

AGONDONTER



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FIRST URANTIA SOCIETY OF LOS ANGELES

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SERVICE THROUGH STUDY GROUPS

One of the teachings of the URANTIA Book is that all service is sacred, that no effort toward the establishment of brotherhood is a menial task. Whether we are digging ditches, holding an office of public trust or spreading the good news, we are sharing the service motive.

In fact, we have been served with an injunction from the Creator Son himself to serve even as he has served. As Jesus, he even served by washing the feet of his apostles.

Have we all enlisted in the service? Are we now Soldiers of the Circles? Do we all stand out in the community as operators or service stations engaged in soul repair and universe maintenance?

With the wisdom of revelation enhancing the genetic wisdom of experience, we are sufficiently encircled to be of use and to promote the good as we walk by. We also have the circuits of courage and understanding with the perception to know when we are needed.

Religious services in the past may have appeared as often meaningless repetitions of words and dogmatic formulas, but the service of the new age is the living ministry of our daily lives as we seek new ways to serve spiritual food to our undernourished brothers and sisters.

We know three things concerning service for certain from the URANTIA Book: they are that the highest joy in service is in the establishment of homes, that service is the KEY and that it would be a transcendent service to lift up the Son of Man through the Spirit of Truth.

(Cont. on page 5)

FUSLA ACTIVITIES

Many Urantians with families have been diligently searching for ways to teach their children stories from the URANTIA Book. FUSLA was pleased to host Julia Fenderson, Southwest Field Representative and FUSLA Membership Chairman, at our July monthly meeting where she spoke to a gathering of about 40 friends and members about the work she has currently in progress dealing with the topic of reaching children with the teachings.

Julia told the group that since the family is the most desirable place for religious education, the parents must be well grounded in their faith and understanding before they could do an adequate job of religiously educating their children.

She showed us examples of some work which has already been prepared by Urantian parents stressing individuality, creativity, and love. Since younger couples are sprouting families, the time is ripe for believers to find fresh and progressive ideas to foster these new teachings within the homes and families, the most important social institutions.

In August, the L.A. area was bustling with activity. On the fifth, the assembled members selected the new governing board for the new year. Scott Forsythe and Bob Blackstock were chosen to second terms as President and Vice President. Dorothy Elder, last year's Secretary, is to chair the Education Committee. Wally Ziglar, our host at the Brentwood school, stays on as treasurer. Jim McNelly continues as "Agondonter" editor with his brother Pat staying on with the Book Committee. Our new Secretary is Pat

Bedell, Bonnie Abbott remains Hospitality Chairperson and Julia Fenderson still serves as Membership Director.

Along with hundreds of other Urantians and a probable host of Nebadon residents, FUSLA celebrated Jesus' birthday on August 21st. In an evening service at Brentwood school, two of our youngest friends, Jim and Denise Flanders, sang some Urantian songs written by Julia and her brother, Richard Squires.

Pat McNelly hosted an unforgettable remembrance supper which included prepared scenarios of the events surrounding the bestowal of Michael as well as the later institution of the remembrance supper.

Jim English and Gerry Ricci, the bards of FUSLA, then sang a musical arrangement of the hymn of redemption which had been sung by Simeon, a singer in the temple courts.

In other news, we are pleased to announce that Bob Hunt's talk is now available through the "Agondonter" for one dollar.

We also welcome back Kermit Anderson from thirteen months in Africa with the Peace Corps. We plan on a full story on Kermit in the next issue.

The next monthly meeting will be on the theme of "Service" and will be on September first at two o'clock at Brentwood School. P.M.

CHICAGO STUDY SESSION

At Kendall college in Evanston, Illinois on July 26 and 27, I witnessed a unique gathering of Urantians from several foreign countries and twenty-six states. We had all come, as if responding to the mind gravity circuit, to experience the 1974 URANTIA Brotherhood Summer Study Session.

People hitchhiked, drove, flew, walked and sailed to get there. It was like the camp at Pella during the times of Jesus. We shared rooms at the college, ate in the cafeteria together and literally became as one enormous 300-member family.

The chance for so many to become intimately involved with each other for three days proved to be as much of an uplifting spiritual experience as the talks and speeches themselves. Urantians everywhere you turned! Nothing like it had ever happened before.

Illinois, California and Oklahoma had the largest groups of travelers and for most, it was the first time they had socialized their emerging Urantian consciousness outside of their home areas. Study group leaders met with each other sharing ideas, young people talked with the older folks establishing those initial contacts that will insure continuity within the Brotherhood structure for the future.

The individuals I met stand out in my mind as dedicated, high-energy religionists. Always eager to greet a new friend and fellow of the brotherhood, they forged many service links in the faith chain that is becoming known as "Urantian".

