



File

URANTIA FOUNDATION
533 DIVERSEY PARKWAY - CHICAGO ILLINOIS 60614

July 30, 1980

John Hales, President
URANTIA Brotherhood
533 Diversey Parkway
Chicago, IL 60614

Re: Grant of Permission Given to Dr. Meredith Sprunger

Dear John:

Please find attached a copy of a letter sent to Dr. Meredith Sprunger which grants him permission to use quotations from The URANTIA Book which appear in his work entitled "A Synoptic Introduction to The URANTIA Book."

The Trustees are aware that Meredith's proposed outreach activities with regard to The URANTIA Book, which he intends to carry out under the aegis of The Christian Fellowship of Students of The URANTIA Book, have generated some comment and discussion. Due to this fact, the Trustees felt it would perhaps be appropriate to inform you of an action we have taken in regard to this matter.

As you will remember, on March 11 Meredith sent a letter to URANTIA Foundation to which was attached a copy of "A Synoptic Introduction to The URANTIA Book." In that letter Meredith explained that he intends to use "A Synoptic Introduction..." in introductory courses on The URANTIA Book at the college level and requested permission to use the quotations and other material from the book used in the "Synoptic Introduction." As a result of this letter, the Trustees asked to meet with Meredith to discuss the contents of the letter and to clarify the nature of the activities he proposed to carry out under the aegis of the Christian Fellowship. Meredith agreed to the meeting and by way of offering further elucidation concerning his proposed activities sent a letter on June 4 which detailed in outline form what he termed as "various viable options [for] the Christian Fellowship ministry." These options were presented as follows:

Meeting Options:

1. We will contact and meet privately with ministers, college people, and others who we feel may benefit from such contacts.
2. We will probably contact small groups of ministers and university people and arrange for meetings.

Meeting Options - (continued)

3. We will probably schedule meetings at colleges to which students, faculty, and local nonfundamentalistic ministers will be invited.
4. We may meet with college classes to give a brief introduction to The URANTIA Book.
5. We may give mini courses on The URANTIA Book to religious leaders and/or college students.

Method Options:

1. Personal letters and visits.
2. News articles in local college papers or local ministerial newsletters announcing meeting.
3. Announcements on local college bulletin boards telling of meeting.
4. Technical articles in theological journals.
5. Lecture and discussion meetings.

Material Options:

1. Current edition of "A Synoptic Introduction to The URANTIA Book" [should] the Foundation be willing to give permission for quotes.
2. [Should permission not be given for number one above, then create] a revised edition which eliminates paraphrases and quotes.
3. Extemporaneous lecture telling about The URANTIA Book with only general reference to the content of the book and offer loan books to those who would like to have them.
4. Extemporaneous lectures with each student having a loan copy of the book and reading selected passages.

With the March 11 and June 4 letters serving as a basis for discussion, the Trustees and their associates met with Meredith and Irene Sprunger on June 21.

July 30, 1980

All participants in the meeting evidenced a concurrence in the concept that the quiet, low key person-to-person approach in creating an awareness of The URANTIA Book and disseminating its teachings was the wisest evolutionary method in introducing people to the book and its teachings. In this regard, Meredith made it clear that he would initiate no group activities unless he had first made contact with individual representatives of a group and received a favorable response. He indicated that the methodology he outlined under the title "Meeting Options" in his June 4 letter to us represented a progressive approach which could and would be stopped whenever he received a negative reaction from the people he contacted. He stated that he had no intention of forcing the books on anyone or any group that did not evidence a sincere interest in its teachings.

With regard to points presented in the June 4 letter concerning "Method Options," a clarifying understanding was reached. Several points in the letter seem to imply that an "advertising" approach might be used to promote group meetings. Meredith stated that he eschewed the concept of "advertising" The URANTIA Book. Articles in campus newspapers or in ministerial newsletters would be low key and merely announce the date, time and place of presentations he had been invited to give. This was also true of bulletin board announcements. He explained that most college campuses and churches had bulletin boards where meetings were announced. He said on most campuses there were just a few places where meeting notices were posted. He further stated that he had no intention of saturating a campus with hand-outs or posted notices of meetings.

Concerning the section entitled "Material Options" in his June 4 letter, Meredith indicated that if the Foundation would not give him permission to use quotations and paraphrasing in "A Synoptic Introduction to The URANTIA Book," he intended to rewrite the "Introduction" in such a manner that it would not constitute a copyright infringement. He stated that he supported the Foundation in its effort to protect the book and he intended to act only in a manner, with regard to copyright, as the law allowed.

The meeting concluded with a proposal from Meredith which the Foundation indicated it would be pleased to consider. Meredith said he would compose a letter outlining his proposed course of action in the coming year. He indicated he was considering five possible opportunities to make presentations before five ministerial and college groups. He stated he would like to use "A Synoptic Introduction..." as the basis for these presentations and essentially in the same form as he had submitted to us (he has changed the portions dealing with the origin of the book at Christy's request). He asked that the Foundation consider giving him permission for one year to distribute "A Synoptic Introduction..." to attendees of meetings and to individuals such as ministers or college

John Hales, President
URANTIA Brotherhood

- 4 -

July 30, 1980

instructors who were considering having him make a presentation. He also suggested that this permission could carry a provision that the Foundation would have the right to revoke the permission any time during the year if it so desired. He said that besides the copyright permission statement which would appear on copies of "A Synoptic Introduction..." there should be a statement to the effect that no additional copies of the "Introduction" may be reproduced or distributed without permission. He also stated that if permission were given, then he would keep the Foundation fully informed as to the progress of his activities during the year.

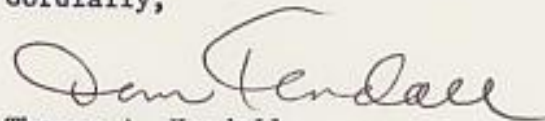
On June 26, Meredith sent a letter to the Foundation which reiterated the proposal he had made during the June 21 meeting and which also outlined his possible course of activity under the aegis of the Christian Fellowship in the coming year. Included in this letter is the following statement:

"We have been proceeding slowly and will continue to do so but we do think it is important that something positive be done regardless of how minimal or insignificant it may appear to be. The specific evolutionary situation will largely determine our concrete activities. We will keep you informed with developments and our response to situational events. We would, however, caution you not to expect much in the way of 'success' or 'significant accomplishments.' This initial ministry will no doubt exist in virtual anonymity."

After considerable deliberation, which included a review of the content of the June 21 meeting and Meredith's various letters, the Trustees concluded that they would grant permission to Meredith to use the quotations and other material from The URANTIA Book which appear in his "A Synoptic Introduction..." The Trustees see this decision as an experiment. We do not hold it to be a precedent for further activity of this kind until we have had an opportunity to evaluate Meredith's efforts. Certainly, the ramifications of Meredith's endeavors have potentially great impact on both URANTIA Foundation and URANTIA Brotherhood. We are and will continue to be mindful of this fact.

In a sense, this grant of permission is a statement of trust in Meredith's ability, capacity, and wisdom. It is our feeling, after considerable soul searching, that this statement of trust is well worth the potential risk that may be implicit in this endeavor.

Cordially,



Thomas A. Kendall
President

TAK:kfm