

# A Forum on Revelation, Channeling, and the Teaching Mission

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[What follows is a transcription of oral presentations by Bob Slagle, Gennie MacKinnon, and Byron Belitsos—three of the five speakers serving on this forum panel. Moderators were Lee Smith and Dolores Nice. Editorial comments are in brackets.]

(Bob Slagle introduction: Bob earned his Ph.D. in physiological psychology from the University of California at Berkeley in 1968. He then shifted emphasis with a post-doctoral fellowship in clinical psychology. He is presently a licensed psychologist, a licensed marriage-family-child counselor, and Professor of Psychology at Sonoma State University. He has been a *Urantia Book* reader for over 23 years. He is the author of *A Family Meeting Handbook* and *Tales of Joshua*. He hosts a *Urantia* study group in Sebastopol, California, and attends a separate group with teacher Jared.)

**Bob Slagle:** It's really an honor for me to be here and see so many old friends and acquaintances . . . I certainly am delighted to be here. I want to preface this by saying that I'm really here to share with you my personal experiences and, if possible, answer questions that you may have about this endeavor. All that I say is really my opinion and does in many cases have a written basis. I have written a paper, [*Welcome to Change*], which is over here on the corner of this front table, and any of you are welcome at one of the breaks to come up and take a copy. I see I have plenty of copies so you should all be able to take one if you would like. Much of the documentation for what I'm going to be talking about is given in the paper, so you may want to have a chance to look that over. I probably won't take the time to specify documentation in my talk with you today.

One year ago today, in Los Angeles, a being who introduced himself as Ham made an

announcement to a group of *Urantia Book* readers. I would like to read that to you, because it is really pretty much what I have as an introduction to this question, what is the teaching mission?

"The love of God enfolds us. The power of God protects us. And the presence of God watches over us. Wherever we are, He is. My profound and sincere greetings to all this evening. I am Ham. I have been commissioned to bring the light of truth and the understanding of our Father to *Urantia*. I am one of many teachers. All of us are awaiting the greater reception of our words and we are desirous of placing many teachings among you. Great is our mission. Understand this in your hearts. The time has arrived for an expanded level of truth to begin correction. We come, not for ourselves, no, indeed, rather, only in service of Michael. This day is, marks the beginning of the correcting time. Machiventa Melchizedek has arrived and has been duly inaugurated as acting Planetary Prince of *Urantia*, an assignment he has accepted from Michael. Long years we have waited this day. The Lucifer Rebellion is officially ended in Neadon. The circuits which have isolated your world are being reopened. All these changes are occurring. I am in accord with the plan of Michael. Happy and joyous is this day, blessed in the sight of our Lord. Gracious listeners, I bid you welcome to change. We mark the beginning of the reign of Prince Machiventa on this day. Questions are welcome, indeed, happy am I to serve you."

## Criteria for evaluating the Teaching Mission.

I'd like now to turn to the criteria that I am using in thinking about this issue and this

endeavor. The issues for me have been many. I started out learning about this almost two years ago, and I was entirely skeptical. I, in fact, set it aside, dismissed it, and have portrayed to you the story of my experiences over the past two years in the paper I have available for you. But I will mention some of the criteria that have been important to me in thinking through and responding and selecting truth. I want to emphasize that, for me, I take this material, I read it, or I listen to it if it's on tape, and I turn it over to the Spirit of Truth and I let drop those things that do not ring my bells. So much of the material that I've been exposed to and that some of you may know about is material that I've looked at and have selected a portion that I find rings my bells. And I have no hesitancy in dropping eighty or ninety percent or one hundred percent if that is the way it feels to me. So basically I have approached this the same way that I have approached other experiences where I felt that I was searching for truth or assessing truth in my spiritual life.

The integrity of coherence of any presentation that acclaims itself as truth to me is very important. And so I have looked at this material and the portions that I have selected as important for me in my life, I find to have **coherent**, logical, integrated, single-pointedness. A second criterion would be the **continuity**, continuity stretching over time and particularly continuity having to do with *The Urantia Book*. Much of the material that I have been exposed to is in the form of transcripts, some samples of which are upstairs on the table. You're welcome to take a look at those although they're just for examination. We did bring some copies of the Woods Cross transcripts, which are available at our cost.

To me, *The Urantia Book* is the normative revelation in my life. I am at a point in relation to *The Urantia Book* where I have no doubts about its reality, authenticity, genuineness that it is what it purports to be. So I don't take quite the same attitude toward *The Urantia Book*. I don't go through and pick and choose according to some inner criteria I have. Initially I did that, of course. If you read the margins of my first reading twenty-three years ago, you'd say, this guy must not even like this book in places. And, of course, second reading my margin—I use different color

pencils so it's a kind of little saga of reading *The Urantia Book*. And my second reading was, gee, why did I say that the first time? And as I've progressed through many, many readings now, there are many commentaries about the previous readings and I feel now that I'm definitely to the point where I accept *The Urantia Book* very nearly *verbatim*. I think there are a few minor errors.

As I had a very comical experience with a girlfriend years ago, we were sitting outside reading one day in the sun. We were reading I think around page 883 about the Bering Land Bridge. She's reading it, "Bering Land Bridge to the east." And I said, "West." And she says, "East." And we had quite a fuss. I said, "Why are you doing this? Why are you reading the wrong word? You have the book, it's right there." It took us, oh it took us a good argument before I went over and looked at her book and, to my astonishment, saw that hers said east and mine said west. So I have to make that small caveat, that there are some minor errors in *The Urantia Book* but, to me, that's exactly what they are.

Another criterion that I've considered is the **reasonableness or plausibility** of this material. Is it commensurate with *The Urantia Book*? Does it hold the value of good for my fellows and for my own soul growth? Is the material I'm going to speak to you about internally consistent and does it really align itself with the values as well as the information in *The Urantia Book*?

A fourth criterion that is important to me is its **experiential integrity**. And probably this is really the primary overriding criterion. We know from *The Urantia Book* that truth is experiential. And that each of our own personal experience is our final resting place for truth. I may tell you a lot of things, but if it doesn't ring true for you, what good will it be in your spiritual life. The reverse would be true also.

Another criterion to me is, does it manifest and show the **fruit of the spirit**? . . . Does this material offer high values for social dialogue? Can I relate to other religionists in a way and from a position where I'm able to serve them? Or does it take me into an elitist and protected posture? What I've found about

the material that I've selected from the vast material in what's called the Teaching Mission is that really it has minimal dogma. And recently when some Jehovah's Witnesses visited my house and I felt that, in good Jesusonian conscience, I couldn't turn them away for the third time. I invited them in. . . Oftentimes I literally set *The Urantia Book* on their laps, and watch them go through the table of contents, slowly, trying to find when it's ever going to end. Usually they set it aside. [After this encounter with the big book they] are usually reluctant to pull out their own documents, so, we talk for a while. But my dogma now has become so simple that I think it unnerved this last gentleman and his daughter when I told them my religion, I said it's simple, feel God's love and pass it on. So that's pretty much the dogma of what I have found in this mission called the Teaching Mission. Seek within, pass it on.

There are, of course, a long list of fruits of the spirit. And I feel that in my life, and in those of my associates, I see some of these fruits. Of course, as compared to you or anyone else, I may be still struggling in primitive darkness, but relative to my own baseline, I feel a new sense of joy and appreciation for God in my life.

And my final criterion, is it **inspirational**? To me, this is something that each person will have to judge for him or her self.

The question, on your brochure is, what is the Teaching Mission? So what I'd like to do is spend another moment, again reflecting my opinions, in this case to tell you what it is not. The Teaching Mission is not channeling. It is not a restatement of *The Urantia Book*. It is not elitist, it is open to all, to any child of God. It is not prophecy per se. It is certainly not perfect. It is not unprecedented. It is not short-term. And it is not without a sense of humor.

#### Excerpts from Teaching Mission transcripts

What I would like to do is to share directly some of the teachings so that you may gain a flavor-sense. I've selected various

topics, excerpts, and would like to read a few of these to you this afternoon.

"All spiritual teachings must be evaluated by their content, and not followed or rejected because of the celebrity of their supposed source. The time is long past on this planet when religion can be promulgated by asserting the authority of the teacher. The system of religious instruction was effectively demolished by the Master in Palestine and the later Protestant Reformation in Europe. Neither do we seek to create a star system of religious instruction. If he said it, it must be so. Such acceptance of any teachings does not lead to the kind of sincere searching and proving for oneself that we seek to promote. Again, it is must be the teachings themselves and the effect they have on the students' lives, and not the claimed authority of their source, that must be the final determinant in evaluating any religious teaching." (Will transcripts)

And then, since to me, our personal discernment of truth is dependent on [our using our Spirit of Truth]. I am so grateful for our Father Lord Michael's gift to us at the time he departed, or I should say at the time of Pentecost, when he was here as Jesus of Nazareth, and he poured out the Spirit of Truth. I know we all know that the Spirit of Truth leads us into all truth. Here are some passages about the Spirit of Truth that I'd like to share with you.

"The Spirit of Truth is the great comforter. It is like a gentle rain falling on your soul and can be called upon and fostered in each human's heart. The Spirit of Truth will never mislead you. It is able to teach the difference between spiritual truth and mere fact. When you are able to discern spiritual truth, all things reflect the truth, beauty and goodness of the Father. Even in the worst tragedy, which is only a fact, the Father's fingerprints can be detected when looking through the Spirit of Truth. And comfort becomes a reality, when one sees God in any human situation. As our Creator Son lived to show man to God, and God to man, and was brought to a heinous crossing by the mortals of the realm, His loving apostles and disciples and other followers secluded themselves from the wrath of the Jewish authorities in Jerusalem at that time.

When the Master appeared in his morontial forms the followers were overcome with joy. But still they remained waiting for his promised spiritual bestowal. And after forty days, at the feast, the Jewish feast of the Pentecost, the spirit was indeed bestowed. But not only to the loyal followers of the Christ. The Spirit of Truth was a gift of the Son to all mankind who sought truth and oneness with God. The spirit so inspired and mobilized the believers in Jesus, that they immediately were filled with the overwhelming desire to preach the Gospel. Although they forgot the message, the pure message of Jesus, which is, God is Father and all mankind is children of this loving Father, brothers and sisters in this spiritual family, they did preach the resurrection of the Master and the gates opening to all humans who would accept Him as a deity.

The Spirit of Truth was not bestowed only upon one class, one religion, one race, one sex, it was and is bestowed upon every ascendant child of time who sincerely hungers for enlightenment, truth, beauty, goodness and God. The spirit is not ever perceived by the mortal mind, heart, soul as the Spirit of Truth, but merely creates an awareness and hunger to know more about Michael of Nebadon, the Son. Every generation receives a new outpouring of the spirit to ensure that the Fatherhood of God, Brotherhood of Man concept shall never be lost on this planet. The spirit is bestowed upon all who are faith sons and daughters. However, the spirit is not equal in its bestowal, but only equal to the capacity to receive truth. Prayer, while not affecting the Spirit of Truth, does affect your receptivity to its leadings. Therefore, through prayer, my brothers and sisters, you will increase your capacity to receive and detect ever higher levels of truth and deity. The Spirit of Truth also takes away the loneliness of the God-seeking mortal. For as you have had Jesus here walking on Urantia, living among its people, breaking bread, teaching lessons, if He had not sent his spirit, you would feel an emptiness in your souls. The Spirit of Truth also allows all mankind to find God. As Jesus portrayed man reaching Godward, the Spirit of Truth is the Son, reaching manward, and leading us to Son recognition. When the evolutionary religions make intuitive leaps forward in understanding, it is due to the presence and leading of the

spirit. No generation shall be lost if they indeed have a spark which leads them Godward.

To understand the Spirit of Truth, we must understand that times and world conditions change. Therefore, we have more than the life of Jesus, the Man-God, to derive inspiration from. Jesus revealed man's perfection amidst the times and people he lived in. The Spirit of Truth will show you your perfection amidst the world and peoples you live in, which are vastly different from the times of the Master on Urantia. However, the higher truth, the hunger for God, faith-filled vision, prayer, brotherhood, and service, and loving kindness, mercy, compassion, remain always the fruits of the Spirit of Truth, to see the spirit working in your life, observe the fruits of the spirit. Do you need more compassion? Do you need more service? Stronger, deeper faith? More unselfish love? Prayer will open the channel, and in time the fruits will grow in your lives. My brothers and sisters, I pray for you to be more faith-filled and less self-filled. It is the human condition to battle the ego versus the spiritual mind. Observe your lives, and correct the manifestations of lower character, using the wonderful, powerful, helper sent from Michael himself to enrich your souls and make the world a more spiritual abode."

I'd like to read you a little excerpt about faith. Not all of the excerpts are kind of like *The Urantia Book* revisited, and I found this one rather delightful on faith.