The discourses and presentations were so comprehensive and involving that it would not do them justice to go over each one in a brief report such as this one. There were unofficial rumors that the talks may be printed into a single volume or be made available singularly.

With new readers appearing daily, who can estimate how many persons will be attending future conferences?

J.M.

OVERMUCH SPECULATION

Much speculation occurs over the topic of what form the next epochal revelation will take. Just whether the anyday appearance of any Divine Son would constitute a major revelation is a question in itself.

It is my opinion that the fact that the URANTIA Book is the fifth Urantian revelation may lead to the theory that this parallels the fifth level of God the Sevenfold, namely The Father and the Spirit.

Along these lines, the fourth would reveal the Father and the Son. Jesus would qualify for he was the Creator Son for this local universe. Melchizedek would have revealed the Spirit, Adam and Eve the Son, and Caligastia, the first portrayal of the Father.

The next revelation, following this line of reasoning, would be of the Son and the Spirit. Since the Spirit of Truth (revealed through the URANTIA Book) speaks only of Michael and not of itself, and Michael speaks only of the Father, then the Father is indeed the highest reality we can know.

Perhaps the next revelation will be our own evolution, at some time when each of us receives the spirit that finds the Father in the religious life of Jesus so that we would then be the "Sons with the Spirit"!

J.K.

FOGBOM

Vern Grimsley's radio program, produced through the Family of God Foundation, is on Sunday mornings at 7:35 A.M. on station KGHS, 1020 A.M. in the Los Angeles area. Vern can be heard presenting the teachings of Jesus as "The Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man."

a poem from prison

By Tom Wicks

Behind these iron prison bars
I found some meaning in the stars--
My heart was dark and full of flight
Before awakening to God's love and light.

Alone, I cried while in my cell
Thinking myself to be in hell--
My head was an arena of negative thought,
Shadows from things long ago I had sought.

My life had ended, so it seems,
Nothing left but vacant old dreams.
Nobody to call on, not a single friend,
"Yes" I thought, this must be the end.

Finally my egoish tears did dry,
Wrapped in "hell", I finally asked why?
Six months of questions in an endless search,
Cat-dancing I was from church to church.

Still confused as I lay down in my bed,
"Repeat after me" was all they said.
Like "Doubting Thomas" with analytical mind
I needed consistency to cling to a find.

Then on the "yard" one early August morning
A friend came by without much warning,
As he rapped of life and some "You-Ranchee" Book,
I was thinking "science fiction" with a hazy look.

(Cont...)

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(Cont..)

Need I say what a foolish
mistake
For me to think it a bogus
fake.
There I was, right from
the start,
Accusing without even
seeing a single part.

Thank-you Infinite Spirit
for holding my hand,
While my "ego-self" argued
its last futile stand.
Having had "self" take off
its sinful mask
I now find more peace than
anyone could ask.

Looking inward from my
mortal face
I began to explore my
"inner-space"
What a joy to come out
of the night,
To find God and his Love
and Light.

"Urantians" have saved my
life by their examples
Having seen their lifestyles
as living samples,
What words can I write or
what pleasant sound
Will ever express my love
for the three circles round.

Now when tempted to think
I'm all alone
I smile and realize "alone"
is "All One".

BEVERLEY WOLD IN RUSSIA

(Editor's note: Beverley Wold, a member of FUSLA, is one of fifty photographers from the United States in a cultural exchange with Russia. Here are excerpts from a letter she sent to the "Agondonter".)

The photography group I was with left New York the evening of June 26 on the big IL - 62 Russian Aeroflot jet airliner. For 14 days we saw western, or European, Russia from the Baltic Sea in the north to the lush southern resort area in the Black Sea. Not being able to speak Russian was a handicap with the

HAWAIIAN RETREAT

By Marian Salmo

From July 13-15 on the magnificent slopes of Mauna Kea (the highest mountain on URANTIA, measuring from the ocean floor), twenty-six Hawaiian Urantians from the "Big Island" gathered for a retreat.

Kalopa State Park provided excellent facilities for the Hilo and Kona study groups to meet. Many of the brothers and sisters from the different groups had never met before the retreat, thus it was an excellent opportunity for all the known Urantians of the island to come together and get acquainted.

The days and nights were spent in group study, sharing, prayer, healing ministry and worship. Occasionally there were breaks for fine feasts of island fruits and vegetables, which kept the intake of food as pure as the intake of pure thought.

The crisp, clean, mountain air and the crystal blue skies kept most of the daytime activities out in the sun. We gathered in a circle under the beautiful Ohia and Eucalyptus trees for the many different sessions.

On Sunday before worship, Marian Salmo read Christy's speech, "Love and Service," which was a great inspiration to all. On Monday, David Saunders was often being interrupted

people--but one could see and feel a great deal.

