to know that the Spring 1977 issue is nearly ready for the printer, and we've begun work on the Summer 1977 issue. So we do intend to catch up!

By the way, as our mailing list grows, we will soon have to trim it. If you can't afford the \$5 a year subscription rate, even a dollar will show your sincerity and insure your remaining on the list.

And please, when you write us include a few lines about yourself, your experiences with the Book, with other readers, your plans, news from your area, etc. Be sure to mark it personal if you don't want it published! Otherwise your letter may well end up in a future issue of the Agondonter. Even if we don't print your letter, we enjoy hearing from you.

God bless you. Keep on truckin', do good, love your neighbor, and read that Book!

To those we know, we love you.

To those we don't, we would if we did!

Chick
Charles Montgomery
Agondonter Editor

agondonter

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Awareness of Revelation Expands

New Members Welcomed

The First URANTIA Society of Los Angeles usually meets on the first Sunday of the month at 2:00 PM in Culver City. Call FUSLA Secretary, Carol Forsythe at (213) 390-2573 for details.



Membership Chairman, Julia Fenderson, left, and President, Scott Forsythe, right, welcome three new members to FUSLA: Ralph Schmidt, Toni Richey, and Terry Follmer.

Jim Mills Visits California, Speaks on The URANTIA Book

In January, Jim Mills, accompanied by his wife, Eunice, visited California study groups, delivering talks and leading discussion meetings on one of the most difficult parts of the URANTIA Book, the Foreward. Jim also spoke on possible future directions of religion on our planet.

Reports from all three geographical areas indicate that Jim's talks sparked deeper study of the Book, and that his warmth and wisdom were really enjoyed and appreciated.

When asked, based on his experience, about the best way to present The URANTIA Book to new people he responded: "There is no best way. The only advice I would give on that subject would be to respect the integrity of the individual."

Jim is a former member of URANTIA Foundation, as well as a former president of URANTIA Brotherhood. He is currently a Foundation Agent and a Brotherhood Field Representative.

The Mills' lived in Wisconsin and Chicago, and recently retired to Florida. Jim is interested in the cosmography of The URANTIA Book, as well as in contemporary astronomy.

Orange County Study Group Celebrates Remembrance Suppers

The study group of Jackie and Kermit Anderson met at the home of Paula and Ted Tyska on November 27 to celebrate a remembrance supper. Several visitors were present, including Julia Fenderson, who gave a talk on "Love." (See photograph.)

A somewhat larger group of about forty people gathered at the Anderson home on New Year's Eve. As the remembrance cup was passed on this evening, many participants shared their thoughts and feelings about various aspects of the life which Jesus lived among us, and the meaning for our lives today.



After the Remembrance Supper: back row, l. to r. Gladys Marsden, Ted Tyska, Paula Tyska, Julia Fenderson, Jim Froats, Connie Tyska, Therese McStay, Chris Heimer. Middle row: Paul Cooke, Bob Hudspeth, Jackie Anderson, Michael McNally. Reclining: Hank Zucker. Layed back: Kermit Anderson. Blissed out front and center: Rob Buzzell.

On Jerusem, the ascenders from isolated worlds such as Urantia "are known as the agondonters, meaning evolutionary will creatures who can believe without seeing, persevere when isolated, and triumph over insuperable difficulties even when alone." *page 579

*Excerpt from The URANTIA Book, Copyright © 1955, Urantia Foundation--Used by permission.



FUSLA Hosts Third Western Conference

IRVINE, SEPTEMBER 5:

About 180 people from as far away as Illinois, Washington State, Colorado and Hawaii attended the FUSLA sponsored conference held at the Irvine Campus of the University of California, September 3 through 5.

It was a well-enjoyed conference, and special recognition is due to Scott and Carol Forsythe, and to Polly Friedman who worked so well and so hard to make the conference such a success.

The format worked well of holding scheduled speakers to a minimum and leaving plenty of free time for impromptu skits, discussions, slide presentations, meditations, singing and fellowship. This conference represented a significant departure from all previous conferences we have attended in that it was characterized by such a variety of activities and presentations.

By Sunday morning we had all settled down sufficiently to listen with interest to our featured speakers. John Hales, Resident Director of URANTIA Brotherhood in

Chicago gave us an update on activities there, noting that URANTIA Book sales are still averaging about 1000 per month and that the volume of correspondence from inquisitive new readers is increasing.

Meredith Sprunger, URANTIA Brotherhood President, shared some provocative thoughts on the future of the movement. Meredith recently gave up his professorial activities, but he still pastors a small church in addition to his Brotherhood responsibilities.

The conference ended with a remembrance supper. We were not conscious of experiencing him personally, but we believe that Jesus was really there.

Update: After the conference we received this letter from Ruby Stewart in Idaho: "Hi everyone, I wanted to write and tell you how very much I enjoyed the Western Conference. It was all such a spiritual feast for me. It is such a fantastic experience to be able to be around other people who love the URANTIA teachings as I do."

OREGON CONFERENCE

GRANT'S PASS, MAY 21:

The Grant's Pass study group held its third annual mini-conference on May 20 and 21 on the banks of the Rogue River in beautiful Southern Oregon. About a hundred URANTIA Book readers were there, plus quite a few children and babies.

Almost as if some agency of providence had intervened, the weeks of rain and drizzly weather were interrupted just long enough for the conference to happen. And happily too, for many of the conferees were camping in recreation vehicles and tents (the Camas Valley study group even had a teepee!), or out under the open sky.

Marvin Gawryn spoke on the cultivation of "religious habits" (eight are specifically listed on page 1777 of The URANTIA Book). He suggested the idea of selecting worldly stimuli which elicit spiritual responses in us. For example, we might select our "pet evil" (its presence or the thought of it) as the stimulus to redirect our thoughts to the fact of God's ever-presence.

Janet Quinn spoke on Jesus and the women who loved him, as well as his treatment of women. She pointed out that his first pronouncement of

(continued on page 2)



REFLECTIONS ON THE THIRD WESTERN CONFERENCE

--by Dick Prince

No conference, and in fact no life experience save for the birth of Christine, has had such a powerful impact on me as did the 48 hours in Irvine.

Certainly one unique feature of this conference was our almost total isolation from those not in attendance. Every pair of eyes was looking straight into mine, and I knew beyond doubt that there was love and fellowship to be had with that person, at some time, even if the opportunity to get to know each other did not arise over the weekend.

A second powerful influence in the success of the conference was the large amount of unscheduled time. This allowed old friends to greet one another, allowed new friendships to spring up, allowed parents to spend some time with children without feeling as though they were missing something important.

Another powerful influence was the nature of the workshops. This was a result that no one could have predicted, but it seems, from those I talked with, to be remarkably frequent on the list of high points of the weekend. Particularly those workshops which resulted

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Items of mutual interest are welcomed from Societies, study groups, and individuals. Short items and photographs are especially welcome. We reserve the right to edit all material submitted.

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* * *

On Jerusem, the ascenders from isolated worlds such as Urantia "are known as agondonters, meaning evolutionary will creatures who can believe without seeing, persevere when isolated, and triumph over insuperable difficulties even when alone."*

*UB p. 579

*Quotations from The URANTIA Book, © 1955, used by permission of the URANTIA Foundation, Chicago.

OREGON CONFERENCE (continued from page 1)

his divine nature was to a woman (Nalda), that his first miracle was in response to a woman (his mother), and that his first morontia appearance was to a woman (Mary Magdalene)...all indicative of the high regard in which he held women.

Following the Friday and Saturday program, the Rogue River study group held its regular Sunday morning meeting under a laminated beam shelter in the town park. The conference over, it immediately began to rain again.

In early August we received a letter from Robin and Gerald Wisdom whom we had met for the first time at the Oregon conference, announcing the birth of their baby boy, Machiventa Abraham. God bless.

Concordex Author Wants Suggestions

While a new and further enlarged Concordex is not in sight for the immediate future, I am accumulating new entries to enlarge the next edition, when it is required. No index can ever include every entry everyone is apt to look for. Such an index would be so big as to destroy its own usefulness. Nevertheless, there is always room for improvement and I seek your suggestions, not only for additional entries, but of any kind to improve the Concordex. So please send me listings you feel should be in that are now missing.

However, please first look carefully in the places your proposed entry might now be listed. More than half of the suggestions I have thus far had are already in the Concordex, but not where the reader looked. Some subjects could be listed in three to five places (cross-indexed). But if every item that could be so listed were, your Concordex would jump to 600 pages or more, and be unhandy to use. As it is, some important topics are cross-indexed in three or more places.

I sometimes have to look in three or four places for a reference I want. Readers of The URANTIA Book may occasionally have to do that. One reader told me "spittle" was not listed, and he wanted that reference in connection with a miracle healing. He could not find the word under "S". Instead of giving up he might have looked under "JESUS, healing", where he would have found it. He could have looked under "healing", in "H". That would have referred him to "healing", under "JESUS". Thus he would have found his word.

A woman remembered, she thought, that the orange race believed in reincarnation. She wanted to confirm that opinion. Since she didn't find the reference under "orange man" or "orange race", it would be logical to look under "reincarnation". There she would have found it.

Still, I know there are some grievous omissions in the Concordex. Send me entry suggestions and your ideas about how I might improve the Concordex.

Clyde Bedell
120 Camino Alto
Santa Barbara, CA 93103

WELCOME TO FUSLA

TWELVE NEW MEMBERS JOIN FUSLA THIS SUMMER

From March through August, the First URANTIA Society of Los Angeles took in twelve new members, the most ever accepted during such a short period in the 20-year history of FUSLA.

On April 3, 1977, Jackie Anderson, Hank Zucker, and Raymond Caliguiro joined FUSLA, members 122, 123, and 124, respectively.



Ray Caliguiro Hank Zucker Julia Fenderson Jackie Anderson

On July 10, eight more were welcomed: Don Alexander, Paul Cooke, James Froates, Robert Hudspeth, Mary Marks, Laurie Mitchell, Pauline Tyszka, and Thaddeus (Ted) Tyszka - members 125 through 132, in that order. Both the above groups were initiated at the Veteran's Memorial Center in Culver City at regular first-Sunday-of-the-month FUSLA meetings.



Left to right: Ted and Pauline Tyszka, Laurie Mitchell, Mary Marks, Bob Hudspeth, Jim Froats, Paul Cook, and Don Alexander

On August 12, Ellen Bishop, FUSLA's most recent member, number 133, entered the Society in an informal ceremony at the home of Julia Fenderson, FUSLA's Membership Chairman.

Among the requirements for membership in FUSLA are familiarity with The URANTIA Book and acceptance of its teachings, and attendance at a series of six monthly orientation meetings conducted by Julia. In becoming a member of any URANTIA Society, such as FUSLA, one automatically becomes a member of the URANTIA Brotherhood.



Ellen Bishop

Dear Fellow Urantians!

I have enclosed a \$100 check for a lifetime subscription to the Agondonter. Thank you for sending me free copies over the last few years.

Was just looking at the Spring '77 issue on "Improving Communications #5 [Agondonter format changes.] I like it the way it is now. Maybe it is too expensive, but I like the quality. [Full page size, good paper, two color printing.]

I am in the Tampa Study Group. Last month we met with the Lakeland and Sarasota Study Groups for a weekend of relaxation and fellowship. We met at a retreat (advance?) area called "Unity in the Pines." It was really nice. We had about 35 big and little kids. It had been awhile since we had all gotten together, and we had really missed each other.

P.S. I really like the idea of putting maps and study aids in the Agondonter that would fit in our URANTIA Books.

Love, Kevin D. Goodman

[Thanks to Kevin for the generous donation. Keep in mind that when you subscribe for a lifetime, that means yours or ours, whichever occurs first! By the way, some of you other procrastinators might send in checks too; we need money right now. In the near future, finances permitting, we will expand to an eight or more page format for every issue. Our first study aid will be a chronology of the life of Jesus, with maps showing his Mediterranean and homeland travels. --ed.]