"Think children, of a seed, tiny, self-contained, in a packet with other seeds, not knowing any other existence, feeling secure inside a little space, seeing around others and deriving comfort. If the seed had consciousness that is what would be felt. Safe within a prison, not knowing that it is mostly potential, feeling this was the existence. Now, a hand reaches in, picks one seed and places the seed away from its fellows, from its tiny home into darkness and the earth. This seed would feel frightened, persecuted by the hand, why me, it would say, why have I been hurt like this, why cannot I remain in the perceived easier existence of seed-dom? The seed would begin to change in the earth, it would be painful at times as a transformation growth occurs. It

would be lonely. It would be agondonter-like, because it can no longer see its fellows. It would be feel abandoned, despairing, doubting and questioning of the cruelty of its existence. What the seed cannot know is what it is becoming. That after much struggle upward through an environment which feels crushing, which is much physically heavier than the seedling, which involves perseverance, courage, strength, it will see the light, the warm sunlight, the fresh air and its brethren around arrayed in the colors of God, blowing in the wind free, well cared for by the hand of God. This is faith. This is what is asked of you children, faith. In the darkest hours which each of you will go through, your faith in the sunlight, in the watchcare, in the assurance of what you are becoming, will get you through."

Let me quote a little bit more. This is about the Father.

"Wherever you look, when traveling the Father's road, the majesty and intricacy of his creation stands forth boldly. The Father's plan is complete, notwithstanding the apparent conflicts which exist in your world. The Father must allow for adversity in the spiritual growth experience, so to cause His children to feel confidence in the faith which they hold as a result of belief in his wisdom and leadership. Untested faith is only incipient faith, not wholly formed, nor useful. The only equitable way for the Father to allow adversity to affect the lives of His children is through the mechanism of chance. Many, though not all, of the misfortunes which befall the people are the result of this random, impersonal mechanism. There is no reason why some are born high, while others are lamed. It is simply chance. *The Urantia Book* teaches that no matter how much institutional charity exists, it will be insufficient to solve the problems of the damaged and bereft in your society. It will not suffice because what is needed is not professional service, but personal service. The Master certainly had the wherewithal to establish institutions of service. Such institutions existed under the patronage of the Jewish leaders, then as now, showing little result. The Master, whose life was perfectly pleasing to the Father, ministered to people and those such as he encountered as he passed by. This you shall teach to the people, to open their hearts to their brothers and sisters, those living in the woods and by-ways, provide them

shelter and hope, and the example of the Father's love brought to life on earth."

And this is a teaching on friendship.

"Today, we have a short lesson on friendship. What is friendship? Friendship is perhaps the highest human relationship that can exist on Urantia. It is the desire to serve one's fellow human and that human's desire to serve you. Service is not duty. It is loving kindness. It involves no obligation. It involves no shoulds. It involves no have-tos. It comes from love, the love of one human for another, to put their good first. It has no price tag, true friendship. It is freely given and gratefully received as the great gift of time. It comes from understanding. When you feel annoyance, irritation, hurt, conflict, you must spiritually stop and reflect and pray to understand that person, for when you understand, tolerance begins. Tolerance is a fruit of the spirit. Now once tolerance, real tolerance, exists in the human, then love grows. It is the door to love. Some personalities are easily understood, intuitively, others require more work. Theoretically, every personality has the capacity to love every other. But in actuality that remains not so. or potential until far into your ascendant career. But we may begin consciously practicing friendship right now. Do not underestimate this word children, it is what kept the apostles together, not faith, not teachings, not association with the Creator Son in human form. It was simple and glorious friendship. Friendship, the cement of loyalty, the insurer of love, the bond which cannot be broken. Friendship can exist not only among your species, but you may also be friends with your angels. Think of God as a friend, children, and do not neglect your service to him. We may say we are respectful toward others because they contain a piece of the Father. That is true. But it has not deep roots in the human heart. You do not yet believe you contain this piece in yourself. How then can you believe in another, truly believe it, and act on it? Thus, we must approach spiritual living from a different standpoint, the standpoint of tolerance, friendship, love. Every partnership, throughout your ascension career, will be based on these qualities. Indeed, when you reach mansonia, your companions will be, of course, your guardian seraphim, but when you are not with them, your closest companions

will be the transition seraphim, who are visiting or unassigned seraphim of friendship. They will teach you much. They want to be your friends."

And this is a little excerpt about Michael's Gospel.

"Michael's Gospel is the living Gospel. It cannot be captured on paper. It can rarely be communicated in words. Michael's Gospel, the Gospel of the life and the love of the Heavenly Father, can only be experienced, never described. It does not lend itself to analysis. Michael's Gospel can be found in the experiences between people and the experience between persons and their Maker. It is an insight into life itself that glimpses into eternity, and in experience and the realization of the essential nature of the Father. Little that we can say in meetings such as this is useful to you in that regard. Your regular quiet time, your stillness practice, is like a vehicle to seed you and guide you for this experience."

And, with my own interest in family and children, I'd like to read you a little excerpt of one of Ham's communications on marriage.

"Intimate association with another person enables us to achieve that thoroughgoing understanding of another person which is excelled, of course, by God, but by few others, and in few other situations. Children are known thoroughly in their infancy, of course, and early childhood. But as they mature and begin to lead their own lives, this intimacy is no longer there and understanding may be incomplete. In the ideal of true marriage, this is the situation. There is complete forgiveness and understanding with both parties so that minor misunderstandings are trivial. There is the most sublime spiritual association between two people that is ever achieved in mortal life. And this spiritual intimacy and supreme confidence borne by understanding is extremely comforting and helpful to both people. Further, with an equal spiritual level between the two, there is the joy of spiritual discovery together, and growth. This intimacy on the spiritual level is growth promoting, because of the understanding between the two. On such intimate levels of understanding, such tender emotions may be evinced but allow the tender shoots of one subtle person to grow in shelter. Yes, there are

intimate aspects of life which cannot and should not be shown to the world, but are nurtured in the comfort of sharing with another sympathetic soul. This I believe is greatly desirable in the general conquest of the circles which requires the entire personality to be uplifted. Many parts of the soul and personality are extremely intimate, and their blossoming and growth requires time in an unjudgmental and comforting atmosphere such as between husband and wife."

I think I'll read one more excerpt and then shortly turn the podium over to my associate Gennie.

"Long ago, on your planet, people in the Northern Hemisphere recognized that although the picture presented among the stars in the nighttime sky was changing throughout the course of the night, there was one star around which all things rotated. That one star was reliable. It appeared every night in exactly the same place and no matter the motion of the other stars, that polestar could be relied upon until the morning sun dawned. The polestar is not a bright star. It is rather dim. But it is just as reliable. Knowledge of the polestar made life more reliable for those people. It did not make it any easier. They had a more sturdy tool for navigating the passages of life, but it did not take them there. They had a method of transiting from one learning experience to another, but the polestar itself did not provide the experience. The polestar provided the opportunity. You are responsible for your spiritual growth. The first source and center has provided you an opportunity. He is reliable. He is always there. Even when the blazing sun rises, He is still there, you just cannot see Him. Your reliance upon that polestar is a tool for navigating the passage of life."

And I'd like to wind up my little portion here with this prayer from the teaching transcripts.

"Now my brothers and sisters, let us pray. Universal Father, thank you for life, for the bestowal of your divinity, for personality, for soul, for mind, for the mercy of the Son and the ministry of the Mother. Thank you for the adventure of time and space and the potential of eternity. Our hearts long to sit someday in your presence. To worship you is

the most sublime gift we can give. We worship you now, Father, in our humbleness, smallness, oneness and farness. And the act of worship makes us as one with your greatness, your wisdom, your love, your compassion, your mercy, infinity and eternity. Thank you for the miracle."

[Introduction of Gennie MacKinnon: Gennie is a high school English teacher from Westwood (Lasson County) California. She is a twenty-three-year reader of *The Urantia Book* and presently resides in Sonoma County where she attends teacher Jared's group in Sebastopol.]

**Gennie MacKinnon:** I'd like to start off by saying how delighted I am to be here and I'm having a little bit of a problem with all of this because I've been a high school teacher for a long time and when I look around and I see all of these people paying attention, it's almost like too much. You know, I'm going to have culture shock, so if some of you can manage to do a little talking on your own, and a few spit wads going by every now and then will probably help out a whole bunch. But in case that doesn't happen, I'll try to manage as best, [a spit wad flies by], hey there we go, all right. Now I feel more at home.

I would like to start out by saying there's a lot of you that I know here and a lot that I don't know. Bob I have known each other since we were seven-years-old. And I just thought I'd tell you a little bit of a story about him. He and I decided to caravan across the Southwest a few years ago. We were each taking our own car, because once we got where we were going we'd be doing different things and perhaps not coming back together. So we decided to caravan. And so in order to do this we got a couple of CB radios so we could talk to each other. You know, "Hey, good buddy, what's happening up ahead?" That kind of thing. And I had lived with a CB radio before back in the days when I lived up in the mountains in snow country, and sometimes that was my only contact with the outside world. So I had a handle, I called myself Snowbird. I had lived up where there was lots of snow, so I felt that was justified.

Bob didn't have a handle, so he says, you know, what am I going to call myself? Well, I gave it some thought, and what I came up with for him was Finder, and I was very

pleased about that because he certainly has been a finder in my life. I mean, he has gone out and anything that came down through the, what shall we call it, the spiritual flow, he would tap into it and pull it out and say, hey, you know, I just found this new thing, you've got to come over and check it out. And he has brought all kinds of things to my attention over the many, many, many years that we've known each other. So I respect that and stay open to it. After all, he's the one that introduced me to *The Urantia Book*, he's the one that introduced me to Gandhi and other really wonderful things that have been part of my life.

So when he came up with this thing about a teaching mission, I sort of reluctantly paid attention. Actually, when he first mentioned to me it was in a fairly humorous context. It was something about ectoplasmic entities that entered rooms and tapped in and, you know, and I said, you've been watching too many Star Treks, Bob, you know. Well, but it hung around. And he kept talking about these things. And so then there were these tapes that you could listen to. Well, I have to say I'm very reluctant to listen to people talk on tape, so when he said to me one day, I want you to sit down and listen to this I thought, don't you understand with me listening to music, you want me to listen to somebody's voice on tape. Okay, I will, I'll do it. He was really kind about it. But I said, just a few minutes of it. And he says, it's okay, five minutes, no more than five minutes, I promise, and then we'll stop after that, and if you can't handle the five minutes, you let me know and we'll stop it even sooner than that. So I'm kind of gritting my teeth and I'm saying, okay, you know, I've really got to stay open to this, so I'll go along with it.

So what he did was he played for me one of the earlier tapes of Ham. Ham was the first teacher in this country who was teaching through Woods Cross in the Woods Cross group at the time. And he played this excerpt on faith and I have to admit that I thought that it was rather good. It got my attention. I never at any point said, wait, stop, that's enough, I can't handle any more, turn it off. So I was definitely intrigued by the content. I had to admit that this was something that was tweaking my interest. He said, I'm going to play this to you, Ham on faith, and it's just a couple of minutes long. So sort of in the back

of my mind I began formulating well, now let's see, if I were going to give a talk on faith what would I have to say about it? You know, I've read *The Urantia Book* for twenty-three years so I have a lot of things that I could come up with. And let me just read to you, it's only one paragraph, I'll do the same with you as Bob did with me, it's not long, I promise it won't go on endlessly. Well, this was what Ham had to say.

"Faith in the Heavenly Father is a transforming experience. Faith is the channel through which the mortal perceives the eternal Father. It is the living link between the two so far separated. Without faith, there is no growth. Faith revitalizes and rejuvenates the body, mind and soul. Faith is opening the door of the heart and mind and allowing spiritual presence entrance. Faith is the active grabbing of spiritual truth, the active incorporation of spiritual reality into one's very being. It is the ladder to the infinite. Faith is active and requires activity on the part of the faith-believer. In order to utilize spiritual currents of the universe, one must actively seek and use them. What purpose is this ladder if you don't climb it? Faith is the use of the living God-presence. His spiritual presence is always with us, yet it requires faith to utilize this presence. Faith is strengthening by its very nature. Faith is supreme, the supreme will-dominant factor in spiritual progress. Faith is man reaching up to God and God reaching down to man. Faith, the reach of faith must be made to take that hand. Faith utilizes the vast storehouse, rather the spiritual bath of energy which envelops us always, surrounds and unfolds us. One may have intellectual recognition of this, but faith is the active daily utilization of this truth. Faith is only limited by yourselves. Faith can be boundless. It is immeasurable. It is the free will act of choice, of choosing first to seek God, second to understand God, third to appreciate God, and fourth to actively seek to do his will. Faith is the act of making his will your will and this act is the greatest liberation man can know."

