

October 1, 1972
2601 Sunset Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93304

Mr. J. C. Mills, Vice President
URANTIA Foundation
533 W. Biversey Parkway
Chicago, Illinois 60614

Dear Mr. Mills,

Thank you for your quick and direct reply to my letter of August 4. I appreciate how much patience it must require to painstakingly answer each inquiry that comes to your attention, especially since you must often have to duplicate your work as you inform each writer of the experiential status of the Urantia Foundation and the Urantia Brotherhood.

In your letters (and of course in the book) I have duly noted the emphasis placed upon experience. (I well know the human tendency to plan about ten times as much as can be accomplished with the time and resources allotted!) Alas, it is true that I am ever grappling with this very problem in my daily life. The prospect of a new experience is often quite frightening and discomforting but without such new experience, surely I tend to stagnate rather than grow.

In talking to Julia Fenderson at our celebration of Jesus' birthday, she suggested that my concept of a Urantia university may not have been completely communicated. It is not a university dedicated to turning out "credentialed" teachers of the Urantia Book that I am suggesting. Rather I envision more of a community of interested and dedicated believers gathering for in-depth study, experiential living, and social exploration of the Urantia revelation. (Evidently I am suggesting that the 'annual two-day session of the Urantia Brotherhood' be expanded, made continuous throughout the year and open to all interested persons as time and space allow.) Couldn't such a community be self-supporting, ~~payed for by the transient or semi-permanent residents themselves?~~ Many individuals would welcome the chance to live among fellow believers in retreat for a week or a month in pleasant surroundings while they concentrate on learning and practicing the principles of the Urantia Book. Such a "nuclear Urantia Society" would serve as the experiential training ground for potential teachers of the Urantia Book, but more directly, it would be for the experience itself that believers would come to the Urantia University not for a degree or other symbol of achievement. In the Urantia University, all would teach and learn and attempt to accentuate the spirit of brotherly feeling. I could go on but this should suffice to clarify the idea if there was any misunderstanding in your mind.

Plans for our course on the Urantia Book have proceeded smoothly. The course will consist of five two-hour sessions held every other Monday from 8:00 to 10:00 P.M. starting September 25, 1972. The first session, last Monday night, set the stage for the remaining four sessions; during this opening segment, we communicated our attitude concerning the Urantia Book and limited the scope of discussions and questions so as to avoid tangential and unnecessarily sensationalistic directions. For example, we do not take the role of "apologists" the truth of the Urantia Book but rather simply attempt to relate 'what the Urantia Book says'. We have no desire to devote course time towards convincing skeptical individuals that they should read and believe the Urantia Book. We also plan to control any attempts at generating controversy in relation to the Bible or other doctrines that supposedly conflict with the Urantia Book teachings.

Each of the remaining four sessions will be devoted to a specific topic or theme. They will be in order:

Second Week: The reality of the religious experience (How do we know God?)

Third Week: The cosmology of the Urantia Book (Where is God?)

Fourth Week: The history of Urantia (How did we get here?)

Fifth Week: The life and teachings of Jesus (Who is Jesus and what is he saying?)

The format of the course will be basically informal and consist of personal reflections and/or conversations by the co-teachers intermixed with relevant readings of the text of the Urantia Book.

Sincerely,

Philip Calabrese

cc: Julia Fenderson
Bob Hunt
Alvin L. Kulieke

10/31 copy to Profile