



URANTIA FOUNDATION  
533 DIVERSEY PARKWAY CHICAGO ILLINOIS 60654

January 27, 1972

Mr. Vern Grimsley  
1890 Arch St.,  
Berkeley, California 94709

Dear Vern:

Mrs. Meredith Landrum sent me this letter, a copy of which is enclosed herewith, in order to introduce herself to me. I thought you might like to have a copy for your files. I think she is going to be quite an active individual and may turn out to be quite an asset. On the day I received her letter I telephoned her and had a nice conversation. She has evidently searching for some time and has been connected with various groups. *John*

Mrs. Grace Gause, whom she mentions on Page 3, is connected with Mr. Worthington the attorney, or I should better say that he is connected with her, as she seems to be the channel. Note the last line on Page 3.

Her husband's name is Dr. Edszen Landrum, and they live at 2842 Buchanan Street, San Francisco 94123. The telephone number is Area Code 415 - 921-6028. I am giving you this information in case you do not have it ~~it~~ you may have occasion to call her again. *ac*

Sincerely,

E. L. Christensen  
Secretary

ELC/ar

Vern

San Francisco, Calif.  
Jan. 15, 1972

The Urantia Foundation  
533 Diversey Parkway  
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Christy:

Since Christmas I have given much thought concerning my part in teaching the "Urantia" revelations and my relationship to the Urantia Foundation. It is my sincerest wish to cooperate in every way with the policies of the Foundation in the protection of the sacredness of the text of the Urantia Papers. I, like you, am very grateful that we have VERN as an efficient and dependable liaison.

Perhaps it will be helpful if I start at the beginning and tell you something of myself, my studies, activities and family. It will be a bit long, but how else can we become acquainted and build the trust that I wish you and the Foundation to feel for me?

Presently, I am a housewife of middle years and by profession a teacher. When I had completed my first semester of practice teaching at the Fredrick Burke School (connected with S.F. State - then, a small and conservative school) the vice-president of State called me in and said that my supervisors had reported my outstanding classroom teaching and that they wished to give me the best and most difficult second semester training available. So I was sent to a school in Berkeley where I was given a class of fifty-two first graders to whom I must give the tools of learning. I think this is the most challenging of teaching and I have always been grateful for this rigorous experience. I received an "A" in the course and graduated with personal faculty recommendations that secured for me the choice between two teaching positions on the peninsula. This was in depression years when few positions were available. I stopped teaching when I married and devoted myself to my three daughters. I taught them study method, so they, like myself became "A" students as well as school student body leaders.

My eldest daughter, Ardath, graduated in Home Economics and today is using her training and love of interior design in restoring two Victorian mansions in our Pacific Heights area. These have been converted into apartments which she manages, and her experience with people would fill a book. Ardath is married to a young Arabian man who was sent here on a chemistry scholarship. Thamir Al'Hashim's great-uncle was Prime Minister of Iraq. In 1970 we met Mr. and Mrs. Al'Hashimi in London. They decided to meet us there as two of their other sons are doing research in England. Wissam has his doctorate in geology at the University at Newcastle-on-Tyne, while Amer is an M.D. at the University of Manchester and is doing blood research.



We then flew to Paris via the Channel Islands. We spent three days on the Isle of Guernsey, the home of many generations of my French Huguenot ancestors. It was through the vicar of St. Sampson's Church there that the genealogical committee of our Bay Area Huguenot Society Chapter documented my genealogy back to the 11th Century in Normandy. I have never been very interested in genealogical societies, but now as a Urantia student I give racial stock more importance. Presently I am Secretary of our S.F.B.A. Chapter. Our president is Eleanor Blanchard Lyons who was cited by the President of the United States for certain humanitarian achievements. She was also on Governor Reagan's California Bicentennial Committee. Perhaps it is my Huguenot blood which contributes to my tenacious devotion to that which I believe. The Huguenots were one of the powerful human groups that protected the true teachings of Jesus from the desecration of the Priesthood which persecuted them.

Ardath and Thamis have an eight-year-old son who is an interesting and dynamic blending of east and west. I can see by his questions about God that the Urantia teachings will stand me in good stead.

