

# BIOGRAPHY OF BILL SADLER

*(As best as I can remember, by Bud Kagan)*



William S. Sadler, Jr., known as Bill to his close associates, was born in Chicago, Illinois, in the year 1909. It is rumored that he had an older brother named Willis, who died at a very early age. (This might have been the reason Bill was home-schooled.) Bill was baptized a Presbyterian and grew up in a somewhat normal life until he was around sixteen and ran off to join the U.S. Marine Corps by falsifying his age.

Bill seemed to enjoy being a Marine. After fighting in the contest in Nicaragua for a short time, he returned to the Zone of Interior (Continental United States) and was stationed near Washington, D.C.

Bill had a Bible which he studied extensively in an attempt to comprehend the history and allegories of the Old and New Testament. He was a very religious individual.

Around 1926, Bill's mother (Dr. Lena Kellogg Sadler) called him back to Chicago on emergency leave to read the first 57 Papers that his father and mother had received from the Revelators. (These are *not* the first 57 Papers we now have in the Urantia Papers). Bill was hooked as was his mother, but his father – Dr. William S. Sadler, M.D. – remained skeptical.

Bill became the youngest member of the Contact Commission, a group of human beings accepted by the Revelators as receptors of the Urantia revelation.

Bill was quite proud of the fact that he was the youngest of the Contact Commission. The balance of the Commissioners were related in one way or another to Doc and Lena Sadler.

The Contact Commissioners were on duty during the nocturnal hours in the event there would be a contact. The contacts were in writing or by oral means. Two Contact Commissioners (I was told) had to be on duty at the same time.

As Bill grew to young adult status he put almost all of his effort into the comprehension of the material supplied by the Revelators. His father, who traveled extensively as a Chautauqua Circuit Lecturer, entertained the idea that many of their close friends (the majority of whom were patients of the good Doctor or his Physician wife) would hear these Papers and discuss them at their regular Sunday Parlor meetings. These attendees became known as "the Forum."

After three readings of the Papers over a period of some thirty years, the first three Parts of the total text were read and questions and comments solicited

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from the attendees, the fourth part of the Urantia Revelation appeared all at once as, “*The Life and Teachings of Jesus.*”

Bill had an arranged marriage to a friend of a friend, Leone Sadler, who became the mother of three children: William III, Charles, and Patricia. Unfortunately, the two older boys passed away.

Bill and his father agreed that there should be some kind of introduction to these Papers. Both of them attempted the task of writing an introduction. The Revelators did not approve of this attempt to introduce human ideas into their revelation and instead produced the “Foreword” to the Papers themselves. Among other things, the Sadlers were admonished that, “*A city cannot be not be lit by a candle.*”

Bill was intrigued with the Foreword and in his subsequent writings and lectures he gave this portion much attention.

Bill was Vice President of the Board of Trustees of the Urantia Foundation (formed in 1950) and President of the Urantia Brotherhood, founded in 1955 – the year the Papers were published.

“The Urantia Book,” (as it was titled by human beings), was registered with the U.S. Copyright Office. Bill thought the copyright was contentious. He told

me, “If we ever had to go to court to defend this copyright, we could not prevail – as we could not produce a human author.”



It was Bill’s wish that the building (533 Diversey Parkway) be demolished so that in future years it would not become a shrine.

Although the original address of the Urantia Foundation was 333 Michigan Avenue (Bill’s office), attempts to have the Foundation conduct operations from this office with free secretarial staff, free phones and postage were turned down by the other Trustees.

After Bill’s mother died, Doc Sadler’s medical practice slowed down and his book royalties dwindled. Doc put a mortgage on the building. The Trustees voted (four to one) to make the payments. This infuriated Bill, and he moved out of the building. This schism between Bill and his father lasted many years.

Bill told me many things that I regard as personal, and I have kept these to myself. I learned a good deal about Bill’s mother, Lena, who I feel was a member of the Reserve Corps. Another timely thing Bill said is, “If this Foundation-Brotherhood experiment does not work out we may have to try something else.”

Bill died on November 22, 1963, the same day John Kennedy, Aldous Huxley, and C.S. Lewis. I find this more than a coincidence.

- *Bud Kagan (April, 2003)*