

October 26, 1972
5901 Kleinpell Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93309

Mr. Alvin L. Kulieke, President
URANTIA Brotherhood
533 Diversey Parkway
Chicago, Illinois 60614

Dear Mr. Kulieke,

Please forgive me for not responding sooner to your thoughtful letter of August 25 and accept my assurance that Phil Calabrese and I were both elated to receive notification of the URANTIA Brotherhood approval for our experimental course, "An Introduction to The URANTIA Book". We have now held three of the five two-hour meetings of the class which consists of twenty-three students enrolled for credit (one unit) and twelve to fifteen persons attending but not enrolled. The former group consists of a cross-section of students from each of the Schools of Humanities, Behavioral Sciences, Business, and Natural Sciences and Mathematics; while the latter group includes interested faculty, faculty wives, and a small contingent, including Julia Fenderson (whose warmth, beauty, and goodness furnish all of us a wonderful inspiration), from the First Urantia Society of Los Angeles.

Following a considerable amount of thought and discussion, Phil and I decided to proceed with a fairly low-keyed, informal presentation of some primary aspects of The URANTIA Book, allotting some time for open discussion and questions in proportion to the student interest in such participation. Beyond this, the students are urged to read certain specified papers by way of preparation and other supplementary papers as their time allows and interest motivates. About a dozen of the students have purchased their own books, and we have three copies at the library reserve desk (two of which the afore-mentioned FUSLA graciously donated for this purpose). The student interest levels and rapt attention patterns have been extremely gratifying.

During the first meeting, Phil and I each talked ("lecture" seems too formal here) in generalities about the book and its contents, indicating our high regard for it. Further, we described what we planned for the succeeding meetings and indicated a desire to maintain some constraints on class discussion so as not to stray too far from the topic at hand. At the same time, however, we expressed our willingness to continue peripheral discussion, in an informal "rap" session, following the formal class meeting time. There was not, nor will there be, any attempt to indoctrinate or persuade the students concerning the origins or teachings of The URANTIA Book. Rather, our position is one of presenting an introductory preview of the book and urging the students towards some reading and general perusal of the book while subjecting it to their own appraisal. At the same time, I am sure that my own views of the URANTIA Papers are clearly perceived as being very positive;

and I hope that it is understood that I have formulated these through careful and critical study combined with personal experience.

The second session was devoted to Papers 99-103 which strike me as being a good starting point for the reader. These sections are relatively self-contained and readable; they offer a helpful transition from a variety of conceptions of religion and the religious experience to the spirit and level of the URANTIA presentation concerning such matters. Our talks centered around the basic themes and ideas developed in these papers; a brief discussion period was held during the last few minutes of the two-hour class period.

The third meeting was devoted to presenting an outline of the cosmography and cosmology of The URANTIA Book. Our remarks were concerned primarily with topics included in Papers 11, 12, 14, 15, 32, and 43. Some of Julia's transparencies (for overhead projector) and enlargements of the art-work from "An Artist's Conception of the Master Universe" provided some excellent visual aids for this occasion.

For the two remaining sessions, the general topics are "The History of Urantia" and "The Life and Teachings of Jesus". In addition to a presentation of an "overview" of these two parts of the book, we will attempt to season our discussions with some specific stories and concepts from certain papers such as 62, 63, 72, 74, 93, and 110 from Part III and, perhaps, 128, 134, 136, 139, 150, and 196 from Part IV.

Frustration and difficulty (due primarily to the enormity and scope of the work being dealt with), as well as obvious challenge and fulfillment, are involved in both the planning and implementation of this undertaking. However, the total experience is overwhelmingly positive and rewarding and, I feel, most successful. I am reasonably certain that a nuclear study group will be generated from this introductory course and the individuals concerned will continue to read and meet on an informal, extracurricular basis. There may be requests to repeat the course again during some future term, although we will not plan to do so immediately or without further consultation with you. I certainly perceive the entire experience as being affirmative for everyone involved.

