

Public Speaking Action Plan

For the past ten years, a very important question has been on my mind: what is it that I shall do with the Revelation. We are all agreed that the Gospel of Jesus needs to be spread. I am writing this proposal to set up a program to do this NOW. It is truly disconcerting to see the very small number of people who know about the Gospel and the Revelation (even in this active area). It is not that we have not tried; we haven't come up with the right plan yet. I hope that I may contribute to the solution of this problem.

What do we know about the Gospel? We know that it is the most important knowledge that anyone can have; and that it is the ultimate *innovation*. In the study of innovations by Rogers (1962), the basic principles for spreading an innovation were outlined. Briefly:

- 1) People must see it as an advantage.
- 2) The innovation must be compatible with their lives.
- 3) It must be understood and simple.
- 4) It must be easy to experiment with--people can try it out.
- 5) People must be able to see it work for others.

All the great innovations that have swept across our world have met these principles. The Gospel meets *all* of these criteria to a tee. But, in order for an innovation, an idea or concept, to spread it must be communicated from person to person and through the mass media. We have to get out into the public and tell them about it while we support those who are interested in the Gospel. The essential factor for the spread an innovation is that it is shared. We must share the Gospel.

Our past programs have not incorporated all of these factors in them. If they did, they would have been more successful. In addition, three steps need to be followed (as the Christians did): 1) *Awareness* (tell them about its existence and where to get it), 2) *Education* (show them how to use it), 3) *Reinforcement* (help people to live and socialize their innovation). If we use these principles, we cannot fail.

The book is our most instructive source: 1) The Gospel needs to be spread boldly now; 2) the life and teachings of Jesus are the most important knowledge in the world; 3) the common people will respond; 4) this effort will only succeed with people who will be exclusively devoted to this purpose. Let us consider these profound facts.

There are many knowledgeable and experienced *Urantia Book* readers who are well-qualified to speak. In addition, many would welcome the opportunity to speak. These people would speak if encouraged, prepared, and if engagements were set up with the proper promotion. The missing element here is a person to coordinate and run effective speakers program. This person must be tenacious and undaunted while having the organizational skill and effort to make this project *work*.

When I first read the *Urantia Book*, my dream was to spread the Gospel to the world; to heed the admonitions. This will always be my goal. I have no desire for any other earthly pursuit. I am willing to make any personal sacrifice to accomplish this goal. I do not seek a free ride, power, prestige, material success, or self-righteous conduct. I pray with all my heart to serve the Father and Jesus. From this moment on, I pledge myself to this task.

After ten years, I have the motivation, the maturity, the knowledge, and the skills to carry out the coordination of a program to present the Gospel for *awareness*.

I make this presentation to you now for the purpose of securing your support later, *after* the program has produced good results. At that point, you may judge the value of it yourself by seeing the *results*, not merely theory and good intentions. At a future date, the

program will require my full-time attention, and I will have exhausted my funds. This program will be a *very* effective ministry because it will reach the greatest number of people, for the greatest amount of time, with the greatest results, for the *least* amount of money.

The body of this plan will be divided into the following parts:

Planning Strategy
Purpose and Goals
Objectives
Strategies
Tasks
Time line
Financial Requirements
Summary

Planning Strategy

You will find my planning strategy somewhat of a hybrid of many different styles. For your benefit, I will briefly explain how it works.

Everything I do in this program will go through three stages continually:

Design/Redesign
Implementation
Evaluation

By using these functioning stages, I can assure progress. The *objectives*, *strategies*, and *tasks* will all be subject to this three-part process. This three threefold cycle will be of different lengths according to which part of the program it addresses.

Purpose

This program is carried out to speed up individual and planetary spiritual progress. It is done to bring man closer to God, and God closer to man.

Goal

This program will be done by spreading the Gospel of Jesus as it is found in the *Urantia Book* to those who want to listen to it.

Objectives (first year)

- 1) Lecture to 1896 people
- 2) distribute 948 Gospel topical studies
- 3) Run 87 lectures in the metro area

Strategy

If we remember the points made about innovations, it will be seen that the most effective strategy for spreading the Gospel of Jesus is the use of public presentations. This strategy is chosen because 1) we are directed by Jesus and the Revelators to do it; 2) it is a *direct* communication of the message (the innovation); 3) it will offer a choice to the public for reception; 4) it is personal 5) it will reach the most number of people; 6) it will produce the best results. The combination of these characteristics of public presentations make them a tool without limitation as to scope and time: we can reach as many people as we want for as long as we want.

