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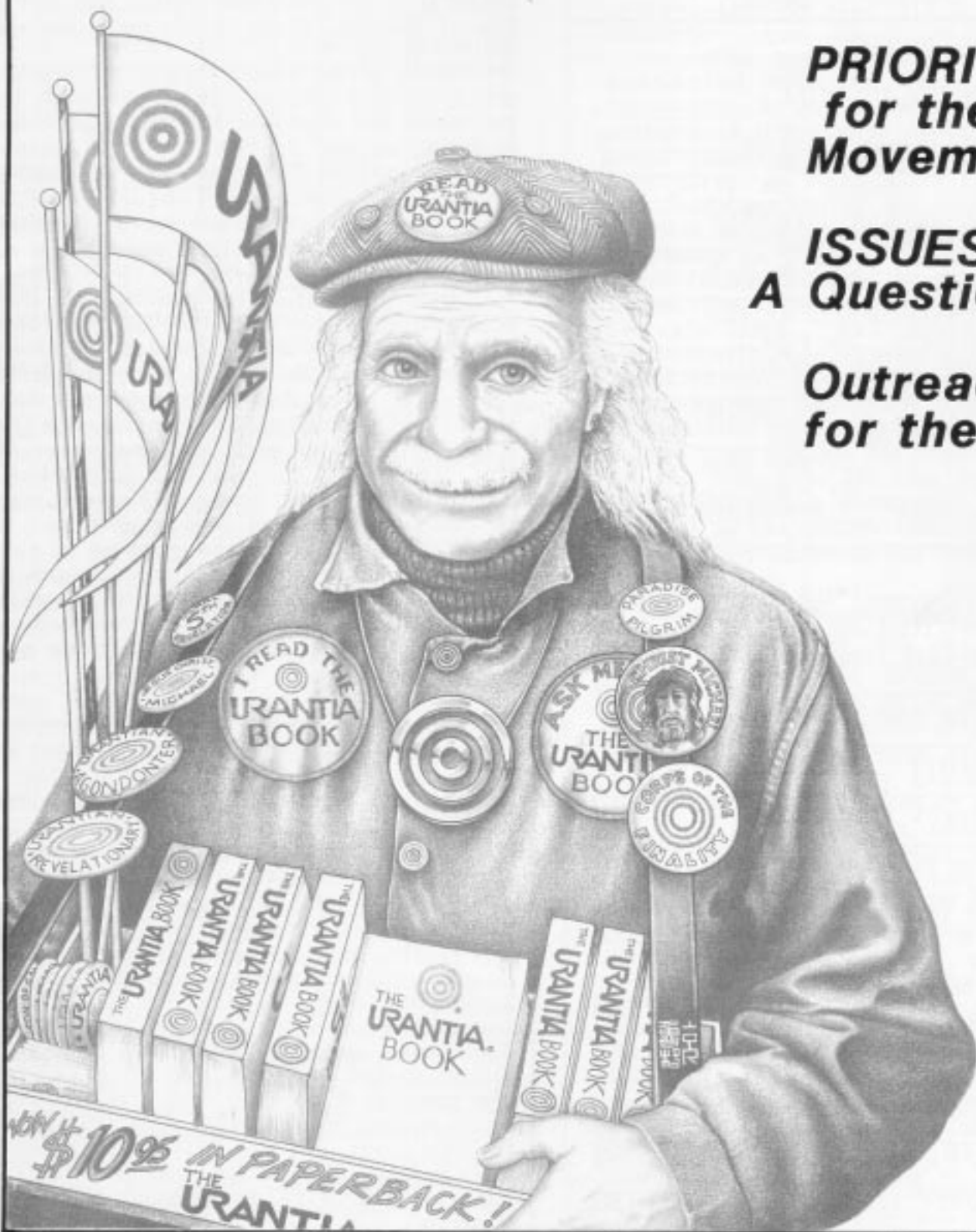
PLANETARY PRINTS

Spring 1985

**PRIORITIES
for the
Movement**

**ISSUES:
A Questionnaire**

**Outreach
for the 80's**



Concerning this edition...

On the cover:

"In the generations to come many who are not wholly worthy will do many strange things in my name, but I will not forbid them." 1764

Drawing by Terry Kruger

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When I first started this edition of the Planetary Prints, I had no idea then that it would turn out like it has. But in the process of organizing and putting it together, I soon realized that these issues were very important to many people. I started with the intention of trying to find out what you the people think about these issues. At times it seems as if the Planetary Prints has had a life of its own, since it has really evolved into its present form.

Many of the people I asked to write an article for this edition, asked me "What do you mean by the Urantia Movement?" My reply was anyone who was a reader and/or believer in The URANTIA Book and who is concerned about the future of the Revelation. This is irrespective of whether they belong to any official organization or not.

This publication has been sent to 2500 addresses from our mail list, all over this country and the world. Included in these addresses are 3,000 people who I consider "activists" since they have given out their names and addresses in connection with The URANTIA Book. I want to encourage all of you "activists" to read this publication, consider its contents, seek the Father's Will on these subjects and then do your best at filling in the questionnaire included in this publication. Return only the questionnaire in the self addressed envelope provided, when you are done with the publication share it with other readers who did not receive one themselves. •

Don Guimond

PLANETARY PRINTS

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PRIORITIES of the URANTIA MOVEMENT

On Priorities... I

by Julia Fenderson

"What do you consider to be the major priorities of the URANTIA Movement at the present time?" This question was asked of me by the Editor of The Planetary Prints in an attempt to find out what an "old-timer" (a reader of 45 years) would think and if her perceptions and opinions had changed through the years.

In answering this question I would name four top priorities: (1) Books in libraries, worldwide; (2) Translations; (3) The fostering of study groups; (4) The importance of planning and preparing for marriage and family life.

After The URANTIA Book was published it seemed more important each year to get it in libraries and book stores to enable hungry searchers to find this great guide. I try to imagine what the authors of the book and the Revelatory Commission, as well as all of our unseen friends, must think and wish as they observe us handling this superb gift to mankind. I would conjecture that they would wonder why we don't place this transcendent book in every library of the world. The Angels of Progress must wring their hands in sorrow and angelic frustration because we do not make this superior guide at least available so that guardian angels can help lead their subjects to them and so that evolving mortals can find this spiritual oasis. The logical place to find such an oasis, in book form, would be in libraries and bookstores.

When Jesus lived his perfect life on earth devoted to showing us "the way" or the "will of God" it was stated that the divine "Word was made flesh" (P. 227). Now that we have been given this great guide we can say: "The Word is made book." It is our responsibility to see that the "Word" thus given to us is made available to the lowly beings of animal origin, our brothers and sisters on the planet. Where does one usually find books? In libraries and bookstores. And it is our task to get the greatest of all books placed in all book repositories for the

seekers of truth to find. We must also diligently and prudently explore ways of cross-referencing our book so that scholars of varied disciplines may find it a ready source, and its students a refreshing resource.

The second priority is tightly connected with the first, and that is translations. By placing books in the bilingual sections of libraries in other countries (as the Brotherhood's International Fellowship Committee and many other individuals are now faithfully doing) we make the book available to scholars who will catch fire with enthusiasm for the truth and introduce it to their fellow bilingual countryman, as did Rødan, our favorite Greek philosopher of Jesus's time. Then groups of these enthusiastic countymen will demand a translation, and help implement this translation into their native tongue. Thus the request will come from them, not forced on us, and their requests and demands will help set the priority of the next translation. The Finnish and Spanish translations are examples of this, as the people themselves read and started the translations and later begged for our help.

To further amplify my point, in my communications by mail, phone and in person, I have found that an increasing number of people find the book in libraries.

Third on my list of priorities would be the natural formation of study groups. The heart of this URANTIA Movement seems to me to be the study groups, or "book clubs" as they are called in some locales. They are usually held in homes and often involve the family situation, and so have a double value. The value of working together and expanding our thinking by communication with others is pointed out again and again throughout our guide.

On page 1776:2 under "Union of Souls - The Mobilization of Wisdom", we read: "Thus does the mind of one augment its spiritual values by gaining much of the insight of the other. In this way men enrich the soul by pooling their respective spiritual possessions. Likewise, in the same way, man is enabled to avoid the every-present tendency to fall victim to distortion of vision, prejudice of viewpoint, and

narrowness of judgment. Fear, envy, and conceit can be prevented only by intimate contact with other minds." In study groups we avoid the tunnel vision of reading alone. Instead we acquire the stereoscopic vision gained by exchanging ideas with others. The keynote theme of fellowship and service with love runs like a symphonic motif throughout this book.

My fourth priority would be to form and maintain special groups or classes on marriage and family life, the basis of all civilization. On page 913:1 we learn: "Marriage has given mankind the home, and the home is the crowning glory of the whole long and arduous evolutionary struggle. While religious, social and educational institutions are all essential to the survival of cultural civilization the family is the master civilizer."

That we need more training and help in preparation for home building is born out by current statistics on divorce rates and by many quotations in The URANTIA Book. On page 909:7 we read: "And modern civilization is at a standstill in spiritual development and the safeguarding of the home institution." It appears imperative that we give special attention to the training for home and family that is provided in our great guide.

On page 1581:1 we note that "The family occupied the very center of Jesus' philosophy of life - here and hereafter." Further, Jesus said on page 1839:5, "It is the divine will that men and women should find their highest service and consequent joy in the establishment of homes for the reception and training of children, in the creation of

whom these parents become copartners with the Makers of heaven and earth."

Underlying and part of all of these priorities would be the personal contact with one's fellows, whereby we evidence the truths and lessons of the book in our individual lives, serving our fellow man "as we pass by". Your very successful and rewarding experiences in Boulder with showing The URANTIA Book at booths falls into this last category of continuous ministry "as they pass by" and "as they pass by us."

Finally, in replying to the original question of what are the major priorities for action in the URANTIA movement, I have given four personal priorities. But I would point out strongly that above and beyond these goals is the shining light of our major purpose which is finding the Universal Father. This lighthouse goal is underlying, overriding and yet permeating every priority. This great purpose guides our every action and is shown in our love and service for our fellowmen, all of whom are indwelt by the Father through their Thought Adjusters. We ever strive to become closer and closer to our own superb indwelling Adjuster.

All work concerning the great URANTIA Book is secondary to this primary goal of knowing the Universal Father. They are all a means to that great end which can be done with or without the book. The greatest truth man can ever hear is that "God loves each creature as a child and that love overshadows each creature throughout all time and eternity" (P. 1304:7). Also, "The Father's love can become real to man only by passing through that man's personality as he in turn bestows this love upon his fellows" (P. 1208:4). •

On Priorities... II

by Martin Myers

In setting our perspectives, let us remember that The URANTIA Book is being given to those who are ready for it long before its world-wide mission. The presentation of The URANTIA Book to the races of mankind is a part of the evolutionary — not revolutionary — growth of religion on our planet. Let this be one of

our long-range guides as the Brotherhood sets its course for the future.

We cannot expect our Brotherhood to spring full blown into a perfected working group. We after all are a part of the age in which we live, and we are an evolutionary organization. But we have every reason to expect, even to require, that we will use our best efforts to be progressive evolutionists always using the hard won wisdom of experience to temper and practically adjust our idealism to the sometimes difficult

realities of a planet suffering both the betrayal of its Planetary Prince and the default of Adam and Eve, its Planetary Mother and Father and its visible link with the Supermortal Planetary and Universe Administration.

One thing we will want to keep in mind is that while our organization is associated with a new revelation of truth, this in no way means that we will in some manner escape the problems which are part and parcel of any human organization. Yes, there will be misunderstandings. There will inevitably be different points of view.

But in facing the challenges which will require time for their outworking in dealing with these opportunities before us in a practical and effective way, we indeed can have unity, but unity without uniformity. We can be confident that through the Constitution of URANTIA Brotherhood we have the necessary mechanism to distill the various points of view into an effective program for worthwhile service without our suffering oppressive creeds, dogmas, rules and regulations. But the other side of the coin is that while we may have these

problems and challenges as a necessary part of our growth and service, we are, in fact, by meeting together, carrying out an important and effective work which will affect the lives, gladden the hearts and enrich the souls of untold generations yet to come. And we can do all of this with joy and without having to be dour or overly serious. Good humor and the smile of happiness are among the most powerful of the human assets for religious propagation.

In closing, let us observe that the future course of URANTIA Brotherhood is as yet largely uncharted. This is the first time that a major revelation has been presented in book form. Nevertheless, as Soldiers of the Circles may we wholeheartedly enlist in the solid ranks of those who shall go forth in the coming battle for truth against error under unfaltering leadership of the mighty Seraphim of Progress.

Father, Thy will be done -- and we're going to help you do it.

Peace be upon you and may progress be our eternal goal. ●

GOALS...

by Harry McMullen

The one goal of all our Urantia activity should be:

To lead souls to the Father

The only way to accomplish this is to show him forth in our lives and to proclaim his gospel. These are mandatory in our personal lives. In partial contrast, the opportunity for URANTIA Brotherhood is to proclaim God's truths by disseminating the book, where his teachings are uniquely set forth. As an organization, I don't believe that we are well suited to proclaim the gospel directly to the world as some strive to do. Therefore, our goal of leading souls to the Father can be restated as getting:

More readers.

