

1400 W. Salvington Place  
Wheeling, Illinois 60090  
July 2, 1979

Dear Meredith,

I received Irene's kind note of June 13, but Tom reminded me when he returned from Paris that he had made plans with Tickey and Owen Harries to go out for the evening of Saturday, July 14. Since you are busy the 13th, could you come out to our house early Sunday morning at 9:30 for breakfast? It takes 35-40 minutes via Diversey-Edens-Dundee Rd. (Route 68) at that time of day. It is about 28 miles from 533. From our place you could then go around the city via 29th, to go home Sunday afternoon.

Now, getting to the other reason for writing: I had discussed your planned project with the Fraternal Relations committee at our May meeting so that they would at least know, in general terms what you were thinking of doing after retirement as president. I mentioned that the project had been the main topic of conversation in small private discussions while in California. I had assured everyone that, based on my talks with you, I felt there was no cause for concern.

I went to the Midwest Conference, in part, hoping to discuss with you further the "Christian Fellowship of Students of The URANTIA Book". The committee thought this might be a good idea in view of the widespread interest. Fortunately, I was able to talk to Mel, the Sloffers, Marjorie, the Schlundts and get a more detailed picture than any of the headquarters people seemed to have, I believe. I have reported to the members of the Fraternal Relations Committee and to some of the present and future members of the Executive Committee.

I have re-read the speech outline several times, the notes Lynae and I took on your speech, and I have studied your 3-fold brochure. I believe your plan has some potentials for repercussions on The URANTIA Book and the movement in the near and distant future. Because of that I am strongly urging that you submit your full plan to the Executive Committee and the General Council for a thorough evaluation.

I'm sure you must realize that you aren't just the average Brotherhood member. As a General Councilor, a URANTIA Society leader, a former field representative, and former Brotherhood president, your opinions will carry great weight. Others will hear what you are doing and will be constrained to do likewise.

The Fraternal Relations Committee has been engaging in a program of studying, presenting, and perhaps modifying, the longstanding policies of the Brotherhood for the past couple of years. These, of course, are ideas that have to do with how The URANTIA Book, URANTIA Brotherhood, Foundation,

and the individual student might relate to world religions. They are never intended to become crystallized rules of introducing the book and concepts to the many faiths of mankind. I have tried them out on audiences whenever the opportunity arose. We will continue the study with a larger audience of leaders at Lake Forest in August. As a Brotherhood President (past and present) I should imagine you would want to be cognizant of our on-going study and findings.

You and Dave have been our "token" ministers -- our only source of information concerning the organized churches for many years. I hesitate to rely exclusively upon the judgment of only one or two persons. We need a broader base for advice on such an important matter as how the Christian Churches can best be presented with this restatement of the life and teachings of Jesus.

Your concept may be right, but you estimate that the majority of URANTIA Brotherhood members will be against your plan; Dave does not seem to support it. Either they are wrong, or you are wrong. If they are wrong, and your plan is what is most needed for the Christian religion and all other religions, then maybe we need to educate the "majority". If, however, there are elements in your plans that are fool-hardy then would it make sense to proceed without an open and frank appraisal?

Keep in mind the possibility that what might be ideal for the Christian Church, could be deleterious to other religions, and to the ultimate success of the revelation on this planet.

There probably is a best way to upgrade planetary religions. We need to investigate the ways that will be the most beneficial to the greatest number of people for the longest possible time. We can't afford to risk blundering into shortcuts to the evolutionary Divine Plan. Again.

You have been the apostle of group wisdom. I'm sure, too, you have heard that it is unity of purpose toward which the Brotherhood must strive. If you strike out on an individualistic mission to the churches -- a project that may not have the blessings and support of the group -- what kind of unity is that?

All of the foregoing are some of the reasons why I hope you will submit your program for study. I am making a separate list of ideas pertaining to your plan which have occurred to me and to one or two other persons. Perhaps this will demonstrate the value of group thinking. I will give them to you when I see you on July 14 most likely.

I hope you both had a restful vacation in Iron River. It must be a beautiful place.

Best to both,

*Springer*

July 7, 1979

Mrs. Carolyn Kendall  
1400 W. Salvington Place  
Wheeling, IL 60090

Dear Carolyn:

Your letter of July 2nd seems to miss the real reason for organizing the Christian Fellowship of Students of The URANTIA Book and my mission to the Christian Church: a divine imperative.

For more than twenty years I have had the deep conviction that this was God's will for me, that the indwelling spirit has called me to this task. I have tried to doubt it, challenge it, and rigorously test and analyze this inner calling. The authenticity of this inner guidance has stood up under every test and challenge. If I am to be honest and maintain my spiritual integrity, this is the highest guidance I have.

All other activities during the past twenty years have been secondary. I have turned down opportunities and positions of power and influence at headquarters because I must be faithful to this primary calling. All positions I have assumed in the Brotherhood have been taken as secondary or emergency responsibilities. I have made this clear to Christy and others for many years.

From a human point of view, I know all of the dangers of this mission to the church. As a very "commonplace" individual, I would like to avoid these dangers and the lonely road which this responsibility may bring upon me. But the tasks which the Father selects for us are sometimes not easy or popular. I shall strive to use the highest wisdom I have in conducting this mission to the church but even Jesus in all of his wisdom did not avoid difficulties and opposition.

The divine purposes on this planet are much more important than the "potentials for repercussion on The URANTIA Book and the movement." The prophets of all ages have had to act in opposition to "majority opinion." Fools, also, are in this category. Only time can tell whether I am following an authentic leading or a subconscious illusion. All that one can do is try to be ruthlessly honest with oneself and sincerely strive to detect and follow the highest spiritual guidance available to one.

Fundamentalists, both Christian and URANTIAN, strive to "control" people - always in the interests of truth, the person's own good, or the good of the cause. You are free to have the Executive Committee and the General Conference "thoroughly evaluate" anything I am doing or might do. My primary life work, however, is separate from the Brotherhood and their opinions are not germane to the basic decisions I have made or will make in the future.

Mrs. Carolyn Kendall

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My activities in the Brotherhood will always be subject to group guidance but my activities in the Kingdom of God, especially in my sense of calling, I shall always strive to place under higher guidance. Although I shall use Jesus as a model in his contacts with the power structure of the institutional religionists of his day, I actually do not have a detailed plan on how I shall conduct my ministry to the church. This will evolve with experience.

In the light of higher wisdom, there may be no conflict between the guidance which I have and the guidance of the majority in the power structure of the Brotherhood. It could be that I have been selected to bring this "message of mercy" to the churches as an individual. If the church rejects it, the Brotherhood will be intact as a body to carry on some form of religious institutionalism which will supplant the church. Only time will tell. God uses many types of people and ministries to work his purposes on planets and in the universe.

Thank you for sharing your concern with me. I well understand the basis for your apprehension and your desire to be constructive and wise in developing Brotherhood policies. Although I am marching to the beat of a drum which you do not hear, I am confident that we are both involved in a symphony which will one day bring spiritual unity to our strife torn planet.

Irene and I will be happy to accept your invitation to Sunday breakfast on July 15. We will see you next Saturday.

Cordially,

  
Meredith J. Sprunger