

## Standards of Excellence

The effectiveness of any teacher or program will most readily be evaluated in terms of results. With our purpose clearly stated, as it is in our constitution, we can see if our efforts are indeed effective.

While objective measurements of effectiveness would be difficult to establish, it should be possible to determine the degree of qualitative change in a given period of time. I would emphasize the qualitative aspect because I think that the mere accumulation of quantitative data is not one of our objectives.

I feel that it is our purpose to work to spiritualize the thinking of mankind both within and outside of the Urantia movement.

Perhaps one of the simplest means of illuminating standards would be thru a system of awards given by the Brotherhood in recognition of service achievement of an outstanding nature. Appropriate recognition of achievement and positive reinforcement seem to be good motivational tools and would serve to illuminate activities which are helping us to realize our purpose.

While technique may be left to individuals, study groups, and societies, the committee on education could concern itself with monitoring progress and results.

I would also like to submit the suggestion that the committee on education oversee the development of evaluation tests oriented towards showing spiritual growth and revealing changes in attitudes. I think that this would not be as difficult as it might at first appear.

A test designed to illuminate attitudes and values could be given periodically and evaluated in terms of qualitative change detected. Individuals and programs could be evaluated in like manner. Example: A program is set up by xyz Urantia Society to enhance attitudes towards service. (Purpose of a specific educational program must be clearly understood by all) An attitude survey test is given before and after the course; effectiveness of the program is readily seen by the quality of results.

The Urantia Book gives us some clear criterion for evaluation of various experiences. It is said of Jesus that he "...measured every

institution of society and every usage of religion by the unvarying test: What does it do for the Human soul? Does it bring God to man? Does it bring man to God?" 1388;5

"...there is a practical method of discovering the degree to which you have yielded the control of your soul powers to the teaching and guidance of this indwelling spirit of the Heavenly Father, and that is the degree of your love for your fellow men." 1641;2

Difficult to determine? Not at all. Again, an objective standard of measure is virtually out of the question, but qualitative change could be evaluated thru the individual analyzing his daily activities in terms of percentage of time spent relating to various levels of reality; take a typical day and (write down) consider the percentage of your time spent relating to material objects, intellectual systems, and personality interaction. In addition, consider what percentage of these personality interactions concern material objects or intellectual systems and what percentage are effecting the quality of the consciousness of another personality in a spiritually positive manner.

I feel that this simple test, taken annually, could be a guide to detecting qualitative change in an individual. It could be used for self-evaluation quite easily. (Acceptance of this test as valid implies acceptance of the meaning of the Brotherhood purpose as being the qualitative improvement of planetary consciousness. This is separated from but complimentary to the Urantia Book statements regarding the purpose of life and education).

Many questions could be formulated which when addressed periodically could assist in self evaluation. How about watching this one change with the years: "Describe the meaning and value of your relationship with God. What are it's practical dynamics?"

Situational evaluations could be helpful. Example: "What would be your reaction to the following situation?" (Go on to describe a situation the response to which would be a good indicator of attitudes and values).

Additional standards, some of which may apply to our situation can be found on pages 1108 and 1000.

These few ideas represent the gist of my thinking on this topic. A thorough researching of the subject would take many months of studying available information to arrive at an in-depth understanding of the material; I trust that this small contribution will be of help.

David Kantor