

THE ARENA

ANZURA

Volume 4 No 2

The Australian and New Zealand
URANTIA Association

June 1997

THE MIND ARENA OF CHOICE

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

Editor's Notebook

Small numbers of English-speaking lovers of Jesus have had 40 years to examine and embrace the flood of fresh concept presented via *The URANTIA Book*. These decades have given us early readers the time we needed for the inevitably slow growth in our understanding. Time to make the difficult transition from old views to new. Time to allow our deep love for Jesus slowly to ripen into a full allegiance to Michael, and into eternal contracts with His Father.

One side effect of such slow development is that this generation of readers can become a stable interface between epochs. We may have leapt full of enthusiasm into Urantia's Fifth Epoch, but we are still close enough to the Fourth to remember its characteristic mindset. The angels of the churches have spent 1900 years lovingly turning a billion Urantian souls towards Michael. Helping reap this rich harvest is surely on Michael's agenda. Can we help ease the transition for those who will cling to the patterns of our planet's fourth age? Timing is important. Concepts that might have distressed Christians in the 1950's may well be joyfully received by the year 2000. The Most Highs understand young worlds like ours.

Russians are now reading the Russian translation. (What insights will be had by a population who experienced 70 years of systematic repression?) Speakers of French, Spanish and Finnish have had translations for some years. The Dutch, Koreans, Swedes, Estonians, Germans, Italians, Danish, Lithuanians, Norwegians and Portuguese will have the text in their native language before the year 2000.

What role can we play? What opportunities are waiting unseen before our eyes? This journal has been established as a place for you to let us know—what do you think about the way events are unfolding? What speculations and hopes keep you warm at night? Please feel free to pose your questions and expose your discoveries!

THE ARENA is a vehicle for *your* thoughts. We invite you all to enjoy the delightful anguish of expressing your ripening fruits of insight and experience.

THE ARENA

PO Box 609, Narrabeen, NSW 2101, Australia

Email: urantia@ozemail.com.au

Web: <http://www.ozemail.com.au/~urantia>

Ph/Fax: + 61 2 9970 6200

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.

In this issue...

| | |
|--|----|
| News around the world | 3 |
| Letters to the editor | 4 |
| Articles | |
| <i>Reflections</i> | 5 |
| <i>Let's get Morontian!</i> | 6 |
| <i>God's Extra-Dimentional Might</i> | 7 |
| <i>From urantial</i> | 11 |
| <i>Study groups</i> | 5 |
| About your library | 14 |
| A Nobel Prize speech | 16 |
| Axxxx | 16 |

Such conceptual expansion would hardly be desirable as it would deprive the thinking mortals of the next thousand years of that stimulus to creative speculation which these partially revealed concepts supply. It is best that man not have an overrevelation; it stifles imagination.

The URANTIA Book, page 330

The URANTIA Reference Library (ANZURA)

The project to establish a reference library available to readers and students of *The URANTIA Book* has sprouted wings. Robert Coenraads can be seen taking it out for short test flights most mornings, in anticipation of full scale service when the Pentium-based Lockheed-Martin primary drive array get strapped on. Early reports speak of its comprehensiveness and smooth ride.

To hasten the day, we want ANZURA members to fund the necessary PC (primary drive array). We have \$300 as a starting contribution, and need about another \$1,000 to enable warp velocities.

To help in this regard, Graeme Chapman has worked up Vern Verass' original interpretation of Joseph and Mary's family home, based on descriptions in *The URANTIA Book*, into a fabulous colour perspective which would take the pride of place in any home or study. Reproductions will soon be on sale.

See page 14 for an update from Dr Coenraads.

Conference '97 Sydney, Australia

The 1997 URANTIA Book Readers' Conference, hosted by the Sydney study groups, is to be held over the NSW Labour Weekend at:

The Ave Maria Retreat Centre
6 Wentworth Street,
Point Piper NSW 2027 (a Sydney suburb)
Tel: +61-2-9327-5339

DATES: Friday 3 October 1997 to
Monday 6 October 1997

The conference theme is:

"DARE TO BE GODLIKE"
- the ultimate challenge -
A Practical for Ascenders.

For more details, please see the brochure enclosed with this edition of *The Arena*. The organisers are still keen to hear from anyone with ideas on what they would like to see, hear and do at the conference. But the time is getting near. Please send in your ideas as soon as possible! And for those with friends overseas, this year's conference will be an excellent excuse to bring them to Urantia's Great South Land. A few balmy days in the company of a host of actively adjusted humans, overlooking one of the world's most picturesque harbours... What more could one ask for? But remember, October is just around the corner!



Neil Francey
ANZURA President



Rita Schaad
ANZURA Conference



Vern Verass
ANZURA Vice-President



Nigel Nunn
ANZURA Publications

*Some folks very keen to hear from you with respect to Conferences and Arena contributions! Think of the adventure if we all got God-like at Point Piper in October, and think of the fun if everyone sent their better unsolicited musings to *The Arena*! Articles for *The Arena* can be sent to the Narrabeen office, or directly to Nigel Nunn:*

nunn@ausport.gov.au

AIS, PO Box 176
Belconnen ACT 2616 Australia
phone: + 61 6 214 1465
fax: + 61 6 214 1433

The Arena is published four times a year and editorial contributions are welcome.

*Subscription rates: Australia - \$10 per year.
Other countries - \$A15 per year.*

*Please remit in Australian currency,
cheques made payable to ANZURA.*

*Interpretations and opinions expressed
are those of the authors and do not
necessarily represent those of
The Arena or URANTIA Foundation.
All quotations, unless otherwise indicated,
are from *The URANTIA Book* © 1955
and used by permission.*

News Around the World

The Ghostliest Galaxies

Astronomers have found more than 1,000 "low-surface-brightness" galaxies over the past decade, significantly altering our views of how galaxies evolve and how mass is distributed in the universe.

In the February 1997 edition of *Scientific American* (Vol 276, No.2), Gregory D. Bothun reports on his work discovering a class of galaxy which until recently was effectively invisible. This class includes some of the largest spirals yet found. With so much international effort, how could such huge astronomical objects go undetected until the last few years? The trouble has been our atmosphere. When viewed from the ground, the night sky has a certain incurable brightness. When the light from a star or galaxy is not much brighter than this hazy atmospheric glow, it becomes almost invisible to ground-based astronomers.

Over the past decade, Bothun and his colleagues have used an ingenious method of photographic contrast enhancement invented by Australian astronomer David J. Malin of the Anglo-Australian Observatory, together with electronic imaging systems based on improved charge-coupled devices (CCDs). This has allowed them to vindicate a theory put forward 20 years ago by astronomer Michael J. Disney. Disney pointed out that the galaxies catalogued and studied were simply those most conspicuous to human observers working from earth. He maintained that there was no reason to believe these were representative of the general population (of galaxies). However at the time no low-surface-brightness galaxies had been found. Thus for a decade, the astronomical community dismissed his ideas.

But in 1986 Disney's idea bore fruit. Bothun and colleagues serendipitously discovered the most massive (and luminous) disk galaxy yet observed—hidden by our atmospheric glow! To get an idea of how large this galaxy is, if it were located at the same distance as the spiral Andromeda, it would subtend an arc of fully 20 degrees in the earth's sky—40 times the apparent width of the full moon.

Malin had developed a method of enhancing the contrast in photographs which enabled him to find low-surface-brightness shells and other debris around normal galaxies. He once commented that with his technique, he was finding these "faint little buggers" (low-surface-brightness galaxies) everywhere! His technique ("malinization") involves stacking together multiple glass plates of the same image and illuminating them through the stack. The image that appears on the far

side of the stack from the light source is of greater contrast. The scheme works only when the plates are aligned with great precision. Malin's breakthrough was in finding a way to achieve this precision.