The combination of the above factors have made, and will make the use of public presentations the most effective use of our resources for the spread of the Gospel. Look at the successful spread of any religion or school of thought. It has been *dependent* upon a program designed to promote it. If we are to spread the teachings, we **need** to do what the Christians did, what the Muslims did, what Melchizedek did, what the Course in Miracles people are doing, and what the hundreds of cults are doing. Get with a successful, comprehensive program.

IT IS OUR TURN!

I will now show you what I am going to do in the next few months and beyond.

Public Lectures. I will design, promote, coordinate, and run a series of public lectures using public and private forums in the metro area to do the presentations in. I will recruit knowledgeable and dynamic speakers from the throughout the area to do this. Speakers will be prepared and receive opportunities to polish their skills, thus rehearsing and improving before speaking. These efforts will be refined locally, and later be transplanted on a nation-wide and international basis. The public presentations perform the function of *awareness* building within the community.

At the end of one year, I will have at least three presentations a week going on in the metro area. These will be held before two types of audiences; presentations will be given to a solicited audience (people who responded to promotion) and to already established non-profit groups and the University (these include many service organizations and receptive churches such as the Bahai's, Center for Truth and Light, Karma Dzung, Attention Inc., Boulder Elks, etc.). I expect that the most fruitful forum will be the solicited one. It will be far more expensive. However, both types of forums will be pursued.

Each lecture will be about one hour long, consisting of lecture, question and answer, break, etc. Each lecture will be followed by refreshments, music, and promotional literature. These presentations will be video taped to help the speaker improve. this format of lecture will be used to spread the simple Gospel of how to get into the kingdom (how to be saved) and the basics of progression (the kingdom steps of inner-righteousness). This will be the extent of content. A topical study of the presentation will be available afterwards along with other pamphlets and basic secondary works which go along with the lecture.

All presentations will be promoted by advertising in the newspaper, free advertisement, and the placement of flyers. Presentations will be made at a hall or room we have rented or to a non-profit group. These non-profit groups include church groups, University religion classes, and anyone who would be receptive. Presentations to non-profit groups will require a great deal of research and tact; they will require an advance man to sell the presentation to the particular group. All of these activities are my job.

Public Lectures/continued

Speakers will be trained through an educational process of small group work using video feedback and problem solving. The group of speakers will aid each other through criticism and the sharing of helpful ideas. I will organize and run these small group workshops for the training of the speakers. It will be up to me to approve of a person to speak, while I will definitely be advised by the group of speakers.

The organization and scheduling of the presentations, as well as the securing of resources, will be carried out by myself. As the program begins to grow, my duty will be more of finding and facilitating qualified people to assist in my responsibilities. This program can be transplanted world-wide by training individuals in their own home towns. Before we can do this, we must make it a great success locally. This will require vision, endurance, organization, and commitment.

The first few months will be a period of organization and recruiting, combined with research. Information will be found, people will be contacted, training programs will be set up and implemented, promotion will be set up, and scheduling will be made. As time goes by, more and more of my time will be required.

Remember, this program is designed as one of *awareness*, one of the aspects of community structure. Interested inquiries will be directed to our community. It is essential that the community is solid and is thus coordinating its parts and has them in place. Education, socialization, prayer/worship, and ministry, are all needed (refer to summary).

What a privilege! What an electrifying opportunity to spread truth!

Tasks

The tasks I list here will be implemented starting in September (although some have already begun or are completed). Tasks fall under seven different categories to avoid duplication or confusion, and to facilitate access and process. These are *Administration, Requirements, Resources, Training, Promotion, Data, and Reinforcement*.

Administration will cover all that is involved in running the program. *Requirements* will embrace activities which involve setting requirements for preparation and delivery. *Resources* covers tasks involved in securing and using resources. *Training* will touch upon all tasks involved in training anyone involved in the program. *Promotion* will cover tasks involved in selling the events to the public. *Data* will involve the collecting of information to see whether or not we are meeting our objectives. *Support* will embrace ways that people who have gone through this program can be supported, encouraged, and involved in our community.

Administration

- Compile costs of the program.
- Set up office.
- Generate tasks for other aspects.
- Set up rules for organizational functioning/Governing.
- Create monthly objectives

Requirements

- Compile lecture facility requirements
- Compile presentation requirements
- List speaker personal requirements

Resources

- Compile/secure an independent venue list for Boulder.
- Compile/secure a list of organizations to contact to market presentations to in Boulder.
- Compile/secure an independent venue list for the metro area.
- Compile/secure a list of organizations to contact to market presentations to in the metro area.
- Make a list of Urantia community people interested in participating in the program and/or providing support of any kind.
- List free sources of materials.
- List the best commercial sources of materials.

Training

- Design a curriculum for speakers.
- Design workshops for the speakers.
- Produce a training schedule.
- Write lesson plans.
- Create evaluation techniques/criteria for improvement.