There is a feeling of "pioneer energy" in the people but not the tension we find in our big cities. Each large city seems to have elaborate exhibitions, like small world fairs, showing progress to the people in beautiful separate buildings in all areas of economy, science, agriculture, art, culture, etc.

Were the people friendly? Yes, they responded to a smile. They seemed as curious and uncertain of us as we were of them. It seems good that the common people of our two nations can get to know more about each other

by spontaneous laughter as he read Vern Grimsley's "Dynamics of Spiritual Growth." Adrienne Kulieke's poem, "Divine Lover" was an added treat for the group.

In the evenings after study we gathered around the fireplace in the large dining area to share our experiences along the path. Jonathan Adler closed the last group with his exquisite song, "I Just Want To Do the Will of My Father," which is a musical prayer if there ever was one.

To a ten-dollar bill that was mysteriously "found" in a flower patch, everyone added a dollar to purchase two URANTIA Books to be placed in a library and a prison on the island of Hawaii. The brother who found the ten-dollar bill had also found the treasure of the URANTIA Revelation while he was in prison through his fellow inmates. The retreat was a great inspiration to his soul growth.

Everyone went home recharged and relaxed with the promise to return to the next retreat which is scheduled for October thirty-first through November third. Any persons interested in this informal retreat or any of the "Big Island" activities should contact Marian Salmo through the "Agondonter" post office box or by calling Marian in Hawaii by phone at 808-935-3496.

first-hand without all the political angles.

The Russians love beauty, art, flowers, and seem very fond of children with many camps and tours for them. The brightest students were given free college educations in the area of their own choosing.

We were treated hospitably and felt free to go about as much, or wherever we wanted. The language problem, which prevented our asking or reading directions in Russian, was the greatest barrier to understanding what was going on behind the scenes. 3

By Mark Turrin

We received a bounteous number of positive comments about last issue's column, "The URANTIA Scholar's Quiz", and in this issue as we promised, we are printing the page references for you to look up the answers yourselves. We would have printed the precise answers ourselves, but we were told that study groups were using the quiz as a study aid, so we are giving only the page references. We hope that "The URANTIA Scholar's Quiz" will not only be entertaining, but informative and educational as well. We invite readers and study groups to submit their own favorites and we will include them in succeeding issues of the "Agondonter".

We trust that no one had any difficulty with the last questions, but just in case, here are the answers as well as some new questions to ponder.

1. p. 360	6. p. 349	11. p. 396	16. p. 1158
2. p. 270	7. p. 270	12. p. 607	17. p. 715
3. p. 746	8. p. 217	13. p. 511	18. p. 866
4. p. 544	9. p. 515	14. p. 503, 746, 829	19. p. 561
5. p. 468	10. p. 626	15. p. 861, 862, 863	20. p. 818

The URANTIA Scholar's Quiz questions for this month are:

1. Who is the chief executive of Nebadon?
2. What is the only ceremony or sacrament associated with Jesus' whole life mission? When was this instituted?
3. Who is Majeston?
4. Who is the creator of seraphim in a local universe and how many are created at a time?
5. How old were Andon and Fonta at the time of their death and how did they die?
6. Who are the permanent citizens of Edentia?
7. What will be our first study on the Mansion Worlds?
8. Who is the sovereign supervisor of all life experiment planets in the local universe of Nebadon?
9. Who was Asoka?
10. What is the one universal endowment of all will creatures?

resolved ...

Errol Strider

P.M.

to assume

that the unrevealed images of paradise
are reflected into the mainstream of existence.

to assume

that the pure essence of reality
is contactable in the inmost regions of my being.

to assume

that the undiluted experience of god-knowingness
is available presently and constantly.

to assume

the right and obligation to press forward
in the successive experience of growing more like god.

to assume

an attitude of conscious acceptance
of what I am becoming--not of what I am
or have been.

to assume

the potential of continuing life existence,
which is relevant now because it enhances
my vision and clarifies my goals.

to assume

the attitude of a child, knowing that my
reality ever rests on a pendulum between faith and
love, and in the middle I find the poise of trust.

I hear a destiny calling me to be
Fearless and free, singing a
happy harmony
Starting with faith and ending
with freedom
Anxious to see the sights of
the Kingdom.

Filling the void with a far
away song
Singing with the angels of a
glorious galaxy
Loving the life from the inward
Divine
Lighting the night of a darkened
world

I hear a destiny calling me to
hear, to see, to be,
To be the best in me.

"E" as in Love

The letter "E" is said to be the most unfortunate letter in the alphabet, because it is always out of cash, forever in debt, never out of danger, and is in torment all the time. All of which is true.

Still, it is never in war, always in peace and always in something to eat. It is the beginning of existence, the commencement of ease and the end of trouble.

