

A VOICE OF

# fort Sanders

## faith sons



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KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

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We must not let **RIDICULE** Throw us for a loop.




Peter denied Jesus because he couldn't stand ridicule. On page 1551 the Book states: "Peter could withstand persecution and any other form of direct assault, but he withered and shrank before ridicule."

Unbelievers' ridicule U-Book readers in several ways:

1. They call the Book racist. Racism is a derogatory appellation, meaning that one believes that everybody of a certain color (race) is better than everybody of a certain other color (race). We all know the U-Book teaches no such thing.


2. They call the Book sexist because it uses the words man and mankind in the generic sense. That shouldn't bother us. We know that God is no respecter of persons — male or female.



3. They say we are URANTIA Book "fundamentalists", and that's the one that seems to rouse some of us up the worst.

So let's think a bit. Is anything infallible? It seems to me that all five epochal revelations in themselves were infallible — the celestial beings and descending sons were so far above mankind. They did not disseminate false knowledge and truth. Certainly Jesus "spoke as one having authority."

But the Bible is not the fourth revelation. Jesus is. The Bible records only bits and pieces of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th revelations.



How about our Book? Did the celestial beings, who know so much more than we do, give us false knowledge? Or just incomplete?

It seems to me that we should try to respond to those criticisms with the kind of self-control the Book tells us that Jesus had. (1609B)

I'm sure we won't do such a good job of it as he did, though.

U.B.A.

Dean White from Elizabethton visited with us this week



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U-Book

Dean White from Elizabethton visited with us this week. She was saying that a paragraph on page 1213 shouted out at her:  
"----- more cheerfully endure the tasks of my emplacement, more faithfully carry out the program of my arrangement, more patiently go through the trials of my selection, more persistently and cheerfully tread the path of my choosing, more humbly receive credit that may accrue as a result of my ceaseless endeavors —"

But that's the way it goes! Every once in a while a paragraph that we've read dozens of times will suddenly strike us forcefully. We'll say "That's true! He's doing this! Such a life on such a planet!"





## THE SIGNIFICANCE OF OUR BOOK

Seems like lately I'm always being struck some way or other by the significance of our Book. The thought will come to me, "This is an epocal revelation - not just another auto-revelation."

Autorevelations (from the Thought Adjuster, pg. 1109) are very important of course. But it takes an epocal revelation once in a while (every epoch) to set them straight. After all it's very hard for the Thought Adjuster to get through to most of us, and this revelation is many times in a garbled state (1208). Luckily for us as we ascend the circles he can come in more and more clearly.

So our Book is an epocal revelation ! There have been only five of those in the history of our planet. The truth we receive from it is on a par with what we received from Caligastia, Adam and Eve, Melchizadek, and Jesus. - except that it's more advanced ! Each epochal revelation takes us a little farther in our knowledge of the cosmos and our understanding of religious truth.

Therefore let's also remember that like the fourth revelation, "it speaks as one having authority." It is authoritative, just as Jesus was.

But let's also remember that the Bible is not the fourth epochal revelation. It's only the little bit we knew (until now) about the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th revelations. And it has come from the less than perfect memories of men, and has been manipulated, doctored, translated, lost, found, parts rejected, parts added, all through the centuries. Therefore while it contains truth, of course is not infallible.

But the URANTIA Book is different. It comes to us directly from spirit beings through the physical mechanism of a man who was wholly unconscious of it.

The beings who authored it many times tell us about the limits of revelation. On page 330 it calls the revelation "partially revealed concepts". They tell us that "it is best that man not have overrevelations; it stifles imagination." They want us to indulge in "creative speculation" !

In many of the papers the Beings will say, "We do not know this, but we speculate that "

For example, on page 1109 it states: "We full well know that, while the historic facts and religious truths of this series of revelatory presentations will stand on the records of the ages to come, within a few short years many of our statements regarding the physical sciences will stand in need of revision in consequence of additional scientific developments and new discoveries. These new developments we even now foresee, but we are forbidden to include such humanly undiscovered facts in the revelatory records."

But, nowhere does it say that any of the scientific knowledge they did give us is false. They would never disseminate false knowledge. Just incomplete.