Promotion

- Research different types of audiences and what kinds of promotion that will be effective.
- Compile a list of media that can be used and its specific costs.
- Create a scheduling system.
- Design newspaper ads.
- Design free ads.
- Design flyers.
- Determine costs.

Data

- Adopt objectives for a questionnaire.
- Make a questionnaire.

Reinforcement

- Create a plan to refer inquiries to a study group program.

Progress. On the administrative side, I have designed an organizational planning process incorporating all of the principles that pertain to the successful spread of an innovation. I have generated the tasks for the other aspects of the program. I have secured a list of venues for Boulder, and a list of all of the non-profit groups in the city. I have discovered a metro area list of groups which can be purchased for \$250. The community is very favorable towards this idea in that I have contacted over half of them. Seventeen people want to speak, and most are willing to support the program in one way or another (including money). In addition, Paul Knot has volunteered the facilities of the Denver Academy for the purpose of training speakers for the program. I am lastly, in the process of coordinating this program with the local study groups.

I have contacted individuals to take on the responsibilities of the different community aspects under my coordination. We will begin meeting on a monthly basis to set goals, objectives, strategies, and time tables for getting to work. People are eager to get together and talk. They feel this is of great value to them.

As Study Group Officer, I have begun a newsletter (The Study Group Circuit) and secured support and funds for its distribution to our society (ie. the Jesusonian Foundation). This will be a necessary communication link to make any coordinated community growth, not just my idea, come about. The first issue will be in September.

I am excited!

Projections

Below will be listed a brief outline of the program projections on a yearly, monthly, and per lecture basis. The number of people attending, the number of lectures given, the number of handouts given, the number of lecturers involved, the number of inquiries to study groups, and the number of *Urantia Books* sold will be shown.

First Year

Participants	1896	Inquiries	120
Lectures	144	<i>Urantia Books Sold</i>	120
Handouts	948		
People Involved	24		

Monthly

Participants	158	Inquiries	10
Lectures	12	<i>Urantia Books Sold</i>	10
Handouts	79		

Weekly

Participants	39	Inquiries	2.5
Lectures	3	<i>Urantia Books Sold</i>	2.5
Handouts	19		

Projections/continued

Lecture

Participants	13	Inquiries	.8
Lectures	1	<i>Urantia Books Sold</i>	.8
Handouts	7		

As mentioned in the summary, this program is designed as the *awareness* portion of the community development program. Only by having the simultaneous coordination of these aspects of the community, will we have the best results. Below is an estimate of the time required by myself to run the awareness program, the public presentations, over a period of a year. Implementation will begin in September.