Bothun concludes his article by announcing that his team will search more rigorously for these galaxies, with CCD surveys of wide fields of the sky at the darkest sites. He admits that the full range of possible findings, and their implications for our understanding of galactic evolution and the structure of the universe, can scarcely be imagined.

We wish him well as he begins to map the *Great Walls*, (the outer-space belts of materialization). Perhaps his work will also lead to a more complete appreciation of the global effect of that astronomic anomaly, the *Great Attractor*. May he find Paradise both with telescope and heart!

As our astronomers begin to rigorously map the grand and master universes, consider that the space levels of the master universe are pervaded by vast donations of space potency. The galaxies of nebulae we can see and measure are just phenomenal disturbances within this pervasion, and they ever circle Paradise in those "elliptical space levels of lessened resistance to motion". The entire master universe must, in some paradisiacal sense, gravitate. Would this imply a large-scale curvature of the entire creation? If so, how would the Master Architects curve and fold our three dimensions? And how might the absonite (*a pre-echo of the finite*) be both cause and effect of the passage of our curled-up spacetime?

Astronomy in the twenty-first century—a spectator sport!

Rapid-Fire Gamma Rays

Four gamma-ray bursts, recorded by NASA instruments over two days last October, have shot down several key theories. Astrophysicists long thought that whatever caused the high-energy events, which usually occur at random throughout the sky, might well be destroyed in the making. But this new series appeared too quickly, and too close together, to support that idea.

Scientific American, March 1997 (Vol 276, No. 3)

"When there is so much good truth to publish and proclaim, why should men dwell so much upon the evil in the world just because it appears to be a fact? The beauties of the spiritual values of truth are more pleasurable and uplifting than is the phenomenon of evil."

The URANTIA Book Page 2076

Letters to the Editor

In the North of Eden

Ralph Bartley, Australia

E.T. DNA

Behzad Sarmast, USA

The way I figure it, out of the 100 members of Caligastia's staff, sixty reportedly fell, and at Daligastia's instructions began to mate with the locals. They were originally supposed to wait until Adam and Eve arrived, and produce a new order of beings by mating with the first generation of their pure-violet offspring. Caligastia and Daligastia knew that the sixty staff members were doomed to die a physical death after the rebellion, and ordered them to mate with humans, fully knowing that the resulting genetic mutation would create "belligerent" humans. I guess they knew the only people who could possibly follow them would have to be belligerent. This was the period when most of the Biblical and "Atlantis/Lemuria" myths and legends began.

So over the period of 200,000 years, some strain of this genetic mutation now exists in almost every human being on the planet. Now *The URANTIA Book* says that Caligastia personally selected *The 100* out of tens of thousands of applicants, and that each of the 100 was an ascendant ex-mortal, each from a different planet, and none of them from earth. Which means that the sixty who fell and started reproducing (there were fifty men and fifty women), have left a lasting and not-so-benign legacy on Earth, affecting us very much even today. So if we add Adam and Eve to the list, it stands to reason to say that this planet has "alien blood" (or *conceptual structures*), from a minimum of 61 different planets!

So let me get this straight: We're hurling through a near-infinite universe, sitting on a big ball-shaped, living spaceship, with basically no clue as to where we come from or where we're going. Meanwhile, back at the ranch, all the inhabitants are wondering if there are aliens out there, while they themselves are the aliens; and looking for answers from somewhere out there in space, when it's been right inside them the whole time. And to top it all off, the people who are making the decisions for the planet belong in funny farms, while the people who should be making those decisions, have one foot in the streets. Around and around we go....

Am I the only one that finds this ridiculous comedy/tragedy a bit over-kill? I mean is there anyone who will contest that the Old Man has a divine sense of humor? Not in a million years could a human come up with a story this weird.

Just an observation. Peace.

I have a dream in the north of Eden which I would like to share in the hope that some of you may also become interested in the prospect.

Space here precludes the full story behind this idea so the short of it is that the dream consists of a place of retreat for the study, principally, of *The URANTIA Book*. A place of peace, love and goodwill inspired, in part, by Paper 103, and in particular, section 9: "The Essence of Religion."

A few of us have briefly discussed the idea in the past but, as with so many things, it became shelved by the thrust of life's priorities. I intend to make it happen, if it is not against God's will, and I invite you to contact me if it strikes a spark of interest within you.

A ship of dreams in itself is often just a form of escape, in the mind, from the sometimes harsh reality of life on this planet. It usually founders when faced with practical implementation. So, I have applied myself to the practical matters of location, cost and method.

It seems that Eden, or more specifically the Bega Valley area just to the north, is reasonably accessible to Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra even for weekend trips. In my experience it is one of the most beautiful parts of the Ancient Continent and is still relatively unpolluted. Acreages are surprisingly cheap, for the present, although my investigations to date are not in depth.

Ownership of land could vest in a corporation established for the purpose thus allowing proprietors to buy and sell their interests through the medium of shares. A percentage of the land could be dedicated to our Master as common property for the use of all Urantia Book readers. So even though only a few might be proprietors as a matter of material reality, all Urantia Book readers could participate in the development via the common property.

Cost would be dependent upon many factors but as a starting point I feel five proprietors investing \$10,000 to \$20,000 each could be the ideal. Financing could also be a possibility. I have been truly surprised at what is available and could be developed for this low initial input.

So there are the bones of a dream laid bare for your examination. If you are interested in discussing the possibilities, in whatever capacity, you can contact me as follows :

Postal: PO Box 232, Neutral Bay
NSW 2089 Australia

Phone: (02) 99084822 at night or weekends

email: ralphb@onaustralia.com.au

Reflections

The Journey: Love

Bob Devine, USA

What is life about? I ask this question sincerely:

What is the purpose of life?

Now we can quote some answer out of our books, but I guess what I really wonder is what you think life is about—the answer from inside when you listen quietly.

I mean, if some person walked up to you tomorrow and wanted your best philosophy of life, what would you tell them to help them on their journey? I'd love to hear your answers!

I guess personally, what I'd say is that it's all about love... and sharing. Love God – the best and highest ideal of that that you can think of and do whatever you can to share that with others in your life and always be open to receiving a slightly different interpretation of God as seen through the eyes of another.

Always be willing to give just a little bit more of a break to someone else than you would yourself and you'll be less apt to find yourself a hypocrite. But be tender with yourself while recognizing your faults for what they are. That is the first step to changing patterns.

Make observations, not judgements. Observations see patterns of behavior without categorizing the qualities and capabilities of a person. Observations can change constantly, while judgements are meant to condemn.

And it's more important to seek truth than to ever think you've already found it, because truth is in the search and not in the capture, just as love is in the giving and the desire to aid rather than being held up in status. If you can't feel it, then you don't have it because you can't think love... it motivates you.

If there was one insight I could offer people to make them aware of the fact that God is present right now in their lives it would be to know that any time you have an honest sense of caring and an overwhelming feeling of gratitude or kindness in your heart, then you are feeling God's presence moving through you. Don't think it has to be so mystical. God is love, so when you love you are in the awareness of God.

Many people just don't know how ever present God is in their lives. Realize that God's kingdom includes everything that has ever been and ever will be. Therefore, our planet is contained therein and we only have to realize that we are there and that salvation is really in the desire and not in fulfilling a list of rules. If a person wants to know God, however weak, unknowing, and unworthy they may think they are, they will still of a surety come to know that which they seek, however long it may take. The love is for everyone, not just a few.

We're all brothers and sisters. God is our parent. And by faith we attain that relationship and salvation. That is what Jesus came to let us know. It's time to make it real and understood and unclouded with any other doctrinal beliefs.

