

Marian

April 20, 1964

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

Dear Dr. Sprunger:

I am putting you down for Paper 99 on October 18th.

Now about your contemplated organization of a philosophical fraternity -- I cannot speak for the Brotherhood as regards any organizational connections such a group might have with the Brotherhood itself. It would be my opinion that such an undertaking should be entirely separate from the Brotherhood. I am passing on this suggestion to the officers of the Executive Committee and they will have thought it over in case you bring the matter to their attention some time in the future.

I think I have a very complete understanding of your hankering after organizations, churches, and what not. It is the result of your early training to be pastor of a church. It is the object of your ministerial education and it is awfully hard to get it out of your blood.

I fooled around and wasted a lot of time for years in the practice of medicine and lost thousands of dollars flirting with the idea of having a sanitarium or institution of some sort. You see, I had been brought up, since I was 14 years old, in a sanitarium. The practice of medicine, as I knew it, was institutionalized, and as I say, it took me twenty years to get it through my head that I was to be another kind of a doctor, and that I wasn't going to have a sanitarium. It would have been a blessing if some one could have sat down with me early during this period and pounded it into my head that I should give up the institutional notion. But it is hard to overcome the results of early training and associations.

Now I don't mean to infer that your contemplated psychological organization is necessarily a reversion to your institutional proclivities. It is something a little different, but at the same time, I can't help but remember my recent partial shock

at your proposal of a Urantia Church, and the only reason I was not more upset by it was the fond memories of my own damn foolishness for twenty years trying to get the idea of having a sanitarium out of my head. It is just awfully hard to get rid of these things that have to do with the preoccupations of our early professional training.

I don't know how many more inspirations along this line you will have in getting adjusted to the new setup of the Urantia movement. It is really something new in the world as regards religious propaganda, and it is going to be hard for any minister to step out of the pastorate, as you and David Schlundt are doing, and wholly give up the idea of the institutional church. But you have done pretty well and I hope you will help David in all these matters.

But I am greatly cheered by your ability of quick recovery from the last institutional attack you had. Before I got around to give you my reactions you had already awakened to the whole delusion and quite recovered your equilibrium without any help or suggestions from me.

Every one who makes a radical change in his work has to go through this experience. I went through it a second time in suddenly giving up my fulltime devotion to surgery and trying to give all my time to psychiatry. I am telling you it was a hard job. So you see, I had a double experience such as you have been going through in turning your efforts from one channel to an entirely new line of endeavor.

Enough for this letter. We will talk more about this when I see you. Suffice it to say, I am very proud of you in the way you have met the vicissitudes of your changing career in recent years, and I much admire your devotion and loyalty to the Urantia Book.

Sincerely,

William S. Sadler

WSS/ar