

The Statement on Publicity

"Repeatedly he told them it was not his desire that those who believed in him should become dogmatized and standardized in accordance with the religious interpretations of even good men." (1592)

Outreach for the 80's

by Terry Kruger

Dear Friends:

In February of 1983, URANTIA Brotherhood "re-affirmed" its "long-standing" policy of not publicizing the Book in "any of its various outreach efforts." Since the inception of URANTIA Brotherhood this policy has been passed along, until it reached its current written form. It has been urged upon loyal readers as part of the plan of "patient evolutionary development."

The lengthy statement sent to General Councilors was abridged and sent to the readership at-large in September of '83. That statement is easily more interesting for what it neglects to say than for what it does. A brief examination reveals the misleading foundations and outdated assumptions which are strung together to dissuade those who take seriously the command of Jesus to preach, publish and proclaim his gospel to the whole world. Some activists dismiss the policy, saying it places no restrictions on them or their efforts, since they choose to ignore it; that it has made the Brotherhood "irrelevant."

At the simplest levels, the children of the Most Highs realize that we are all one;

that we are inseparably linked in uncountable ways from here to the reaches of eternity. To disregard the actions of Brotherhood members is to diminish ourselves, to eventually find we are on the pathway to trouble to save our "ease-drifting souls." Hence we are left with certain responsibilities when we recognize that some decisions are so ill-advised they warrant our strong dissent and persistent objection.

The Statement on Publicity is such a decision. It stands clearly as an example of what the Master meant when it is said it was "not his desire that those who believed in him should become dogmatized and standardized in accordance with the religious interpretations of even good men. Again and again he warned his apostles against the formulation of creeds and the establishment of traditions as a means of guiding and controlling believers in the gospel of the Kingdom."

Ironically, this policy owes some of its new lease on life to yet another unfortunate circumstance: the appearance of Vern Grimsley at the Executive Committee meeting which debated the question of outreach publicity. At this meeting, Mr. Grimsley related his "message" from our celestial friends that "It is not time to publicize the book." Under these circumstances, the committee agreed, save one.



As events unfolded over the months, it became clear to many that regardless of the source of Grimsley's "voices" our loyalties belong first and foremost to the Universal Father; not to a human interloper. Many respected leaders in our movement, their loyalties misplaced in Mr. Grimsley, responded to this crisis by assisting in the proliferation of his "messages." Yet can we be surprised that such an event took root in a movement commissioned by Jesus to spread his word throughout the world, but whose leaders instead perpetuate a policy to prevent those who would set about accomplishing such a goal? Have we not

stood by silent, as our leaders passed on a tradition of only sharing the news of the Fifth Epochal Revelation on a person-to-person basis, while we sat in our study groups reading the numerous exhortations to proclaim his saving gospel to the entire world?

Where are the translations sponsored by URANTIA Foundation? Where are the well planned strategies for introducing the "Word made Book" into the mainstems of religious thought throughout the world? Where are the "missionary evangels" of the greatest revelation of this epoch?

Our readership is already rich in

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talented, enthusiastic, inspiring, tireless men and women, who are more than ready to take up the challenge put forth by the Master so many years ago. A generation of URANTIA Book readers who rely solely on the life and teachings of Jesus as revealed on the pages of The URANTIA Book are beginning the dissemination of this revelation; to those who would devote further energy to "forestalling by decades" the day it will become "necessary" to speak out, we say, read the very words you claim to safeguard:

"If you are not a positive and missionary evangel of your religion, you are self-deceived..." "The time is ripe to witness the figurative resurrection of the human Jesus from his burial tomb amidst the theological traditions and the Nazareth must no longer be sacrificed to even the splendid concept of the glorified Christ. What a transcendent service if, through this revelation, the son of man should be recovered from the tomb of traditional theology and be presented as the living Jesus."

But surely you have read these words before. Are we so content in the glory of this great Book that we cannot perceive our established leaders are out of touch with the vanguard of spiritual awakening on Urantia? Do we accept without question their appraisal of today's world as "characterized by chaos and confusion?" Are you personally not aware of a new awakening in the world, a search for spiritual meaning? Secular media, characterized as not emphasizing the good by the writers of the Publicity Statement, have been reporting for some years on the sudden and expansive growth of a world-wide religious hunger which is spreading across all boundaries to stir the

souls of mankind. Is it so surprising that religion has become a major issue in our recent political election? Have you not witnessed the moral dilemmas develop on topics ranging from abortion, euthanasia, test tube conception and genetic engineering? The world is searching, sometimes desperately, for answers to these and many other questions; and we hold the key to many of the answers. But we have not yet learned that God helps those who help themselves; and he will not lift a finger in our behalf until we resolve, and act, to help ourselves.

Make your embrace of the Father's Will, demonstrate the courage of the spirit-born faith son. Do what you can, whenever you can, with anyone willing to spread the word of this new Revelation, now lying dormant on the pages of 120,000 copies of The URANTIA Book that aren't being read; this is not the result of the Book doing its own work, this is our work waiting to be done.

Join with other men and women who are dedicated to not wasting another day on Urantia without planning and doing whatever possible to disseminate the Fifth Epochal Revelation to the peoples of the world, as we are instructed by its very pages.

Finally may I whet your appetite with the words of Jesus:

"Are you fearful, soft, and ease-seeking? Are you afraid to trust your future in the hands of the God of truth, whose sons you are? Are you distrustful of the Father, whose children you are? Will you go back to the easy path of the certainty and intellectual settledness of the religion of traditional authority, or will you gird yourselves to go forward with me into that uncertain and troublous future of proclaiming the new truths of the religion of the spirit, the kingdom of heaven in the hearts of men?" •