

May our actions today reflect love and concern for our grandchildren's grandchildren
by Mo Siegel

After spending many hours thinking and praying about the direction of growth of the Urantia movement, these are conclusions I have come to. It is very difficult to articulate such thoughts but an attempt shall be made. This report is not aimed at detracting from the sincere and loyal work done by the founders of the Urantia Brotherhood and is only aimed toward presenting alternatives to a situation that can easily become very destructive to our goals. It is being written to present a careful check on the present and future of one of the greatest revelations ever known to mankind. "It is a fact that religion does not grow unless it is disciplined by constructive criticism, amplified by philosophy, purified by science, and nourished by loyal fellowship." 1088-8 Our task of uplifting evolutionary religion with this revelation is a monumental challenge and will take the work of many people and the guidance of the celestial government.

The present direction of our movement is one of slow growth. This pattern is vitally essential for lasting success and world wide results. This small but growing Urantia movement is destined to, someday, provide masses of civilization with strong senses of direction toward God the Father and insure proper relationships between mankind by fostering the brotherhood of man. But the Urantia Brotherhood and Urantia movement is not religion; for religion is the personal relationship of one person to the Heavenly Father. "Religion is the experiencing of divinity in the consciousness of a moral being of evolutionary origin; it represents true experience with eternal realities in time, the realization of spiritual satisfactions while yet in the flesh." 1104-4 "Only the real religion of personal spiritual experience can function helpfully and creatively in the present crisis of civilization." 1087-4 "This sermon was an effort on Jesus' part to make clear the fact that religion is a personal experience." 1629-4 "And for a long time there will live on earth those timid, fearful, and hesitant individuals who will prefer thus to secure their religious consolations, even though, in so casting their lot with the religions of authority, they compromise the sovereignty of personality, debase the dignity of self-respect, and utterly surrender the right to participate in that most thrilling and inspiring of all possible human experiences: the personal quest for truth, the exhilaration of facing the perils of intellectual discovery, the determination to explore the realities of personal religious experience, the supreme satisfaction of experiencing the personal triumph of the actual realization of the victory of spiritual faith over intellectual doubt as it is honestly won in the supreme adventure of all human existence--man seeking God, for himself and as himself, and finding him" 1729-5 "I have called upon you to be born again, to be born of the spirit. I have called you out of the darkness of authority and the lethargy of tradition into the transcendent light of the realization of the possibility of making for yourselves the greatest discovery possible for the human soul to make--the supernal experience of finding God for yourself, in yourself, and of yourself, and of doing all this as a fact in your own personal experience." 1731-1 The Urantia brotherhood is meant to become a spiritual brotherhood of God knowing people. Our duty is to foster personal relationships between man and the Heavenly Father.

The present growth and development pattern of the Urantia brotherhood has the possibility of rapidly converting the individual spiritual experience into a social experience between those members involved in societies. The problem does not exist today as much as it lays the footwork for a troubled tomorrow.

The Urantia brotherhood is becoming the most powerful force in this new movement. It's leaders are elected only by Urantia Societies and because of the large size of societies, a tendency to standardize and formalize this movement has begun. "True religion is a

meaningful way of living dynamically face to face with the commonplace realities of everyday life. But if religion is to stimulate individual development of character and augment intergration of personality, it must not be standardized. If it is to stimulate evaluation of experience and serve as a value-lure, it must not be stereotyped. If religion is to promote supreme loyalties, it must not be formalized". 1089-6

A feeling of necessity to join Urantia Societies will inevitably occur as long as the leaders of the brotherhood are elected only by Urantia Societies. Societies having special privileges beyond those of any study group (beyond those of even the best study groups in the U.S.) will greatly influence earnest readers to join societies. Each society, becoming powerful through associations of large numbers of individuals, can and may over shadow that necessary slow and gradual religious growth of its members. The group could become more important than spiritual experience. That necessary one to one relationship could be socially overpowered by mass meetings and group affiliations.

The early Christians would be shocked at what has now become the Christian community.* (probably are rather upset as they look from the mansion worlds to Urantia) Christianity is a house divided because room for diversity was obscured by the organizational calling for masses to join the group. When a group of believers didn't follow the set patterns they were forced to start another group. The church today has temporarily separated many faithful people from the Heavenly Father because of unreal material loyalty. Do we want societies to cause this same reaction 200 or 1000 years from now? What will our great grandchildren's children inherit?

