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Dear Dr. Sadler:

Two friends of mine, Dave Gray and Richard Keeler from the University of Kansas, attended the recent summer session in Chicago; they were fraternity brothers of mine at KU, where I brought the book 5 years ago. I correspond with Rich and Dave, but wanted to get some straight opinion from you concerning some of our thinking.

As this postmark will indicate, my wife Nancy and I are residing in Berkeley, California, where she works at the University of California and I will begin attending Pacific School of Religion in about a week. My plans are to enter the ministry, although needless to say, I have serious misgivings regarding how well I will be able to endure the politics, forms and red tape of the institutional church. Question no. 1: What hope is there for the present structure of the "church," and should one who is interested in spreading the good news of the book work within or without this organization?

Let me be totally frank in order to give the best basis for you to formulate your advice and answers. I graduated Phi Beta Kappa from KU in philosophy and psychology, as did Dave Gray in Political Science, and Richard was fraternity president and an outstanding leader on campus; all the persons to whom I have introduced the book and to whom my friends have introduced the book have been uncommonly sane sorts of people. We beware of the fanatical fringe who "have been weighed in the Balance" and found off-balance....But, perhaps as the result of unthinking youthful enthusiasm, there has seemed to be a sort of common urge to spread the word on a large scale. Before you recoil in horror at the thought of three concentric blue rings plastered on the billboards of the world, let me hasten to add that the outreaching evangelistic efforts of which I write would deal exclusively with teaching the message of the book, without mention of the book itself. Nor would it be wise, perhaps, to mention too much of the elaborate cosmology, names, and unpublished history of Urantia or life of Jesus. This might come later or, if it seemed most prudent, not at all in the immediate public ministry. The meat and substance of such widespread communication would emphasize God's Fatherhood, His love, His presence and indwelling, His admonition to "be Godlike," the concomitant brotherhood of man, etc. Also, personal prayer and worship would be certainly be taught.

Already I have had considerable experience in public speaking and preaching, and my soul kindles in me at the thought of the possibility of bringing the good news to people on some scale larger than the parish church. Others I know feel this way too. I realize that there is no substitute for living with and knowing people for a long time to help and teach them, but when I think of some of the good done by Peter and the apostles through preaching, as well as considering such modern phenomena as Billy Graham, I cannot feel that such approaches are without merit or without possibilities of further refinement. The question to which I have been leading is: "What do you think of this sort of approach?" My primary feeling is that it might open up the way for the later direct preaching of the book itself; that is, it could begin to accustom men's minds to new and enlightened ways of thinking of the Father and their places in the universe. Or, even as an end in itself, even if there were no intention at all of later spreading the book through mass media, my inclination is that such public evangelism could lead many to God if carried off well. What do you think? What suggestions have you?

I just found a copy of Piloting Modern Youth in a used bookstore, and my wife and I have enjoyed it immensely. What other advice could you give for our future? What do you see as the principal task of kingdom-workers in our lifetimes?

Sincerely,

Vern B. Grimsley