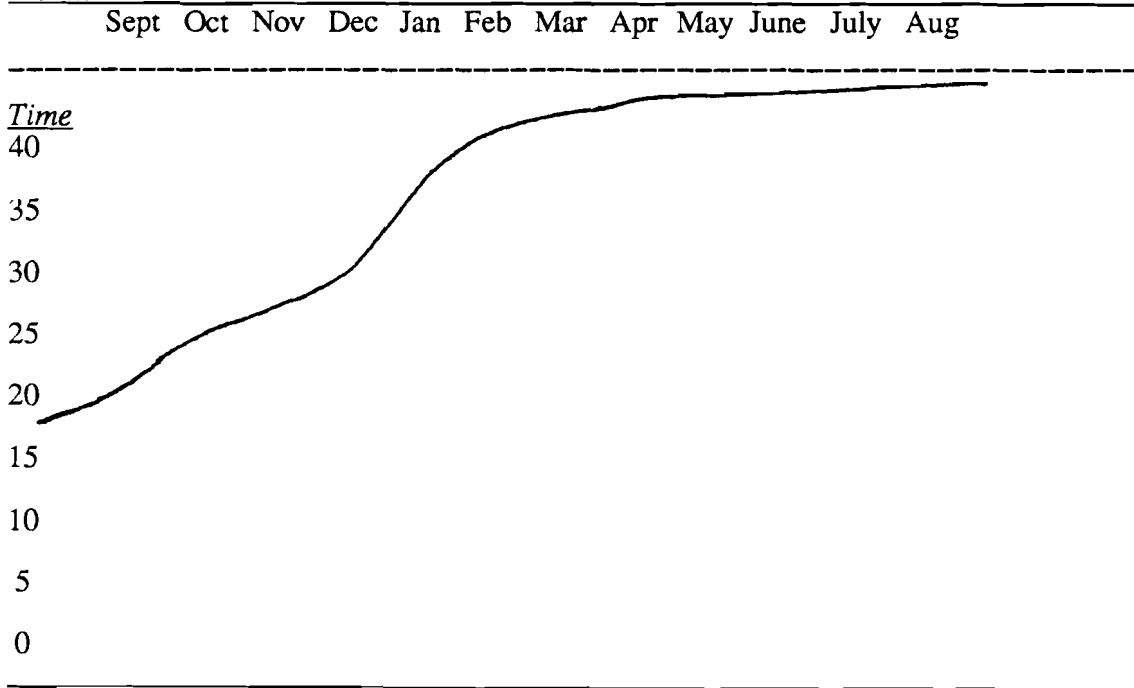
Hours Per Week

Month

Sept Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May June July Aug

Time

40
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0



Financial Requirements

For this program to do what I have shown it to be capable of doing, these requirements need to be met eventually. As mentioned before, I will operate a modified form of the monthly projections as long as I can.

Financial Requirements/continued

<i>Area</i>	<i>Yearly</i>	<i>Monthly</i>	<i>Weekly</i>
<i>Personal</i>	19,020	1,585	396.22
<i>Office</i>			
<i>Venue</i>	5,040	420	105
<i>Promotion</i>	6,336	576	144
<i>Travel</i>	880	80	20
<i>Total</i>	\$31,276	\$2,661	\$666

Cost per person \$16.49

The time is NOW! The adventure of presenting the truth to the world awaits. We are the guardians of the Revelation and must bravely go forward at any personal cost to spread the Gospel. In our movement there is confusion about what we are supposed to be doing and fear about doing what needs to be done. I submit that most of us know what needs to be done but are terrified of doing it. I am not suggesting a rampage of unbridled fanaticism, but a program designed to give people what they need, when they need it, in the way they want it, **BY THEIR CHOICE. BUT WE MUST MAKE THEM AWARE.** We must at least give them a choice of responding or not.

I ask you to slowly and carefully consider what I am undertaking. As time goes by, then consider whether to give me any support. Wait to see the fruits.

Let us listen to the Master:

Jesus continued to teach the twenty-four saying: "The heathen are not without excuse when they rage at us. Because their outlook is small and narrow, they are able to concentrate their energies enthusiastically. Their goal is near and more or less visible; wherefore do they strive with valiant and effective execution. You who have professed entrance into the kingdom of heaven are altogether too vacillating and indefinite in your teaching conduct. The heathen strike directly for their objectives; you are guilty of too much chronic yearning. If you desire to enter the kingdom, why do you not take it by spiritual assault even as the heathen take a city they lay siege to? You are hardly worthy of the kingdom when your service consists so largely in an attitude of regretting the past, whining over the present, and vainly hoping for the future. Why do the heathen rage? Because they know not the truth. Why do you languish in futile yearning? Because you *obey* not the truth. Cease your useless yearning and go forth bravely doing that which concerns the establishment of the kingdom (1725:4-1726:0)."

I pray I may...

Chris Lepine

For the past ten years I have had one goal in my life: to spread the Fifth Epochal Revelation and the Gospel of Jesus. This will always be my ever-present and dominating ambition. I have recognized the need for those people who will be exclusively devoted to this work. I desire this more than any material pursuit.

As for the skills to accomplish the tasks I have outlined, I am well qualified and capable of adapting when needed. I have spent most of my life in Boulder and am intimately versed with the community dynamics and subtleties. I also know where to go for the appropriate resources I will need.

After leaving High School, I began my training at the University of Colorado, studying Psychology and Anthropology, in addition to many other courses in different areas, one of which was religion. In 1985 I returned to study education and gain my teaching certificate from the State of Colorado. I am an education specialist. I have taught school since that time.

Looking at my past ministry work, I have been involved from the beginning in booths and other kinds of volunteer work. I helped found and direct the Urantia Book Club on the University of Colorado campus for a period of five years. The club operated a booth and was involved in different kinds of media, one of which was radio. I have also been a guest on Spiritual Spectrum, a cable television program. I continue to be an active member of the Rocky Mountain Urantia Society of Denver and am Study Group Officer for the state and an Area Coordinator for the Fellowship. There is nothing I enjoy more than to do the work of the revelation.

In the secular arena, my focus has been on Psychology and Education (see resume). My experiences have given me a broad base from which to work. I am familiar with the different types of people and their troubles.

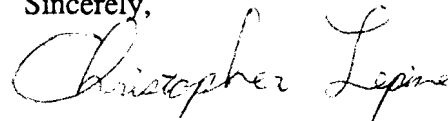
Again, I have no greater ambition in life than to do this work. I feel compelled to devote my life to do it. I am choosing to begin NOW and make my ideals concrete.

Let us work together.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

God be with you.

Sincerely,



Christopher Lepine