My second daughter, Gareth, is a graduate of the University of California, S.F. Medical School of Nursing. She specializes in psychiatric nursing. She had spent a year in Europe attending the University of Perugia and returned very proficient in Italian. While nursing at S. F. Gen. Hospital she was selected to accompany a young mentally disturbed Stanford teacher back to his parents' home in Milano. On her return she married a young New York doctor at the hospital. They have a year-old son and live in Deansboro, N.Y. while Howard is doing his two years of required service at Greffiss A.F. Base Hospital.

My youngest daughter, Kendall Meredith, is an occupational therapist at Lemuel Shattuck Hospital in Boston. She works with amputees and paralytics, etc. etc., and the Urantia teachings give her much strength in this atmosphere of human suffering. We sent Kendall east for her fifth year of clinical training and while in Boston (Mass. Mental Health) she met and married Michael Tucker who now has his Masters in Special Education.

The girls' father died suddenly in 1960 of a brain aneurism. He was just fifty-nine. His father was an Annapolis man - Marine Corps Colonel. Fulton was a University of California graduate, well-travelled and a man of great strength and enterprise. His death put me into business life, caring for his interests. About most of this I knew nothing but one does what one has to do and I managed quite smoothly with the help of kind friends to advise me in accounting, property management, probate and attorneys. Amongst these was a family friend of many years - Edcym Landrum - a chemical engineer from Ohio State University. He had retired long ago from this work and was chiefly interested in the "Save the Children Federation" and other youth groups. At about the time we married he had retrieved the "American Academy of Asian States" from financial disaster for which he received an L.L.D. This academy is a very small evening graduate school - but we feel it has a definite mission in the integration of East and West.



Edszen

Edszen

~~Edszen~~ and I bought a spacious old home which gave a good family life to the girls. Under ~~Edszen~~'s guidance they scraped and painted and steel-wooled hardware. All of this activity was most fortuitous keeping the girls interested at home with their friends during those restless youthful years.

The children were first brought up in Trinity Episcopal Church. I was Secretary of the Women's Auxiliary for years and for one term represented the women on the vestry. Although we liked Trinity and our dear friends there (some of whom we still see—one studying Urantia with me) we began to feel rather confined. I had studied comparative religion on my own setting aside two hours daily. I took some graduate work at U.C. in this area fulfilling my desire to know what other peoples believed about God. A friend, knowing of this interest, took me to a class in comparative religion held by Haridas Chandhuri, a Ph.D. from the University of Calcutta. From then on our family became members of his S.F. Cultural Integration Fellowship. This Ashram is located in a substantial brick building at Third and Fulton. I worked closely with the Chandhuris in many aspects of their mission and was on the Board of Directors. Haridas is well-known here and is a compelling author of numerous books. One was written in collaboration with Dr. Speigiberg of Stanford.

The universal approach of Haridas was so in tune with our family outlook and his lectures so lucid that my young daughters loved to go and used many of his messages as bases for their school themes and speeches. Haridas is a devotee of Sui Aurohindo — the "modern prophet of India". When the girls were so shocked and crushed by the shock of their father's death, I placed each morning a quotation from Aurohindo's "Integral Philosophy" in their pockets. This was their thought for the day and at dinner later we discussed their reactions to the concepts and how they had related it to the day's activities. This filled the void and replaced thoughts of resentment, sorrow and fear.

Then suddenly another door opened. The mother of Renee Sonderman, whom I understand at one time assisted Mr. Clyde Bedel in compiling the Urantia Concordex, showed me her copy of the Urantia Book. Here, I thought, is "Cosmic Citizenship"! From then on the book became my life. The children are mostly away. Ed is occupied with his academy and I have the precious gift of time to devote to those who wish my help in comprehending this book. They tell me that I make this material for them a living beautiful way of life. I suppose this is because I love it so.

Now returning to the mother of Renee Sonderman. This is Mrs. Grace Gause, an elderly, beautifully spoken woman who is a channel for the ascended masters of the Melchizedek order. She is not a medium — she does not go into a trance. She explains that she is enfolded in an atmosphere of strong impressions and from these she speaks words of priceless wisdom. We do not accept any psychic aspects into our lives any more than we do astrology or tarot cards or fortune telling. The Teachers discuss divine law and the necessity of our obedience of these laws. They never invade the sanctity of our free-will choice. When I told them of my love of the Urantia teachings they said that if I truly felt I had found my life's work I would do well to concentrate on it alone and not confuse myself with other schools of thought.



