

**Dear Friends,**

You may have heard that the Emerging Church phenomenon has captivated me. I've been primarily involved with the Emergent Village family that hails nationwide from a score of different denominations. Their inquisitive and intuitive approach to re-imagine Jesus' message began in the late 90's in cohorts, pubs, and conferences. Their love for the heart of Jesus' teachings brings them together, and you can imagine the cacophony of perspectives that pepper the conversation! Most of these vibrant personalities are in their thirties and forties.

These courageous souls are amazingly responsive to the Spirit of Truth, breaking through the rigid dogmatism of centuries. "With each advancing epoch in human knowledge the philosophic concept and the theologic definitions of God must change." 195:5.1.2 And they are! "Someday a reformation in the Christian church may strike deep enough to get back to the unadulterated religious teachings of Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. You may *preach* a religion *about* Jesus, but, perforce, you must *live* the religion *of* Jesus." [196:2.1](#) A rumbling reformation is taking place, friends, and these people are dedicated to living the religion *of* Jesus. They view a God of all humanity, while dumping atonement and original sin.

The annual eco-oriented Wild Goose Festival of Music, Art, Justice, and Spirituality is a unique example of their open-heart inclusivity. Organizer Gareth Higgins: "We gather to learn what Jesus came to teach us, which is not how to be a Christian, but how to be human."

The book I highly recommend as descriptive of the Emergent mind is Doug Pagitt's candid and easy read, "A Christianity Worth Believing". He came to Christianity as an outsider in high school. Swept up by a Passion Play, Doug "was on board with this guy long before he hit the cross." And, "Sometimes the ones on the edge are making the most sense." Doug has been on Cosmic Citizen twice. I gave him a Urantia Book last October at Soularize in San Diego. You can catch this dynamic loveable character Sunday mornings on Doug Pagitt Radio or You Tube.

It has been surprisingly easy to interject Jesusonian/ Urantian teachings AND be accepted as a viable voice in the emergent dialogue. These pithy conversations can be scientific, philosophical, and religious. In an Evolution workshop last year at Big Tent Christianity ("Big Tent"= all beliefs welcomed), without referring to the UB, I briefly shared my justification for a personal, conscious, and evolving God at which point Philip Clayton (moderator and Dean of Claremont Theological) then asked me if I were a theologian! He said he'd been working on those ideas for his book for two years and I summed it up in two minutes! A supreme moment for me ...

In my initial desire to share some higher UB truth, I'm finding the blessings they have for me and learning about the Christianity our revelation is based upon. I've taken time to get to know them and their points of view. If appropriate, I'll offer a UB (so far 5 or 6), CD or literature. Otherwise, I'll simply interject concepts. Much of the time is spent cheerleading, encouraging them in particular directions. Fertile ground indeed... It's my hope that someday soon there will be opportunity for an Emergent-Urantia retreat . Meanwhile, am eager to see how our Urantia booth will be received at this year's Wild Goose Fest in June -- JOIN US !!!

I encourage you to explore an Emergent type church. Let me know if you need any assistance in finding a church in your area.

Love to you!

Pamela Chaddock, So. Oregon

[godspies@jeffnet.org](mailto:godspies@jeffnet.org)