



# URANTIA® Brotherhood BULLETIN

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Christy's smile has inspired many a seeker of truth in her many years of service. Christy, E. L. Christensen, is pictured here in her office at URANTIA headquarters in Chicago.

Photo by John Hales

## The URANTIA Movement Today

Twenty-three years ago, on January 2, 1955, URANTIA Brotherhood was founded. Five years before, on January 11, 1950, URANTIA Foundation had been created. On October 12, 1955, *The URANTIA Book* was printed.

At that time there were a few hundred hopeful and dedicated students of the URANTIA teachings. Now there are several thousand readers, and the fellowship of readers has begun. URANTIA societies and study groups have begun to appear, and there will be many, many more.

This summer, the 1978 URANTIA Brotherhood General Conference will be held—an opportunity for students of *The URANTIA Book* from all over the world to gather for study and fellowship.

Details about the 1978 Conference, to be held August 13-18, are in the mail now. You should be receiving your announcement soon, if you have not already.

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## *Leavening Our Spiritual Heritage*

Enclosed with this issue of the *Bulletin* is a new publication of URANTIA Brotherhood, a pamphlet entitled "Leavening Our Spiritual Heritage" by Dr. Meredith J. Sprunger. The following introduction to the pamphlet is also by Dr. Sprunger.

Authentic revelation in our evolutionary universe is always designed to build upon and improve existing religions. Just as Machiventa Melchizedek attempted to work in the framework of existing religious groups and Jesus taught in the synagogue until its doors were closed to him, I believe the URANTIA Brotherhood should strive to relate to religious institutions in our society.

Because of my personal and professional commitment to the church, I have acquired a firsthand understanding of its institutional practices, its emotional limitations and power, and its theological frames of reference. With these factors in mind, I have written the enclosed pamphlet designed to introduce educated people with a Christian background to *The URANTIA Book*.

Many in the church are not ready for *The URANTIA Book* but if we can quietly develop a knowledge of URANTIA Book teachings in the grass roots leadership of the church, we will have taken an important step in the evolutionary process of bringing about a spiritual renaissance in the church and Western society. Others who have an educational-cultural background in other religions will appear to design approaches to introduce *The URANTIA Book* to their people.



Meredith Sprunger, President of URANTIA Brotherhood  
Photo by Barbara Kulieke

Experience has demonstrated that it is usually wise to communicate with peers. Laymen in the church are normally more effective introducing *The URANTIA Book* to other laymen. Ministers are more likely to communicate effectively with other ministers. Realize, however, that these people must first have a fundamental readiness for these teachings. Among the signs of this readiness are full acceptance of scientific knowledge—including evolutionary development and the probability of a populated universe, a Jesusonian spiritual attitude, and a searching, fearless mind. If an individual has these qualities, he may be ready to read *The URANTIA Book*. The final criterion in this ministry of sharing, of course, is your own inner guidance.

*Dr. Sprunger is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ.*

*Extra copies of the pamphlet may be obtained upon request.*

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