

THE ARENA

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THE MIND ARENA OF CHOICE

"Mind is your ship, the Adjuster is your pilot, the human will is captain." (page 1217)

Editor's Notebook

If we would be bearers of glad tidings to our fellows, the Spirit of Truth provides us a captive audience. Every one of us ripening on this world is, at some depth, responsive to His Truth (although not to our dogmas).

If we would go where few have gone before and explore the first circle while still mortal, then the Spirit of Truth can be for us a gyroscope, stabilizing our steps as we try to follow the compass held out by our Adjuster.

And these are the two fundamental occupations for us ascenders: service and growth. But such endeavours may seem difficult, even beyond us as we live as fellow strugglers, as natives among the people of this world.

But imagine we had the chance to come and serve as morontian volunteers. What efficient and effective service we could perform. Think of the good cheer and wonderful assistance we could offer; the source of light and hope we could for them become!

A mystery: While still serving and growing as humans, like blades of wheat resolutely bringing forth full heads of grain, morontia saplings planted by our Adjusters at the time of our first moral acts are growing by our sides. **Even more:** these unsuspected structures are custom-built to be our selves; the Master Architects **require** such timber for building their Supreme.



If we as grubs can find our butterfly wings, there is nothing to stop us flapping across to our

Adjuster-crafted tree and taking up residence. We can then launch into our careers as young morontians and begin gracefully to achieve those lofty goals of service. And those dreams of growth can become real.

As young morontians, the old compulsions of the flesh become mere entertainments. The fears and terrors which once unsettled our adjutant minds unravel as we feast upon the truth which the spirit of that Truth pours out so freely. May we find these wonderful wings and move into our trees. They call this

"taking up an aggressive pre-fusion position".

THE ARENA

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The Arena is a quarterly publication dedicated to the promotion of goodwill and understanding among readers of The URANTIA Book and is supportive of URANTIA Foundation.

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"Religious living is devoted living, and devoted living is creative living, original and spontaneous. New religious insights arise out of conflicts which initiate the choosing of new and better reaction habits in the place of older and inferior reaction patterns. New meanings only emerge amid conflict; and conflict persists only in the face of refusal to espouse the higher values connoted in superior meanings."

The URANTIA Book, page 1097

Ultimatonic rays found?

Stefan Tallqvist, Finland

Research outside the Earth's atmosphere has had a high priority since the advent in the 1960s of space programs in the Soviet Union and the United States. Because large portions of the electromagnetic spectrum are absorbed by the atmosphere, little has been known or understood of radiation at these wavelengths, generated by the sun and other stars, galaxies, quasars, and other extraterrestrial objects. These large gaps in the picture of the universe are now being rapidly filled.

Early gamma ray satellites in the 1960s suggested that the gamma rays were coming mainly from the band of the Milky way. They could not, however, 'photograph' the gamma ray sky. The breakthrough came with the American SAS-2, which operated for only seven months after its launch in 1972, and with the highly successful European satellite COS-B (1975-1982). These satellites carried the first real gamma ray telescopes.

Gamma-Ray Astronomy in the Compton Era

Each gamma-ray photon (which is the basic "piece" of light) carries at least 10,000 times the energy of a common photon of visible light. This energy is usually measured in electron-volts (or eV). A typical optical photon has around 2 or 3 eV's of energy. The gamma-ray spectrum begins at energies of around 50,000 eV (or 50 keV) and extends up to 1 TeV (1,000,000,000,000 eV) or even higher!

In the 100 octave wave energy spectrum mentioned in *The URANTIA Book*, 1TeV (10^{12} eV) may correspond to octave 85 in the "superuniverse scale" and has already been observed from space. Scientists expect that even higher energies might be detected. The particles that produce such short radiation have to be extremely small, and I conclude that they must be "ultimatons". It will probably take some time before all 100 octaves are detected.

"Wavelike energy manifestations—from the standpoint of twentieth-century Urantia scientific enlightenment—may be classified into the following ten groups:

1. Infraultimatonic rays—the borderland revolutions of ultimatons as they begin to assume definite form. This is the first stage of emergent energy in which wavelike phenomena can be detected and measured.

2. Ultimatonic rays. The assembly of energy into the minute spheres of the ultimatons occasions vibrations in the content of space which are discernible and measurable. And long before physicists ever discover the ultimatons, they will undoubtedly detect the phenomena of these rays as they shower in upon Urantia. These short and powerful rays represent the initial activity of the ultimatons as they are slowed down to that point where they veer towards the electronic organization of matter. As the ultimatons

aggregate into electrons, condensation occurs with a consequent storage of energy." (Page 474)

About the number 860

"Such wavelike energy ripples are 860 times the diameters of the ultimatons, electrons, atoms, or other units thus performing." (Page 474)

This law is true for quanta produced by the annihilation process of electrons and positrons, but the same type of radiation, around octave 64, might also come from regions where new electrons are forming. For other spectral lines the 860 law holds, when calculated as a difference. If we estimate the ultimatons size by this law, we arrive at a size which is close to the expected size of the electron core (not equal to the classical electron radius).

Probably Sommerfeld introduced the interesting constant *alpha* as the ratio of the speed of the electron in its ground state in the Bohr-atom relative to the speed of light. Modern particle physicists prefer to speak about the coupling constant of the electromagnetic field because it enters directly into the formulas for the force between charged particles. Pauli, the father of the neutrino concept together with Fermi, was enthralled by this number alpha ($\sim 1/137$) which was considered to be a pure invariable constant. Today it is known that the value of alpha is not absolutely constant but it has a value that changes a little with temperature. The value of alpha today is about:

$$\alpha = 1 / 137.0359$$

The wavelength of annihilation radiation of electrons and positrons is equal to $860 \times$ "the classical electron radius" (this "radius" is really the diameter of the integrated electric field around an electron, $2.818 \cdot 10^{-15}$ meter). The number "860" results from dividing 2π by *alpha*... $2\pi \times 137 = 860.8$

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News Around the World

Russian Grand-Dad Devours RUB

Les Tibbals, USA

A man from the Dallas group drove up with his daughter and father-in-law to be with us. What a treat! Granddad only spoke Russian, daughter interpreted.

They came in to Harry's living room, the granddad clutching a Russian translation of *The URANTIA Book*.

After a little while the daughter found other interests, so there was no one to interpret most of the day.

While all the activities were going on, the granddad could be seen in a corner in the living room reading his book, occasionally breaking for some of the fun. After that, back to the corner reading. He devoured it! When we would get a little too loud, both hands would be over his ears, reading... studying... changing sections... taking notes.

I am so grateful. So way grateful.

I found myself reminding a few of the folks, hopefully, at the appropriate time, how wonderful it was for this Russian to be so absorbed by this book and be able to read it in his own language. Funny thing was, a lot of folks did not know he was reading the Russian translation, some were not aware the Russian translation even existed.

Granddad had read less than 20 pages before coming, he read at least twice that yesterday.

You know, after meeting and talking to Nora—translator of the Serbo-Croatian UB—earlier in the year and seeing this scene yesterday, experiencing their hunger for truth, feeling their sincerity and passion, I realize more and more, I take *The URANTIA Book* a little for granted.

This thing is truly international, and our international friends are very hungry.

I am so thankful for the reality check, thankful for the translations, and thankful for the opportunity to see our brothers and sisters get fed.

Peru Joins International URANTIA Association

URANTIA Foundation is pleased to announce that on August 18th, the second national URANTIA Association to be formed in South America was established in Arequipa, Peru. Marlene and Georges Michelson-Dupont and Richard Keeler were privileged to assist in the installation of the association, and to get to know the thirty-two wonderful readers of *El libro de URANTIA* who formed this group. The ceremony included the signing of the Chartering Agreement and the Licensing Agreement, which allows the International

URANTIA Associations to use the registered trademarks of URANTIA Foundation.

We hope everyone will welcome our newest Association and its officers:

Alfonso Luque Vasquez, President
Regis Llerena Paredes, Vice President
Miriam Bustamante Bedoya, Secretary
Maria Meza Urquizo, Treasurer

In addition committees were formed with the following committee chairpersons:

Alejandro Ranilla Collado, Conference Committee
Olga Luque Vasquez, Membership Committee
Beatriz Arispe Valderrama, Education Committee
Juan Mayta Coaguila, Publications Committee

The group can be contacted at the following address:

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Angels of the Churches

Barbara Jo, USA

Have you noticed what is going on with the Christians? Being turned off Christianity was something that helped me get turned on to the UB. So, having come from an attitude of disgust and disappointment towards the Christian movement... I am really awe-struck by the changes that I see.

What I've noticed mostly is the TOLERANCE they are exhibiting. They are becoming unified!

And the outreach to young people is really amazing. It's the most exciting thing I've seen on the planet in a long time.

Our young generation is hungering and thirsting for righteousness and the Christians are really putting a mighty effort into feeding them. It's very exciting. It might not be the exact message that we as *URANTIA Book* belters would say... but heck, it's The Spirit that counts... and boy do they have spirit!

They are giving this message to young people: "The coolest dudes on earth are the ones who aren't afraid to stand up for Jesus. Jesus is a happenin' thing. And his followers are not whimps... they are strong, intelligent, and fun loving ambassadors of the kingdom."

I must say I'm proud to admit I'm a Christian now.

Thank you to the Angels of the Churches and the Angels of Progress (they must be collaborating) for all their hard work.

August 21, 1997

Led by planets in conjunction,
wise men traveled from afar,
Seeking light in his reflection,
bearing gifts beneath that star.

August winds draped wisdom's story,
capturing stardust drifts below,
Tracing ancient myths in glory,
glistening in the noonday glow.

Summer creeps past frosts and sunsets,
city lights obscure the view.
Meteor showers cloak the morning,
Hiding in the morning dew.

