

# 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. •