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URANTIA

1400 W. Salvington Place  
Mareling, IL 60090  
November 26, 1984

*Called her  
to go  
but she didn't*

Dear *Marian*,

Please read promptly, immediate response requested.

My purpose in writing is to let you know that I have decided that I would like to attend the 20th Anniversary Celebration of Family of God Foundation on Saturday, December 8, 1984. Since I am vice-president of URANTIA Brotherhood, my presence at Clayton might be viewed by others (including some of you) as not in the best interest of the Brotherhood.

After speaking with John Hales about the proposed trip, I thought it better to solicit your opinions on the matter. I also wish to share with you my views about FOG, vis a vis the Brotherhood, and my reasons for wanting to go to the celebration. Please consider the following points:

1. Vern and the other members of FOG understand that I would not be representing the Executive Committee nor there as vice-president of the Brotherhood. No special recognition would be given to my attendance. I would attend as an individual and pay my own way.
2. For the past 20 years I have admired the content and quality of Vern's radio message. I have encouraged him and supported FOG financially, though not to the extent of our support of the Brotherhood and Foundation. I believe the broadcasts continue to improve and note that the books, recordings and multimedia productions are also of high quality. I wish to commend their efforts personally.
3. According to my understanding, the concept of FOG was never to duplicate or overlap the work of the Brotherhood. Vern's self-appointed task was to do what I like to call "remedial" work: to take up where the apostles were on the day of their cost--to spread the basic Gospel message of the fatherhood of God, sonship of man with God, and the brotherhood of all mankind. FOG's primary mission is to help lay a foundation of faith so that when The URANTIA Book later finds its way abroad in the world, people might be able to recognize the book as an enhancement of their faith and an enlargement of their intellectual quest.

URANTIA Brotherhood has several primary tasks which FOG does not have: To distribute The URANTIA Book; to prepare teachers of the book; to train leaders who will organize and maintain study groups and URANTIA Societies; to encourage the establishment of study groups; and to assist the Foundation in preparing translations. I wholeheartedly promote all of these programs.

The Brotherhood's work and FOG's work appear to me to be independent of each other, but they are also complementary. An individual seemingly could serve in or support both organizations so long as the programs and policies of one do not conflict with those of the other. Regardless of opinions expressed about possible conflict of interest at the last General Council meeting, and despite the opportunity to do so, no vote was actually taken settling the question of a conflict between the work of the Brotherhood and FOG.

4. The trip to Clayton would offer the chance for a pre-holiday visit with my son in Petaluma and my daughter, Laura, a volunteer with FOG. But I'm not trying to kid anybody; the timing of the visit has mostly to do with the celebration.

5. The past year has been stressful on a variety of fronts. Individual members of FOG have gone out of their way to try to bolster Tom and myself with solicitude and friendship. They retain their loyalty to the Brotherhood and to the policies and goals of the Foundation. And to a person, each has demonstrated his or her loyalty to the highest teachings of The URANTIA Book -- love and service to others. Unless you sincerely believe my loyalty to the Brotherhood is in doubt, I would like to show my gratitude for their enduring friendship.

6. Now about the "messages". I have not discussed the content of messages with Vern since late 1983 although there have been many opportunities to do so. I assume he continues to believe they are valid, else I'm certain I would have heard otherwise. Presumably his close associates still give credence to them. As you might guess, I still tend to think they are authentic for the reasons stated in my responses to John Hales' memo circulated to General Councilors last summer (#17 and #2-F). Other than this, I haven't advertised my attitude regarding the messages.

I don't think the messages have any bearing upon the observance of 20 years of broadcasting the Gospel truths. Vern proclaims the Gospel without citing his unusual experiences.

For these reasons I would like to attend. If you have other views, I hope you will be gracious enough to call or write before my proposed departure December 7. I value your ideas and invite your sound reasoning, not merely opinions, if you believe I should not go. I will certainly abide by the majority or even the wisdom of a significant minority.

I truly hope I have your trust and confidence. We may not like to admit it, but there is a serious problem in the Brotherhood of a lack of trust of each other. There is so much important work to be done, we must not continue to squander valuable time suspecting the motives and impugning the intentions of our friends.

Sincerely,

*Carolyn Kendall*

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