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Dear Charles,

My joy increases with each letter I receive from you: you have ascended from the recognition of the nature of The URANTIA Book and your commitment to the Paradise adventure to the choice of spiritual work for your mortal life. Not all are called to this work, but the contribution of each is welcome, and the planet needs a spiritual renaissance most urgently. I believe you have the physical, intellectual, and moral foundation for a life of distinguished spiritual service. Welcome to the work!

There are many ways to live a life of spiritual dedication.

One way is exemplified for me among my friends by Vern Grimsley. For the last eleven years, since the age of 25, he has done nothing but work related to the task of proclaiming the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. He is employed by no church; his wife works in the administration of the University of California, and contributions from diverse supporters have financed the growth of the Family of God Foundation. Responding directly to the Father's will, he has had the privilege--and he is worthy of it--of devoting his time to personal ministry, public preaching, counseling, and being the prime administrator of "FOG."

Another way of giving your life to spiritual work is represented by David Gray, the Vice-President of FOG. He works at a job whose most important quality is its flexibility. He has the time to "run dubs," i.e., to reproduce the tapes for sending to our radio network. His volunteer job occasionally demands spurts of activity; he regularly spends 20 to 40 hours a week at the Foundation. His life is designed around what is most important to him.

A third way is to express your spiritual life primarily through the daily life of job and family. These "alternatives" overlap.

One decision before you is whether you can fulfill your personal mission within the organizational structure of a "non-Urantian" institution. Vern and I both expected for

a while to make it as Christian pastors and found out differently. Our experience cannot decide for another, however; the current president of URANTIA Brotherhood has a Methodist Church in Indiana.

If you are considering joining forces with an existing group of students of The URANTIA Book, you should consider that the URANTIA Brotherhood in Chicago needs volunteers, but is open only during the day and is therefore an unlikely prospect for someone needing to earn a living--but never impossible if it is the Father's will.

There are a number of communal efforts to live a higher life led by students of the Book. I believe the age needs us not to withdraw for purification but to spend ourselves in the cities--where the people are to whom our proclamations are addressed. This certainly is a partial view of the issue, but it has been sufficient for my decision.

FOG is the primary outreach organization in the Urantia movement today. I have told you some about us already; I will happily answer more questions. Mainly, we produce a radio show for hundreds of stations in the U.S. and abroad. We have been carried on the American Forces Radio Network. We also do multimedia presentations to limited audiences. We do work on campus in Berkeley, and we plan to develop a program to train teachers and evangelists for the future and for distant places. This plan may be many years from actualization.

There are other groups that are close to initiating some outreach ministry. Unfortunately the aggressive spirit of the Master's preaching has not permeated the ranks of Book students very widely, and the field is wide open for original, well-balanced, creative spiritual leadership in response to the Father's leading. I ask you to consider whether the Father may have such a role for you. I say this not because I presume to know the divine intentions, but because this is again a fundamental choice that you make in charting your planetary career.

How to prepare? Daily study of The URANTIA Book with special attention to planetary needs, religion, and the variety of techniques of evangelism that Jesus and others have used. Daily worship and prayer. Start where you are as a living prophet. You know enough already to be of use to the Father in bringing sheep into the fold. Acquire a vision of the planet which is teeming with desperate opportunities for

the gospel. Jesus revolutionized the whole world by bringing the Father maximally to the person he was with on each occasion. As you plunge into the work the Father has immediately before you you prepare yourself maximally for whatever lies ahead. Go forth in the tremendous assurance that the very universe which is our home rises to support such dedication as yours. We mortals are not alone on this planet, and the opportunity to cooperate in the realization of spiritual purpose and destiny is a thrill that energizes and sustains.

If you choose to leave the armed forces you can emerge with considerable experience as an evangelist already under your belt.

Do not let fears impede your way. The freedom that is the spirit is ready to flow through you as you act and speak forth truth.

You recall mention of the "race for perfection." Wisdom dictates a rhythm appropriate for growth. Spiritual growth cannot safely outstrip integrated personal coordination of mind and body. But we too easily content ourselves with low gear performances when the engine can efficiently function in high.

I do not imagine that you will find these thoughts new, but I write to put emphasis, to encourage, and because I delight in experiencing the bond of a brother dedicated without reserve to realizing the Family of God on earth.

Peace and good cheer,