To accomplish this, we have two primary and interrelated supporting strategies from which all else follows:

More books, and
More and better study groups.

More books sold and distributed implies more readers, who come together into study groups. With our support in a variety of ways, these groups coalesce, and membership grows.

Since our goals are planetary, we should set them based on what we feel God wants and figure backwards from that goal to arrive at our timetable.

In the spirit of throwing a number onto the table, our goal could be:

To have 100 million active readers by 2055

That would indeed be a fitting way to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the

publication of The URANTIA Book.

To achieve that goal implies the need to distribute large numbers of books. Our distribution goal, then, might be:

500 million books in 30 language by 2055.

We should analyze the world by continent, nation and language, and determine the best manner of approach. Prior to each translation, we should have a

certain number of study groups in place, and a plan for expansion. Responsibility for areas should be delegated to key "natives," and as activity becomes greater, the geographical areas of responsibility should be decreased accordingly.

Within the USA, a lower retail price for The URANTIA Book would so obviously enhance distribution that it hardly need be mentioned. •

PRIORITIES

in the Urantia Movement

by Meredith Sprunger

The basic priority of the URANTIA movement, in my judgement, is to promote the study and dissemination of the teachings of The URANTIA Book as a key factor in the general uplift of our civilization and culture. This requires that we engage in outreach ministry. The primary and most important immediate objective of this ministry is to make the book available to readers in the major languages of the planet and form study groups throughout the world.

Each individual and organization must determine where their talents, responsibilities and motivation fit into this over-all purpose. There is a tendency for human beings to expect other people and organizations to follow their personal concept of what should be done. Fortunately, this does not happen; rather, the richness and diversity of persons and groups establishes a pluralism of philosophy and ministry making for the creative functioning of the Kingdom of God in our midst.

Your highest priority is in finding and following where the Father leads in your life. The Supreme co-ordinates all of our ministries into a unified whole. •

On Priorities... III

by Center for Urantia Book Synergy

In response to the question of priorities for the Urantia Movement, we feel the way in which large donations given to official organizations, are used to spread The URANTIA Book is the main priority at this time. In the midst of a large fundraising campaign for the Spanish translation and sundry other activities, it seems appropriate to pay attention to some large earnings recently accrued by the URANTIA Foundation.

During recent months, the Foundation has come into the possession of unearned windfall profits. Among other

amounts, Mr. Sek Seklemian bequested in excess of \$120,000 to the Foundation, while a gift of stock from the former owners of Celestial Seasonings some years ago recently earned them a record gain of \$700,000.

As Sek was in the process of selling his estate during the last months of his earth life, we can only ponder on how he would have applied his funds for the spread of the URANTIA Revelation for public benefit. Presently, many students are inundated by unconfirmed reports that the 'accidental riches' have been earmarked for the production of translations of The URANTIA Book.

Whether Seklemian's bequest can be considered accidental wealth, derived from his generosity, and to be used for the benefit of the URANTIA organizations, or

whether it is to be considered a trust fund designed for the furtherance and completion of long-thought-out aspirations and projects of the benefactor, the Foundation now has the major voice to decide.

However, since we have had the unique and privileged opportunity to work and serve with Sek for the last years of his life, we may be called upon to contribute in shedding light on which projects of The URANTIA Book dissemination and promulgation this life-long communicator and public relations expert was focusing his attention on.

Undisputedly, Sek's major interest was his desire to see The URANTIA Book made available at a cheaper price. He had developed several interesting strategies on how to influence this process. Believing strongly that The URANTIA Book students and activists should subsidize the cost of the book, so that new readers would not be penalized by having to first overcome the hardship price barrier before they can find the good news and superb teachings of our epochal revelation. Sek saw that every major religious movement in the world makes their books available reasonably, and that the people who are actively involved in these movements and teachings are basically the ones who subsidize their literature for reasonable and widespread distribution.

He believed that the URANTIA Foundation would also eventually gain prevalent and unified financial grass roots support, if they were to demonstrate to the movement at large sound and effective strategic plans for the dissemination of the Book and the promulgation of its teachings, as laid down in their Declaration of Trust as principle objectives.

Sek's last sentences concerned the production and distribution of lapel pins with the three concentric circles emblem of Christ Michael to all URANTIA activists. This emblem he was denied because he was not a member of URANTIA Brotherhood. Nevertheless, he wore his lapel pin proudly which was an early prototype given by a friend long ago. Over the years, Sek shared with us case after case of how his little pin opened so many conversations with strangers; most of whom would consequently find The URANTIA Book and become avid readers.

Sek wanted to have such pins available during the "Art of Living" URANTIA Book Conference in Santa Barbara,

August 19-21, 1983. Sek's body died on August 23 and his last words actually were, "We should have done those pins. Do them."

Another major endeavor of Sek's was an outreach project to interest well-known writers of philosophy, religion and (science) fiction in the Book. He had planned to visit with a variety of respected and highly visible media personalities with whom he was acquainted during his long life time, so he could introduce the Book to them. Sek sought to win them so they would write articles and reviews about The URANTIA Book in the major media. These famous multipliers would restate concepts and teachings of The URANTIA Book finding their way into today's thought expressions in the arts and sciences. After the work on the conference was concluded the implementation of this project was to have begun.

Over the years, Sek had contributed funds to further dissemination of the Book. He particularly believed that translations of the Book were both critical and imperative, and would be delighted to find out that the Spanish translation is now scheduled and financially secured. In travelling far and wide, he knew firsthand of the readiness of many spiritual truth-seekers in many lands.

At the same time, he also foresaw some potential problems when translations are done by professional translators. He held that only a team of long-term students, fully acquainted with their language, could find faithful equivalents of the high and complex passages of the Book in the new language. In any case, he felt that a reader team must always check the accuracy and fidelity of the new translation, and that we may certainly learn from the mistakes caused in the editions of the French translation.

Sek was a creative and prolific person, and there are many other projects and ideas that could be cited. But above all we may be inspired by Sek's superb and loving service always wholeheartedly and fearlessly willing to seek and do the will of our heavenly Father. •

If you should receive this publication from a friend, and there is no questionnaire and return self addressed envelope still in the publication, please contact the Planetary Prints for additional questionnaires.

On future developments in the Urantia Movement

by Joe Pope

As we near the 30th anniversary of the publication of the Fifth Epochal Revelation, and as we continue to formulate plans and actions for the outworking of this revelatory manifesto to mankind, I am delighted to participate.

Note that the divine commissions did NOT plunk the Papers in the lap of the Pope, nor present them to any existing Urantia religion.

With the possible exception of Dr. Sadler himself, for whom religion was a dynamic hobby, they gave the revelation to a group of theologically unsophisticated laypersons in Chicago. This is significant.

It is easy to see that our celestial supervisors wanted a fresh start for religion on Urantia. The repair job to flawed but salvagable existing religions was to be the secondary result of the spiritual fragrance of the brand new purified and truly Jesusonian religion. In the competition for men's souls, there would be no contest: the new religion would tend to win, and the older mainline religions forced to modernize and upgrade.

We haven't even begun to do this yet.

The founding documents of both URANTIA Foundation and Brotherhood declare that, among other things, these institutions were created to "...foster a religion". But not in 30 years has either institution taken a single step toward this end. This is what WE must NOW do.

They give us some guidelines throughout the Papers, most notably in Paper 87, section 7, pps. 965-6.

In my opinion, URANTIA Brotherhood fails miserably as the potential social basis for the new cult, and is problematic in socializing present dedicated students of the Papers. Without going into the reasons for this, let us just say that there are those in the movement who will not even join the Brotherhood because they already perceive it as an anathematic institution. Probably the essence to the problem is man's evolutionary tendency to create religious institutions which function as pontificates instead of secretariats.

We must never forget that the Foundation and Brotherhood were NOT designed, structured and put in place by

heaven. They were the products of the Sadler's minds. There had to be a Foundation because someone had to "own" the book, and the Brotherhood is simply the ongoing Forum overlaid with a constitution adopted from those of mainline religions. And there IS evidence that the commissions were NOT happy with the final drafts, but resolved to accept them for then, because they were prohibited in their revelation mandate from telling us how to do it better.

We need a cult that can "...foster sentiment, satisfy emotion, and promote loyalty..." (p. 966), one that is not encumbered with human wishes to "govern" one another from some central headquarters.

We need Jesus' simple religion with its five cardinal theological principles: the pre-eminence of the individual in spiritual matters, the Fatherhood of God, Brotherhood of Man, justification by faith alone, and salvation of eternal life. The Master puts the identical five concepts in different terms on P. 1863 — but they're really the same.

We need to formulate a curriculum for the training of 21st century evangelists, including foreign students scholarshipped here from their homelands for this purpose. Then we must send these harbingers of truth into all the world with the good news. The URANTIA Book is a secondary means to this end, and not the end itself.

Soon, tri-concentric Temples of the Father, public houses of religious assembly will rise throughout the world.

They tell us EVERY future world we will encounter will have such Temples of Worship (502), and that they are tri-concentric (622), or certainly circular (743, 745, 826). Adam called the Edenic Temple here "...the material emblem of the Father's invisible presence..." (832), and, we know clearly, this IS the circles.

We must continue to prioritize translations of The URANTIA Book, with Chinese and Russian near the top of the list.

Then and only then, will we be able to welcome and receive the SON whom I believe they are even now preparing to send to us. And whose advent may be astonishingly close.

They have inaugurated every epoch so far with a Son. I am not persuaded that they will inaugurate the Fifth epoch with just a big blue book. Think about it. As Henry Begemann has pointed out, a "demonstration" requires a "demonstrator". (See P.1914C). So far, we have received only the revelation. •

CHURCHIFICATION

by Jim McNelly

I suppose that the attempt to churchify the fellowship of believers in The URANTIA Book was inevitable. How could it have been otherwise? All the elements of a good cult foundation were in place - mysterious origin, a potentially autocratic central organization, secrecy and a sacred book. Build upon these: worship, prayer, authoritative leaders and an "approved" belief-gospel, and you have a church.

Coming from an institutional church that boasted a panoply of saints, creeds, priests and sacramental guilt, I had hoped that the assemblies of readers of The URANTIA Book would be refreshingly different from common churches. The URANTIA Papers foresaw a new type of religion, one not centered in buildings, fundraising, beliefs and taboos. The new religion I was experiencing was more personal, liberating, focused on the home and family.

In the other readers I encountered, I was encouraged by a prevailing spirit that seemed to share ideals of reform and progress. Many others had come to the book after becoming disillusioned with the barrenness of institutional religion. Safeguards appeared to be in place to discourage the churchification tendency.

These early readers shared a healthy avoidance of acquiring permanent buildings or properties that resembled churches. The mysterious origin of the book was downplayed. Advertising was not an official practice. The organization, while somewhat centralized, had healthy democratic roots. Societies were autonomous and leaders were elected. Group prayers were usually silent; worship optional and spontaneous. These early readers fostered study groups, emphasizing religion at home.

I was proud to belong to URANTIA Brotherhood. No one at the top appeared to be getting rich or setting themselves up on a fanatical ego trip. There was no conspiracy to shove the book down people's throats. Readers did not browbeat the masses into accepting a Bible replacement. It did not feel like a cult. Members could think what they pleased, believe what they chose, and follow their denominational preferences. No

official interpretations or dignity compromising rituals emanated from on high.

During this last year my bubble popped. So gradual was the change, it was hardly noticeable, but we were on our way to becoming a church. General Council resolutions virtually mandated prayer at all "official" gatherings. "Spread the teachings, not the book" became the creed. Saints Christy and Sadler had ostensibly chosen their successors. Charismatic cult personalities required no democracy to elect them. Subtle and not so subtle efforts to recruit factional followings became apparent.

Evangelizing the "selected teachings" became more important than making the book available. Study groups were too ordinary, mundane. They had no glamour compared to the conferences which showcased movement superstars. Self-proclaimed leaders with cryptic messages were ready to terrorize readers into bizarre subcults.

Planning formats aimed at brainwashing new converts into the "evangelize-the-selected-teachings" church were innocently formulated. Mission and belief statements were agonizingly adopted. Heretics were disfellowshipped as both resolutions and policies evolved into loyalty oaths.

It may be too sudden a step for humanity to transfer his religious life to the inner world which exists between man and his creator. After all, we have become conditioned to an externalized religion identified with buildings and beliefs. For too many years, popes, priests, gurus and other leaders or intermediaries have interpreted religion for people. There is a sense of security for many people in following leaders with certification, degrees and accreditation who will tell them what to believe and do.

Perhaps I have expected too much of people as if merely reading a book would change 2000 years of tradition in a single lifetime. Despite all the warnings about the dangers of fixating religion and identifying it with a particular socio-political culture, we are merrily presenting to the world "The New Improved Christian Church". The international association of book readers is in danger of being perceived of as an American, neo-christian, evangelical cult of "selected teaching" preachers that seeks to become a clone of mainline Christianity.