So I thought that was pretty good. I figured I couldn't do anything quite that good myself if I were to try to put together something on faith. So I was definitely intrigued. And I sort of thought maybe I'll continue to check this out. One thing I'm aware of, when you try to introduce somebody

to *The Urantia Book* for the first time who has never read the book before and they start saying well, who wrote this book, and you say, oh, well, there's Brilliant Evening Xstars, and there's Divine Counselors, and there's counselors of wisdom and seraphim and midwayers and on they go, I don't believe this stuff. So I'm not going to look at the content of this book because I don't believe that these authors could really be what they say they are. I've seen that happen so many times that I didn't want to be at fault in doing that myself, saying, I don't believe these can be ascendant sons from other planets that are really talking to us now. I thought, I'm going to check it out and see. I'm intrigued enough that I'm going to pursue it and find out whether or not it has value to me.

So, I read more transcripts. I've read a lot of transcripts. I did make journeys to talk to some of the other teachers, have opportunity to have private conversations with them, you know, where you get together all of your spiritual questions, all these things you've just been dying to ask somebody, and you go and you ask these teachers and you get these really profound, wonderful answers that you go back and listen to the tapes over and over again. And I have found it to be, as I say, very intriguing, and I'm very pleased with the level that I find of, the level of reality, let me say, of the content of these sort of things. So I've been excited about it. Again, right now, what I'm dealing with is the content and the fact that the teachers often say, teachers from all over the different United States, will say similar messages. In particular, and I didn't bring one of them with me because it ends up being a lot of pounds to tote around with you, but one of the teachers talks about the importance of making those leaps of faith, the importance of taking spiritual risks, because that's when you really get in contact with your Thought Adjuster. You know, the Thought Adjuster can't do much to influence your past, you've already made those decisions, and what decisions you make in the future depends on what is brought to you, so to be really in the presence of the Thought Adjuster you've got to really be in the moment because that's where the Thought Adjuster has the most impact. So I kind of really was, you know, getting with that whole idea, going out and taking spiritual risks, that sounds like a lot of fun. I came across this part that one of the teachers said,



though, that kind of gave me a little bit of a pause to think because, well let me just read this to you.

It says, "Many holy men and women have gone through periods of great soul darkness while they were being born of the spirit. This is an active fight. This is not passive. You are at war with your lower nature. Ah, but the victory for your Adjuster, for you, for your soul. It may last humans, in human terms, years and years. That is what born again really means. It is an actual occurrence, a transmutation of nature that is not won without struggle." Then—this is what he—the part that really got me—it says, "First sit in the silence of prayer and rededicate your wills to the Father, examine your commitment and then pray for life to force your spiritual hand." I thought, that is really exciting. I don't know if I have that much courage, but I'm at the point where I can say, all right, life, I'm ready, come on, force my spiritual hand. But I appreciate the sentiment. It's like it gave me an intention and a direction of a way to want to go to have that experience of really living on the cusp of the moment where you trust your Adjuster to lead you every step of the way. And I don't mean that the Adjuster won't clue you in that there are times that you need to plan for the future and make future arrangements, but you're not going to know that ahead of time. You have to wait for the Adjuster literally to guide you every step of the way.

So I found this to be exciting. I found it to be stimulating. It kind of got me going on wanting to read more, ways of looking at things that I found were very helpful, such as, "When you, yourself, regret or have shame or guilt remember that God does not. You are cherished, the children of time, and are designed to make mistakes. The only mistake of any real consequence is the decision not to seek God. The challenges and pitfalls and regressions of your earth career are all to the good. They are part of the supreme and part of your gift to the perfect Adjuster." I found that a wonderful way of looking at mistakes. I don't know about you guys, but I have a lot of trouble with my own mistakes. And when I start thinking that my mistakes are part of the plan and part of my gift to the Supreme and to my Adjuster and to my soul, then I think that,

you know, that makes me feel really good about it all.

Also, about adversities, and so forth, it says things like, "what you think are your afflictions are really your blessings. Children the spiritual life is hard." This will remind you of page 51 of *The Urantia Book*. "You invite hardships, challenges to overcome, your soul is not gently formed, children, but honed of steel. Disappointment, grief, defeat, discouragement, fear, anger, devastation, challenges, this is the tempered steel of the morontia soul. Not the afflictions themselves, but the spiritual transcendence and growth which comes from what you view as trouble. Someday you will see the blessings, children, and you will reap the rewards of your faith-filled days. Although while you are here the suffering is real to you, and all-encompassing, I am trying hard to lift you above this to a causement perspective. So little is asked from you, so much is given. You have an army of spiritual soldiers standing by your side. When you go through difficulties, call on your army. Remember they are here to help you. With God, children, nothing is impossible. God has given you this time, this date, this moment, this will, this choice, this life. Be more thankful even especially in the hard moments."

So I found these things to be things that I could really relate to and feel positive about. There's nothing new here in what I just read. I know that you will recognize things that you already know from *The Urantia Book*. But what it has done to me is that it's vivid. It's inspiring, it's alive, it's exciting. So, in my experience of the Teaching Mission, what I came to was that the content has a lot of value to me. I find it inspiring me, I kind of like the analogy of it being sort of like the universe broadcasts of love where they're not maybe giving you new factual information each day, but they are feeding you inspiration and new perspectives and greater joy through this sort of thing. So I'm quite comfortable with the spiritual content.

However, there is this other issue of what really is the source of these teachings. Where are they really coming from? Are these people, as they claim, ascendant sons from other planets who are now able to come and talk to us and communicate with us because our planet is no longer in isolation? One of the

interesting things to think about this, and I really appreciate Salvator for phrasing it so well, "We know from reading *The Urantia Book* that this will happen someday. Someday there will come a time when the Lucifer Rebellion is adjudicated and this planet is taken out of isolation. We know this will happen. If it happens during our lifetime, will we know? And if we do know, how will we know?" So I think that that's a very interesting question and it keeps my mind open. I'm still at the point where I'm continuing to explore this and to stay open-minded to all explanations. I have no emotional investment in saying this is a teacher or this isn't a teacher. I've gotten a lot of spiritual strength from the content, but to explore this issue of where it comes from is really interesting. To me, it's an adventure that like crossed my path and intrigued me and so I kind of decided to sign up for it and say, yeah, I think this is an adventure that's worth checking out. So I'm going to go explore it and see what I can find out about it. The more I know the better.

So I did traveling around to different groups and talking to different teachers. We now have a teacher called Jared that talks to us in our Santa Rosa group. So I have had in the past, just a little bit over a year, I guess you'd say, quite a bit of experience with this sort of thing. And I have found certain things that seem to apply in all cases in all groups and to all teachers. One is that the goal and the message is consistent. The most important thing that they're always hammering at is, if you will, to listen to your Thought Adjuster, to get in touch with God, to follow divine guidance, seek the stillness. Our teacher, Jared, has told us that so many times that I sometimes even wake up in the middle of the night going, seek the stillness, you know, it's like, it has really been drummed into my head. And I have to admit that I didn't do it before. I was not one who was a meditator. I had tried it, oh, Transcendental Meditation, and at various times in my life sort of dabbled with it, but never with the kind of dedication that I do now, when I just really feel I can't get through the day without sitting down and listening for that inner guidance. So that's the, that is one of the very first main things they emphasize.

The second thing is that each one of us is unique and beautiful and cherished. And I find that to be really helpful even though it's

not new, the emphasis on it I find to be reassuring, and it also kind of brings me to see my brothers and sisters even more as unique and beautiful and I appreciate them more that way. Then the third thing that they consistently emphasize as being the goal is the mission is that you go out and you do these little acts of kindness. Now you don't have to limit yourself to little acts of kindness. If you feel called upon to do big acts of kindness, of course, go out and do those too. But even just the little things, you know, like you're in traffic. And there's somebody that needs to get out into this lane, and they've been sitting there and sitting there and so you let them go. You let them in in front of you. Somebody's parking meter runs over and they're going to get a ticket, so you go stick a dime in and then you let them puzzle about how this happened. You know, any little thing that comes along, every single opportunity that you can grab to be good to somebody you do it. And I think that this is, I mean, what they say is that they're here to help transform the world through transformed individuals. And in *The Urantia Book* it talks about, I think it's page 1098, the benign virus of love, that once it gets in the emotion stream, it really will quickly transform what's going on on this planet and I see this as being very much what their goal is to get people going with how wonderful love is and how much we can do with these little acts of kindness.

The second thing that I found was consistent with all of the groups and all of the teachers that I've listened to and read is that it's extremely high quality and the spontaneous answers that are given to questions just dazzles my mind. It's like there's no way that these teachers know ahead of time what questions are going to be asked and yet they can give the most incredibly complete, high spiritual, wonderful perspective answers to these things that just come out spontaneously. And as an English teacher I have to appreciate that the way that they are able to speak is wonderful. Their English grammar is quite fine. There's hardly ever an error that I find and, you know, I'm an English teacher, and I thought, well, you know, I'm pretty good at this, I've done a lot of transcribing questions and so forth from the groups. I find that I talk in run on sentences. Everything I say is one long sentence. And that seems to be true of most of us. Except the teachers always somehow

manage to talk in complete sentences that are not run-on sentences. Occasionally they'll botch a who or a whom, no big deal, other than that, you know, it really comes out very beautifully stated. So I was struck by that because that happens to be my particular error—area.

The third thing that I found that I appreciate about them so much is that they present models of love. I mean, it's always wonderful to—I'm very tempted to say to see a model of love. Of course, I don't actually see them with my eyes because they're invisible. But the way they relate to people in groups is—I've learned a great deal from it. There's no question that they don't [tape unclear]. It doesn't matter how botched you may phrase it as you try to get it out, or how silly it may sound, they come up with the most profound answers that are just really very inspiring. They totally do not judge us. I mean, I'm guilty of judging, you know, all the time I'll think, oh, that's a silly question, why is that person asking that. And the teacher will come up with this answer that just absolutely is so enlightening and so thrilling and I realize that I was just not being open. So I've learned a lot of respect for individuals, a lot more love, of not being judgmental, of being more respectful, and just to watch the loving interaction between the teacher and the student. Again, because I've been a teacher I'm more aware of these kinds of things. But I've just been very impressed with how loving they are to each and every person that comes. So it has been a great role model and I've enjoyed that a whole bunch.

Another thing that has happened to me, and I see happening to other people, is that talking to these ascendant beings gives you even more a sense of cosmic citizenship. Of course reading *The Urantia Book* we know that there are these beings around helping us, they're guardian angels, they're midwayers, they're Melchizedeks, they're just the social architects, all these wonderful influences. But somehow, when you have the feeling that you're actually talking to one and communicating with one, it kind of like makes this all very much come alive so that cosmic citizenship becomes, to me, even more of a reality, whether it's just stimulating my imagination and it's just building on top of *The Urantia Book* or not I don't know. And it

doesn't matter a whole lot to me because it's something that I experience and my experience is something that I really treasure, this feeling of being closer to all of these other beings. And I feel a lot closer to Michael. I feel like I talk to him and he talks back. Not just through a transmitter but, you know, within me, not just as the Spirit of Truth, but as a personal Presence. I don't mean by that that he like leaves Salvington and comes down and is physically present with me in any sense, I don't think that's true. But I can still sense a personal presence that I can communicate with that just wasn't part of my experience beforehand. It may be part of yours, you know, I'm just giving you my own personal responses and what I've been through with all of this.

So I found that whatever the origin of these teachings are, the fruits in my own life have been very much appreciated. I feel inspired. I feel like I'm growing and I'm still intrigued. I don't know. I don't have the answer as to what this is. There is some extraordinary phenomenon going on here. I am a truth-seeker, so I'm staying open to all possibilities. Whatever it is, the good news is I don't have to be afraid. I really can check this out without fear, because being a truth-seeker, and being as I'm seeking God, I know that he's going to guide me through this to find the truth. So it's not like I have any fear of losing something if I check this out.

And I did figure out early on that I couldn't stand back and say, I don't believe this. Because if I did, then I'd be ruling out the possibility and I wouldn't learn anything. So I really had to at least make the commitment of being open and saying, I don't really know, but I'm willing to be open, to listen to it, to check it out, to take it on as an adventure, to find out where it goes, to have no fear because the Spirit of Truth is guiding me. And so, like I say, it's a great adventure and I have felt that this is something I wanted to sign up for and that I wanted to check out. It's something that each person has to decide for themselves experientially. There is no way, I think, that you can know aside from your own experiences with this, with the teachers, with the transcripts. It's the kind of thing that may not appeal to people at all. Somebody might feel like they don't even want to check it out. And that's fine.

There is absolutely no compulsion that anybody should feel about having to check these things out. If you check it out a little bit and you find out it doesn't speak to you, it doesn't inspire you, that's fine too. There's no problem whatsoever with that. Obviously, as *Urantia Book* readers, we have a whole lot in common. We have this wonderful goal that we're all working towards, and I think that for some people within the *Urantia* movement to be involved in the Teaching Mission and some not, I hope really does not turn out to be a problem in any way, because obviously two people could walk down the same path and they're both being led by the Spirit of Truth and they're both heading toward the same goal. And at some point in walking along this path, they may split, and go different ways. It doesn't mean that the Spirit of Truth goes with this person and not with this person just because they're going on different paths. You know, they're still being led. The Spirit of Truth will still lead you if you want it to. And for some people the Spirit of Truth may say, come follow this Teaching Mission and for some the Spirit of Truth will say, no, this isn't where it's at for you. And I think it's really important for everybody to realize that that can be the case and not to feel like we all have to either go with it or not go with it.

