

September 1, 1960

Dr. Meredith J. Sprunger  
4109 Plaza Drive  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Meredith:

Hope you had a good vacation and good weather. Glad to hear from your letter of August 14 that Irene is going with you. Hope you have a good trip.

Here are the things which I promised to send you. Use and edit as much or as little of the "Activities" as you want. They're just notes of things I thought might interest outsiders.

I think I've included everything on the list of material available and I think you know what all the different items are. The ones you might not know: The Suggestions for Presenting the U.S. is a mimeograph thing, a couple of sheets, made up by Bill and one or two other people when the book first came out. I just found some extra copies the other day so I put it on the list. The Fundamentals of the Papers (Cosmography, etc.) is the old set of mimeographed sheets which Bill made up long ago with the maps, family trees, organization charts, and so on. I'm sure you have an old set and you reproduced part of it. I am having a lot of copies made up so we'll have them available. Bill did a very good job on that and we need it for new people. The revised version which Bill is working on may not be ready for years. The Outline of General Organization is the list of titles of the papers grouped and classified into an outline. Bill made it up originally and I used it to teach a class on a Wednesday night a couple of years ago. I'm pretty sure you have one. I think you know what all the others are. I'm sure Oklahoma has most, if not all, of these things. I'm glad you asked for this list, as I'm glad to have it for myself. I'll bring it up to date as we add new things.

Warren said he was writing up something for you and I presume he is sending it direct to you. If there's anything more you need or want, please let me know. Good luck and have fun!

Cordially,

Secretary-General

Marian Rowley

*Handwritten signature and date:*  
LWD 9/2

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES AT HEADQUARTERS

Book sales are holding up - in fact, are improving slowly. We are averaging better than one a day now. Sales for this year by months:

January	37
February	23
March	31
April	54
May	43
June	27
July	43
August	47
Total	305

Figures on book store sales for 1959. Foreign - 5 stores, 1 each in 5 cities, in 4 countries - England, Switzerland, Australia, and Egypt. In the United States, we sold through 43 stores and mail order establishments. These were located in 29 cities in 14 states -- for a total of 244 books, more than half of all the books sold in 1959.

The greatest concentration, as might be expected was in California (60 books through 7 stores), Illinois (41 books through 8 stores), and New York (34 books through 8 stores). Another heavy purchaser is a mail order business in Minnesota -- 37 books in 1959. Two of the New York contacts also do a big mail order business -- so the books are going out into many places we're not aware of. These figures do not include the bulk shipments to societies and study groups. A great many books have gone to Australia to one person who is selling them, and of course Los Angeles, Oklahoma, and Glenview have all had bulk shipments.

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Study groups are springing up spontaneously and there are probably many about which we know nothing. A year ago a woman from Ft. Worth came into the office and told us that there was a study group in Ft. Worth and they wanted a little help. A few weeks ago a young man came into the office to buy a book and told us that there was a group of young people in Elgin who were studying the book. He had heard of the book through a friend who had visited in Oklahoma City and learned of it through the father of a girl he had met! There is also a group under way in Houston. This came about through Early Spiars -- another direct result of Oklahoma City's activity.

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The first book review (that we know of) appeared in the June issue of "CHIMES" -- a spiritualist monthly magazine, claiming a circulation of 10,000. It was quite short, consisting mainly of a paragraph from Page 1 of the book and listing several of the headings from the back page of the paper jacket. It also offered to send the brochure "Excerpts" to anyone requesting. At the time they sent us the review they ordered three books and asked for brochures. We sent a small supply. After quite a long time they ordered three more books and asked for another supply of brochures. But apparently the results of the review were not world-shaking.

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We recently received from an associate of Lowell Thomas a copy of one chapter of a forthcoming book about Sir Hubert Wilkins, which contained a paragraph or two about the Urantia Book and the Urantia organization. We were asked to approve this mention. Dr. Sadler replied that the item itself was fine, but asked that it be removed from the chapter in which it had been placed, since the Urantia Book had no connection at all with mind-reading and ESP, which was the theme of the chapter. He suggested that it be moved to some other location in the book. We have heard nothing more.