Listen closely as I tell you
of this wish I dreamed came true,
Hosts of angels in the forests,
midway creatures sharing clues.

Brightened by this revelation,
Eclipsing time and timeless rue,
Wise men share a new dimension...
three concentric rings of blue.

2000 years of anxious waiting,
we are blessed in such an age,
Done with our anticipating
waiting as we turn the page.

Love each other in the morning
care for comfort through the noon,
Live each moment in the present,
share his grace beneath this moon.

Now we sing in celebration,
around this globe for evermore,
Remember that I lived among you,
with spirits from that distant shore.

Look around you, feel the moment,
Keep alive the solemn plan,
the Fatherhood of just one God,
the Brotherhood of every man.

Patrick McNelly, USA

Urantia, one among His many

George Thomas Wilson, USA

*"It still blows my mind that of all the gin joints
in all the systems, He walked into ours."*

First, as one who came to *The URANTIA Book* having already cultivated a working friendship with Christ, the great question mark underpinning my pre-UB doubts arose precisely from a feeling of "unworthiness vs. impracticality" that is, if Christ was "the only son of God" then either he spent all his time visiting everybody in this vast universe and didn't have much time to do anything else, or we had been singled out. Since the first option made no sense to me, that left the second, but it was very hard to believe we were the only inhabited sphere out here and, looking around, couldn't understand why he would come HERE of all places.

Then the great shade lifted from my eyes. The last piece of Divine Logic I needed for my religion to make sense personally to me, was the realization that we were singled out, but not just because we were who we were. Rather, because He had to go somewhere, and we were the LOGICAL choice. A thorough reading of the UB provides some rather significant hints at the priorities involved in the selection process, though it doesn't really tie it all together—they left that to us.

Remembering that, in addition to gaining sovereignty over Nebadon (as his first priority) and doing what he could to push us along (as his last), his intermediate priority was to live an exemplary life as a man in the flesh from infancy to death as an example TO HIS ENTIRE UNIVERSE. Now, it struck me somewhere along the middle of my first reading that in nearly every quantifiable way in which either we as a race or Urantia as a planet is compared, it or we come out "average."

The list is endless, and others feel free to point out examples, but those that come to mind without referencing them include: Average size planet, average distance from the sun, average gravitational pull, average size sun, average height race, average (two-brained) brains, etc.

So, I see in my mind's eye the first meeting between Michael and Gabriel on the topic of the location for the Seventh Bestowal. "Get me a list of those planets that are the most frequently "average" as we measure these 10,000,000 inhabitable spheres," Michael directs, "Then I'll check out the ones most in need of a lift." "Preferably an experimental orb, Sire, don't you think?" "Good point, Gabe. Wouldn't want to mess up anybody's pre-set programming. Make it a list of average experimental spheres. We'll start from there."

So you see, perhaps it's not that we were the MOST spiritually deprived planet, just the most spiritually deprived, prototypically average and experimental one. Small comfort, but comfort, nonetheless.

When I went to lunch today, there was a TV showing an old "Saturday Night Live" re-run. The premise of the opening bit was of all things, a surprise birthday party for Jesus. This party even had Mary Magdalen bringing a cake which she got from the baker. When asked how she could afford such a big cake she said she got it "for free." None believed her. All the apostles were present except John, who when he returned, announced Jesus was not coming. He said that some one betrayed the apostles by telling Jesus about the surprise party. Of course it turned out to be Judas. Oh Well! But they all got the cake. What a coincidence that it played *today*, and at *noon* !

Study groups

Lee Armstrong, North Carolina, USA

Perhaps those of us who are in regular study groups can help encourage those of you who are not to form a group. I would be very interested for those in groups to share what worked for them, and for those who wish they could have a group, to share what the barriers are in their area.

Since study groups are so essential to the dynamic processing and increasing understanding of the teachings of *The URANTIA Book*, I feel this is an important topic. First, I know that there must be some of you who would love to be in a study group. I have been in groups about 95% of the time since I first started reading the book in 1973. John Ploetz has said that even if you are a lone reader, you can still have a study group. The simple fact of stopping weekly to have a study group time is an excellent spiritual habit. It builds into your week a time when you and the teachings of the book interface.

From my perspective, there are two important functions of a study group. #1 is to study the book. In the groups that Roselyn and I have hosted, we have always welcomed people to share philosophies from other religious sources with the stipulation that they relate to the subject that we're reading about in the UB. If the group's focus should shift from the UB to another source, to that degree it stops being a study group for the UB. We have only once had a problem where one man needed to stop our group for about 45 minutes to proclaim that A Course In Miracles was the word of Michael. We thanked him for his viewpoint; after the meeting I explained to him the focus of the group. The second time he felt compelled to stop the group to witness for ACIM, we pointed out the inappropriate nature of that. He self-selected out of the group. Maintaining the focus is very important. Usually, everyone will be supportive. [Oh yes — we did have a woman who felt the Paladian outer space people were about to invade Earth. She also self-selected out of the group.]

The second main function of a group I see, and one which I feel is equally valid, is as a spiritual support group for the members. We all have daily challenges. Trying to exchange our mind for the mind of Jesus and see if there are spiritual options is extremely important. Sharing our religious life with our fellows and our attempts to actually translate the teachings into our lives is incredibly important.

The groups I have been in have met weekly. I like that format because 7 days goes by and I'm ready for another group. Some groups meet every two weeks, some once a month. There is no right or wrong on any of this, there is only what works for your group, but consistency is important.

If anyone else would care to share about their group or their desire to form a group, I would greatly appreciate

hearing from you. I don't think there is any more essential task in the movement. I'd also like to hear about and discuss ideas anyone has about ways to start a group. If you would like to discuss these matters, please drop me a line: piarmstr@eastnet.educ.ecu.edu Lee Armstrong

Spreading the Truth

Michael Zehr, USA

Someone recently mentioned some difficulties in spreading Christianity, such the banning of crosses in some Moslem nations. This is both the strength and the weakness of a symbol — the strength that it has a meaning, the weakness that the symbol itself is never as free as the meaning of the symbol.

While thinking about this, several things have occurred to me:

The URANTIA Book says many times that we should spread Jesus' gospel (while never saying that we should spread *The URANTIA Book*). Given that most of Jesus' gospel is in the Bible, nothing prevents anyone from taking the best portions of the Bible, those portions we know are true and beautiful and good, and presenting them.

Truth is always free, while a specific expression of truth can come under civil/governmental restrictions. We all have a personal relationship with our Father. I've been in many study groups and seminars which started by people going around the room and saying something about their spiritual relationship with God. I have heard many statements that were absolutely beautiful and moving and inspirational, and all of these people were speaking in their own words, giving their own expression of truth. What is wrong with our own words that we choose not to use them in spreading truth? While quotes from the book itself are certainly inspirational, how much more inspirational to see and hear a personal and living expression of those truths as we relate to others our own relationship with the Father?

A friend recently mentioned the risk of certain parts of the book coming under intense media scrutiny when and if we start spreading the book. If we preach Jesus' gospel using the words that are already known to many people in the world (rather than using unfamiliar words), this risk totally disappears. Jesus himself gave us the example of using the true and beautiful and good from the Jewish scriptures in spreading his message—why not follow that example and spread the best of the Bible?

Doing this is much harder than giving away books... but why are we here, studying this book, if we haven't already decided that we won't always seek the easy, safe, sure path?

your brother,
michael

Paper 56: Universal Unity

A Study of Paper 56, "Universal Unity"

by the ACT Study Group, held at the southern NSW property (near Eden!) of William Wentworth

Verner Verass, Australia

We had decided a month earlier to hold our next meeting at Willam's place 220km south east of Canberra. The trip was so shortened by lively conversation on cosmic meanings, computers and morontia destinations, that the three hour drive seemed like a quick trip across town. Our thoughts were lifting above the mundane, and the tone of the weekend was set.

A cheerful smile from William and Susan backed up by a hot bowl of soup and a blazing fire welcomed us on arrival. After catching up with life on the farm, plus second and third servings of Susan's Soup, we settled for the comfort of a cozy couch and began, with fresh and open minds, our study of Universal Unity.

While we happily struggled with the mental and spiritual gymnastics, the afternoon slipped by. It bid farewell with the rosey gold of a southern sunset, and the night began to unfold.

Universal Unity

Early in our session we stopped ourselves. It began to dawn on us that this paper is in some sense the fully blossomed version of the tight bud which is the Foreword. Those difficult and confusing concepts stated remorselessly, one after the other in the Foreword, were here at last presented fully developed and in clear relation. The intervening 55 papers had steadily expanded hundreds of themes and images, giving us a growing familiarity, a strengthening intellectual grasp of and appreciation for, our place as baby finaliters. And now, in paper 56, we find the authoring Mighty Messenger, together with our favorite Melchizedek, trying to pass to the Urantian mind a description of the relationships of total reality. We needed more soup.

The Foreword threw out an unsubstantiated glossary of terms. By the time we finish Paper 55, these terms have become concepts. And in Paper 56 the authors (try to!) offer our pre-morontian minds a first magnificent unification.

By the time we had worked through to section 4 on page 639, we realized that the mysterious four gravities (physical, mindal, spiritual, personal) which get presented out of left field during the Foreword, are revisited here. These four cosmic gravities serve not only to "hold everything in place", but also function as primal motivators in their domain of universe reality. These phenomena, teased out in such detail through the first 55 papers, are here presented as a cosmic symphony. We thought it appropriate to try and allow our souls to revel in such beauty, but whether or not they did, we remain uncertain.

