

The Village Church

United Church of Christ

830 N. La Grange Road
La Grange Park, Illinois

July 30, 1958

Bert Helm, Minister
Fleetwood 2-9179

Dear Meredith:

I've been on the knife edge of writing you several times during past months. However incessant appointments in this exciting field never seemed to leave an adequate hiatus in time for a leisure, and thoughtful seance.

A Urantia student, Neil Millar, was one of the charter members, and he and Belle are good, and stimulating friends. Neil invited me to go along to a session with Sadler, at which he was sure you would be present. But, alas, I had a meeting that Sunday afternoon. I'm looking forward to the next such meeting, and hope Neil tells me of it in time to keep the time clear.

One of the parsons around here, at a recent meeting, began telling of having Dr. Sadler as a prof in McCormick seminary. What a very fuzzy and senile twaddler he was at that time already, and that in recent years he had gone plum balmy, and was teaching the most screw-ball racket line a la Bridy Murphy, which he called Urantia, a pseudo-scientific, etc, etc. I asked him whether he had read the book. He hadn't. I asked whether he attended one of the classes. He hadn't. Then I gently and forcefully suggested that he was apparently evaluating a whale of a lot with a minnow of a little background. To abbreviate the narrative, I loaned him Urantia, and he's supposed to be reading it this minute on his vacation. I'll return same when he returns, in a week or so, provided it is in as good condition as I think it will be.

You hope I enjoyed reading it. I must have missed some basic key, or something, but thus far (and I DO want to meet and hear Sadler in re) I haven't been impressed. There is some fairly good philosophy of religion, and some pretty mediocre speculation. Some obvious history, and some rather sophomoric work in trying to reconstruct the "lost" years of Jesus life. The entire attempt to structure the lay-out of creation seems highy contrived and mechanical, and the sacred spheres of paradise seem as artificial, and threadbare as the categories from , is it Divineington to Ascendington. The totality of creation, as I know it is much more exciting, and in no place as crudely and mechanically organized and regimented as Urantia speculates.

That is a very quick thrust of reaction from memories now several months old. But I'm far from closed-minded, and the above are first and tentative reactions. At no time was I gripped with interest, in the way some good, new philosophy excites me, as recently R.G. Collingwood's philosophical autobiography, and his Speculum Mentis; or a recent re-reading of Alexander's "Space, Time and Deity." In fact Urantia mostly bored me with its wordiness, and lack of significant content.. Think there is any hope for me?? But more anon, eh? Cordial regards,

Bert.