

Appendix IX

Organizational Messages

1. PROTECTION OF THE NAME URANTIA (and Copyright)

In August 1942 the revelatory commission informed the contact commission that it was vital to take steps to protect the name, Urantia:

You have not done enough to safeguard your name. (Meaning the name Urantia). Make it very safe for one generation so the name Urantia cannot be pre-empted.

*In a common-law trust you hold the name. You do it also in a corporation. A corporation has status in law. You also do it in the **copyright**. You must carefully register it with the division of government that I have looked into, that controls trade relations, Trademark, and then you are protected in common law connected with a volunteer association such as you are planning in the Urantia Brotherhood. In all those ways you must safeguard the name. THIS IS ONE OF YOUR MOST IMPORTANT DUTIES.*

In 50, 75, or 100 years the name will be fairly safe. You safeguard it for a generation and it will largely take care of itself.

2. SOME PROBLEMS CONFRONTING A NEW RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION.

COMPILED BY: Certain members of the General Council of URANTIA BROTHERHOOD.

FOR: The files of the Executive Committee of the URANTIA BROTHERHOOD.

PRESENTED: March 7, 1955 to the Forum by William S. Sadler, Jr.

[Original date of receipt: August 21, 1942 , by the Commander of the Seraphim of Progress]

It seems most appropriate to bring to the attention of the Executive Committee certain wise comments and advices which have been gathered over a period of time, relative to the future problems of the Urantia Brotherhood and its component societies. These advices could perhaps be presented under the general caption: Some Problems Confronting A New Religious Organization.

Of course, you probably know that the best government in the world is that which governs least, that the true purpose of government is to prevent government, and that, that government which prevents the most government is best because it leaves the individual free—permits him his liberties and inalienable rights—but prevents predatory groups from interfering with these liberties, and were it not for these wicked minorities you wouldn't need government. When people are all spirit-led they won't need any more

government than they have in Havona. The Papers state: "Regarding the government of the central universe, there is none."

That organization is best which is so organized as to prevent all other organizations.

When people come to you about the Urantia Book and the URANTIA BROTHERHOOD and tell you that since the Thought Adjusters are here and indwell everyone and the Spirit of Truth has been poured out upon all flesh, therefore, it isn't necessary to have an organization but just to trust in God, etc., don't argue with them. They are right. But it would be the height of folly to follow their ideals because the world is organized today as it has never been organized before. If you undertake this work without an organization, you will have in the English-speaking world alone fifty other organizations springing up who will all claim the right to use the name "Urantia," and each one claiming to be the "only true and original" URANTIA BROTHERHOOD. It would become the most disgraceful thing in the world since the early days of Christianity. Not since the gospel of Jesus has there appeared on earth such a dynamic nucleus about which could be built so many organizations and which would attract so many differently motivated men—good, bad, and indifferent.

You must create an organization whose major purpose is to prevent other organizations and, therefore, the most benign. Create an organization which will organize the least and thereby prevent all other organizations with their tyranny and disgrace and their disrupting influences. That is the purpose of organization just as it is the purpose of government to prevent governing.

You have an organization. You may not like it in all ways but there is nothing in particular you can do about it just now. It is in spirit an organization to prevent organizations, and to allow as much liberty as possible. When the time comes that you feel it can be improved, you will have the experience to do so. You must not be misled by people who do not believe in organizations. (But always remember, when you deal with idealists, they are in the right and you are in the wrong. Therefore, do not argue with them because you cannot win.) If men would be willing to be led by the Spirit of Truth you wouldn't need organization, but very few will be. Therefore, those who are must safeguard their trust.

Jesus began on Mount Gilboa and he started with a simple, social organization. He told his followers to begin that social organization. Yes, look what that organization did! You may point to the mistakes of the Christian Church as an organization and what it did to the teachings of Jesus but among other things it kept them alive as a spring board from which the Urantia Book starts off. And do not forget that with all its faults Jesus started it. He said: "Whatever you do on earth, I will bind in heaven."

The only thing you can do about your organization is to do your best. If you look back from the mansion worlds and see posterity doing things to the organization, you can have the comfort of knowing that they did the same to Jesus' social organization.

You should foster an organization that will give everyone a right to his own belief and interpretation but an organization that will prevent confusion, disruption, and disgrace. You should foster an organization that will have control over the wicked minority who might by organization seek to disgrace the very purpose for which the Book was given to the world. If you do not have an organization to safeguard the name, then will such an organization arise to take the name. And isn't it best, if there must be an

organization, that it be in the hands of friends instead of enemies? The organization that organizes least is best.

Some idealists will join you but they will later go off in their own ways just like Abner and they will do a good work, and you will wish them well because you have an organization which prevents any one from being restricted or inhibited; therefore you will bid Godspeed to all idealists who will not have an organization.