Physical Coordination – Pure energy is the ancestor of all non-spirit realities and, like gravity, is centered in the person of the Paradise Father;

Intellectual Unity – Mind function is continuous and integrated from here to Paradise; the channel of communication between spiritual and material realities;

Spiritual Unity – Spirit has one source and a threefold expression, derived from God who is spirit by ministry of the Spirit Son and the Infinite Mind Spirit;

Personality Unity – Personality inherently reaches out to unify all constituent realities. The Paradise Father is the creator of personality which is responsive on all levels of universe existence.

We reflected that such a synthesis and summary has never before existed on Urantia (outside Eden or Dalamatia) in a form readily available to mortals.

After some hours we felt we were ready to join with our universe fellows and ponder "The major philosophic proposition of the master universe"... "Did the Absolute (the three Absolutes as one in infinity) exist before the Trinity? and is the Absolute ancestral to the Trinity? or is the Trinity antecedent to the Absolute?" (644, para. 4)

This, we agreed, was a question worthy of some pondering.

"Is the Unqualified Absolute a force presence independent of the Trinity? Does the presence of the Deity Absolute connote the unlimited function of the Trinity? and is the Universal Absolute the final function of the Trinity, even a Trinity of Trinities?" (644, para. 5)

Another worthy ponderable. And here was an insight into the nature of The Absolutes. We failed to see too deeply, but were all agreed on the fact that it was in there somewhere.

"On first thought, a concept of the Absolute as ancestor to all things—even the Trinity—seems to afford transitory satisfaction of consistency gratification and philosophic unification, but any such conclusion is invalidated by the actuality of the eternity of the Paradise Trinity. We are taught, and we believe, that the Universal Father and his Trinity associates are eternal in nature and existence. There is, then, but one consistent philosophic conclusion, and that is: The Absolute is, to all universe intelligences, the impersonal and co-ordinate reaction of the Trinity (of Trinities) to all basic and primary space situations, intrauniversal and extrauniversal. To all personality intelligences of the grand universe the Paradise Trinity forever stands in finality, eternity, supremacy, and ultimacy and, for all practical purposes of personal comprehension and creature realization, as absolute." (644, para. 6)

Ah, this was beginning to make sense. Then we found the story of the present Universe Age summed up in one paragraph on page 645:

“The Master Force Organizers go out into space and mobilize its energies to become gravity responsive to the Paradise pull of the Universal Father; and subsequently there come the Creator Sons, who organize these gravity-responding forces into inhabited universes and therein evolve intelligent creatures who receive unto themselves the spirit of the Paradise Father and subsequently ascend to the Father to become like him in all possible divinity attributes.”

The Master Force Organizers enable the material realms; Creator Sons and their Divine Ministers fill these realms with minded ascendant persons; the Paradise Father offers these a fragment of Himself that they become sensitive to spirit gravity; the result of all this is trillions of ascenders rising from the depths of space to roll as waves upon the shores of Paradise and eternity.

“Wow,” we said.

We struggled with this paper. Our reading was frequently interrupted as we paused to try and grasp some elements of the vast concepts the authors were holding out to us. By earnest discussion and cross-referencing each other’s sometimes surprising insights (and re-reading the text a few times!), we did arrive at a common (though partial and superficial) understanding.

Having won this patchy comprehension, we adjourned for the night, planning to tackle the final section, “Truth, Beauty and Goodness” the next morning.

* * *

Those with a sound constitution launched into Sunday morning with a few laps of the estate, porridge, and rashers of bacon. The rest of us gently sipped mugs of coffee, hoping to recapture the insights of the previous evening.

Revived, we gathered for “Truth, Beauty and Goodness”, Section 10.

This final section of the second part of *The URANTIA Book* sums up the whole story as an expression of Truth, Beauty and Goodness—concepts readily appreciated by us humans—one definition of LOVE. Our involvement with truth is through the Spirit of Truth, which enables our minds to become unerringly responsive to truth. Regarding beauty, an interesting parallel is presented where we, in our effort to transform ourselves from material to spiritual, demonstrate a cosmic art form—achieving the supremely beautiful. Divine goodness we are told is revealed in loving ministry as demonstrated by the manifold personalities of the Infinite Spirit. We are encouraged to demonstrate such active goodness in the form of brotherly love—the desire to do good to others.

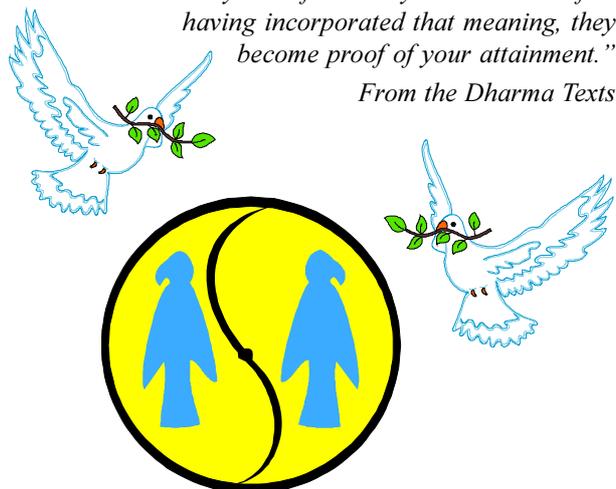
Truth, beauty and goodness represent a full revelation of divinity reality. This insight allows us to see the whole paper as revealing one unifying Person, the Father himself, whose unifying attitude to all creatures is love, the love of a father.

* * *

Our appreciation of this challenging paper lies in the knowledge that the apparent unresolved differences of an earthly existence, with all its paradoxes of material vs. spiritual, time vs. eternity, imperfection vs. perfection, falsehood vs. truth, ugliness vs. beauty, evil vs. goodness etc. are in fact seamlessly unified and resolved into a purposeful march to the Father through the acts of the paradise personalities who sustain and maintain us as if we were the only life form in all creation.

Itsuzan asked: “Is it helpful for students to look through the Buddhist sutras and Zen records?” Bankei replied: “There’s a time for reading the Zen records. If you read them or the sutras while you’re still seeking the meaning contained in them, you’ll only blind yourself. When you read them after having incorporated that meaning, they become proof of your attainment.”

From the Dharma Texts



Two monks, a youth and an elder from a strict sect which had a policy of no female contact, were walking along a dirt road. A heavy rain had left a torrent rushing across the road. Before it stood a woman, staring down in dismay (this was way before women's lib). The elder monk hitched up his robe, picked up the woman, carried her to the other side of the stream, and continued on his way in silence. After some distance, the youth spoke. “Master, you know we are not allowed to touch women. How could you?” The elder replied, “I sat her down by the stream. Are you still carrying her?”

THE CALIGASTIA SHOCK

Ernest Moyer, USA
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In the following article I discuss some of the reasons why Caligastia was left on this planet, and the purpose behind the momentous spiritual warfare which could soon erupt on this world.

Spiritual Unity in Loving Service

“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 professed followers.” (2086)

How will Christians spiritually unite with one another? Will Southern Baptists spiritually unite with Lutherans? Will Roman Catholics spiritually unite with Wesleyans? Will Christians in general spiritually unite with Urantians? What does the world demonstrate today?

Many persons over the past centuries have had great hopes for such unity. The Ecumenism of the 1960's was one of those great hopes. But where is it today? The Catholic Charismatics thought they could bring Christian unity through spiritual rebirth; they spread their charismatic fervor to other groups in other denominations. But where are they today? They were crushed by a Church which feared spiritual rebirth.

Some within the Urantia community have great hopes they can bring about such unity. They became involved in the Interfaith movement. They believe *The URANTIA Papers* offer the spiritual uplift to invite such unity. But do we observe the world flocking to their doorstep? Rather, those persons are more of an academic elite who believe they can unite the world through intellectual approaches to Jesus.

Can we unite in loving service through some other promotion of *The URANTIA Papers*? Are not *The URANTIA Papers* a new revelation of Jesus? Do they not provide a new and enlarged presentation of his saving message? Indeed, they do. Unfortunately, Urantians also have great divisions on expectation and prosecution of goals. They are another illustration of fragmented groups. They certainly are not united spiritually.

Does hope lie in another direction? Can we spiritually unite in loving service through social, civil, or educational programs, mere secular answers to deep spiritual problems? Where is the answer?

I trust this Great Revelation. I believe it. I accept its statements. We should keep in mind what it says. 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. From this remark I infer that our

traditional approaches to spiritual unity are inadequate to such great hope. Something must inspire a totally new direction.

The difficulty lies in the expectation of human kind. We who long for the kingdom on earth reduce all of our prospects and our schemes to conventional and traditional solutions. As two thousand years have repletely shown, this is inadequate. After all these generations we have not yet found the key. And thus far *The URANTIA Papers* have not brought that key.

We need a NEW revelation of Jesus. We need a NEW and enlarged presentation of his saving message. We cannot use *The URANTIA Papers* to merely repeat the same time-worn and fruitless methods of the past. Some spiritual element must come which will tear us away from such attitudes to a far more profound vision of his salvation. New religious insights must appear, insights which this world has never seen, and which will provide enormous incentive for the numerous families of his present-day professed followers to spiritually unite in loving service. This new spiritual force must be so powerful we will not give a second thought to converting other sects or other religions to our circumscribed views, but will gladly explore spiritual unity and brotherhood in warm cooperation and appreciation, in spite of theological differences.

There must come a grand readjustment in attitudes. I assure you, we will learn to search for God with our whole hearts. As Jesus said, “Have you not read in the Prophet Jeremiah, ‘You shall seek me and find me when you shall search for me with all your heart’?”

I cannot visualize such a magnificent new spirit on this planet without an enlarged revelation. I do not mean an enlarged revelation of *The URANTIA Papers*. I mean a revelation resulting from a spiritual condition that will bring everyone on their knees before God.