So, that's one of the most important things to me is that people not let this be a divisive issue. For those of us that feel like checking it out, you know, let us explore it. You can learn from us, even if what you learn is that, hey, we were really silly to do this to begin with. On the other hand, if it isn't something that you want to check out, there are no judgments from people in the Teaching Mission that well, you really should have been part of this. You know, we're all on our way to God. Each path is unique and each path is special and beautiful. And it really doesn't matter if this happens to speak to you, fine, and if it doesn't, that's just fine too. So what I really wanted to do was just to share my little bit of experiences with this and say that to me it has been extremely inspiring. I really recommend Bob's paper. He did an excellent job of explaining a lot more in depth. I think with him reading transcripts and me giving you a quick overview, it may not answer a lot of questions that people have, but in the paper that he's written I think he covers it really well.

So, that's all I have to say about it and thank you very much.

[Next, David Kantor and Bob Blackstock each gave a 45 minute presentation. David did a scholarly review of many theological and philosophical thinkers of the past and their views: "The Revelatory Process in Historical Perspective." Bob did a presentation on Jungian thinking, "A Psychological Perspective on the Revelatory Process." A version of his interpretation of Carl Jung's ideas was published in *Developments: Newsletter of the Golden Gate Circle of Students of The Urantia Book*, February 1993. My [Bob Slagle's] understanding is that neither Bob Blackstock nor David Kantor hold that the teaching mission transmissions are from actual ascendant personalities. Requests for the transcripts of these talks may be directed to The Golden Gate Circle Society, c/o Sara and Bob Blackstock, P. O. Box 460163 San Francisco, CA 94146-0163.

After the Kantor and Blackstock presentations, there were thirty minutes of further comments on the Teaching Mission. At this time, Byron Belitsos was asked to come up from the audience and share his views. Byron owns a communications business in Oklahoma. He is a long-time reader of *The Urantia Book*, was formerly a resident of the Bay Area, and presently attends a teacher group in Oklahoma.]

**Byron Belitsos:** I want to thank my friend Bob Slagle for inviting me to speak. I didn't know that I was going to be invited necessarily for today. I had prepared a paper that is upstairs, which was what I wanted to offer to my friends today about my experience with sort of a journey of coming to understand the Teaching Mission. Let me back up and say how delighted I am to be back in San Francisco. I moved away two years ago to the Midwest and I haven't seen many faces here for years and years. And it's a real delight to be back with my friends.

About six months ago I came to a place in my own evolution where I felt that there had to be something else than the path that we as a collective were pursuing, the way the *Urantia* movement was evolving. I had been involved for I think, at that point, eighteen years, with

the movement with *The Urantia Book*. And it has seen a lot of things come and go, a lot of wonderful experiences, and many catastrophes from which I derived quite a bit of growth. The cumulative impact of that evolution came to a head for me in the summer, last summer, when I looked inside myself and thought there must be something else, there must be something more than the structure that we had built and even than the wonderful blue book that we have. And it was at this moment that I thought, I got the idea, that well, maybe I should look at these channeled teachings. I mean it was the last thing I wanted to look at at the time. I had just a few months previous thrown a party at my house to which I invited everyone to come, which was a satire party on the channeling, on the mission. And in the paper that's upstairs, you'll see the invitation that I wrote, which is a very satirical sort of presentation inviting everyone to come and bring channeled messages. I literally had a contest at midnight for the best "channeled" message. And people had actually brought channeled messages, you know, mock channeled messages and read these channeled messages and we had a really good time. It was really a lot of fun. That is where I was at in May.

After a couple of months of various personal experiences, but also contemplating what is occurring in the Urantia movement and at the time, I should say, I was, I had just been asked to be the managing editor for *The Bulletin* for the Fellowship. So in that capacity, I had to go out and find stories to put into *the Bulletin* to report on and assign the stories to writers or, ultimately, to write them myself, 'cause it's hard to find people to write sometimes. So I was doing research for these various stories and got a kind of eagle-eye view of what's going on in the Urantia movement from the standpoint of a journalist or a reporter. And it was in that context that I began to think, this isn't what it's supposed to be. This couldn't be after fifty years of the revelation being in our hands, forty years of it being in our hands, there must be something more. There must be another plan. Someone, somewhere must have a plan. That it just became a passion and in one weekend I got from various, a few friends, including Berkeley Elliott in Oklahoma City, whatever transcripts she had and just started reading these things. And a whole new light and from

that point on I became a, like a reporter on the beat, trying to figure out what was going on out in the field in the United States, and if there was anything going on in other countries. And I'd put, brought to bear, the tools of a reporter which is simply to go and interview people and to read the primary, get to the primary sources, talk to the people face to face if you can. And if you can't do that, call them on the phone and talk to them and interview them.

And the first person that I was able, well, one of the first people I was able to do that with was Bob Slagle. I'd heard about him from I don't remember who, but I was just making my way around with phone calls and someone said, well, Bob Slagle's involved with this and maybe he can help shed light on this. So I happened to be in California on business and I met with Bob and fired a bunch of questions at him that I had written in my portable Macintosh and he really was able to answer the questions I had about the psychology of the phenomenon to the point that I became a little bit uneasy, if he remembers, and was really in a little tiny personal crisis with this, because he was able to answer these questions that I didn't think he had answers for. And he was very generous with his time. I spent about four or five hours going over and over various things and [he was] just snapping back with information when I asked for the information.

And if you begin to do research, there are people like Bob and many others who have thought about this because of their own experiences and have, you know, can present to you what the phenomenon actually is. Because what's important here is to, before applying theory, even historical analysis and psychological analysis, or concurrent with doing that, is to actually go out and get the information about what is actually going on. What I have found in discussing this with many of my friends is that they actually don't know what is going on, they don't, haven't had time because of family or personal priorities, to read the texts and to talk to the people who are involved. And until one has done that, you don't really know what you're talking about in the sense of being a good reporter.

So I would encourage all of you to avail yourselves of the facts of the case, which are

becoming slowly available. And in the paper I've prepared on the back section, someone has taken the time to list all the names of all the cities and the people in those cities and, in some cases, those who gave out their phone numbers and addresses, and also the name of the teacher associated with that city. And there are twenty-nine cities now on that list, and there's actually many more since then. And there are many phone numbers. You can simply call these people and ask them what they're experiencing. And what you'll find is what I found over or, I can't say you'll find what I found, but in terms of the facts you will see that there are, it's very wide-spread in the United States. There's quite a few cities in every section of the United States, many study groups and many groups that are not actually *Urantia Book* study groups. And that the transmitters are from all walks of life. It's really diverse. And that's one of the most gratifying things is to notice how diverse these people are. There's no one mindset that I can see.

I went through a period in November—I came to a point of, you know, when you're on a good story, a really big story, you get to a point where it begins to fall, the pieces fall into place. And it began to fall into place not just in terms of yes, this is really credible, but, wow, this is really a vast phenomenon that's occurring here. This is not just, yeah, the little channeling movement is going off on the side, that's kind of marginal, and some maybe kind of weird people in Utah, and some of them just kind of not very, you know, worth spending too much time with because, you know, there's too many other things going on. But it actually began to emerge that there is a plan here that has been thought about for a long time by the celestial beings who are now implementing the plan. It's very conscious. It is something forethought many, many decades ago, and in my personal view, it is part of the Fifth Epochal Revelation. It's an integral part of the Fifth Epochal Revelation.

Well, anyway the, okay, just to conclude on my story with this, I went through a period when that fell into place and in that short, sort of short time span, I suddenly became physically exhausted because I was overwhelmed with the realization of this situation. I had done some traveling, I'd been to Sarasota and spoken to the people in

Sarasota who were rather advanced. I had spoken to many, many people over the phone. I had spoken to Bob and others in California, people in Indianapolis and a group, a rather interesting group in Tulsa, Oklahoma. And I went through a kind of a personal transformational crisis for about three weeks that manifested in a physical illness. And this was my emotional, the emotional reaction to what is occurring here. I just, it was so amazing to me how—I was just amazed at the phenomenon. So I had to go through this sort of physical adjustment and I think that this may explain some people's difficulty in grappling with it, because it really is, it's, for me it was like the reaction when I first came to accept *The Urantia Book*. And it was really an awesome thing to really accept existentially and emotionally as well as intellectually. And it, this is something we can support one another in going, sort of going through this experience. And I did go through this experience.

And let me conclude by saying that I was quite surprised that a friend, kind of a new friend of mine, who I had introduced in my area, I introduced some of these transcripts to, spontaneously without any planning or even particularly asking, began to have contact with a teacher. And this has been really quite an experience for me to watch this person who is actually a new reader of *The Urantia Book* go through step by step of the stages of understanding that they have become contacted and that they have capacity to transmit teachings. And this can happen to anyone and to any group. So, it's a lot to be thankful for. Thank you for the time.

[BREAK—after which questions from the audience were taken from participants who stood in line at a microphone in the back of the room.]

#### QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION, 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

**Mr. A:** Did you experience sitting in a group where there was a teacher or you just did this all by transcription?

**Byron Belitsos:** Yeah. I sat in four different groups. The first group was the Sarasota group in Florida which is a, has some people who have been working at this for quite

a long time, four or five. Then in Tulsa and in Washington, D.C., and now in my area.

**Mr. B:** One of the remarks that was made I think, by Bob, was that this is without precedence and I think that was challenged by David, and I would like to challenge it too. I think that we find a lot of precedent for this and I do call it the channeling. The channeling is a normal phenomenon of human religious experience. We find it in the early church, not just in Corinth with the speaking in tongues. We find it in the second century with Montanus and Priscilla, who were speaking for the Holy Spirit and were saying that light and life was about to land on Earth. We find much of the same philosophy, you know, in times of decadence, in times of cultural decline. We find anxiety and anticipation. That's the mental form it takes. David helped by, you know, separate values from meanings. These experiences are valid in spiritual, this is religious experience, this is really what the channeling is. It's religious experience. But the interpretation of it as channeling, as talking to, you know, Machiventa and there are some Michael transcripts here, and this should really be studied in connection with Pentecostalism throughout the ages. What we have is a Pentecostal wing of the Urantia movement emerging. Okay, I don't have a question. I have a sermon and I just gave it, so—

**Ms. C:** Do you refer to the people who receive this information from the teachers as transmitters? Is that the name for the people? This is to Bob or Byron or I'm sorry, what is your name again, Gennie, any one of you?

**Bob Slagle:** We're told that this is unprecedented because it's dependent on the now opening spiritual circuits that have been closed for five hundred or many thousands of years of the Lucifer Rebellion. It's—in no way did I deny that there are many forms of spiritual contact with humans. The particular kind of communication is referred to by the teachers as a new form of communication, utterly dependent on the opening of the circuits and we have been told to call these people receiver-transmitters, perhaps to distinguish this function from the rubrics of mediumship, spiritualism and some forms of channeling. Ultimately, we are to use our Spirit of Truth to discern the truth in any message.

**Ms. C:** Okay. Well, then, my real question is, I just want to get my terminology straight. The receiver-transmitters, could you tell us something of their personal feelings about this. When you talk to a number of different people, do you feel that there's a shared experience that they have in this or is it individual? Do they end up with a feeling of peacefulness or a sense of acceptance? What's the reaction amongst the people that are involved in this?

**Bob Slagle:** Yes. Yes. All of the above. And they talk to each other and they love it and there's a great deal of sharing.

**Byron Belitsos:** I just want to add one thing that I found in interviewing—they're often called TRs, transmitter-receivers, TRs, and in interviewing TRs and also the one who's a close friend of mine, is there's a tremendous, I think one thing they definitely have in common, is a tremendous conscientiousness about distinguishing this voice. It's not really a voice either, I'm not sure what to call the—it's not auditory. I may be corrected on that. But the impression, the impressions they are getting from their own mind. And in the case of the good friend of mine, there is actually a discipline that she is engaged in with her teacher to test the process. And they've gone through quite a bit of that testing. But in answer to your question, I find that to be a common, in common to the ones I know, is conscientiously practicing and making sure that they don't miss the distinction.

**Ms. C:** So you would call them well-integrated individuals, by and large, the people that you've met that are involved with this? Okay, thank you very much.

**Bob Slagle:** What do I know?

**Mr. D:** All right, yes. I've been hearing people refer to the Teaching Mission. I haven't read many of these things, but I really want to know what is referred to by the teaching mission. What is the mission? What is the teaching? What does it really mean in a brief explanation, so I know what you're referring to?

**Bob Slagle:** For my part, since there's, I'm sure, much interest and many questions, I think I've covered the answer to your question in my paper and I'd be happy to talk with you further

if I haven't. I don't mean to put you off, but it would take some time to portray the scope of the mission. If you're not satisfied with the commentary in my paper, give me a call, my number's at the end of it and I'll be happy to serve you in any way I can.

