

URANTIA BROTHERHOOD

INTRA-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

FROM Meredith J. Sprunger

DATE December 3, 1977

TO The Executive Committee

SUBJECT Leadership Training

Henry Begemann during his visit in Chicago has shared with me his concern about adequate experiential training for leaders in other countries and cultures. He emphasized the importance of his own experiential training which he has gotten through being a guest of Christy and Martin and other homes in the Brotherhood and Foundation. He pointed out the wisdom of inviting properly selected potential leaders, training them here, and having them go back to their homes to become indigenous leaders.

From time to time I have thought about our unsystematic approach to educating leadership in URANTIA Brotherhood. This rather undisciplined and unplanned approach to leadership training may be due to our philosophy of individual spiritual autonomy in the Brotherhood. Furthermore we have taken pains not to give the impression of being another "religion" or "Church." However true the above observations may be, this should not be an excuse for us to do a poor job in training leadership.

I should like to challenge the Domestic Extension Committee with the assistance of the Committee on Education to work out a systematic plan for the experiential education of Field Representatives and Society Presidents in this country.

In like manner I should like to challenge the International Fellowship Committee with the assistance of the Committee on Education to work out a systematic plan for the experiential education of Field Representatives and Society Presidents of different nationality, language, and culture than our own.

These committees might keep in mind:

1. The effectiveness of total environmental experience - Bringing people together for common experience is superior to isolated training. Having people from other countries or cultures living in the homes of local Brotherhood officers and staff is far better than having them stay in a hotel.
2. The limitations of time. The committees might think in terms of educational-experiential time packages of a week or two weeks. Possibly a series of four of these "packages" could be worked out covering basic fundamentals to more complex aspects of leadership development. Maybe "initial" experiential-educational packages could be worked out for Field Representatives and Society Presidents.

After studying this issue the committees may come up with a totally different approach. But I do think this is a responsibility we should actualize.