

URANTIA BROTHERHOOD  
INTRA-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

*File - Fenderson*  
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FEB 26 1979

**URANTIA**

FROM Meredith J. Sprunger                      DATE 2/23/79  
TO John W. Hales and Administrative              SUBJECT Early leaders  
Committee

Occasionally I write letters which could be controversial. These I like to get to the Administrative Committee as soon as possible. The enclosed letter to Julia, I believe, is the only letter this month in this category. If any of you should like to give Julia a different answer, please feel free to do so.

We hope to see you next week.

*John ✓*  
*MJR ✓*  
*Christy ✓*  
*Edith ✓*  
*Back to John*

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URANTIA

February 23, 1979

Mrs. Julia K. Fenderson  
9980 Farragut Drive  
Culver City, CA 90230

Dear Julia:

John and Marian are sending you the statistical information you requested. My view concerning tacit secrecy regarding early leaders of the URANTIA Movement is probably different than yours and other venerable Brotherhood members.

My background stems from a long line of ancestors who have suffered and even given their lives to defend religious freedom. All of my training at home, in the church, and in college, seminary, and university training have emphasized openness, honesty, freedom, objectivity, and truth.

With the exception of Dr. Sadler and, to some degree, Christy, one of the first things I noted about Chicago people who had been members of the Forum was their pointed or tacit secrecy. Now many of the second generation have caught this same attitudinal behavior. As you know, this is one of the most dangerous characteristics of subversive sects and cults. It has all kinds of dangerous potentials.

Knowing that this issue would eventually have to be dealt with, I asked Dr. Sadler what they were requested to keep secret. He told me secrecy applied to only two things: (1) The identity of the individual who was used in some way in the materialization of the papers; and (2) Details concerning the method by which the papers were materialized. I then carefully went on to ask him how much of the things he had communicated to me associated with the origin of the URANTIA Papers could be shared with others. His immediate reply, as closely as I can remember his words, was, "Anything which you have personally heard, you may share with others if you think it is wise to do so."

My own opinion is that it is probably wise for the "official" Brotherhood publications not to mention the names of early leaders while any of the Forum members are still living. I hope that Christy's history of the early years of the URANTIA movement will some day be available to those who are interested in this information.

But I see no reason why you should not use the pictures of the Sadlers and Mrs. Kellogg in your presentation. This kind of information is common knowledge and any use of tacit secrecy will not only be noticed by perceptive people but it also encourages cult psychology which could be much more damaging to the Brotherhood someday than openness and honesty.

It is my conviction that all of us who were not a part of the Forum should treat this phenomena exactly like we would treat any other information.

February 23, 1979

Cults and sects which establish an attitudinal atmosphere where certain questions are not discussed, evasive answers given, or where objectivity and openness do not exist become suspect. Such an approach is unworthy of students of The URANTIA Book. In my work with the Christian Fellowship where we will be dealing with scholars and professional people accustomed to objective research, I do not believe this less than honest or secretive approach is either proper or practical. This does not imply that one should not use wisdom in communication.

I'm really not trying to convince you to retain pictures of the Sadlers and Mrs. Kellogg in your presentation but merely stating my convictions about this issue and my concern about our drift toward cultism in this aspect of Brotherhood behavior.

My personal recommendation is that you get as many opinions as you think might be helpful and then make up your own mind about what is wise and proper. Without an overt policy, we are subtly building impressions that there are "orthodox" procedures and expectations that Field Representatives and others should clear things with headquarters to be in "good standing." Its time to tell these people that we trust them and their good judgment and encourage individual creativity, humbly recognizing that all of us make mistakes from time to time. Leaders do not grow effectively until they feel free or have the courage to make mistakes.

We support you, love you, and encourage you no matter how you decide to handle this decision.

Cordially,

Meredith J. Sprunger