* * *

FUSLA ELECTS NEW COMMITTEE

At its August meeting, the FUSLA membership elected its Governing Committee for the coming year, as follows:

President	Kermit Anderson
Vice President	Lucille Faw
Secretary	Scott Forsythe
Treasurer	Andy Remon
Membership Chairman ..	Julia Fenderson
Education Chairman....	Polly Friedman
Newsletter Chairman...	Chick Montgomery
Hospitality Chairman...	Bob Hudspeth
Book Chairman	Greg Harris

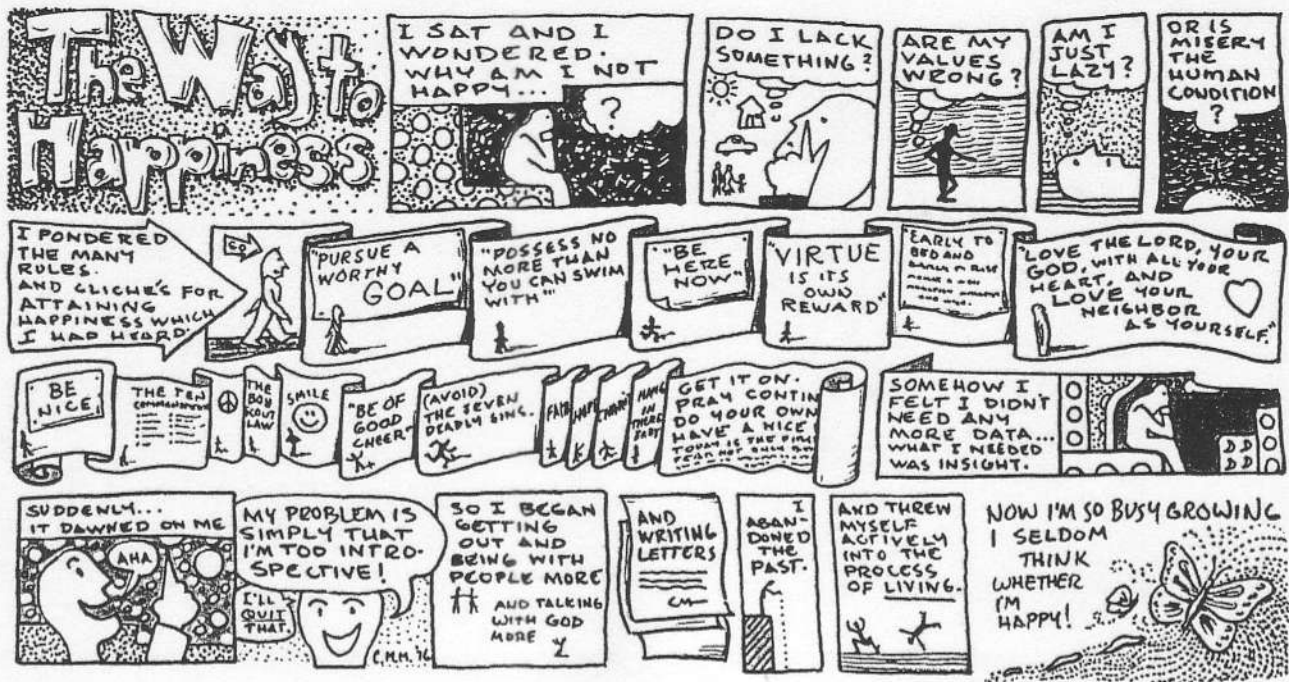
Many thanks to retiring committee members, Dorothy Hicks, Carol Forsythe, Michael Long, and Felice Long for their much-appreciated service to FUSLA this past year.

* * *

NEW GROUP BEGINS ORIENTATION MEETINGS

Thirteen persons began the series of orientation meetings in September preparatory to becoming FUSLA members. They are: Major Emory Balkovic, April L. Darracq, Mary Lou Hooten, Karen Jeppeson, Lucille Kettel, Richard MacDonald, Dennis Nicomede, Karrie Louise Nicomede, Bob Alan Darracq, Saskia Palay, Michael Praamsma, Irving Townsend, and Gregory Wydevu.

Orientation Chairperson Julia Fenderson says that this group should be ready for initiation in the Spring. Others on the Orientation Committee include Paul Cook, General Duane Faw, Charles Hicks, and Andy Remon.



REFLECTIONS (continued from page 1)

in new levels of understanding, new ideas of the meaning of love and brotherhood. Let me give you an example. I attended Bob Slagle's workshop. I don't know quite what to call it, but for lack of a better term I shall simply say the workshop on soul-to-soul communication. Very few of us who went into that auditorium came out without a lasting (I hope) change in the way we look at our fellow man, on many levels.

Finally, and certainly most importantly, the nature of the individuals participating in the conference made it unique. There were so many people who had been with the book for some time. They were not embarrassed or withdrawn with their love for the Father, but were hungry for more. There was a dedication in the vast majority of those in attendance which was almost palpable.

It was a real joy to share all of that with all of you.

TAKE A LOOK

--Lee Armstrong
Iowa City, Iowa

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1
take a look
and come alive
the day you saw
is not leaving now
the sound of a leaf
blowing on the drive
is only the sound
of Believing</p> | <p>2
take a look
at winter's tide
take a gift
to be alive
taste the joy
of those who survive
and hear the One
who makes streams go</p> |
|--|--|

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Study of URANTIA® Book on the Increase

The backbone of the URANTIA Revelation is the study group. We know of between 250 and 300 well-constituted and active study groups throughout the world at this time.

A study group can take many forms. From six to ten people seems to be the ideal size, but as few as two and as many as twenty can effectively study the Book.

We have seen groups that resembled afternoon teas, therapy encounters, prayer sessions and philosophy seminars. What distinguishes them as study groups is that time is spent actually reading The URANTIA Book.

exclaimed, "My mother reads that Book too!" It didn't take long to find his mother, Susan Stagi, who lived only a few doors away. Thus a lively and dedicated group was formed that now often has twelve to fifteen readers present.

Each of these groups is different in its approach: one is reading the Life of Jesus, one focuses on different themes, while the other orients the meeting around special presentations by each member. Gerryann writes: "It is just so exciting to discover new friends to study with and to feel our lives expand as we share this revelation with others."



Julia visits Arcata

ARCATA HOSTS MINI-CONFERENCE

Eureka! I've found it! That's how many of us felt when we discovered the URANTIA Book. Eureka (meaning, I have found it) is also the name of a small city on the northern California coast... up in the wild redwood country. And in Arcata, a little town a few miles from Eureka, a regular family of URANTIA Book readers has developed around the nucleus of a few pioneers who located there several years ago, including Bob and Bonnie Hunt, Phil and Cindy Calabrese, and Bob and Cheryl Boden.

Julia Fenderson, long active in URANTIA work and now Membership Committee Chairman of FUSLA, visited the folks in Arcata in early December. During her stay a one-day mini-conference was held culminating in a pot luck buffet supper at the Hunt's home, (which Bob built himself last year.) About 30 readers attended.

Apple Valley-----Mildred Kaunas hosts this new study group which meets every Wednesday night at the Pyramid Book Store. (Phone 714-242-4402).

Santa Barbara-----A solid study group has evolved in this area hosted by Eunice Greateon (333 Old Mill Road, Space 176 Santa Barbara, CA. 93110). Regular attendees include Barrie Bedell, Kenneth Allwood, Pat Singleman, Sandra Handley, and Eric Gates.

Groups in the West

Gerryann Olson sends us good news about the growing number of study groups in Sonoma County, up north of the Bay Area. Three strong groups have evolved and Gerryann feels certain that there are many more UB readers as yet undiscovered in the vicinity.

The Sebastopol group is led by Bob Slagle, who has organized many groups over the last seven years.

The Petaluma group is led by Elizabeth VanBuren (418 8th St. Petaluma, CA. 94952), and this batch recently hosted an all-county meeting where the San Francisco group, led by Steve Zandt, came to show their new multimedia presentations.

The birth of the Santa Rosa group is a story that must be told: The eight-year-old son of Robert and Kathy O'Connor (412 Humboldt St. Santa Rosa, CA. 95404), who host the group, came home one day with a new friend. The friend saw a Big Blue Book on the table and

Riverside-----Penny Poole and Jeff Oster were married August 28 at the home of Penny's parents, in a lovely garden ceremony. The Osters had long been active in Bay Area URANTIA activities. They have now started a study group in their new home in Riverside, down here in Southern California. On January 15 they hosted a casual Sunday get-together for readers in the region. Thirteen people attended.



UTAH STUDY GROUP: Typical of the dedicated groups springing up throughout the west to study The URANTIA Book. These folks meet in the home of Thern and Rae Blackburn in Woods Cross.

Grimsley Proclaims God from Podium and Studio

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

Long-time readers of The URANTIA Book agree there should be no publicity of the Book until thousands of study groups have been formed around the world. Yet the Book urges us to spread truth, to devote ourselves to the spiritual uplift of others, and to work toward the regeneration of men's souls. How do we resolve this apparent conflict?

Vern Bennom Grimsley, student of The URANTIA Book since 1956, discovered the answer long ago. For years Vern has been "bootlegging" URANTIA Book concepts into the public consciousness via international radio and public addresses without ever mentioning or directly quoting the Book. Vern puts out the essential messages of the Book, the true teachings of Jesus, the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man, truth, beauty, goodness, love, etc., but he never publicly mentions The URANTIA Book itself, or its more esoteric revelations. His radio program "ON CAMPUS" is heard worldwide.

Vern is currently on a speaking tour that includes Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, Montana, Idaho and California.

In a recent address Vern remarked concerning the quiet spiritual renaissance going on today, "That which makes headlines goes on the front page; that which makes history is often found on the back page."

[Let us all quietly continue our "back page" work until the time is ripe for a full public proclamation of this great Book. --ed.]



Vern, in address to well-known lecture bureau, urges a spiritual renaissance

"On Campus" Broadcast Times

The Family of God program is heard on hundreds of local radio stations in all 50 states and reaches into dozens of foreign countries. Here are a few examples:

San Francisco: KFAX, 1100AM, Sunday, 9:00 PM.

Chicago: WEAW, 1330AM, Sunday, 10:00 A.M.

New York: WWDJ, 970AM, Saturday, 6:00 P.M.

Los Angeles: XEMO, 860AM, Saturday, 9:00 P.M.

Oklahoma City: KBYE, 890AM, Saturday, 1:00 P.M.

Europe: Radio MANX, 188 Meterband, 89mhz/91.2 mhz, vhf, Wednesday, 7:00 P.M.

Asia: Radio Sri-Lanka, All-Asia Network, Tuesday 9:45 P.M. 9.720 megacycles, Thursday 8:45 P.M. 4.968 megacycles, 5.020 megacycles.

Africa: SWAZI Radio, 4.735 megacycles, Friday, 9:45 P.M.

For a more complete listing of local stations in any state, region, or portion of the world, write to The Family of God Foundation, Inc., Box 347, Berkeley, California 94701.



NEWS of the SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA
--by Sue Kantor

In December the Bay Area "parents group" met at the home of Mary and Terry Echlin, where Sara Blackstock led the discussion on parenting. The group had also met in September at the Tilden Park Farm and Nature Center.

The annual meeting of SFBAUS was held on February 5 at the home of Vern and Nancy Grimsley. Reports from officers were heard and one new member, Mike Hagan of San Jose, CA., was installed. Officers for 1978 were elected and are: David Gray, President; Terry McCade, Vice-President; Joanne Eichmann, Secretary; and Gard Jameson, Treasurer.

On February 17, a daughter, Lara, was born to Bob and Gail Eash, volunteers at Family of God.

agondonter

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Ad Hoc Editorial Cmte.: Lucile Faw, Julia Fenderson, Scott Forsythe, Andy Remon. Editor: Chick Montgomery.

