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CANADA

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Dr. Meredith J. Sprunger
4109 Plaza Dr.
Fort Wayne, IND.
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Dear Meredith:

My family and I have just spent over 3 weeks all over the United States with fellow Urantians and the fellowship and love experienced was overwhelming. We've been guests of many Societies and Study-Groups, but the purpose of this letter is, unfortunately, not the details of the good-times of our trip, but rather an unfortunate aspect that we became cognizant of.

We have been aware of the fact that there must be some political rift in the Brotherhood, ever since ^{we} came back to North America in October 1975; we couldn't help but notice, being very good friends of your predecessor, Paul Snider, though he won't speak of his hardships with the administrators, we could always 'FEEL' there was some deep-rooted trouble there. Now we found out (not from Paul) what the nature of the conflict is, though I'm sure I don't know 5% of the details.

I think I have to tell you that the situation seems alarming to me. I don't know why I seem to have become a catalyst for many grievances, except, perhaps that I have on numerous occasions proclaimed that I hoped my music would be instrumental in bringing peace to all Urantians and that it would speak of the Cosmic "Harmony" I would like to contribute to. Now many Societies and other local-Groups are preparing "Media-Presentations" inspired by the bountiful beauty and Truth of our beloved Urantia revelation and have all asked me to do the music for these same presentations. There are no less than 4 of these in progress now and during the preparations I visited the groups and that was the time I seem to have been taken into the confidence of many long standing Urantian students. I'm also not exactly stupid and have long been concerned in putting two and two together.

The most totally upsetting factor is the total disrespect and the "I don't care" attitude of nearly "EVERYBODY" I have met, whereby it seems to be a forgone conclusion that the Trustees and the Executive Committee are going to be "negative, without fail" toward ALL endeavours in the field. And statements like "Why bother to speak to the Brotherhood (or the Foundation), we KNOW that the answer will be negative". "It's ABSOLUTELY USELESS speaking to them". In nearly a month of visiting Urantians ALL OVER the United States, I have not heard one positive or loving word spoken about the Trustees. The accusation, to make bad matters worse, and that is "We all know that the Executive Committee and the General Council are stacked with a handfull of blindly following, so called 'loyalists'." seems to be apparently true when we're faced with Trustees also holding over 50% of the positions on the Executive Committee, which is something I personally find questionable, but have so far not thought it was deliberately a measure of self-indulgent control, but everybody else I spoke to seems to think so. And they do think so WITHOUT EXCEPTION. Then it came to mind that everything I have tried to work on with the Trustees has also been decided in the "negative". This didn't bother me at first, but I don't even feel any better about the fact that all Urantians in the Field are treated the same way. The Trustees are unanimously labeled "Hiding behind every conceivable LEGALISTIC measure" and and totally "NEGATIVE".

I am worried and I am alarmed. I don't even know that you're the right person to mention this to, except that I know for a fact that you have always impressed me in all our previous dealings and chats and "imminently FAIR" and you ARE the president of the Brotherhood and I know that the integrity I KNOW you have will lead you to do the correct thing. I don't know what can be done, but I know that: "No Brotherhood can last where the leaders are accused and accursed in the manner our Urantia administrators are accused and accursed" and this I have found they are, and with such 'unanimity'.

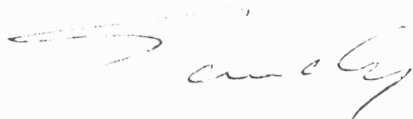
I don't know what can be done, perhaps you might mention to them the words of the Master when he said "Be willing to suffer injustice, rather than to go to law among yourselves".

I have heard it said to me personally, not only a dozen times, but at nearly every juncture (figuratively) "The Trustees have forgotten everything they have claimed ever to read in the Urantia Book, providing they ever read it, though at least they claim they read the Book". This is a statement, or the like, by EVERYBODY. ALL we have spoken to share this opinion. Even those who are their apparent supporters seem~~x~~ to do so ONLY on a basis of placation.

"Unity, not uniformity" is thus apparently dead in the Urantia movement. We must do something, though I am at a loss as to what can be done, but whatever reasonable plan~~x~~ of action you may have, or think of; you can count on my unlimited support.

I want to see this movement remain a whole movement, I would be willing to lay down my life for that. I am all for positive and corrective measures now, before it's too late, for I despair. According to what I've heard in the Field, it's already too late. What I would very much like to know is, how could the Trustees have been so blind as to let things get so unlovingly out of hand. For a stunned observer, like I have just become, I wonder if there's a course of action left, except perhaps to annihilate it all and start all over again, before everything gets totally miscarried and flushed down the drain. For me the experience of the last weeks have been astonishing and very painful.

I wish I could offer solutions, but I think I will just have to despairingly wish you "Good Luck" and hope for the outside chance that you may be able to do something. If you need help, please call. Until then, lots of warm regards, love, and long service to you and yours
In, THOUGH, With and Of the Father's Love
the GARLICKS



Sandy, Christel, Jinjoe, & James