

What's News



At The Jesusonian® Foundation

May 1, 1989

Dear Friends:

This is the second in our series of requested updates on the progress of the Jesusonian Foundation. Much has happened since our last letter of October, 1988.



18 devoted Urantia Book Readers get together for the 1989 planning meeting in Boulder

Jesusonian® Foundation moves toward funding other organizations

The Board of Directors of Jesusonian® Foundation have unanimously agreed to begin reviewing proposals from individuals and groups within the Urantia movement to further the spreading of the religion of Jesus found in *The Urantia Book*. "Our mission is to encourage and assist individuals in developing a personal faith relationship with our Heavenly Father by sharing the supernal teachings of Jesus in *The Urantia Book* with them and nurturing them as believers."

Jesusonian® Foundation, not interested in becoming a highly

staffed, multi-tiered central organization, would rather finance and help co-ordinate various activities instead of attempting to do them. We view ourselves as helping spark a hundred points of light versus being a central lighthouse with directly emanating rays. Our policies will somewhat parallel the governing policies of The United Way organization by sponsoring others.

This new policy will be implemented in 1990. All non-profit organizations furthering the religion of Jesus as found in *The Urantia Book*, will be invited to submit proposals for funding. This includes all

URANTIA® Brotherhood Societies, URANTIA® Brotherhood central organization, URANTIA® Foundation and the numerous non-profit foundations which have sprung up to serve the Fifth Epochal Revelation.

It is doubtful if any salaries will be financed. More precisely we look to fund ideas where the work is donated, but there exists a need to fund the hard costs of conferences, art, printing, outreach booths, pamphlets, brochures, training of teachers and leaders, etc.

We hope this de-centralized policy furthers the spirit that initiated the Urantia movement. Let there be many servers, each giving in their own way to spread our Father's love throughout the world.

Board meeting produces major policy decisions

Recently Jesusonian hosted a planning meeting at its offices in Boulder, Colorado. The meeting was attended by 18 leaders from around the country. Many diverse points of view were represented. The purpose of the meeting was to provide Jesusonian® Foundation with group wisdom and guidance in its activities for the upcoming year. We also forged a course for the next decade.

The spirit of the meeting was one of openness with careful consideration being given to the many suggestions received at Jesusonian Foundation. Attendees equally represented the possible concerns of the Angels of the Churches and the Angels of Progress. Particular attention was paid to the survey questionnaires which were received from many respondents in the Urantia movement. These respondent's evaluations toward proposed outreach programs became the basis for the discussions during those two days.

New policies were set for the furtherance of the spreading of the religion of Jesus.

Policy 1:

By unanimous consent we wholeheartedly concur with URANTIA® Brotherhood's policy of person to person outreach. This policy became the animating principle of ministry which emerged. Further outreach will be aimed at carefully selecting "targeted audiences of potential *Urantia Book* readers, who because of their affiliation with certain groups or teachings might recognize

the truth of the revelation if they were made aware of its existence." It was generally agreed that although small steps may be taken to raise the visibility of *The Urantia Book* among the spiritually hungry, it would be unwise to attempt any mass advertising or general publicity to further *The Urantia Book's* mission.

Policy 2:

Communication of religious ideas need a new and appealing style to distinguish the fresh message of *The Urantia Book* from other teachings. The group advocated that traditional or commercial styles of religious outreach be transformed into sensitive, sophisticated, and spiritually fragrant messages that invite people to reach up and stretch

for higher values.

Policy 3:

The Board of Directors and the Planning Board unanimously agreed that we do not wish to compete with URANTIA® Brotherhood or URANTIA® Foundation. Our interest is to spread the religion of Jesus and work on projects that are not being funded or developed by the two central organizations. In fact, if we can help URANTIA® Brotherhood and URANTIA® Foundation, we are most willing to do so. Meanwhile, our thrust lies in creating new ideas and in sponsoring others to achieve mutually shared goals in furthering the religion of Jesus found in the Fifth Epochal Revelation.

Comments from *Urantia Book* readers

"Let's leave Jesus and the Holy Spirit in charge. We should not shout from the housetops. Anti-religion is very strong today. We could do a lot of damage to *The Urantia Book* by arousing opposition to our work. Let the ground swell grow. Isn't that the original intent? Patience is a great virtue. Just let the work grow. We don't need to prove or push."