Live life with enthusiasm and try to eliminate the fear as much as possible. I'm learning that it is fear which produces most of the sorrow anyway. And don't take yourself too seriously. There's more humor in our pride and seriousness than we can ever imagine. Try to enjoy life. See what it has to offer and make it real in your life. And realize that I'm talking to myself as I'm writing all of this...

Peace, love and light to you.

P.S. — "Fight the good fight" always.

The Journey: Fear

Connie Greene, USA

Okay, some of us choose to hold on to our fear, but it IS a choice. Adults don't just arbitrarily read things that make them feel fear, we seek out fear and give ourselves over to it. We:

1. Choose to participate in this action (reading, listening to particular people, joining a fundamentalist church).
2. Choose again to add our energy to a fearful concept when we participate in it by repeating it or studying it, thus giving it a longer life than it deserves.
3. Choose to keep repeating this behavior because fear is one of those unevolved pleasures that is bound up with emotion & feeling. We are loathe to admit that we are fond of it, that it gives us a rush, and that we should examine it honestly as kingdom believers and truth seekers.

Now you can surmise all you want, but I believe this fear thing is just an excuse not to take positive action. The UB says repeatedly that we can conquer fear – we have the tools to do this, and if people like us decide to abandon fear to the uneducated masses and move on with living the kind of lives we all want to live, we are fully capable of doing this.

You can also think that I am just not dealing with the fear, but I'm telling you that I HAVE dealt with it, and determined not to give it any kind of priority in my life. It's a petty luxury we can all do without.

You start by turning off those thoughts that draw you toward fear, and repeatedly substituting a positive action. After a time the positive action will have more drawing power than the negative ever did, because fear and evil are unreal, and positive action is real, and you are a God-seeking being and will always be drawn to the real.

continued next page

The Journey, continued

Instead of being paralyzed into sitting around worrying about your fears, you free yourself for the real work that needs to be done.

I know we all feel fear occasionally, but let's take some control over it, and not make a cozy place for it by the fire. It is an enemy of spiritual progress.

And another thing, you have the UB now. Can anybody out there attest to the fact that they have read or heard anything that exceeds or even approaches it for truth, beauty and goodness?

The Journey: Question

Mary Michael, USA

My question runs the length of *The URANTIA Book*, and is plainly stated on page 348:

“Why should the Gods be so concerned in so thoroughly training surviving mortals in the technique of universe management?”

I believe this question to be the crux of the rebellion. This question is/was posed by “a Divine Counselor and One without Name and Number authorized to function by the Ancients of Days on Uversa”.

Lucifer asks the same question on page 604 item #3 in “*The attack upon the universal plan of ascendant mortal training.*”

I find it most curious that both parties ask the same question—I also wonder whether the “rebellion” participants will not be totally adjudicated until the answer is obvious.

Why is this “out-there” plan so secret? Or am I dense and I just missed a big something, somewhere... ?

The Journey: Toddling

Mary (just another toddler) Michael, USA

Time and space are a conjoined mechanism of the master universe. They are the devices whereby finite creatures are enabled to *coexist* in the *cosmos* with the *infinite*. Finite creatures are effectively *insulated* from the *absolute* levels by time and space. But these insulating media, *without which no mortal could exist*, operate directly to limit the range of finite action. Without them no creature could act, but by them the acts of every creature are definitely limited. (page 1303)

In short, time does not exist for the Infinite and the Absolute—only for us. Think of time/space as you would think of a playpen for a baby/toddler.

Let's get morontian!

Jim Lengyel, USA

This is just something to think about concerning the evolution of human nature:

We are born into this world with a nature that is entirely material. Our God-consciousness is at its basest level. With the presentation of our Thought Adjusters by our Paradise Father, our purely material human nature suddenly attains the potential for morontial expression.

As we mature during our lifetime, our conscious appreciation of God (God-consciousness) grows. Our human nature, which is not a static blueprint, but a dynamic, changing reality, gradually expresses more and more of the morontian view and less and less of the material view.

I believe there comes a time in everyone's life when the morontian outlook becomes dominant and supplants the material purpose/design. I suspect, in the past, this point wasn't reached by most Urantians until the dissolution of their bodies and their subsequent reconstitution on the mansion worlds. But I am beginning to hold the opinion that we are living in a time when more and more people are developing their morontian natures to the point that this ‘spiritual displacement process’ is (or will be) appearing in greater and greater numbers.

What does this mean? In short, these human beings will have successfully evolved their human nature beyond the purely material and into the first stages of the morontial. They will exist with physical bodies but morontial natures.

What will be the effects of such a combination? In my opinion, these individuals will reveal a higher level of living expressing the more co-ordinated, harmonious, and peaceful way of morontial life. Those typical conflicts due to the material part of human nature will disappear.

How will they do it? My guess is, as they continually make decisions that reinforce the morontial point of view, their human natures will become more and more morontial until they consciously realize that the material part of their natures is no longer necessary for survival on this planet, that their newly acquired morontial natures are perfectly capable of handling all of their physical needs. At this point, it will become simply a conscious decision to abandon that which has already been replaced, a death of sorts, but more like the shedding of a skin that is no longer necessary.

The possibilities present in such a life, a morontian nature inside of a physical body, are electrifying. The service potential in such an individual on a planet like this goes beyond my ability to imagine.

Anyway, it's something to consider. Perhaps it's a possibility that some of you haven't yet entertained. And let's face it, with the level of entertainment you get these days, at the price, it's not a bad deal.

Articles

*A continuing difficulty we readers will face is getting any sort of feel for the **absonite** and other transcendent things. Here is an interesting piece by a Christian writer keen to discover the techniques employed by the the Father to establish his creation. We might rephrase his goal as that of discovering the techniques of the Seven Master Spirits for projecting the evolutionary universes.*

Mathematical Breakthroughs Establish God's Extra-Dimensional Might

By Hugh Ross

One year ago, while much of the world was preparing to celebrate Christmas, physicists Ed Witten and Nathan Seiberg gave their own special gift to the world. They reduced an entire field of mathematics down to a single short paper. For decades mathematicians had been stymied in their attempts to describe physics phenomena that require four-dimensional space. Their equations seemed impossible to solve, even with the aid of super computers. But a pair of super brains did it. Witten and Seiberg transformed these extremely complex equations into simple ones, almost as simple as the ordinary calculus equations undergraduates work on in their classes.¹

What especially thrilled me about this mathematical discovery was its potential for increasing our understanding of string theory and fundamental particles. I anticipated that breakthroughs in these two areas would further strengthen the case for creation. My guess was that such work would take at least a few years. I've often been teased for making optimistic estimates, but in this case I wasn't optimistic enough. The breakthroughs came in just a few months. In fact, these breakthroughs led to a rare and spectacular occurrence in the world of science – literally thousands of theories suddenly narrowed to just one – and I'm eager to share the story with you.

Black Holes and Strings

First, Witten and Seiberg themselves eliminated an annoying physical absurdity in physicists' theory explaining the unification of the strong and weak nuclear forces. They introduced a hypothetical particle that can become massless, and poof! the absurdity disappeared.² At about the same time physicist Andrew Strominger discovered that a certain type of black hole, what he calls a "charged extremal black hole," could solve a similar problem encountered in string theory. That's the theory physicists use to explain how all four forces of physics (the strong and weak nuclear forces, the electromagnetic force, and gravity) could have started out as one unified

force.² Later, Strominger teamed up with physicist Brian Greene and mathematician David Morrison to demonstrate that charged extremal black holes can transform into fundamental particles and vice versa in a manner similar to ice turning into liquid water and liquid water into ice.^{2,3} Eureka! Strominger, Greene, and Morrison had just shown how several thousand different string theories operating in four, five, six, and even ten spatial dimensions could all be united with perfect consistency into just one theory, the ten-dimensional one. To put it another way, theories invoking "magnetic monopoles," "ordinary strings," "five-branes," "solitons," "type II strings," and "heterotic strings," formerly thought to be competing descriptions of reality, can all be integrated in a single overarching theory.

