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OF  
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URANTIA

November 27, 1982

Dear Nick:

Thank you for your warm and caring letter and the prophetic materials. All of our personal and spiritual experiences are to some degree different. As you point out, we should always test our experiences both by their internal quality and by sources of external reality - such as fruits and the highest quality of spiritual insights of the past and present. Chief among these fruits is whether or not our sharing and following these experiences has brought our brothers and sisters closer to God and to each other. I try not to rationalize religious experience - particularly someone else's experience. Although philosophy and theology are useful and important, I am not impressed by intellectualism in religion. I am reminded of the old statement, "The three most tasteless things in the world are soup without seasoning, a rational religion, and a pregnant bride."

All spiritually dedicated people strive to follow God's will and try to make his will their will. We place this dedication to the Father first and foremost in our lives. But all insightful and perceptive finite beings recognize the finitude and imperfection of this dedication and action. We certainly are the sons and daughters of God now. We should not, however, misperceive our status; we are imperfect mortals, not perfected finaliters. Jesus' message is for us now; but we are neither perfect in understanding it or in following it. At most, we can only strive to follow the highest and best understanding that we have; but we should have no illusions about infallibility. Although it is our will that God's will be done, we are still children in our perfection of knowledge and execution of living. We simply strive to follow the best that we know, realizing that equally dedicated persons may disagree with our ideas and our actions.

The first hand, telepathic, mediumistic, or automatic message experiences which come to you, Nick, are not as unusual as you may suppose. Visionary experiences, spirit possession, and "God speaking through people" are not at all uncommon in the past or present. In the years before I discovered The URANTIA Book I made a study of such people. There are many in every generation who feel they have direct communication with God. There is no doubt that some very fine spiritual messages are presented by many of these people. We should never judge people who have different experiences than we do; but we should love them as persons and carefully evaluate what they say. We should strive to be open minded and understanding.

You suggest that in my telephone conversation with you last summer I was more interested in evaluating you than listening to your message. Not so, Nick; I was not "thrown" by your atypical communication as I am familiar with it and find mediumistic sessions interesting and challenging. I was primarily interested in listening to and evaluating your message. Some things I thought were fine. Others I thought questionable - like Michael



stepping into interfere with the normal evolutionary development of the fifth epochal revelation. The spirit of your message's expediting plan was contrary to all that I know about Christ Michael through the Bible, The URANTIA Book, and personal experience. Just because a spiritual message comes through an atypical means of communication does not make it valid or exempt it from evaluation. My evaluation, of course, could be incorrect but we must use the best judgment we have.

The important thing, Nick, is that we love you and accept you. I questioned every page of The URANTIA Book and it had to demonstrate its quality before I was ready to accept it. The same evaluation should be applied to each of us and the messages we present or transmit. The claim of The URANTIA Book or any other message does not make it true or exempt from critical evaluation. You should certainly follow the guidance you have as each of us should try to do; but each individual needs to realize that other people may legitimately disagree with our messages or judgment. This should not interfere with our friendship and love. We do not have to think alike to be brothers in Christ.

I appreciated reading the prophesies you sent. Over the years I have read quite a number of similar revelations and prophesies. There is much truth to be found in these proclamations. Unquestionably, new revelation is a continuous phenomena. I would, however, disagree about their epochal significance - if you mean they are of the same importance as Michael's bestowal on Urantia or The URANTIA Book. I do not find them of this quality. Even if they do not measure up to this high quality, they can convey truth and I would hope we would always seek to work with the Angels of the Churches and all of our other unseen friends.

You are correct in pointing out that we should have no regrets or embarrassment as long as we believe we are following the will of God. But I hope you will also not feel rejected if any of your friends disagree with any ideas you may share or your faith concerning the source or inerrancy of these messages. I hope we will have an opportunity to visit sometime when you get to Fort Wayne or at a URANTIA get-to-gether.

We send you and your family our warm best wishes for the holiday season and will keep you in our prayers, concern, and love.

Cordially,

*Meredith*

11/26/82

Dear John:

I thought you might be  
interested in this correspondence  
with Nick. It is difficult to  
know what to say.

Cardially,  
Myerleith

See you next week.