

A VOICE OF

fort Sanders

faith sons



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All quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are from *The URANTIA Book* c 1955 and are used by permission. Interpretations and opinions herein are those of the authors.



He is Risen

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"Even his own apostles did not comprehend the significance of this utterance, but subsequently, after his resurrection, they recalled what he had said."

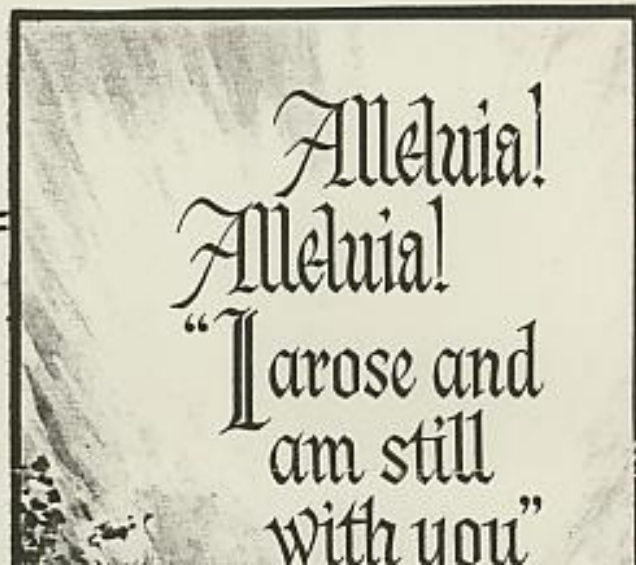
URANTIA Book pg. 1895

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Jan. 31, 1986

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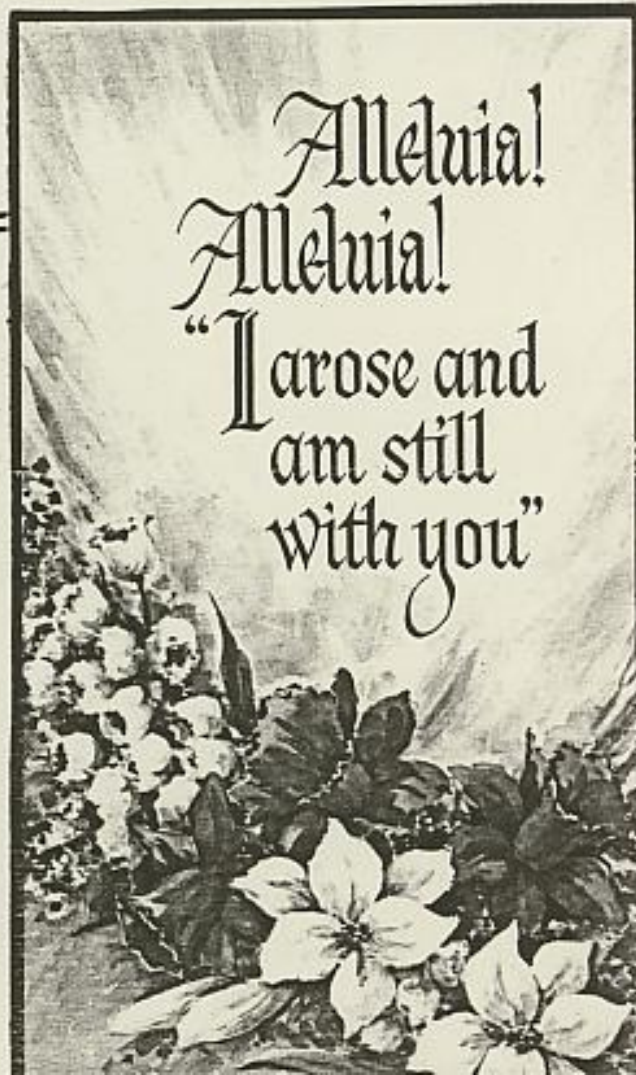
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Meanwhile, you will recall, a year or two ago a team of space-age scientists from this country and others spent several weeks in Italy, subjecting the Shroud of Turin to all manner of clinical tests. Non-believers went and came home believers. There was no explanation available to modern science for what they had observed and measured. A book published by the scientists stated at the end that what appeared to have happened approximately two thousand years ago in the Near East in this piece of fine linen cloth was that a material body was changed to pure energy, in a fraction of a moment, at a withering heat, so that the result was a "scorch" of unnamable origin on the shroud. And because the "scorch" was a photographic negative, the form of the energy had to have been pure light. This is what the scientists said, a year or two ago.