Jesus did not forego an organization of the twelve because Judas was going to betray him. Jesus built an ideal organization; he built that organization having the least organization for the purpose of preventing other organizations. Our forebears ran away with it beyond the social level it was intended to function.

Even today, in your group, some of your members are not personally converted to the idea of an organization, but they are overawed. Some of your folks cannot understand how you can go on organizing truth but you are doing it to prevent interminable confusion in this age of organization. And so you want to create an organization that has as few teeth as possible.

There has not in 1900 years been anything about which there could be so much confusion and competition for control, and you cannot spike organization guns except by organization; that is the only way to prevent unwanted organization in this present age.

You might consider asking an idealist if he thinks the Urantia Book should be copyrighted or just trust to the Spirit of Truth to take care of that? Do not argue with idealists on their level. Be patient until they get halfway down the landing, where they can be more practical. Idealists are just like the rest of you the moment they go down one flight of stairs, but remember, when they talk to you from their level, do not argue with them.

You have to deal with many things in your jobs that are not ideal. When this Book is once published, if the idealists control it, they would provide no organization and soon a lot of selfish people would start to work to make a name out of it.

Lucifer, Satan, and Caligastia were idealists, at the start. But they were also something else. They were egotists. Marry idealism to egotism and you have a fatal combination.

Abner was an idealist, a wonderful man. He loved the truth. Paul was an ideist. He had ideas, and it was a great pity they did not work together; then they would have had a religion for the Orient and a better religion for the Occident. If idealists and ideists could work together it would save a lot of time and lives. An idealist is an impractical thinker. An ideist is a practical thinker.

Regarding Abner and Paul: One refused to have an organization; he was impractical. The other (Paul) built an organization and he knew he was building in a practical way. We can love Abner but we must respect Paul. Abner failed; Paul's cause lived.

You must carefully consider the organization Jesus created before he left the planet. It was an organization designed to prevent confusion, to ordain justice, to safeguard majorities against minorities. He did not leave the ecclesiastical hierarchy that subsequently grew up. But he did leave a simple, social organization that could carry on and prevent confusion.

Failure to organize would witness, I believe, the most terrible failure for the Urantia Book. It would allow all manner of designing groups and organizations to spring into existence and to use the name Urantia, to prostitute the teachings of the Urantia Book, and to dictate its policies.

Many things you have debated and discussed over the years. Many things you have thought of and discarded years ago, but you bring in new people and they do not know what has gone before. They are in the position of James, Jesus' brother. He was a good man but he was handicapped because he had not been with the Master and the apostles. He was always making speeches and rulings but he did not know what had gone on before. No one had confidence in him.

Be patient with an idealist; patience will do a great deal for them. As far as possible in dealing with them, see if you cannot win them to a greater body of truth. Expose them to the truth and you will carry many along with you.

We can always say to those who do not want an organization: Of course, you do not have to have one. You do not have to organize your little group. You can go on as you like. You cannot call your group a Urantia Society but you can call it a society for the study of the Urantia Book. But, of course, you are organized if you are so organized that you cannot join the Urantia Society. You are a minority organization that cannot join the majority organization.

The thing idealists and egotists will take particular offense at is the provision you have for turning people out. They do not want anyone to have power to turn them out of anything. They want to do as they please. You want to have respect for idealists but you don't want to have too much faith in them.

Think for a moment of the large number of warring and disgraceful organizations that would be in existence if you did not control the name Urantia and provide for some authoritative recognition. In your own group there may be those who are waiting to take off and start something personal; by organizing you minimize all of these dangers. Think of it in the future: One million simple-minded people in confusion and there are a dozen different organizations that want to do something for them about the Urantia Book. They will get literature from several different groups--each claiming to be the one and only true one. Perhaps several will have members on their governing boards who were Forumites that have violated their pledge of secrecy. That would be true if you did not occupy the field with an organized group. When there is an organized group, then it can speak to one million distracted souls. If such were in existence it can say to such people: You do not have to pay any attention to those others. You go ahead in your own way. You can be free. You can be your own boss and here is a charter to prove it.

As we said before, in Havona there is no organization. Just tell the idealists to be patient. There he will find what he wants without organization. If you had no organization and would give up the right to turn people out of it, the idealist would feel better about it, but you would have no right to create such an organization. You have in your Brotherhood organization one of the most consistent, liberal, fair plans for any movement that was ever devised. That doesn't mean it is perfect. But you are going to try out your organization as it is until you know more. Idealists expect an evolving animal to be more subject to spiritual leading than is possible. If there is some work that some idealists want to do, let them do it. Let them pursue their tangents. Idealists are to an organization what comets are to the solar system. They are spectacular but you can't depend on them. You cannot plan to receive from an idealist a regular income for a social organization, but he can go out and get a million dollars sometimes.

