

FOR READERS OF THE URANTIA BOOK

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this letter along to anyone  
who may be interested!

Your comments and  
contributions welcomed.

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Computers: A New Tool For The URANTIA Movement?

The last few years have seen the growth of small, relatively inexpensive, micro-computers as tools for the processing of information. Many of you may have used or even own one of the many machines now available from companies like Apple, IBM, Commodore, and others. Their availability has put the power of real computers in the hands of the average person. I have doing a lot of thinking lately about using computers as a means of improving communications within the URANTIA movement. It seems to me that there are three important areas in which they could be used:

1. A telecommunications bulletin board.
2. Provide an easily accessible data base.
3. Use "desktop publishing" methods to speed and improve written communications.

Telecommunications is the ability to transfer information via phone lines between two computers anywhere by using a device called a modem. A bulletin board is a central system through which the communications are channeled, and could be used for direct mail communications between two people or for open letters to groups. These type bulletin boards can accomplish a lot. We can develop better relationships with others as we seek to use this language of the written word to express our ideas and seek the reaction of our brothers and sisters. Special interest groups can delve into topics of common interest and develop on going discussions. A bulletin board can also contain a data base.

A data base (information library) is an extremely valuable tool that would take some time to fully implement. I could envision many study aids now out converted to computer files that could be accessed as you needed the information. Upcoming events could be listed. Up to date study group directories, abstracts of URANTIA Book related publications, sources of information; all these and more are possible. Those people without computers could also call or write for this info, and hard copy could be printed and mailed out to them. It will take some time to build a data base, and there are several areas of future direction that need to be considered. However, we could use a bulletin board system to communicate with each other while we develop it. People could work on computers at their homes or offices and send the fruits to the central library via modem. But the nice thing about such a system is that it would mean improved communications, increased opportunities for growth, learning and understanding between all the diverse people in the movement.

"Desktop publishing" is a term that refers to using a micro-computer to compose and layout text and graphics for high quality printing. This goes several steps beyond mere word processing. In the past this was a process which required very large and expensive equipment, or had to be done slowly by hand. However with the advent of graphics oriented computers and laserprinting equipment, the cost to produce high quality publications has dropped dramatically. The Apple MacIntosh is great for doing layout and typesetting of publications such as newsletters, magazines or even whole books. The next generation of page processing software for the MacIntosh will provide the level of effectiveness of present \$100,000 typesetting systems. You can send your output to various laserprinters at a range of type quality from 300 dots per inch (dpi) up to 2540 dpi. If you don't want to buy a laserprinter you can rent time at some dealers or send your files by modem to a service



that will print them for you. A typical price for 300 dpi is about \$1/page. This masters for this letter were produced by this method, and then photocopies made from them. Study aids and other useful information could be produced just as easily.

There is a Commodore64 based bulletin board for UBook readers (BrotherhoodOfMan Bulletin Board - 309-799-7177) now operating in Illinois, but it has several limitations: 40 characters max. per line on screen; complex command structure that needs to be learned; slow transmission rate (300 baud) and the need to compose your message while online (at long distance rates); very limited storage capacity (two-5 1/2" floppy drives) that severely limits the information that can be held in the system. Although the board is free, the slow transmission rate and online message composition means more money for Ma Bell. Although this system can be used to a limited extent for the first two application listed above, it cannot be used for advanced desktop publishing.

I will shortly be opening a bulletin board for URANTIA Book readers that will be based on and only usable (for now) by Apple Macintosh computers. Although this limits use of the system to those who own or have access to Macs, it will allow those of who wish to participate to help in the development of a data base of useful information that could form the cornerstone of larger and more universal system.

Assuming you have a Mac, all you need is a highly Hayes compatible modem in either 300, 1200 or 2400 baud. I will get together a list of those modems that will work and will provide you with the software necessary. The telecommunications software is very simple and intuitive, takes about 2 minutes to learn, and is capable of storing up to 50 files. These can be almost any size and type, the practical limitation being that we both have the same software for reading and writing them. I will be the host system and be in charge of what files are in the system. I can then post files on the system for you to pick up, and you can drop files off for me (or someone else who accesses the system). For now, the 50 file limitation is not a problem (I can give it 4 or 5 megabytes of my hard disk space now), but future growth may require more storage. If the need is there, I will get a more powerful host system program which is available.

