



HOW THE URANTIA BOOK HAS INFLUENCED MY LIFE

I have been a student of the Urantia Book for about three and one-half years. Previous to exposure to these supernal writings, I possessed no understanding or awareness of spiritual realities. My childhood religious training had been wholly non-existent. My moral training, thanks to my loving parents, was based upon a universal brotherhood of man. However, the parentage of this brotherhood was uncertain.

As I grew and began to try to think for myself, my agnosticism evolved into atheism. This happened as a result of seeing the effects of traditional organized religion on the church members. So many of my friends who attended church regularly seemed to be enslaved and restrained from living and loving by many negative rules. This experience led me away from organized religion and because of my immaturity led me away from the search for spiritual realities suggested by the Christian religion.

As I grew into my twenties, I experienced a hunger for something inexplicable. This hunger led me to experiment with life in unusual ways. I became interested in astrology and other ideas of the occult. Along with this I began using psychedelic drugs. I found in myself a gnawing dissatisfaction with my life and a great confusion as to what my life meant, why I was here, where I was going, and what happened after death.

It was at this time I sought psychiatric help. I spent one and one-half years with a very helpful psychiatrist who did much to help me straighten my thinking.

However, I was still unsatisfied as to my basic questions concerning my destiny.

One day it occurred to me to find what Jesus had to say on these things. I knew he spoke on brotherly love but I knew nothing more of his teachings. I decided to go directly to the source of his teachings and determine for myself what this man taught over 2000 years ago. That would be of value to me. So I borrowed a copy of the Holy Bible and began to read the gospels starting with Matthew. As I read I became discouraged because my hunger was not being satisfied.

The Bible sounded so much like the religionists I had heard on radio, T.V., and elsewhere. So I abandoned the Biblical study. Like a miracle, at this very time a friend showed me a copy of the Urantia Book. I was immediately impressed and bought a copy that same day and began my intense reading.

This event marked the beginning of my entrance into the spiritual brotherhood. I began experiencing tremendous changes in my thinking concerning the existence of God and other matters. Several months after beginning reading, I was forced by the weight of my experience to accept the existence of God.

The tremendous change of belief was the direct result of reading the Urantia Book. My reading satisfied my intellectual sensibilities, my emotional needs, and my spiritual longings. Since that time my faith in the spirit realities of the heavenly kingdom has strengthened and my trust in the validity of the Urantia Book has become total.

--Kermit Anderson

EDITORS NOTE: Kermit Anderson has had an opportunity to join the Teachers' Corps. He will first do some teaching in Hartford, Connecticut, and then will go to Africa for two years. Godspeed to you, Kermit!

IN MEMORIAM

A service in memory of Audre Forsythe was held in Santa Monica Unity-By-the-Sea Church on Tuesday, July 18.

Vern Bennom Grimsley from Berkeley performed the service, which included the reading of poetry by Stevenson and Tennyson and readings from the Bible and the Urantia Book.

Audre was a diligent student of the Urantia Book and a member of the Santa Monica Study Group.

Those of us who knew Audre were blessed by knowing her. She had developed a strong faith and she lived by that faith.

Our love goes to Ray, her husband, to Scott, her son, and to Bonnie, her daughter. We wish her well in her ascent to the mansion worlds.

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Staff: Jeff Bedell, Ione Buie, Bill Fenderson

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

A DEVOTED URANTIAN--FRED H. SQUIRES

Fred H. Squires is a distinguished pioneer in the Urantia movement. In the early days in Chicago he was an ardent reader of the Papers, and later on in California he devoted himself to the work of the Urantia group on the west coast. He is a dedicated and beloved leader.

About a dozen former readers of the Urantia Papers met at Fern Dell Park in July 1945, where Fred was elected president of this first study group. This small band met about once a month through the years and studied the religions of the world--always with the hope that the book would soon be published.

The Urantia Book was finally published in 1955, and Fred immediately set up the processes of establishing our group as a Society. He applied for the second charter of the country and the world; the group met the requirements and was chartered on Oct. 2, 1956. Fred Squires was elected president of this group and is still serving as President Emeritus.

The first group was named the West Coast Urantia Society. Fred spent much of his time and money in helping newcomers who were attracted to this revelation. Fred continues to attend meetings, and when he speaks we all know that it comes from his heart and his deep insight and study of the Urantia Book over many years. --Julia Fenderson

JUNE AND JULY MEETINGS

The June meeting was three-fold. Polly Parke presented a paper, "As We Go Forward," setting forth some philosophic values for a religious school such as our School of Meanings and Values.

Nancy Hoag then presented a plan she had devised for including various types of programs meeting the needs of more people with the following aspects: business, social, intellectual, emotional, and spiritual. Later, during discussion, some members suggested a modified program that will incorporate all of these elements.

The program concluded with role playing skits by James and Pat McNelly, which demonstrated effective and ineffective ways of approaching people with the good news of the Urantia teachings. James and Pat brought out that we should look at our task in terms of whole systems with a broad understanding of why this revelation has been given to us in our present stage of evolution. Some very deep concepts were expressed, providing a take-off for questions and discussion relevant to a total philosophic approach.

At the July meeting Nancy Hoag led a discussion on the purpose of the Urantia Society and the School of Meanings and Values. There was agreement that we should keep a flexible format for the purposes of communication, fellowship, and spiritual inspiration. The idea was presented that topics bringing forth good participation and discussion should not be cut off for the purpose of conforming to a rigid agenda.

It was announced that a one-unit course based on study of the Urantia Book will be offered on Mondays from 7 to 10 p.m. at the University of California at Bakersfield starting in September. The class will be taught jointly by Drs. Robert W. Hunt and Philip Calabrese. (Interested persons please contact Julia Fenderson for further information.)

Pat McNelly presented a touching idea for a ceremony of remembrance of Jesus and his teachings. --Polly Parke

Deadline for receipt of articles for publication in the next issue of the Agondonter is Sept. 10, 1972.

Please send your contributions to Elizabeth Schiavo, 285 Pleasant Street, Pasadena, California 91101.