**Mr. D:** Okay. Thank you.

**Rebecca:** I don't really have a question. I've been asking these questions for the last ten years and particularly the last five or seven years in conjunction with thousands of dollars worth of psychotherapy and great spiritual crisis as well as almost the loss of my physical life because of a similar situation. I'll try to make this brief and I hope I don't get emotional. This is the first time I've really spoken out in public about it and it's just my own personal opinion, everyone will do exactly what they need to do, what they're psychological state tells them to do and what their spiritual needs are. I have no doubt about that.

But I just want to say, first of all, Bob, I would caution you, or anybody, who speaks, who claims to speak for the spiritual administration planetary government. We do not have the right to do it and don't be deceived to think that you are any different from us at FOG. We wracked our brains, our spiritual psyches, our psychological psyches, to try to understand whether or not what we were going through was real, and we were convinced. And it has taken such a toll on so many of us. Maybe those of you who are doing it need to have the experience, but all I can say is be careful. You are playing with fire. [she wags her finger] And you don't have any idea. When you say that you have been told that the spiritual circuits are open and that any person can have their own personal seraphim, you, and I'm saying this to you, Bob, because you said it, but anyone who claims that, you are taking a responsibility for other peoples' lives. You don't know how you could affect them. But marriages have broken up, peoples' psyches have been broken, some people have not mended from them. I'm struggling to mend from what I thought was the most wonderful, sincere adventure of my entire life. And it has been very, very difficult. I don't know if I would have if it hadn't been the help of a very wonderful man. But I'm just saying to you, don't take this lightly. Especially if

you're married and have children. If you are by yourself and you have no one, no young soul or personality that you have to answer to, it's up to you. You can wreak havoc on your psyche as much as you want. But if you have children, or a wife or a husband that you care about, who is not into this stuff, and you want to stay married, be very careful. I do not believe the planetary government would ask any of us to sacrifice our normal, mortal career on earth for this kind of thing.

And the other thing I want to say is, Bob, I would never, if I found out an angel could come and talk to me or I could meet my Adjuster, I would say no. You know why? Because this life is rich as it is. I have my whole universe career to meet these beings. I'm not ready. I have school. I have—this world is rich with human things, with human community. And we have a revelation that threatens us psychologically if we aren't balanced, and most of us aren't. That's all I have to say.

**Bob Slagle:** Rebecca, I respect your words and I thank you. And I respect your free will.

**Mr. E:** I ought to write this down because I'm not concise unless I do. I do respect everyone's free will in here and respect also the psychological and historical perspective that this has. But my own feelings about it, being a person involved in a cult in the past, more than one, and a cult survivor, and studying the channeling phenomenon for about twelve, thirteen years now, is involved in this, I believe this channeling phenomenon called the teaching mission is an attempt, perhaps, to undermine one of the primary reasons we even live here on an evolutionary world. I don't believe that we're here to have a spirit at our beck and call. I believe that that is a psychological phenomenon and I think it has to be a psychological phenomenon because the reason we live here is to live a life of faith based on inner guidance.

The whole point of being on an evolutionary world is so that we can learn to have faith and understanding inside of ourselves, commune with each other, to learn from each other, and to pick and choose as we're trying to do with this teaching mission, but especially from the epochal revelations which we've been given. We can pick and



choose from those epochal revelations. But always it goes back to our need to find inner guidance. And to have a spirit at your beck and call is an excuse to not find your inner guidance, to some degree and for many of us. None of the ideas you shared earlier in the program seemed at all new to me, seem like they couldn't be gotten from existing teachings, from *The Urantia Book*, from secondary works. I don't see anything new about it at all and I think it also undermines our own, again, secondary works that we need to share with each other. It's also important for us to make conscious study, which is opposed to channeling which, by definition, is an unconscious process. It's a very different process involved.

And the teachings are nothing new. The ideas, minus *Urantia Book* terminology and styles, could be gotten from any number of other channelings. So, in other words, this exact phenomenon has been around for decades and is a natural part of many persons' spiritual growth. It can happen to almost anyone, but it simply means it's part of the universal process. It's not a spiritual contact phenomenon. Conversely, though, if you do believe in this channeling phenomenon, do you suddenly reexamine old channelings? Do you suddenly reexamine the whole cult phenomenon? Do you examine reincarnation again? Self-assertion? All this other stuff that comes through channelings? So the phenomenon itself I think has to be deeply questioned. One, the question, basically the question, I do have a question for you, you claim that people can drop the parts they don't like or the parts that they're resistant to, you know, that they don't like, or they're resistant to, but isn't it just as important to deny untruth and to examine untruth. And isn't some of the most dangerous truth or the dangerous untruth contain a large measure of truth with an underlying falsity underneath it?

**Bob Slagle:** Yes.

**Sal:** I'm a relatively new reader, under five years, I consider that a new reader, because it takes you about three years just to read the book, to understand it. And when I first got the book I read it for about a year and a half by myself and, boy, this is great, where are these people? And I finally met the people and we're the people. And we're learning and moving

on. So then, I got into a study group and heard this here channeling. Jesus, I'm really interested in the way the book got here. I'm really interested about all that stuff. So I went—I don't work any more, I'm on leave of absence forever from my company, and I've been traveling around pursuing all this and evaluating what I've learned. And I've, Elijah, the tapes, interesting. FOG, all that stuff, wow, what happened to those people? I went to Sedona and I met a guy named Gabriel and White Cloud and I've been traveling a lot and pursuing just like Byron, what's going on. What is this? And I do know the book came by way of I'll call it channeling, I'll it, whatever it is, it's here.

Now what do we do with the stuff that's going on now. And I realize the people who were in FOG had real repercussions about what happened. It could have been that that was true, those people did get that information. And I do know that people are still burnt by what happened. Could those people have become divine, themselves, and wait a minute, this is not what's going on here. We have a new approach, and maybe this is a new approach, this new channeling where people can't get divine, it's happening to everybody all over. Is that a possibility? And I'm asking the people who were in the FOG to say, Jesus, maybe this could be a thing that's happening now that would have happened before and things are changing now.

**David Kantor:** I don't think it's possible. I don't think it's a possibility. I'd recommend that you read a book called *When Prophecy Fails* and I don't have the author's name.

**Sal:** That's the past. That's the past.

**David Kantor:** Okay. Okay. I don't think it's anything new.

**Sal:** The possibilities of the channels being open. Do you see that? Is that a possibility?

**David Kantor:** I don't see it as being a possibility right now in terms of my understanding of how the revelation is developing in the world. It does not make sense to me that they would do that right now. It would be very confusing. There are too many things going on.

**Sal:** We don't know what their master plan is. But they've got to continue doing something, don't you agree with that?

**David Kantor:** Well, if you understand the answer to your question, then you don't need me to respond.

**Sal:** Okay. I'm just trying to see if you can see the possibility that there's such an experience of that in the past.

**David Kantor:** I'm telling you that I don't think there's any possibility at all that that's a valid reality.

**Sara Blackstock (?):** Could I just say one more thing on the answer to your question. I think there's a possibility. What concerns me a great deal and my feeling is that, in general, that the people who make up the Urantia movement, including myself, are too ignorant, too naive about the culture in which you live, in the religious culture. Most of us have not done a lot of studying about the culture in which we live. I don't believe the planetary government would use people like us to make the announcement that (unclear) greater than the fifth or the sixth revelation. I think that it will come through another way. This stuff is too common. And I know personally the experience and how special it feels. It feels wonderful. And to be a part of it is wonderful. But, folks, I bet there's not one person in this room that the revelators of the book look at and say, now this is an individual who has the psychological qualifications to be historical, everything that it would take to carry that information forward and do something that would be of planetary benefit. I just think it's going to, this kind of stuff is ultimately going to be the ruin of the Urantia movement when it comes to the regular culture. And we're in dialogue with theologians and believe me, people are skeptical because of this very—

**Sal:** I can see, I can see where you're coming from.

**Bob Blackstock** (one of the speakers): Sal, your question is, Sal, your question is how do people who are members of the Family of God Foundation look at this recent development and do they consider whether there's a possibility it might be valid?

**Sal:** Future. Uh, something's going to happen in the future. Correct?

**Bob Blackstock:** Well, does that, was that your question?

**Sal:** I guess the FOG people who have been burnt like I'm hearing, what is the potential of that opening up in the future for them? Is there a possibility?

**Bob Blackstock:** Well, let me just say that I think you'll find that former members of FOG are going to be fairly resistant—

**Sal:** I can tell.

**Bob Blackstock:** —to the idea as you have seen—

**Sal:** I could tell.

**Bob Blackstock:** —and it follows this idea that once burned a wise man be twice burned a fool are thee. So, we, you know, you're going to find resistance for one reason or another. I started reading, I really like Carl Jung, started reading him a long time ago in the early sixties, and when I found *The Urantia Book* in the late sixties I stopped reading him. I figured well that's obsolete. Here's something that's really up to date, really, really valid stuff. So I stopped reading Jung. After the FOG experience, I started reading him again, and I find that his model is a very good, as I tried to say in the presentation, a very good explanation for what's going on. There may be other psychologists that do it, but he's the most credible and has the best reputation.

**David Kantor:** Could I just make one more response to you? Your question about circuits opening up and communication taking place.

**Sal:** They're always open to me.

**David Kantor:** They're always open and we know that things are going to change in the future, new circuits will be opened up but it—when I hear your question, I'm hearing some underlying assumptions about the nature of symbolic communication and about the nature of personality hierarchies and so on, that I'm not sure are, that we've really thought through. And we'd need to think through, I think,

before we arrived at a good answer to your question.

**Byron Belitsos:** Can I say something also in connection with this discussion that I think needs to be said, which is to, to give acknowledgment and credit to the former FOG members who have been through something, a configuration of phenomena that may be comparable to the teaching mission. (unclear) in giving credit where credit is due to that experience, the suffering, the searching, the research, the years and years of anguish of trying to understand what happened, one must, I can't really comprehend what that experience may be like, and I'd like to know more and learn more about it. I'm really glad that you all have come here to share where you are with the teaching mission and to share where you have been with that experience. It is very meaningful to me. It is helping me to get a new perspective on what I'm doing here with the teaching mission. It is bringing, particularly you've said Dave, has rearoused in me the interest in critical awareness and critical consciousness of what is going on. I think you're going to bring to bear on this, all of you, that perspective. That skepticism, that healthy skepticism, that comes from only having been through an experience like you have. And I'm going to take it to heart. And I can't wait to read your paper. I can't wait to listen to the tapes of this afternoon and to take that and incorporate that into this experience, because it's an essential, core experience of the Urantia movement that must be assimilated before we can go forward. And we really haven't done that. I don't really think that there has been a forum for that to be done and for that to be healed and understood by the collective movement. And without that, this teaching mission will, kind of always get connected in the minds of people with well, it's like that, it's like that thing that happened in the mid eighties, you know, which is what the people in my region say, in Oklahoma City, that's what they say. They just dismiss it immediately. So I would hope that you all—gosh, I sound like someone from Oklahoma—can continue to amplify on your work, just continue to do your work, and contribute.

**Dolores Nice (a moderator):** Can you respond to Pat just a second. Being an ex-FOGger, I'd like to throw in my two cents worth. You know, recalling it, it doesn't seem

it was ten years ago. But one of the things I remember when Vern started first getting his messages, and I remember when we were up

on Arch Street over in Berkeley, and we'd be sitting around in meetings after dinner, kind of this anticipation of wow, what's he going to say, or, you know, what are we preparing for, and trying to keep an open mind and yet trying to keep a critical mind on everything. And I didn't buy some of the stuff Vern said, but I saw what was happening with my colleagues. You know, there were what, forty or fifty of us there, and the hot issue was, well, do you believe Vern? Well, I don't know, you know, and it was constant conversation. And it was like this group consciousness that you talked about, Bob, you know, one, all of a sudden people were selling their houses, like I did, and moving clear across the Bay, which I didn't want to do, but motivated, deeply motivated, most sincerely motivated that I was doing the Father's will and that he had a special job for me. And even though I would question, you know, he could sure do a lot better, I mean, what do I know about all this stuff, but—the second part is, well, I won't go into that. The second part is that further along my friend Sara started getting messages and I love Sara and I respect Sara and I thought well, gee, maybe I had questions about Vern but you know, Sara's pretty solid and you know, then you know, it was like another door opened. And I remember eagerly awaiting what those messages were. And they were beautiful. Really beautiful stuff. And afterwards, I spoke to Sara and she said she was going to burn them. And I said, Sara, don't burn them, save them for prosperity. This is very valuable. We can learn some lessons from it. Maybe fifteen, twenty years down the line, let's reread these messages and see what we learn. And further along the line, David Kantor starts getting messages. I thought, well, David's a real solid guy, you know, I really like him, he has integrity, this must be true. You know, I mean, these aren't flaky people. And I was, but I could now see slowly this process growing where one person and two and then three and God knows how many more, if we hadn't woken up that March day and the world was still here, you know, maybe all of us would have started getting messages. So that's my two cents in it.