I think the key to people using a telecommunications system is its speed, ease, and power. At 2400 baud this software will transfer data at about 7K a minute (so a this whole letter would take about 3 minutes to send to you). Having an easy and uncomplicated program makes users happy. But the most important is to have useful products and services.

Communications can include whatever anyone wants to discuss. We can immediately start working together to produce the kind of data base that I have described above.

I have already transcribed a few things into my Mac. We can send files back and forth over the phone very quickly and easily, and this will allow us to work cooperatively together toward the same goal. We are told in The URANTIA Book that we multiply our potential by working together. There could be a whole network of people across the country working on larger projects, each doing a separate task, yet all in touch with each other as needed. I could see us easily producing high quality books, study aids, pamphlets, and other written copy for much less money than it took in the past, and at the same time have more creative control in the process. Changes that don't get done when laying out a publication by hand because of the time involved in starting over now can get done because it is simple and quick with a computer.

We can begin on this exciting new enterprise now. If you are interested in participating in this, or have comments on this topic or anything else in this letter, please write or call.

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*Editors Note: The following two talks were presented at the 1986 Midwest Conference for Students of The URANTIA Book.*

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### **God's Presence as our Thought Adjuster**

At the beginning of Paper 1 we discover God's call to his mortal creatures, "Be you perfect even as I am perfect." We are called upon to begin a long journey, universe upon universe and age upon age, with Paradise and the personal presence of the Infinite Father ever as our goal. As we read through The URANTIA Book we see what a tremendous task this is, one which at times can seem truly overwhelming. And it would be all but impossible to achieve if not for God being our existential partner in the experiential adventure of time and space. The Father has chosen to take the step downward to man in order to join his children in the long, progressive, evolutionary journey back to him. In so doing He escapes his existential limitations of infinity to become one with man and together with him "create a new order of being for universe service." The Universal Father, The First Source and Center of all things and beings, has chosen to join the mortal, moral humans of Urantia by giving them a living piece of himself as our partners and as our guides as we start the long, Paradise ascent here on our "probationary nursery." In this room right now, in your very mind, is



the actual presence of God the Father. And that fragment of God that dwells within you is called by many names; the Mystery Monitors, the Thought Changers and Controllers, but most often by the name Thought Adjuster. To me this is certainly one of the most wonderful revelations of the URANTIA papers!

The theme of this conference is "the Presence of God." Presence is the quality of being in a place, to be present, at a particular time. In other terms, presence involves some relationship of who or what, along with where and when. I would like to use this time to give you a brief overview of what The URANTIA Book has to say concerning Thought Adjusters and these three aspects of presence, as well as the why of this important aspect of God's presence is in our lives.

I would like to start by reading you the introduction to the first Paper on the Adjusters in which the Solitary Messenger gives us a wonderful summary about these special gifts of the Father.

"Although the Universal Father is personally resident on Paradise, at the very center of the universes, he is actually present on the worlds of space in the minds of his countless children of time, for he indwells them as the Mystery Monitors. The eternal Father is at one and the same time farthest removed from, and most intimately associated with, his planetary mortal sons.

The Adjusters are the actuality of the Father's love incarnate in the souls of men; they are the veritable promise of man's eternal career imprisoned in the mortal mind; they are the essence of man's perfected finality personality, which he can foretaste in time as he progressively masters the divine technique of achieving the living of the Father's will, step by step, through the ascension of universe upon universe until he actually attains the divine presence of his Paradise Father.

God, having commanded man to be perfect, even as he is perfect, has descended as the Adjuster to become man's experiential partner in the achievement of the supernal destiny which has been thus ordained. The fragment of God which indwells the mind of man is the absolute and unqualified assurance that man can find the Universal Father in association with this divine Adjuster, which came forth from God to find man and sonship him even in the days of the flesh.