Historical Background

Wait! Before you decide this is far too complicated and skip to the next article, let me provide some historical background, define some terms, and promise you that the reward for wading through all this mind-boggling physics and math is a remarkable, faith-building conclusion about God.

You may already know that Albert Einstein spent the last twenty-five years of his life in a fruitless effort to develop theory showing how the forces of physics, relativity, and quantum mechanics could have started as one force (a unified field theory). Some of his peers saw the search as a waste of time. But sixteen years after Einstein's death, particle accelerator experiments proved that at high enough temperatures, the electromagnetic force and the weak nuclear force could have been united as a single force, which they dubbed the electroweak force. Today, particle accelerators ten times more powerful exist. These have led to the discovery of all six of the quarks (subatomic particles) which theoreticians said must exist if the strong nuclear force had ever been united with the electroweak force.⁴ However, direct proof of the unification of these forces would require a particle accelerator forty trillion miles long (not likely to be funded as long as deficit reduction remains a national priority).

Traditionally, fundamental particles had been viewed as point entities of no size, or virtually no size. But in their advancing theoretical work they discovered that if these particles are indeed points, no unification of the forces is possible. It's time to quit – or is it? What if fundamental particles are not just points but rather lines or loops of energy, what physicists call strings? Actually, these so-called strings more closely resemble vibrating, rotating elastic bands. They are highly stretched at extremely high temperatures (such as the temperature that existed in the first split second of the universe's existence), but at the lower temperatures in evidence ever

continued next page

since that moment, they are contracted to such a degree that they behave like points.

String theories cannot work in just the three spatial dimensions (length, width, and height) familiar to us. They need more room to operate. However, they need that room – some extra spatial dimensions – only for one moment, just a split second after the initial creative burst. After that moment, they are no longer necessary to the universe’s development.

Dimensional Split

At the very heart of string theory is the proposal that the universe experienced a dimensional split just 10^{-43} seconds (a ten millionth of a trillionth of a trillionth of a second) after the creation event. At that instant, the ten-dimensional expanding universe split into two: a six-dimensional piece that permanently ceased expanding and never produced any matter, and a four-dimensional piece that became our observable dimensions of length, width, height, and time, continuing to expand and eventually producing matter, galaxies, and stars.

Another way of picturing this dimensional split of the cosmos is to see all the spatial dimensions of the universe originally curled up in a very tiny “superball.” In the beginning, these spatial dimensions began to uncurl. At 10^{-43} seconds after the creation event, six of these dimensions stopped uncurling and the rest (our observable dimensions of space and time) [unfurled]. To this day, the six uncurled dimensions remain curled up in a “ball” no bigger than 10^{-35} meters in diameter. Exactly where, we do not know, for we humans are confined in our measuring capacities to just the four dimensions of length, width, height, and time.

Given ten dimensions of space, scientists can show how quantum mechanics once integrated with general relativity and how all four forces of physics were once unified. The theory involves “heterotic strings.” These are closed loops vibrating in two directions. The clockwise vibration operates in ten dimensions of space, the counterclockwise in twenty-six dimensions. Don’t panic. Sixteen of these 26 compactify, leaving us with just ten, in effect. String phenomena are manifested in all ten dimensions, but the strings operate in several different possible contexts within the ten—one dimension, four dimensions, five dimensions, etc. When researchers encounter strings within these different contexts they may give the strings different names and describe their different characteristics and operations, but they are really just exploring different slices of the ten-dimensional pie.

The best music of Urantia is just a fleeting echo of the magnificent strains heard by the celestial associates of your musicians, who left but snatches of these harmonies of morontia forces on record as the musical melodies of sound harmonics.

The URANTIA Book, page 500

Massless Black Holes?

As most students of science and viewers of Star Trek realize, a black hole is an object so massive that its gravity sucks in anything—even light—that gets close enough. But, for Strominger’s black holes to fit neatly into string theory, black holes must become massless at critical moments. This necessity raises an obvious question: How can a black hole be massless without violating the definition of a black hole or, more difficult yet, without violating the principles of gravity? Simply put, how can there be gravity without mass?

The answer lies in the spatial configuration of a black hole in extra dimensions of space. Strominger discovered that in six spatial dimensions, the mass of an “extremal” black hole (one with a mass and charge so tiny as to be comparable to one of the fundamental particles) is proportional to its surface area. By making this area smaller and smaller, eventually the mass becomes zero. To answer the question another way, Einstein’s theory of special relativity ($E = mc^2$) tells us that under certain circumstances, mass and energy are interchangeable. His theory of general relativity extends this principle to space and time. In other words, if the lines of space are curled up tightly enough, mass and space are interchangeable. For the tiny black holes Strominger is describing, the space curvature is easily tight enough to do the job. As if this finding weren’t exciting enough, Strominger found that his extremal black holes become massless in precisely those circumstances—and only those circumstances—necessary to eliminate the remaining physical absurdities of string theory. The whole community of string theorists is dancing over this breakthrough. Black holes of all types now fit neatly into string theory. We are not forced, as before, to choose one of the five different kinds of strings proposed and reject the other four. Instead of trying to find the one out of thousands of string theory solutions to match to the real universe, we can now focus on refining this one.

Experimental Evidences For Strings

Before embracing the theological implications of this grand new theory, you may want to know whether or not string theorists have any more going for them than just an amazingly elegant set of equations. Is there any hard, experimental evidence to back up their claim that the universe really was created with ten initial dimensions and a unified set of physics forces? Let’s look at evidences arising from four different areas of research.

First (and perhaps weakest) came the findings (described above) made possible by particle accelerators. Since 1971, accelerator experiments have given us ample proof that two of the forces of physics, electromagnetism and the weak nuclear force, are unifiable, and at least partial proof that the strong nuclear force is unifiable with these other two. Though we do not yet have experimental evidence to show that gravity is unifiable

with electromagnetism and the weak and strong nuclear forces, the movement of findings lies in the right direction and suggests that we're on the right track. Evidences we still need may be helped along by the gravity wave telescopes recently built by Caltech and MIT. Researchers are hoping these instruments will bring the first-ever detection of gravity waves. Have patience, though. String theory predicts that these new machines will spot gravity waves only if a head-on collision occurs either in our galaxy or one very near between two neutron stars or two massive black holes.

A second set of evidences also has come through particle accelerators. They have enabled us to detect the existence of quarks and leptons, particles predicted by a (four-dimensional) subset of string theory called "supersymmetry." This finding is a good start. But supersymmetry also predicts that for every fundamental particle of matter known as a fermion there must exist a wavelike particle known as a boson that mediates the fundamental forces of physics. In other words, for every existing fermion there must be a matching boson. While particle accelerator experiments have detected fermions and bosons in abundance, none has ever detected a matched fermion-boson pair. At least we know why such a detection hasn't been made. The theory tells us that experiments to date lack the power necessary to find a matched pair. The good news is that the next generation of particle accelerators may have that power, maybe even as soon as the turn of the century.⁴ (Such a detection would have been an easy task for the cancelled superconducting supercollider.)

