

Appendix VIII

Messages – Introduction [06/12/2015]

It will be helpful for readers to know that, in addition to *The Urantia Book*, the revelators provided their perspective on dissemination for then current and potential leaders of the Urantia movement. The celestial overseers were unable to estimate how the book would be received by leaders and members of established religions. They urged patience and steady growth in the early years, sharing the book and its teachings by personal means instead of through elaborate programs to publicize the book. The preferred means of dissemination in the early years was person-to-person. But most of all, they urged that we study the methods Jesus employed with his apostolic corps and how he introduced the gospel to his followers.

“Hearsay” or “Apocrypha?”

The “messages,” “communications, or “mandates” mentioned throughout these articles are portions of “white papers,” most of which were intended for training of leaders. They are not “apocrypha” or “hearsay.” The dictionary definition of apocrypha is: “writings, statements of doubtful authorship or authenticity.” There was no doubt among the contact commissioners about the source of these messages.

In the paper *History of the Urantia Movement*, 1960, attributed to the human contact commission, they wrote that “over a seventeen-year period eight written communications were given to the Seventy.” These written or oral messages met some or all of the following criteria:

1. They came to the same group of persons known as the contact commissioners who received the Urantia Papers. They arrived by the same techniques as the Urantia Papers.
2. They were provided by the same unseen celestial beings who provided the text of the book.
3. Whether oral or written, they were presented by or in the same voices or handwriting over the 45 year period.
4. They reveal events that occurred after the completion of the text of *The Urantia Book*.

5. They were not intended to be part of *The Urantia Book*.
6. They are time-limited, but are not necessarily out of date.
7. They were intended to inform and guide future readers and leaders of the Urantia organizations in the early years.
8. They are consistent with the teachings of *The Urantia Book*.

Four Periods or Phases of Communications

There were four main periods of communications, some of which overlapped:

1. 1900 (?) – 1924: The pre-papers period during which the revelators provided written and verbal information to the future contact commissioners to establish trust.
2. 1925 – 1942: The period during which the Urantia Papers were being presented, reviewed, and finalized. Many informal oral communications also occurred.
3. 1939 – 1953: Eight formal “white papers” directed to the Seventy and shared with the Forum. Most written messages had a “burn notice” appended: “To be destroyed upon publication of *The Urantia Book*.”
4. 1953 – 1982: No written messages were received, but rare, brief oral messages occurred.

All of the *original messages* were destroyed at the direction of the revelators. Emma L. “Christy” Christensen, the last living contact commissioner carried out this order with the aid of two trusted associates.¹

Form and Format of Messages and Mandates

Most of the formal communications came in the form of handwritten pages which Christy then typed. *Photocopies of typed messages* that Christy was permitted to retain that supported the development of the commissioners' formal and official history were retained.²

The most important messages were the following:

Organizational Messages, See Appendix IX

1. Protection of the Name, Urantia (and copyright)
2. Some Problems Confronting a New Revelation
3. Past and Present Tests
4. Your Baptism of Joys and Sorrows.

The New Planetary Regent

1. Arrival of the New Regent of the Acting Planetary Prince. See Appendix X
2. Introduction to the Publication Mandate. See Appendix XI

Additional Revealed Information

1. The Oncoming Dispensation. See Chapter 1
2. The Selectmen See Chapter 1
3. The Spiritual Headquarters of Urantia, See Appendix XII

End Notes

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1. Christensen, Emma L., last living contact commissioner, died May 2, 1982; at request of revelators, Christy ordered their destruction by two trusted associates, Marian Rowley and Edith Cook, in April 1982.
 2. Christensen, E.L., oral remarks to Thomas Kendall and Barbara Newsom.