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18 May 1986

John Hay  
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Boulder, CO 80303

Dear John,

It was wonderful to see you again and get to know you better and to finalize our commitment. I feel very good about working with you. And thank you for bringing me out to meet the rest of the board.

Excuse this long letter. It is a cumbersome way of dealing with a number of things. But I thought it might be helpful to break up matters in this way. I want to address several topics: (1) a written agreement; (2) my understanding of my administrative responsibilities; (3) a concise statement of my central vision of the Boulder School; (4) an appeal concerning the upcoming board meeting regarding Brian Stafford's proposal; (5) my financial situation. I plan to communicate with the other trustees in the next few days regarding these matters—except for the first and last.

I. My commitment to the teachings of Jesus as I interpret how they apply to my life is that I would never bring a lawsuit to enforce our agreement. Nonetheless I think it is wise to make our arrangement more definite to reduce misunderstanding and to aid memory against the vicissitudes of time. I think something like the following letter of appointment would be appropriate. I have modeled portions of it on what I received from Santa Clara University. Other sections make stipulations of the sort that a contract should not try to define.

This letter contains two items of special note: first that I am accepting responsibility as the administrator primarily in charge of the school. Do not misinterpret my comments about administrative work. While I desire to have assistance in the tasks of administration, I am prepared to shoulder whatever portion of the load falls to my hand. The second item is that if the school closes due to lack of enrollment, I think it's only fair that I be compensated (albeit at a reduced rate) for a season while I once again enter the academic job market.

I'll print the suggested letter on a separate page so that you can examine and/or copy it independently if you like. I'd be glad of course to discuss it further; handle it with the trustees as it seems best. In order to save meetings for everyone, I'm not raising this topic in my other letters to the trustees.

II. The second item of concern is the upcoming meeting of the Board of Directors to consider the proposals of Brian Stafford. While Brian's ideas strike me as generally excellent, I have some reservations. Concerning the next couple of years, there is very little difference in our sense of the school's needs. We both agree that the first priority for next year is to establish new standards of excellence in the study of The URANTIA Book. From this work should come a ministry to study groups elsewhere. But we have different concepts about the future of the school. If (wonder of wonders!) the practical implications of my concept should be worked out and accepted by the Board to structure the future of the school, most of Brian's proposal will still be appropriate. If Brian feels that he can work for a

year or so harmoniously with the concept to the extent that I am presenting it here, I would be grateful to have him as an assistant. (See the included statements about my understanding of my responsibilities and the concept at the root of my vision of the school.)

Having been encouraged that the School needs someone to come in and give a fresh sense of direction and having been accepted last week for the position, I feel it would be inappropriate for the Board to commit to Brian's proposal at this time. I would like a chance to come in, work in the community, develop and communicate my plan, and prove the attractiveness of my vision. Then let the Board make such long-range determinations.

You kindly inquired about my financial situation. Amid putting the house on the market, I want to get to the Chicago area summer study session, June 23-26, in order to represent the Boulder School. Then there is moving. You spoke a year ago of sending a couple of guys out with a truck to help us move. Is that still possible? Once my house sells, I will be able to cover everything, but I may request an advance against my first pay check in order to cover the bills connected with the Pest Control report. For the present, however, I need nothing.

That's enough to deal with for now. My ideas about next year are ripening, but I will give them some more time and then communicate further. Once again let me say what a privilege it is to be working together. I only regret that I was not alert to the opportunity a year earlier.

Give my best to Carol, whom I had met before but really enjoyed getting to know last week.

Sincerely,



Jeff Wattles



## THE FUNDAMENTAL CONCEPT AT THE ROOT OF JEFF'S VISION OF THE BOULDER SCHOOL: THE CONCEPT OF EPOCHAL PATTERNS

In my discussion with the Board last Thursday, I presented an idea of two general kinds of projects for which the school would help prepare students--(1) a specifically spiritual ministry; and (2) a ministry of "planting" study groups. Let me explain a more universal foundation for this idea. I will call it the concept of epochal patterns.

There are two types of epochal revelation:

Type I is illustrated by the first two epochal revelations: they ministered to the full range of human culture--material and spiritual.

Type II is illustrated by the next two epochal revelations: they were specifically spiritual missions, and they carefully avoided giving collateral social, economic, or political teachings.

The URANTIA Book is a Type I epochal revelation. It addresses not only the spiritual needs of the planet but but material concerns as well.

The Boulder School itself is, in virtue of the role The URANTIA Book plays in it, a ministry participating in the pattern of epochal revelations of Type I. At the school we study the all the Papers, discuss the full range of subjects, and prepare individuals to share the book with others.

Nonetheless we are capable of assisting those who desire to prepare for a specifically and uniquely spiritual ministry. This typology is important to the structure of the school in the following way. I believe that there are people who want to come to the school in order to prepare for an exclusively spiritual ministry--along the lines of the Type II pattern of epochal revelation. For these people The URANTIA Book will play at most a minor role in their public ministry.

During the coming academic year, the practical implications of this concept are relatively minor: we will test this concept in some of the discussions of the Papers, and above and beyond the coursework, I will offer to assist people to prepare for ministries that pattern after these two types of epochal revelation. This will be optional, for those who desire it, within the constraints of other time-commitments. After a year or two of preparation, we may be ready to determine how this concept should be expressed in the evolving structure of the school.

May 18, 1986

### Some ideas about administrative responsibilities

I find that I'm moving somewhat closer to Mo's concept of what this position involves. Here's how I see myself involved in the categories of administrative work that Brian detailed:

Co-ordination with the Board of Trustees--I expect to be the man on the spot, providing information to the Board about the operation, seeking advice and counsel, and receiving it, and being responsible to implement the Board's directives.

Long-range planning--here we all have a great responsibility. I don't want to move too quickly, but within a year or two we should be ready to make some long-range commitments.

Co-ordinating groundwork for department building--I do not seriously doubt that the school will grow considerably. I will give great attention to the proper articulation of the expanding structure of the school.

Planning and scheduling activities--I'm looking forward to this, and I'm sure I will need to establish one or more committees to do this planning well and to establish a smooth continuity with existing traditions of the school. I see at least three categories of activities: regular teaching of the central curriculum, service activities, and summer intensives.

Representation of the School at conferences, workshops, and societies--in the past I have been a regular participant in the activities of the local Society (though not an officer), and traveled to the General Conferences, the summer Study Sessions, and local conferences. I would not plan presently to upstep that level of travel. Certainly all associated with the school will be part of this effort.

Correspondence--as a former correspondence department head at The Family of God Foundation, I enjoy this work; but I gather that Lou Meyer is there to help with correspondence.

Recruitment--this we will do partly the previous activity and through the "newsletter."

Publication of a newsletter. This will be designed to communicate a bit of the fruit of current work at the school, to raise funds, and to attract students. I intend to write extensively for this, and would welcome other writing and production assistance.

Admissions--I am glad to supervise this as soon as I arrive on the scene, though again assistance will be most welcome.

Video operations, especially editing seminars--on this one I hope that someone else can take charge.

Budgeting--I'll learn, and I'll welcome assistance.

Fund raising--I am looking forward to using the newsletter and personal contacts for fund raising; of course the more the merrier on this team.

Jeff, May 18, 1986