Any mortal who has seen a Creator Son has seen the Universal Father, and he who is indwelt by a divine Adjuster is indwelt by the Paradise Father. Every mortal who is consciously or unconsciously following the leading of his indwelling Adjuster is living in accordance with the will of God. Consciousness of Adjuster presence is consciousness of God's presence. Eternal fusion of the Adjuster with the evolutionary soul of man is the factual experience of eternal union with God as a universe associate of Deity.

It is the Adjuster who creates within man that

unquenchable yearning and incessant longing to be like God, to attain Paradise, and there before the actual person of Deity to worship the infinite source of the divine gift. The Adjuster is the living presence which actually links the mortal son with his Paradise Father and draws him nearer to the Father. The Adjuster is our compensatory equalization of the enormous universe tension which is created by the distance of man's removal from God and by the degree of his partiality in contrast with the universality of the eternal Father.

The Adjuster is an absolute essence of an infinite being imprisoned within the mind of a finite creature which, depending on the choosing of such a mortal, can eventually consummate this temporary union of God and man and veritably actualize a new order of being for unending universe service. The Adjuster is the divine universe reality which factualizes the truth that God is man's Father. The Adjuster is man's infallible cosmic compass, always and unerringly pointing the soul Godward." (1176:1 -1177:0)

With that summary as a foundation, let us examine a few more of the many statements concerning the who, what, when, where and why of Adjuster presence.

"Though there are diverse opinions regarding the mode of the bestowal of Thought Adjusters, there exists no such difference concerning their origin; all are agreed that they proceed direct from the Universal Father, the First Source and Center. They are not created beings; they are fragmented entities constituting the factual presence of the infinite God...the Adjusters are undiluted and unmixed divinity, unqualified and unattenuated parts of Deity; they are of God, and as far as we are able to discern, they are God." (1177:3)

"The divine presence cannot, however, be discovered anywhere in nature or even in the lives of God-knowing mortals so fully or so certainly as in your attempted communion with the indwelling Mystery Monitor, the Paradise Thought Adjuster. What a mistake to dream of God far off in the skies when the spirit of the Universal Father lives within your own mind." (64:6)

"Though the work of the Adjusters is spiritual in nature, they must, perforce, do all their work upon an intellectual foundation. Mind is the human soil from which the spirit Monitor must evolve the morontial soul with the cooperation of the indwelt personality." (1216:2)

"...indirectly and unrecognized the Adjuster is constantly communicating with the human subject, especially during those sublime experiences of the worshipful contact of mind with the spirit in the superconsciousness." (1203:3)

"Man does not have to go farther than his own inner experience of the soul's contemplation of this spiritual-reality presence to find God and attempt communion with him." (62:1)



From these and numerous other statements in the Papers about our Thought Adjusters, we can clearly see that in regards to the three aspects of presence, the who or what is a fragment of God the Father, the First Source and Center, the when is now and potentially forever, and the where is the mind of moral mortals capable (or potentially capable) of God consciousness. But what about the tremendous implications of this presence?

"To say that a Thought Adjuster is divine is merely to recognize the nature of origin. It is highly probable that such purity of divinity embraces the essence of the potential of all attributes of Deity which can be contained within such a fragment of the absolute essence of the universal presence of the eternal and infinite Paradise Father.

...They are qualified as to universality but not as to nature; in extensiveness they are limited, but in intensiveness of meaning, value, and fact they are absolute. For this reason we sometimes denominate the divine gifts as the qualified absolute fragments of the Father." (1180:4-5)

"In the last analysis, the Father fragments must be the gift of the absolute God to those creatures whose destiny encompasses the possibility of the attainment of God as absolute." (1178:0)

"Can you really realize the true significance of the Adjuster's indwelling? Do you really fathom what it means to have an absolute fragment of the absolute and infinite Deity, the Universal Father, indwelling and fusing with your finite mortal natures? When mortal man fuses with an actual fragment of the existential Cause of the total cosmos, no limit can ever be placed upon the destiny of such an unprecedented and unimaginable partnership. In eternity, man will be discovering not only the infinity of the objective Deity but also the unending potentiality of the subjective fragment of this same God. Always will the Adjuster be revealing to the mortal personality the wonder of God, and never can this supernal revelation come to an end, for the Adjuster is of God and as God to mortal man." (1181:3)

It is only by and through the Adjusters' presence that we have the potential to know God and experience him on Supreme and Ultimate levels of reality, even approaching the Absolute in the far reaches of eternity. So even now, as we are just beginning the great adventure of time, know that God has provided us with all that we need for an infinite eternity of loving service and adventure.

