


THE FAMILY OF GOD FOUNDATION, INCORPORATED

RECEIVED

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March 1, 1976

URANTIA

  
Miss Emma Christensen  
533 Diversey Parkway  
Chicago, Illinois 60614

Dear Christy:

Your recent, delightful letter--in which you shared with us your joy over our new URANTIA Society and our global radio broadcasting--was a pleasure to us all.

Moreover, the enthusiastic words in your letter regarding our worldwide Family of God broadcast--"This is a real inspiration. Just wish Poppy Sadler were here to know about it"--started me thinking about those earlier days which Nancy and I shared with you and Dr. Sadler in the planning of our mission. I too wish he were here to rejoice with us in our subsequent growth. Thus, in a mood of nostalgia, I took out some of my personal files (consisting of hundreds of letters from Urantia friends) and reviewed our many past correspondences and my notes from countless telephone conversations with 533 Diversey through the years, clear back to the middle and late 1950s.

One letter from Dr. Sadler particularly caught my eye. It was his immediate response to our Family of God Foundation Prospectus, in which we formally outlined our project of U.S. radio coverage by the end of 1975, global broadcasting by 1980, the training of teachers and leaders and serving as a "John the Baptist" movement to prepare the way for the eventual worldwide acceptance of the URANTIA Book on the planet. I am enclosing a Xeroxed copy of that particular letter from Dr. Sadler, and his reaction to the idea of the Family of God Foundation; it brings back to my mind many memories of conversations with him both before and after he wrote that letter, and the numerous excellent bits of advice and counsel which he provided us in founding and developing the Family of God Foundation.

It also brought me a fleeting moment of pain as I reflected upon the unfortunate misunderstandings on the parts of two or three newer members of the movement who have not been fully aware of this long history of the development of the Family of God Foundation in complete cooperation with the URANTIA Foundation and the URANTIA Brotherhood, and the well-thought reasons for which, during all these years, the Family of God Foundation has been carefully fostered. In reviewing our years of correspondence with Chicago this morning, I became mightily moved by the conviction that nothing must be permitted to drive the slightest wedge of suspicion or distrust between the work of the Family of God Foundation and the headquarters of the URANTIA movement in Chicago.

Here in Berkeley we require that all Family of God Foundation coworkers must FIRST become members of the URANTIA Brotherhood: this has always been our policy. Our loyalties to Chicago are clear and unwavering. The Family of God Foundation has become both a helpful spiritual ministry within the URANTIA movement (see the Oregon letter, for example) and a growing spiritual ministry to the entirety of the world.

We have long enjoyed strong support from old forum members, Brotherhood Executive Committeemen and URANTIA Foundation trustees. There are good reasons for this support. These long-term students of the URANTIA Book are more aware of the history, development and purposes of the Family of God Foundation. They are more vividly cognizant of such quotes in the book as these:

A Melchizedek of Nebadon writes on page 1041, "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." And the Master himself declares on page 1930: "The persistent preaching of this gospel of the kingdom will some day bring to all nations a new and unbelievable liberation, intellectual freedom, and religious liberty."

Thus--as you so well know--the URANTIA book clearly and repeatedly calls for the preaching of this spiritual message in our day. This the Family of God Foundation is doing. And it was a moving experience for all of us last summer when we heard longtime URANTIA leader Anna Rawson at the General Conference in Evanston declare before the full assembly of hundreds of Brotherhood members that in her opinion the work of the Family of God Foundation is comparable in scope and planetary importance to the work of the apostle Paul, and that we are carrying the URANTIA message to mankind "with such enthusiasm and newness and freshness" that we are destined to "revive" the world.

Your support has meant much to us too. For instance, in one of your letters to me back in March of 1966, you not only gave us some superb advice, you succinctly expressed the essential purpose of the Family of God Foundation. It has been this sort of advice which has been so valuable to us through the years, and which we have been attempting to follow. You wrote:

"I agree heartily with you in your thinking regarding the mention of the Urantia Book in your lectures or on the radio. Of course this should not be done. In other words, Vern, what we want to do is to try to get across to the public some of the truths contained in the Urantia Book; in short, to lay some fuses for its eventual wide distribution, but that time has not yet come. I am glad you are bootlegging some of the material in your sermons. The book is of course secondary to the revelation. We must teach the soul-stirring message of the book. Jesus carried no book under his arm as 'he went about doing good' and teaching about his heavenly Father. I depend upon your judgment and know you will be wise in what you say."

This very idea--that the Family of God Foundation is having uses for the eventual wide distribution of the URANTIA Book--is the fundamental concept underlying both our lifework and the Family of God Foundation itself. It is this which you and Dr. Sadler and numerous other leaders of the URANTIA movement have for years encouraged us to do. And now we are doing it. Your counsel has been of tremendous assistance!

As you well know, the Family of God Foundation was no casual accident. It did not just "happen." It came into existence as the result of many years of prayer and seeking of the Father's will, and what we are doing is based on two decades of careful study of the teachings of the URANTIA Book.

The URANTIA movement, rightly, does not engage in publicity campaigns. "The hour has not come" for proclaiming the book to the world. BUT--"The hour IS striking" (direct quote from 1041) for proclaiming the newly-revealed religion of Jesus to the world...in order to prepare the way for the ultimate planetary acceptance of the fifth epochal revelation. The Family of God Foundation is engaged in precisely that task. And we are presently reaching over 100 million people internationally yearly with "the greatest truths mortal man can ever hear--the living gospel of the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man." (2086)

It seems quite reasonable that the Midwayers and planetary administrators of Urantia might well have planned that a specific group of individuals should arise within the URANTIA movement who would be committed to the task of thus "preparing the way" for this new revelation. That makes sense to me... particularly in light of the fact that for twenty years I personally have experienced that sense of "mission." All of us in the Family of God Foundation feel this strong spiritual purpose; it is what has drawn and held us together.

The reason we at the Family of God Foundation established this work of spiritual teaching as a legal entity--a nonprofit foundation--was in order to facilitate our function in a world of myriad legalities. Example: lawyers long ago advised us that it was better to sign our broadcasting contracts with radio stations as a corporate foundation rather than as private individuals. (It even enables us to acquire a 15% reduction in broadcasting costs). Needless to say, our foundation was not established in competition with the URANTIA movement, but in service of the URANTIA movement.

The Family of God Foundation has been brought into existence within the URANTIA movement for good and important reasons--many of which are so far-reaching that none of us will live to witness their full consummation. Just one example among many: the first known URANTIA study group in all of Asia came into existence in Yeditha, India in 1975 through the broadcasting outreach of the Family of God Foundation. And such events as these are but the first intimations of thrilling things to come!

You, Christy, have personally helped, inspired and encouraged us immensely in our work through all these years. I am writing on behalf of all of us here at the Family of God Foundation to express our profound gratitude to you. You have in

every way assisted and backed us--and the result is now a worldwide work of spiritual teaching which is preparing the planet for the fifth epochal revelation. The Father's hand is in this. We feel that our Family of God work could not conceivably have grown this rapidly and attained such impact globally in such a short span of time without tremendous help from on high. And we thank the Father for the tremendous privilege of engaging in such a jovous task.

Bless you, Christy, for all your assistance to us!

And much love to you from a fellow coworker in the URANTIA vineyards!

Affectionately,

  
Vern



VBG/vbg