And again. On page 1680 it states: "The courses of the stars in the heavens have nothing whatever to do with the events of human life on earth. Astronomy is a proper pursuit of science, but Astrology is a mass of superstitious error which has no place in the gospel of the kingdom."

Also, about reincarnation. On page 1811 it says, "The Master found it difficult to make men believe that their souls had not had previous existences."

And about a person's loved one returning to communicate with him after death. Page 1646: "Jesus further explained to his Apostles that the spirits of departed human beings do not come back to the world of their origin to communicate with their living fellows." That fact is stated again on page 1230 D.

Maybe you've heard the story of the drunk on horseback. He was so afraid of falling off on the left side that he leaned too far to the right, and fell off on that side.

Let's not fall off on the other side of the horse.

Our book does speak with authority just as Jesus did.

*an after thought:*

*When I talked this over with Bruce McCoy he said, "About the historic and scientific facts, yes. But, when it comes to religious truth expressed in our language, one has to be careful. Truth concepts are open to interpretation according to one's experience- or he said something like that.*

*Perhaps he was saying something like the*



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In many of the papers the Beings will say, "We do not know this, but we speculate that..."

And in many places they remind us that it's impossible for the finite mind to understand infinite concepts. They can't put the whole truth in our language ! Anyway, they will make a stab at it. They're doing the best they can !

But, when the book states in no uncertain terms that something is true or not, we should not question it.

*I'd like to know something about the people who receive this - how they*

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Perhaps he was meaning something like the paragraph on page 1477 which states: "Quantity may be identified as a fact, thus becoming a scientific uniformity. Quality, being a matter of mind interpretation, represents an estimate of values, and must, therefore, remain an experience of the individual."



HELEN B HUTCHINSON  
1638 HIGHLAND AVE  
KNOXVILLE TN 37916



# The Ordinariness(??) of U-Book Readers

I guess you're wondering why all the question marks. Well, I read an article in the SIX-O-SIX from Australia by Catherine Hoffman with that title. While I agree with much she said, I must add some.

I agree that it isn't intelligence that sets us apart from the rest of the world. We are indeed intelligent (I've never seen a stupid U-Book reader), but no more so than millions of others around us who want no part of the Book.

I agree that most of our names are not "emblazoned on the pages of human history." And we're in all stages of emotional development. Just accepting the authenticity of the Urantia Book doesn't make one all of a sudden a very mature personality. Certainly it is a start, though.

Catherine said, "What is distinct about this otherwise unremarkable gathering of people is that we are united by a perception and a belief that is phenomenal." (italics mine) Yes. But why? Why don't all the others of comparable intelligence grab at the Book like we did?

Actually, you can never know (until you've tried) which of your friends are going to accept the book and which are going to be completely indifferent. Some people, of course, say it contains some "good stuff" and they agree with that part; or they may be philosophical dilettantes - dabblers into many philosophies with no deep commitment to any.

But, I'm talking about the people, like me, who swallow it hook, line and sinker, and believe it's just what it says it is - The 5th epochal revelation.

If I didn't believe it was the epochal revelation given to us by Celestial beings I would want no part of it. I would feel as if I were studying a hoax.

So, what quality is it that believers in the Book have that many other good religious people don't have? There's certainly something

It's hard to put your finger on - Is it more Spiritual perception? More insight? More imagination? A more adventuresome personality? A self-acting Thought Adjuster? Or is it a keener, stronger, hunger to know truth?

Anyway, I thank God I have it, whatever it is.

(Read par. 5, page 1729)

W.B.A.

I talked this over with Martin Peng, and he wished to add the paragraph below.\*

\* The U-Book offers some understandable reasons why modern men and women of intelligence would not venture into this exciting and spiritized living. It says on p. 2083 that they fear what the religion of Jesus will do to them and with them, and that they will be disposed to turn to this religion when they become disappointed with selfish pursuits and discover the barrenness of formalized religion. The book also says on p. 1126 that many may be morally good, loyal, filial, honest, and even idealistic, and bring about humanistic social fruits. Indeed, the book indicates that such mortal experiences of goodness add value to the evolving Supreme Being, and I think they should be commended for their goodness. But I wish that opportunities will arise to cause them to think about and desire personality survival beyond this life, because I certainly would like to have a lasting friendship with some of them.

Do your friends ever tell you YOU'RE OPINIONATED?