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*UB p.579

*Quotation from The URANTIA Book, ©1955, URANTIA Foundation, Chicago, used by permission.

TAKE HEART!

Please don't fear that you've been removed from our mailing list. We simply did not print a Fall or Winter issue. (The Agondonter is a labor of love—no one gets paid for working on it—except the printer and the U.S. Postal Service.) We intend to publish quarterly from now on, God willing.

Prince, Slagle Serve at Celebration '78

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

Dick Prince is an M.D. He works in a hospital emergency room. He has chosen this type of medicine because it affords him the greatest opportunity to comfort the bodies and souls of individuals who are in pain, and because the days-on-days-off schedule gives him more time to relax and be with his family. (His wife, Cheryl, presented him with their second daughter, Laurel Marie, on February 9th.) It also gives him time to study, worship, and serve without pay as a URANTIA Brotherhood Field Representative.

In addition, Dick serves part-time as one of the six staff members of the Center for Life Enrichment, an adjunct of the Community Church of the Pacific in Pacific Beach. This Center is dedicated to serving "the whole person."

On Saturday, January 21, Dick worked with others at the Center to stage "Celebration '78," a day devoted to integrating the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health of the individual.

Impressed with the experiential workshop conducted by Dr. Robert Slagle at the September URANTIA Conference in Irvine, Dick invited Bob to direct a similar workshop at the Celebration.

Those who participated in this unique workshop said it was such a powerful spiritual and emotional experience that it simply cannot be described.

One need not be an M.D or Ph.D to begin adding the "leavening" of truth one finds in The URANTIA Book to local organizations in the community. Dick believes that each of us can begin right where we are, taking up whatever skills we have, and building on our experience to date to perform this service of spreading the truth and love we receive from the Father.

MOSCOW BOUND

Bill and Dorothy Hazzard depart in April for a six-month trip to Russia. The Hazzards have had a study group in San Diego for five years and are responsible for placing a number of URANTIA Books throughout the world, including the South Pacific and New Zealand.

FUSLA MEMBER GETS HAWAIIAN WELCOME

--by Beverley J. Wold

The URANTIA Book talks all the way through about Truth, Beauty and Goodness. I found these qualities in overwhelming abundance in a two week trip to the Hawaiian Islands late last year.



Eva Sepp met me at the airport in Honolulu with her friend Lynne.

Then I was whipped off to the first of five Study Group meetings that I attended on Oahu. This was overlooking Honolulu at the penthouse apartment of John (J J) Johnson.

Skip, Connie, JJ, Eva, Carol and Tom, and others helped me poke into the Paradisical spots, so that I could record the beauty of the Islands.

The papers written by JJ, Study Aids for children compiled by Ruth Tyau, and the philosophical work of Tom Gateley are some of the tangible examples I saw of genuine Truth Seekers.

Connie and Richard Holmberg, with their adorable three-year-old blond twins—Krista and Sanssa—certainly demonstrated a family life most beautiful to come to know.

I had the thrill of helping shrink the distance between fellow URANTIA Book readers by leading a meeting at Sue and Bob Smith's, where about thirty keenly interested brothers and sisters saw the slides from our FUSLA Irvine Conference.

Each individual I had the pleasure of meeting (and there were over fifty) seemed to radiate the spirit of goodness and helpfulness. (If you want an experience of "instant friendship" just find a group of URANTIA Book readers.)

RECENT FUSLA MEETINGS

FUSLAns have enjoyed a variety of presentations and participation in small study groups at the recent monthly meetings:

October, "World Religions" by Duane Faw and Greg Harris; November, "The URANTIA Book In Our Lives" by Chick Montgomery; December, "The Christmas Spirit" by Dorothy Hicks; January, "Love-A Workshop" by Chris Heimer and Ellen Bishop; February, "The Role of Disappointment in Spiritual Growth" by Kermit and Jackie Anderson; and March, "Unity Without Uniformity" by Duane and Lucile Faw.

PRAYING IN THE NEW YEAR

FUSLA President Kermit Anderson had a pot-luck in his and Jackie's home on New Year's Eve. About 25 readers shared in a remembrance supper, seated in a circle around the living room, giving thanks, petitions and praise. Highly spirited group singing followed.

At the same time, Julia Fenderson and nine readers were praying in the New Year at her home in Culver City.

Another group was gathered at Vince Ventola's home up in Arcata. How many other URANTIA Book readers met together in homes throughout the world that night, to pray in the New Year?

KERMIT VISITS CHICAGO

Shortly after being elected President of FUSLA last fall, Kermit Anderson flew to Chicago for a few days to acquaint himself with the people and policies of the Brotherhood and Foundation. Toni Richey and Ralph Schmidt, recognizing the value of such a trip, organized the collection of funds from FUSLA members to make the trip possible. Riding with Kermit from the airport, Christy pointed out the very intersection where, decades ago, a vehicle "accident" resulted in her first meeting with Dr. William S. Sadler, and marked the beginning of her long career of service to the URANTIA Revelation.

1978 GENERAL CONFERENCE
at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin
in August. Write Chicago for
details.

Study Groups Convene in Wenatchee

--by Lew and Alice Clark

After a soggy week, the morning of October 1 dawned bright and sunny, and not even the wind came to mar perfect autumn weather for our weekend event.

Following the keynote address on Saturday morning by Bettina Gray, twelve small discussion groups were formed and they scattered to various places inside and outdoors in the sunshine.

The evening session included an address by Marvin Gawryn, special music, and an inspirational message by Vern Grimsley. Following this, marshmallows and hot dogs—a touch of "country" under the starry sky and mellow moon.

Sunday morning worship time included songs by Joanne Iverson and Dan Sullivan, and a chant conducted by Francyl Gawryn and Bettina. Gordon Bellamy read selections from The URANTIA Book, and Dr. Meredith Sprunger, President of the URANTIA Brotherhood, spoke on activities at the Chicago headquarters.



Seattle study group making new friends



Victoria B.C. group on Clark's back lawn

We closed at about 12:30 PM so our far-away guests could meet plane and ferry-boat schedules.

We feel that the weekend was a great success. For the first time we had representatives from the Spokane area. They now have a study group started there.

Assisting in planning the weekend were Steve Johnson and Janice Goben from the Seattle area, Fran Huntington from Portland, and Nathan Zadden from White Rock, Vancouver, B.C.

Our largest delegation came from Canada, and they were an inspiration to the others who have vowed to work harder in their areas.

[Note: As we work to develop interest in The URANTIA Book among prospective readers, remember that we are to do this without publicity or fanfare of any kind. --ed.]

COPY

CONCORDEX AUTHOR PLANS UPDATE

Clyde Bedell, creator and publisher of the Concorde to The URANTIA Book, wants your suggestions for additional entries to include in a new edition.

The Concorde is a unique combination of index and concordance. Those of you who would like to obtain a copy of the current edition by mail may do so by sending Clyde \$12.00. Clyde and his wife Florence recently moved from their Santa Barbara home, so send your checks and suggestions to Clyde Bedell at 2390 Via Mariposa West 3E, Laguna Hills, CA 92653.

[Normally the Agondonter does not print any type of advertisement or commercial announcement. We make an exception for the Concorde because it is a uniquely valuable study aid and the product of over thirty years of continued work by this very dedicated student of The URANTIA Book, Clyde Bedell. -ed.]

VANCOUVER CONFERENCE SLATED

Nathan Zadden is organizing a conference on May 13 and 14 in a private lodge on Bowen Island in Vancouver, B.C., Canada. You can write him for details at 15312 Thrift Avenue, White Rock, B.C., V4B 2L5.

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NEWSLETTER OF THE FIRST URANTIA SOCIETY OF LOS ANGELES

SUMMER, 1978



Rare photograph of Family of God members responding to Reversion Director at inception of San Francisco Bay Area URANTIA Society, February, 1976. [Normally invisible, this Reversion Director was captured on revelatory film in Triune light using a 77 mm Mota Master with SuperInsight lens and prophetic filter.]

Left to right: Brian Cox, Jo Ann Eichmann, Fred Shupp, Mark Turrin, Susan Shupp, Gard Jameson, Chris Baetge, Terry McCade, Mary Brunner Blessing, Nancy Grimsley, Bettina Gray, David Gray, Vern Bennom Grimsley, Sara Blackstock, Mary Echlin, Connie Aller, Marvin Gawryn, Francyl Streano Gawryn, Bob Blackstock, Jeff Wattles, Sue Kantor, Penny Poole Oster, David Kantor.

HUMOR: "THE DIVINE ANTIDOTE"

QUOTES ON JOY AND HUMOR

"One of the functions of humor is to help all of us take ourselves less seriously. Humor is the divine antidote for exaltation of ego." *UB p. 549

"...there is inherent joy in freewill existence..." *UB p. 312

"The early experiences of the race or the order are restful to reminisce." *UB p. 548

"The hosts of Havona are naturally a joyous and exhilarating assemblage of supremely happy personalities." *UB p. 549

*Quotes from
The URANTIA Book,
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*UB p. 579

*Quotations from The URANTIA Book, © 1955, used by permission of the URANTIA Foundation, Chicago.

Scoring the Quiz:

Allow one point for each correct answer.

- 0 - 5: One step above Mid-mammal
- 6 - 10: Snarling hulk (p. 1098)
- 11-15: You could guess and do this well.
- 16-20: You can read English.
- 21-25: You're familiar with the U. Book.
- 26-28: You've read the whole Book.
- 29-30: You've almost memorized it!
- 31-32: Take lots of cold showers, you may be close to fusion.

Puzzles & Quiz by Chick Montgomery; Questions and corrections welcomed.

A BOOK QUIZ

In each pair below, cross out the word that does not appear in The URANTIA Book:

1. Napoleon - Hammurabi
2. Syncopation - Harmonics
3. Kodiak - Lemur
4. Indigo - Beige
5. Consciousizing - Ectomorph
6. Mohammed - Luther
7. Inquisition - Dispensation
8. Atlantis - Eden
9. Designati - Segregata
10. Soma - Mota
11. Eugenics - Hybridization
12. Scaffolding - Plywood
13. Fandor - Emu
14. Agondonter - Confidanter
15. Spectroscopic - Laser
16. Telephone - Television
17. Supercilious - Reprehensible
18. Roc - Dinosaur
19. Mansonia - Delectonia
20. Monitor - Merrimac

21. The Midwayers are all of the following except:

- ☐ Resident on URANTIA
- ☐ Authors of the Jesus Papers
- ☐ Personalities
- ☐ Morontia Ascenders

22. JESUS was all except:

- ☐ Michael of Nebadon
- ☐ The Second Person of Trinity
- ☐ Local Universe Creator
- ☐ God and Man

23. We are told to be all except:

- ☐ Valiant in defense of righteousness
- ☐ Aggressive in preaching this gospel
- ☐ Perfect even as God is perfect
- ☐ Diligent in study of Scripture

24. Jesus felt all except:

- ☐ Anguish
- ☐ Sorrow
- ☐ Anger
- ☐ Indignation

25. Man is described as all except:

- ☐ The lowest form of will creature
- ☐ Inherently base and sinful
- ☐ A product of evolution
- ☐ A potentially eternal being

26. God the Father is all except:

- ☐ Beyond mortal man's understanding
- ☐ The goal of the ascendent career
- ☐ An evolutionary-experiential deity
- ☐ An infinite personality

27. The Trinity includes all except:

- ☐ The Universal Father
- ☐ The Second Source and Center
- ☐ The Conjoint Actor
- ☐ The Eternal Isle of Paradise

FOOD FOR MOTA THOUGHT

Thomas Gateley, "Cosmic Castle Inkeeper" in Captain Cook, Hawaii, offers some "food for mota thought": What is the cosmic significance of the number 19? Two of the most important Urantia families in history, Andon and Fonta and the Sangiks, both gave rise to nineteen offspring. Christ Michael made nineteen reappearances. What relation, Gateley asks, has the number nineteen to the ancestral decimal system of creation—besides being the combination of the highest single digit and the lowest one? Perhaps some of you real cosmic thinkers out there have given the matter some thought? Coincidence? Significance? What do you think?

