

# Are you really a Urantian?

by Clyde Bedell

HOW ENGAGING and effective a lover of Jesus and of God are you, really. The Jesusonian (URANTIA Book) religion is a religion of outreach, demanding constant awareness of the spiritual deprivations around us. Jesus knows of these deprivations in Boulder, Boston, Miami, Chicago, Seattle, Los Angeles, Dallas and everywhere. That is why we have a Revelation, our Revelation, on this planet.

Not to be responsive, alert, constantly ready for volunteering aid (adroitly and gracefully) for our fellow men that can lead to spiritual well-being, spiritual growth, and fearless living, is a denial and betraying of Jesus—the Jesus we all claim to love and follow as Urantians. He is presumably the source and channel of our great spiritual satisfactions.

I know of no Urantian believers who say: "I believe in all the U Book except Jesus' instructions to us. I don't take him seriously". Yet IN SCORES OF URGENT INSTRUCTIONS TO US, AND DEMANDS UPON US, Jesus insists that we must constantly and persistently spread his Gospel to the world. Are you and your compatriot reader-believers really doing that?

Jesus specifically says that we--You and I--must preach, teach, disseminate, his

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message of our Revelation "to all races", "in each" and "in all generations", "now and forever", "even to the end of the earth", "to rich and poor, Jew and gentile, young and old, male and female", "to every man, woman and child", "to all nations", "all races", "to all mankind", "in each successive generation".

Surely these and MANY MORE words and demands of Jesus should stir a deep contrition in your heart, if you are not obeying them. Can you think of any man, woman or youth you know or will meet or may have as a friend, who is not included in Jesus's clear detailing of those to be reached?

All of those words are Jesus' repeated challenges to you and me, his commissions and responsibilities placed upon you and me, and upon EVERYONE WHO READS AND ACCEPTS The URANTIA Book. Aren't you willing and anxious to do the evangelizing Jesus directs you to do? Now, wherever you are?

Do you ignore the injunctions of Jesus, the Creator of our universe? That is a horrendous and accountable failure. Are you or aren't you dedicated, changed and helped by your belief and faith? Are you just a superficial, rather selfish Urantian, a reader of the Book for enjoyment and your private enlightenment? Are you a reader who triflingly bandies and babbles words about our supernal Book only with your Urantia reader acquaintances? Are you indifferent to



the frightful moral sickness of our world, and to the many spiritually distressed souls within your reach? If you sympathetically seek to discover them you can find them. Are you a reader who basks in the good fortune of being among the few early beneficiaries of a bi-millennium Epochal Revelation—world bestowed for over 4 billion people? How many of the 4 billion's immortal souls are "the dent you have made" for Jesus"?

How many in 30 years has our entire slogging, sluggish Movement reached and transformed? (Fewer than 150,000 Books have been sold in 30 years. At that rate, we can reach only ONE billion adults and youth in 200,000 years. Many religious books sell 150,000 copies their first year. But their prices are sensible and their publishers are service-oriented. It seems certain that only 10% to 20% of The URANTIA Book owners who have no study aid, become permanent Urantia readers. Fewer than 10% of The URANTIA Book owners have learned of and bought the principal U Book study aid. Only studying and continuing to read and study makes a "Urantian".

How many teacher-leaders of the thousands we are supposed to train for the world, have we trained? How many Study Groups of the thousands we were instructed to form, have we started? Don't think that two or three people talking The URANTIA Book once in a while, constitutes a study group. How many of the many translations

into foreign languages we were instructed to see financed, have we made possible?

Are your neighbors, the people you work with, the friends you see at meetings or on committees, the professional people you must now and then contact, the persons you employ for this or that at work or at home, your childrens' teachers, are all of these people spiritually anchored and content?

You will learn fast with the help of your unseen friends, how to evangelize, if you are CONSTANTLY on the qui vive, listening, watching, waiting for opportunities to naturally turn a conversation, a question, a remark into an introduction—NOT of The URANTIA Book—but a few words that WILL lead naturally into The URANTIA Book. If you can get a spiritually dispossessed or "hung up" friend or acquaintance into a natural discussion of The URANTIA Book, go slow without being pushy. Hold back a little, and ask mentally that you be guided by the celestial onlookers who are waiting to help you. Don't expect to be a highly effective evangel in your first attempts. Your own soul will be buoyantly happy as you improve. What greater service on earth can you render the typical undedicated human being near you, who is wandering in a spiritual wasteland—than to get into his or her willing hands the Single Greatest Material Thing on This Earth—The URANTIA Book?

In a committee report, written or oral, use a U Book quote. Some hungry heart may sooner or later bless you therefore, as she or he arrives in Paradise. Write a letter for your newspaper to publish, use a U Book idea and mention the source. It is time the great URANTIA secret be let out, that there is an Epochal Revelation here now, given to transform our sadly ill planet through the transformation of men and women.

"Oh, Oh" you say, "We would be violating the Foundation's and the Brotherhood's strict injunctions, if we aggressively handle the Urantia Message. Don't you know that a high Foundation official at the recent Wisconsin Conference told his audience: "If anyone wants to publicize The URANTIA Book, or if any media people want to interview you, you refer them to me. I will make The URANTIA Book sound dull and uninteresting, so they won't want to do an interview". Yes that's the unbelievable truth, reported to me by two dedicated Urantians who were present.

This is suppression, not aggression. Jesus taught his followers: "You are to be aggressive in preaching this gospel". The book tells us Jesus was "an aggressive child" (1366). As a youth, we are told he had "an aggressive temperament" (1396). It tells us he was an "aggressive man" (1461). Jesus covered on foot an astonishing area, not withholding, but spreading his gospel which we have in The URANTIA Book, that he tells us to spread to the ends of the earth, in all generations, now and forever. It is the message the Declaration of Trust says the Foundation was created to promote. Incidentally, every Trustee signed that formal document signifying his or her promise to obey it.

My response to the Foundation official speaking in Wisconsin is simple and clear. I have been inspired to spend many years and much substance to help spread the Gospel through creation of the non-profit Concordex. In those many years I have read The URANTIA Book much, and combed its blessed content for guidance for all readers, but I have never been able to discover a single sentence in its million plus words that says: "Obey Jesus and The URANTIA Book with its 90 plus insistent commands to eternally spread his Gospel, except when the human Trustees of the URANTIA Foundation in Chicago says: ' Don't obey Jesus, obey us'". •