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A gentleman at the Hague, Netherlands, asked for a free reading copy of the book. He said he had published a number of books of this type and mentioned Alice Bailey and Cuspensky, and one of his correspondents thought he might wish to publish this one in Dutch. A copy was sent immediately.

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A letter was received from Hamid Bey, who is apparently the head of the Coptic Association in America, stating that he had almost finished the book and would be interested in circularizing his 100,000 followers and asking for any literature we might have. One copy of the brochure was sent him with a letter asking for information about his organization, and nothing more has been heard from him.

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A number of books have been placed in public libraries and in college libraries both by the Brotherhood and by individuals. We have evidence that many of these books are being seen and read. We keep getting letters from people who have found the book in a library and want more information or want to have their own copy. We are hoping to get more books into libraries, and are keeping a list of the libraries at headquarters. We would appreciate knowing of any libraries where it has been placed by individuals.

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Some of the members of the West Coast Urantia Society are holding study group meetings every other Thursday evening in West Los Angeles. Their meetings are well attended and are set up so that several different people take part. The subjects are assigned well in advance. The members have done an excellent job of interesting new people and many of these people come to the meetings and take part, even though they are not yet members of the society.

Jim Mills, Vice-President of the Urantia Brotherhood, was in Los Angeles Saturday, August 13, and held two meetings with the group at the Steens' home in Pasadena. Twenty-five members of the society and the study group were present and the secretary reported that the meetings were most inspirational and successful.

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Jacques Weiss, the French translator, arrived from Paris the afternoon of Sunday, August 21, and was present at the birthday meeting at 533 Diversey that evening. Christy, Leone, and Dr. Sadler read appropriate excerpts from the book. After the meeting was concluded, Doctor introduced Mr. Weiss who told briefly how he happened to receive the book (it was sent to him by an



old-time Forum member, Caroline Brown), how he put it aside for several months thinking he would never read it because it was too big, how he finally started it and was "caught." He has done all of the translation himself in long-hand in notebooks. All of the first three parts have now been typed and are being checked by a man who has been hired by the Foundation. Mr. Weiss is here for two weeks to work out the contract for French publication with the trustees of the Foundation. He is a charming, friendly person and a very spiritually minded man. Everyone who has met him likes him very much.

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A recent letter from the Washington Saucer Intelligence told us that the writer was most enthusiastic about the Urantia Book and wanted to take on a sales agency for us. He was sure he could sell a lot of books as he traveled around the country a great deal lecturing on the New Space Age. We set forth the conditions for acting as a vendor and just last week heard from him again. He was to conduct a space age convention in California and wanted some brochures, and he will also be attending a similar convention here in Chicago September 2, 3, and 4, and wanted to meet us. He thought we would probably be at their convention in the Hamilton Hotel. Then came a letter from Topaka, stating that the man and his wife had just finished reading the Urantia Book, were very enthusiastic, wanted to start some study groups, and would be attending the saucer convention in Chicago and wanted to come to our office to meet us. They thought we might be at the convention and hoped that we might be scheduled to have a part in the program. But if we didn't have a part in it, they suggested that they might get a group together and we could appoint a speaker to talk to them.

I replied to both letters saying we would be very glad to have them visit our office and to meet them, and suggested that they call for an appointment sometime over the weekend. I emphasized that it would be an informal discussion, not a formal meeting. If it's Saturday or Sunday I'll be the only one around to talk to them. The point I shall try to make very clear to them is that the Urantia Book is a book on religion, a revelation intended to enlarge our cosmic viewpoint and to show us that we are only a small part of a very large universe; that the main theme of the book is the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, and the whole thing leads up to an enlargement and an enhancement of the life and teachings of Jesus. The Urantia Book has nothing to do with space ships or saucers. It does not validate them, it does not disprove them, it simply takes no notice of them. Any study groups which are formed must not be integrated with space age groups. As a group, our business is solely religion, but any individual may become involved in any outside activity -- and I'll read the quotation along this line. We'll encourage study groups and help them in all ways possible if they keep the study on the Urantia Book. I may be able to give you a progress report on this after the conference.