[Beverley Wold tells us that Thomas Gateley is a clean-living, hard working, studious reader whose "Cosmic Castle" is a charming wood and glass multi-trunked tree-house in the avocado grove of which he is caretaker.]

28. The UB suggests all ok except:

- ☐ Eating meat
- ☐ Group Worship
- ☐ Astrology
- ☐ Birth Control

29. The UB recommends all except:

- ☐ Recognition of Fatherhood of God
- ☐ Service to Brotherhood of Man
- ☐ Consecration of Will
- ☐ Devotion to life of Sacrifice

30. The UB confirms all except:

- ☐ Atonement
- ☐ Dispensations
- ☐ Resurrection
- ☐ Remembrance Supper

31. The UB encourages all except:

- ☐ Continuous meditation
- ☐ A specific worldly profession
- ☐ Patience with ignorant men
- ☐ The religion of Jesus

32. Jesus was employed as all except:

- ☐ Boat builder
- ☐ Temple custodian
- ☐ Caravan boss
- ☐ Tutor

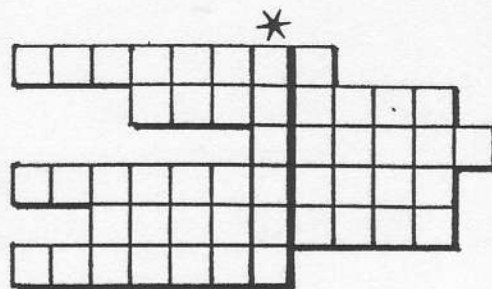
ANSWERS TO QUIZ

3a9' 308' 318' 33p'
33q' 34c' 32p' 3ec' 31q' 38c'
18p' 30p' cpeck' 31q' 33p'
13p' 14p' 12p' 10p' 118' 188'
ep' 18' 88' 38' 108' 118' 13p'
c1088 ont: 18' 38' 38' 4p' 2p'



Rearrange these letters to form a certain group of Trinity-origin beings. Under the star will appear what they teach and represent.

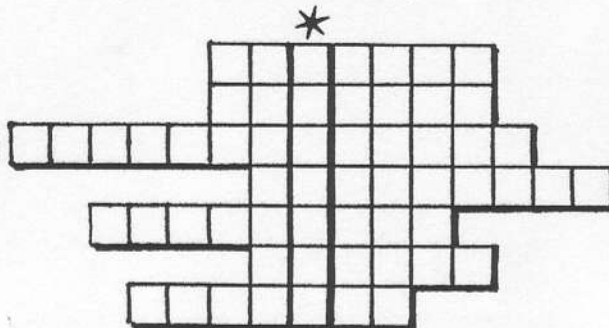
EN ANTICS
NEAREST L
IN ON US
SOFTEN PRICE
FIFTH SAUL
CENTERS



Rearranged, these letters form the names of a certain group of helping spirits.

Read downward from the star to reveal one of their planets of service.

O UNCLES
SHIP ROW
DUST GARDEN INN
GOLDEN KEW
INTO UNIT I
DO SWIM
OUR CAGE

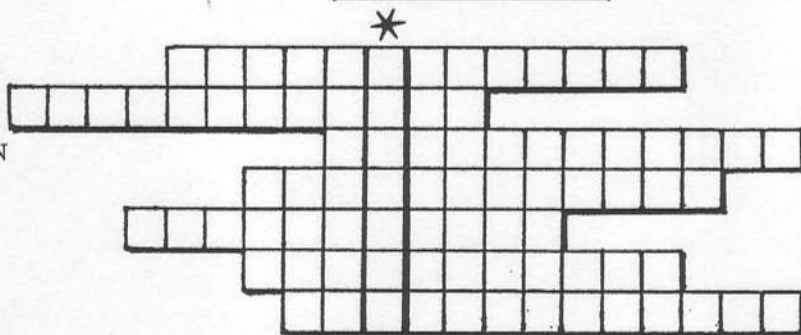


These letters, rearranged form the names of a certain group of spheres.

Under the star will appear one of their attributes.

Hint: All seven spheres end with the same six letters!

ENTICING GROVE
GOD CANT SINNE
THE PIGS RAN ON
SPRING INTO IT
NOT DIVING IN
NO TONS GRAIN
LOST RATIONING



Journey into Light

Guess the clues and fill in the spaces to the right.

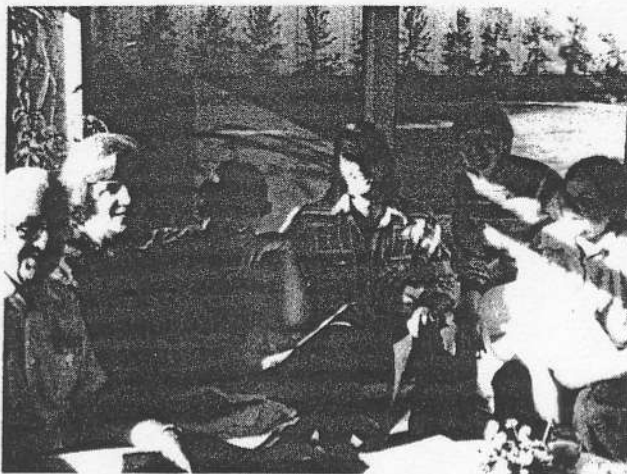
Transfer the letters to the puzzle to form a quote from The URANTIA Book. (There is a comma after 47A and a period after 77G.)

- A. The Big Arena (3 words) 76 59 38 46 57 23 48 47 73 36 34 9 32 70 51 19 3
- B. Garden Dividers, Trimmed shrubs 2 22 8 54 65 13
- C. Teaches, Draws Out 63 31 52 14 7 71 50 10
- D. Small Flute 69 75 40 15
- E. Making an Effort to Accomplish 41 20 67 11 28 25 35 18 74 53
- F. _____ of Life 17 6 61 27
- G. People, Taken as a Whole 49 24 64 5 16 60 44 77
- H. Jesus Was One (2 words) 29 4 68 58 21 12 43 37 55 62 33 42 30 1 45 39 66
- J. Sangik Type 26 72 56

When completed the first letters of the clues reading down will spell the point of it all.

	-1H	2B	3A		4H	5G	6F	7C	8B	9A	10C	11E		12H	13B	14C	15D	16G	17F		18E	19A
	20E	21H	22B		23A	24G	25E	26J	27F	28E	29H		30H	31C	32A	33H	34A	35E	36A	37H	38A	
39H	40D		41E	42H	43H		44G	45H	46A	47A		48A	49G	50C		51A	52C	53E	54B	55H	56J	
57A	58H	59A	60G	61F	62H	63C	64G	65B	66H	67E		68H	69D		70A	71C	72J	73A	74E	75D	76A	77G

FUSLA HAPPENINGS



PROGRAM PLANNERS: A meeting of FUSLA's Education Committee. Left to right: Dick MacDonald, Polly Friedman, Toni Richey, Chris Heimer, Dorothy Hicks, Carol Forsythe.

Recent Society Meetings

May: The Family of God. The Berkeley crew made the presentations at this month's meeting. Accompanying them was one Swami Verta Breaka, apparently an eastern mystic and yogi, who amazed us with his anatomical contortions, especially the 180-degree pelvic wrap-around, reportedly last attempted (unsuccessfully) in 1932 by the (departed) Swami Brahke Evvry Bhona.

June: The Relaxation Response. Julia opened the meeting with a memorial for Terry Smith (see story this page). Following the induction of two new FUSLA members, Saskia Palay and Gregory Warren (Wedevu), we enjoyed a slide talk by Dick Prince on the "relaxation response"—the physiological reactions of the body during the meditative state. Dr. Prince's remarks were primarily from a medical perspective, with comments and conjecture on the relation of the meditative state to prayer and worship.

July: Constitutional Revision. The Governing Committee met with interested members to answer questions regarding the proposed amendments to the FUSLA Constitution, slated for ratification by the entire membership at the August annual Assembly of the Society.

...and Upcoming Ones

August: Elections. The FUSLA membership will vote on the Constitutional revisions and will elect Officers and Committee Chairmen for the coming year.

September: To be arranged.

October: Our Heritage of the Sprit. The October 1 FUSLA meeting will feature three remarkable slide presentations by the "Brosnan Tortoise." This group is a URANTIA Book-inspired collaborative of creative San Franciscans, centered on Brosnan Street, who, like their hard-shelled namesake, are developing slowly, steadily and powerfully. They will present their show "Our Heritage of the Sprit" at the Hawaii conference and then at the October FUSLA meeting. We saw this work in Oklahoma in 1976 and it is excellent! Visiting from the "Tortoise" will be Phil Eversoul, Chuck Thurston, Stephen Zendt and Pat Fearey.

Jim Mills Speaks on Supreme

Continuing its practice of sponsoring special classes conducted by experienced teachers, FUSLA hosted Jim Mills in a series on the Supreme Being, June 16, 17, and 18.

On Friday Jim spoke on the "past," being the relation of the Supreme to the eternal "I AM" concept of Deity. On Saturday he discussed the "present" and how we mortals fit into the scheme of things, contributing to the evolution of the Supreme through our free-will decisions and actions. And on Sunday Jim dealt with the "future" relation of the Supreme to the Absolutes.

Scott and Carol, "Well Done"

Scott Forsythe, long time UB reader and President of FUSLA for several years, was recently appointed Administrative Assistant to the URANTIA Foundation and will thus become the newest member of the office staff at 533 Diversey Parkway. He and his wife Carol will be leaving August 1 for Chicago.

In honor of their departure, Dick MacDonald coordinated a "roast" on July 2nd. Hoite Caston (also a former President of FUSLA) was emcee, and lit the fire with hilarious slides of Scott and Carol's lives and misadventures. Lauri Shapiro piled on the fuel, Duane Faw and Roger Abdo fanned the flames, Bill Sherwood and Michael Long impaled the victims, and Polly Friedman turned the spit. Pat McNelly couldn't be there but called Vern Grimsley and had him deliver a couple of cuts, as follows: (1) Until recently Scott thought the "Supreme" was a pizza with everything on it. (2) Carol has a new definition of "Nebadon," as in, when she's in the kitchen, "a woman's work is Nebadon."

Following the good-natured ribbing, Karen Jeppesen sang "Tis a Gift to be Simple" and Jonathon Johnson (recently returned from Colorado via Washington with his wife Karen and their three tykes) sang original UB-inspired ballads. We all wish Scott and Carol the best in their service to the Foundation.

Chick and Ellen Wed

On the afternoon of July 1, FUSLA Agondonter workers Chick Montgomery and Ellen Bishop were married in a sun-dappled outdoor ceremony, surrounded by close friends and family.

Vern Grimsley movingly performed the ceremony which included selections from the Bible, The URANTIA Book, Shakespeare, and a prayer offered by Chick and Ellen, delivered by the groom, for their marriage to be dedicated to discovering and doing the Father's will.

The following day the couple left for a 14-mile backpacking honeymoon along the beautiful South Fork of the Kings River in Kings Canyon National Park.

Memorial for Terry Smith

Terry Smith, about to become a FUSLA member, died in a mountain auto accident in May on Angeles Crest Highway. He was returning from an errand of service, marking trails for a FUSLA prayer and meditation retreat.

Terry, originally from Ashville, North Carolina, was a straight A scholarship student and earned many commendations and honors while in the Army. He worked for Hughes Aircraft as a computer programmer.

A dedicated reader of The URANTIA Book, Terry attended different study groups in the Los Angeles area nearly every night.



Who Wrote the Book?