If the democracy decides to accept its

new church status, then so be it. But such a decision will delay for many years the age when humanity will be able to muster the courage to practice a living faith and cast aside the cocoon of organized churches. Revelation will not reform evolutionary religion overnight. The church structure will continue to serve as a cultural safety net until the best of the old church format is quietly carried forth into the new living faith, and men are better conditioned to take religion into their own hands, hearts and homes.

Perhaps some social outlet along the lines of the temples of philosophy utilized on the neighboring planet might be adopted for use on this world. Another option would be to provide enough singing, group prayer and worship to satisfy the need for a sense of a spiritual community but not so much so as to alienate those without a church predilection. I am reminded of the quote on page 1930 where Jesus tells us, "As faith-enlightened and spirit-liberated sons of the kingdom of heaven, you face a double responsibility of duty to man and duty to God while you voluntarily assume a third and sacred obligation: service to the brotherhood of believers."*

I interpret this quote to suggest that the official organization act like a professional society which exists to serve the needs of its members - publishing papers, holding conferences, keeping mailing lists and serving as an informal clearinghouse to assist home based study groups and foster occasional social renewals or retreats for

larger groups. The activities related to serving God (worship) or serving man (social uplift) should be generally conducted outside the forum of URANTIA Brotherhood.

There is currently a positive effort to internationalize the brotherhood of readers through book translations and other multi-lingual services. Many readers already understand that there is nothing sacred about Chicago or the United States of America simply because the book happened to arrive there. No pressing need exists to become an American styled church simply because it is the first option which comes to mind. Other possibilities for creative group functioning will arise in the fullness of time.

Individuals must search their own motivation and sort their way through the various possibilities. Look more closely at the implications of the course you choose or acquiesce towards. Take responsibility for your actions. Exercise the opportunity to participate and vote. If you belong to a URANTIA Society, determine how your potential Triennial Delegate Assembly Representative feels about administrative and religious issues. The General Councilors they elect can have an effect on the future of organized religious activity of many years to come.

If people participate, there is no reason why URANTIA Brotherhood can't serve the needs and desires of a broad range of interests for ourselves and others. This is an exciting age to live in. The opportunity for individuals to shape the course of the future is a rare one. Let us be proud of what we create for future generations. •

The price of Revelation

by John Roper

I would agree that this is not a very spiritually uplifting topic, but it is one that should be discussed and analyzed occasionally. I feel as many do that the current retail price of The URANTIA Book is too high and discourages unknown numbers of potential readers from learning its life saving message. Since we are charged with the responsibility of spreading the teachings

of The URANTIA Book, then we must consider every possible avenue of approach to new readers.

The topic of the price of The URANTIA Book has been around for probably decades. It now has a suggested retail price of \$34.00 and has been there for a number of years. The reason for this is, of course, to give the bookstores enough margin to make their customary profit. The wholesale price of the book is currently \$20.40. The difference between the cost of printing the book and its wholesale price is the profit for The URANTIA Foundation and URANTIA

Brotherhood, the Foundation's distribution arm. This profit of between \$10 and \$12 per book is used as the operating budget for URANTIA Foundation and URANTIA Brotherhood, as well as supporting any litigation that becomes necessary in the process of protecting the copyright and service marks of The URANTIA Book.

Now, with all that information out of the way, we can get down to the real meat of the matter. It has been put forth by URANTIA Brotherhood in the past that the reason the price of the book is so high is to support the different copyright infringement cases that they have had to prosecute. While it is hard to understand why anyone would wish to test URANTIA Foundation's legal right to the copyright, it does happen from time to time and they must defend themselves against these challenges in order to remain in control of the copyright.

Recently it has come to light the URANTIA Foundation has been endowed with a substantial amount of money with which to

use as the Trustees see fit. I would imagine that among the uses for these funds would be for future litigation, should that be necessary. If we were to continue this train of thought we would come to the conclusion that URANTIA Foundation no longer needs the sale of The URANTIA Book to support pending or future litigation. The next logical step would be to lower the book's wholesale price an amount equal to that portion of the price previously allocated to the legal budget.

The normal markup that the bookstores use is 60%. Using this figure, if URANTIA Foundation were to lower the wholesale price of the book by \$8.00 to \$12.60, then the suggested retail price would only be \$20.16. This is not an unrealistic example. Also notice that a drop in the wholesale price of only \$8.00 would decrease the retail price by \$13.84. Even a less aggressive wholesale price cut would quickly bring the retail price down to the \$25.00 range. Obviously, more people would be able to buy The URANTIA Book. •

The Foundations of Decision Making

by Bill & Kaye Cooper

The first priority of the URANTIA movement should be to foster personal religion--in particular to find for each of ourselves and share with others and the religion of the spirit (see especially pp. 1728-1733). There can be no priority that transcends this, the central purpose of the revelation.

Quite aside, however, from its religious importance, the establishment of a genuine personal religion in the hearts of URANTIA Book readers is the foundation of all good decision making (both individual and group) about what we should be doing. What we individuals should be doing begins to evolve as we come to be progressively more successful at seeking and doing the Father's will. We are promised that as we are transformed by the Spirit of Truth, we are "endowed with the power of the certain and joyous performance of the gracious, acceptable and perfect will of God." (p. 1609)

Religionists who are living a religion of the spirit form the foundation for a whole

new level of group decision making. Once individuals begin experiencing a growing, vital religion, their relationship to fellow believers begins to change. In their dealings with each other they begin to evidence more fairness and honesty, loyalty and tolerance, more confiding trust and peace. Such fruits of the spirit enable a group to function in the "co-ordinated working harmony" which produces "a force far greater than the simple sum of its parts." (p. 1477)

When a group achieves co-ordinated working harmony, it can rise above the ability of single individuals to make decisions. It can produce group wisdom. Where true group wisdom is functioning, great confidence can be placed in the group's decisions.

While the fruits of the spirit may enable a group to function in co-ordinated working harmony, the actual achievement of that harmony may take a lot of hard work, dedication and faith on the part of each member of the group. It may help us in this effort to refocus our collective energies on two goals of top priority; (1) to foster personal, living religion and (2) to seek and achieve group wisdom through spiritual methods of relating to each other in groups. •

A Course of Action for the Urantia Movement

by Mo Siegel

The time has come for believers in The URANTIA Book to unite into the most dynamically serving team of religionists since Jesus and his early followers set the world alive by sharing the liberating gospel of the Master two thousand years ago. **Today, mankind languishes in a spiritual void which will remain largely unfilled until courageous and aggressive URANTIA Book believers act upon their faith.**

We have been entrusted with the Fifth Epochal Revelation, the most complete soul saving message this world has. The Urantia Revelation is not one more religious activity amidst other equally important activities. The URANTIA Book and its saving message is the # 1 priority to aid in the spiritual advancement of humanity. What we do with the Revelation is relevant, we can make a difference. We are our Father's hands on earth, we are the living tools of the angels needed to progress this world spiritually forward.

Our Paralyzed Central URANTIA Movement

In general, our Urantia movement's central leadership style has slipped into a drifting state often characterized by fear, introvertedness, gossip and stagnation. Over intellectualization and second guessing has replaced Dr. Sadler's daring leadership style that encouraged Urantians to try new ideas while working together in a trusting fellowship of dedicated servers. Fortunately, regional URANTIA Societies, individuals and other non-profit foundations are progressing while our central Brotherhood stumbles along without any formal plan or agreed upon mission. All too often, doing nothing has become safer than doing something because we don't know where we are going.

Jesus never told his believers to go slow or fast. The "go slow" mentality is as wrong as the "go fast" psychology. We need to "go correctly" with a profound sense of commitment to the necessity of our work.

What we need is a positive "can do" attitude. We need to lose ourselves by filling spiritual voids, healing hurts and fostering an environment conducive to inner spiritual growth with outward manifestations of love.

Some level of failure must be accepted as a natural part of progress. Our fear of making mistakes with the Revelation must be replaced with courage and faith. Risk must be assessed wisely while mistakes safeguarded by teamwork. Leaders need to be fostered, developed and encouraged to carefully move the Revelation forward.

The Future

Whether our URANTIA Brotherhood is destined to become a book club or the most dynamic world religious movement since Christianity is yet to be determined. Regardless of which organization, which form of organization (centralized or decentralized) or which individuals do the work, the Revelation has a life of its own. There are between 10,000 and 20,000 URANTIA Book readers out of a world population of 4.5 billion people. It is my belief that there are at least one million people alive today who are totally ready and earnestly looking for the Revelation. The task at hand is to share this Revelation with those people. **Major world progress would be made if the Revelation believers grew from 15,000 to one million readers in the next 50 years.**

To grow from 15,000 to just 50,000 readers is a major task that will take all the hard work, encouragement, teamwork, thinking, planning, courage and commitment that we are able to muster. Ironically, if we concentrate on increasing our numbers (head hunting) our vision will slip away. **By filling spiritual needs we will unconsciously grow as large as our giving permits us.**

A Five/Ten Year Plan

The following plan is being presented as a working document to be improved through group wisdom and evolved by action.

Five major objectives are being identified as the critical priorities that, if worked upon, would result in the immediate tangible advancement of the Revelation. After each stated objective are sub-objectives and strategies to accomplish the major objective. The objectives presented here are worthwhile accomplishments for any organization or individuals who want to serve the Revelation in the most effective way. As in most of life's activities, 80% of the results will come from doing 20% of the tasks. Since the sub-objectives and strategies

are numerous, it would require many years to accomplish the needed work. The wheat hangs heavy, it is now time to harvest.

Objective One: Facilitate, encourage, promote and foster the personal religious experience of the individual with our Heavenly Father.

Our first responsibility is to help one another experience our Heavenly Father in a personal way. This implies an outgoing attitude of sharing the joy and upholding the responsibility of knowing God. Even though knowing God is a personal experience, there are actions that groups can take to facilitate this experience. Some are:

A. Group Worship services are conducive to knowing God. The book is clear that the evolutionary act of group worship must be available to us.

B. Crisis often produces the most dramatic changes in individuals. If we provided spiritual counseling services, people may be steered to God for the solutions to their life's problems. Jesus was always helping others with their problems. His amazing listening ability coupled with his spiritual advice freed so many confused people.

C. We must be forthright with our faith. We should never hide our love and faith in God. Our willingness to share our faith with family, friends and strangers will inspire their own hopes of eternal life.

There are as many ways to reach this objective. Most are personal, quiet and as numerous as there are believers.

Objective Two: Spread The URANTIA Book throughout the world.

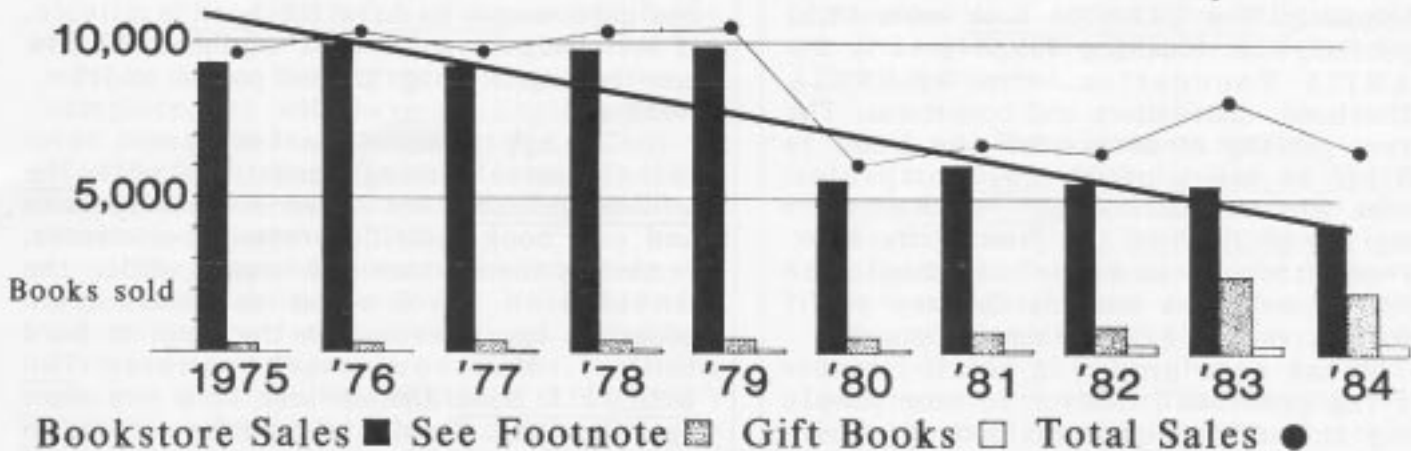
We all know that The URANTIA Book is not the destination, it is a service station. Yet it is the most powerful service station we have. There can be little doubt that in our own personal search for God, the Revelation has aided us dramatically. Most of us wouldn't be where we are today without the Book. We should not be afraid or ashamed of our Gospel, we should not be ambivalent about our belief in The URANTIA Book.

