

OUTREACH!

by Peter Laurence

Since you asked for a reaction to my participation in the booth at Colorado University, I can compare it to what I'm doing here in the sense that I quickly felt comfortable in that particular setting as well. There were a number of reasons for my not having a problem with such a radical change from my prior outreach experiences. One was your choice of being passively visible, so that we only spoke to people who chose to seek us out. Another was the atmosphere in the Student Union building, where booths of all kinds lined the corridor, providing an interesting assortment of wares for the passerby. Although I have some difficulty putting The URANTIA Book in the same category as political campaigns, sweaters and jewelry, your booth certainly upgraded the offerings vying for attention. A

third and final aspect of the situation is that the environment in Boulder with regard to the open contact among religionists of many kinds is extremely different than it is here in the East. Without my having been there to actually experience that environment I could only evaluate your activity on the basis of my own surroundings, or others with which I have had contact. In order to adequately make judgements about what is being done in Boulder I am convinced that one has to personally experience it. On the other hand, I feel just as strongly that what works in Boulder will not necessarily succeed elsewhere. It seems to me that any prejudice against your group for undertaking this activity would be just as unfounded as criticism against other readers for not taking similar action. It will be fascinating to follow the progress of your programs over time, and to see if they continue to flourish and have applications in other areas. I admire your pioneering spirit. •