

The Sojourn begins

URANTIAN *Sojourn* is a magazine whose time has come. However, this special inaugural issue is very nearly a baptism by fire. The tumultuous events of 1989 delayed the debut several times; and while we have gone to press, events reshaping the URANTIA Movement continue.

1989 witnessed the financial and legal bludgeoning of The Center for Urantia Book Synergy by Urantia Foundation Trustees, followed closely by three unprecedented Trustee resignations. Before the dust had even begun to settle, Foundation President Martin Myers announced the dissolution of Urantia Brotherhood by Urantia Foundation. The schism between those who would "forestall by decades" interest in The URANTIA Book, with those who take seriously the exhortations of the Book to take its message to the ends of the earth, appears to have been enflamed anew by the legal letter of the law. But FEF faces an even more immediate challenge: survival.

They must become responsive to the united reader-believers that make up the "Movement." Urantia Foundation, in its maniacal pursuit of the letter of the law and a prime directive of "no growth is good growth," has become a loose cannon on its own deck. On the unlikely chance a propitious bolt of lightning will cause them to change course, we can anticipate the Trustees' habit of attacking their own body will inevitably result in self-immolation. Until then, the united readers of The URANTIA Book will have to deal with them. We should all start with a careful reading of the recent 90 page exposure of their collective brain. If that doesn't motivate you to unite with all other reader-believers to effect major change, we wish you a complete recovery.

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URANTIAN Sojourn is a seasonal production attempting to report the world-wide spiritual renaissance now in progress on Urantia, with the added perspective of the Fifth Epochal Revelation. Naturally, readers of **The URANTIA Book** will fair much better than non-readers in following our coverage of the URANTIA Movement, but therein lies the motivation for us to reach out through our ministry in a manner that will whet the appetites of our non-Book reading fellows for truth; in particular the truths of **The URANTIA Book**. Our magazine will be the work of any reader-believers who choose to participate in this effort.

For non-readers, our name requires some explanation.

"Urantia" (pronounced with a soft t) is the name of our planet, according to **The URANTIA Book**. The Book calls inhabitants of our world "Urantians." Our brief sojourn on this world is our

introduction to the infinite journey the Universal Father is offering, if we are but willing to follow truth where it leads us.

One main purpose of this magazine will be to provide an introduction to The URANTIA Book's matchless quality and scope. It has always been more or less difficult to find, but that could change; it may become impossible. For those who have never seen one, it's a large blue book of 2,091 pages of text – no pictures.

The sixty-six page Table of Contents precedes a foreword that can easily induce intellectual paralysis in new readers, but hang in there, the Book will gradually reveal a *cosmology* befitting the mind of the twentieth-century Urantian. The four parts of the Book tell the story of the Central and Superuniverses, our Local Universe, the history of Urantia, and, most significantly, the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

The URANTIA Book is extraordinary in nearly every way. For those of you who hunger after truth, and have the ability to abandon your preconceptions long enough to experience the vast treasure that awaits you on those pages, a life-changing experience is just around the corner. But to those who "can't get into it" we wish you well; please give your book to a friend.

The inclusion in this special edition of a little satire on the Urantia Movement is above all, a comment on how seriously some Urantians, especially those with "power", take themselves; they may be children of God, but there is no excuse for the childishness that has created a colossally bad joke of the Urantia Movement. It's time to throw the bums out.

We know the message of Jesus will not fail on Urantia. We can go about the Father's business with a confidence born of the knowledge of forthcoming success. However, that does not relieve us of the responsibility to actually take a stand, make the effort, and *do* His work.

We who put these pages together are willing to do that work, and we expect to make mistakes; but one we won't be making again is wasting our time and energy keeping the light under a bushel; saving our talents, lest we lose them.

Like so many heretics in the past, we believe with a living faith that "God is on our side"; and we be about His will as best we understand it.