

October 27, 1958

Dear Vern:

Thank you for your letter. I attended the Chicago Society meeting yesterday and Marion Rowley read or referred to the letter which you had written to the Chicago office. The last Sunday of every month is spent reviewing what is happening through out the country - the response to - the Urantia Book. It is beginning to spread all over the country.

Glad you are having the experience on the pulpit committee and the opportunity to do a little preaching. Am much interested in your future plans. If you do enter the ministry, you must be prepared to be very tolerant with the situation you will find in the theological world - they are definitely behind. But you will need such training to gain respectability in the modern church. After you get your training, however, you can chart your own course.

Things are going along pretty well here. There was a little fuss last year about the Urantia Book but as I do not quote from or refer to the book the fundamentalist faction can't do anything about it. The thought content of my sermons comes from the Urantia Book but I don't remind them of it. Bromley is now teaching at the Plymouth High School. The rest of the faculty at C.M.A. are about as usual. There may be some possibility of the Academy teaching a psychology course next year with the pastor of Grace Church as teacher. We shall see.

Am having an interesting time rewriting the Psalms - some are quite primitive you know. I have added a different introduction and conclusion to the Critique - will send you a copy. I can well understand your desire for fellowship in these matters. But the best method is low pressure salesmanship. When you find people who are "searchers" you can lead around to telling about the book and possibly handing them a copy of the Evaluation which I think I sent you. A certain percentage will want to know more.

Never mind the Urantia Brotherhood Constitution. It was written by some legal minds and they are always stuffy. The group is not primarily interested in forming a new organization but in the spread of the teachings of the Urantia Book. Actually, in the constitution, local societies are almost completely autonomous and independent - which as a Congregationalist you should appreciate!

Recently our pastor's study group met with Dr. Moss, president of our Lancaster Theological Seminary, for a discussion about the Urantia Book. Although he has only read part of the book, Dr. Moss admitted that it was written from the standpoint of the best Biblical scholarship. The date of the crucifixion, for instance, agrees with the opinion of modern scholars. At no point did he differ with the view point of the Urantia Book. Nonetheless my guess is that he will put the book on the shelf and try to forget about it.

Now that the young lady of your aspirations is gone, you will have more time to study and occasionally keep me posted regarding your activities.

Cordially yours,

*Mendel J. Spurgeon*