**Pat Feary:** Well, one of the questions that I want to ask has a bearing on that. I wrote out a long sheet of questions and I'm only going to ask one from it, but I have two questions. The first is perhaps somewhat rhetorical since I know you cannot answer for other people. But I think it's something to think about. The second one, I think there could be specific answers to that. First, in light of a great burgeoning in the last quarter century of intuitive and artistic capacities, wherein great spiritual wisdom and beauty is coming out of many individuals in many different kinds of groups, and usually heightened by group participation, if this phenomenon we are discussing were divested of the charm of being seen as "special teaching" and seen as coming from within ourselves, from each person's high sources of inner truth, beauty and goodness, would it then lose part of its magnetism for its followers. In other words, I have seen the term "spiritual sheik" attached to phenomena that have to do with channeling. Okay. That leads into a question that is perhaps more easily answered. It's the last one on this long list that I made. Is there ever any consideration within these groups of channelers and their followers about the possibility this could be a passing phenomenon, not emanating from the highest sources of truth. If so, what form does such discussion take? If not, if it absolutely one hundred percent believed by many or most of the people involved in this phenomenon, are there desires to "get the message out widely" and talk with the media about it, etcetera, etcetera?

**Bob Slagle:** Thank you, Pat. I would have to ask you, Pat, in return, have you, you've referred to channeling, have you read the transcripts of the teaching mission?

**Pat:** I have read some of them and this was another question that I threw into the basket, but I think you answered it before. I was asking, because you said it was not channeling, I was asking specifically, what, in light of that remark, what it is in your mind? And no, I have not read all of the transcripts. I have read some.

**Bob Slagle:** I appreciate that. It's very difficult to respond to many of the strong feelings here that stem from channeling in the generic sense and, of course, there's a long

history of this. I personally have not been attracted to channeling. I was very resistant to what appeared to be channeling and we could debate the semantics. In my experience, the people who serve as transmitter-receivers are usually the most unexpected, unlikely, least glory-seeking people I know. The ones I know aren't very charismatic. They're generally women. The characteristic that I see is that they're usually humble and doubt it, and they think that usually it's just stuff in their mind. I don't personally feel any interest or inclination to follow any of them because, as our teacher would perhaps even bore you by saying many times, we are not here to teach you. We are here simply to guide you to find the Father within.

**Pat:** Understand. Understood. And I would just say, as a comment to that, that the kinds of individuals that I'm talking about that I have run into in different prayer groups, inside the Urantia movement, outside of it, in encounter groups, in art groups and so on, are precisely such individuals beginning to discover what is extraordinary within themselves. The fantastic potential that each one of us has. And, so that really was what I was referring to.

**Bob Slagle:** I appreciate your comments, Pat, and I just say that in any kind of movement or activity that engages people, all kinds of people may be attracted, just as to *The Urantia Book*, all kinds of people are attracted to *The Urantia Book*, and I would be presumptuous to speak for such a broad array of people that I don't know. I can only tell you my personal experience in that I do know, and have very personal friends, who are transmitter-receivers, here and in other parts of the country, and I'm always impressed with their rather humble approach and I don't think any of us have any interest in following them. We're not gods. My experience in this mission has compelled me to feel more humble than ever. I feel a backlog of human character flaws that I'm working on. I cry, I sweat, and if I may just, since there may not be more time for this, say to all of you who participated in the FOG experience. You know there are four panelists up here today, and those four panelists all went into bomb shelters on March 25, 1985. This is an agenda that I think is a very real agenda and is not just coincidental. And I cherish all of you and I acknowledge all

of you and I saw in that process to me much more positivity maybe than some of you are yet seeing. My respect for people like David and Sara and many others is enormous. And it was a real event of seeing people function as a team, be devoted, show great respect for each other, operate under incredible duress and frankly, I'm honored to be among these people.

**Byron Belitsos:** I just wanted to give one quick, your second half of your question. And I think it was that do the folks participating in this believe that it will continue or may that it might pass and no longer occur? I think it's, the people I know there's a strong consensus that this is just the beginning and it's really in a very embryonic stage and that there will be many, many more groups with teachers, TRs, and many, many more teachers and my understanding is that they are contacting non-Urantia Book groups as well, not just the United States but worldwide, in many foreign countries. There has already been reporting through the teachers telling us that they are working in other countries with Christians and non-Christians. It's a lot bigger than I thought even a few months ago in terms of that and so I would say that, in that connection, I would invite all of you, the critics, skeptics, anyone interested, to not make us, I'm not even sure to say us, that not to turn the folks that are part of this into a sect, or to marginalize us, or make us into this other, we're part of the same communion, and I would invite anyone to come with scientific kinds of questions or with sociological or historical questions, to do research, to come in and talk to me, at least, and I'm sure most others would invite that, so that we have a dialogue, because we need to learn, there'll be other wings of the Urantia movement, not just this over time. And we all need to learn to tolerate one another's religious experience. And this forum here is one excellent example of that methodology being applied in practice. So let's continue.

**Bob Blackstock:** Hello, test. I want to make just a quick comment on one of the issues that you raise. And I frequently hear about the humility of the people who are involved in this. They're simple people, they're humble, they really aren't trying to make a big deal out of it, and I think that one of the things that we tend to do is to mistake spiritual humility for a poorly

formed ego that doesn't have well-developed skills for mitigating material coming up from the unconscious. And I think we need to think about that and make sure we understand the difference between those two things.

**Don (?):** (unclear) In answer to the second half of the second question, do you have an

urge to tell the press about this and broadcast (unclear)?

**Bob Slagle:** Ever so certainly, no.

**Byron Belitsos:** However, I would add that you most likely will see some kind of manifestation in the media. For example, in the paper that I have that's upstairs, there, I photocopied a page from the Utne Report, in the last issue, which talks about the latest supernatural trend involves angels who are now everywhere it seems, providing help to receptive humans and occasionally performing miracles. And then it gives a catalogue of the books that have come out and I'm sure many of you have noticed that there are a lot of books out on angels lately. It has become, they're calling it, these books are now enjoying celestial sales figures. These books all subscribe to a basic scenario. Listen to this. Vast multitudes of angels who are in a "lightly finer vibrational frequency from the one to which our physical senses are tuned are available to help us work through problems ranging from relationship woes and material needs to planetary environmental plagues. They generally are easily contacted through meditative techniques." So, you know, this is just a journalistic rundown of what's going on, you know, just in the general sort of spiritual new age kind of milieu that's out there. And, this I think amplifies on my earlier point that they're not just working with us. There are just not enough Urantia Book readers, they're working with anyone who's interested in any strata of society and in any religion, in my view.

**Lee Smith** (a moderator): Let's keep it personal and go ahead and introduce yourself. (unclear) everybody remembers your name.

**Deb Draxton:** I just want to say the only thing that I'm absolutely sure about is that I don't know. I mean, I don't know anything. I wanted to say that I think this is wonderful that

on all this, on this level, that we're all talking, we're talking about beliefs here, and on beliefs we're never going to agree with each other. We all have our own beliefs and the thing is, I think, outside of every one of us is like a big soup of truth and mistruth and half-truth all floating around and it's a great experience for us to really go inside to know what is true for us in that moment and that's where we can get, that's where help from whether, it's channeler, no matter what you believe it is, if that's a truth that's right for you right then, then that's going to help you. So we put it in the right context, always staying with the state mind, the I don't know state of mind, and not having to hold onto beliefs but just have faith because I think we all have disagreements on belief but we're all here for the same reason, for the love of God. And I think that's what's going to get us where we want to go. Another thing that I was thinking about was the fact that *The Urantia Book* is talking over and over again of not crystallizing, like Christianity crystallized, and I think having these other, I don't know what you want to call them, teachings or other messages, or just constantly coming up and I think that's even a growth of *The Urantia Book* or an expansion or just another way of coming around. *The Course in Miracles* is channeled. There's many things out there and I think whatever helps you is exactly what you need and, like you say, I think you have to be careful also, but I think each, that's our own responsibility, that each of us has to discern what's right for ourselves. Like you were saying, I mean, to really being strong in yourself and that's what it's teaching us to be. And it was interesting because Terry brought me a quote from Margaret, we were talking about this the other day, but it says, "when nothing is sure, everything is possible." So—

**Moderator:** A quick question from the audience cards, while we're waiting for the next questioner. Bob, can you tell us more about the other two persons in the Bay Area who are now channeling outside of Santa Rosa?

**Bob Slagle:** No. I am ignorant of that.

**Mr. K:** Yeah, I was curious. Are the TRs from within the Urantia movement and well read in *The Urantia Book* or have they been coming from the outside? I was curious if the

transmitter-receivers have been coming from within the Urantia movement, people that are, have been well read in *The Urantia Book* or they, have they been people that have just kind of popped in from the outside saying, I'm a TR and I'm here to be the telephone between you and Melchizedek and—what's their origin? Is it from within our organization or is it from without?

**Bob Slagle:** From my point of view, as I've experienced it, it's quite variable. In our group, we have one long-time *Urantia Book* reader who is a transmitter, and we have two people, one of whom is the spouse of a reader but has been very busy in her life as a mother and working person, who really has never read *The Urantia Book*. It was an enormous surprise to her, and I've written that story up in the paper here if you have a copy. On the other hand, it appears that the receptivity is constitutional, luck of the draw, it's not any reflection of anything special at all. And so we found that people come from all different walks of life and often it's quite a surprise. It has been surprising, humorous, delightful, especially when they first doubt and then say, gee, I think I'm getting some messages, and we listen and a week later they're transmitting, and suddenly become eagerly interested in *The Urantia Book*. They are very puzzled at this group [those attending this Forum], who have the book with the back story, because to them [non-UB readers in Jared's group], they hunger for it [the backstory] and wonder how it is that all the people who have it [Forum attendees] aren't welcoming this new and wonderful opportunity.

**Byron Belitsos:** Just to add to that, if I may. I'll just give a little catalogue of people that I have met and who are very active. One has been over twenty years and very active founder of study groups in her area. Another has been on the general counsel of The Fellowship and has read the book over twenty years. Another is, had come from a Baptist Church background and recently discovered the book eight months ago and has come from there to being a TR. Another discovered the book because the teachers led her to the book. It's so diverse. Another is the brother of a person who worked for the Foundation for ten years as an assistant. You know, just it's quite diverse.

**Mr. L:** If this phenomena is genuine, wonderful. Jesus said, where two of us are gathered in his name, there I am also, is the definition of our church. I've always felt that the strength of the Urantia movement was that its lack of a hierarchy or anybody claiming ecclesiastical authority. If it were somebody's goal to destroy the Urantia movement, one of the first things you'd want to do would be to create a hierarchy, like setting—like building a house of cards, later on intending to pull the rug out, like our televangelists and things like that. So I think the spirit for the day should be one of vigilance, open-mindedness but vigilance, because, like you said, we can get fried. Thank you.

**Gennie MacKinnon:** —to say a little bit about that because I have noticed that a lot of people seem to have fear around this and I would just like to say a couple of things. One, which is no, I don't feel special. Two, remember the goals of the teaching mission, to get us to listen within, to get us in touch with our Thought Adjuster, to get closer to God, and to do acts of kindness to other people. I don't think we need to fear these. I don't think these will destroy the Urantia movement unless there becomes a division between personalities, saying, I don't trust that person because they're involved with the teaching mission. If we can have this be a way of becoming more tolerant and reaching toward understanding between individuals, we certainly have nothing to fear from the teachings.

**Joe Patton:** My name is Joe Patton. I've been involved with the Urantia movement for, oh, twenty plus years, and I've witnessed a lot of different phenomena. I've met a lot of very interesting people, people of great integrity, people that I've had tremendous respect for. I think that we really have to stop and ask ourselves, I think the most critical question, and that is, where are we going with the Urantia revelation, what is the planet in desperate need of? And for me I always go back to the Urantia appearances of Jesus and he makes it pretty clear what the mission is. If we need to look at a mission, and that is to reveal the sonship with God that we all have and there are billions of people that are sitting in darkness waiting to be told that they are no longer orphans on this planet. That is the mission. That is the teaching that we really need to be

focused on. I went to Glide Memorial Church last Sunday (tape ended) people have the spirit and they're out on the streets taking care of people that are really in need and Cecil Williams came up and gave a brief sermon and asked people in the audience, are you sure, are you willing to be called, are you willing to be responsible for what's going on around us, and are you going to be counted, or accounted for? And I think we need to ask ourselves those questions in this movement. Because I fear that the Urantia revelation, the pilot light, is in jeopardy and how many of these occurrences are we going to have of different voices and different revelations that might come and pass that might destroy what we have as the fifth epochal revelation. So I challenge you to ask, what is the ultimate outcome of such an experience? What does it do to further evolution on this planet? And let's put our critical minds to work here. I guess the question I would have to ask of the people involved with the revelation is, how do you see that furthering the morontia revelation that Jesus was asking of us? Well, the mission. How does this empower the individuals that we need to empower to be more receptive to the teachings of Jesus?

