

VITA

MEREDITH JUSTIN SPRUNGER

Born: April 16, 1915, Woodburn, Indiana

Education: B. A. Mission House College, 1937
B. D. Mission House Seminary, 1940
M. Th. Princeton Theological Seminary, 1941
Ph. D. (Psychology) Purdue University, 1947

Experience: Pastor, Memorial Evangelical and Reformed Church,
Toledo, Ohio.
Pastor, Trinity Evangelical and Reformed Church,
Mulberry, Indiana.
Teacher, Chairman of Department of Psychology,
Elmhurst College, Elmhurst, Illinois.
Pastor, Grace Evangelical and Reformed Church,
Culver, Indiana.

MEREDITH J. SPRUNGER, PH. D.

MINISTER

GRACE EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCH

RES. PHONE 97

OFFICE PHONE 412

215 *SLATE*
807 NORTH PLYMOUTH ST.

CULVER, INDIANA

Grace Evangelical And Reformed Church

307 North Plymouth Street

Culver, Indiana

MEREDITH J. SPRUNGER, Ph.D., Minister

24
copies

October 24, 1956

Mr. William S. Sadler, Jr.
333 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mr. Sadler:

Mr. Hammerschmidt informs me that you will be able to meet with us on Nov. 5th. I am most happy for this opportunity. So that this meeting may be less exploratory and more concerned with the central interest common among us, I am taking the liberty of writing you giving background information and pointing up certain problems which are of concern to me in presenting the Urantia Book.

Am enclosing a card giving a brief biographical sketch of my professional life. The search for Reality has been the absorbing quest of my life. My earliest memory goes back to the age of three when, standing in the brilliant sunshine of early summer, I recall saying to myself with some fervor, "There's something about life that I do not understand but someday I'm going to find out." All my life has been lived under the shadow of the impression that I was being prepared for something. Trying to eradicate this impression as the subtle delusions of egotism rather than the guiding of an inner Spirit of Truth has purged the inner self of much dross but the Presence of Another has become all the more clear. Possessing a mind more scientific than mystical, this pilgrimage has sometimes been difficult to understand.

At almost every step the Deep Self and the rational self have been at odds. The ministry, for instance, was about the last thing my rational mind wanted to accept. When I have been pliable to this inner Spirit, step by step a book, a person, an idea has enlarged my understanding of Reality. Had the Urantia Book fallen into my hands ten years ago I'm rather sure I would have browsed through it and said, "Impossible, fraudulent!" But through these years I have been led to practically every insight presented by the Urantia Book so that it merely affirmed that which I deeply felt was true. Am enclosing a partial list of books which mark the trail of this spiritual journey.

As I seriously tried to understand the meaning and purpose of this pilgrimage of ideas, I could only come to one conclusion - that I was to communicate these insights through the media of writing and possibly teach small groups of people who were ready or could be made ready for such insights. Finally, this summer, with two books in outline form I had to answer the question, should I seriously begin a writing career? After spending considerable time in meditation, the answer seemed to be quite clear (and to me a bit surprising after running away from the idea for so long and now rationally willing to accept it), "No, not now." At this timely moment Mr. Hammerschmidt (whom I have known for years) handed me a copy of the Urantia Book. The essence of what I had felt moved to write was here in much better form and with infinitely more detail than I or - in my opinion - any mortal could have given it. Now I realized there was no need for me to write the books that cried for expression. An infinitely better book already existed!

This judgment, I realize, may be premature but for the first time in my life

I have a sense of conviction, "For this was I prepared." It gives meaning to decisions in recent years to turn down invitations to relatively large congregations with tremendous salary increases (which our family could well use) because I wanted to keep myself open for something that would have a creative challenge. The Urantia Book gives me this sense of fulfillment and challenge. And I have a rather deep feeling that my life and mission is tied up with the introducing of this book and its insights to so called "Orthodox Christianity". By coincidence or by plan, I happen to be acquainted with many of the men who are shaping the thought life of the Christian Church (am vice-president of our Synod, have been a professor in one of our colleges, have been called as a consultant by one of our S^eminary faculties, etc.). One of my specific problems is in approaching these men. Am enclosing a copy of a type of approach which I have used with some men I know quite well. Some of the facts may be in error. I should like to correct such errors and receive any other suggestions which you may have.