This is probably one of the most frequently asked questions by newcomers to The URANTIA Book. Usually it is best first to explain that it was written by a number of superhuman personalities, including such high beings as Divine Counsellor and Universal Censor. (UB p.1088, 1258.) The various authors, by the way, and their relationship to their topics, their styles and how they variously handle their discussions of their own order of beings would make a fascinating study. To our knowledge no one has really done an in-depth analysis of this, but it is clear, even in a first reading of the Book, that interesting differences exist.

After the inquirer becomes aware of the superhuman authorship he usually, with varying degrees of mixed doubt and belief, asks how it got written. He should be directed to the various passages in the Book which refer to the process by which the Book was put into English through an unnamed human subject. (p.1243.)

Next, without fail, he will ask "Who was the subject?" At which point you may explain that this is the most amazingly kept secret in the history of mankind, and point out the passage on page 1423 which mentions mankind's tendency to exalt a person or personage in place of the teachings with which he is associated.

He may then respond with various objections such as: "If it's really a revelation, why not reveal everything? If the Book can really stand on its own, why the need for secrecy about its origin?"

Perhaps the best response is that the Book does, indeed, stand on its own merits. One of the joys of the whole revelation is that this is the first time in the history of the world that Word was made Book. In all four previous Epochal Revelations, personalities were involved. The URANTIA Book is the only revelation not connected with a personality, and it is fitting that it should remain so. In fact, it would be detrimental for it to become connected with any individual, for then the person, or the process of its coming through him, could become of greater interest than the content of the Book itself, the medium, to paraphrase Marshall McLuhan, eclipsing the message. This, we are told in the Book, is precisely what happened to a large extent in the distortion of the Jesus Revelation: the religion of Jesus became supplanted by the religion about Jesus. In the same way, a religion about The URANTIA Book could supplant the personal dynamic and vital religious life which the Book exhorts us to lead, the life of dedication to finding and doing the Father's will.

It is natural that people should have an interest in the identity of the human subject through whom the Book came. Most of us have probably spent some time speculating on this. I know I have. But as the years have gone by, and I have more and more come to accept fully that the Book is what it purports to be, I have also come more to trust those to whom the revelators entrusted the Book and to accept their statement that the human subject should remain a secret. Therefore I no longer waste time and energy in conjecture.

As an analogy: A primitive man, hearing music coming out of a modern radio, might shake the instrument, try to peer inside, look for some kind of trick, possibly even tear it apart. A modern man on the other hand, having more understanding, is not concerned with the radio or how it works, accepts the radio and focuses on the music. When a particularly beautiful strain of music comes over the radio, he enjoys it, and may even listen to find out who wrote or sang it; but he would not inspect the radio to see what brand it is. The message of The URANTIA Book is like the

"BROTHERHOOD"

(LAMENT OF AN "ALMOST" URANTIAN)

--by Clyde Bedell

I have been guilty of passing The URANTIA Book lightly through my mind.
Sometimes its prescient words have thunderously awakened me.
Its brilliance has sometimes briefly blinded me.
And its Jesusonian love has melted me.
But always I have recovered quickly--
and bent my mind and back anew to little matters of markets and meals, and tires and taxes and the tinselled trimmings of life that pass in and out the doors of my consciousness.
Yet--none of these are important enough to record in a sculpture of stone or a painting in bright colors to furnish and brighten the too barren gallery of my soul.

In this hour, pondering again the inexpressible wonders of the Book--
I felt time racing tumultuously through the aging calendar of my veins.
I faltered at my tick tack work--
--presumably important--
and saw as in mirage its wavering worth.
"I must," I said, "get my priorities in order."
The hints I've had!

--a burst of light in darkness,
an electrical invasion of my soul's depths,
a flooding response to some small kindness,
a rainbow of celestial music in my heart!
All these suggest that just beyond my fingertips are truth, beauty, and goodness,
mysteriously freighted with fragrance, flavor and sustenance for a thirsting soul.

Why have I not seen more clearly that as You have translated the symphonies of Paradise itself for us in our Great Book--
we cannot hold them to echo forever in our memories unless we orchestrate them in our personal way into brotherly daily touching of other lives with words and actions!
... For these others too, in the human state, suffer the malady that deadens us--
our preoccupation with everything that doesn't matter.

This be my resolve: I'll honor more the Book's so simple, yet transcendent truth--
that everyone I see or meet or hear about is in truth--MY BROTHER!
And in each day's relationships it will be I who lets each know by attitude and word and action!
Dear God! Life is too short to enjoy all my brothers!
How have I so long been needlessly impoverished--
fraternally and spiritually?

beautiful music; the human subject like the radio. Inspecting or tampering with the radio cannot make the music any more beautiful or real. It might even squelch it.

A final observation: If the authors of The URANTIA Book had wanted us to know the identity of the human subject, they could easily have told us.

In the past Divine plans have miscarried and Revelations have been lost through the errors of impatience, and stubborn self-willfulness. Let all of us who believe, who have even a grain of faith in this great Book's authenticity, work patiently and pray to make sure this Revelation succeeds.

--cmm

Conferences

CANADA

Julia reports that the May 12-14 British Columbia, Canada conference was great, with 65 to 70 readers attending. It was held on Bowen Island, midway between Vancouver and Victoria, and groups came from both these cities. Nathan Zadden and Joe Pope coordinated the affair. Field Representative from Washington, Lew Clark, and his wife Alice were there too. The scenery was beautiful, according to Julia, with "flowers and mountains, evergreen trees, and little waterfalls and streams all around."

LAKE GENEVA

World Record Department. We don't know the largest number of URANTIA Book readers ever to stuff themselves into a phone booth, but we may have the largest number ever to get on the same airplane when about fifteen board the August 13 charter flight to Chicago for the General Conference in Lake Geneva, which itself promises to be the largest single gathering of readers ever to assemble on the planet. . . expected to be twice as large as any previous gathering! About ten are coming from the Bay Area. FUSLA's Scott and Carol Forsythe will have already arrived in Chicago on August 1st and Corlin Renn will arrive early to spend time with her family at their lake cottage. Karen Jeppesen and Shelly Hoose will drive back. Other FUSLA members attending are Julia Fenderson, Dorothy Hicks, Chick and Ellen Montgomery, and Bill Sherwood.

UPCOMING IN HAWAII

The "First Pacific Conference on The URANTIA Book" will be held September 23-25 forty miles from Hilo on Big Island, at lovely Pohakuloa State Park, nestled between the fourteen thousand-foot peaks of Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea. Among the speakers will be Phil Calabrese, Dick Prince and Bob Slagle from California, and Foundation and Brotherhood representatives from Chicago. For those able to afford the transportation, food and lodging and the costs of registration are very reasonable. For further information contact David Saunders, P.O. Box 799, Captain Cook, HI. 96704.

AND ON THE CALIFORNIA COAST

Several "mini-conferences" are in the planning stages in California, designed for those not able to attend the larger, more remote gatherings. Study groups in Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa are among those considering such conferences.



The happy folks in the Study Group of Bob and Cheryl Boden, up in northern California, near Eureka

Study Group News

California

Report from Julia. FUSLA's Membership Chairman Julia Fenderson reports that she has word of six or seven new study groups up and down the California Coast just in the last three months! This makes some one hundred western groups "under her wing." She has slides from about fifty, and would like to receive pictures of each and every one of them. (Send a slide, and a print if you have it, to the Agondonter, with a few words of news.) Julia notes that there are now only ten states that have no organized groups to study The URANTIA Book.

Bogotá

First South American Study Group. Douglas Fraser recently moved with his family to Fresno, California from Bogotá, Colombia where he has established a group of about twenty-five people who have met weekly for over a year. He would prepare by translating a few pages of The URANTIA Book into Spanish. The group would read it first in English, and then in Spanish. This group was so solidly founded that it continues now even without his leadership.

Speaking of Translations. We recently asked Christy in Chicago personally whether we were supposed to prepare translations or whether perhaps the Book was intended to be read only in English. She said we were definitely instructed in early messages to prepare translations into other languages. Unfortunately this is a gargantuan task and it requires large amounts of money to do the job properly. (Do you know any people with money who might be interested in sponsoring such a labor?)

Brisbane

Among those on that August 13 Conference Charter Flight from LAX to O'Hare will be Verner Verass from Australia. This "wonderful young artist and dedicated reader" Julia tells us will visit a week in Los Angeles and meet with as many study groups as he can before flying to the Conference. Verner was from the Universal Brotherhood School in Balingup, Australia, near Perth, then left and moved east to start his own study group in mid-Australia near Brisbane, thus continuing a pattern set by four or five others who have gradually left that spiritual community of one hundred or so to start new groups elsewhere.

Melbourne

There's a great study group in Melbourne that's developed as a real stronghold of readers of The URANTIA Book. It's led by Neil Francey, who's been back and forth to L.A. here three or four times. His is the sixteenth study group to be started in Australia.

Naming Study Groups

Idea. In places where a number of study groups are active, such as in large metropolitan areas, nicknames can be given to the groups to give them more identity and appeal. For example, Barbara Kulieke's group in Chicago is called the "Tadpoles." If you want a more formal name, such as to use in a small announcement on a bulletin board, you might try something like "West Midville URANTIA Book Study Group." (As long as you use the word "Book" in your name along with the word "URANTIA," and underline both words, you can do so without having to be formally affiliated with the URANTIA Foundation or the URANTIA Brotherhood, and without infringing on the URANTIA service mark.)

Images of Western Australia

IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA, near Perth, there is an amazing community of about 100 URANTIA Book readers living in an idyllic setting of fields, flowers, and waterfalls, schooling their children, raising most of their food, and living the teachings of The URANTIA Book.

They are named Universal Brotherhood, Inc., and are organized into ten study groups, identified by the colors of the rainbow, which meet daily to study The URANTIA Book. Such a life on such a planet? [Pictures taken early 1977.]



Lyn Ganley & children, Samantha and Lee



Stephen Carthew, Director of Universal Brotherhood, Inc.



Stephen leads the children in song



Kerry (teacher) with school children, l. to r.: Lee Ganley, Amanda Peacock, Jerome Peacock, Samantha Ganley. Also shown are some of the cuddly animals sent to the Australian group by Bill Sherwood.



Noel & Janie Ferguson with Timmie & Ultra



Timmie and Janie



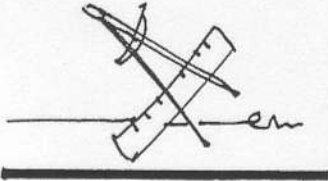
Lee & Jerome diligently at work!

"These high-climbing souls..."

CHALLENGE TO GEOMETRICIANS

Reported recently in L'Ascendeur (French Newsletter) a way to construct with straight edge and compass a seven sided regular polygon, a problem long thought impossible.

We know how to do it. Can you figure it out? The amazing (not merely elegant) solution involves tangents and, yes, you guessed it, three concentric circles. Accolades and kudos to all solutions received. --ed.



HELLO FROM CONNECTICUT!

I first came in contact with The URANTIA Book in a small bookstore in Boston around five years ago. I didn't know why I bought it then, but it wasn't long before I knew I'd found something special. Unfortunately I was unable to find anyone who knew a thing about the Book until just a few months ago.

To make a long story short we have now started a group in Farmington, Connecticut, and really enjoying it. One of the members had some old copies of the Agondonter and gave me a couple.

I'm pleased to learn of the number of readers the Book has and how well the Book is circulating. After not being able to find anyone in five years who had even heard of the Book, this is indeed a real pleasure! Please put me on your list of those who receive the Agondonter.

--Charles Grandgent
Bristol, Connecticut

[The Agondonter's coverage emphasizes the Western U.S. and the Pacific, but we'll gladly mail anywhere in the world. --ed.]

