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URANTIA

March 11, 1980

Mr. Thomas A. Kendall, President
URANTIA Foundation
533 Diversey Parkway
Chicago, IL 60614

Dear Tom, Trustees, and Associates:

As you know I have long been concerned about evolving an interface with the institutions of our society - especially the church and higher education. During the last six months establishing organizational structure, planning procedures, and creating materials have taken considerable time. We view our task as a long term project which will show only meager results for many years. But I think the program of the Christian Fellowship is a ministry whose time has arrived.

I have just finished writing personal letters to selected theological professors in most of the mainline Protestant seminaries. We expect very little response but consider this contact basic to the activities which will follow. Notifying the theological authorities of the church about our work is an ethical prerequisite to any public work and it may have some slight practical value in informing them about The URANTIA Book before fundamentalists bring negative criticism. Enclosed is a copy of my letter to Dr. Martin E. Marty and his response which will give you a feel for the communication and the difficulties involved.

In time we also plan to write selected chairmen of departments of philosophy and religion in colleges and universities offering to make loan books available and to speak to classes if they should like to engage in dialogue. Still later we will contact selected denominational administrators and offer the same service.

Our real public work will center on college and university campuses. We will schedule a room on the campus for one evening meeting a week for two, five, or seven weeks to present a "Synoptic Introduction to The URANTIA Book." About a month before these meetings start we will send a letter to the mainline pastors of the community inviting them to the meetings and offering to give them a loan book to examine before the meetings begin. The same kind of invitation will also probably be sent to selected department heads at the university. About a week before the meetings start we will put an article or news announcement in the college paper and get announcement posters on bulletin boards. Our plan is to experiment with this program in two or three universities and then analyze what happened or did not happen and consider revising our approach.

What I am specifically writing you about is the "Synoptic Introduction to The URANTIA Book" handouts which are enclosed. If any of you have suggestions for improvement, they would be appreciated. Secondly, if

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you have no objection, I should like to have permission to use the quotes and paraphrases from The URANTIA Book.

If, for any reason, you do not wish to grant this permission, I will redo the handout outlines deleting the quotes and strive to eliminate paraphrases. During these discussion sessions, of course, I would not hesitate to read from the book. The new copyright law gives a great deal of freedom for teaching purposes. The degree of this freedom, however, cannot be accurately determined until we get some court rulings.

Should any of you, as individuals, have any suggestions or concerns about our plans or handouts which you would be kind enough to share with me, I would love to have them.

We miss seeing and fellowshiping with you folks but the activities in which we are engaged are so fascinating and rewarding we can't imagine doing anything else. Hopefully, by this summer we will have an opportunity to visit and have some engaging discussions with all of you. Best wishes in the important work which you are doing.

Cordially,

Meredith J. Sprunger

cc: Duane L. Faw
Vern B. Grimsley
John W. Hales
Harry McMullan
James C. Mills