I am looking forward to meeting you and other URANTIA Brotherhood and Foundation members this summer in Los Angeles at the meeting that Julia is now planning.

Because of the inclusion of some comments on our course, I am enclosing a copy of a letter from Phil Calabrese to Mr. J. C. Mills. If you wish to have additional information concerning the course or if there is any way in which I may be of service, please notify me.

Best wishes,

Bob Hunt

Robert W. Hunt

cc: Phil Calabrese
Julia Fenderson
J. C. Mills

10/30 original sent Alvin, copy 10/31 B.M. file

October 1, 1972
2601 Sunset Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93304

Mr. J. C. Mills, Vice President
URANTIA Foundation
533 W. Diversey Parkway
Chicago, Illinois 60614

Dear Mr. Mills,

Thank you for your quick and direct reply to my letter of August 4. I appreciate how much patience it must require to painstakingly answer each inquiry that comes to your attention, especially since you must often have to duplicate your work as you inform each writer of the experiential status of the Urantia Foundation and the Urantia Brotherhood.

In your letters (and of course in the book) I have duly noted the emphasis placed upon experience. (I well know the human tendency to plan about ten times as much as can be accomplished with the time and resources allotted!) Alas, it is true that I am ever grappling with this very problem in my daily life. The prospect of a new experience is often quite frightening and discomfoting but without such new experience, surely I tend to stagnate rather than grow.

In talking to Julia Fenderson at our celebration of Jesus' birthday, she suggested that my concept of a Urantia university may not have been completely communicated. It is not a university dedicated to turning out "credentialed" teachers of the Urantia Book that I am suggesting. Rather I envision more of a community of interested and dedicated believers gathering for in-depth study, experiential living, and social exploration of the Urantia revelation. (Evidently I am suggesting that the 'annual two-day session of the Urantia Brotherhood' be expanded, made continuous throughout the year and open to all interested persons as time and space allow.) Couldn't such a community be self-supporting, payed for by the transient or semi-permanent residents themselves? Many individuals would welcome the chance to live among fellow believers in retreat for a week or a month in pleasant surroundings while they concentrate on learning and practicing the principles of the Urantia Book. Such a "nuclear Urantia Society" would serve as the experiential training ground for potential teachers of the Urantia Book, but more directly, it would be for the experience itself that believers would come to the Urantia University not for a degree or other symbol of achievement. In the Urantia University, all would teach and learn and attempt to accentuate the spirit of brotherly feeling. I could go on but this should suffice to clarify the idea if there was any misunderstanding in your mind.

Plans for our course on the Urantia Book have proceeded smoothly. The course will consist of five two-hour sessions held every other Monday from 8:00 to 10:00 P.M. starting September 25, 1972. The first session, last Monday night, set the stage for the remaining four sessions; during this opening segment, we communicated our attitude concerning the Urantia Book and limited the scope of discussions and questions so as to avoid tangential and unnecessarily sensationalistic directions. For example, we do not take the role of "apologists" for the truth of the Urantia Book but rather simply attempt to relate 'what the Urantia Book says'. We have no desire to devote course time towards convincing skeptical individuals that they should read and believe the Urantia Book. We also plan to control any attempts at generating controversy in relation to the Bible or other doctrines that supposedly conflict with the Urantia Book teachings.

Each of the remaining four sessions will be devoted to a specific topic or theme. They will be in order:

- Second Week: The reality of the religious experience (How do we know God?)
- Third Week: The cosmology of the Urantia Book (Where is God?)
- Fourth Week: The history of Urantia (How did we get here?)
- Fifth Week: The life and teachings of Jesus (Who is Jesus and what is he saying?)

The format of the course will be basically informal and consist of personal reflections and/or conversations by the co-teachers intermixed with relevant readings of the text of the Urantia Book.

Sincerely,

Philip Calabrese

cc: Julia Fenderson
Bob Hunt
Alvin L. Kulieke

10/31 copy to Bro. file