Spreading The URANTIA Book is our duty. There are basic material channels that must be used correctly if we are to succeed in this task. The following graph dramatically portrays the problems we are having sharing The URANTIA Book.

URANTIA Book Sales 1975 - 1984

(English Translation)

\$34.00 Price: 33% Sales Drop



"The price increase came in 1980. The result was a 40% sales drop."

Footnotes: A. 1984 numbers are the current estimates of sales; B. Bar two represents an approximation of sales to individual Urantians or Societies who are either acting as book distributors or giving away books; C. 1983 sales numbers include at least 1000 books bought for safekeeping in case of a world disaster. D. The straight line is a mathematical regression analysis showing the sales trend from the Brotherhood to distributors and stores.

Observations on the facts: A. Our book store sales have dropped dramatically in the 1980's. B. Urantians are taking the problem of book sales into their own hands and becoming book distributors. Approx. 3.8% of book sales in 1976 were through Urantians selling books. Approx. 30% of 1984 sales were through Urantians selling books. This trend is alarming because a central sales function should be much more effective and efficient than a decentralized sales function. Is it healthy to turn believers and Societies into salesmen? C. Giveaway books were .003% of sales in 1976, they represented 4.6% in 1984.

Solutions to the problems:

A. Admit we have a problem and start correcting it.

B. Lower the price of The URANTIA Book from the current bookstore price of \$34.00 to a new price of \$19.95 while making books available to Societies for \$12.95. This action should be implemented immediately. The URANTIA Book costs \$8.50 to publish, the remaining \$25.50 goes to the URANTIA Foundation, the URANTIA Brotherhood, distributors and bookstores. The current pricing structure of the book is similar to most publishing companies' policies. The Brotherhood and Foundation are taking fair profit from the sales of the book. The question is whether we should be covering expenses and making any profit from new readers. I don't think we should.

It has been proven in retail business that the greatest inhibitor to new people trying an unknown product, book or service is the initial purchasing price. The Bible is available for \$4.95, yet The URANTIA Book costs \$34.00. The high price turns away marginally interested readers. It takes committed readers to pay the high price. It

has been debated whether we want marginally interested people buying the Book. I say we do. A somewhat interested reader today could become totally committed two years from now.

We should conduct a nationwide fund raiser to subsidize the cost of the Book. Since the Brotherhood has \$350,000 of net worth and the Foundation has over \$1.2 million in unencumbered net worth, they should meet the movement halfway in paying for the price decrease for the first three years. After that, both organizations would have to cover the costs. I don't think it is financially advisable for the Foundation or Brotherhood to now pay because of obligations to translations, normal expenses and increased outreach opportunities. The approximate cost to reader/believers based on an average of the last five years of sales would be \$31,162 per year for three years (conservative calculations were used—revenue loss would equal \$9.00 per book based on 1980-1984 sales average of 6925 books per year.) If there are 5,000 active readers, that would be an individual contribution of \$6.25 per year. The Foundation and Brotherhood would have an expenses of \$31,162 per year.

C. Increase The URANTIA Book distribution from our approximate current level of 15% distribution in U.S./Canadian hardback bookstores to 80% of the bookstores. This alone could double or triple sales. 58% of all books are sold to people who go into stores not planning to buy the book they actually purchase. This buying pattern is called impulse purchasing and is one good reason to have the book available. If we don't have the book on the shelf, how are the angels going to lead people to it?

D. Apply basic marketing and sales techniques in serving bookstores with The URANTIA Book. We should continually write and call book distributors and bookstores, reminding them where and how to order the Revelation. A common comment from bookstore operators is that the book is hard to buy. We should make buying The URANTIA Book the easiest task any store operator has. Service should be our motto and we should be the best servers the world has.

We should hire a dedicated Urantia salesperson to make distributor and book chain account calls. This individual would be

responsible for store promotions, mailings, service calls and other associated sales needs.

E. Redo the dust jacket of The URANTIA Book so it is appealing. Since impulse purchasing accounts for the majority of book sales, the dustcover is our best communicator once someone sees the book in a store. The current cover is esoteric and needs immediate improvement. Good packaging works.

F. Increase the distribution of The URANTIA Book in all English and French speaking countries outside the United States and Canada. There is opportunity now for worldwide distribution.

G. Continue our program of providing The URANTIA Book to libraries worldwide.

H. Encourage the development of high quality written study aids for understanding The URANTIA Book. Our service to new readers and our presence in bookstores would be greatly improved if more secondary literature about The URANTIA Book and its superlative teachings were available. Secondary documents increase the credibility of the primary literature.

The most valuable study aid we have is the Concordex by Clyde Bedell. This tool is unavailable in most bookstores. The Concordex ought to be on every bookstore shelf that has The URANTIA Book.

I. The URANTIA Book needs to be translated into the major languages of the world. Once the Spanish translation is complete, we will have an English, French and Spanish translations. So as not to Westernize the Revelation, the next languages for translation should be Japanese, Mandarin Chinese or Hindi.

The expenditures of resources on translations should go slowly. We should take the translations we have and get them into distribution. There is no virtue in filling closets with new translations if we don't have bookstore and library distribution with our current translations. New translations cost at least \$350,000 apiece. A good salesperson would cost \$40,000 a year. Hire the salesperson first, build demand and sales, then do the next translation.

Objective Three: Spread the glad tidings of the New Revelation of the Gospel of Jesus worldwide.

The URANTIA Book unequivocally says that the teachings of Jesus will liberate the world. It says that a new vision of Jesus, unencumbered with 1900 years of Christian dogma and tradition, is needed. It teaches that we need the new Revelation of the Gospel of Jesus.

Consider a few excerpts from the book: "He (Jesus) knew what was in the heart of man, and had his teachings been left as he presented them, ... all nations and all religions of the world would speedily have embraced the gospel of the kingdom." (P. 1670) "Of all human knowledge, that which is of greatest value is to know the religious life of Jesus and how he lived it." (P. 2090) "Modern culture must become spiritually baptized with a new Revelation of Jesus' life and illuminated with a new understanding of his gospel of eternal salvation." (P. 2084) "The great hope of Urantia lies in the possibility of a new Revelation of Jesus with a new and enlarged presentation of his saving message which would spiritually unite in loving service the numerous families of his present-day believers." (P. 2086) "The common people heard Jesus gladly, and they will again respond to the presentation of his sincere human life consecrated religious motivation if such truths shall again be proclaimed to the world." (P. 2090)

How we share the master's teachings is both an organizational and individual effort. Whether it is in the quiet of a home or presented at a comparative religion class in a University, the gospel of Jesus must be lived and shared.

Some ideas on sharing

1. Do our best to live as the Master wants us to live. 2. Prepare simple brochures that explain The URANTIA Book's teachings of Jesus. 3. Prepare pamphlets on how living the teachings of Jesus has changed people's lives. 4. Develop simple slide presentations that portray the teachings to different audiences. Example: The teachings of Jesus and the modern thinker; The teachings of Jesus for the unchurched believer (the majority of religious seekers don't go to church); The URANTIA Book and the Teachings of Jesus; The URANTIA Book and the Christians; Such presentations could be

developed as tools for lay ministers. Why not train 200 people to give such presentations? 5. Go 2 by 2, or 4 by 4 into the churches. Become active members and, if appropriate, slowly and carefully introduce the new Revelation of the Gospel of Jesus to Jesusonian Christians. 6. Set up URANTIA Book clubs at college campuses with the primary focus being on the teachings of Jesus.

I personally long for the day that the new Revelation of the living Gospel of Jesus is shared from the pulpit. Knowing that there is great danger in institutionalized religion, and having read the warning on page 2091, "You may preach a religion about Jesus, but, perforce, you must live the religion of Jesus." I still await the day for The URANTIA Book's "Glad tidings of Jesus" to be shared from the pulpit.

Objectives Four: Provide a favorable climate for the social growth of religious believers in the Revelation.

Many Urantia readers fear the socialization of religion. Many of us came to the Revelation in search of religious truth without vested economic interests, standardization, tradition, ecclesiastical authority, fossilized truth, outdated dogma or constraints to inner growth and outward service.

But we must not ignore the social religious needs of believers. "There is a real purpose in the socialization of religion. It is the purpose of group religious activities to dramatize the loyalties of religion; to magnify the lures of truth, beauty and goodness; to foster the attractions of supreme values; to enhance the service of unselfish fellowship; to glorify the potentials of family life; to promote religious education; to provide wise counsel and spiritual guidance; and to encourage group worship. And all live religions encourage human friendship, conserve morality, promote neighborhood welfare and facilitate the spread of the essential gospel of their respective messages of eternal salvation." (P. 1092) We can provide a favorable environment for growth if we:

A. Form and maintain thousands of study groups worldwide.

B. Provide for the needs of Urantia families through religious education and family training and counseling.

C. Empower and support earnest book readers with channels of service outside the

study groups and society meetings. Take the ministry to the streets. Focus on filling spiritual needs of those outside our Urantia community.

D. Provide for worship and prayer in an inspirational way.

E. Focus activities that mature Urantians in their faith.

Objective Five: Train teachers and leaders to fill the spiritual needs of humanity.

I'm convinced the believers of the Fifth Epochal Revelation will unconsciously become the 12th major world religion. The evolutionary consequence of the Revelation will be the most spiritually rewarding religious movement the world has ever seen.

If we are to fill spiritual needs, then training and education of our teachers and leaders is vital. Instead of fearing leadership, we need to foster leadership. "Religion does need new leaders, spiritual men and women who will dare to depend solely on Jesus and his incomparable teachings." (P. 2082)

Dr. Sadler experimented with a Urantia school. He talked about giving diplomas for leaders and teachers who completed the necessary training. His ideas sound good today. Some ideas:

A. Establish schools for teachers and leaders. Make the curricula rigorous, and award certificates for various skill development. There could be degrees for study group leadership, ministers, religious educators, family counselors and philosophy teachers.

B. Establish a world center for URANTIA Book readers.

Conclusions

When observing the world conditions, it becomes evident that the Urantia Papers were given ahead of their broad world mission. It is equally evident that **the world is in great need of a new vision of the reality that will only come from The URANTIA Book.**

In order for the Revelation to come to fruition for future generations, we must form into a solid foundation of believers now. The plan outlined advocates growing to 1 million readers out of an estimated world population of 6.5 billion people by the year 2035. That is 1/65th of 1% of the population.

Some well intentioned Urantians are advocating that if we teach and spread The

URANTIA Book or the new revelation of the Gospel of Jesus we will be going too fast. Some even say our purpose is not to save souls or sell books. Those words are spoken by the "chosen few" who have forgotten what they were like before they enjoyed the intellectual comfort of reading about love, faith and the heavenly Father. Humanity yearns for the liberating message of a new revelation and it is our job to prepare the way for The URANTIA Book's world wide acceptance.

Unequipped as we are, the Revelation has been given to us. The time has come to put away our fears and go forward to advance the Revelation with faith, wisdom and unity of purpose. "...The weak indulge in resolutions, but the strong act. Life is but a

day's work--do it well. The act is ours; the consequences God's." (P. 556) We must not be afraid, with the Master as our leader and with each other, we can help fulfill the destiny of the Revelation.

If it is not us, then who is meant to serve the Revelation? If it is not now, when will the work be done? If we are not ready, who is? After we get to the mansion worlds we will look back at our earth lives and marvel at the amazing opportunity we were given to serve. Let us make sure we can honestly say we served with our highest level of excellence and commitment while on earth. This great Revelation has been freely given to us. It is our joyous opportunity to pass it on to others. •

Rites of Passage

by Meredith Sprunger

When the Editor of the Planetary Prints asked me to write an article explaining why I recently resigned from the Executive Committee and the General Council of URANTIA Brotherhood I was reminded of the "stages of life" common in our culture. As one faces these rites of passage, periodically we reach conditions of readiness for decisions of transition in our lives.

Since the day I finished my first reading of The URANTIA Book in 1956, I have felt that my spiritual calling was to introduce the Christian Church and culture to its existence and teachings. The various official positions I have served in the Brotherhood I have regarded as temporary, interim activities. During all these years I was consciously preparing and longing to start what I regarded as my real ministry or calling.

Many years ago I made the tentative decision to resign from all official positions by the age of seventy—which milestone I will pass next April. I think it is important for older members to step down and make room for younger people to get leadership experience. In this regard, Dr. Sadler set an excellent example for all of us to follow.

As many of you know, I started my

outreach ministry by organizing and incorporating the Christian Fellowship of Students of The URANTIA Book in April of 1979. Several years were spent developing plans and materials and active outreach contact began around January of 1984. Because of the demands of time and possible conflict of interests, I decided to resign from official positions last year but was persuaded by friends to wait.