For all this talk of over socialization and obscuring the true significance of religion, we must not lose sight of the fact that religious individuals will surely want to group themselves with others involved with religion. Group formations are inevitable and inherently possess the moral stimulus to uplift mankind through the interassociation of the brotherhood of man. "Religion must become a forceful influence for moral stability and spiritual progression functioning dynamically in the midst of these ever-changing conditions and never-ending economic adjustments." 1086-5 Groups are needed and proper leadership directs the movement of such groups. In simple words, we need each other. "There is a real purpose to the socialization of religion. It is the purpose of group religious activities to dramatize the loyalties of religion; to magnify the lures of truth, beauty, and goodness; to foster the attractions of supreme values; to enhance the service of unselfish fellowship; to glorify the potentials of family life; to promote religious education; to provide wise counsel and spiritual guidance; and to encourage group worship. And all live religions encourage human friendship, conserve morality, promote neighborhood welfare, and facilitate the spread of the essential gospel of their respective messages of eternal salvation." 1092-2 Jesus' great message was we are brothers and sisters of the same loving Heavenly Father; we are his world wide family.

Before the Urantia Societies grow any further, I suggest we stop and consider all proposals we can find. We should each seek the guidance of our Thought Adjusters and go forth with these leadings and give mankind the needed faith and friendship our Father has called us to give. It might be wise if a few of us re-read the Urantia Book from cover to cover looking carefully for these greatly needed answers- "What direction should this movement take? What does man need most?". I have started re-reading and ask others to join this important search for guidance and wisdom.

It would be unfair to criticize establishment of the Urantia Societies without a logical proposal to improve the situation. This following idea is rendered for thought stimulation and possible action. It is not complete but an outline of a future possibility. This proposal calls for significant change and the challenge of renewal which we should joyfully face in any direction we take.

We have been instructed that thousands upon thousands of small study groups be started across the world. These groups are the most effective way of developing ideas; working patterns; diverse thoughts with broad and farreaching concepts and directions;; and needed stablization of friendship. These groups would become the quiet-behind the scene nerve centers of the fifth revelation.

So, it is hereby proposed that all Urantia Societies be changed into the format of study groups. No Urantia Society be allowed more than 30 members and hopefully encouraged to have 10 to 20 members. No official group could have less than five members that have read the Urantia Book from cover to dover. Each group (society) would be autonomous but would be aided and encouraged by appointed regional directors and be held responsible to the Executive Committee. Each study group would elect a leader and co-leader who would become part of a district council. Each study group leader would be required instruction from regional directors and or instruction from a committee elected by the board of directors of the executive committee.

One of the most important seats on this organizational structure would be regional co-ordinators. They would be picked by the executive committee and would have the responsibility (and a joyous responsibility it would be) to visit each society (study group) periodically. Regional directors would gather new readers and start new study groups. The regional director could be the person who instructed group leaders and co-leaders every half year or so.

At this point, please turn to the chart and look it over very caefully. Also, please forgive my typing mistakes. (my typewriter has a hard time spelling also)

Organizational Chart see back pages

This structure would place proper emphasis upon small groups. It would insure proper leadership at ground level and better oordination between groups. It would facilitate and foster personal religious growth and yet develope a religious brotherhood of God knowing mortals. It could be designed to allow great responsibility to each group and its leaders. Small groups would provide methods of service to mankind while allowing diversity of action to each group. Little time would be waisted in administration problems allowing greater amount of energy to minister to others. Small groups could keep goals and objectives clear within the movement of its parts. The small group would make each member feel needed and wanted, building self confidence and leadership throughout. Yet through the over all structure of this proposal, each group would feel a part of the total. Small groups are really the only way to build the foundations for a lasting movement.

This structure would be improved and adapted to the needs of future generations. Change is good to keep the river of spiritual group developement fldowing and while our numbers are small, now is the perfect time to change. This revelation shall last!!! It must succeed to inable mankind to receive still greater revelations. Our Father needs our help and we surely need his. The active relationship of man and God can and will transform this world.

Please send all response to this report to Mo Siegel 702 1/2 Spruce St. Boulder, Colo. 80302 and a carbon copy to Paul Snider C/O the Urantia Brotherhood. Carbon Copies of this report are going to: Paul Snider, Christy Christenson, Ton Kendall, Martin Myers, Berkeley Elliott, Julia Fenderson, Vern Grimsley, and Peter Sarfaty.

May love and devoted service be yours.

