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URANTIA

MEMO TO: Members and helpers of the Education Committee, the URANTIA Brotherhood.

FROM: David Schlundt

SUBJECT: Guiding philosophy and consequent activities (behaviors) of Committee.

What are we for - this committee within the URANTIA Brotherhood given the job of "education" in relation to the URANTIA Book? Perhaps that is a question we should not even try to answer, but rather simply throw it out to everyone interested and ask each person to ASK AT LEAST FEW MORE QUESTIONS RELATING TO THIS FIRST BIG ONE - WITHOUT ATTEMPTING TO ANSWER ANY OF THEM! This may seem impertinent to some, even outrageous. But I am serious. For here lies the answer itself to "what are we for?"

Education within the activities relating to the URANTIA Book must be informed and intelligently conditioned by the attitudes suggested by the book itself, and none is more important than the truth that each person of will-status is host to an incredible fragment of the Father himself. This places the locus of integrity-trending squarely within each person. Furthermore, the divine nucleus itself is of eternal dimensions even though living in mind-body systems utterly finite. Out of this emerges a wonderful reinforcement for the classic philosophic notion that education is not a matter of pouring information in so much as it is a drawing forth from the individual of what he already "knows". This concept is rather "mystical" of course, until one grapples for a time with the actual learning process, particularly where meanings and values are involved. When people are presented with clear, simple ideas, like "God is loving and compassionate rather than angered and withdrawn", and yet are quite "unable" to learn this, one finally sees that all the "teacher" can hope to do is act as a front-porch catalyst. Directions and alternatives may be suggested, most often by questions rather than answers, but the person must discover the substance of any truth within the privacy of his own house. He may join us on the front porch to chat a minute, but real education is inside and alone - or at least alone with (or if by choice or neglect, without) one's thought adjuster. If the recognition and choice of truth (not just fact) does not happen deep within - well, it doesn't happen. And so, I suggest: let us become useful front-porch catalysts with lots of questions, and ourselves learn to let it go at that.

Of course, we may go on to explore the questions and even possible answers (about anything of meaning and value with touch-points in the URANTIA Book), but we should at least aim for consistent attitudes. For example, in any area of knowledge or experience the quest for alternatives is real, not a fakey way to get ourselves or others at a pre-arranged position or place. And once this kind of manipulation (where have we seen it before?) is behind us, the real job of exploratory pre-education begins. Closure is the next trap to see and overcome. Can we leave an exploratory session with MORE questions radiating out into the unknown than at the start? Can we keep our decision-making mental fingers out of the minds of others as they loosen rather than tighten up? Can we let the Adjuster do the leading for each person - the starting and stopping, the twisting and turning, the inner wrestling matches and vacations? If we can, we will be using information of any sort in the right way, as I see it.

Let us set up programs and conferences about anything - but then let us ask again and again - how may I actually help enhance the integrity of persons, including myself (integrities are always reciprocal)? How can I help my Thought Adjuster help other Thought Adjusters help each person grow within his own house? How can I be a better Urantia Front-Porcher? What do you think?