The crisis in the Brotherhood during the past year has caused much conflict and a shifting of attention from outreach and service to internal affairs and political bases of influence. This has been distracting from my primary concern of outreach ministry. I have reached a stage of life when I must be ministering, not meandering in the morass of internal affairs. I would be "doing," not "arguing" about how things should be done. After much thought and deliberation, it seemed that this was the ideal time to resign from official positions and make room for a younger person to get experience, while I give undivided attention to what I perceive as the Father's will for my life.

I shall continue to be active in the primary purposes of the Brotherhood and will help out any place I can. I am more optimistic about the actualization of these purposes now than I have been for the last ten years. We are on the brink of the public outreach ministry of the fifth epochal revelation. •

OUTREACH

By their fruits...

by Larry Mullins

In late November of '84 I had the good fortune to visit the Urantia School at Boulder. At the end of my visit Don Guimond asked me to jot down some notes on my impressions of The URANTIA Book booth project on the campus of the University of Colorado. This project is an information booth set up in a traffic area for the purpose of introducing students to The URANTIA Book.

The memory of my November visit to Boulder is still vivid and exciting. The city itself has an awesome, captivating spirit, equalled by few places I have been. The people of Boulder are intriguing, with their vitality and lethargy, their conviction and their tentativeness. If you wonder where the leaders and teachers of the Urantia Movement will come from, they will come from here and a few other tinder-boxes of Urantia activity and action. Perhaps these will not be the old-style leaders of imposing stare, and poised upon white horses, but rather a new breed of leaders and teachers who will, one day, lead and teach by superlative example.

The afternoon I spent in the booth on campus was the most enlightening experience I had in Boulder. Any Urantian, before passing judgment upon such activities, should first actually see how they function when managed deftly and wisely.

The URANTIA Book booth, actually a table, is located among a row of similar tables in a building on campus. Students walk past on a broad concourse between the double row of tables, and examine or pass exhibits as they wish.

On the particular afternoon I was there I was told we had a slow day. A fundamentalist table next to ours attracted more attention by aggressively "hooking" passersby. The only attention-getting devices we used were a few books and pamphlets. Even with this subdued profile our table attracted several students.

The questions the students asked were tough ones. "Who wrote the Book?", "What does it say about Jesus?", "What does it

"Lead and teach...
by superlative example."

teach about the Atonement?" One got the feeling that the questions often emerged from earlier discussions about the Book with other students. The temptation for a Urantian is usually to appear authoritative and armed with the ultimate truth on all conceivable subjects. In contrast, the cautious Urantians at my side in the booth sought to avoid blunt replies and elected to engage the prospect in conversation.

The URANTIA Book itself was used to demonstrate a point or to illustrate its own broad scope of cosmology.

Student fundamentalists who quoted bible verses were shown in The URANTIA Book parallel verses, often more elaborate and richer than the bible version. A deeply sincere young man asked if the quotes in the Book attributed to Jesus could be authenticated. It was suggested that they could be authenticated in the same manner that the original scripture could be: by the Spirit of Truth within.

In each case the Urantian attempted to avoid direct controversy, and sought to embellish those areas of truth that were mutually shared.

I dare not try to quote from memory the number of books sold through this booth and campus ministry. The unofficial numbers I have heard are impressive. If one were to project this successful micro-project at Boulder to equally successful campaigns in campuses across America, the result would be a tidal wave of young Urantians.

I have been in a booth on campus, and I have looked into the wide, truth-hungry eyes of the students. I have seen students avidly examine the book. The pitfalls and obstacles of such ministry notwithstanding, the fruits of this campus effort are good. "By their fruits shall you know them." All the rest is vain rhetoric.

Until now I have been against, or at least indifferent to, such projects. Not because I feared the dangers of "overfast distribution," this is patent nonsense. My reluctance was rooted in the concern that such enterprises would yield little fruit, and could even be counter-productive. Most of my reservations melted away in the light of the work being done on the campus at Boulder. And, in my judgment the work being done there is indeed the Father's work. •

OUTREACH!

by Peter Laurence

Since you asked for a reaction to my participation in the booth at Colorado University, I can compare it to what I'm doing here in the sense that I quickly felt comfortable in that particular setting as well. There were a number of reasons for my not having a problem with such a radical change from my prior outreach experiences. One was your choice of being passively visible, so that we only spoke to people who chose to seek us out. Another was the atmosphere in the Student Union building, where booths of all kinds lined the corridor, providing an interesting assortment of wares for the passerby. Although I have some difficulty putting The URANTIA Book in the same category as political campaigns, sweaters and jewelry, your booth certainly upgraded the offerings vying for attention. A

third and final aspect of the situation is that the environment in Boulder with regard to the open contact among religionists of many kinds is extremely different than it is here in the East. Without my having been there to actually experience that environment I could only evaluate your activity on the basis of my own surroundings, or others with which I have had contact. In order to adequately make judgements about what is being done in Boulder I am convinced that one has to personally experience it. On the other hand, I feel just as strongly that what works in Boulder will not necessarily succeed elsewhere. It seems to me that any prejudice against your group for undertaking this activity would be just as unfounded as criticism against other readers for not taking similar action. It will be fascinating to follow the progress of your programs over time, and to see if they continue to flourish and have applications in other areas. I admire your pioneering spirit. •

OUTREACH!!

by M. "Sek" Seklemian

In a URANTIA workshop Sek gave just three days before his departure he emphasized:

"(People) are crying for help. How can we sit still? We have what the world is searching for and how can we reach them? How can we have these glad tidings of great joy and not explode? I heard one of our readers say 'It is the message of the book...you don't need to mention the book at all. As long as you give them hope and love, and the essence of God's message.' I say 'Okay, let's do that. Let's forever be ready to give the glad tidings. But let's do more.'...You talk to a man about the glad tidings, and you give him food for a day, but you get that man into The URANTIA Book, and you have given him food for the rest of his life...

Sek engaged in unselfish ministry to the many thirsty souls he encountered, and he fearlessly introduced those with spiritual curiosity to the epochal teachings. And during the six years Sek was with the Book he became one of the most successful personal promulgators introducing The URANTIA Book to ever so many truthseekers on his path. He felt that one out of every two of his associates was prepared to receive a greater revelation of the First

Source and Center of all beings and all things, our Creator, and to hear about the matchless Godliness and manliness of Jesus' life on this world and his complete and undistorted teachings. •

Booth Statistics: 1984

by Don Guimond

During calendar year 1984 the Rocky Mountain URANTIA Society of Denver sponsored three types of booths with the following results:

- 400,000 people attended functions
- 110,000 people looked at booth/book
- 2,200 people talked to us
- 2,600 pamphlets were given out
- 200 booth operating hours
- 600 man/woman hours in booth
- 40 name of existing readers
- 12 loaners copies lent
- 40 books sold
- 20 phone calls
- 4,000 cups of free ice water
- total cost \$400.00

Anyone desiring further information about what RMUSD has done with our booths or anyone seeking information on how to set up their own booths please contact the Editor of the Planetary Prints, 1622 18th St., Boulder, Co. 80303. •

The URANTIA Book Club

"Kids today are too smart
to be bootlegged."

by Don Green

The URANTIA Book Club has been evolving over the last two and a half years. We've found some methods that work well, and others that simply don't work at all, experience has been our best teacher. I would like to share with you the short history of this process.

Nearly three years ago, four of us were sitting around intent on finding a way to interest the public at large in The URANTIA Book. Two of us were students of The Boulder School for Students of The URANTIA Book, and the other two were members of the Boulder Community. I guess I should mention our names; Steve Rohrbach and myself, Don Green were the students, while Chris LePine and Stan Hartman were the others. Being painfully aware of the attitude of the Brotherhood, regarding public outreach, we were all trying to restrict our efforts to conform to Chicago's mandates. As a result of our discussion it was decided to first pick a segregated target audience, someone suggested the university, which is located in Boulder, as the target area. It was agreed by all that the University of Colorado at Boulder would be a perfect arena. Now just how to go about doing this



was another issue all together. Several options were tossed around, finally a discussion format was agreed upon, perhaps a club to attempt to unite science, philosophy and religion. That sounded great, now for a name. Five or six names were put forth, eventually we all reached an agreement, it would be called "Synthesis".

We were off and running. For a number of reasons, we soon became aware we were running all right, but only with other URANTIA Book readers. The university students appeared uninterested. What was wrong? Our efforts with Synthesis continued for the next three semesters, until other interest prevailed. Success had been minimal.

The beginning of the summer of 1984, issued in an even more controversial project. Don Guimond, a member of the Boulder Community, was developing booths to spread The URANTIA Book. I believe that project is being examined further in this issue of the Prints. By summers end, I realized, through my experience with various booths, that a direct approach was perhaps the way Synthesis should go, so in late August of 1984, Synthesis became, The URANTIA Book Club, an official on-campus organization and duly sponsored project of Rocky Mountain URANTIA Society of Denver.

The mode in which we operate is really quite simple. Three days a week, we set up a booth in a designated area of the Student Union. We have a 5 X 3 ft. table which we cover with a blue cloth and on the cloth we have four URANTIA Books displayed, three are English versions and one French Translation. Two of the English versions are opened to key pages, the other books are closed and still have their dust jackets intact. In addition to the Books we also have an attractive plexiglass brochure dispenser, offering six different pamphlets. We also had a Concordex on display, plus a laminated copy of the evolution of life on Urantia, a chart that was developed by Saskia Raevouri from California. Since science is a prominent subject at a university we have a copy of the Time magazine article which describes the first pictures of the center of galaxy and the corresponding quote from The URANTIA Book. Further information on this matter is available in the THINGS YOU CAN USE section of this publication.

We have been very fortunate here in Colorado, to have a Society, that is sufficiently far sighted, to back our efforts financially, enabling us to actually sell The URANTIA Book to student members for only \$10.00 a copy. In addition to selling the Book we also follow up with meetings every two weeks. The meetings vary from a study group format to introduction of the Book to new readers to lectures. We're planning to have an interface with the Religious Studies Department here on campus, and perhaps in the future we could do the same with the Science Department. Time will tell. To date we have sold 33 URANTIA Books, several Concordexes, talked to hundreds of people about the Book, given several hundred pamphlets and learned a great deal about talking to people and how to present The URANTIA Book to people who are unfamiliar with it.

After operating The URANTIA Book Club for a semester, it has become clear to me why Synthesis was not able to achieve what the club achieved. Synthesis was set up to harmonize science, philosophy and religion by means of a discussion format. We had hoped in this way to introduce the marvels of the Book. Fat Chance. Kids today are too smart to be back doored or boot legged. We have personally seen that the direct method of being upfront with this Revelation was the best way to go and when we are upfront with our Revelation people will be more receptive to us than if we try to bootleg them.

Outreach programs of this nature are multifaceted in their benefits. Not only is



the student body of C.U. benefiting by exposure to the name Urantia, which, I feel is the first step to giving The URANTIA Book authority, but the benefit to the individuals working the booth, is almost beyond words. To me it has been the most exciting, thrilling and rewarding experience of a life time. There is nothing like the one-on-one experience one can receive while working in the booth.

Some might say, "If you are upfront with the Book, you're just asking for the wrath of the fundamentalists. I have seen many times how having a "handle" on the bible can show that fundamentalist, who is initially hostile, how we have the same "gospel" and that there is really no threat to their beliefs. These people leave much friendlier and even curious enough to take a pamphlet on the Book.

The richest reward is seeing new friends who stop by the booth not knowing what the book is, many never having heard of the Book at all, and watching them grow into their own relationship with the book which will inevitably lead to a relationship with the Father.

We would like to offer to every reader of this article the invitation to participate in the booth if you should every be in or passing through Boulder. We would also like to extend our assistance and support to any individual or group that would like to get a club of their own started. Don't hesitate to contact either myself Don Green (303)-443-6254 or Don Guimond (303)-494-8493. •



Public Ministry & the bike...

by Paul Harden

Many of us find that although we would like to go out to the public and spread the revelation of The URANTIA Book, that isn't quite as easy as it sounds. I will try to show you, through my own personal experiences, how I overcame some of the difficulties in dealing with the public. Hopefully, I can show you some of the common mistakes made, and how to correct them in a few simple ways.

The personal experience of which I am speaking came from a period of about one and a half years and over 60 hours of time behind The URANTIA Book booth, which has been at different gatherings around the state of Colorado, and personal ministry on a daily basis.

What I would like to do first is to define the word public. The public is simply everyone that you meet in your daily routine. We are not "dealing with the public," we are sharing our joy of the revelation with our family, our brothers and sisters. It's always easier to talk to family and friends than strangers. So, if you can relate to people as children of God, which they are, it makes it much easier to talk freely with them.

The next step is to admit to yourself that you can't possibly get the message out by yourself. You'll need some help. Not just human help, but super-human help. What I am talking about is letting the Spirit lead you through every encounter.

The Spirit that I am referring to is the Spirit of Truth. An explanation of this is in the Book on page 2059, "All became conscious of a new and profound sense of spiritual joy, security and confidence. This new consciousness of spiritual strength was immediately followed by a strong urge to go out and publically proclaim the gospel of the Kingdom and the good news that Jesus had risen from the dead." And the Book goes on to say, further down, that "the believers felt themselves suddenly translated into another world, a new existence of joy, power and glory." As you can see, the Spirit of Truth is there to give us the security and confidence that we need to go out and to proclaim the good news.