A PROFESSOR of mathematics paid us a visit not long ago here on our hilltop in New Hampshire and told me what I had already come to understand, that all front-rank physicists these days are studying theology. (Newton, in his own day, was renowned as a theologian.) It seems that the unashamed individuality inside the atom (left-hand spins, right-hand spins, quirkiness, quarkiness), the splendid balance of it all, and the H-bomb power of the mutual attraction ("love"?) that makes everything hang together—it seems that these visions are driving the laboratory men to their knees.

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TRUTH from True Statements

References for The Urantia Book follow each quotation or idea.

"The creation of new pictures out of old facts... (is one of) the artistic triumphs of truth." (554A)

An example of wrong "Truth" being deduced from a true statement (fact) is the so-called Big Bang Theory of Creation. The observation of universe expansion led to that conclusion. In 500 million years, our scientists will begin to see the universe contracting. Will there be a new Implosion Theory? In One billion, 500 million years, Urantians will have witnessed a complete cycle of expansion and contraction, then beginning to expand again. This will lead to the truth, Space Respiration. (123C)

What is the difference between a true statement and truth? "Someday they will teach you to seek truth as well as fact." (554D) Truth is flexible and ever alive. (549D) Individually, we will derive sometimes less and sometimes more truth than those around us. It is a very important function of the study group situation to allow for our differences of opinion. Seeking, through sharing our ideas, we can all grow faster.

To investigate, discuss, clarify and discern truth, we must be open to the Spirit of Truth. It is difficult to convey truth when restricted to a circumscribed language of the realm. (1B) In this season, many years ago, Christ Michael bestowed the Spirit of Truth upon all mankind. (2063D) "Do not make the mistake of expecting to become strongly intellectually conscious of the outpoured Spirit of Truth." (2061) "...strong feelings of emotion are not equivalent to the leadings of the divine spirit." (1766A) "...and every soul received him in accordance with the love for truth and the capacity to grasp and comprehend spiritual realities." (2063D)

"Happiness ensues from the recognition of truth because it can be acted out; it can be lived." (42D)

by Mike Brady
2-8-86

JESUS

didn't go about arbitrarily healing people. He made himself available, but they had to come to him in faith. They had to make the first move.

We can't just sit down and do nothing and say, "God will take care of us."

We have to use our talents. If we bury them, he will say, "Thou wicked and slothful servant! Take it away from him and give it to the one who has ten talents!"

On the other hand, if we do the best we know, he will say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant! Enter ye into the joy of your lord." (Bible version)

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On page 1918 we read: "Whether inherited talents are few or many, a just and merciful reckoning must be faced. If endowments are used only in selfish pursuits and no thought is bestowed on the higher duty of obtaining increased yield of the fruits of the spirit as they are manifested in the ever-expanding service of men and the worship of God, such selfish stewards must accept the consequences of their deliberate choosing."



(over)





Once upon a time, - About 1/2 Century Ago

I learned a lesson I haven't forgotten.

I was a young teacher, still unmarried and living in the home with my parents, brothers and sisters.

My father, who was a college graduate, had been a teacher for about 10 years before he married. He then quit teaching and bought a farm and settled down to raise a family.

But then came the Depression.

I had (almost miraculously) got a year in college and a 4-year teaching certificate.

The time of which I am writing was during the summer vacation after I'd taught two years. I was 20.

My salary (\$60.00 per month) was the main source of cash for the family. But in the summer we had to depend on money from farm produce, which brought very little.

One day Dad decided to take a load of "roastin' ears" (green corn) a little farther away and see if he could sell it better. He decided to go to the little town where I had gone to college. I decided to go with him.

Now, picture us, if you can. Dad was driving a model-A Ford touring car, which had been turned over and the supports holding the canvas top had been bent. We'd tried to bend them back, but we couldn't get them really straight. The back seat had been removed and the whole back end filled with ears of corn - 50-60 dozen.

Dad had on old shabby clothes - all he had.

Now the family of a college friend of mine had a studio fairly close to the college, but not very near the grocery stores.

I never once thought about Dad parking on that street.

But he did !

Suddenly I found myself being ashamed of my father and the old rattle-trap of a car. I hoped my friend was nowhere about.

Then just as suddenly, I was so ashamed of myself I wanted to crawl under something. I prayed to be rid of those feelings and that my Dad would never, never know that I had momentarily been ashamed of him - that wonderful good man.

The lesson I learned was that goodness and greatness did not necessarily have anything to do with riches, fame, beauty, power, etc.

And the U-Book tells me I was right. On page 317 it says ... "the quality of unselfishness revealed in disinterested labor for the welfare of one's earthly fellows, particularly worthy beings in need and in distress, that is the real measure of planetary greatness."