Our hope lies in such a planet-wide “spiritual condition”. But how will God bring it about? In the face of the insurmountable difficulties of today's social and spiritual environment, how will God reduce our haughty attitudes? How will he humble us to bring contriteness of heart, penitence of spirit, and chastening of our long unrestrained mutual superiority? How will he bring such diverse human groups together in loving service?

I believe he left Caligastia on this planet to help execute that task. I believe he is going to make that Devil justify his existence. But contrary to Caligastia's expectations.

For an explanation of this claim I turn to other revelation.

Why Caligastia?

“Another problem somewhat difficult of explanation in the constellation of Norlatiadek pertains to the reasons for permitting Lucifer, Satan, and the fallen princes to work mischief so long before being apprehended, interned, and adjudicated.” (616)

As far as we are aware all rebel personalities have been removed from our planet except Caligastia and Daligastia. Up until the time of the revelation of *The URANTIA Papers*, Satan was permitted to visit the fallen Princes of other worlds, but he also has now been detained (page 611). This implies that fallen princes still remain on those worlds. However, we do not know the status of those worlds, and they should not concern us in this discussion. The events which are unfolding on this world are of special concern to the universe because this is Michael's unique world, the sentimental shrine of all Nebadon.

The major question before us is why Michael permitted these two rebels to remain here. At the time of Jesus they were shorn of all authority (page 753). Hence they have no useful function or administrative purpose. They are deposed spirit personalities, wandering loosely about the planet. An old adage says that idle time is devil's time. This is literally true in ways we are just now coming to recognize.

Our revelation reassures us of the old Christian belief that the Devil is free on our world (page 610). Not only is he free, he has designs. If I were an intelligent being I certainly would want to find some use for myself. I personally detest idleness. I have many plans in my struggles to help God and to be of service to my brothers and sisters. Why would he not also have developed plans? However, if he is in opposition to his Creator, those plans certainly would not be to aid and assist his Maker. Quite the contrary: he would devise schemes to oppose his Creator, and to frustrate the plans of Michael by any means available to him. Therefore, those designs must be nefarious. They must be evil. They must be intended to thwart the accomplishment of righteous goals.

We are reassured once again of the old Christian belief that the Devil is actually working evil in the world (page 610). Caligastia is free to PROSECUTE his evil designs. He has sufficient remaining power to actually perform evil deeds. He can effect consequences among human mortals, the only realm of activity which has meaning for him. The midwayers, angels, and other loyal celestial personalities now working on this world certainly would not fall in with his evil schemes. I can only picture them as spurning him.

Caligastia Methods: Method I

In my study of *The URANTIA Papers* I learned that there are two ways in which Caligastia can work with human mortals. The first method is the manner in which he effected the default of Adam and Eve. He attempted to persuade them by direct communication (page 840), but was unsuccessful. Therefore he resorted to "a wily flank attack." He used Serapatatia. "It did not occur to her that any danger would attach to the increasingly private and confidential visits she was enjoying with a certain Nodite leader named Serapatatia. The whole affair developed so gradually and naturally that she was taken

unawares." Thereupon Cano was introduced.

Now comes the key remark. "(Serapatatia) was **entirely honest and thoroughly sincere** in all of his activities; he was never conscious, even later on, that he was being used as a circumstantial tool of the wily Caligastia."

"Even though this project of modifying the divine plan had been conceived and executed with entire sincerity and with only the highest motives concerning the welfare of the world, it constituted evil because it represented the wrong way to achieve righteous ends, because it departed from the right way, the divine plan."

Consider some of our fellow Urantians. They are utterly sincere in all their activities, and have only the highest motives concerning the welfare of the world, yet they are engaged in projects which constitute evil because they represent the wrong way to achieve righteous ends. They do so in blissful ignorance because they are so pathetically unaware of God's plans for this world. They daily repeat the desire to do God's will and have not the slightest notion of that will. They will not be deterred from the wisdom of their ways. What will be the price *they* pay? When Serapatatia realized what he had done, still not knowing how he had been used, he drowned himself in the great river.

How was he used? Caligastia influenced his thinking. Caligastia induced suggestions in the mind of Serapatatia. Serapatatia then followed those lines of thought, not testing them against standards of righteousness, not weighing them against the will of God, not evaluating them against the rules of which he was well aware. He thought he had another solution to the problems of Adam and Eve. He did. Caligastia's solution. And what a price he, and Eve, and Adam, and their children, and all of us have had to pay for that simple folly!

How many Urantians and Christians and Jews today, with the grandest and most noble intentions, have fallen in, completely unaware, with the Devil? And what a price we all must pay for such grand folly!

Why does Michael continue to countenance this evil personality? Why did he permit him to remain here to work his nefarious schemes?

"Parents, those who have borne and reared children, are better able to understand why Michael, a Creator-father, might be slow to condemn and destroy his own Sons. Jesus' story of the prodigal son well illustrates how a loving father can long wait for the repentance of an erring child."

Patience may endure what sense would dictate should be ended. If a loving mortal father were to long endure the wayward acts of a son, to permit him to experience the fruits of his own folly, how much more would Michael permit Caligastia to demonstrate to a universe his true character and rebellious ways?

Jesus is doing just that. And we are all caught in this

loving mercy extension to a fallen Son. Now we, the residents of this world, must pay the cost. Now the universe will learn what it means to extend endless indulgence to a fallen Son. Now the worlds will know the consequences of protracted forbearance. Now creation will come to recognize the wisdom of their Creator, and the righteousness which rules his mandates and conditions his judgments. Never again will they presume to compare his acts against inferior and unrighteous standards. The universe will now gladly admit to the full sovereignty of Michael.

Caligastia Methods: Method II

I come now to the method which is unbelievable to virtually all persons on today's world.

I discussed this method in depth in my other papers on "[Spirit Entry Into Human Mind](#)". It is not useful to repeat much of that discussion here. However, certain observations must be made to develop the thread of this argument.

1. I fully accept the testimony of the channelers that they experience spirit personalities in their minds. They have described details of their experiences, including "visions" or pictorial representations. The flood of pronouncements they have produced from the "spirits" is unfathomable.
2. The ability of spirit personalities to enter into human mind is well attested in the Bible and in *The URANTIA Papers*. But this ability has raised such extreme controversy I must pause here to demonstrate my assertion.

"On no world can evil spirits possess any mortal mind subsequent to the life of a Paradise bestowal Son. But before the days of Christ Michael on Urantia before the universal coming of the Thought Adjusters and the pouring out of the Master's spirit upon all flesh these rebel midwayers were actually able to influence the minds of certain inferior mortals and somewhat to control their actions. This was accomplished in much the same way as the loyal midway creatures function when they serve as efficient contact guardians of the human minds of the Urantia reserve corps of destiny at those times when the Adjuster is, in effect, detached from the personality during a season of contact with superhuman intelligences." (863)

I shall not style my arguments to convince those many Urantians who are adamantly refuse to accept this cosmic fact. I shall argue for those who are willing to consider these spiritual realities more objectively.

In the above statement I draw your attention to the word "possess". The statement is a description of involuntary possession, done without the consent of the mortal victim. This condition existed prior to Pentecost, and then only for certain inferior mortals. It no longer exists, and the statement is literally accurate. The aspect

which is rejected is that spirit entry today into human mind is not done as possession, as an involuntary seizure of human mind. It is done when the human mortal invites the entry of evil "spirits."

"It is no mere figure of speech when the record states: 'And they brought to Him all sorts of sick peoples, those who were possessed by devils and those who were lunatics.' Jesus knew and recognized the difference between insanity and demoniacal possession, although these states were greatly confused in the minds of those who lived in his day and generation." (863)

I include this remark to reinforce the fact of "devil possession." Again I emphasize the word possession. Possession was the act of rebel midwayers seizing the minds of their human subjects without consent.

"Even prior to Pentecost no rebel spirit could dominate a normal human mind, and since that day even the weak minds of inferior mortals are free from such possibilities. The supposed casting out of devils since the arrival of the Spirit of Truth has been a matter of confounding a belief in demoniacal possession with hysteria, insanity, and feeble-mindedness. But just because Michael's bestowal has forever liberated all human minds on Urantia from the possibility of demoniacal possession, do not imagine that such was not a reality in former ages." (864)

This passage repeats once again: weak minds of inferior mortals are now free from demoniacal possession. This fact does not exclude the possibility of voluntary servility by human mortals when they consciously ask "spirits" to come into their minds. We know from the reports of Jane Roberts that "Seth" seized her mind, and took control of her body. We know from many other "spiritualist" reports, such as that of John Newbrough, that human mortals are subject to physical seizure. Rebel spirits cannot dominate a normal human mind but that mind can submit to the "spirits." The "spirits" seize control only because the mortal permits it.

Again I shall draw upon revelation in order that no one accuse me of ignoring important content.

"The doctrine of a personal devil on Urantia, though it had some foundation in the planetary presence of the traitorous and iniquitous Caligastia, was nevertheless wholly fictitious in its teachings that such a "devil" could influence the normal human mind against its free and natural choosing. Even before Michael's bestowal on Urantia, neither Caligastia nor Daligastia was ever able to oppress mortals or to coerce any normal individual into doing anything against the human will. The free will of man is supreme in moral affairs; even the indwelling Thought Adjuster refuses to compel man to think a single thought or to perform a single act against the choosing of man's own will." (753)

Again, this statement emphasizes the fact that spirit entry into human mind is subject to the choice of that mortal mind. The free will of man is supreme in moral

affairs. He cannot influence the normal human mind against its free and natural choosing. But he can influence the mind of those who invite him in. This is how people living today will be persuaded to go forth as the conscious agents of Caligastia. He will not alter their will but he will persuade them to his task by the charade he produces in their heads.