Another problem that bothers me is teaching laymen. The spiritual cosmology of the Urantia Book will throw most ministers - its like taking primitive man with his simple cosmology and throwing him into our modern astronomical cosmology. Am wondering about the advisability of working on an abridged, simplified approach to the Urantia Book which would enable laymen to later read the Urantia Book with understanding.

Also I am wondering about the foundations being laid for publicity. It would seem, generally speaking, the longer publicity could be delayed the better. But sooner or later publicity will come. In the meantime if quiet contact could be made with men like Eugene Exman, religious editor of Harpers, and get such men to read the book and have time to think about it, publicity would be much more accurate and constructive.

I have been quite open and candid in baring my soul - something I very rarely do even with close friends - but I do so that our conference may go to the heart of these matters without the usual devious exploratory routine taking up all our time. I should also be happy to meet your father or other men connected with the Urantia Foundation who are interested in an effective presentation of the Urantia Book. We shall look forward to seeing you Nov. 5th.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Meredith J. Sprunger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Meredith J. Sprunger

Significant Books

Objective-Scientific Approaches Toward Reality

- | | |
|---|---|
| Human Destiny - Leconte de Noury | New World of the Mind - J. B. Rhine |
| The Crisis of Our Age - P. A. Sorokin | The Doctor and the Soul - Victor E. Frankl |
| On Being Human - Ashley Montagu | Pain, Sex and Time - Gerald Heard |
| Is the Kingdom of God Realism - E. S. Jones | A Study of History - Arnold Toynbee |
| Religion and the New Psychology - A. J. Smith | Science is the Sacred Cow - Anthony Standen |

First Hand Knowledge of God

- | | |
|---|--|
| In Tune With the Infinite - R. W. Tine | A Preface to Prayer - Gerald Heard |
| The Path of the Saint - Anonymous (Harper) | Introduction to the Devout Life - St. Francis de Sales |
| An Autobiography of Prayer - Albert Day | |
| Intelligent Prayer - Lewis MacLachlan | Manifest Victory - J. R. Moseley |
| The Spiritual Life - Evelyn Underhill | Perfect Everything - J. R. Moseley |
| A Testament of Devotion - Thomas Kelly | This Is the Life - Starr Daily |
| Letters by a Modern Mystic - F. C. Lambach | The Perennial Philosophy - Aldous Huxley |
| Channels of Spiritual Power - F. C. Lambach | The Choice is Always Ours - D. Bl Phillips |
| Cosmic Consciousness - Richard Bucke | |

Religion and Health

- | | |
|---|--|
| New Concepts of Healing - A. G. Ikin | Christ Healing - E. Howard Cobb |
| The Healing Light - Agnes Sanford | Healing Through the Power of Christ - J. Wilson |
| Everyman's Search - Rebecca Beard | Stretching Forth Thine Hand to Heal - R.A.R. Spread |
| Everyman's Goal - Rebecca Beard | Recovery - Starr Daily |
| Fourth Spiritual Seminar on Healing | Be Thou Made Whole - Glenn Clark |
| Wainwright House, Pys, New York | Sharing Magazine - 2243 Front St., San Diego, Calif. |
| New Horizons of Healing - Wm. Wood | Manual of Christian Healing - Order of St. Luke |
| | 2243 Front Street, San Diego 1, California |
| A Reporter Finds God Through Spiritual Healing - E. G. Heal | |

Supernormal Experience

- There is a River - Thomas Sugrue
 Adventures in the Supernormal - Eileen Garrett
 The Reach of the Mind - J. B. Rhine
 Many Mansions - Gina Cerminara
 Emanuel Swedenborg, Scientist and Mystic - S. Tokevig
 Awareness - Eileen Garrett
 Beyond Doubt - Mary LeBeau

Evidence of the Spiritual World

- You Will Survive After Death - Sherwood Eddy
 Immortality - A. J. Smith
 On the Edge of the Etheric - Arthur Findlay
 The Unfolding Universe - Arthur Findlay
 The Rock of Truth - Arthur Findlay
 The Gateway of Understanding - C. A. Wickland
 The Unobstructed Universe - S. E. White
 On the Threshold of the Unseen - W. F. Barrett
 From the Seventh Plane - Winfred Willard
 Seeing the Invisible - Winfred Willard
 Lighted Passage - H. S. Vincent

New Revelation?

- The Urantia Book - Urantia Foundation
 533 Diversey Parkway, Chicago, Ill.