You are going to have a lot of them come along. Some ideists, but mostly idealists. Coming events cast their shadows before them. They will be operating on a spiritual level so you cannot argue with them. They are right. And they are right in theory but it won't work in practice. By the way, if you read the Urantia Papers all the way through you will find that the universe is very well organized, but in spite of all that organization there is some trouble here and there.

3. PAST AND PRESENT TESTS

COMPILED BY: Certain members of the General Council of Urantia Brotherhood.

FOR: The files of the Executive Committee of Urantia Brotherhood.¹

PRESENTED: 2 May 1955.to the Forum by William S. Sadler, Jr. [Original date of receipt unknown]

For a third time it seems appropriate to present to the Executive Committee certain wise comments and advices which have been gathered over a period of time and which pertain to the future problems of the Urantia Book and the Urantia Brotherhood. We submit the following:

In the past, you and your associates underwent the *testing of delay*. Not all stood the test well. Those who did not found their places filled with later arrivals. You have survived this season of lessened interest--this preliminary testing of delay.

Jesus' followers passed through this experience in Samaria before he was openly published to the world. Many of them lost interest. "Nothing of unusual import happened." Almost one half of them quietly dropped out. You have survived similar losses. We feel that all of this was a necessary part of the Providence selection of those who could be depended upon to bear sustained responsibilities with respect to the book and the Brotherhood.

So did you survive the preliminary *test of patience*. And then you encountered the next test. If your first test was the endurance of *delay*, the second test was that of *unity*. You are still undergoing this test. You see and feel so many things differently, and yet you are proving your ability to pursue a steadfast and unrelenting program for the organization of the Brotherhood and the dissemination of the Book. Such effectiveness on the part of such diverse human beings could be secured only by the adoption of a plan. Group activities are effective only when they are

organized or constitutionalized. You have been taught that we live in a universe run by law and regulated in accordance with the plans of the eternal purpose of the Gods.

Your particular mission is to function effectively through this transitional period which is witnessing the materialization of the book and which will lead to those future times when the social activities of Urantia believers will begin to function in the more formal organization of the Brotherhood. To do this effectively you must meet the *test of trust* and confidence. You must avoid suspicion as you would shun a deadly spiritual poison. You must make the practice of nipping suspicion in the bud. You must make sure that all short circuits of doubt and suspicion are avoided. In this manner may you keep your group intact.

Soon you are to encounter the *test of trustworthiness*. Do you have confidential capacity? Can you carry secrets, if necessary, to your graves? Again and again, when special experiences occurred in the work of Jesus and the twelve, he solemnly enjoined them, "See that you tell no man." This pertains especially to the question of origin of the book.

4. YOUR BAPTISM OF JOYS AND SORROWS

[This is a continuation of the message presented to the Forum by William S. Sadler, Jr., on May 2, 1955]

You are a pioneer group; you are trail blazers. You are the first of your kind. The experience which awaits you is unprecedented, therefore it is unpredictable.

It is high time that you begin the rehearsal of your attitude as it is to be manifested at the time of the publication of the book. You as individuals and as a group are concerned only with the *teachings* of the book. The *origin* of the book is the concern of others. You have been instructed to remain silent concerning aught you may chance to know about the origin of the *Urantia Book* throughout the remainder of your lives.

You have been called to do a great work and yours is the transcendent privilege of presenting these papers to the people of our strife-torn world.

Supercilious scientists will ridicule you and some may even charge you with collusion and fraud. Well-meaning religionists will condemn you as enemies of the Christian religion and will accuse you of defaming Christ himself. Thousands of spiritually hungry souls will bless you for the message of the book, and thousands of others will condemn you for disturbing their theologic complacency.

Are you ready for the baptism of joys and sorrows which will certainly attend upon the early distribution of the *Urantia Book*?

Many strange isms and queer groups will seek to attach themselves to the *Urantia Book* and its far-flung influence. Your most trying experiences may well be with such groups who will so loudly acclaim their belief in the teachings of the book and who will so persistently seek to attach themselves to the movement. Great wisdom will be required to protect the newly forming Brotherhood from the distracting and distorting individuals, some well-intentioned and some sinister, who will strive to become a part of the authentic constituency of the Urantia Brotherhood.

We can really forecast very little about the reaction of the present generation to the teachings of the *Urantia Book*. But on the negative side, you can greatly lessen your persecution and ridicule by a reasonable exercise of foresight and wisdom. Your troubles will be greatly lessened if we avoid all discussion of the origin of the book. You should be determined to know but one thing--the soul-saving message of the book.

On the positive side, your responsibility consists in becoming so saturated with the fragrant truth of these teachings that all persons coming into contact with you will feel that you are truth lovers and spiritual explorers, that you are cosmic citizens engaged in the fascinating adventure of searching for God, and dedicated to the supreme passion of doing his divine will.

END NOTES FOR APPENDIX IX: ORGANIZATIONAL MESSAGES

¹ [Imen.]