If you're as old as I am you better hope they do. For if not, it means everything has gone in one ear and out the other one. Nothing has stuck. If there happens to be nothing coming in at the moment then you're blank.



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As a result of many years of living, thinking and praying, I have some strong convictions. I'm not saying they're infallible, or that I won't moderate or adjust them as the years pass - but at this time they seem right to me.

FRIEND: Helen, (in debates) you always think you're right!

ME: Of course! Do you think I'd be expounding something I think is wrong?!

But if the evidence comes around, I can change my convictions. They're not set in concrete - contrary to what some may think. I have done just that in years past. I went from a liberal to a conservative.

The works of C.S. Lewis and those of William F. Buckley are some of the many things that helped me adjust my opinions over the years.



Martin Peng,  
nuclear  
Physicist

Mary Ellen  
Ponder, Teacher

Bill  
Finney,  
architect

# OUR GROUP

Our study group is a marvelous gathering of personalities. It is soul-searching, mirth-producing, mind-enlarging, spiritually stimulating and personality-supporting. (Maybe I will think of some more adjectives later)

Helen Hutchinson  
retired teacher

But, we are only a group of ordinary "high class" people. Why do we make up such a soul-satisfying group? Especially considering the fact that we argue with each other and criticize our habits, methods, and procedures.

Well, we have, I think, that spirit unity which comes from a whole-hearted belief in the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. We certainly don't have philosophical uniformity. That is one thing that makes the group so interesting. But, we genuinely love (648) each other - and also like each other.

I found two paragraphs in the book which may explain a good group.

One is on page 432 and says: "Social architects (seraphim) do everything within their province and power to bring together suitable individuals that they may constitute efficient and agreeable working groups on earth; And sometimes such groups have found themselves reassociated on the Mansion Worlds for continued fruitful service."

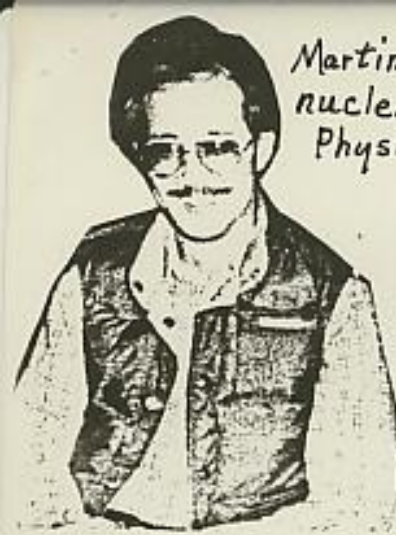
The other one is on page 1477 and says: "A social group of human beings in co-ordinated working harmony stands for a force far greater than the simple sum of the parts."

THAT'S US. (and you-all, too!)

We have a few more who don't attend often, but have no photos of them.

Geo. Farnham

Machinist, mechanic  
Carpenter, Philosopher  
Man of many talents



Herman  
Sain



Terry Faulkner,  
wife, mother, homemaker,  
lady of many talents

Pilot and geologist



Ed Ponder  
Postman

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Alvin Smith  
Chiropractor



Helen Smith  
lady of many  
talents



Deborah  
Dennis,  
Psychologist

Larry Shahan,  
computer expert

Bob French,  
architect



Helen  
Hutchinson

(A Pair o' docs)

June/May Steve Laird



ality-supporting. (Maybe I will think of some more adjectives later)



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Alvin Smith  
Chiropractor



Helen Smith  
Lady of many talents



Deborah Dennis  
Psychologist

Larry Shahan,  
computer expert

Bob French,  
architect

(A pair o' docs)

Lynne May

Steve Lettay



Bruce McCoy  
and family,  
Bruce and  
Diana are  
psychologists.



Terry Faulkner,  
wife, mother, homemaker,  
lady of many talents

We have a few more who don't attend often, but have no photos of them.

Geo. Farnham



Machinist, mechanic  
Carpenter, Philosopher  
Man of many talents

\* why do I say "high class" instead of "middle class"? Middle class seems to connote a group of people whose first priority is material success, wealth, prestige. Now we have nothing against those things. We want our share of them, too. But we have a priority that transcends them. We want to do God's will. That makes us "high class" YOU TOO