What more do these Father fragments do for us?

"These heavenly helpers are dedicated to the task of guiding you safely inward and upward to the celestial haven of happiness. These tireless toilers are consecrated to the future personification of the triumph of divine truth in your life everlasting. They are the watchful workers who pilot the God-conscious human mind away from the shoals of evil while expertly guiding the evolving soul of

man toward the divine harbors of perfection on far-distant and eternal shores. The Adjusters are loving leaders, your safe and sure guides through the dark and uncertain mazes of your short earthly career; they are the patient teachers who so constantly urge their subjects forward in the paths of progressive perfection. They are the careful custodians of the sublime values of creature character." (1203:4)

Survival in the Universe depends upon the freewill identification of the mortal being with those eternal, spiritual realities, apart from which we are only fleeting shadows in existence. It is only by our ability to choose to become a part of the tree of life, which grows only through attunement to the will of the Father, that we have any hope of survival in the universe, much less the goal of perfection. And it is the Thought Adjuster who provides us the foundation upon which man's finaliter nature can be built, our living and potentially eternal connection with those infinite realities.

We are personal beings, possessing mind and will. The Adjuster is pre-personal, and has pre-mind and pre-will. The Thought Adjuster begins his indwelling in a mind that is controlled by the will of a mortal. The Adjuster must work in our mind to enlist that human will into the service of God's will, that being contained in the predetermined life plan which they bring for us from Divinington for our intellectual and spiritual development. We may by our free will deliberately choose to open our mind to the indwelling Adjuster, giving him free access to be able to adjust, change and control its contents, and then begin that cooperation with Deity that will eventuate in our sometime fusion.

"Mind is your ship, the Adjuster is your pilot, the human will is captain. The master of the mortal vessel should have the wisdom to trust the divine pilot to guide the ascending soul into the morontial harbors of eternal survival... With your consent, this faithful pilot will safely carry you across the barriers of time and the handicaps of space to the very source of divine mind and on beyond, even to the Paradise Father of Adjusters." (1217:4)

Our task is to learn to conform our mind through our will to that of the Adjuster, and in so doing we achieve oneness with the mind of God. And if we even now, through faith, willfully choose to execute this decision of this new, combined mind, then our mind has reached divine attunement and the Adjuster has gained personality expression. We have achieved a limited oneness with our Adjuster which can grow in extensiveness and intensiveness through continued and deepening cooperation, our lifetime of efforts resulting in creation of our surviving morontial soul, the transcripts of which are faithfully held by our Adjuster. In fact our soul is of dual origin, the Thought Adjuster being the Father and the human mind the mother.

As we all work here and now on developing a greater attunement with our Adjuster we look forward to the time



of fusion, that moment that signifies the leaving of mortal existence, and our rebirth as an immortal associate of Deity. Your Adjuster and you are instantly transformed into one new being, achieve a morontial oneness, a living spiritual marriage of the two most diverse and distant beings in creation. It is interesting to observe that when we fuse with our Thought Adjuster the records of that Adjuster disappear, it ceases to be just a pre-personal being for it has then acquired the working union of and with a personality. And this is a union so complete and perfect that not even the most experienced personalities in the universes can recognize as separate entities the fusion partners.

