

*File Sprunger*

TO: The Executive Committee

DATE: February, 1979

FROM: Meredith J. Sprunger

SUBJECT: Presidency of Brotherhood

Three years ago I accepted the presidency of URANTIA Brotherhood because of the critical situation which existed at that time and because I believed the Brotherhood desperately needed more openness, a greater utilization of democratic procedures, and a broader base for decision-making.

We have succeeded in establishing a greater openness in the Brotherhood but I have failed to extend practices which would further encourage participatory democracy such as not allowing any person to serve on more than one Departmental Committee and initiating various procedures which would assure a broader base for decision-making. One must realize, however, that group decisions are basic to the institutional development of the Brotherhood and I am happy to abide by Executive Committee decisions in this issue.

After long and prayerful thought, I have decided that it is time for me to initiate a ministry to the churches, a service to which I have felt a calling for more than twenty years; therefore, I should not be considered for a second term as president of URANTIA Brotherhood. Psychologically, this has been a difficult decision. Although I have not always agreed with your decisions, I love each of you and many of you have urged me to serve another term as president. We like to please those who are close to us; but I feel that it is the Father's will that I dedicate myself to a ministry to the leaders of the Christian churches.

The Fort Wayne URANTIA Society has appointed me to a staff position as Director of Fraternal Relations. They are also sponsoring the formation of a separate organization, "The Christian Fellowship of Students of The URANTIA Book" which will serve as an aegis to carry a ministry to the leaders of the Christian churches.

This approach seems wise because such work directed toward the contemporary church is a selective and partial ministry; whereas, URANTIA Brotherhood should show no special concern or preoccupation with any religious or cultural group. Furthermore, many Christian leaders will feel more comfortable being associated with a Christian Fellowship than with an organization which some would regard as a cult. I would hope to work in the closest possible co-operation with the Brotherhood; and in time when these leaders learn the true nature of the Brotherhood, no doubt many will wish to become members.

It is my hope that we will develop a tradition in URANTIA Brotherhood not to elect any person to more than two consecutive terms as president. In the future, if the Brotherhood decides to broaden its base of decision-making so that it is possible for non-Chicago area people to serve on the Executive Committee by scheduling meetings quarterly (as most national organizations do), if I am still living and active, I would seriously consider serving on the Executive Committee again if my services were called upon.

I should like to thank all of you for your kindness and help. You are hard working, dedicated, and wonderful people. I look forward to many years of co-operative friendship and service as we work together to actualize the leavening power of the fifth epochal revelation in our society - each working as and where the indwelling spirit guides and directs.

Copies: General Council, Field Representatives, and Society Presidents