When most of us first got the Book, we had a flash of the Spirit of Truth come over us, which gave us a powerful desire to tell

our family and friends about it, and sometimes they didn't accept it as well as we would have liked them to. As we all know, there is something in The URANTIA Book for everybody, so as messengers of this revelation, it should be our supreme joy to discern what it is that would most interest our brothers and sisters. The easiest way to do this is as Jesus did, and that was that He truly desired to know men, and to find out how He could help them along in their everyday lives. He did this by asking sincere, loving questions of the person to whom he was speaking.

Now I am going to go over some very important points to know which, I cannot emphasize enough. These are to help you not to become discouraged because you have made a few mistakes in the past in dealing with people. In public ministry it is OK to make a few mistakes, as long as you learn from them.

Some of the important things not to do are to over-intellectualize the Book, no matter how well you know it. Don't overwhelm a person with the facts of the Book. Try to keep the subject to something that isn't over their heads. Don't take advantage of a person by trying to show them how much smarter you are than them, because you know all about the Book and they don't. Always respect the personality of man, no matter what intellectual level they





are on. Don't try to knock the foundation out from under a person whose ideas are somewhat different than yours. Strive to do as Jesus did and that was to expound upon the truth and build around each individual's personal foundation of faith.

Another important key to public ministry is to know the basic foundations of the individual's or group's beliefs. If you are talking to a Christian, it helps if you know the Bible. When talking to someone, find out where their faith lies, and modify your presentation to them accordingly.

God has found many ways of communicating with His children. This is evident by all the different formal religions there are on Urantia. If you want to do the most service to God's children, first you must desire to know them.

I would like to share with you an analogy that might be able to shed more light onto the subject, from another perspective.

THE BIKE

Witnessing to the public about The URANTIA Book is very much like riding a bicycle. No matter how many people tell you how, or how many books or articles you read, you never learn how until you get on and try.

Remember how when learning to ride a bike you always fell down a few times and

got discouraged and your parents smiled and just said, "It's OK, you are just beginning." That is how it is witnessing to people in the beginning. You always make a few mistakes, and the Spirit of Truth will just smile and say, "It's OK, you are just beginning."

Also, like bicycling, when introducing the Book, you have to be aware of the road conditions, because you might fall into a hole and disable your bike. You have to be aware of your speed, or otherwise you might fall behind with a very intellectual mind, or go too fast for the average person.

If a man were to plan a bike trip to the south, he would take clothing for warm weather. And if he were to go to the north, he would take clothing for cold weather. And as we go riding into the paths of higher communication with our brothers and sisters, we must dress ourselves accordingly. If we are speaking to a Bible believer, then we must "dress" ourselves to the Bible. If we are speaking to someone of the Mormon religion, then we must know some of their doctrines. A good cyclist always plans for a long journey and is always prepared for the short ones.

As you ride through the streets of communication with others, always be courteous and aware of other's needs. It's sometimes difficult to ride at first, but if you start slow, before you know it, you will have found your balance and will soon learn to love the joys of making contact.



Always remember on your journeys through life, whether you ride through the dark tunnels of uncertainty or down the peaceful valley of happiness toward the eternal sunset, the Spirit of Truth will always be there smiling and saying, "**THIS IS THE WAY**".

Remember that all of our work is merely a part of the larger work. Don't let service of the Book take precedence over the service of God. Don't let the presentation of the Book interfere with your service to God's children and hopefully, with your enhancement, the relationship between God and His children.

Are you really a Urantian?

by Clyde Bedell

HOW ENGAGING and effective a lover of Jesus and of God are you, really. The Jesusonian (URANTIA Book) religion is a religion of outreach, demanding constant awareness of the spiritual deprivations around us. Jesus knows of these deprivations in Boulder, Boston, Miami, Chicago, Seattle, Los Angeles, Dallas and everywhere. That is why we have a Revelation, our Revelation, on this planet.

Not to be responsive, alert, constantly ready for volunteering aid (adroitly and gracefully) for our fellow men that can lead to spiritual well-being, spiritual growth, and fearless living, is a denial and betraying of Jesus—the Jesus we all claim to love and follow as Urantians. He is presumably the source and channel of our great spiritual satisfactions.

I know of no Urantian believers who say: "I believe in all the U Book except Jesus' instructions to us. I don't take him seriously". Yet IN SCORES OF URGENT INSTRUCTIONS TO US, AND DEMANDS UPON US, Jesus insists that we must constantly and persistently spread his Gospel to the world. Are you and your compatriot reader-believers really doing that?

Jesus specifically says that we--You and I--must preach, teach, disseminate, his

If you want to do the most for the kingdom, then show people that you yourself are already in the kingdom. This is done by letting the fruits of the spirit show. If you want to make friends, then you must make yourself friendly. Show people that you are happy. Smile, show your kindness, and above all enjoy your life with God.

Jesus could not have stated it any more clear when he made the pronouncement that "The harvest is indeed plenteous, but the laborers are few; therefore I exhort all of you to pray that the Lord of the harvest will send still other laborers into his harvest." May our Father's will always be your will. •

"Jesus insists that we spread his gospel to the world. Are you really doing that?"

message of our Revelation "to all races", "in each" and "in all generations", "now and forever", "even to the end of the earth", "to rich and poor, Jew and gentile, young and old, male and female", "to every man, woman and child", "to all nations", "all races", "to all mankind", "in each successive generation".

Surely these and MANY MORE words and demands of Jesus should stir a deep contrition in your heart, if you are not obeying them. Can you think of any man, woman or youth you know or will meet or may have as a friend, who is not included in Jesus's clear detailing of those to be reached?

All of those words are Jesus' repeated challenges to you and me, his commissions and responsibilities placed upon you and me, and upon EVERYONE WHO READS AND ACCEPTS The URANTIA Book. Aren't you willing and anxious to do the evangelizing Jesus directs you to do? Now, wherever you are?

Do you ignore the injunctions of Jesus, the Creator of our universe? That is a horrendous and accountable failure. Are you or aren't you dedicated, changed and helped by your belief and faith? Are you just a superficial, rather selfish Urantian, a reader of the Book for enjoyment and your private enlightenment? Are you a reader who triflingly bandies and babbles words about our supernal Book only with your Urantia reader acquaintances? Are you indifferent to



the frightful moral sickness of our world, and to the many spiritually distressed souls within your reach? If you sympathetically seek to discover them you can find them. Are you a reader who basks in the good fortune of being among the few early beneficiaries of a bi-millennium Epochal Revelation—world bestowed for over 4 billion people? How many of the 4 billion's immortal souls are "the dent you have made" for Jesus?"

How many in 30 years has our entire slogging, sluggish Movement reached and transformed? (Fewer than 150,000 Books have been sold in 30 years. At that rate, we can reach only ONE billion adults and youth in 200,000 years. Many religious books sell 150,000 copies their first year. But their prices are sensible and their publishers are service-oriented. It seems certain that only 10% to 20% of The URANTIA Book owners who have no study aid, become permanent Urantia readers. Fewer than 10% of The URANTIA Book owners have learned of and bought the principal U Book study aid. Only studying and continuing to read and study makes a "Urantian".

How many teacher-leaders of the thousands we are supposed to train for the world, have we trained? How many Study Groups of the thousands we were instructed to form, have we started? Don't think that two or three people talking The URANTIA Book once in a while, constitutes a study group. How many of the many translations

into foreign languages we were instructed to see financed, have we made possible?

Are your neighbors, the people you work with, the friends you see at meetings or on committees, the professional people you must now and then contact, the persons you employ for this or that at work or at home, your childrens' teachers, are all of these people spiritually anchored and content?

You will learn fast with the help of your unseen friends, how to evangelize, if you are CONSTANTLY on the qui vive, listening, watching, waiting for opportunities to naturally turn a conversation, a question, a remark into an introduction—NOT of The URANTIA Book—but a few words that WILL lead naturally into The URANTIA Book. If you can get a spiritually dispossessed or "hung up" friend or acquaintance into a natural discussion of The URANTIA Book, go slow without being pushy. Hold back a little, and ask mentally that you be guided by the celestial onlookers who are waiting to help you. Don't expect to be a highly effective evangel in your first attempts. Your own soul will be buoyantly happy as you improve. What greater service on earth can you render the typical undedicated human being near you, who is wandering in a spiritual wasteland—than to get into his or her willing hands the Single Greatest Material Thing on This Earth—The URANTIA Book?

In a committee report, written or oral, use a U Book quote. Some hungry heart may sooner or later bless you therefore, as she or he arrives in Paradise. Write a letter for your newspaper to publish, use a U Book idea and mention the source. It is time the great URANTIA secret be let out, that there is an Epochal Revelation here now, given to transform our sadly ill planet through the transformation of men and women.

"Oh, Oh" you say, "We would be violating the Foundation's and the Brotherhood's strict injunctions, if we aggressively handle the Urantia Message. Don't you know that a high Foundation official at the recent Wisconsin Conference told his audience: "If anyone wants to publicize The URANTIA Book, or if any media people want to interview you, you refer them to me. I will make The URANTIA Book sound dull and uninteresting, so they won't want to do an interview". Yes that's the unbelievable truth, reported to me by two dedicated Urantians who were present.

This is suppression, not aggression. Jesus taught his followers: "You are to be aggressive in preaching this gospel". The book tells us Jesus was "an aggressive child" (1366). As a youth, we are told he had "an aggressive temperament" (1396). It tells us he was an "aggressive man" (1461). Jesus covered on foot an astonishing area, not withholding, but spreading his gospel which we have in The URANTIA Book, that he tells us to spread to the ends of the earth, in all generations, now and forever. It is the message the Declaration of Trust says the Foundation was created to promote. Incidentally, every Trustee signed that formal document signifying his or her promise to obey it.

My response to the Foundation official speaking in Wisconsin is simple and clear. I have been inspired to spend many years and much substance to help spread the Gospel through creation of the non-profit Concordex. In those many years I have read The URANTIA Book much, and combed its blessed content for guidance for all readers, but I have never been able to discover a single sentence in its million plus words that says: "Obey Jesus and The URANTIA Book with its 90 plus insistent commands to eternally spread his Gospel, except when the human Trustees of the URANTIA Foundation in Chicago says: 'Don't obey Jesus, obey us'". •

The Statement on Publicity

"Repeatedly he told them it was not his desire that those who believed in him should become dogmatized and standardized in accordance with the religious interpretations of even good men." (1592)

Outreach for the 80's

by Terry Kruger

Dear Friends:

In February of 1983, URANTIA Brotherhood "re-affirmed" its "long-standing" policy of not publicizing the Book in "any of its various outreach efforts." Since the inception of URANTIA Brotherhood this policy has been passed along, until it reached its current written form. It has been urged upon loyal readers as part of the plan of "patient evolutionary development."

The lengthy statement sent to General Councilors was abridged and sent to the readership at-large in September of '83. That statement is easily more interesting for what it neglects to say than for what it does. A brief examination reveals the misleading foundations and outdated assumptions which are strung together to dissuade those who take seriously the command of Jesus to preach, publish and proclaim his gospel to the whole world. Some activists dismiss the policy, saying it places no restrictions on them or their efforts, since they choose to ignore it; that it has made the Brotherhood "irrelevant."

At the simplest levels, the children of the Most Highs realize that we are all one;

that we are inseparably linked in uncountable ways from here to the reaches of eternity. To disregard the actions of Brotherhood members is to diminish ourselves, to eventually find we are on the pathway to trouble to save our "ease-drifting souls." Hence we are left with certain responsibilities when we recognize that some decisions are so ill-advised they warrant our strong dissent and persistent objection.

The Statement on Publicity is such a decision. It stands clearly as an example of what the Master meant when it is said it was "not his desire that those who believed in him should become dogmatized and standardized in accordance with the religious interpretations of even good men. Again and again he warned his apostles against the formulation of creeds and the establishment of traditions as a means of guiding and controlling believers in the gospel of the Kingdom."

Ironically, this policy owes some of its new lease on life to yet another unfortunate circumstance: the appearance of Vern Grimsley at the Executive Committee meeting which debated the question of outreach publicity. At this meeting, Mr. Grimsley related his "message" from our celestial friends that "It is not time to publicize the book." Under these circumstances, the committee agreed, save one.



As events unfolded over the months, it became clear to many that regardless of the source of Grimsley's "voices" our loyalties belong first and foremost to the Universal Father; not to a human interloper. Many respected leaders in our movement, their loyalties misplaced in Mr. Grimsley, responded to this crisis by assisting in the proliferation of his "messages." Yet can we be surprised that such an event took root in a movement commissioned by Jesus to spread his word throughout the world, but whose leaders instead perpetuate a policy to prevent those who would set about accomplishing such a goal? Have we not

stood by silent, as our leaders passed on a tradition of only sharing the news of the Fifth Epochal Revelation on a person-to-person basis, while we sat in our study groups reading the numerous exhortations to proclaim his saving gospel to the entire world?