“The entire group of rebel midwayers is at present held prisoner by order of the Most Highs of Edentia. No more do they roam this world on mischief bent. Regardless of the presence of the Thought Adjusters, the pouring out of the Spirit of Truth upon all flesh forever made it impossible for disloyal spirits of any sort or description ever again to invade even the most feeble of human minds. Since the day of Pentecost there never again can be such a thing as demoniacal possession.” (864)

Here I emphasize the word “invade.” No spirit, of any kind or description, can now invade human mind against the will of that human mortal. But if the human mortal invites the “spirits” to enter his mind, the “spirits” most certainly are capable of doing so. Does that constitute an invasion? Yes. Because the event requires an action on the part of the Spirit as well as the human mortal. The Spirit could elect not to do so, even though the immature human mortal invites him in. Loyal spirit beings elect not to do so.

“Angels do not invade the sanctity of the human mind; they do not manipulate the will of mortals; neither do they directly contact with the indwelling Adjusters. The guardian of destiny influences you in every possible manner consistent with the dignity of your personality; under no circumstances do these angels interfere with the free action of the human will. Neither angels nor any other order of universe personality have power or authority to curtail or abridge the prerogatives of human choosing.” (1245)

When a human mortal elects to open his mind to the “spirits”, that is a conscious and voluntary act on the part of that mortal. That mortal has the innate right to make that choice. Remember, this is a choice either way. The mortal can choose against such act, or the mortal can choose for such act. Otherwise the prerogative of that human choice would be curtailed or abridged.

But angels do not participate in a request by a human mortal to enter that mortal mind. They do not become a participant in that exchange. They know that such action would be an invasion of that mortal mind. They respect the dignity of that mind, and do not violate it even if the human mortal elects for such immature choice. The reason for this restraint by angels is the fact that human will can open such opportunity.

Under no circumstances do the guardian angels interfere with the free action of the human will. This is a critical point. The critical nature derives from the fact that all “spirits” operating on this planet have personality and will except for the Thought Adjuster. All other spirit personalities must have will and the freedom to make

choices; otherwise, they would not be volitional beings. If they enter human mind they create a conflict between their will and the will of the human mortal.

The Father Fragment is prepersonal; it does not have personality, although it expresses volition.

“We have often speculated that Thought Adjusters must have volition on all prepersonal levels of choice. They volunteer to indwell human beings, they lay plans for man’s eternal career; they adapt, modify, and substitute in accordance with circumstances, and these activities connote genuine volition. They have affection for mortals, they function in universe crises, they are always waiting to act decisively in accordance with human choice, and all these are highly volitional reactions. In all situations not concerned with the domain of the human will, they unquestionably exhibit conduct which betokens the exercise of powers in every sense the equivalent of will, maximated decision.” (1183)

I shall further elaborate here because we encounter a technical difficulty about the expression of personality. Does personality always express will?

Yes.

“The higher concepts of universe personality imply: identity, self-consciousness, self-will, and possibility for self-revelation. And these characteristics further imply fellowship with other and equal personalities...” (31)

The difficulty arises because of the expression of personality and of will. A spirit personality cannot function as an entity without expressing will. Neither can a human mortal. If a human mortal invites a spirit to enter his mind, and if that spirit does so, a conflict of will must inevitably ensue. Both wills, now actively existent in the human mind, must arrange themselves so that one becomes submissive to the other. Both cannot dominate. Thus a truly vile relationship between two personalities is created when the human mind becomes the arena for the activities of a foreign spirit personality. One must submit to the other.

In my observation of these activities it became evident that the human will becomes subservient to the Spirit will. The Spirit most certainly will not submit his will to that of the human mortal. And this is a consistent attribute of those human mortals who invite the “spirits” to enter their minds. They submit their wills to the will of those “spirits.” They give away control of their wills. As far as I can determine they always were weak individuals. Not weak in their technical, artistic, or literary abilities, but weak in their determination about their daily choices. They are not “control” people.

At this point it may be helpful to illustrate a case history. I know a woman in the Urantia community who attempted to communicate with the spirits. She was grossly ignorant when she first engaged in these activities. She located a human “teacher” who took her through the routines of contact. She accomplished this feat and began two years of personal hell. The “spirits” would not let

her alone. They hounded her. They absorbed her thoughts day and night. They induced self-destructive actions. She became deeply embedded in a psychosis which caused her to lose rational contact with her personal life, her husband, her children, her home, and her employment. Only by the loving patience of her husband was he eventually able to rescue her from that condition.

The difficulty for this woman was her personal will. She is a “control” person. When she invited the Spirit into her mind he entered. But he did not like it. She would not release her will. He would not release his. Then ensued a battle over which will would dominate. This struggle continued until she bailed out.

I know of similar reports from two well-known historic persons. Both were control persons, and both consciously attempted “spirit” contact. Both achieved that goal, and both eventually became psychotic. One was Swedenborg and the other was Carl Jung. Both eventually were able to remove themselves from the control of the “spirit” but not without deep personal instability.

These examples led me to believe that when a human mortal engages in contact with Spirit personality the Spirit must respond. It is a law of the universe. But if the human mortal wishes to maintain control of his will the Spirit faces an inoperable situation. He cannot release his will, and he cannot dominate the will of the mortal. This conflict of wills then leads to breakdown of the operation of the human mind. Only by breaking the contact can the contest be resolved.

The mark of the channelers is that they do not assert “control.” They are weak. They submit their will to that of the “spirit.” And this is the deadliness of such activities. They give away to the spirit the one thing God gave to them, **the privilege of their will.**

Now to continue with my list of observations:

3. Kurt Cirra and I both were bowled over by the frightening appearance of the eyes of the sons of Thern Blackburn when we met them at a Lake Forest summer study session. I have described them as Zombie eyes for lack of a better term. It truly was uncanny. They contained a strange light and had almost a glassy appearance. Yet the men seemed perfectly rational. I spent several hours with one in evening conversation on the patio at Lake Forest College. He attempted to show me that their purpose is benign, and that they have only love in their hearts. I am thoroughly convinced they see their Spirit contact as benign, as do all the channelers. How truly unfortunate for all of us that they do not perceive the agility and deception of that devil mind.
4. The technique of contacting the spirits is simple. All one need do is sit in one’s easy chair, close one’s eyes, and say, “Spirit, come talk with me.” Anyone can do it, except that certain minds seem unable to make contact. They are the fortunate ones.

5. The human who receives a spirit has no control over which spirit will come. He cannot specify beforehand which spirit he wants. The choice of spirits is in the spirit realm. He must accept that spirit election. This is the deadly part. Since the human mortal cannot specify, since he has made himself available to any spirit, and since Caligastia is still free on this world, he opens himself to that rebel Prince. What sensible human mortal would place himself in such spiritual jeopardy?
6. Jesus said that they know not either the Father or me. If they knew God, if they knew their Creator, why would they have need for other spirits? Would not their relationship with God be sufficient to them? It certainly is for me. I love God. I have no need for spirits to come and visit with me in my head.
7. The spiritists are phenomenalist oriented. They want startling demonstration of the reality of spirit contact. They are not content to grow quietly from day to day, in ever increasing faith exercise of their relationship with God. They have a need for some “proof” of God. Unfortunately for all of us, they will receive far more proof than they ever bargained for.
8. They want short cuts to God. They want quick results. And that was Caligastia’s great fault. He was impatient. And now he uses the impatience of his agents to conquer them.
9. It is not possible for our minds to entertain two spirit entities simultaneously. That would create a conflict in spirit location. Two spirit entities cannot occupy the same space location simultaneously. This fact is illustrated by another remark in *The URANTIA Papers*. When the Thought Adjuster departs, for those who are members of the Reserve Corps of Destiny, midwayers take up residence in that mortal’s mind as contact guardians.

“...the loyal midway creatures function when they serve as efficient contact guardians of the human minds of the Urantia reserve corps of destiny at those times when the Adjuster is, in effect, detached...” (863)

Why “contact guardians?” Because they guard against contact by Caligastia. Such guardianship would not be necessary if there were no spiritual danger. Hence, when the human mortal invites a foreign Spirit into his mind, his Thought Adjuster cannot remain resident. That mortal has elected for the foreign Spirit to occupy his mind, not the Thought Adjuster. Since this is a free-will choice, the Father fragment, ever respectful of that mortals choice, will depart.

10. We do not know if departure of the Father’s fragment is permanent. Does he become insulted by that rejection, never to return? Has the human mortal

made a final decision on his eternal fate? If he repeatedly rejects God for the Spirit, is that confirmation of his eternity choice? Jesus said that he and the Father were one (pages 1711, 1750, 1815). If the human mortal rejects the Father for the Spirit then he must reject Jesus-Michael also, although all channelers claim otherwise. They feel the presence of the Spirit and believe it is God.

From the examples of those individuals who consorted with the “spirits,” but then later refused such entry, it would appear that the rejection was temporary, and that they did not permanently lose favor with God. Or, more likely, God knows beforehand who is his true child, and who is not, even though they may dabble in such experiments.

11. Although channellers would deny that the “spirits” actually enter their minds, pushing off the deadliness of the act, and claiming that somehow the Spirit is merely projecting onto their minds, this is a denial to salvage their eternal loss. What difference does it make if the Spirit somehow “projects” himself onto the human mind, to control their thoughts and actions, or that he enters directly. The results are the same. He takes control of that mind, and through control of the mind, that body.

I shall now continue with another important revelation. This will lead us to the main issue of this article.

Jesus spoke to the apostles. This was part of his farewell discourse.