"The materials that have come from Jesusonian Foundation have been superb - *The Life After Death* magazine and the new introduction."

"I just saw your special report on *There is Life After Death* and wanted to thank you personally for the marvelous job you have done on that presentation."

"Let's slow down on the commercial aspects, goodness takes time."

"*The Urantia Book* is a gift from above. Gratitude from my heart and spirit."

"*The Life After Death* magazine is an incredible job, filling a desperate need. Congratulations and heartfelt thanks to all those who made this report possible."

"Special thanks to Meredith for his most valuable brochures which bring a vital perspective to our work."

"With all due respect some of your ideas border on the hard sell associated with 'Dime store novels.' Those who are really seeking will find the book. This probably means the book will never be a best seller or was it intended to be."

"I really have an inner desire to do more to help bring this planet into the age of light and life. Sharing my experiences with *The Urantia Book* during the Whole Life Expo was a very rewarding and enlightening experience. Meeting all the new people who have this special book in common was fantastic. I'm looking forward to the next time we can meet and work together."

"From this *Life After Death* report from Colorado I have discovered the true dimension of *The Urantia Book*. I have not read the book although my dad has spoken of the book all the time I have existed. I was inclined to think it covered mainly the life of Jesus. From the brief message of the LAD report I realized that the big blue book is not only for grown-ups but for the young generation in particular. The sooner we get started reading and studying it the better."

"Your materials are too slick."

Projects Passed by the Board of Directors

1. Letters to Ministers

Responding to the number one choice made by survey respondents, the Board approved of sending a small number of letters to ministers and leaders interested in new ideas in religion. These letters will be sent to a carefully selected group of searching (Non-Fundamentalist) ministers. Return mail will be carefully monitored for the number and type of responses received. This mailing will include an offer to loan ministers a *Urantia Book* for 3 months. We are hoping this outreach activity will result in opening the way for lay leaders and progressive thinking ministries to discover the wonderful teachings of the revelation. Before many letters are sent, we will do a carefully monitored test mailing to determine effectiveness.

We sent 500 letters to Unity churches the 2nd week in March with a copy of Meredith's Origins and our new Introduction. We thought you might enjoy one ministers comments:

"Dear Meredith Sprunger: How exciting to see the work you are doing with *The Urantia Book*. The flyer is well thought out and beautifully done. This should be a great breakthrough into the community at large. I have probably been instrumental in selling several hundred of *The Urantia Books* in my ministry over the years. I use it as my second Bible and often read from it for the scriptures on Sundays.

Just a note to thank you for your good work and offering the book to many! "

2. Training of Speakers

Many churches and spiritual groups invite and encourage speakers from other disciplines to address their adult education classes. Such opportunities abound for public speakers to personally share *The Urantia Book*. To promote this effort, Jesusonian Foundation will conduct training sessions to polish the skills of those with speaking experience and to train new speakers. The training sessions will tentatively be offered in Denver in 1990. The sessions will provide speakers with an opportunity to practice their presentations, to see video-taped playback and to receive feedback from fellow students of *The Urantia Book*.

3. Outreach to A Course in Miracles readers.

A Course in Miracles, a body of Christian oriented "revealed material", focuses on forgiveness in the acquirement of true vision. The three volume set consisting of a text, a workbook for students, and a manual for teachers sold over 600,000 copies worldwide. Currently, more than 1,000 study groups discuss the Course teachings. This activity has occurred within the past fourteen years.

Many students of "A Course" have become enthusiastic readers of *The Urantia Book*. Some *A Course in Miracles* study groups read *The Urantia Book*. Because students of the Course seem receptive to the teachings of *The Urantia Book*, the Jesusonian will be mailing a personal letter to all study group leaders giving them information about the book. The

introductory letter arrives with testimonials from seven *Urantia Book/A Course in Miracles* readers. The most prominent testimonial comes from one of the Course's outstanding past leaders, Bob Beale. **Here are excerpts from Bob's letter.**

"I have been an avid student and teacher of *A Course in Miracles* for twelve years. The Course has had a major impact on my life. My experiences with it have contributed to major revisions in my thinking, functioning, and relating in life."