THE LIGHT

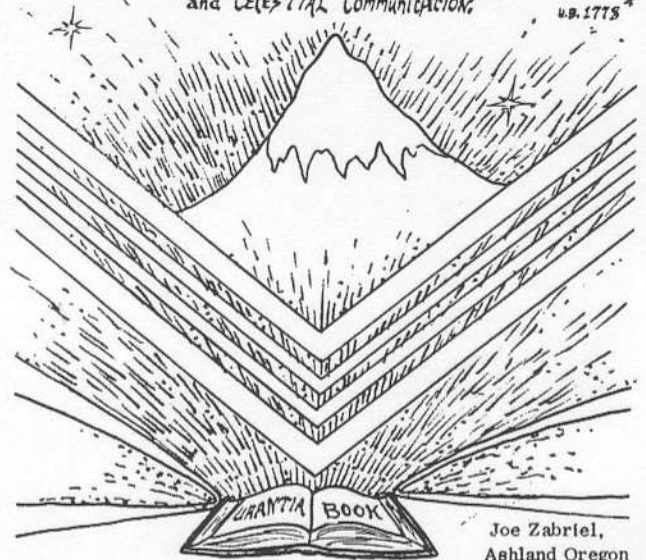
He who fashioned the ear
Shall he not also hear?
He who invented the eye
Shall he not also see?
He who formed the sun
And designed its rays
To seek out each person
Matter who he is
Or where he chances to be
Shall he not also radiate
A fragment of himself
To light the way
For each of his
far-flung creatures?

--Saskia Palay

On every Mountain-top of Intellectual Thought are to be found relaxation for the Mind, Strength for the Soul, and Communion for Spirit. From such Vantage Points of High Living, man is able to transcend the material irritations of the lower levels of thinking—worry, jealousy, envy, revenge, and the pride of immature personality. These High-Climbing Souls deliver themselves from a multitude of the crosscurrent conflicts of the trifles of living, thus becoming free to attain consciousness of the Higher Currents of SPIRIT CONCEPT

and CELESTIAL COMMUNICATION.

U.S. 1775*



Joy is sneaky,
Hiding in handshakes,
Peering out from thickets of words.

Joy is sly,
Just out of sight,
Calling up tears against my will.

Joy is cunning,
Plotting in secret,
Tempting me onward with whispers of love.

--Ginny McElwain,
Seattle, Washington

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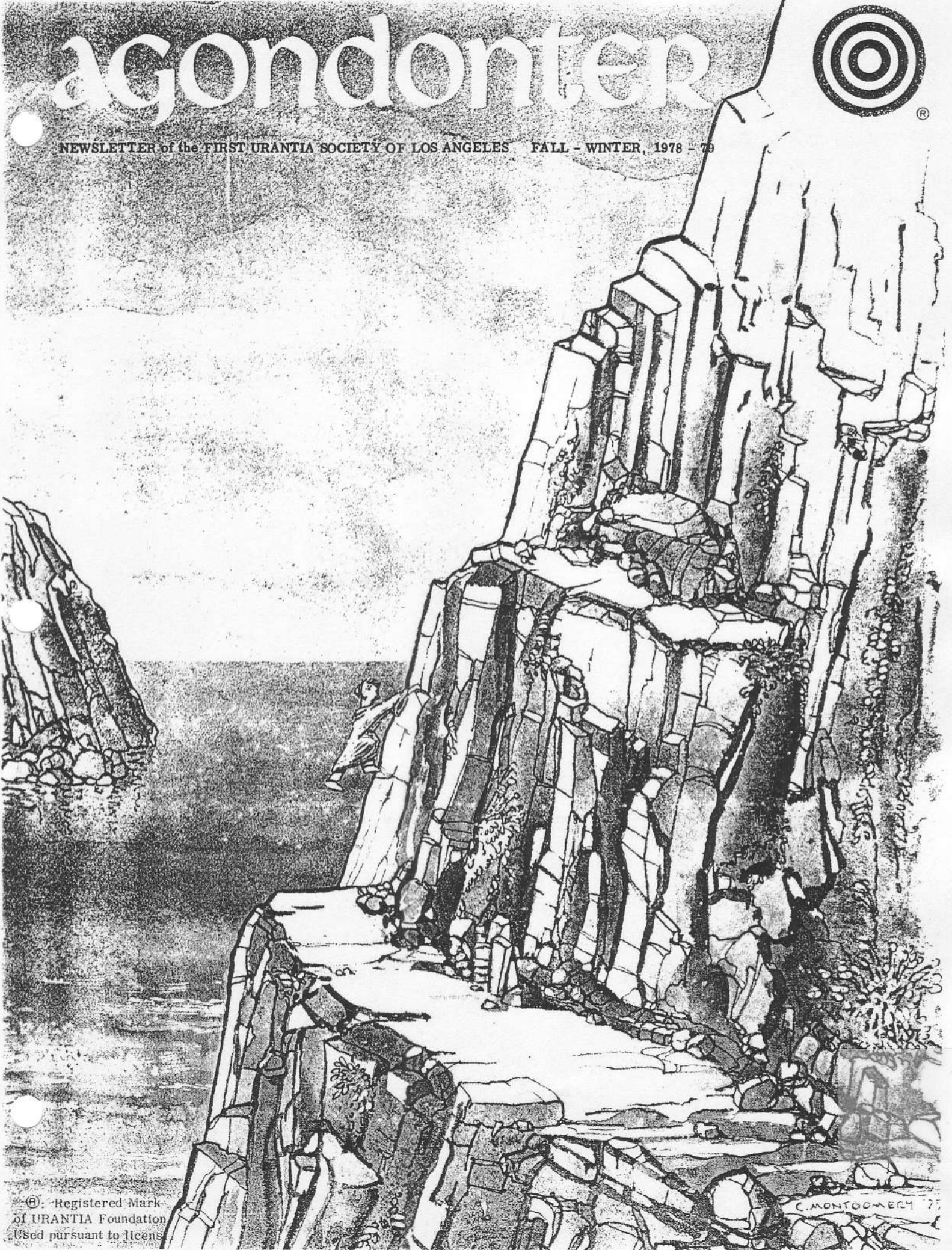
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NEWSLETTER of the FIRST URANTIA SOCIETY OF LOS ANGELES FALL - WINTER, 1978 - 79



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C. MONTGOMERY '77

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Book	Ellen Montgomery
Hospitality	Bob Hudspeth

AGONDONTER FALL-WINTER, 1978-79

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While it is our editorial policy to be consistent with the spirit and teachings of The URANTIA Book, this publication does not officially represent any URANTIA organization.

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90053

On Jerusem, the ascenders from isolated worlds such as Urantia "are known as agondonters, meaning evolutionary will creatures who can believe without seeing, persevere when isolated, and triumph over insuperable difficulties even when alone."*

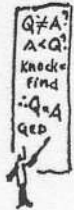
*UB p. 579

*Quotations from The URANTIA Book, ©1955, used by permission of the URANTIA Foundation, Chicago.

Southland Happenings

ORIENTATION AT JULIA'S

On Friday, December 8, Julia, with the Faws and Paul Cooke, hosted a combination orientation and question-answering meeting for prospective new members and others interested in the Book. Thirty-three people attended, pointing up, Julia says, the need to conduct this type of meeting on an ongoing basis.



DAN LOWEREE ADMITTED TO MEMBERSHIP

At a special gathering in Westwood on Wednesday, December 20, twelve people participated in the unduction of Dan Lowerree as the 156th FUSLA member. Dan is bravely coping with a serious disease, and he evidences a singular and steadfast devotion to the Father that is inspiring.

NEW YEAR'S EVE: QUIETLY IN HOMES

Kermit and Jackie Anderson, as well as Julia Fenderson, had a group of people in their home on New Year's Eve to pray in the new year, a satisfying activity, providing an alternative kind of joy to that which is normally celebrated on this Holiday evening.



THE FAWS CONFER IN CHICAGO

In January, Duane and Lucile Faw visited the Foundation in Chicago to discuss various practical matters of concern to the Society and the URANTIA Brotherhood as a whole. Duane is a Professor of Law at Pepperdine University, Malibu Campus, and a retired Marine Corps General. Lucile is a licensed real estate person, active in community affairs, and served last year as FUSLA's Vice-President. The Faws recently moved to the Malibu area from Orange County.



HUMOR FEST

On January 18, about forty people assembled in the home of Tammy Ericksmon to hear Vern try out some new material for his speaking tours; some inspirational and some humorous. He had Rich Keeler nearly rolling in the aisles. But Rich is easy to amuse; he even giggled at the serious parts.



NOTE: The three-concentric-circle symbol on the cover is a Registered Mark of URANTIA Foundation in Chicago. It is used by the first URANTIA Society of Los Angeles pursuant to license.

Family of God Beams into China

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

On December 3, just one week after the ban on English broadcasts was lifted in Red China, the Family of God beamed its first program into this untouched area. This is truly a momentous global development. Nearly a third of the planet's population—over one billion people—resides in mainland China.

Now the message of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man, the essence of the teachings of Jesus, will reach this great nation.

The Family of God was founded by Vern Grimley, whose voice is heard on the radio broadcasts. Though inspired by the URANTIA Book, and an avid student of its teachings for over twenty years, Vern never mentions or quotes from the Book on the air or at public gatherings unless they are composed of URANTIA Book readers.

Vern and his associates hope, however, that individuals hearing the radio message will write,

and that some of them may prove to be truly interested in the source of the teachings, and will become prospects for personal introduction to the Book.

The Family of God has had good success in this regard in India. Two or three years ago the first Book was mailed there, (after the correspondent's sincerity and receptivity became evident) and the first Asian Study Group was born, in Yeditha, India. Since then about a dozen Books have been sent to India.

Vern reports that it is first determined, in a series of letter exchanges, that the prospective URANTIA Book reader is really interested and has the desire to function as a leader in disseminating the teachings in his locality.

We wonder who the first native leader will be to accept The URANTIA Book and plant its teachings in his Chinese homeland □

Julia Fenderson recently realized the dream of a lifetime when she visited the homeland of Jesus and became better acquainted with its ancient heritage and fascinating present-day culture.

She spent much time around the beautiful Sea of Galilee, and studied the Jesus Papers in The URANTIA Book as she visited many of the places where Jesus lived, worked, taught and travelled.

This was purely a vacation and study trip, an unusual change for Julia, who, as URANTIA Brotherhood Field Representative, travels extensively on Brotherhood business, especially the business of fostering new Study Groups.

One of her most moving experiences was in Jordan, at Philadelphia (now Amman) where she joined in the Moslem custom of daily group prayer. "Imagine," says Julia, "a million people at one time, when they hear the call broadcast over the city, taking time out from their everyday activities and worshipping the Father together. If only we Americans could be so dedicated! I was strongly reminded that The URANTIA Book was given to enhance this religion, as well as all religions of the world."

Julia placed five URANTIA Books in libraries throughout the middle-east: at Nazareth, Tiberius, Jerusalem, and two at the American Hellenic Library in Athens, an influential center attracting scholars from all over the world. "Perhaps a Rodan of our generation will drop in," reflects Julia, "and find the Book, and be the seed, instrumental in the spread of truth elsewhere in the world." □

Julia Visits Jesus' Homeland



Julia aboard a "ship of the desert" in Israel

URANTIA® Book Conference

Conference Experiences

by Ellen Montgomery

Lake Geneva



Probably the largest assembly of URANTIA Book readers ever to gather in one place attended the 1978 URANTIA Brotherhood General Conference in Wisconsin, August 13-18. About 550 readers (including close to 80 children) studied, fellowshiped, worshipped and played at the George Williams College campus in Williams Bay on the shores of beautiful Lake Geneva.

The activities began with an enormous outdoor get-acquainted reception hosted by the First URANTIA Society of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

At the heart of the General Conference were the morning small group sessions, organized topically, enabling readers to study a series of related papers on successive days. In-depth workshops were also offered on "Education" and "Publications" by Lynne Kulieke and Barbara Kulieke, respectively.

Each afternoon there were three presentations conducted in larger groups on various thought-provoking subjects: "Discoveries in Science as Related to The URANTIA Book," "Furthering the Spiritual Renaissance," and "How to Run a Revelation," to mention several.