The third and strongest category of evidence comes via experimental proofs for the theory of relativity. To be viable, string theory must yield the theories of both special and general relativity. If physicists had been able to discover string theory before they knew anything at all about relativity, the theories of special relativity and general relativity would have easily and straightforwardly fallen out of the analysis of strings. Without assuming any of Einstein's equations or principles of relativity, the requirement that strings move self-consistently throughout space-time demands the operation of Einstein's equations and relativity principles. Thus, the experimental proofs that affirm special and general relativity simultaneously serve as evidence for the validity of string theory. Such proof is now quite staggering. As I describe in the second edition of *The Creator and the Cosmos*, recent measurements on a binary pulsar affirm general relativity to fourteen places of the decimal, that is, to a precision of better than a trillionth of a percent.⁶ And even stronger evidence exists for special relativity. It is affirmed to twenty-one places of the decimal, that is, to a precision of better than a ten millionth of a trillionth of a percent.⁷ These confirmations make relativity one of the best established principles in all of physics. This, in turn, establishes string theory or at least the many components of string theory that are linked with relativity.

*"High above the forests lie the
pastures of the sun,*

*Where the two that made the
journey now are one."*

The Moody Blues

A fourth evidence is the unique role string theory plays in solving major mysteries of physics. All previous quantum field theories ruled out the possibility of gravity, and all gravitational theories were at a loss to explain the properties of fundamental particles and quantum mechanics. If quantum mechanics were true, there should be no gravity. If gravity were true, there should be no quantum mechanics. And yet we possess overwhelming experimental evidence for both gravity and quantum mechanics. String theory is a quantum theory that demands the operation of gravity. It is the only theory that self-consistently explains all the known properties of the known (100+) fundamental particles, all the properties and principles of quantum mechanics, all the properties and principles of both special and general relativity, the operation of all four forces of physics, and all the known details of the creation event.

Theological Significance

An obvious theological implication from string theory is that the Creator of the cosmos must have the capacity to operate in at least as many dimensions as are needed to explain the existence of the cosmos—plus one. String theory tells us that the universe required ten. Therefore, the Creator possesses the ability to operate in a minimum of eleven (the early cosmos's ten plus one) dimensions.

Why do I say eleven? The space-time theorem of general relativity derived by Stephen Hawking, Roger Penrose, and George Ellis in the late 1960s places the cause of the universe outside its space-time dimensions.^{8,9} Since cause and effect occurs in some dimension of time or its equivalent, I conclude that the Creator must operate in at least eleven dimensions or their equivalent. (God may possess super dimensions or special spiritual properties that encompass space-time capacities and much more.)

Another theological implication of the space-time theorem of general relativity is that the ten dimensions required by string theory must have a beginning. A beginning means they are all created, which implies that the Creator has the capacity to create space-time dimensions at will. He can bring them into existence any time He wants and, as the book of Revelation suggests, take them out of existence any time He wants.

continued next page

Many skeptics feel compelled to reject Christianity because of its “impossible” doctrines. They point out, for example, that the Trinity is a mathematical contradiction, and so is the idea that God grants his creatures free choice without comprising His complete sovereignty. However, such biblical teachings are contradictions only if we insist they be resolvable within the four dimensions of space and time we humans experience. In the equivalent of eleven or more space-time dimensions, these doctrines are easily resolved.

The very presence of these paradoxical (as opposed to genuinely contradictory) doctrines in the Bible suggests that the message of the Bible must come from a supernatural source. (Impossible doctrines presented in other “holy books” remain impossible in any number of dimensions.) Since humans’ visualizations are limited to the four space-time dimensions in which we experience phenomena, human speculations about God will naturally confine Him to our four-dimensional context. Indeed, the Bible is the only holy book among the religions of the world to reveal God as simultaneously singular and plural (triune). No other book asserts the truth of both free-will and predestination. These unique features indicate that the Bible alone among the world’s holy books comes to us from the Being who created our space-time dimensions.

String theory may also help us accept many more of the Bible’s claims about God’s awesome powers. Given the extra-dimensional capacities of God established by string theory, it is fairly straightforward, for instance, to demonstrate that God really can pay attention to every action, word, and thought of all six billion human beings alive today and that He has both the power and wisdom to intervene in our lives.

Strings: the cutting edge of “missions”

I can see more implications, and I imagine my readers can see more, also. Perhaps you can see why I view string theory as the cutting edge in Christian apologetics. Two years ago I interviewed one of Caltech’s most brilliant graduate students on my television program. I asked him why he, as an evangelical Christian with a strong interest in missions, decided to pursue a career as a string theorist. He replied that after very seriously and prayerfully considering becoming a full-time missionary, he concluded that he could have a much greater impact for the advance of the Gospel by advancing string theory. Two years before completing his Ph.D. and two years before any of these incredible discoveries had been made, Gerald had the foresight to recognize that string theory would yield many significant proofs that will help convince skeptical minds of the truth of Scripture and of Christ’s claims. I believe, as he does, that the days ahead will yield many more such proofs.

What if every Bible college and missionary training school in the country incorporated relativity theory and string theory into the curriculum, along with other courses in the sciences? Dream on you might say. Yet, every

Bible college and missionary training school with which I’ve had contact in the past ten years has been receptive to the idea—once the leaders got a glimpse of what’s taking place at the frontiers of science. This dream can come true if we can raise up an army of Gerald and others like him. Please join me in praying that God will bless our efforts (and others’) to do just that.

References:

1. K. C. Cole, “Two Physicists Simplify Study of Four-Dimensional Space,” Los Angeles Times (November 29, 1994), pp. A1, A29
2. Gary Taubes, “How Black Holes May Get String Theory Out of a Bind,” Science, 268 (1995), p. 1699.
3. Taubes, “A Theory of Everything Takes Shape,” Science, 269 (1995), p. 1513.
4. Hugh Ross, “Quark Family Now Complete,” Facts & Faith, vol. 8, no. 3 (1994), pp. 3-4.
5. Ivars Peterson, “Beyond the Top: Now that Physicists Have Found the Top Quark, What’s Next?” Science News, 148 (1995), pp. 10-12.
6. Ross, The Creator and the Cosmos, 2nd ed. (Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1995), pp. 73-75.
7. S. K. Lamoreaux et al., “New Limits on Spatial Anisotropy from Optically Pumped 201Hg and 199Hg,” Physical Review Letters, 57 (1986), pp. 3125-3128.
8. Stephen W. Hawking, and George F. R. Ellis, “The Cosmic Black-Body Radiation and the Existence of Singularities in our Universe,” Astrophysical Journal, 152 (1968), pp. 25-36.
9. Hawking, Stephen and Penrose, Roger, “The Singularities of Gravitational Collapse and Cosmology,” Proceedings of the Royal Society of London, Series A, 314 (1970), pp. 529-548.

While you have assembled some beautiful melodies on Urantia, you have not progressed musically nearly so far as many of your neighboring planets in Satania. If Adam and Eve had only survived, then would you have had music in reality; but the gift of harmony, so large in their natures, has been so diluted by strains of unmusical tendencies that only once in a thousand mortal lives is there any great appreciation of harmonics. But be not discouraged; some day a real musician may appear on Urantia, and whole peoples will be enthralled by the magnificent strains of his melodies. One such human being could forever change the course of a whole nation, even the entire civilized world. It is literally true, “melody has power a whole world to transform.” Forever, music will remain the universal language of men, angels, and spirits. Harmony is the speech of Havona.

The URANTIA Book, page 500

urantia@www.urantia.org

An on-line *URANTIA Book* discussion group.

To join in, go to <http://www.urantia.org>
 — URANTIA Foundation home page —
 and choose **DISCUSSION**
 You can register directly

The complexity of the interweavings of morality, altruism, expediency, and human intention is well illustrated by the following excerpts from a continuing on-line discussion about "unconditional love"

A quote from a local magazine was presented:

May 1997, Orlando Florida

What if they threw a fund raiser and nobody wanted the cash? That's what happened to some exotic dancers who raised money for breast cancer research by washing cars topless.

