

## HELPING?

One of the Editors of the Planetary Prints called me not too long ago with respect to a forthcoming newsletter in which he said they planned to "disclose" that URANTIA Foundation had acquired a large sum of money and to ask their general readership how they best thought these monies should be spent. I was invited to make a statement on the matter, and I offer the following in the hopes of at least mitigating some of the misconceptions which have been reported to us from various places in the country, and perhaps setting the stage for a better understanding of the motives and intentions of the Trustees. The Editor with whom I spoke promised that these comments would not be edited, so what you see here is solely that of the author, speaking unofficially as an individual Trustee.

First of all everyone should be aware of the fact that through the generous bequest of one of our readers we acquired approximately \$127,000.00, with no strings attached as to its use. This came entirely as a surprise to us, albeit a pleasant one. The other large sum approximating \$700,000.00 was realized as the result of the sale of some stock we had received as a generous and much appreciated gift and which we had held over a period of years. Our records likewise show no conditions to the grant nor has anyone been able satisfactorily to establish the contrary including our independent auditors in their annual examination of our accounts and records over nearly a decade. Furthermore, while we had been approached from time to time by representatives of the company in which we owned the stock, who told us the public marketing of the stock or the sale of the company was an ever increasing possibility, we had no idea when or how any money would become available, nor did we have any idea what the ultimate amount would be. I take the trouble to go into this detail because a number of rumors have found their way back to the Trustees which in one way or another vaguely (and not so vaguely) suggest that the funds have been misapplied or not properly handled. The matter has become further complicated by the fact that URANTIA Brotherhood in cooperation with URANTIA Foundation has been engaged in the raising of funds for a Spanish Translation of The URANTIA Book, and arguably a small group has allegedly mounted a campaign to coerce the Trustees into applying these funds or the interest therefrom in some manner to the Spanish Translation -- all without due regard to the timely and reasoned deliberation of the Trustees, who among other things ultimately are legally and personally responsible for the prudent husbanding of these important resources.

This strange twist of events is of serious concern to the Trustees inasmuch as the good name of URANTIA Foundation and the success of various of its programs now and hereafter may well be at stake. The Trustees are, to say the least, mystified as to what all the brouhaha is about since the Declaration of Trust Creating URANTIA Foundation is quite explicit with respect to the duties of the Trustees, viz., to disseminate the teachings of The URANTIA Book throughout the world and to preserve the text of The URANTIA Book inviolate. It is hard for us to imagine how the monies could otherwise be spent without benefiting the goals and purposes of the URANTIA Revelation, unless some of us want to spend some hard time in Joliet (or Leavenworth, if one has more patrician talents). Furthermore, it is the obvious policy of URANTIA Foundation to encourage translations as is clearly evidenced by the Spanish Translation fund raising effort which is currently now in progress.

Apparently the sad fact of the matter is that if people want to find fault or indulge in the baser side of human nature they will do so and having been exposed to The URANTIA Book is not a sufficient inoculation to neutralize the viri which constitute the foibles of the human condition with which we are all infected. A sobering thought.

The experience of those of us who serve on the Board of Trustees is not unlike that of anyone who has tried to run a household and found that there is just never enough money to take care of all one's personal or one's family's needs. And just as our ideals grow at a geometric rate and our ability to live them grows at only an arithmetic rate, so it is with the needs which not only confront the Board of Trustees, but which are also generously urged upon them, sans cesse, which far outstrip the Foundation's ability either administratively or financially to pursue them--assuming they are deserving in the first place. Ultimately, some approach must be adopted which will give some semblance of a promise of carrying out the Trustees' responsibilities under the Declaration of Trust, of satisfying those who do sincerely make the effort to contribute both of their time and money without thought of personal gain, and of not bankrupting the Foundation's treasury in the pursuit of some seemingly noble project which really is of doubtful need and which even then hasn't the slightest prayer of being achieved.

Despite the shortcomings so freely ascribed to the Trustees from some quarters, both personally and as a group, the Trustees in their own way over the years have arrived at an approach--which is nothing more than common sense--which has served the Foundation and we think the movement well: The URANTIA Book is still in print and unadulterated, the Foundation is still solvent (notwithstanding our fund balance has decreased in each of the last two years), and a number of individuals and groups have been at least stymied if not permanently prevented from working their own brand of shamanic medicine under the pretense of ministering to the ills of the world using The URANTIA Book as the central part of their imagined remedial technique. Despite the fact that donations have rarely if ever covered our operating costs, that the Foundation has had to incur hefty legal fees and engage in unpleasant, prolonged and expensive litigation in order to fend off those with their own ideas of how to ruin a revelation, amazingly URANTIA Foundation is still in business. Not a bad feat for those who give both of their time and money so that they can enjoy the imputation of bad motives and the agony of trying to do their very best with the most limited of resources.

Well, while some of you are going about trying your level best to divine new ways in which the Trustees can spend the Foundation's trust funds, I can assure you that the Board of Trustees is going to do its level best to come up with ways to preserve those funds so that they can do their important job of giving URANTIA Foundation the financial security and the resources commensurate with URANTIA Foundation's epochal responsibilities. If some of you wish to spend money, why not spend a little of your own. The Spanish translation seems as good a program as ANY.

Martin W. Myers