“And I am telling you about all this before I leave you in order that you may be so prepared for what is coming upon you that you will not stumble into serious error. The authorities will not be content with merely putting you out of the synagogues; I warn you the hour draws near when they who kill you will think they are doing a service to God. And all of these things they will do to you and to those whom you lead into the kingdom of heaven because they do not know the Father. They have refused to know the Father by refusing to receive me; and they refuse to receive me when they reject you, provided you have kept my new commandment that you love one another even as I have loved you. I am telling you in advance about these things so that, when your hour comes, as mine now has, you may be strengthened in the knowledge that all was known to me, and that my spirit shall be with you in all your sufferings for my sake and the gospel’s. It was for this purpose that I have been talking so plainly to you from the very beginning. I have even warned you that a man’s foes may be those of his own household. Although this gospel of the kingdom never fails to bring great peace to the soul of the individual believer, it will not bring peace on earth until man is willing to believe my teaching wholeheartedly and to establish the practice of doing the Father’s will as the chief purpose in living the mortal life.” (1951)

This statement becomes so important because it was intended for those of us living today, not directly for the apostles. (In the course of many study sessions some of us began to realize that *The URANTIA Papers* are designed directly for our use, especially the discourses of Jesus, and were not framed merely as reports of his actual statements. Careful evaluation shows that they were styled for use at the end of the age, and carried more than what one could expect for the social and religious framework known to the apostles.)

The difficulty with this passage, and its parallels in the Gospel of John, is that Jesus makes a preface remark about the apostles being thrown out of the synagogues. As I explained in “[A Warning From Jesus](#)”, serious questions exist about the “persecutions” which have been elevated to notorious position by Christian tradition. The apostles continued to live in Jerusalem, unmolested until nearly the time of the destruction in 70 AD. They then departed, but not because of persecution. Paul visited there twice, about 38 AD and about 52 AD. Acts 9:31 states that after Paul’s conversion the church had great peace. Acts 21 shows that Philip, one of those first elected as head of the church, evangelized unmolested from Caesarea, within the territory of Herod, and had a group of disciples. Although these facts are ignored to support the notion of great Jewish persecutions, I propose that the peace from Jewish authorities came because of Paul’s conversion. He was their special agent; when he abruptly changed sides as the result of his conversion experience, about 35 AD, the authorities had good cause to question their policies. While it is true that individuals were persecuted, and some killed, there was no general policy across the Near East to “throw them out of the synagogues.” Decisions about the new sect were made at the local synagogue level. The persecutions were local, not universal, and Jewish authorities did not prosecute such a program after Paul’s conversion. Furthermore, it was the choice of the new sect within one month of the death of Stephen to not frequent the synagogues, page 2068. They thus removed themselves from the cause of being thrown out of the synagogues.

After the destruction of Jerusalem the Jews no longer had either religious or political central authority. They were destroyed as a religious and political entity. Therefore, the statement that “the authorities will not be content with merely putting you out of the synagogues” could not apply in the terms which we assume from tradition, either before or after the destruction. Who, then, was Jesus warning?

I shall now turn attention to individual remarks in the above passage.

“I am telling you about all this before I leave you in order that you may be so prepared for what is coming upon you that you will not stumble into serious error.”

Jesus gave this warning before he left this world. He considered it important enough that it would be made a

part of the record, and would be reiterated in our Revelation. Something is coming upon us that is far more than the uncertain policies of the ancient Jewish authorities. He gave us this warning in order that we not stumble into serious spiritual error. He was asking us to prepare ourselves. But we have not done so, to our tragic welfare.

“The authorities will not be content with merely putting you out of the synagogues; I warn you the hour draws near when they who kill you will think they are doing a service to God.”

If the cause of casting out of the synagogues had been removed by the new sect, by the Jerusalem group within a short period after the crucifixion, and certainly by the entire Christian Near East at the end of the Jewish persecutions in 35 or 36 AD, how do we explain this remark? Paul thought he was doing a service for God. He was intense, unyielding about the necessity of stamping out the new sect. He put people in prison; he had them killed. The Pharisees thought they were acting in behalf of God. They had people killed. Is this what Jesus had in mind?

I now move to a sentence farther into this paragraph.

“I have even warned you that a man’s foes may be those of his own household.”

I do not know how many of the foes of early Christians came from their own households; I do know that it is difficult, in the historic context, to believe that many turned against their own kin. We have other evidence to support the suggestion that Jesus did not have in mind the few brief years of persecution between his death and Paul’s conversion. From *The URANTIA Papers* we know Jesus was crucified at Passover in AD 30. Paul’s persecution began with Stephen, Acts 8:1. (Which is the remark that has led so many to believe in a great Jewish persecution.) This must have been a year or more after the crucifixion. As I stated above, Paul was converted in 35 or 36 AD. Therefore the period of Jewish persecution could not have been more than five years.

I now turn to the historic record. The Gospel parallels are in John 15:18 to 16:4, Matt 10:18-24, 24:9-14, Luke 21:12-17 and Mark 13:9-13. As given in Mark 13:12

“And brother will deliver up brother to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and put them to death...”

Although there is a popular myth that these passages in the Gospel record describe events of apostolic days, the historic record does not justify the magnitude of the scenes depicted. Furthermore, the Gospels were all written after the destruction of Jerusalem, after the disintegration of Jewish authority. The writers are presenting these events as taking place some future time, at the end of the age. See Matt 24:14, Mark 13:7, Luke 21:9.

If record of the Jewish persecutions does not support such dramatic social circumstances, what did Jesus have in mind? Why were his statements in the historic record attributed to the end of the age?

Jesus was warning us about events to unfold at a time of great planetary crisis. Now that time has come. Brother will kill brother, children will kill parents, and parents will kill children. In our traditional translations this is given as “will have them killed,” contrary to the verb tense of the Greek text. This alteration in translation was based on the notion of political persecution, because of the earlier phrases about being delivered up to (civil) authorities, governors and kings, and because the translators could conceive of no scenario for such dramatic horror. Christian fundamentalists have continued this interpretation until this day. The reason God’s messengers will be delivered up to authorities is because those authorities will not understand what is transpiring and will turn to those who have been trained in these matters. And this is where we Urantians come in. Of all groups on this planet only Urantians are equipped with a comprehensive understanding of the spiritual forces at work.

Now we can better understand the remainder of this passage.

“And all of these things they will do to you and to those whom you lead into the kingdom of heaven because they do not know the Father. They have refused to know the Father by refusing to receive me; and they refuse to receive me when they reject you, provided you have kept my new commandment that you love one another even as I have loved you. I am telling you in advance about these things so that, when your hour comes, as mine now has, you may be strengthened in the knowledge that all was known to me, and that my spirit shall be with you in all your sufferings for my sake and the gospel’s. It was for this purpose that I have been talking so plainly to you from the very beginning. Although this gospel of the kingdom never fails to bring great peace to the soul of the individual believer, it will not bring peace on earth until man is willing to believe my teaching wholeheartedly and to establish the practice of doing the Father’s will as the chief purpose in living the mortal life.”

The channelers had to reject Jesus to receive the Spirit. They had to reject the Father that lived within them, and thereby they rejected Jesus. They did not know the Father or they would not have rejected him. Furthermore, when they refuse these teachings of Jesus, they refuse the messengers who bring these teachings, and hence they again refuse Jesus and the Father.

Now we better understand about “when their hour comes” and about “when your hour comes.” Jesus gave us warning in order that we not fall into serious spiritual error. He did not use the word “hour” for a time of apostolic persecution. He used it for some distant future. That time is now. This is the great Caligastia Shock. It will be so shocking to the entire world that no one believes today. And they will not understand when it comes,

except through the ministration of those who are dedicated to the service of their brothers and sisters.

The Human Elements

Many questions arise. We do not have revelation to help us. We are left on our own, to make our own decisions, and to act according to our best wisdom and insights.

“And when the kingdom shall have come to its full fruition, be assured that the Father in heaven will not fail to visit you with an enlarged revelation of truth and an enhanced demonstration of righteousness...” (1914)

I am not sure about the kingdom coming to full fruition, but I do know we are at the end of an age. And I am greatly assured that the Father is about to visit us with an enlarged revelation of truth, and an enhanced demonstration of righteousness. Michael will use his people in ways we do not even now imagine.

The miracle which is unfolding today is at the strictly human level. No divine agencies will present themselves to do this task for us. The great battle between truth and falsehood will be waged among human kind. Caligastia will have his agents; God will have his.

We now know how Caligastia is preparing his cadre. We know how he will use his agents. We know how he will bring them to their horrible acts. He will provide them with “light.” When he brings that light they will truly believe he is God. They will be convinced of his great power. And they will eagerly accept his instructions for cleansing the world. They will fully accept that they are key instruments in the creation of a new world order. They will fully believe they are killing us in service to God. They will do it out of love, not hate. They will believe they are doing a service by dispatching their brothers and sister, their mothers and fathers, and their children directly to heaven. That is what Jesus warned us about.

On the other hand, our Creator will raise up a cadre of people to go to the world with words of truth. They will not have demonstration of “light” to convince them. God will not violate their will to bring them to his service. They will gladly enter that service, of their own free will, because of their love for their Creator.

What great events will appear from heavenly cause? We do not know. We do not have the slightest idea how the midwayers, or angels, or other celestial agencies will become involved in these unfolding events, to help expedite the revelation of truth.

Can you imagine the human emotions of such an extreme social scene? Perhaps you cannot. The magnitude of this grave planetary crisis exceeds our imagination.

Will governments provide the social context to permit such massive slaughter? I do not believe so. It would create monumental social breakdown. I believe our

national, state and regional governments will be highly concerned about the maintenance of law and order. I believe the statements about being hauled up before governors and kings shows that the civil administrations of this world will be as much bewildered as the common citizen.

You can understand that civil order must be maintained. The trucks must roll, the grocery stores must sell, the farmers must produce, the factories must manufacture.