**Bob Slagle:** What are the teachings of Jesus?

**Joe Patton:** You're asking me that question? I'm finding a problem in the communication here, Bob, that I think we've had a lot of questions asked and your answers have been fairly short. I think a response—

**Bob Slagle:** I'm only trying to give time. I've had a lot of time. I just don't want to encroach—

**Joe Patton:** I find that question to be a little bit condescending because I've been a student of *The Urantia Book* and you have, too, and I think this is not a time to go into great depth on that.

**Bob Slagle:** Several of us have, I thought, articulated the intent of this teaching mission to bring about a transformed world through transformed individuals and those transformed individuals will be transformed by finding the will of God and practicing it in their lives by sharing love with their associates. So, to me, the goals are identical and this is a supplement,

an addition, a support, and I certainly apologize to anyone, and I don't in any way mean to be condescending or overly brief. I just feel that I've had plenty of microphone time and I didn't want to belabor my answers.

**Gennie MacKinnon:** And I would like to add to that, too, that a lot of people have gotten up to express their viewpoints and I think that they're all valid and all very much appreciated and that there's not an argument. Everybody is entitled to their own view. So there's really no need to try to dispute them.

**Byron Belitsos:** Joe, we can talk some more later. One thing I would say is, read the transcripts. That's the way. Rather than going through us, you know, to filter, please, I ask all of you to spend some time, you know, to read them.

**David Kantor:** I'd like to ask Bob [Slagle] a quick question. Bob, I understand that from some of the groups back east that the Melchizedeks are supposed to materialize in a suburb of Chicago I believe on April 27th, some information that came from one of those channeling groups back there. Can you address that please?

**Bob Slagle:** These communications are very delicate and they're fraught with errors. And I feel obliged and perhaps anyone would to take each one and place it before the Spirit of Truth. I found that predictions, material levels, are very difficult, and in fact, if I may, if I can find it quickly enough, I'd like to just read you a comment. Maybe I can come back to it. No, here it is. I don't generally put much stock in these material things that appear to be human longings. And there are a number of them, and it is a challenge and I'll, just quote a brief paragraph about this. "Although legitimately and continually open to challenge and question on grounds of accuracy, we think the ministry stands solidly, unassailably secure on the grounds of faith progress. It emboldens the people and makes them feel closer to their God. Therefore, we freely admit the problem of accuracy, colorization and consequent error. We are, after all, engaged in a ministry, not a restatement. Books lend themselves to static policy statements of principle. This ministry takes advantage of a quality only hinted at in

books. The dynamic, ever-growing, thrilling nature of the relationship between God and human. We make no attempt to secure ourselves from error."

**Byron Belitsos:** The date that they have given is actually April 22nd and 23rd. I know that's, I thought we'd go directly from values to facts there. In Chicago.

**Ms. M:** Where?

**Byron Belitsos:** I don't know. And, in that connection, this is an important test for those who need to do tests, is to look at this phenomena and see how it pans out or if and when such things don't, to watch how people explain themselves. The last statement I think was also a very eloquent statement speaking to this phenomenon, of their management in—a it's kind of an extemporaneous experimental ministry that is occurring, and they are constantly shifting their plan with—because they're working with our free will. And individuals when they change their relationship to the teaching mission, then they have to change the teaching mission in a certain sense. And they've said that many, many times in transcripts. They're trying to reach us and they are using free will human beings. And it's prone to error and inaccuracies as was stated here.

**Sara Blackstock:** There are—there have been some rather serious errors occur in this channeling phenomenon and I'm one of the last people to talk about error, but maybe because I've experienced some such error I can talk about it. One of the serious errors that very much bothered me at the beginning was as Vince Ventola is lying on his deathbed dying of AIDS—I'm a very close friend of one of the people that was in that room—and they got a call from somebody that was channeling Ham, and Ham was saying that don't worry, everything's going to be okay. My friend, Kermit Anderson, looks over there and Vince gasping for air, and who died very shortly afterwards. I consider that an extremely serious error that I don't believe any spiritual being would make. The last five years or six years or seven years, you know what's like when you get forty, you lose track of time. I'm losing track of the number of years that have gone by since the FOG phenomena. But I



remember that first night when I woke, I didn't ever really went to sleep, but I all of a sudden, we are here. And ever since that first night when they were there, talking to me, and that led three—that went on that way for three months, and led us slide down into a shelter, I've had a lot of trouble with pronouns. I spent the first six months climbing back out of the shelter getting straight as to who they and we and me are. And I will say today that I feel very clear about who I am. And who I is, is just me, myself and I, and that feels so wonderful, the integrity, the health, the clarity, of being just me, myself and I and my Thought Adjuster and the Spirit of Truth and God and all the several (unclear) spirits and you know it's pretty crowded in there if you start to think about it, there's no room, as far as I'm concerned, for anybody else. I am not open to any further communications from any personalities that use words. Now, maybe, you know, a nice change would be a vision. I might be open to, you know, some vision happening, but I'm real tired of words. I've had enough words to last me a lifetime. I've read much of the transcripts. I don't have time to read *The Urantia Book* as much as I want and I read it on a daily basis. I do spiritual practices on a daily basis. I feel so healthy because I do stay in touch with my spiritual teachers to the best of my ability, which isn't probably really great, but you know, I try. I do give time for that. And I just wanted to say, you know, that's kind of my testimony. I really have a great deal of admiration and respect for Bob Slagle that he'll even be in the same room with me because it was my messages that led him into the shelter and I'm surprised that he even dares talk to me.

**Bob Slagle:** Can I ask—beloved Sara—can I ask you a question and David [Kantor]? Why do you doubt the validity of your messages?

**Sara:** Well, obviously, there wasn't a nuclear war. I mean, that's pretty obvious there. I also have gained a great deal of help from my husband, his understanding of psychological explanations. I can see why my own mind created the message phenomena. That was actually the only time that Vern Grimsley was very interested in talking to me at all, was when he felt, was when he felt that I was in touch with the spiritual government. For the last fifteen years, you know, the only thing that

basically Vern and I said to each other, hi, how's the kids, the kids are fine, 'cause that's what I did at FOG is I worked for kids. I think my mind resolved the conflict of wanting to be important at FOG and I doubt the messages because—why did I doubt my messages? Well, I guess just because there was not a nuclear war and I was, you know, we came up with a date. How many socks in David's drawer? Do you think our spiritual government is going to deal on that level with us, on such important things? March 25th, because he had twenty-five socks in his drawer.

**Bob Slagle:** I am not suggesting that you didn't have contamination or garble. I was just interested in your, why you have come to disbelieve them and also just to point out that, did you ever pray that that war wouldn't come about?

**Sara:** Of course. We all prayed for it. Every day.

**Bob Slagle:** And it didn't?

**Sara:** Right. Well, I sure would like to think that I have that kind of power, though.

**Bob Slagle:** There were many of us praying.

**Sara:** I don't mean to be treating this lightly. I do—have come out with it with a great deal of sense of humor. I don't think you can talk to any of us that went into the shelter without seeing that there are some very funny things. I could stand here and cry, but I choose not to do that. Thank you.

**David Kantor:** May I also address Bob's question? First I'd like to make a comment, there's a quote I ran across, it was one of those quotes that you see when you're reading the newspaper. It was in the *New York Times Magazine* or something and I saw it and I laughed and I thought that's a great quote, I've got to remember it, and I can't remember who said it. But it was some battle scarred veteran of the sixties who is now a television talk-show host or something. And he made the comment that one of the advantages of having taken hallucinogenic drugs in one's youth is that later on, no matter what happens in life, you've got a context to place it in. And, I always thought

that was a great quote and I want to say, yes, Bob, I am very sure that the messages I got were created by my own mind. I don't want to take time now to go into it. If you'd like to discuss it sometime, I'd be glad to talk about it. But I'm virtually, I shouldn't say virtually, I'm certain of that. I understand the procedure by which that occurred. It's something that I could have occur at any time that I wish to now. It's my choice of how I interpret it and how I manage my psyche and my understanding of how my Thought Adjuster and the other spiritual ministers that operate within my psyche, how they work. I have an understanding of that that precludes the validity of symbolically formed messages like that.

**Jay Newburn:** My name is Jay Newburn. I'm from Santa Rosa, the study group with Bob and Gennie. Surely the diversity of beliefs among Urantians—I totally disagree with them and yet we remain brother and sister and that's the good news. The bad news is I truly believe we are straining at gnats and swallowing camels. I believe we are missing the forest for the trees. *The Urantia Book* is virtually out of circulation. The fifth epochal revelation is virtually unavailable. What I want to know is why we are not in emergency conclave discussing this very issue? We are trustees. We all answer to God for this. I'm not going to leave it to five funny people in Chicago. I'll clean it up. If you will read *The Urantia Book* it says over and over and over again and I one time typed three legal size pages of quotes on this very subject. Our one and only mission is to spread the gospel. That is all we are to be about. We are not to be about controversy. We are to spread the gospel. It's a little tough spreading the gospel when you can't even get a copy of it. Where's the Spanish translation? Where is our responsibility? This is God's gift to the entire planet. He just didn't hand it to the Americans. Why are we not concerned about that? My alarm bells are ringing. I believe the foundation is in default right now and I believe the fellowship, the brotherhood, the sisterhood, is going to be in default if they don't do something about it. And I'm not going to let Kristen Maaherra carry Michael's banner all by herself. I think we ought to get behind her totally. I'm going to quit while I'm ahead. Thank you.

**Elizabeth Jones:** Hi. I'm Elizabeth Jones. And I read the book in Santa Cruz with my husband Larry. And, first of all, before I say anything, I would like to acknowledge the higher beings that are here today, that are bearing with us and smiling and puzzling over how, how to work with us, how to contact us in a successful way. I'd just like to acknowledge them and send some love and thanks to them for all the wonderful things that they do for us. And I feel very fortunate to have this book that has allowed me to acknowledge them, to realize that they're there in my life. And as far as the teaching mission goes, I don't know. If it's a further revelation of the fifth epochal revelation that's wonderful.

But I hear from a lot of people, especially who were in FOG, that they went through a lot of pain over giving their power away. And I think that it's really important that whatever contact we have with the higher beings that are here on this earth, that we not give our power away. That we feel empowered. And that the whole Urantia movement feel empowered.

And I find that the thing that helps me most in my day to day work in my struggles to grow as a spiritual person, is to meditate, is to take those moments of silence and to become at one with my inner life, my inner self. And I just feel that that's how we all can grow and I just want to share that with you because I feel it has been so important in my life. That's the key, you know, I mean, the teaching mission, I hope the teaching mission is encouraging everyone to do just that, because otherwise it's not going to work.

And I'm involved in the healing arts. I work with, well, right now I'm working with aromatherapy, which is a healing art, and when I work with people and I offer them some of these beautiful plant energies, that I, these fragrant essential oils, I feel a spiritual presence there. They're wanting me to do this, they're wanting to help me in loving and healing my brothers and sisters. And I know each of you here have incredible gifts and abilities, and I just hope that you all will believe in yourselves and keep manifesting that. And keep asking the higher beings to work through you and helping you to channel their love through you in your own particular personality and gift that you have. So, that's really all I have to say.

**Byron Belitsos:** That's really eloquent and well said. One thing that I'm not sure has come out and I hope that everyone here comes away with this understanding, that the number one, at least in my opinion, teaching, that is being given, is to practice a stillness practice. That's the term they're using. Did you all understand that to be the case? And if you've not read the transcripts, you will see that immediately, that every kind of introduction to this is to try to urge the students to do this daily. And, personally, this has been a boon to me, to my health, and to my well being, is being encouraged to daily seek the guidance of my indwelling adjuster.

And in that connection, I want to add and amplify another thing which is, that I haven't been able to say, which is I see the purpose of the teaching mission and it has been stated many, many times, is that the teachers are not important, what is important is that they're pointing you in the direction of your own indwelling adjuster. That's the main point of the teaching mission. That's why they're here. Not just for *Urantia Book* readers but for everyone on the planet, is to get them to tune in to that Father fragment through prayer, meditation and worship. That's the key in answer to an earlier question and, in my view, of what is the mission about.

**David** (one of the panelists): Can I make one response, too, to that last question? Was it Elizabeth? I just wanted to clarify something here. In my experience, my position that I have here now, and my attitude towards continuing messages, is not something that's based on the psychological or personal pain that I experienced in that situation. What happened was, when we, I mean we were really focused on it, we had a date, we had all these things that were supposed to happen, and nothing happened. It became really apparent that our entire system of thinking was based on a delusion that somehow we had created. I was left with two choices. One, I have to abandon my relationship with God and live a secular life because this stuff is too crazy, or I have to dig in even deeper now and figure out how this process of God's communication with me really works and how I have to interpret it. And we had to really dig in in order to salvage our spiritual lives as our mortal carbon-based life forms. And my position is based on that experience of having to painfully dig in there

and really come to terms with how this process of spiritual ministry to us really works. It's not based on just a psychological reaction of the pain to the experience.