When it came time to donate \$3,500, the women from the Club Juana Cocktail Lounge were rejected by a prominent research center and the American Cancer Society's local chapter. "That makes me mad," dancer Stephanie Morris said, "Dancers get a bad name because of what we do. When we try and do something for the community, they don't accept it." A mammography center finally accepted the money but the snubbed dancers remained angry. "Our hearts are in the right place," Morris said. The dancers at last found a taker in the Women's Center for Radiology, a private center run by two doctors, where the money will go to provide mammograms to uninsured women who can't afford the \$65 tests. The money was originally raised for the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Orlando. A spokesman said, "we had calls from patients and former patients who were very upset that something like this would be done in the interest of cancer research." A spokesman for the American Cancer Society said they have a policy of rejecting money from groups it deems questionable.

Sandor <SSzabados@AOL.COM> wondered:

Do the ends justify the means? What about donations to worthy causes from drug money, exploitative child labor, theft, and other illegal/immoral activities? Hypothetically, of course, if Jesus were to run a charitable organization, what would He say of its source? Just some questions.

To which Tony <cdrwlf@INTELLEX.COM> replied:

Ok, time to put my neck out on the block again!

Having been management in several nightclubs in the past, I have seen the dancers and waitresses/waiters raise incredible amounts of cash for charitable donation to worthy causes.

The self-righteousness and duplicity of "good Christian folks" about "dirty money" make me gag, quite honestly.

I've seen churches raise money "for the Lord's work" by duping, tricking and outright lying to elderly citizens, by preying on the fears of the population and by intimidation and force. This is *clean money*?

I am quite positive that I don't have the divinely inspired insight into the Gospels and last section of the UB that some of the subscribers on this list have... in fact, after reading the posts of this and the other lists for over a year, I'm positive of it. But, I don't remember anywhere that either book says that the Master stopped people and asked where the money came from. He, or his staff, took the money and fed the people, provided for them, cared for them. And talked to the donors about where it came from and how in due time.

Now, I know I'm going to get blasted for this post, and quite honestly, I just don't care. It's time to ask the question that Jerry Brown did during his last run for the Presidency: "can we follow the money"?

National NPO's (Not-for-Profit Organisations) can refuse money if they want, local NPO's can do the same. But in the long run they're shooting themselves in the foot and short changing the very people they are legally bound to provide for by their charter and IRS standings.

But, this is just my opinion. I'm certain there are wiser and more knowledgeable folks out there on these lists who will correct me.

Connie <cgreene@JVLNET.COM>

responded: Hey guys,

Time for a female perspective on this charity thing. Last year in Madison the girls from Hooters staged a fundraiser for battered women and their money was refused.

I'm not so sure this money was raised for anything but publicity and the chance to say they participate in community work. As far as I've seen the money is raised by washing cars in skimpy wet clothes or baseball games where the guys make sure to lose just so they can watch the girls run around the bases in tight t-shirts.

Let's change the perspective on this a bit – what if money for testicular cancer was being raised by male

continued next page

dancers from gay clubs? Or male exotic dancers who encourage women to stuff bills in their g-strings? Would you feel differently about accepting this money and giving these guys the good publicity that goes with community work?

Breast cancer often results in losing all or part of the woman's body that is being so glorified and exploited by some of these groups. Surely you can understand that this would feel like a knife in the back of the groups that are trying to make women feel as if they haven't lost their femininity when they lose their breasts. I think if the money was donated anonymously it would be accepted gratefully, but when the newspapers and TV are alerted to give publicity to these "charitable" fundraisers, it does sort of cast a shadow over the proceedings.

OK, I'll get off my soapbox. I don't really like putting myself in the role of judgemental feminist anyway. Too hard to stay serious that long.

Bob <devine@POKY.SRV.NET> added

I tend to believe that Jesus would take the money and use the opportunity to support people trying to do something unselfishly for a good cause.

Would he judge the appearances of the situation? I don't think so... If he would walk with beggars and thieves, publicans, sinners, tax-collectors, whores, he surely would accept this gift of love from these women and perhaps talk to them about their lives and who they are. While other people would look upon the situation, thinking of the inappropriateness of it all, the Master might very well be standing there helping them in their effort, working with them instead of against them.

It is the intention that matters, not the appearances or the degrees of social appropriateness. In the end, who in this situation was unwilling to serve their fellows?

And isn't that really what matters? Pondering along with a fellow ponderer...

Then Jim <jnl@MAUL.NET> opined

And so the battered women got a little more battering, from some prudes this time.

As far as the topless car-wash, I don't see anything happening here but the abrogation of Truth-Beauty-and Goodness to some holier-than-thou hypocrites.

The Truth was: What the women did was perfectly legal in every sense of the word.

The Beauty was: In the eye of the beholders of their charms (I consider the female breast beautiful and I'm not an artist who sketched nudes in art class to better depict them) which resulted in;

The Goodness of their contribution to a worthy cause.

The atmosphere at the event was probably light-hearted and loving and the result of the publicity from this event could have been to raise consciousness of this

serious problem. The actual result was far less, and only resulted in controversy and division.

As I said before, the women involved will be reluctant to give any more time for worth-while human causes because of the way they were treated. Surely nothing was gained, but if you can see anything good in this I would like to hear from you.

To which Connie <cgreene@JVLNET.COM>

replied: Jim,

It seems to me you are confusing some things here. No one is judging the topless women, just the kind of publicity this sort of "charity work" engenders. This is not a slam against individuals, but (I hope) an honest appraisal of how society views these sort of things.

The UB mentions somewhere that when you step outside the boundaries of society, you no longer can expect its protection. Now in your world topless women washing your car may mean something entirely different, but in the mainstream many people wouldn't want to take their children or husbands to show them this particular example of charity work, and many husbands would not encourage their wives to do this as a PTA project. This doesn't mean we think these are terrible people, just that they exist on the fringe of the mainstream.

If instead they worked clothed in a soup kitchen or went door to door to ask for donations I'm sure this would be taken a lot more seriously. I'm not knocking the human being, just the method. I imagine going to get a mammogram and the machine has a brass plaque saying "Donated by the girls of Hooters". 'Scuse me, this seems pretty funny.

When I was much, much younger my boyfriend played in the house band at the Playboy Club. I knew some of these women, and they did not have happy lives. Now I volunteer at a battered women's shelter, and sometimes see these women passing through. They usually do not have a high opinion of themselves or their bodies. I'm just saying a lot of these women would benefit by joining the mainstream.

Remember Jesus took the women he and Ganid met in Rome to a home where he knew they would get a good meal and some guidance. He didn't just accept their positions in society, but tried to show them something better.

OK,OK, the soapbox thing again, I wish I did this better. But you should feel sorry for these people...

Connie (I am not a prude!) G.

*What did the zen master say
to the hot dog vendor?*

"Make me one with everything."

And Jim <jnl@MAUI.NET>, realizing the ice underfoot was thin, replied

*Dear Connie Notaprude
Do I at least get the booby prize for effort?
Ouch, Ouch,
I apologize ahead of time,
I feel like such a boob.
Love, Jim Howlett*

After a time of reflection,

Sandor <SSzabados@AOL.COM> contributed

Jim, I didn't respond to your posting earlier because I wanted to take the time to think about it carefully. I have been thinking about this issue for a long time and your answer is one that I have considered.