In the end it is *this* marvelous fact which I find to be of great comfort and inspiration: Just as God is indispensable to any hope of personality survival, we mortals are indispensable to the Fathers plan for the Master Universe! As we read on page 1299,

"In the beginning the Father does all, but as the panorama of eternity unfolds in response to the will and mandates of the Infinite, it becomes increasingly apparent that creatures, even men, are to become God's partners in the realization of finality of destiny. And this is true even in the life in the flesh; when man and God enter into partnership, no limitation can be placed upon the future possibilities of such a partnership. When man realizes that the Universal Father is his partner in eternal progression, when he fuses with the indwelling Father presence, he has, in spirit, broken the fetters of time and has already entered upon the progressions of eternity in the quest for the Universal Father." (1299:2)

I'd like to leave you with the admonition of the Solitary Messenger:

"I cannot but observe that so many of you spend so much time and thought on the trifles of living, while you almost wholly overlook the more essentials of everlasting import, those very accomplishments which are concerned with the development of a more harmonious working agreement between you and your Adjusters. The great goal of human existence is to attune to the divinity of the indwelling Adjuster; the great achievement of mortal life is the attainment of a true and understanding consecration to the eternal aims of the divine spirit who waits and works within your mind." (1206:3)

-Kurt Cira

-Milwaukee, WI

## God's Presence In Action

You recall Jesus' parable of the two sons, the first son when asked to work in the vineyard refused but later thought the better of it and went to work. The older son, when asked to work replied, "Yes, father, I'll go," but after his father left did not fulfill his promise. (1993) On another occasion Jesus said, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father in heaven." (Matt.7:21) The acid test of life is in our actions. The real nature of our faith is seen in our behavior. "True religion must act...Always and ever religion does something; it is dynamic." (1121) "There is no real religion apart from a highly active personality." (1120) "The weak engage in resolutions, but the strong act." (556)

Action is creative and effective when we are in touch with reality, when God is a partner in our life and work. Jesus orients his universe sons and daughters saying, "Remember: I am the real vine, and you are the living branches. He who lives in me, and I in him, will bear much fruit of the spirit and experience the supreme joy of yielding this spiritual harvest...Herein is the Father glorified: that the vine has many living branches, and that every branch bears much fruit." (1945) How does this come about; how do we become living branches which bear much nourishing and enriching fruit?

A creative relationship with that which is substantial and real begins when we come to the realization that egocentricity is psychological poison which leads to an unfulfilled and unhappy life and we insightfully and wholeheartedly dedicate ourselves to God and his purposes for our lives. This unique and personal divine plan is then discovered by meditating on the creative urges deep within us--sorting, organizing, and integrating these sincere longings and singular personality gifts. Under the guidance of the spirit they materialize into vital projects and eventually take the form of a life plan. This plan, this sense of calling, gives meaning and purpose to our lives and with it a new source of energy and strength.

The real substance and character of our lives begins when we actualize these creative urges in specific projects of living. We grow and contribute to ourselves and others only when we act. Our early ancestors, Andon and Fonta, longed to transcend the limited potentials of their primate associates but the future of the human race was not assured until they summoned the courage to act, to flee from their animal cousins and face the rigors of a hostile world. With this act of courage came the serendipitous discovery of fire and the actualization of potentials far beyond their imagination. So always is spirit inspired action the ancestor of unexpected discoveries and unforeseen accomplishments. "The act is ours, the consequences God's." (1286)

Such action, however, is never easy. Spirit indited



tasks push us to our limits. "The religion of the spirit means effort, struggle, conflict, faith, determination, love, loyalty, and progress." (1729) With experience, discipline, and productivity we ascend the psychic circles of personality growth and with this accrued wisdom our lives become more effective and we grow more real as persons. This service-action life and its resultant growth prepare us for greater projects in the future. But even now there are many avenues of kingdom work challenging us.

We have in the fuller restatement of the life and teachings of Jesus the greatest spiritual message of our planet. Our world needs to hear this inspiring good news. Once again we need evangelists like King Asoka who trained and sent out thousands of missionaries whose devoted labor in twenty-five years won half the world to a higher expression of spiritual truth. Our world languishes for great music compositions which will transform our spirits and noble literature that will inspire us to better ways of living. The fifth epochal revelation requires new religious fellowships which will spread throughout the world with a fresh, inspiring spiritual symbolism and an advanced ethic of love which will promote understanding, brotherhood and unity among the diverse institutions and peoples of the world. The Urantia movement awaits visionary entrepreneurs and architects who will set aside tracts of land and construct retreat areas, educational facilities, and worship centers. These and thousands of other tasks and projects are vibrant opportunities for actualization by those who are willing to respond to the spiritual renaissance now being ushered in on the wings of the future.