Without it there would be no life or heaven. It is the center of honesty and always in love. It is the start of encouragement and endeavor while bringing and an end to failure.

Author unknown--Submitted by
Bonnie Abbott - FUSLA

THE AGONDONTER

The Agondonter is published bi-monthly by the First URANTIA Society of Los Angeles (FUSLA). Articles from societies, study groups and individuals are welcomed. If you wish to have your name placed on the mailing list or desire to submit a news item or article, address your letters to the "Agondonter", P.O. Box 5488, Fullerton, California 92635. Contributions to cover the cost of printing and postage should be in the form of a check (tax deductible) made out to FUSLA. Articles of opinion should be limited to approximately 500 words. Editor: Jim Mcnelly
Staff: Pat Mcnelly, Julia Tinderson, Jim English, Gerry Ricci, and Vicki Mcnelly. On Jerusem, the ascenders from isolated worlds such as URANTIA "are known as the Agondonters. Seeing evolutionary will creatures who can believe without seeing, persevere when isolated, and triumph over insuperable difficulties even when alone." *p.579

Contrast and Harmony

SERVICE... (Cont. from page 1)

Science, religion, and fun have independently been the most pursued of man's activities, once his basic hungers were satisfied. All too often in man's history these three realities seemed to have no relationship. Is there some validity to this separation, or has man simply fallen into that most common attitude of refusing to accept the interrelationship of all things and beings?

Each area has contributed to this triune cleavage. Religion has secluded itself by an over-emphasis on goodness to the exclusion of truth and beauty. Science has drawn barriers by accepting only hypotheses that could be proven by reasoning, while disregarding the validity of seemingly non-provable qualitative experience. And finally, the realm of self-gratification, i.e. fun, has become isolated from the other two by its over-emphasis of the self, and because somehow man acquired the notion that the gods were adverse to his having a good time. Wherein lies the synthesis of all these realities?

Science deals with the realm of observable phenomena, while religion is based upon an unobserved environment. This has placed devotees of these systems into two camps. Are these attitudes irreconcilable? The scientist seems to objectify his universe, whereas the religionist comes to his perspective because of a deep hunger or need, which is almost totally subjective. In each realm, there is the tendency to crystallize experience into dogma and creed. Once having attained some stabilized doctrine, the scientist and the religionist become immobilized in their perspectives which they then call "the truth". But rather than finalizing a concept, why not allow that truth to unfold itself and reveal its myriad variations? Once there is a willingness to follow an idea to its ultimate end, man will come into contact with an absolute, the Infinite Here; a true synthesis could take place, satisfactory to both systems.

Ultimately, science and religion find their unification in the grasp of Infinity. It only remains then for each to discern how the Infinite manifests itself as something orderly to the mind of the scientist and as something lovingly personal to the heart of the religionist. After all, the scientist can be loving and the religionist can be rational. These two realms are synthesized in the personality of the loving objective individual. Surely the Infinite can also be both.

This is the beginning of cosmic harmony, and that can be fun. Isn't fun the reaching for an electrified, climatic, and synthesizing experience which culminates in satisfaction? Whether it be in sex, a combination of foods, a discovery, or in the act of giving, man finds enjoyment in harmony and resolution which are not only found in science and religion separately, but are even more apparent in their unification in the individual's experience. When the degree of contrast is greatest, how beautiful then is the harmony? For the contrasts are joined in an ever upward thrust toward the Infinite experience characterized by order, fulfillment and bliss.

Errol Strider

For us to unify these three service concepts--to promote our universe growth, to establish homes and to share the life and teachings of Jesus--we might think of having URANTIA Book study groups in our own homes.

I can conceive of no greater service today than to be the organizers of study groups in our own homes. Reading the book alone will teach us more about service, but reading and sharing the book with others is service.

As we allow Christ to live within us more and more, as we seek to do his will, men will be drawn to him through us. To bring about the uplifting recognition of the life and teachings of Jesus does not mean to lift your URANTIA Book to the top shelf, but to open it in your own home with others for in-depth scrutiny and study.

Urantians without study groups are tadpoles without fresh water. Others will be led to the Master through our lives and through the revelation of his life. Why not unite the two today? We should never think that our Father's work is the work of others, but rather that we avail ourselves and our own homes for the Father to come and take up residence. You'll be surprised to find out how many people will seek you out when they find that God is a good friend of yours and drops in as often as they do. You'll have a regular study group meeting in no time.

J.M.

How Did You Find The URANTIA Book?

Julia Fenderson is compiling a brochure on How Readers Found the URANTIA Book. If you have a unique or interesting story about this would you please send a short paragraph about it to Julia through the "Agondonter" post office box.

These are going to make a fascinating little booklet and some of the stories already received are amazing! They will be available through request some time in October.