A point can certainly be made, from a human standpoint, that a worthy cause where help is offered to alleviate suffering can justify the conduct of the offerer. A distinction, however, should be made between the legality of the act, a human judgement, and the morality of it, a spiritual one. Human legal norms change and what was illegal before because it was considered immoral under the standards of the time, no longer is. A good case in point is gambling.

My question, however, was specific: If Jesus were to run a charitable organization, what would He say about its source? Would He accept help from people who engage in what He might consider (I speculate, of course) immoral activities? By accepting such help or gifts, would He not, in fact, imply approval of the behavior, or at least condone it, and further its continuance?

It seems to me that the moral standards of the Son of Man are eternal. He came to this planet to live a perfected life so we may be "inspired" by it, but not try to "imitate" it (UB claim). Furthermore, His presence here was for all His created worlds and for all time not merely for Urantia (UB claim). It is also my opinion that the UB has been sent, among other reasons, so that we may seek different standards of behavior, morality, etc., more in line with its teachings.

In truth, Sandor.

P.S. My belief that He might/would not be hanging around strip-joints or any other strip-anything is based on the fact that He refused to partake of the public baths. It was a logical assumption, but I may be wrong. All of this is speculative, but so are all our opinions.

The Deity response to the creative wills of the Supreme Being and his associates was vastly beyond their purposeful intent and greatly in excess of their conceptual forecasts.

The URANTIA Book, page 200

Gratification, stability and sex

The great threat against family life is the menacing rising tide of self-gratification, the modern pleasure mania. The prime incentive to marriage used to be economic; sex attraction was secondary. Marriage, founded on self-maintenance, led to self-perpetuation and concomitantly provided one of the most desirable forms of self-gratification. It is the only institution of human society which embraces all three of the great incentives for living.

Originally, property was the basic institution of self-maintenance, while marriage functioned as the unique institution of self-perpetuation. Although food satisfaction, play, and humor, along with periodic sex indulgence, were means of self-gratification, it remains a fact that the evolving mores have failed to build any distinct institution of self-gratification. And it is due to this failure to evolve specialized techniques of pleasurable enjoyment that all human institutions are so completely shot through with this pleasure pursuit. Property accumulation is becoming an instrument for augmenting all forms of self-gratification, while marriage is often viewed only as a means of pleasure. And this overindulgence, this widely spread pleasure mania, now constitutes the greatest threat that has ever been leveled at the social evolutionary institution of family life, the home.

The URANTIA Book, page 942

The star-observer colony of Uversa

They carry on their work with the aid of a multitude of mechanical instruments and physical appliances; they are also greatly assisted by the Solitary Messengers and other spirit explorers. These celestial astronomers make constant use of the living energy transformers and transmitters, as well as of the reflective personalities, in their work of star study and space survey. They study all forms and phases of space material and energy manifestations, and they are just as much interested in force function as in stellar phenomena; nothing in all space escapes their scrutiny.

Similar astronomer colonies are to be found on the sector headquarters worlds of the superuniverse as well as on the architectural capitals of the local universes and their administrative subdivisions. Except on Paradise, knowledge is not inherent; understanding of the physical universe is largely dependent on observation and research.

The URANTIA Book, page 339

About your Library

Robert Coenraads, Australia

The URANTIA Reference Library at 7 Walsh Street Narrabeen is continuing to grow. Special thanks to Faraday Rampe who has donated quite a number of book this quarter, including a New Bible Dictionary and a Bible Commentary. I have been busy reading "Jesus the Christ", an easy reading 800 page in depth study of everything known about the gospels, heavily footnoted to place every utterance and incident into historical perspective. Written by James Talmage, the first edition was published in 1915 by the Church of Latter Day Saints and the last chapters are specific to their church dealing with the ministry of the resurrected Christ in the Americas.

Tony Rudd has donated two copies of his tape, "The Meaning of Life" in which he expounds on our place in the Universe and the development of our need and desire to do "the will of God". The content draws heavily on *The URANTIA Book*, the name of which Tony deliberately avoids mentioning in order to place emphasis on the message of God rather than any historic source... Jesus used this style of teaching a lot with great success.

Some of the study aids we have here are also very useful, for example Ruth E. Renn's, "Study Aids for Part IV of *The URANTIA Book*, The Life and Teachings of Jesus". In 103 pages, the different aspects of the Master's life are summarised in easy-to-digest table form, including his miracles, his timetable of personal and public ministry, his lineage, his Twelve Apostles and instructions to all future teachers of his Gospel, his parables and teachings, his promises to us, and an excellent comparison of Jesus' teachings with the four gospels... excellent for lesson or presentation planning.

Slides for projected presentations are being assembled. We have an excellent set taken from paintings of Jesus and the Disciples portrayed as common, strong, hard working fisher folk and labourers. These will be shown at the conference. Speaking of artworks, Graeme Chapman has worked up Vern Verass' original interpretation of Joseph and Mary's family home, based on descriptions in *The URANTIA Book* into a fabulous colour perspective which would take the pride of place in any home or study. Reproductions will soon be on sale and the proceedings will go towards the library computer.

The Public Library *URANTIA Book* Placement Programme is coming along quite nicely. Did you know that there are over a thousand public libraries in Australia and New Zealand, and that it is our aim to have a *URANTIA Book* in every one of these as soon as possible. A daunting task, but remember, the Gideons Society have placed a Bible in every hotel room, in every town, in many countries throughout the world (look for it in the top drawer next time you're away from home). Just last week we placed a copy of *The URANTIA Book* in the Darwin Public Library at the instigation of avid readers

*Joy, brilliant spark of the Gods.
Daughter of Elyssium, Heavenly being,
we enter your sanctuary, intoxicated with fire.
Your spells reunite that which was strictly divided
by convention. All men become brothers
where your gentle wing rests*

Schiller

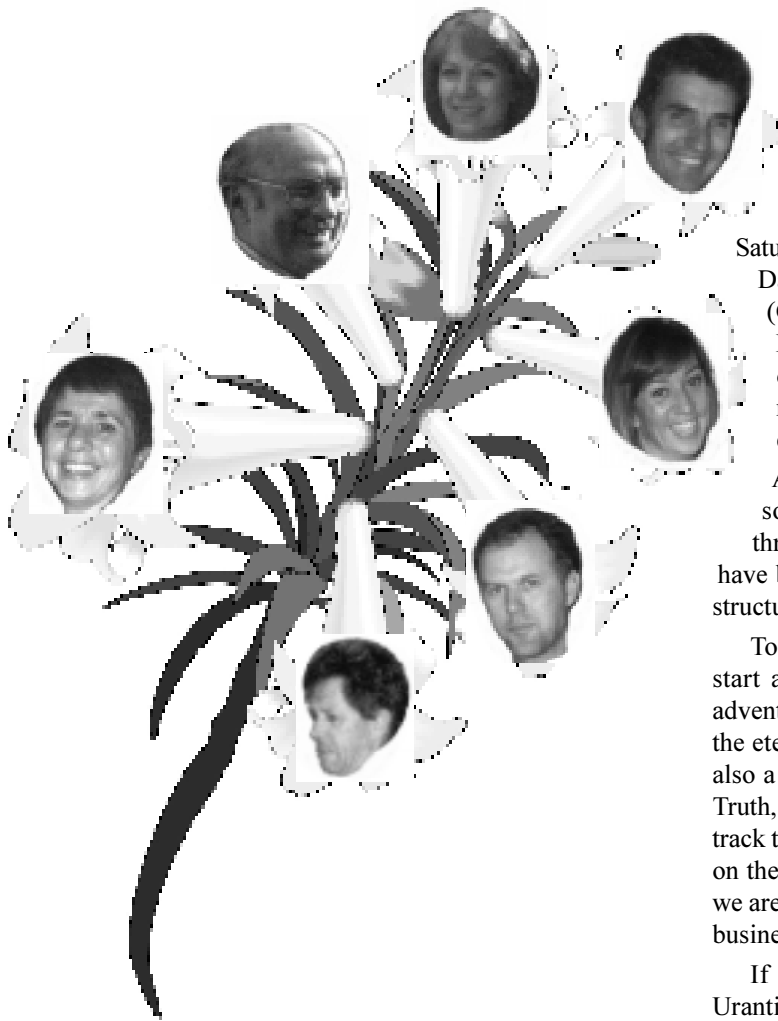
Bea and Diane Freeman, and before that, Rita Schaad had one placed at the Newcastle Library. There are so many delightful stories coming to us about people discovering *The URANTIA Book* in their local library, so please make sure that it is available in the libraries near you.