"Although an avid reader of many other books and publications, I found nothing that stimulated and inspired me to the degree that *A Course in Miracles* did. That is, until about five years ago. A student in one of my Course classes presented me with a copy of *The Urantia Book*. Her words to me were: 'With your strong interest in *A Course in Miracles*, you will also probably be drawn to *The Urantia Book*.' She was right! I have become an avid *Urantia Book* reader along with my Course studies."

This personal outreach to *A Course in Miracles* readers has been the effort of numerous people. Obtaining the addresses of the study groups has been no small task. Hopefully this work will produce good fruit in a quiet and effective way.

4. A new Jesusonian magazine underway

As a sequel to the highly successful "There is Life After Death" magazine, the group agreed that the religion of Jesus from Part IV of *The Urantia Book* should be reviewed in the next magazine. The book review would point the way to the book while giving potential new readers a flavor of the supernal

teachings contained therein. The chief editor will be Steve McIntosh, who with the help of numerous volunteers, will create the second issue of *The Jesusonian Magazine*. We have high hopes for the success of this project in bringing people to know our Father in Heaven through the religion of Jesus.



5. The Study Group Herald™

The planning group unanimously agreed to launch the Study Group Herald™. The Herald will be a quarterly newsletter directed at aiding study groups by training teachers and leaders, providing 12 week topical study formats, advising on how to create effective group relations, and miscellaneous fun sections related to successful study groups. The Study Group Herald™ should provide a helpful adjunct to URANTIA® Brotherhood's wonderful services in furthering study groups.

Secondary to the new powerful Area Coordinator Program implemented by URANTIA® Brotherhood, the Study Group Herald™ could prove to be a useful tool for the burgeoning study group movement. Special thanks goes to URANTIA® Brotherhood and URANTIA® Foundation for constructing the new Area Coordinator Program. This program has great ability to further study groups worldwide. **Congratulations on a job well done!**

6. Continuation of exhibit booths and an expansion of the Good Cheer Press®

Because of past success in both of these areas, Jesusonian® Foundation will continue to attend various spiritually oriented exhibits around the country. Its booth is staffed by local volunteers. In general, this program has been very effective in implementing person to person contact about *The Urantia Book*. While not all exhibits have been proven successful, the majority have. The ones which have been unsuccessful have been dropped and we are searching for new ones.

The variety of secondary works will increase through the Good Cheer Press's® catalog. We encourage any individual or group with a high quality secondary work needing distribution to contact us. The Good Cheer Press® may be willing to distribute your product. You will need to send us pricing information and a copy of your secondary work so we can determine if it should be added to our catalog.

7. Experimental 800 number

An experimental 800 number was installed at Jesusonian® Foundation. The line could help potential new readers and current readers more fully commit to living *The Urantia Book* teachings. Volunteers and potential volunteers can network through this line. The 800 line will be critically assessed for its long term viability. The line operators, enthusiastic volunteers from the Boulder area, will divert crisis counseling to the proper non-Jesusonian channels. Instruction on how to serve readers effectively will be continually reviewed.

New members join the Board of Directors

As a result of the January planning meeting, the Board of Directors

increased from four to eight members. The Board now consists of Janelle Balnicke, Geoffrey Cutler, Kaye Cooper, Duane Faw, Dr. Paul Knott, Steve McIntosh, Dr. Meredith Sprunger, and Mo Siegel. An official planning board has been formed to include persons interested in contributing to the guidance and development of this foundation. Those who attended the planning weekend left with a sense of inspiration regarding our work within the greater Urantia movement.

Over the weekend there emerged a philosophy regarding the relationship of Jesusonian Foundation to individual readers and the movement as a whole. The group felt the foundation should seek to be a consensus organization which carefully helps flower the furthering of the Urantia movement while slowly integrating the teachings of the book into the market place of ideas.

The foundation needs your guidance, criticisms, and invites you to share your ideas and suggestions. It was agreed that emphasis should be placed on operating this foundation through the direction of many individuals with diverse points of view. This will ensure policies and procedures are not dictated or dominated by any one person. Please let us hear from you. **We need your wisdom and guidance!!**

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The Jesusonian® Foundation is a non-denominational, non-profit, tax-exempt organization dedicated to spreading the teachings of *The Urantia Book*. We are unaffiliated with URANTIA® Foundation, URANTIA® Brotherhood, or any religious groups but are supportive of everyone advancing truth.