

REFLECTIONS and IMPRESSIONS of Urantia HISTORY at 533.

by Grace Kolze Walker

interviewed by Polly Kolze Friedman (daughter)

Introduction-

Grace Walker is the 86 year old mother of Polly Friedman. She was a member of the Forum, a group who read the URANTIA papers before the URANTIA Book was published. Dates are approx. but impressions are firm. The contact with this teaching has not only influenced the life of Grace, but her children, grandchildren and their children. Great granddaughters, Sara, Anna and Claire are the fourth generation exposed to and influenced by the truth, beauty and goodness of this remarkable teaching. Grace lives in Naperville, Illinois with her husband, Reuben.

Question- When did you you start reading the papers?

Answer- I started reading around 1945, trying to go to 533 once a week on Friday after work, commuting from downtown Chicago. This was before publication. It was exciting, because we were only given one paper at a time for evening study. The papers were under lock and key, and only people pledged to secrecy and found trustworthy through screening were allowed to read. The reading was done in a private reception room. Very often I was the only one in the room, and it was very quiet. There was one "custodian" who was present at all times.

*Question_*What were your impressions when you first started reading?

Answer- I had been told by a contact person that the papers about Jesus discussed much that had happened in his early life, and having had a very religious home, I knew the gospel stories of Jesus quite well. I was very intrigued with knowing more. I was not instructed to begin reading at the beginning of the Book as many of my friends were. So, I started with the Jesus papers, and became more and more influenced. By the time I completed the papers on Jesus there was no question that this writing was "authority", and this, indeed, was NEW material. Reading the last section was providential, because later when I went to the beginning and read the first five papers, it seemed so difficult; however, there was the incentive and motivation to keep plodding away at the more difficult material.

*Question-*How did you use these ideas in your own life?

*Answer-*At this time my own children were teenagers, and I was a single parent. I found much help from learning the way Jesus guided his sisters and brothers when he was fathering them. Through my college days, I had done a lot of thinking about religion. It was a time, (circa WW I), that the literal

interpretation of the Bible was being questioned by liberal theologians. Being taught literal interpretation, because my father was an evangelical minister, I found it necessary to formulate my own decision about my beliefs. A professional friend told me about the Papers knowing I had this questioning. My own search for truth brought the conclusion that the Fatherhood of God and Brotherhood of man is the core of Jesus' teaching. I was really satisfied with this philosophy. My friend had told me the new material would answer many questions, and it did more. It has helped me through difficult times, to accept evolutionary hardships and to achieve serenity.

Question- Did you belong to any groups that read the Papers, and, if so, how did they proceed?

Answer- Yes, I belonged to the Forum and the SEVENTY group. The Forum were readers who came together on Sunday afternoons to read. The SEVENTY group were people who had completed the entire reading of the Papers, and also wrote a paper on a particular topic about the teachings. The SEVENTY met on a week-night, as I recall, I think it was on Wednesdays. At each meeting a paper was read aloud by the author of the paper. Most of the papers were wonderful. I often wonder what happened to these excellent writings.

After the URANTIA papers were published as a book, and Societies were formed, I joined the First URANTIA Society of Chicago, and later transferred to Western Springs Society of which I'm still a member.

-to be continued for REFLECTOR readers-