

August 30, 1966

The following is in response to a request from West Coast field secretary Julia Fenderson, who asked that we write a brief description of our Urantia-based radio ministry.

The "Family of God" radio broadcast is an independent adventure which we, Vern and Nancy Grimsley, have undertaken in order to proclaim the Urantian teachings of Jesus to a spiritually seeking generation. We call the program "The Family of God" because in Paper 170, "The Kingdom of Heaven," page 1861, paragraph 6, The Urantia Book says of Jesus, "He once spoke of such an experience as 'family fellowship' with God the Father." Jesus sought to substitute many terms for the Kingdom, but always without success. Among others, he used: the family of God, the Father's will, the Friends of God," etc....(italics mine).

We believe that today, in this 20th century, the family-concept stands as the clearest and most succinct possible summation of Jesus' true gospel as presented in the Urantia Book--the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man.

The "Family of God" broadcast is frankly and unapologetically evangelistic--not in the hyper-emotional sense, but rather in the style of those evangelists sent forth by Jesus, who "taught and preached the gospel." (Page 1658, p.3) Emphasis is placed on personal religious experience (Paper 103) as opposed to institutionalized creeds and forms (Paper 99). No mention is ever made of the church.

The length of the program is 15 minutes; it began late in 1964 with early Saturday morning broadcasts once a week over KFAX, San Francisco--a full-power, 50,000 watt A.M. radio station. Now, in 1966, it is heard daily from San Francisco at 5:45 P.M....which is considered in the radio business to be "prime time." Mail response is not heavy, but steady and growing. KFAX covers most of the west coast, from Northern California to Alaska, and well beyond Midway Island in the Pacific Ocean. Letters, however, come primarily from California, Oregon, and Washington.

The program is heard weekly on KVEG, Las Vegas, Nevada, which also reaches parts of lower California, Utah, and Arizona. A similar once-a-week broadcast will soon go on the air over KIUL radio, NBC in western Kansas.

All programs are tape-recorded on our own professional equipment (new value, \$3,500), and further improvements in technical sound will be made as we are able to afford them. But even at present, the electronic quality of "The Family of God" is high enough to be accepted on any A.M. broadcasting station.

Why radio? Recent surveys indicate that, when compared to TV, newspapers, etc., radio offers the widest coverage for the least amount of money. We frankly feel that the basic religious teaching of the Urantia Book must be proclaimed to as many people as possible. It is too good not to be shared.

However, no mention of the Urantia Book or the Urantia Brotherhood is ever made on the air. Rather, with Dr. Sadler's permission, I have "bootlegged" Urantia material into my talks, but without on any occasion naming my source.

I have also written pamphlets--"Kin to the Creator" and "Getting to Know God"--which we send to listeners without cost. No request is ever made for money, either over the air or by letter. If we did, mail response would increase considerably, but we would prefer not to ask for contributions.

Frequently, listeners write with personal problems or religious perplexities; our answers are taken from the Urantia Book. Letters are never read on the air.

Nancy and I have been amazed at the way in which doors have opened up for this radio work. Examples:

Every other daily, 15 minute religious program on KFAX, San Francisco, is charged \$350 a week for air time. But "The Family of God" is on free (except for our expenses in creating, producing, taping and mailing it) because the station manager likes it. We hope they don't change managers.

The program is on KIUL in Kansas because of my personal friendship with a broadcaster there.

And I did a series of recorded guitar station-breaks in even exchange for air time in Las Vegas, on KVEG.

The following are excerpts which have been influential in our decision to put Urantia religion on the radio; they stress the urgency of evangelism, the profound necessity for all of us who read the book to involve ourselves in religious outreach. "From those to whom much has been given, much shall be required."

"Modern man is confronted with the task of making more readjustments of human values in one generation than have been made in two thousand years." p. 1013. (This strongly suggests the immediate uses of mass media of communication.)

"All Urantia is waiting for the proclamation of the ennobling message of Michael, unencumbered by the accumulated doctrines and dogmas of nineteen centuries of contact with the religions of evolutionary origin. The hour is striking for presenting to Buddhism, to Christianity, to Hinduism, even to the peoples of all faiths, not the gospel about Jesus, but the living, spiritual reality of the gospel of Jesus." P. 1041.

"There must come a revival of the actual teachings of Jesus, such a restatement as will undo the work of his early followers who went about to create a sociophilosophical system of belief regarding the fact of Michael's sojourn on earth." P.1866

"Urantia is now quivering on the very brink of one of its most amazing and enthralling epochs of social readjustment, moral quickening, and spiritual enlightenment."

"Religion does need new leaders, spiritual men and women who will dare to depend solely on Jesus and his incomparable teachings. If Christianity persists in neglecting its spiritual mission while it continues to busy itself with social and material problems, the spiritual renaissance must await the coming of these new teachers of Jesus' religion who will be exclusively devoted to the spiritual regeneration of men. And then will these spirit-born souls quickly supply the leadership and inspiration requisite for the social, moral, economic, and political reorganization of the world....The hour is striking for a rediscovery of the true and original foundations of present-day distorted and compromised Christianity--the real life and teachings of Jesus." P. 2032

For us, the "Family of God" radio broadcast is a response not only to the book's imperative that the Urantian gospel of Jesus be proclaimed, but also to the clear calling of E.L. Christensen, President of the Urantia Brotherhood, who in her message to the first triennial delegate assembly on August 20, 1964, said:

It is our burden to bring life on this planet up to a new level, which we can and will do when we sincerely become imbued with the idea that we are ambassadors of a heavenly kingdom just as surely as were the twelve apostles who followed Jesus. Those twelve men were so inspired by Jesus' life and teachings that they went forth and turned the whole world upside down. I pray we will do likewise.

During my short tenure as President of the Urantia Brotherhood I have expounded on two theses: first, that we become living prophets of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man, and second, that we remember to subordinate the Urantia Book to the service of God.

Perhaps we should take a moment now to listen once again to Jesus' admonition to his apostles during one of his profound discussions on religion: "I admonish you to give up the practice of quoting the prophets of old, and instead aspire to become living prophets and spiritual heroes of the coming kingdom."

What is a prophet? Webster says a prophet is:

1. The proclaimer of a revelation
2. One who speaks for another, especially for God
3. An inspired revealer, interpreter, or spokesman
4. One whose office it is to deliver a message.

What a message we have to deliver! We have in our hands a veritable El Dorado of riches. Only a handful of men and women on Urantia are so fortunate, so privileged, as we are.

I am not too much interested in the number of Urantia Books you dispense, but I am tremendously interested in the souls you will lead into the kingdom by your own proclamation of the dynamic truths about God and his universe which Jesus has revealed to you; in how you are feeding the hungry souls that you meet "as you pass by."

To emphasize my point I want to paraphrase a statement made by our first President in his report to the Brotherhood at the end of his three-year tenure: We must be careful not to confuse primary and secondary loyalties. Our primary spiritual loyalty is to the Universal Father, and to him alone. When we encounter some spiritually hungry brother our first objective is to bring him closer to his heavenly Father. This we may attempt to do with or without the book. All things are secondary and subordinate to the acquisition of this one prize: the realization of sonship with God. The book itself is not an end; it is a most important means to an end. If the Urantia Book becomes mandatory in our ministry, then we have truly subordinated to it our first and primary objective and purpose, as Urantians, which is: the service of God.