And it gives us hope. On down on the same page it says: "And since quality of greatness is wholly determined by the content of goodness, it follows that, even in your present human estate, if you can through grace become good, you are thereby becoming great."

The rich and famous may be great - and they may not.

NBA.

COPY OF A LETTER SENT TO PHIL DONAHUE

I saw your show about retarded people having children. It sickened me. We have no natural rights. Nature confers none. And the social rights we have in a democracy are the ones society decrees we shall have.

You said "Who will decide which people can have children?" Well, let me ask you this: Who decides that you can't practice medicine without an MD? Who decides you can't make liquor and sell it without a license? Who decides you can't teach school without a certificate? Who decides that people can't adopt children without meeting certain mental, physical, and financial standards? Who decides all these things that restrict your liberty for the well-being of society? Why, society itself does, in the form of elected law-makers.

And nobody seems to realize that the ultimate cruelty to a personality is to be condemned to be born in a defective body and for into a degenerate home.

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And nobody seems to realize that the ultimate cruelty to a personality is to be condemned to be born in a defective body and/or into a degenerate home. It is the height of compassion to prevent those births.

The subnormal are multiplying at an enormous rate. One woman on your show was absolutely right - soon there will be more unproductive people who have to be cared for than there will be people to care for them.

The majority of the people on your show were unthinking and blind to the future. The blind leads the blind and the whole country falls in the ditch.

If some of the far-seeing people in our country don't rise up and speak out, our civilization will go down the drain.

"America, you're too young to die."

Helen Hutchinson



The Overcontrol of Evolution

A Conversation

Helen: When I first began reading the Book and heard you talking about the over-control of evolution I thought it meant too much control, like overeat. But, later I realized it was like a good parent letting their children grow up, but guiding them, and keeping enough control to prevent disaster.

Bruce: Yes, and our Celestial helpers certainly don't exert too much control. I think they exert the minimum amount they can to prevent evolutionary growth from being lost. People don't seem to realize the benefit that struggle is to us.

That conversation set me to thinking about 'the slow accumulation of the racial heritage of painfully garnered experiential wisdom....' (pg. 1302)

It is absolutely necessary for continued evolution that our material welfare not be so good that we fail to develop spiritually, also. The Book says: "For when culture advances overfast, when material achievement outruns the evolution of worship-wisdom, then does civilization contain within itself the seeds of retrogression." We will slide back into the Dark Ages.

Just so, children given too many material things and advantages without having to put forth work effort, or think about ways and means of getting them, will become spoiled. They won't grow up mentally and emotionally - they're deprived of the right to take part in their own creation - or as the Book says on page 615: "the divine privilege of participating in the creation of their own destinies and of the destiny of this local system of inhabited worlds."

It seems that that is our divine right - to be co-creative with God.

To deprive someone of this is called "Creative disenfranchisement" (pg. 614), and that was Lucifer's sin.

(Paul Goris of Arizona brought that term to my attention. It's so good to hear from people everywhere with thoughts and reminders,)

This necessary balance between scientific material growth and moral and spiritual growth reminds us how important our mission is.

On page 1302 the Book says: "As man shakes off shackles of fear, as he bridges continents and oceans with his machines, (transcending space), generations and centuries with his records (transcending time), he must substitute for each transcended restraint a new and voluntarily assumed restraint in accordance with the moral dictates of expanding human wisdom. These self-imposed restraints are at once the most powerful and the most tenuous of all the factors of human civilization - concept of justice and ideals of brotherhood". (*italics mine*)

So our jobs are cut out for us.

And one social issue which the Book stresses is - Guess what? Eugenics!

A.B.H.

We received a letter from a former member of our group who now lives in Hawaii. She asked us to comment on what Jesus said to Thomas on pg. 1605: "My children, I implore that you cease to apply the teaching of the kingdom of the spirit to the sordid affairs of slavery, poverty, houses, and lands, and to the material problems

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She ended the quote there. But Jesus goes on to say: "These temporal matters are the concern of the men of this world, and while in a way they affect all men, you have been called to represent me in the world, even as I represent my Father."

To me, this is something like saying the church should stay out of politics and social reforms. Preachers shouldn't identify with certain political parties. They would alienate half the congregation! (Privately they can vote for whom they please)

But remember he was talking to the apostles, not the disciples.

On page 1086, par. 1 and 2, pg. 1087, par. 3 and 6 are helpful.

Religious institutions are to help people learn about God and grow spiritually. Then these spiritually enlightened people can get out and form as many political parties and social crusades as they wish.

This is just my idea. What do you think. H.B.H.

(Is this helpful, Marilyn?)

(italics mine)