But every participant in those social necessities, every citizen, will wonder if he and his family will be next. Great fear will arise in the land. And many, many people will be brought on their knees before God. Never, ever, has the world witnessed religious seeking as this world will now experience.

The haughtiness of men will truly be laid low. We will quickly learn spiritual priorities. We will forget contests over baptism. We will throw away arguments about Eucharist. Copyrights will become meaningless. We will distrust our priests and ministers and preachers, and theologians. They will be worthless. Judaism and Christianity will be broken as organized religions. We will engage in deadly serious evaluation of truth. God’s people will respond in their hearts; many of the world will follow deceptive philosophies. The great contests over false prophets will now become acute. Who is for God? Who against? Who is right? Who is wrong? Momentous decisions hang in the balance.

This severe planetary turmoil will remove us from reliance on social institutions. They no longer will hold philosophical control, or authority. All ideas will be suspect. All bright social theories will become worthless. All theologies will be distrusted. We will turn our devotions to God from the religious structures of this world, from the churches and social institutions. We will reorganize our theologies, and understanding about spiritual realities.

All confidence in human authority will be removed. Who can be trusted? There must develop a reluctance of police and military forces to attempt social order for fear they, as individuals, would be subject to attack. We will be floating free upon the whims of Devil’s agents.

Another result of this extreme social persecution will be open minds about the more grave decisions we must make. There will be a re-examination of the Bible and of Revelation in ways the world has not known for two thousand years. Now everyone will be willing to reorganize their thinking about the power of God, and his communications to man.

Now men and women will band together in brotherhood as the world has never known. We will put aside our theological differences. We will build true brotherhood. How will anyone know that the next person you pass on the street is “one of those?”

When a knock comes at the door, and you know your

time has come, what will you do? Keep a loaded gun close by? God's true children will feel a revulsion to physical retaliation.

What will be the role of governments in unfolding events? Will there be a crisis in civil rule? Can these things continue unless there is a breakdown in social control? How can thousands upon thousands of killing groups be brought under civil or martial law? Yet mouths must be fed, and houses maintained. We depend heavily on complex social structures for light, heat, food, transportation, and gasoline.

Who will they strike? Who are their most desired targets? We do not know. But we can be assured they will be those who are most devoted to God. Caligastia will forever want to remove the "seed" of those who despise him. Perhaps, in his deluded mind, he still believes he can shape the world to his control.

The idea of satanic worship now takes on an altogether different cast. Indeed, his agents will worship him, but not in primitive satanic rites we know from history.

You may wonder why I focus on the channelers whose intentions are, at least on the surface, relatively benign. "Why no mention of Alistair Crowley, for instance, and others like him who openly sought to be identified with dark forces? Even now, there are numerous cults and that can easily be linked with satanic worship and strange, even murderous rites." It was my purpose to outline the nature of the events, not address specific concerns. All those who have given themselves to the "spirits" will become death agents. Their conscious affiliations will not be the prime criteria. Those who are already under murder philosophy will be employed that much more easily.

Biblical prophecy has some portion of text which suggests governments will come under the control of "Satan." But not in the manner of our usual notions. He must use human mind in a way that exceeds "normal" morality. Perhaps, under the sway of extreme social breakdown, and with persons now in high government positions who also channel, we have the avenue for tyrannical control. All the leaders of the western nations, including the United States, have laws which permit emergency seizure of power. Our President might evoke such power to maintain social control. Maybe the death camps located around our country will be used for further extermination. I do not know.

We all are about to personally witness the greatest spiritual learning experience of all time. Now we will truly turn our devotions to God.

*Oh wad some power the giftie gie us
To see oursel's as others see us!
It wad frae monie a blunder free us,
And foolish notion.*

Robert Burns

Did Jesus use a modem at the Sermon on the Mount?

*Did Jesus use a modem
At the Sermon on the Mount?
Did he ever try a broadcast fax
To send his message out?
Did the disciples carry beepers
As they went about their route?
Did Jesus use a modem
At the Sermon on the Mount?*

*Did Paul use a Laptop
With lots of RAM and ROM?
Were his letters posted on a BBS
At Paul.Rome.Com?
Did the man from Macedonia
Send an E-Mail saying "Come?"
Did Paul use a Laptop
With lots of RAM and ROM?*

*Did Moses use a Joystick
at the Parting of the Sea?
And a Satellite Guidance Tracking System
To show him where to be?
Did he write the law on tablets
Or are they really on CD?
Did Moses use a joystick
At the parting of the Sea?*

*Did Jesus really die with us
One day upon a tree?
Or was it just a hologram
Or techno wizardry?
Can you download the Live Action Video Clip
To play on your PC?
Did Jesus really die with us
One day upon a tree?*

*Have the wonders of this modern age
Made you question what is true?
How a single man in simple times
Could offer life anew?
How a sinless life, a cruel death
then a glorious life again
Could offer more to a desperate world
Than the inventions of man?*

*If in your life, the voice of God
Is sometimes hard to hear.
With other voices calling
His doesn't touch your ear.
Then set aside your laptop
And all your fancy gear.
Just open up your hungry heart
And let our Father draw you near.*

“When you are engaged in an argument with your spouse and are in imminent danger of winning, APOLOGIZE AT ONCE!”

Robert Heinlein

Start packing folks

Joe McCoy, USA

To all of my brothers and sisters who nurse resentment, or speak with hurt and anger—open your *URANTIA Book*. Feel the healing powers that you have been blessed with from the purest words we have on our planet. Until we get a little closer to light and life be prepared to share each other’s anguish and frustration. Until then, open your *URANTIA Book* and feel the love of Jesus welling up in your soul. I am appealing to my family and friends to love each other, respect each other, and help each other, cause you’re gonna be stuck with us for a very long time, maybe forever. The time is NOW to start packing the things you’re going to take with you to your first extraterrestrial planet. And, like I told my friend John Ploetz, I sure hope I’m not standing at the baggage claim, and nothing but a little over-night bag arrives holding all my earthly possessions of value. I hear customs over on the Mansion Worlds are very thorough. Besides, since your pride, pain and possessions are staying behind, you might as well stop clinging to them. Take that big blue pill of truth and beauty called *The URANTIA Book* with a big gulp of the “spirit of truth”. My “doctor mommy” always used to tell me when I got hurt, “son, either stop crying and go out and play, or come here and let mommy hold you.” Well, what can I say, I’m a male. I always took both offers. After a few minutes of a comforting squeeze, I was jammin out the door to play with my friends. Hmm! You know, I think I still do that, only it’s with my wife now. Sorry honey, little boy habits nurtured by our mothers.

Well, I gotta go and pack. No, it’s not that my seraphic ride is here, at least I hope not. It’s just you never know. I sure would hate to leave something behind just because I thought I could pack at the last minute. I’m not a morontial expert, but I don’t think pain and hurt and spite can be thrown into the trunk of your personal “seraphic” taxi. So please, stop holding on to your memory of past pains. Either pick yourself up off your anguished and suppressed ass, er, tush, and start packing your eternal bags of identity, or open *The URANTIA Book* and have Dr “J” heal you with a big spiritual hug. Then go out and play with your friends. I’m only gonna warn you one time!!! Don’t be caught holding nothing but a small carry-on bag at the Resurrection Halls on Mansonia One. Especially since we all had an itinerary.

Life is brief, and I have much to pack into my soul before I go. Better get started myself!

The Pope

The Pope had just finished a tour of the Napa Valley and was taking a limousine to San Francisco. Having never driven a limo, he asks the chauffeur if he might drive for a while. Well, the chauffeur doesn’t have much of a choice, so he climbs in the back of the limo and the Pope takes the wheel.

The Pope proceeds down Silverado, and starts accelerating to see what the limo can do. He gets to about 90 mph, and suddenly he sees the red & blue lights of a CHiP in his mirror. He pulls over and the trooper comes to his window. The trooper, seeing who it is, says, “Just a moment please, I need to call in.”

The trooper calls in and asks for the chief. He tells the chief that he’s got a REALLY important person pulled over, and asks how to handle it.

“It’s not Ted Kennedy again is it?” asks the chief.

“No sir!” replies the trooper, “This guy’s more important.”

“Is it the Governor?”

“No! Even more important!”

“Is it the PRESIDENT???”

“No sir! Even *more* important!”

“Well WHO THE HECK is it?” screams the chief.

“I don’t know sir,” replies the trooper, “but he’s got the Pope as his chauffeur.”

*God bless you
for attempting to raise a child of light
in these rough times.*

Mankind’s adventures in space

The MIR space station has been in the news lately. Here is an extract from a press release about MIR’s recent problems:

“By stranding our scientists on a dilapidated space station with faulty wiring, loose hardware, and malfunctioning air systems,” NASA head Daniel Goldin said, “we have created extremely favorable conditions for learning about spaceborne panic.” The two Russians and one American on board the station are reportedly terrified beyond lucidity.

“They are in a constant state of what aerospace scientists term ‘mind-shattering terror’, frightened for their very lives,” Russian mission director Vladimir Solovyov said. “And we have not even used the hull-mounted Alien puppet that taps on the window yet.”

“Revelation” Experience

at the Museum of Contemporary Art
Santiago, Chile. 6-27 March 1997

*Eduardo Guelfenbein
9 April, 1997
Gavirate, Italy.*

Seven years of painting, sculpting, videoing, collaging, to find that the Museum had in fact been built in 1947 especially to exhibit the Lord’s message. My work poured into it so that not one wall of the seven salas was left empty, not one column naked!

While I was stretching the 52 canvases, most of them large format, I would ask the museum workers if they thought I was going to fill up all seven rooms—a space 20x30 metres. They all had their doubts. That one week of stretching, stapling, building, made me think of the seven years that led me to be here, about to display my work.