They added that I have the ability and personality to help others comprehend the majesty of these sacred revelations, but that I must use much discretion as the average person on this planet is not yet prepared to receive them. So we have continued to discuss the methods of teaching used by Jesus.

I have never frequented metaphysical centers and book shops having always had quite enough studying at hand to fulfill my needs. The way I made connection with the Center at 420 Sutter Street was this: Over a year ago a friend asked me if I knew that a Urantia class was held at this center. I replied that I did not and was not on their mailing list and promptly forgot about it. A was too busy figuring the book out on my own. Then three months ago I telephoned this center to order the Urantia Concordex. Suddenly, recalling about the above-mentioned class, I inquired out of curiosity if they had Urantia classes there. I was informed by the owner that they had held one some time ago but it was taught by a rather hippy-type man who frightened people away. When I told him that I had been studying the book for the last five years and a little of my background he, Mr. Berkey, said he would love to have a person of this calibre come down and help the young people to more fully comprehend this book which they were purchasing in quite some quantities. He agreed that they could easily get caught up in the byways of psychiofanaticism and I was pleased with his values and sensitivity. I have given much thought in this area and realize that it will be increasingly imperative to follow Jesus' teaching method of never condemning the beliefs of others yet all the while both quietly and dynamically presenting concepts of such vitality and validity that the lesser ones will fall away of their own accord and are almost unconsciously replaced by the higher ones in the minds of the listeners.

When I first met Vern I told him of my studies with the Ascended Masters and we had an interesting discussion about this method of the Melchizedek teaching of mortals. Later I sent him several copies of their lectures.

I am most grateful that the Father protected the Urantia teachings and me by giving you the urge to write to me inquiring about my present activities so that, in accordance with Vern's suggestion, we could entitle my series of six lectures "The Life and Teachings of Jesus" rather than publicizing the Urantia Book commercially. It was a narrow escape!

Vern said I could draw freely on the material in the book but not to mention the word "Urantia" - unless casually on a reading list - "to play the book down in a minor key" were his words. I asked Vern if I had his permission to quote this to you and he said "certainly". Our conversation ended on a high note of complete understanding and I believe he has relayed his impressions of me and of this conversation to you. I am now on his 9:30 A.M. prayer list.

I read the booklet you enclosed with your last letter of January 4th. I could almost believe that I had written the sections you marked myself - to such an extent are these aims mine also. I shall do my utmost to fulfill them in a lucid and elevated presentation which preserves the purity of the text. In the six lectures I hop to build a foundation for the understanding of where Jesus is placed on the scale of human existence, our relationships to him, and the purpose of his mission. This will be done through the presentation of cosmology, the story of the bestowals. An explanation of the seven grand



divisions of the Divine Family (pointing out our order of being as "potentially Father-fused mortal ascenders"), a discussion of the mutuality of the experiential growth of both Descending and Ascending Beings in the perfection career and of the building of the immortal soul and the preservation of individuality. All of this will be geared towards the emphasis of our cosmic citizenship, the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man. I have, indeed, set myself a large task but I have this well organized for clear presentation. Of course, one never knows just how the timing will turn out as I am hoping for a relaxed interchange of discussion and I will need to adjust to perception ability.

I enclose a picture of myself as part of the "getting to know me". It was casually snapped by my husband in his study here at home just as I was around that morning in my house shoes. It was taken about eight years ago. My hair is silver now - but the rest of me is about the same - the Urantia teachings keep one "aglow", don't they? Anyway you will see that I do not wear blue jeans and scraggly hair nor use a turban and crystal ball.

We are still hoping to have the Grimsleys over for dinner - I want to show them some of my work. Perhaps we may have the privilege of meeting Mr. Bedel and Grace is hoping that a meeting may be arranged with Mr. Adler whom, I understand, visits the West Coast from time to time. All of these things will work out in good time according to the Father's divine purpose.

I do hope that you have survived this very long letter and that it has not been inappropriate but rather will serve to build your trust in me.

Sincerely,

Meredith Landrum

P/S. Will this ever end?

I think I should add that the other three-quarters of me is English. My mother is a descendent of Joseph Addison - the English author. My father, Martin Romell, is related to the late Chester Romell of the S.F. Chronicle and DeWitt Talmadge a journalist in N.Y. His father, Solon Eastman Romell, was of the Eastman Kodak family. So much for Urantia "genealogy" - this sounds so egocentric.

M.L.