Where are the translations sponsored by URANTIA Foundation? Where are the well planned strategies for introducing the "Word made Book" into the mainstreams of religious thought throughout the world? Where are the "missionary evangelists" of the greatest revelation of this epoch?

Our readership is already rich in

"Repeatedly he told them..."

talented, enthusiastic, inspiring, tireless men and women, who are more than ready to take up the challenge put forth by the Master so many years ago. A generation of URANTIA Book readers who rely solely on the life and teachings of Jesus as revealed on the pages of The URANTIA Book are beginning the dissemination of this revelation; to those who would devote further energy to "forestalling by decades" the day it will become "necessary" to speak out, we say, read the very words you claim to safeguard:

"If you are not a positive and missionary evangel of your religion, you are self-deceived..." "The time is ripe to witness the figurative resurrection of the human Jesus from his burial tomb amidst the theological traditions and the Nazareth must no longer be sacrificed to even the splendid concept of the glorified Christ. What a transcendent service if, through this revelation, the son of man should be recovered from the tomb of traditional theology and be presented as the living Jesus."

But surely you have read these words before. Are we so content in the glory of this great Book that we cannot perceive our established leaders are out of touch with the vanguard of spiritual awakening on Urantia? Do we accept without question their appraisal of today's world as "characterized by chaos and confusion?" Are you personally not aware of a new awakening in the world, a search for spiritual meaning? Secular media, characterized as not emphasizing the good by the writers of the Publicity Statement, have been reporting for some years on the sudden and expansive growth of a world-wide religious hunger which is spreading across all boundaries to stir the

souls of mankind. Is it so surprising that religion has become a major issue in our recent political election? Have you not witnessed the moral dilemmas develop on topics ranging from abortion, euthanasia, test tube conception and genetic engineering? The world is searching, sometimes desperately, for answers to these and many other questions; and we hold the key to many of the answers. But we have not yet learned that God helps those who help themselves; and he will not lift a finger in our behalf until we resolve, and act, to help ourselves.

Make your embrace of the Father's Will, demonstrate the courage of the spirit-born faith son. Do what you can, whenever you can, with anyone willing to spread the word of this new Revelation, now lying dormant on the pages of 120,000 copies of The URANTIA Book that aren't being read; this is not the result of the Book doing its own work, this is our work waiting to be done.

Join with other men and women who are dedicated to not wasting another day on Urantia without planning and doing whatever possible to disseminate the Fifth Epochal Revelation to the peoples of the world, as we are instructed by its very pages.

Finally may I whet your appetite with the words of Jesus:

"Are you fearful, soft, and ease-seeking? Are you afraid to trust your future in the hands of the God of truth, whose sons you are? Are you distrustful of the Father, whose children you are? Will you go back to the easy path of the certainty and intellectual settledness of the religion of traditional authority, or will you gird yourselves to go forward with me into that uncertain and troublous future of proclaiming the new truths of the religion of the spirit, the kingdom of heaven in the hearts of men?" •

Ministry in the workplace

by Chris LePine & Jeanette Guimond

"To become acquainted with one's brothers and sisters, to know their problems and to learn to love them, is the supreme experience of living." (P.1431)

The places we work provide countless

opportunities to practice our spiritual friendliness. Your dominant state of mind should be to display a personality that offers kindness, trust and good cheer. Make yourself AVAILABLE to your brothers and sisters. Each encounter you have with a co-worker should be one of greeting the spiritual presence within that individual and making whatever task it is your working on a pleasant experience, (no power trips,

intimidation, definitely an attitude of brotherly love). In essence, living the spiritual revelation of the Father.

By learning at what level the will of your co-worker is focused, we can better serve and love them. Throughout the day shine the light of your Father through your acts and through your eyes. In this way your fellows will be attracted to you. A person may ask you, "Why are you so happy?" Now is the time to allow the Spirit to function through you. Answer from the heart, by doing this, one is creative, fresh and REAL.

In order to share the book it is wise to have at least two sets to lend of The URANTIA Book and the Concordex. These can be lent for approximately two months. One man overheard me stating my viewpoint on parenting and child abuse and he stated that he liked what I had to say. I responded by saying that if he liked those viewpoints, I knew a book that he'd LOVE. He is now in possession of a lender set.

One sure way to let people know you are available is to share written poetry, anecdote or creative writings that mirror Jesusonian philosophy. By copying and

distributing bits of higher consciousness, you are opening the door to a conversation regarding spiritual matters. This can be easily done on someone's birthday, holiday, building a friendship or even bereavement.

I once made a one page grouping of selected quotations in order to assist a man in his role chairing a meeting which was often fraught with negativity. This was offered voluntarily on my part and this incident led to numerous conversations and his later purchase of The URANTIA Book.

Any opportunity you have to read the Book in the lunchroom or in a group setting is a guaranteed adventure. This almost always starts up a conversation with a curious person or someone who recognizes the book.

Many people you meet and greet with the spirit within will be best helped by your personal ministry (your time, patience and encouragement); but many are curious and hungry to evaluate and learn from the same source that has changed our lives.

The key is decision making, choosing to respond to the Divine leadings. If we truly desire to do our Father's will, we ACT. •

From the BOULDER SCHOOL

The Boulder School for Students of The URANTIA Book is pleased to announce that the "Evolution on URANTIA" chart that was done up by Saskia Raevouri is available upon request from the School.

Video tapes on seminars given at The Boulder School for Students of The URANTIA Book are now available through the School and anyone interested in viewing some of these tapes should contact the School for a directory of selections available.

Anyone who has done studies that pertain to The URANTIA Book, The Boulder School would greatly appreciate your sharing them with the school so that the students may benefit from your work.

Attention

Study Group Leaders

This insert is to let you know that more questionnaires are available upon request for any member of study group who would like to express their opinions on the issues discussed in the publication.

We would also like to inform your study group members that they may have their names added to our mailing list so that they may receive this publication in the future. Since this publication is free of charge they don't have to worry about donations or contributions.

Please send your requests to The Editor of the Planetary Prints, 745 South 41st Street, Boulder, Colorado 80303, or phone (303)-494-8493.

To think of becoming proficient in The URANTIA Book without a Concordex is like attempting to master the English language without a dictionary."

THE NEW CONCORDEX

by Jennifer Pickering

Newly enlarged and revised, the Third Edition of Clyde Bedell's Concordex of The URANTIA Book will soon be available in bookstores. It has been my honored privilege to assist Clyde Bedell in the preparation of the Third Edition of this unique aid to the study of The URANTIA Book since April of 1983. Thus can I testify to the uncompromised dedication of an 86 year-old Urantian to further improve this invaluable gift to the readers of an epochal revelation.

The Concordex (which approximates the combined forms of a concordance and an index) effectively maps the terrain of The URANTIA Book, which is a virtual gold mine of references illuminating both the confusion of our history and the uncertainty of our future; but without an index, the myriad references contained in The URANTIA Book may easily become lost to us in the sheer immensity of the Book itself. The very dimensions and complexity of such a revelation beg the aid of some kind of index — a challenge that the revelators have left to human enterprise and ingenuity. And if it were an easy task, other attempts would have succeeded long ago.

The first edition of The URANTIA Book contained the following notice:

"An exhaustive index of The URANTIA Book is published in a separate volume."

But, as we all know, such a separate volume was never published, perhaps owing to the considerable difficulties involved in attempting to index so vast a document. In any case, where collective and even tax-deductible resources and efforts to produce some kind of index to The URANTIA Book have thus far failed, the persistence of Clyde Bedell has prevailed and succeeded. Moreover, he was determined to perfect the result of so much work insofar as every possible human effort may make possible. How, therefore, could any sincere student of The URANTIA Book not avail themselves of so valuable a resource as The Concordex?

There are features in The Concordex, some old and some new, of which you may not be aware — features helpful as study

Bryon Belitsos

aids or in the preparation of papers, for example. Many have used The Concordex merely to look up the odd entry, without discovering the value of the manner in which The Concordex has been composed; for The Concordex has been designed, above all, to be helpful in the study and use of The URANTIA Book. Thus, for example, when and if you should find yourself short on faith, The Concordex will quickly put you in touch with over 400 entries on the subject of faith within the pages of The URANTIA Book. Even the admonitions of Jesus (direct and indirect) are indexed by The Concordex. Other categories include "Women in The URANTIA Book", "Evangelization", "Jesus Contacts", "Jesus Quotes", as well as new entries under "Ego", and "Reality". An entire article could be written about the many special features of The Concordex; however, in this new and enlightened age you will enjoy discovering them for yourselves.

I believe I speak for all of us who study The URANTIA Book when I say that we owe a great debt to the author of The Concordex. Thank you, Clyde. Generations of us will cherish the gift that you have left behind as a map to the vast and wondrous domain that is this epochal revelation of God to man. •



The Old Concordex

by Don Guimond

When I had first decided that I wanted to say something about The Concordex, back in October, I felt that I needed to try to remain as objective in this statement as possible. I knew that Clyde felt this, for when I talked to him about it, he said that he wanted me to write something, that I felt would help The Concordex in the future.

The first thing I did was ask Clyde, "What have other people said about The Concordex?" I had little idea at that time what I had gotten myself into. Clyde took me to his files. In these files are hundreds of letters from people who have written him concerning The Concordex. He said that I could quote what these individuals had written on the subject. So I picked out a few of these letters and have done my best to quote only that which concerns The Concordex.

"To an avid reader of The URANTIA Book, the Concordex is a must and the Book, itself, a glorious reading adventure". Mildred Bucklin

"(The Concordex) is what it takes to **HELP READERS** understand our new revelation, The URANTIA Book. The exciting experience in the use of the Concordex is in constructing a new concept by the use of the many related references before affirming a Supreme idea." Georgia Gecht

"I read with great interest the preliminary pages to the Concordex and feel they are well written, meaningful and helpful. I have already made much use of the Concordex and I am appreciative for its existence. Your 'labor of love' will enrich the use and effect of The URANTIA Book to individuals many times over." William M. Hales

"The Concordex... has proved invaluable. Your contribution to the teachings has been great." Mrs. Robert W. Meyers

"The Concordex is the indispensable key in the search for that beautiful phrase or concept once seen but now lost among the over one million words which constitute The URANTIA Book." Jim Mills

"No one who is truly a student of the Book can penetrate its depths without the Concordex. To think of becoming proficient in the U Book without this

assistance is like attempting to become a master of the English language without owning a dictionary." Bryon Belitsos

"Hear constant praise on your Concordex - it is such a help to so many". Berkeley Elliott

"The Concordex... provides even richer reader-aid for all readers, oldtimers and new. Using the Concordex enables The URANTIA Book to give instant response to us from its immensely important wisdom and revelation." Ruth Carothers

"I have always found your 'labor of love' a most useful tool, whether it be in study group sessions or in my personal study of the URANTIA teachings." John Hales

"I can appreciate the tremendous effort and the great amount of time which went into this exhaustive compilation. I am sure it will be extremely helpful and that readers of The URANTIA Book will be very grateful to you." Edith Cook.

"It is really a wonderful job of indexing. I am sure it will be a great help in my study of The URANTIA Book." Emma (Christy) Christensen

"The Concordex is the most thorough and indispensable study aid to The URANTIA Book available to the readers. It is a resource which every serious student of The URANTIA Book cannot afford to be without." Meredith Sprunger

"God bless the Concordex. It is such an enormous help in penetrating the complexities of the URANTIA volume." Seklemian

"The Concordex offers comfort and convenience for a newcomer, and a continuing resource for the established reader." Helena E. Sprague

"The Concordex is an indispensable aid to those who desire to maximize their understanding of The URANTIA Book. For the serious student the only alternative... is to repeat the remarkable feat of Clyde Bedell..., a greater percentage of beginners would stick with their reading if... the Concordex were utilized." Eldred Cocking

"It is amazing how many different aspects there are to these topics and how effective the Concordex was in the careful systematic search for the answers in The URANTIA Book. I have used the Concordex continually with my URANTIA Book activities through the years." Julia Fenderson

"No student of The URANTIA Book should for an instant consider being without

one. I eagerly await the enlarged 3rd edition." Harry McMullen III

"The Concordex is a tremendous asset in the study of The URANTIA Book. I have used it for years and have introduced it to readers around the world." Vern Bennom Grimsley

In trying to remain objective in this matter I discussed with Clyde the only criticism I had ever heard on The Concordex. In our discussions Clyde acknowledged that he had heard some of this criticism before, but the individuals involved almost always failed to make their criticism specific enough to correct anything. This criticism is usually in the form of objecting to the content of the first 50 pages, the introduction. In my discussions with Clyde he said that he realized that an introduction would have to change over time to remain effective with different generations and ages. Primary on Clyde's mind was "to improve

The Concordex, so it would be the most effective study aid any Urantian could have at their disposal." He welcomed people to give him specific examples of how he could improve and enhance its ability to help people discover the wonders of The URANTIA Book. I would like to take the opportunity to asked all of you to do something for me and for Clyde, if you don't have a Concordex try to borrow one, read the first 50 pages of it. Pray on it, think on it, then write me and tell me what you think about them. If any of you have a criticism, please try your hardest to be specific about it.