My loving wife Gerlinde and my beautiful children could not be present in Santiago; unfortunately we could not share this incredible blessing.

My dear mother Fanny has helped me to make all this possible, keeping the dialogue going, the interest alive, and informing the locals about the event. She is my main ‘sponsor’ and a super professional.

God in His infinite ways sent me a brother in faith, Norman, 60, from Hawaii. He helped me all along the preparation, and with two, the work became a song.

The opening was a success. The director Rosario Letelier introduced me, and I gave a little speech:

Thank you God.

Revelation means divine education to the common mortal.

The show is divided into seven rooms. The main hall has the video pyramid showing an album of civilizations past and present. I have recycled old magazines and catalogues, and have made animations dance to music.

The collages on the columns show our ecological conscience.

The first room has the Genesis. A million years ago man expressed his will, left the monkeys, Homo-sapiens.

The second room holds the first divine revelation, which came late, 500,000 years ago, by the Planetary Prince, Caligastia. Then rebellion.

The third room, Adam and Eve, the second divine revelation. 37,000 years ago, due to the impatience of Eve and the misjudgments of Adam, we had a default. (We placed 50 kilos of flowers on the floor.)

The fourth room has the third revelation of Melchizedek, an emergency Son who comes to create the bed of religion for our local Creator Son to appear, Jesus Christ, and give us his fourth revelation, Sonship with a loving Father. Ego, vanity and greed led to his crucifixion.

The fifth room holds the teachings of Jesus up to the 20th century, the ecological planetary conscience and universal religions of the sixth and last rooms.

I have painted and sculpted the universal symbols of man and woman, houses, homes and cars, the symbol of technology. Instead of skies I painted spheres following a divine plan. This is the way to read the show.

Thank you all for being here.”

The Museum of Virtual Art representative gave a short speech and announced that for the first time in the cyber-history of Chile, an exhibition was sent live into cyberspace. (<http://www.mav.cl>)

For the first time my work had been stretched out in such an extensive way and faced both me and the public. The opening evening was “hello-thank you” and did not until seven days later transcend my feelings about the show when many people, unknown to me, were moved by my work. It meant that the message was being understood, and people were responding to it. I went every day to the Museum, by the *Parque Forestal* in a lovely setting in the center of Santiago, from 11am to 7pm.

Every day was a blessing, since we had schools visiting, and for some it was their first time in the Metro, let alone the Museum.

Some days a hundred children passed by, and I was privileged to act as guide to the more tranquil of them. The children paid attention and easily followed the symbology, discovering, touching, seeing, listening and asking.

The video-pyramid with the two mirrors, one at the bottom and one at the top, gave the sense of infinity, as explained by the circle. The music by Jan Garbaek was also very inspiring. The children and adults gathered there captivated.

I soon learned that a guided tour took me an hour, and people who read all the titles and little texts took one and a half hours.

At times I waited at the entrance-exit enjoying the happy faces, sincere comments and philosophic chats. Adding to my joy from the whole experience was the fact that I am a Chilean, the catalogue is made in Chile, and my work was being appreciated by my fellow Chileans.

I had lived out of Chile for 33 years (I am now 43) so that my experience in exhibitions has always been as a ‘traveling-by’ painter.

The social content of the work made me exhibit in a public space (the Museum belongs to the Universidad de Chile, a public institution). The ministry of Education was involved, and was sending 2-3 schools each day. Also the School of Fine Arts came by with my future colleagues, and I was happy to share their enthusiasm.

I met people from all walks of life, ages, faiths and races. Many times I lived in deep emotions, coming from living faith. People let go and shared their feelings, some tears and much joy. We worship one God, and this is our planetary spiritual conscience, binding, for we know his fragment lives in us. The Christ came to show us the way, and all Truth goes through Him.

I always reminded people, in the Genesis Room, that man is potentially divine, and that in freedom, he had to make the potential, actual. A god of action.

For the first time in my career the art work was useful: it reflected, it inspired, moved, provoked, and united many a person. Artists suffer the dictates of art markets, compromising their talents, but we have always been here to portray social advances, the evolving social conscience, and our spiritual progress. The job of the artist is in fact to find a universal symbology with significance to every human being.

I will continue adding art to 'Revelation' all my life, increasing its content in science, philosophy and religion. I thank Chile for letting my seed grow. Today I can look back at videos, catalogues, Internet, and pictures of the exhibition, but nothing can replace the physical-emotional experience lived with other souls in the Museum premises.

'Not my will, but Yours be done.'

Lao Tse said "Goodness begets goodness, but To the one who is truly good, Evil also begets goodness."
Said Jesus, "Why do you call me good? None Is good but God."

Is it possible for us standing as we are



*On the bedrock of compressed history,
 Standing on the shoulders of
 Onamonalonton
 and Porshunta
 On the shoulders
 of Moses,
 Gautama,
 Guru Nanak
 On the shoulders
 of John Doe and
 Jane Smith
 And those unsung
 torch bearers
 who*

*labor in our very own neighborhoods
 Shouldering truth
 And giving birth to goodness...
 Is it possible for us
 To adorn ourselves with the fragrance of
 unfailing goodness?
 Yes.*

*from "Unfailing Goodness"
 by Meredith Van Woert, USA*

Sydney Study Groups - 4th quarter 1997

If you would like your study group listed here please contact the Editor.

- * These study groups begin at 7pm on a Wednesday evening and alternate between three venues.
- * Venues may change. Avoid being in the right place at the wrong time. Please phone!

C = City (Surry Hills)
 Contact: Ralph Bartley
 Phone: 02 9908 4822

N=North Narrabeen
 Contact: Michael Pither
 Phone: 02 9913 7893

M=Marsfield
 Contact: John & Ruth Lusk
 Phone: 02 9869 1501

N September 3	C September 10	M September 17	C September 24	
N October 1	C October 8	M October 15	C October 22	N October 29
C November 5	M November 12	C November 19	N November 26	
C December 3	M December 10			

December 17: Traditional pre-Christmas restaurant gathering. All welcome!

The URANTIA Reference Library (ANZURA)

We at the Urantia Library would like to thank those generous individuals who have already donated towards the library computer. We now have a 133 MHz Pentium PC with 32 Mb RAM, capable of running Windows 95 and Office 97 which will easily handle the growing library database. Don't forget Graeme Chapman's watercolour painting of Jesus' family home in Nazareth is now available and the proceeds will go towards the library project. Our latest library acquisition is from Eduardo Guelfenbein, a Chilean artist and *URANTIA Book* reader, who donated a book of his art works which were on display in a seven-room art exhibition in the Contemporary Art Museum in Santiago, Chile in March 1997. Titled "Revelation" and inspired by the *URANTIA Book*, the works are breathtakingly colourful, fluid and vibrant, and deeply moving to those who study them. (See page 18 for Eduardo's description of his experience.) I will present slides of some of these works at the "Dare to be Godlike" conference in Sydney.

Placement of *The URANTIA Book* in public libraries continues to reach into people's souls. That copy Rita Schaad placed in Newcastle Library a few months ago has already had an effect as Sherry Webster discovered it there. It is amazing how the future potential always becomes the present at some stage if we try hard enough: I remember we had the hard cover book from Newcastle Library at our study group; we were touching it, opening it, admiring its fine plastic dust cover and call number. Then I remember wondering who would come across it, by chance, and take in its revelation. Well, lets keep on making sure that no library remains empty!

In July I visited the birthplace of *The URANTIA Book* in Chicago, a beautifully restored brownstone building (come to the conference to see slides of it) bustling with staff and volunteers dedicating their lives to the Will of God. It was an opportunity to catch up with old friends, Kathleen and Trevor, and to give the Library Placement Project a great start. Richard Jones is coordinating the distribution of books to US libraries and we are planning the framework a global database.

Last minute reminder!

For those who missed hearing about our 1997 *URANTIA Book* Readers' Conference, there are still about five places left for you to join us from October 3-6 at the **Ave Maria Retreat Centre**, overlooking Sydney Harbour and set in beautiful gardens in Point Piper.

The conference theme is "Dare To Be Godlike". What a concept to explore!

Please call Michael Pither on 02-9970-6200(ph/fx), or email <urantia@ozemail.com.au> to claim these last few places.

I wonder how it was that you came to know God. Personally, I have been raised Catholic and did all that jazz, but I was never comforted or felt any personal connection at church. I came to know God with this book. We read the Jesus papers and I just kept reading them over and over again. They explained God to me, and answered all the questions that had been building up from years of preaching ideas ABOUT Jesus. I was filled with the most overwhelming sense of security and love, that the words I have can hardly explain the elation I feel. Every time I think about it, I want to cry tears of joy... I know in the deepest part of my being that I am worthwhile and so special, and that I am loved, unconditionally and always, all ways. That all the trials and tribulations of my life have purpose. I now realize that I would never change ONE part of my life. The adversity as well as the goodness shape me, adjust my humanity. I feel so lucky that I KNOW. I KNOW. I don't feel the need to convince others, but to share, in the hopes that they can experience this. If I could bring this extreme peace to just one person in this world, I would feel like I had done my duty.

Abby Ward <abbyward@GTE.NET>

When love is once really dead

What was once tolerated is now berated
What once endeared is now feared
Ones we trusted are distrusted
When love is once really dead

Ones we held in our arms we now
take arms against
Ones we talked to we now talk about
One who was brother is now a bother
When love is once really dead

Even the mighty Jesus cannot soften the spirit
Open our eyes or sing so we hear it
The door is closed, the divorce is final
When love is once really dead

But I ask: Can new love spring forth?
Like new growth in the spring?
Mature, careful love born of the need to love
Growing in the hole where love once died
Nurtured only by the desire to love anew.
New love seeded, watered and shared
by the one who will.

Scott Brooks