

BSC letterhead

24 September 1986

Dear Dave, *Elders*

It was good talking with you on the phone last evening, and I'm delighted that you're going to be coming out here.

I thought you might like an updated report on our students and on how the concept of The Boulder School is being developed. Your audience will be students of The URANTIA Book, about thirteen from The Boulder School and perhaps as many more from the wider community here. Think of the kind of folks that would enroll in a community college evening class. That's a good first approximation. Most have families and/or jobs. The students have some college; one a degree in religious studies from Georgetown. On the whole they are not intending to become scholars; they want to gain through group experience a better comprehension of The URANTIA Book and to become better able to bring the love of God to those they meet. As you know, a minority in the community here want aggressively to promote The URANTIA Book. Many are interested in different sorts of projects.

The average age of our students is maybe thirty. A couple attend church. They are not naive high-school graduates--one cowboy, whose photography is beginning successfully to follow in the footsteps of Ansel Adams. One widowed mother of four. One person starting a medicinal herb tea business after having been a carpenter and supervisor of multi-million dollar construction projects. One representative of very high-class craft art for a New York firm that markets to wealthy corporations. One French teacher at a local high school who traveled with a peace march from southern California as far as Colorado. One guy who has held and left several dozen jobs and who now has a tree surgery business. One ex-pilot who teaches airline personnel part-time. One dancer who grew up religiously in a synagogue. One guy who is the head of the lighting crew for several top rock groups as they do concerts around the country. One self-taught technical repairman who follows the Course in Miracles. One carpenter. One quiet fellow with not much on his resume. An one experienced and talented Texan maybe shy of 50 who works as a waiter.

The essence of John Hay's concept of The Boulder School has been that students would come here to read through The URANTIA Book in two years, having read the book at least once beforehand. They would engage in supplemental studies, such as the New Testament and public speaking; they would involve themselves in community service. Their lives would be guided by the teachings of The URANTIA Book, and they would spread the book wherever they went.

So far, we are working on a further articulation of that concept, not yet complete or definite (approved in some formulation by the Trustees). And piece by piece, student approval is part of the process of authorizing these plans. The school is primarily to be a school of religion. This religion is centered on the living gospel and encompasses "cosmic truth, universe beauty, and divine goodness." Ours is becoming a school of thinking and feeling and acting; with handouts and special attention to relevant passages that we read, we are attempting to build coordinate comprehension so as to avoid sterile intellectualism, shallow emotionalism, or fanatical activism. The core curriculum of the study of a paper per class



session (most weeks, anyway; thus, usually three papers per week). We are introducing supplemental studies as a regular activity during the third hour of class. The purpose of these supplemental courses is (1) to build bridges between the book and the larger culture into which the book is being inserted; (2) i.e., to enable our graduates to become effective in sharing the book and its truths with others; (3) to enhance our realization of unity with others; and (4) to discover new beauties in The URANTIA Book by observing the illuminating interaction of the book with other literature.

At present these supplemental classes include (1) the New Testament (this is the course we are now doing; it fits into the study of Part Four of the book, which occupies the second year of our two-year program); (2) for this coming winter, a state of the art study of how to organize outreach projects in the light of current research in sociology and communication; (3) ethics. For next year, I presently project—for the first year of our program, Parts I-III, (4) a study of theological issues, perhaps feminism and liberation theology; (5) current cosmological efforts (from the journal Zygon, especially) to harmonize science and religion, especially topics in neurophysiology, sociobiology, and cosmology proper; and (6) philosophy.

My hope is that we will graduate students who will be more living and effective evangelists of this emerging religion and students who will plant and nurture study groups wherever they settle.

We look forward to feeding you some Japanese food, showing you some lovely mountain scenery, and engaging your heart, mind, and soul in our fellowship here.

Your brother,

Jeff (and Hagiko and Benjamin)