In whatever direction our life plan may take us, it is the fruits of the spirit that undergird our work and make it effective for time and eternity. These fruits of the spirit are "loving service, unselfish devotion, courageous loyalty, sincere fairness, enlightened honesty, undying hope, confident trust, merciful ministry, unflinching goodness, forgiving tolerance, and enduring peace." (2054) These are the marks of God's presence in action whether our work is in the material, mental or spiritual realms of human activity.

As pioneers of the new age our work is of crucial importance. The messengers of the fourth epochal revelation were very ordinary human beings and yet their witness to new spiritual truth turned the world upside down. Jesus told his apostles that as they serve in the Father's kingdom they would also do the work that he was doing and even greater works would they do because he was returning to the Father (John 14:12) and his universe sovereignty and the new gift of the spirit of truth would magnify their effectiveness. Add to this spiritual power base the dynamic of the fifth epochal revelation and the potentials of this spiritual partnership between man and God stagger the imagination. Pioneers in a new age, however, need to have the personality stamina to serve without seeing results. Indeed, the immediate effect of

innovative work is usually disapproval and opposition. Nevertheless, as we pursue our work in partnership with God we know that we are making effective contributions to civilization and culture, that we are adding functional realities to our planet and the realm of the Supreme.

Not only is work on the frontiers of progress often frustrating and rigorous, it is unpredictable. Serving in partnership with God requires flexibility. Often our human and personal hopes and purposes which we have planned and cherished for years are shattered on the rocks of evolutionary reality and transmuted into the larger and wiser objectives of spirit determination. Sometimes we are constrained to do things which we would most wish to avoid. Like Moses who lacked public speaking abilities was, nonetheless, required to become a speaker and teacher, to we often find it necessary to engage in activities where our talents are marginal. The important thing is that we are sensitive to the leading of the spirit and have the courage to act in conformity with that guidance. Ours is the responsibility to act; the results are in larger hands. And history demonstrates that God can use very mediocre talent to accomplish great things. "Service--more service, increased service, difficult service, adventurous service, and at last divine and perfect service--is the goal of time and the destination of space." (316) It is through such service that we human beings fulfill our deepest needs and longings, discover happiness, and come closest to greatness.

The presence of God is most effectively experienced in action--service. Our lives find meaning and purpose through action. Seldom have the people of this planet had greater opportunities for significant service which will effect future generations than now. Let us unite in spreading the message of the fifth epochal revelation which promises to precipitate one of our world's "most amazing and entralling epochs of social readjustment, moral quickening, and spiritual enlightenment." (2082) And I would now ask you, even as I ask myself: What are you doing to contribute to this new age?

-Meredith Sprunger  
-Fort Wayne, IN

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This newsletter is being written as a service to readers of The URANTIA Book. This issue is being produced as a limited experiment which I am sending out to my friends in the URANTIA movement. Future issues will be dependant on your interest. I would appreciate your comments and contributions. Please feel free to copy and distribute this to those who may be interested.



2600

to the tune: "The Rose"

When you let the spirit move you  
In your body – thru your mind  
Then you're giving birth to your soul  
With eternity to find  
That the love you are receiving  
And the love that you put out  
Are the fruits of your believing  
That overcome all doubt

So your Father ever guides you  
As you travel in from here  
From this first humble existence  
To a universe career  
From the innocence of childhood  
To finaliter, then more  
And we grow in the Supreme  
When we leave the Paradise shore

dawn-silence  
8-2 & 8-10-86

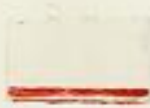
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And the love that you put out  
Are the seeds of your believing  
That overcome all doubt  
So your Father ever guides you  
As you travel in from here  
From this tangled existence  
To a universe near  
From the innocence of childhood  
To further than more  
And we grow in the systems  
When we leave the Paradise shores



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