

August 10, 1960

Dr. Meredith J. Sprunger  
4109 Plaza Drive  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Meredith:

Doctor gave me your letter of August 3 with the proposed talk for Oklahoma City and I have just read it. I think it's terrific. Exactly what I had hoped you would do. I especially like the way you have pinpointed the various types and their reactions - and your following up the Domestic Extension Committee statement.

I have just one suggestion -- perhaps one small addition. At the bottom of Page 4 - "There is ample evidence that significant developments," etc. You might emphasize a little more that even now things are happening, although they are happening so quietly that most people don't know or realize what's going on. The letters and phone calls we get at headquarters make me conscious of it, but I think anyone away from Chicago would not be. This is the type of thing I try to get across in my reports to the First Society on Sundays, but perhaps I'm not too successful. And it's difficult to get it across to those outside the city. About the only way is the Quarterly News Letter and I'm hesitant about broadcasting some of these contacts in print. Somehow I feel it's an invasion of privacy. As you've noticed, occasionally we've used quotes from letters without identifying people. This seems to be very popular. People tell us it makes the letters more interesting.

If you have any ideas on how we can get these things across to the local societies, I'd appreciate them. Perhaps I could write letters to each of the secretaries periodically, reporting on these things, similar to the type of thing I'm writing up for you. Surely it would make them more conscious of what's going on at headquarters and they won't think we're just sitting twiddling our thumbs, as I'm sure Oklahoma feels. Perhaps I could send a monthly letter, just a friendly, chatty one about what's going on -- just to the societies. Of course some of it would be rehashed in the Quarterly News Letter, but they could probably stand a repeat. The letter goes to a very large list, many of whom are complete strangers to us, so it must be more circumspect and formal. You might sound out Oklahoma and see how they feel about this. I do know they all feel we aren't communicating very well and this idea just occurred to me this morning.

One of the things I would like to have you do while there is to try to find out from them exactly what they want from us. What would they do if they were in our place? And I'd like really thoughtful answers - not just top-of-the-head stuff on the spur of the moment. You might try to get something.

We had a letter yesterday from a man in Cocoa, Fla. We know there's been some interest there lately, but we didn't know just what. He wrote that several of them have been studying the book and he has been contacted several times recently by God (never before), who told him that Michael will make his second appearance on Urantia at Cocoa on October 7. The exact time and place will be announced by Melchizedek, who will appear in Taylor Park, Cocoa, at 2 P.M. Sept. 11. God also told him to let us know so that we could let everyone on our lists know. In the meantime, Immanuel is in charge on this planet. He signed his "cosmically-given name" - Mala. No other name or street address, so we couldn't answer, even if we wanted to. It makes me shudder. This probably kills the book for any serious consideration in Cocoa. Thank heaven for people like you.

I'm enclosing with this letter a list of some of the people you may meet. These are mostly the ones I met when I was there 2 years ago in September. Some of them probably won't be there and there will be new ones. But I thought it might be helpful to be familiar with a few names and backgrounds.

Now that we are getting down to actual arrangements, I think it will be more practical for you to make them with Berkeley Elliott, the secretary. Her address is c/o Derrick Oil Co., 300 Oil and Gas Building, Oklahoma City 2. I am also writing her to give her your address and tell her I'm asking you to contact her directly about arrangements. They will probably reserve a meeting room in the Skirvin Hotel for all of Saturday. I would suggest that you ask her to make a room reservation for you there. It's a very nice hotel. Is Irene going with you? I hope she can make it - I'd like to have them meet her. Are you driving, flying, or going by train? Would you like us to send you an advance before you leave? We'll be glad to, if you'll let us know about how much. If it's convenient, you might send me a copy of your letters to Berkeley.

When are your dates for being up north? Will your mail be forwarded, or do you want to give us your address so we can get in touch if we need to?

The other material you asked for has been made up in rough form, but I am holding it until a little later so it will be up to date. I will get it to you well before you leave.

By the way, I noticed that Doctor didn't confirm the appointment with Rolf Holmes. I just called him and he said he was sorry he had forgotten to mention it. August 16 at 2 P.M. will be fine for him and he asked me to tell you.

Sincerely,

Marian Rowley

Officers of the First Urantia Society of Oklahoma

President - Clyde Goodman  
Vice President - Van Butler  
Secretary - Berkeley Elliott (Miss)  
Treasurer - Helen Butler (Mrs. Van)

I haven't met Clyde Goodman. If he's married, I've never heard of his wife. I don't think he is. Berkeley Elliott works in his office -- and I believe they're together a great deal outside the office. Berkeley is not particularly pretty, but an awfully nice gal. She is probably the best real student of the book in the group.

Van and Helen Butler have both been in the group from the start. I just barely met Van when I was there 2 years ago, but I did spend a little time with Helen. She has a couple of sisters who were interested at that time - one was Edna Eck, can't remember the other. Both Van and Helen were in Chicago last fall for a weekend with Berkeley Elliott and Mary Kathryn Grisso and spent quite a lot of time with Doctor and Christy and Leone. I was on vacation so didn't see them at that time. But they attended a Sunday meeting and so met quite a few of our crowd. Helen works for the Salyer Refining Co. You will remember that Salyer started this group originally and then pulled out.. I don't know what Van does.

Another couple that I know and like very much are Bill and Mary Kathryn Grisso. He was president of the society for the first couple of years. They were both in Chicago last August (a year ago) and spent quite a lot of time with Doctor, Christy, and Leone, and me. I had lunch with them a couple of times and spent an evening with them at 533 with the Sadlers. I like them both very much, and I think you will too. They also have been in the group from the start. They had such a good time here in August that Mary Kathryn came back a couple of months later with the other group. Bill owns (or runs) a cemetery, I believe, ~~that~~ <sup>but</sup> I think he has other interests too.

Mrs. Wilma McManus is a good friend of mine and I hope she's there when you are. She travels a good deal and I think is in Norway now. She's one of the original group - worked with Rev. Salyer in getting the thing started, I believe. She's a retired business woman, apparently has quite a lot of money. She used to work with Earl Baker, an elderly, wealthy man who is also in the group. I'm not sure he and his wife are active now. Wilma's husband died long ago.

Dr. Goldia Young is another friend of mine, a chiropractor. I think she's also a widow, but I'm not sure. She was the treasurer up to last year. She and Wilma chauffeured me around so I had a chance to talk to them a little more than the others and liked both of them very much.

There's also a J. B. Laughton and his wife. He was vice-president last year.

I liked all the ones I met. Hope you do too. They're a very friendly, down-to-earth bunch.

MTR  
8/10/60