The Orvonton URANTIA Society of Chicago shouldered responsibility for the evening programs, held in the unusual oval Lewis Auditorium.

(continued on page 6)

Santa Cruz



"Perfecting Unity of Spiritual Purpose" was the theme for a one-day family gathering of Bay Area URANTIA Book Study Groups on November 19, in Santa Cruz.

Julia Fenderson reports that eighty-six readers enjoyed presentations and shared music at a school set in the midst of a lovely redwood forest. Crissy and Lee Smith and George Thornberry were responsible for the fine organization of this California gathering □

Hawaii



There were brilliant red hibiscus flowers, philodendron leaves the size of elephant ears, and arresting varicolored yellow, green and red foliage of the unusual croton shrub. There was a schedule where rushing about was not only unnecessary but irrelevant. And there were 100 students of The URANTIA Book with their little ones.

The event was the First Pacific Conference for students of The URANTIA Book, held September 23-25 at the Makapala Retreat Grounds on the "Big Island" of Hawaii, and the predictable result of such a fortunate combination of physical beauty, time, people and purpose was a wealth of memorable spiritual and social experiences.

The conference theme ("Spiritual and Material Reality") was elaborated on by speakers Peter Lindemann, Fran Huntington, Tony Johnson, Phil Calabrese, Dick Prince, Jim Kimmel and David Saunders, with greetings and Chicago updates given by Meredith and Irene Sprunger and Tom and Carolyn Kendall. Speakers from the mainland received the traditional Hawaiian introduction, an orchid lei, bestowed with a kiss by Marian Salmo Lindemann.

In addition to providing food for spiritual thought, Pacific Conference planners built in ample amounts of free time for small group worship, renewing and creating friendships, playing music and for sharing experiences.

The evening entertainment was particularly enjoyable. On Saturday night Chuck Thurston and Phil Eversoul presented a selection of inspirational multi-media productions—stunning pictorial images combined with music and readings.

Bob Slagle directed the Sunday evening program—a unique "Reality Workshop"—guiding us through a series of interpersonal exercises, including an uproarious laughing contest, won hands down by Frances Lincoln from Big Island.

Fellow readers came from the islands of Oahu, Molokai, Maui and Hawaii, as well as from the states of California, New York, Indiana, Illinois, Washington, Oregon and Alaska. California, as usual, was well-represented at Makapala: Phil and Cindy Calabrese (Arcata), Phil Eversoul and Chuck Thurston (San Francisco), Jay Newbern

(continued on page 6)

Well Attended in 1978

Northern Get-togethers

by Alice Clark

Washington



Another Northwest Get-Together for Students of The URANTIA Book has passed into history. There were nearly a hundred attenders this year, counting the children. We met on Saturday, September 30.

From far away came John Hales of Chicago, Beverly Wold of Hemet, California [member of the First URANTIA Society of Los Angeles,] and Merlene Anderson of Anchorage, Alaska.

Largest delegations came from Victoria, B.C. and Portland, Oregon. Eight came from Idaho, the first representatives we have had from that state, and one Australian came, by way of Canada.

Saturday afternoon was devoted to small group discussions on the topic of "Sex, Love and Marriage" conducted by Gordon Bellamy of Victoria, B.C. During this time, school-age children went on an excursion to Rocky Reach Dam which included a stop at the Dairy Queen on the way back. A hot dog picnic supper ended the afternoon.

Highlights of the evening program were a talk on nutrition by Dr. Iverson of Puyallup, Washington, a slide presentation of the Lake Geneva conference by Beverly Wold, and an account of the Hawaii conference by Fran Huntington of Portland, Oregon. The evening concluded with a big bonfire circle in the Clark pasture.

The Sunday morning worship service featured a meditation presented by Nathen Zadden and his group from Vancouver: "Fatherly and Brotherly Love—the Beautitudes." This was followed by a Q&A session that gave John Hales a workout!

The group adjourned to the Clarks' for a pot luck and horseback rides for the kids.

A decision was reached at the Sunday morning breakfast meeting to hold a Pacific Northwest Gathering of Students of The URANTIA Book at the University of British Columbia on July 28-30, 1979. Gordon Bellamy and Nathen Zadden were chosen as co-directors.

The University, Canada's largest, is a modern facility situated on the coast by Vancouver, a bustling city between the mountains and sea in a vacationer's paradise.

We have received the Mayor's personal welcome, and look forward to a delightful time at Canada's first regional conference □

Alaska



About sixty young and older attended the Fall Alaska Conference, October 7-8, about twenty-five miles outside Anchorage at rustic Mirror Lake.

Oklahoma City visitors presented multi-media shows—Berkeley Elliott and Tom Allen manning the machines and Van and Helen Butler providing back-up support. Their presentation, Jesus, God and Man is outstanding.

Other visitors from afar were Fran Huntington from Portland, and Renald Cyr from Blaine, Washington.

Under the direction of Barbara Maier, the meals prepared by the Alaskans were absolutely tremendous. The youthful enjoyed volleyball in the gym whenever there was free time—working off excess energy happily, in spite of the steady drizzle that blotted out the mountain scenery.

Tuckey Hayes was the genial and capable master of ceremonies.

In the evening, everyone sat around a big bonfire and sang until bedtime for the tired ones. The night owls went in for more discussion, until the wee hours. (continued on page 6)



Merlene Anderson, John Hales and Renald Cyr

(Petaluma), Michael John (Bodega), Lorrie Shapiro and Ellen, Chick, Kristin and John Montgomery (Los Angeles), and Dick, Cheryl, Christine and Laurel Prince (San Diego). Laurel, a 7-month-old lady with a keen sense of the fitness of things, decided her first URANTIA conference was the perfect place to cut her first four teeth!

The hard work of Marian, Peter, and David in planning and orchestrating the conference and of Jerry and Judy Personius in organizing the child care was evident and greatly appreciated.

Extra mention must be made of the Saunders, Dennis and Suzanne Shields (formerly of Los Angeles), Tony Johnson, Mary Holley (Hawaii), and Eva Sepp, Sue Smith and Geri Vincent (Oahu) for generous hospitality extended to those of us who capped off the conference with full-blown Hawaiian vacations.

The Pacific Conference was a successful first for Hawaii and hopefully will be followed by many more in coming years—providing further opportunities to enrich our spiritual lives in association with our brothers and sisters □

ALASKA (continued from page 5)

It was a time for inspiration and fellowship, and one to be remembered during the coming winter months—especially for those who live 200 miles east in the Alaskan mountains.

This was my first trip to Alaska, but it won't be my last. Getting to meet these new friends was a warm experience, another doorway into the Father's kingdom □

CANADIAN CONFERENCE INVITATION

October 15, 1978

Dear URANTIA Friends,

We are a group of fellow Agondonters on the west coast of North America in Vancouver, British Columbia. We recently met in Wenatchee, Washington, at the fall get-together, where it was overwhelmingly decided to have a conference in this area, in mid-summer '79.

The dates are July 28, 29, and 30, with an informal workshop on the 31st. We hope the conference will be memorable and of spiritual value to all sons of God, both seen and unseen.

If you feel you would like to participate or share any talents in putting this conference on, feel free to write to: Nathen Zadden, #104 - 8686 Centaurus Circle, Burnaby, B.C., Canada, Postal Code V3J 7K3.

Yours in loving service,

The Vancouver Study Group
jointly with The First URANTIA
Society of Wenatchee

One hilarious interlude began with the appearance of Vern Grimsley and Marvin Gawryn sporting robes and turbans and playing reasonable facimiles of sitar and tabla. Then entered the surprise honored guest... one Swami Vertabreaka who, after invoking a proper meditative attitude amazed the assembly with yogic contortions, including the frog lotus (see picture) and the incredible spine-twisting 360-degree pelvic twist, last attempted (unsuccessfully) in 1933 by the (late) great Swami Brohk Evrry Bhona. Upon his denouement, the "swami" was revealed to be Bob Blackstock (upper) and Terry McCade (nether.)

Not even an electrical storm and a near-by tornado dampened spirits for group singing, a hilarious "Ms. Universe" beauty pageant comically climaxed by the incongruent appearance of John Hales, David Kantor's moving multi-media presentations, and the lovely voices of Francyl Gawryn and Barbara Stump. On the final evening the San Francisco Bay Area URANTIA Society guided the entire assembly in a remembrance supper.

Despite a busy schedule, lots of unstructured hours were available for swimming in the warm Lake Geneva waters, boating, sunning, playing tennis and socializing.

A particularly interesting aspect of this conference, and one that holds much future promise, was the children's program, organized months in advance and superbly executed by Ruth Renn (a long-time reader from the Chicago area) and her committee. Classes were given in both the mornings and afternoons for children in the 4-7 and 8-13 age groups. They were taught by eight sets of volunteers from all over the country who prepared lessons, games, music and activities to co-ordinate with each day's spiritual theme. The program not only provided interesting things for the children to learn and do, but also allowed their parents freedom to enjoy the adult programs.

Bettina Gray worked with the older children each morning in group singing before their regular classes. On Thursday evening after dinner she and the children delighted the adults with a 35-minute musical presentation combining both singing and narration—all learned, rehearsed and perfect in four short morning sessions!

Nearly a year's effort went into this conference by the Planning and Expediting Committee, competently chaired by Carolyn Kendall. It was stimulating to attend a conference of such large scope and long duration. Certainly it was with reluctance that we departed on Friday morning □

TO THOSE WHO HAVE WAITED PATIENTLY:

Many of you have been wondering what happened to the Fall issue of the Agondonter. We simply did not print one this year. Thank you for waiting. And please be assured that you will be credited an additional issue for the one that was skipped. —ed.

P.S. The Agondonter could use a few \$100 donations.

BILL AND CORLIN WED

On December 17, Bill Sherwood and Corlin Remm were married in a lovely home wedding in Glendale. There were touches of the couple's creativity everywhere, including a beautiful tall Christmas tree with tiny white lights, pink velvet bows, crystals, and white doves. A candle-light ceremony, in which each person in the room had a small candle which was lit in a chain reaction from a single flame, symbolized the couple's desire to share their love with the world.

Until 1977, Corlin lived in the Chicago area, where she grew up in a family that had been studying The URANTIA Book since before she was born.

Bill recently became FUSLA's Education Chairman and has piloted several excellent monthly meetings.

JOHNSON-VINCENT WEDDING

James (J.J.) Johnson and Geri Vincent were married in Hawaii on January 19. Soon thereafter they visited with Julia and other Southern California readers, on their way to Saudi Arabia where J.J. has a new employment assignment. They hope to meet occasionally with Jeff and Pat Bedell there, (FUSLA members) who will be an hour's plane ride away.

NELSON-BARNES WEDDING

Andrea Nelson and Ken Barnes, active study group leaders in the Denver area, were married at noon on November 18, at the Congregational Church in Denver.

Approximately 200 guests attended the wedding, an estimated twenty to thirty of whom were URANTIA Book readers.

PERSONAL OUTREACH

Tucky Hayes and his wife, Pat, are mainstays of URANTIA Book study in Alaska. Tucky recently visited with Los Angeles readers, presenting an update of Alaskan activities at a gathering in Julia's home, and joining a large Study Group at the home of Kermit and Jackie Anderson in Orange County.

The most intriguing thing that came out of the recent Alaskan conference [see article, this issue] was that it stimulated two new study groups, Tucky reports. One at Soldotna, 120 miles south of Anchorage, involves three families, all in the same neighborhood. The other, 60 miles north at Palmer, is an offshoot of the Anchorage group.