The Concordex to me has been a very valuable aid in my pursuit of the teachings of The URANTIA Book. The Concordex has helped me, now I'm trying to repay that debt by helping it. If The Concordex has helped you, couldn't you try also to repay that debt by helping it. •

RMUSD Planning Committee

by Jane Roper

At the September 1983 meeting of The Rocky Mountain URANTIA Society of Denver these questions were raised several times, "What is our mission? What is our purpose and direction? Who are we as a society?" Linda McNelly said that these were always complex discussion topic because of the diversity of personalities represented by our membership. JoAnn Brummett made a motion that a Special Meeting of the Society be called to re-evaluate the purpose of our Society. And this motion was seconded and passed by the assembly, with Mo Siegal volunteering to chair the meeting, citing his experience in business at bringing a group to agreement in setting goals.

In December 1983, the meeting was held to determine our group's purpose. The discussion that followed was spirited and covered such topics as our constitutional goal to foster study groups; help achieve the goals of URANTIA Brotherhood; and as the discussion evolved we came to the differing levels of purpose. We realized that purpose

was functioning on the personal/individual, social/group and the organizational levels. We discussed how these related to our mission of spreading the Gospel and bringing men closer to God by infiltrating established religious groups, disseminating the teachings in our daily lives, and building a loving, educated society that supports fellow readers in developing a loving, Jesusonian lifestyle. We felt our primary loyalty is to the will of the Father, and then to the totality of mankind, using The URANTIA Book as our guide.

After much discussion, a motion was passed to form a Planning Committee that would be advisory, not decision-making, to guide the group on a continual basis in formulating our goals. It was expressed that this committee would help people move to agreement, be healthy for the society and that it would encourage teamwork, cooperation and facilitate the process of relinquishing individual will to group will to God's will. This Planning Committee would be a research group that solicits and coordinates varied opinions from the assembly.

Various people volunteered to serve on the committee and Jane Roper agreed to function as a facilitator, with Mo Siegal

given responsibility to teach the planning format he knew through his work with the Fraternal Relations Committee of the Brotherhood and his own business. The assembly moved that the Planning Committee would determine their own working structure and that the President of the Society would be a committee member.

The first meeting of the Planning Committee was held March 5, 1984. The members of the committee were Mo Siegal, Jill & Bob Hull, Jack Kane, Archie Anderson, Paula Thompson, JoAnn Brummett, John Hay, Don Guimond and John & Jane Roper. We have had many visitors to our committee meetings and their contributions have always been very appreciated and welcomed.

Our first category to tackle was our Belief statement. Through brainstorming we came up with seven different topics we wanted to address our beliefs regarding: our Society, The URANTIA Book, the Brotherhood and other Societies, Education, Outreach, Growth, and the Family. Each committee member was assigned the task of writing a paragraph on a specific topic to be discussed with the whole group at the next meeting. During subsequent meetings we thoroughly discussed, revised, edited, and

finally came to agreement on the various topics. One of our members, Jack Kane, felt we were creating a creed and much spirited discussion ensued as we together explored our feelings as regarded his concern. The conclusion we came to was that the belief statement was not set in concrete and that it would certainly evolve.

The Belief statement was sent to each Society member for their thoughts and revisions. We received a few responses and thoughtfully considered them in our statement. The Belief statement and the work-in-progress of the Planning Committee was given general support by the assembly of the Society at our September meeting, and we were encouraged to continue the process into our Mission, Objectives and Action plans, this is now happening.

The Planning Process is hard work, time consuming, and requires the exhilarating experience of really listening to your brothers and sisters and acquiring a sympathetic appreciation for their point of view. None of us has the game plan for "running a revelation" in our hip pocket and I have found the process of allowing group wisdom to function to have enormous value in my experience. •

Things you can use

Science

In the August 1984 issue of TIME Magazine there was an article that described what scientist had just discovered at the center of the Milky Way galaxy. The findings have set astrophysics on its proverbial ear. From the article I quote: "...the belt of gas rises up at a right angle to the plane of the Milky Way."

You will find on page 652 of The URANTIA Book, which describes how the forces of a nebula are started and as you will read the similiar usage of words is uncanny. I quote: "...the living force organizers simply withdraw at right angles to the plane of the revolutionary disk..."

I definitely feel that this is an example we can use whenever we are trying to turn someone on to The URANTIA Book, who might have a scientific orientation. Most Bible students will tell you that the test of revelation is that there is prophecy contained within it. Well, to me this is a clear case of scientific prophecy. •

Bible

Many people have expressed a problem that they experience whenever they have to deal with someone who is really into the "Atonement Doctrine". This problem is expressed in their comments of "How can I talk to this person, express my feelings on this doctrine and at the same time not offend them."

I personally feel that there are at least a dozen excellent arguments to this problem. While I use the word argument it should be remembered that you don't want to argue but if someone insists on attacking this can be used to "parry the thrust".

The first thing I try to point out is that to be fundamental means to believe the most fundamental things in the Bible. Next I ask them whose words do they feel are more fundamental Paul's or Jesus's. The answer must always be, the Son of God best knows God.

Once I have established this I point out John 17:4 where John quotes Jesus as saying "I have finished the work which Thou gavest Me to do", well since this took place before his execution, his execution couldn't have been his work.

Also I quote John the Baptist, the greatest prophet of the Old Testament, in John 1:29 as saying, "Behold the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world". Now as you will notice sin is singular not plural so the sin he must be talking about is the sin of the rebellion and default. Now I know some of you are thinking that Jesus never died for any sin, but in portraying his atoning in this manner we have eliminated the personal sins aspect of the atonement argument.

When involved in a discussion on this matter ask the individual you are talking to "Where in the bible is the bulk of the atonement verses?" They usually try to tell you that it is in all of the New Testament, but will acknowledge that most of christian theology uses Romans. Then ask them "What is the nature of almost all of Paul's writings?" Anyone who has studied the bible will tell you that all his works were geared towards a person or church who had a problem. In Paul's day two problems were killed with one atonement. One problem was why don't we as Christians sacrifice just like the Jews and heathens. In Paul's atonement theology Jesus is the Final Sacrifice. The second problem has to do with the fact that if Jesus is the Son of God how could some men have killed Him. Since Paul's God of atonement demanded this sacrifice of his only begotten Son, Jesus allowed these men to kill him. Theologically this line of reasoning was probably very effective in Paul's day.

Again in the epistle of Paul to the Romans there is a very good quote that

clearly states that "you shall be save by his (Jesus) life" (Rom 5:10).

There are many more quotes which can be used and anyone who would like more information on this or any other bible problem please contact Don Guimond.

Another problem area in the Bible is the attitude "The Bible and the Bible only". This problem is very easy to deal with. Just ask them where in the Bible it states this, if they know their Bible they will say Revelations 22:18-19. When you read this quote it becomes clear that John was referring to the Book of Revelations only. If they refuse to accept this answer then ask them where else in the Bible is this "The Bible and the Bible only," stated. Most will not know so you can tell them that it is in Proverbs 30:6, which basically says the same thing that Revelations states. Now if you are to take this statement in the same sense as before, then since Proverbs was written about 1000 B.C. this statement must invalidate not only the Prophets, but also the entire New Testament. Well no one yet has been willing to admit this, usually they respond that if the work is consistent with the theme of the Bible then it can be added. Which leaves us only one step from gaining their support of The URANTIA Book. •

PAMPHLETS

The pamphlets "Origin of The URANTIA Book", "Spiritual Perspectives for a New Age", "The Church and The URANTIA Book", "The URANTIA Book and our Christian Heritage" are available from Meredith Sprunger at The Christian Fellowship of Students of The URANTIA Book, 4109 Plaza Drive, Fort Wayne, Ind. 45806.

The pamphlets "Introduction to The URANTIA Book", "Why I Believe The URANTIA Book", and "Jesus and The URANTIA Book" are available through the Asoka Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 82009, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73148.

CLYDE BEDELL GRADUATES

Look out Mansion Worlds!

by Don Guimond

On January 22, 1985 a man who has given his life to the URANTIA Movement, moved on to better things. We were all sad to lose our dear friend, but happy that he was finally able to be with Florence, his wife, and many other old time friends who were probably waiting for Clyde on the Mansion Worlds.

This issue of The Planetary Prints is dedicated to Clyde Bedell for it truly reflects many of the things Clyde stood for and loved. RMUSD is also pleased to announce that a special commemorative edition for Clyde Bedell of The Planetary Prints will be forthcoming in the next few months.

I would like to take this opportunity to share with all of you something that Clyde wrote not long before his departure. It is a piece I had planned on using for something else, but it reflects some of his thoughts concerning his own passing:

William Sadler Jr.

WILLIAM (BILL) SADLER, Jr., was a boy when I joined the Sadler Forum in his



father's home in September of 1924. I had no idea then that when the boy became an authoritative specialist in personnel selection as an adult, we would become cronies of a sort. I was in advertising, serving newspapers and leading department stores across the country. He was primarily serving industrial firms. We spent several comradely weekends together here or there during our travels in our work, so I introduced him to the newspaper and department store fields.

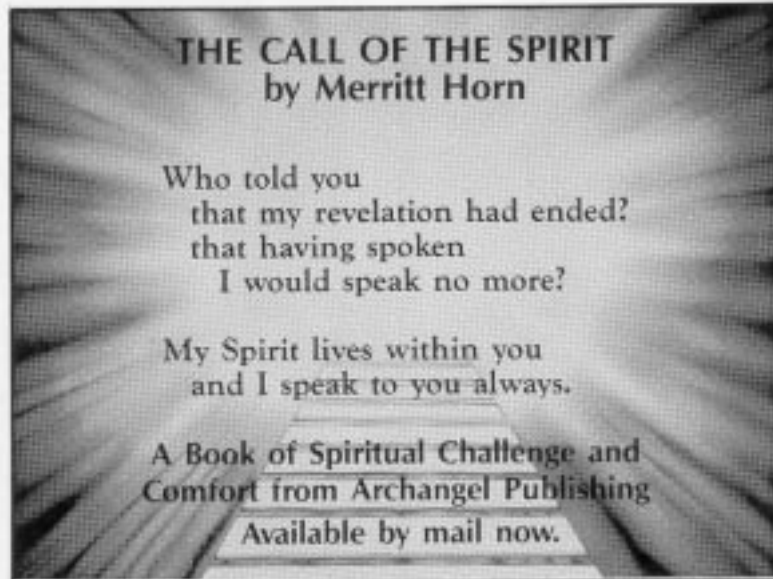
We got together more frequently thereafter. Bill was one of the most interesting men I have ever known. His conversation flowed from a vastly superior intellect flavored, colored, and understructured by a simply prodigious knowledge and understanding of The URANTIA Book papers. Bill had an outsized sense of humor, a fluency of speech and an engaging personality.

All readers of the book may some day learn of the great debt they owe him for the many hours of lectures on The URANTIA Book which he delivered to Urantians in two different western cities, now on cassette tapes and being offered to the general readership in this newsletter. Bill also wrote two books titled: A Study of the Master Universe, and APPENDICES to Study of the Master Universe. Bill died in late 1963. He never saw his books printed and later published. The books and these tapes testify to his clarity of thought and expression and to his prodigious knowledge of The URANTIA Book.

One of the Urantians high on my list to see early when I reach The Mansion Worlds will be Bill Sadler, Jr. Perhaps we can renew the intimate relationship which became disjointed when Bill removed himself from the original Urantia inner circle.

Well, Clyde by now you've probably met all your old friends and renewed many good times. We will miss your presence amongst us, and look forward ourselves to seeing our old friend Clyde when we make it to the Mansion Worlds. •

Anyone interested in more information concerning these cassettes of seminars by Bill Sadler, Jr. contact The Boulder School.



To order, mail \$5.95 along with your name and address to Archangel Publishing, P.O. Box 1077, Lafayette, CO 80026. Or call (303) 666-4354 to order using MC/VS.

Trade discounts available to bookstores and churches.

The Call of the Spirit

Don Guimond

As some of you I'm sure are aware, Merritt Horn is a co-founder of The Boulder School for Students of The URANTIA Book and was the first instructor at the school. If any of you remember the article that appeared in the last issue of The Planetary Prints you are well aware of the intellectual knowledge this individual has. When I first saw a copy of his new book I thought "Oh no, not another intellectual dissertation on Urantia concepts". How wrong I was.

I have found this work to be a very helpful and pleasurable piece of writing. Not only did I enjoy it personally as I was reading it, but I also found that it did a very good job of stating the good news of the gospel - that I am a child of God.

I have also found it to be an excellent piece of material that I can use as an initial introduction to people that show an interest in the good news, before I introduce them to The URANTIA Book.

I would highly recommend this book not only for your reading pleasure but also as a valuable tool you can use in your own outreach ministry. •