Please feel welcome to visit our library, and continue to send your donations to

URANTIA Reference Library (ANZURA)
P.O. Box 609
Narrabeen NSW 2101, Australia

*Isolation tends to exhaust the energy
charge of the soul. Association with one's
fellows is essential to the renewal of the
zest for life and is indispensable to the
maintenance of the courage to fight those
battles consequent upon the ascent to the
higher levels of human living. Friendship
enhances the joys and glorifies the
triumphs of life. Loving and intimate
human associations tend to rob suffering
of its sorrow and hardship of much of its
bitterness. The presence of a friend
enhances all beauty and exalts every
goodness. By intelligent symbols man is
able to quicken and enlarge the
appreciative capacities of his friends. One
of the crowning glories of human
friendship is this power and possibility of
the mutual stimulation of the imagination.
Great spiritual power is inherent in the
consciousness of wholehearted devotion
to a common cause, mutual loyalty to a
cosmic Deity.*

The URANTIA Book, page 1776



**4th National study day,
26th April 1997**

There were nine of us on that bright Autumny Saturday, most of us Sydney- and Newcastle-siders, plus David who traveled down specially from Hervey Bay (Qld) despite other family commitments. We shared Lunch, which in Narrabeen is invariably a delightful and extremely healthy affair for body mind and soul. But those blue books came out soon enough and we tackled Paper 56 – Universal Unity. Again we found the chapters awesome. There were some “wows” and gasps and wide-eyed moments throughout. If only someone “really clever” could have been there and drawn us a diagram to explain this structure of connectedness.

To strive far and high is fantastic, but to be able to start at our level and “by the consummation of each adventure we will, on new experiential levels, rediscover the eternal God” (p. 645.6) is comforting. And this was also a boost to our confidence, that by concentrating on Truth, Beauty and Goodness, we can’t really slip off the track too far. So please let us trust a bit more, a lot more, on the “working outs from on high” and be assured that we are held safe in our sincerity to “be about the Father’s business”.

If you desire the encouragement of some fellow Urantians please think seriously about joining us at the conference in Sydney in October this year and explore with us what it means to – **DARE TO BE GODLIKE** – We promise you... there will be Adventures aplenty to be consummated!!

Rita, the Sydney study group.

Around Sydney

Meetings are still being held on a weekly basis. Narrabeen, hosted by Michael in the Swadlings’ absence, one week and Surry Hills, Quakers Hall, on the alternate week. Narrabeen has a solid core of regular readers and whilst Surry Hills slowed for a while, there are now usually four each fortnight. To assist a new reader we have moved the Surry Hills meeting forward to 6.30pm for a trial period. At the same time we will be using a smaller room to achieve a more comfortable atmosphere. Format for the Surry Hills meeting is experimental at present in that we are trying topical rather than straight reading of progressive papers. This has come about due to new reader enquiries at meetings so we are just going with the flow.

Inquires about either meeting to

Michael on (02) 9913 7893 or

Ralph on (02) 9908 4822

There is an opportunity for a Saturday afternoon meeting at Cremorne if enough persons show interest. Monthly? Ring Ralph!

We look forward to hearing from you!!

**Sydney Study Groups
3rd quarter 1997 dates.**

Alternating weekly between the two venues listed.
All study groups begin at 7pm on
a Wednesday evening.

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| City (Surry Hills) | North Narrabeen |
| Contact: Ralph Bartley | Contact: Michael Pither |
| Phone: 02 9908 4822 | Phone: 02 9913 7893 |

| | | | |
|-------|----|-------|----|
| June | 4 | June | 11 |
| June | 18 | June | 25 |
| July | 2 | July | 9 |
| July | 16 | July | 23 |
| July | 30 | Aug. | 6 |
| Aug. | 13 | Aug. | 20 |
| Aug. | 27 | Sept. | 3 |
| Sept. | 10 | Sept. | 17 |
| Sept. | 24 | | |

The Nobel Prize Speech

William Faulkner

I feel that this award was not made to me as a man but to my work—a life's work in the agony and sweat of the human spirit, not for glory and least of all for profit, but to create out of the materials of the human spirit something which did not exist before. So this award is only mine in trust. It will not be difficult to find a dedication for the money part of it commensurate with the purpose and significance of its origin. But I would like to do the same with the acclaim too, by using this moment as a pinnacle from which I might be listened to by the young men and women already dedicated to the same anguish and travail, among whom is already that one who will some day stand here where I am standing.

Our tragedy today is a general and universal physical fear so long sustained by now that we can even bear it. There are no longer problems of the spirit. There is only the question: When will I be blown up? Because of this, the young man or woman writing today has forgotten the problems of the human heart in conflict with itself which alone can make good writing because only that is worth writing about, worth the agony and the sweat.

He must learn them again. He must teach himself that the basest of all things is to be afraid; and, teaching himself that, forget it forever, leaving no room in his workshop for anything but the old verities and truths of the heart, the old universal truths lacking which any story is ephemeral and doomed—love and honor and pity and pride and compassion and sacrifice. Until he does so, he labors under a curse. He writes not of love but of lust, of defeats in which nobody loses anything of value, of victories without hope and, worst of all, without pity or compassion. His griefs grieve on no universal bones, leaving no scars. He writes not of the heart but of the glands.

Until he relearns these things, he will write as though he stood alone and watched the end of man. I decline to accept the end of man. It is easy enough to say that man is immortal simply because he will endure; that when the last ding-dong of doom has clanged and faded from the last worthless rock hanging tideless in the last red and dying evening, that even then there will still be one more sound: that of his puny inexhaustible voice, still talking. I refuse to accept this. I believe that man will not merely endure: he will prevail. He is immortal, not because he alone among creatures has an inexhaustible voice but because he has a soul, a spirit capable of compassion and sacrifice and endurance.

The poet's, the writer's, duty is to write about these things. It is his privilege to help man endure by lifting his heart, by reminding him of the courage and honor and hope and pride and compassion and pity and sacrifice which have been the glory of his past. The poet's voice need not merely be the record of man, it can be one of the props, the pillars to help him endure and prevail.

Stockholm

December 10, 1950

*Joyful, joyful we adore thee
God of Glory, God of Love
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee
Opening to the sun above
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness
Drive the dark of doubt away
Giver of immortal gladness
Lead us to the coming day*

*Thou art giving and forgiving
Ever blessing, Ever blest
Wellspring of the joy of giving
Ocean depth of happy rest
Thou our Father, man our brother,
All who live in love are Thine
Teach us how to love each other
Fill us with thy joy divine*

*Mortals, join the happy chorus
Which the morning stars began
Father love is reigning o'er us
Brother love binds man to man
Ever singing, march we onward
Victors in the midst of strife
Joyful music leads us onward
in the triumph song of life.*

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
by Henri von Dyke 1907
(Sung to the melody of Beethoven's 9th)*