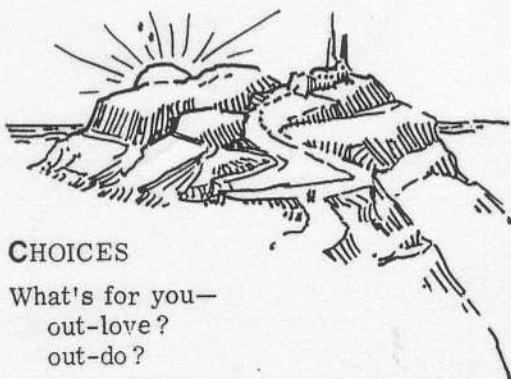
Tucky is pleased with these developments, noting that "most of us are anti-organization when we come to this Book, and are tentative in our outreach."

Julia agreed, and pleaded that we become broader in our personal outreach to others who may want to know about The URANTIA Book. "All through the Book," Julia pointed out, "we are told that this was meant for the whole world, for all races, all people."

CONFAB AT THE KEELERS'

In January, a group of about 45 people gathered at the home of Rich and Barrie Keeler in Rancho Santa Fe. Marvin Gawryn spoke on the teaching methods of Jesus, and led a participative type meeting. Francyl Gawryn sang, and led spirited group singing.

Rich and Barrie (formerly Barrie Achartz) were married last June 30. While not FUSLA members we consider them part of our family and are pleased to see such strong interest in the Book growing under their leadership.



CHOICES

What's for you—
out-love?
out-do?

Universe of world's apart
Chasm 'twixt the head 'n' heart
light to dark
(reading the clue)
Out-loving is the outting-do!

—Pam Katrenick
Phoenix, Oregon



Santa Rosa Study Group, with Bob Slagle in foreground

"Dear Aggie"

LETTERS TO THE AGONDONTER

About 1955 I was attracted to a leaflet on the counter of a small bookstore in Miami, entitled: "Excerpts from The URANTIA Book."

I was struck by its authoritative tone and exalting message. I sent for it immediately. Have been feeding from it ever since.

Having experienced the futility of introducing it to others by oral persuasion, I have resorted to putting the Book in five libraries. The point I wish to bring out is that "talking" the Book to seemingly interested persons is only meagerly successful—almost futile.

I feel that if the Book had been mentioned to me—recommended—I would have rejected it as just another religious writing. (Maybe in talking the Book I should be led by the Adjutant Mind Spirit of Wisdom!)

The Adondonter is such an entertaining and instructive publication. You show pictures of happy groups. I feel they have much reason to be so. We are so overwhelmingly rich to have a glimpse of Mansion World life and beyond.

And then the biggest news of all...that we can make Paradise (and beyond) if we truly, hungrily want to.

And I could praise the Heavenly Father through all eternity for the gift of a Creator Son, Christ Michael, to show us the way!

Joseph Caterina
St. Petersburg, Florida

BOOK PLACED IN PHILIPPINES

My daughter Lynn was in the Peace Corps in the Philippines, and two years ago my wife and I flew to Manila to visit her.

I carried a copy of The URANTIA Book, and left it.

When my daughter left there in September of 1977, I asked her to give the Book to a mutual friend (Filipino) in Manila.

I heard from him recently...the Book was so overwhelmingly received that he started a Study Group of about twenty people there and interest is growing.

Joseph T. Guardiani
Seymour, Connecticut

SOLDIER SEEKS PEN PAL

I'd like to have correspondence with readers of The URANTIA Book. I don't know how to make myself interesting enough for someone to write to me. I'm an ordinary egotist, isolated from Urantians, a spiritual degenerate many times.

I miss the closeness of fellowship with spiritual soldiers. The last three months I've opened the Book once and read two pages. Yet I've read the Book twice over, and know it's the greatest of all books. It lies on my table quietly, unused.

I was born and raised in the Philippines, and am now in the U.S. Army in Germany. I don't know what life is all about, but it's fun. It's nice to be on the planet.

Sp4 Mario Caoile
HHC 1st BN 4th INF, APO NY 09162

J.C.: Your enthusiasm is inspiring. Library placement is a very important service—congratulations!
J.T.G.: What exciting news! (Keep us informed of new developments.) Sp4 M.C.: Maybe there's someone there whose T.A. wants you to share the Book with him. Or the Book itself can be a friend!

Love, *Aggie Donter*



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Readers' Forum

We recently asked our readers to answer one or more of the following: How did you find the URANTIA Book, and what was your immediate response?
How would you describe the book to others?
...Here are some of your answers:

In response to your question of how do you relate to an Earthling what The URANTIA Book really is, you might try one or both of the following questions:

- (1) You know what science fiction is?
Well, this is Science FACT!
- (2) Did you ever receive a 2100-page letter from God?

Jay Newbern
San Francisco, California

When people ask what I'm reading, I say, "It's a book I find extremely interesting," and let them make their own conclusions from subsequent conversation.

The book found me through a chance meeting of another reader who had mentioned it to me after we had visited ad lib about our personal experiences. The conversation led to the book. It arrived about a month later.

My immediate reaction was that this was the recognizable unfamiliar wishful dream of reality, too good to be true. The words were conceivably beyond this physical life.

I explain to friends that the book found me at a most propitious time of my life, when I was in need of it. I have found so far that while others may not be as interested as I, they appear to be less resistant to the possibility of its reality and seem to be placing it on a shelf for further reference when they can understand it. Of course, I've only shared it with individuals in my personal world, but these individuals seem to be observing me more closely as though they expect more from me in the way of genuineness and love.

It is a book of feelings come true.

Love to you,
Beatrice Weber
922 E. Parkway
Oshkosh, Wis. 54901

How do I describe The URANTIA Book?

Depending on circumstances:

- (1) A perfect blend of many excellent things, all of which equal a healthy mouthful of good news!
- (2) The "606" Book!

How did I discover The URANTIA Book?

Went into a Pickwick Bookshop looking for something rare and meaty.

What was my immediate reaction?

Pure glee! Much salivary action!

Mark Hastings
Buena Park, California

Everything can be traced to the events of Halloween night, 1975, when a new friend began reading to me out of a LARGE BLUE BOOK.

Despite my normal distaste for being read to, what I heard from this book quickly and surely captured my imagination. After several days of reflection, a call to my friend for the correct spelling of URANTIA and a journey to the nearest book seller became necessary.

With a combination of wariness and hope, I began to read. From the outset, the URANTIA Book made me feel better--a powerful motivation that has sustained me so far through all of Part One and whets my appetite for the remaining three parts.

What the outcome of such single-minded concentration will be is, of course, yet to reveal itself, but the spiritual skepticism of several decades is giving way. For the first time I am able to believe in a Creator, I see a center now for the obvious vastness, intricacy, balance and beauty of the universe, and I know I have a home in it.

Suddenly I am no longer afraid of the future. It was always easy to reject both the idea of roasting forever below and of an eternity of blissful harp playing above. It was not so simple, however, to dismiss the chilling prospect of nothing. Thanks to The URANTIA Book, nothing is now replaced in my mind by the idea of purposeful survival and, as a result, there is much more meaning in what happens today.

Ellen Cowsky
Monday, 26 January 1976
Los Angeles, California

Vitality vs. Vitalism

—by Jeff Wattles, Ph.D.

We have all been thinking about the supreme values, truth, beauty, and goodness. There are many other, sub-supreme values. How do they relate to the primary ones? I want to advance a beginning of a general answer by talking about a specific class of values—the values of vitality: health, vigor, alertness, happiness, dynamism, determination, enthusiasm, etc. By the word "vitalism" I mean a deformation of an individual's value perceptions in which the values of vitality take top priority and displace the supreme values. What does this mean? To take an example,

There is a significant degree of vitalism in our present culture: the cult of youth, the enormous attention to sexual power, the demagoguery of preferring passionate political conviction to the thoughtful approach to long-range problems, the assertion that feeling is essential

and intellect is less essential. For example, the street corner evangelist may be so eager to impress you with his dynamic joy in having found God that he forgets you in the process, and dons a smile that disappears in the face of personal encounter. That smile dies hard, because it is the confession of incompletely socialized religious discovery.

When I first learned about vitalism* and its historical connection with facism I became wary of the real values that vitalism overvalues. When I dared to seek out these values in The URANTIA Book I found them everywhere: dynamic religion, living faith, thrilling proclamation, energetic preaching, strength of conviction.

(continued on next page)

*In philosophy, vitalism is the "doctrine that the processes of life are not explicable by the laws of physics and chemistry alone and that life is in some part self-determining." [Webster's Dictionary definition]

Scaffolding...

As universes spasm their creation
And galaxies and systems come and go,
Temporal urges are replaced by bolder values,
And time no longer is.

As mind's created out of haziness, confusion,
And spirit gently wrestles for its final form,
Some day infinity will show its pattern
And you will have begun to be.

Eva Sepp
Kailua, Hawaii

Urantia is the living world
Upon which man unfolds;
We are what we're becoming
And that's what God beholds.

Lawrence Hildonen
Steilacoom, Wash.

Be still
The Divine Love
Be still
To know who you are
Be still
He speaks with Divine Love
Brother you are part of all
Be still
To know who you are
To know what you are
Be still
Be still
Be still
Be assured that you have found Him
Because if you are looking for Him
He has found you
You are a child of God
Be still
You have nothing to fear
You are a child of God

Laura Mabery
Highland, California

■ And now we,
Who truly hear the truths
Of brotherhood upon brotherhoods,
Have come to see these truths
Through a new set of revelations:
Yet undisturbed
By the careless hands of this realm.

■ Wherefore,
It is up to us
To live
And adhere to these truths
While they are
In their purist form,
Rather than just knowing
And believing.

■ Seeing the eternal path,
You are only a bystander.
It is only by following this path
That you become
One of the many eternal pioneers
Of the universes.

Jonathon Johnson
Los Angeles

(continued from previous page)

The relation of higher values to lower is like that of a two-stage waterfall. The torrent from the summit fills the next rocky receiver to overflowing. If we take our stance as citizens in the domain of the Supreme and sons of the Father, the vitality will be born spontaneously—just like tomatoes on a tomato plant.

Lower values are important, but as we progress they require less attention to be satisfied. Material values are lower than spiritual, but a balance is required—for example: if you do not keep your body in tune, the harmony of spirit, mind, and body which is necessary for personality progress will be delayed.

You are a love leaf on the great cosmic tree,
You are exquisitely irreplaceable;
You will soar on the wings of eternal glory;
You will transcend into the Divine heights of Light.

Why not take the inner kingdom by surprise, now,
With a gale of laughing and joy?
For to you He sends no surrogate ambassador;
He Himself comes to you personally and forever.



Dr. Robert Slagle
Sebastopol, California

A JESUSONIAN EPISTLE -- Excerpts

---ooo0ooo---

As a domicile, this planet supports mankind's
inhabitants regardless of beliefs.

---ooo0ooo---

To govern oneself in the spirit of love, mercy and
universal service and by the rules of truth, goodness
and beauty is the mark of a Jesusonian and hope of our
human family's continued existence.

---ooo0ooo---

By placing yourself below the position of God, you
enter into an adventure of uncertainty with the prompt-
ings of an indwelling guide. By acknowledging yourself
as God's expressive medium, you accept the responsi-
bility of giving freedom to your imprisoned guide.
Your duty to yourself is to acknowledge all that you are,
even your spirit.

---ooo0ooo---

A Jesusonian is not one to accept death as the end;
he is, in concept, a seed of time in the soil of eternity.

---Jonas

The indwelling Adjuster is the key to discerning in
any vital performance the truth contained therein. Let us
not greatly value personality force, rhetorical power,
youthful enthusiasm in ourselves or others except as it
is coordinated with and springs from the pure spirit
energy of the water of life, the First Source and Center.

The Adjuster is also a key to augmenting our true
vitality. If I wake up without cheer and enthusiasm for
the day's work, I can visualize my Adjuster's cheer and
enthusiasm, stand by faith in the flow of that spirit energy,
stumble out of bed, and take two showers instead of one.

—JW, November 1975

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Rosemary Wood
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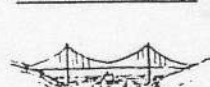
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