**Jim Kimmel:** Well, a lot of things going on and I've lost my train of thought from what I was going to say when I first started up here, so, bear with me for a minute and—my name is Jim Kimmel. I'm in the city at the moment. I'd like to say, I don't think there's anybody here that probably would disagree with me if I suggested that we all would like to be able to know and do the will of God and serve the human brotherhood to the best of our abilities to do so. I think we all share that in common.

I also would like to draw attention to the fact that the bottom line in the ordination sermon says, anyone who hears this charge and sincerely executes this commission to represent me before men, and that's as far as I need to go. To represent Jesus before men should be about the most noble thing that we could aspire to do. The word of God is always a revelation of truth and if we're going to represent God, if we're going to represent Michael, then we would be representing truth to one another. From what I have seen of the writings of some of the transcriptions, it isn't good enough for me. It just isn't good enough.

I can't understand why anybody would want to try to represent somebody else when you can represent the Prince of Peace, who needs to be represented to people these days more than any time before. People need to see people who know Jesus, who represent Jesus, who love Jesus, who depend on him solely, and they need to see him living in their lives. And they need to hear people talking about him more than about Ham or whoever they are, as far as I'm concerned. I think it's a rip-off basically of what we've been taught in *The Urantia Book*. And there does have to be something done about it because we either tell it the way it is or we tell it the way it isn't. We've seen plenty of examples of what happens when you tell it the way it isn't. And you think you know it, and you don't really know where you're at. But you think you do. And you tell yourself things that aren't true and you end up becoming misled. And it's a function of self-abuse.

It's a matter of, once upon a time in Oklahoma a few years ago, there was a seminar on the will of God. And all the heavies from Chicago were there and somebody from Chicago was going to do the, lead the group on the subject was the will of God. And the thing went along, and it went along, and finally they threw it open to questions and answers and a sister, an older sister was going on about how she really wants to know what the will of God is but she has a real hard time figuring out what it is. And she raised the question, how do you know what the will of God is? You could have heard two or three pins drop real easy, the room was as quiet as I've a group of Urantians. It, the silence it was heavy duty, you know, nobody was going for it. And finally I was moved to reach in my pocket, and say what would the will of God be? It's like this, if you want to know what the will of God is, what would the will of God be if I reached in my pocket and pulled out a marijuana cigarette? And somebody over there says, well, I know what it would be, it would be for me to go get the sheriff. Another somebody over here says, no, no, no, if he didn't I would. I just don't, wait a minute, come on folks, we've all read the same book. And I think you have to know that the will of God has to do with loving and if you think to go get the sheriff would be an act of love, then I really think you need to get better acquainted with God. And that's bottom line. If we don't know God, something's wrong with us by this time. We've got a God gene and a Jesus gene and it makes it possible for us to know them both and to represent them both and all we have to do is reveal the truth. Thank you.

**Dave:** Hi. My name's Dave and I'm here to give a little testimony. September 11th was a big day in my life this year. We had a hurricane over in Kauai. And it kind of changed my old life and embarked me on a new career, so to speak. I did come over and go to some of the meetings at Bob's house. I read some of the transcripts. And I just have to tell you that, for me, myself, and that's the only person I can speak for, there's two things in my life that I've seen that ring true to me, *The Urantia Book* and the these teacher, the teaching mission. And I think if you look at them and read them or are blessed to see them happen, evaluate them on their truth content, not on how it got here, not on it's channeled or

not. I mean, I was lucky when you folks at FOG had your hard times. I was living in San Diego and my sister and Bob told me that this was going to happen and I said, that's crazy. I don't believe it. And I'm not going to act on it. And I was real skeptical when I heard about the channeling. I don't much care for Shirley MacLaine type channeling and all that. But it rang true, just like *The Urantia Book*. And that's what I'd like to leave with you.

**Steve Hildebrand:** My name is Steve Hildebrand and I'm a very new student in Urantia. I've been seriously studying the revelation for about three months, four months, and I would just like to say, just my background is in journalism, and just listening to all of you today, if the media ever heard all of you go at this, you would absolutely have them so confused that they would go back to their editors and say I don't know if I can write this story. What I would like to say, though, is that I've been studying under Jim who just spoke two before me, and studying *The Urantia Book* has been definitely a real eye-opener, a real revelation to who I am. And, you know, as Jesus said, you know, the kingdom is within you. And I think that perhaps that maybe sometimes when we're having these conflicts or disagreements or discussions or whatever you want to call them, that we need to look to the kingdom within us rather than what's out here. And I'd just like to read just a very short excerpt from *The Urantia Book* that's been very meaningful to my spiritual development. And it's on page 1546. It's under the Life of Jesus. I think a question was asked earlier from, he's gone now, but on the teachings of Jesus. It's number nine, five months of testing. I'm sure a lot of you are familiar with it.

"This somewhat monotonous period of alternate fishing and personal work proved to be a grueling experience for the twelve apostles. But they endured the test. With all their grumblings, doubts and transient dissatisfactions they remained true to their vows of devotion and loyalty to the Master. It was their personal association with Jesus during these months of testing that so endeared him to them that they all, save Judas Iscariot, remained loyal and true to him even in the dark hours of the trial and crucifixion. Real men could not actually desert a revered teacher who

had lived so close to them and had been so devoted to them as had Jesus. Through the dark hours of the Master's death and the hearts of these apostles, all reason, judgment and logic were set aside in deference to just one extraordinary human emotion, the supreme sentiment of friendship, loyalty. These five months of work with Jesus led these apostles, each one of them, to regard him as the best friend he had in all the world. And it was this human sentiment and not his superb teachings or marvelous doings, that held them together until after the resurrection and the renewal of the proclamation of the gospel of the kingdom." Thank you.

**Rebecca:** I'll make this very short 'cause David kind of had my response. I wanted to respond about the question of well, we all prayed that the war would not happen and it didn't. That was not the issue. I should not speak for the group but I don't believe that that's the issue that's being addressed at this point in history. The issue that's being addressed, and not wanting to sound like a broken record, is what are the psychological ramifications and the spiritual ramifications of presuming to have a particular kind of channel open up to you that places you outside the mainstream of human society and culture. Just, that's all that I'll say, because that's why, that's what I was saying before when I said be careful, because you can only go through it and understand how you've jeopardized your spiritual life and your spiritual integrity to really feel the ramifications of it.

The other thing I wanted to say in response to Byron, if you and other people in the Urantia movement are interested in developing some kind of forum or meeting or whatever with me and I don't know, other FOggers who have, were sort of in the thick of it, and wanting to flesh that out as a healing experience for all of us, I'm certainly happy to do that. And one more thing, I would like to offer an alternative to this type of thing. One thing that David and I are becoming very involved in and it takes a lot of reading and time but it's absolutely marvelous, and that is learning to dialogue on theological terms. There are theologians out there and in the Bay Area, it is a treasure drove of theologians who will not look at *The Urantia Book* because of phenomena like this, but when they see people

in the Urantia movement who have read the book and start understanding the treasure of theology, sociology, psychology, philosophy, history, everything that is human-made and written that is in that book, they are going to want to talk to us. And it's already starting to happen. So I encourage all of you to do that.

**Byron Belitsos:** Thank you for that invitation, Rebecca. I'm going to take you up on that. And may I just make one comment about being outside the stream of human society. I believe that when you embrace *The Urantia Book* you place yourself outside the stream of culture and for nineteen years I have tried to become part of academia, part of other institutional forms, other conventional church institutions. I've never been able to become part of it because of that affiliation and in what you just said, working with the theologians. They need to where they can't work you, you're marginalized by definition because just *The Urantia Book*. So I see this as continuous, not discontinuous, with being part of the fifth epochal revelation. And I would add that if one can accept *The Urantia Book* as revelation, which comes from a very esoteric, arcane source, I don't see any cognitive dissonance, I can't say that. I don't see really a logical difference between that and what we're experiencing in the teaching mission. That's just my personal view, but I want to say to others like, such as Jim, who I think left, that I really respect your view, that when you read the transcripts, that you don't see the quality there, I have a lot of respect for you, you know, that's your Spirit of Truth speaking to you. That's a very personal matter and I still want to be in dialogue with everyone no matter how they see it.

**Dennis Snyder:** My name is Dennis Snyder and I'm from the Santa Cruz study group. And I appreciate all the information that I've gotten here today and I see the pros and cons in both sides of the issue and it has been very enlightening. My question is about where it says in *The Urantia Book* that if we would lift Jesus up, all men would be drawn to him. And, you know, the last section of the book is all about Jesus' life and his teachings and I haven't read a lot of transcripts but I've read some, and the references to Jesus that I've read were strange about talking, talking about Jesus as though he is their brother. And I want, the

question I have is, how are the teacher transmitters, how do they speak about Jesus and are they lifting him up? We all go to God through Jesus, that's just the ordained way. That's the only ordained way that we have on this planet. And I believe that we all need to live Jesus up. We all need to talk about Jesus. We all need to talk about what he did and how he did it and it says in the book that the most important knowledge that any of us can have on this planet is about the religious life of Jesus and how he lived. And I so far heard almost nothing, almost nothing about that.

**Gennie MacKinnon:** I'll just make one quick comment to that which is that Jesus is our brother, he's also our Father, our friend and our Creator. And when we talk about seeking the Father, seeking the Thought Adjuster to me that's also seeking Michael. They are one and the same.

**Byron Belitsos:** If I may add—Michael, my understanding having read the transcripts and been in sessions, Michael is very actively involved with the teaching mission, the teaching mission is his plan, and the teachers are implementing his plan. And there's constant reference to that when you read the transcripts. There's constant reference to his teachings and to his interest in Urantia, his home world, where he was incarnate. And his interest in seeing something that is long overdue, something that's long overdue occur here which is to undo the damage from a double default that we experienced. And that perspective is important for understanding the big picture of the teaching mission and why such a drastic phenomenon is occurring is because of the double default, the need to correct the negativity that came from that requires this kind of response. *The Urantia Book* which is a very unusual phenomenon in itself and the second phase of the fifth epochal revelation which is the teaching of those who read *The Urantia Book* to amplify Jesus' teachings and the other teachings.

**Frank Jacobowski:** My name is Frank Jacobowski and I have a question. I've heard something about this March 25th, 1985, could you sort of someone elaborate what this is all about?

**David:** I can do it in just a very few words and if you want to get more information there

are a number of people here that could tell you about it. Basically, we had a person who had been a Urantia book reader for many years and had moved to a position of relative political power in the organization began getting messages and got messages that there was going to be a nuclear war. And I was a part of that group. There were maybe forty or fifty people that were part of that group. We began preparing for nuclear war, building bomb shelters, we got groups of people around the country who were doing that. And more of us began to get messages and we finally got a date that it was going to happen on that March 25th. And on March 24th we were all in a bomb shelter to spend the night and when the day of the 25th dawned, it was pretty interesting. Anyway.

**Frank Jacobowski:** I think I want to give a little comment about that because there might be some information that, some background information, that made you say that. I've, about that time I was working in Sherman Williams and there was a sign on the bulletin board that said something like, something like the end of the world is coming. And it was about world, this here, this amusement thing, was that the world was going to move from one place to another, Vacaville.

**People in audience:** Marine World.

**Frank Jacobowski:** Yeah, okay. And that was a message for me because I've been doing some research or I got at that time a idea that the judgment day happened September 8, 1958. And it was about at that time that I received that information. So it might and then I was connecting up with that idea that I was thinking, how am I going to prove this. So I looked, so I was thinking okay I've got to look through magazines, things like that. And I happened to take the Oakland Tribune, one Sunday or I don't know, one issue, and on the front there...I had a religious experience of when the Caldecott Tunnel, when they had that accident in Caldecott Tunnel. I saw what was happening in my home and I had, okay, now this is an example of religious experience and so I had, you know, the idea, I saw it and sort of like communicating with the people in the tunnel and told them to back up and so forth. Now this is a, you might call, religious experience, psychic experience, but it's not channeling. I mean, I was receiving the idea

what to think and what to tell and so forth but I don't call it channeling because I was completely conscious. Now there's another area—

**Ms. M:** I notice that the next person has already spoken so I'm going to, Larry, you haven't had a turn yet, have you? All right. In the interests of time, we have like fifteen minutes left and we have some questions so would you mind if we answer these questions people haven't had a chance—

**Mr. N:** Well, some kind of tying together of the issues that have been raised, because people have raised Jay who seems to have stepped out, and Jim, and people have raised, you know, the bigger issue of our mission to, you know, our real mission to proclaim the teachings of Jesus. All of this, all of the history of the Urantia movement, is basically a history of failure to deal with the issues of religious collectivism. There is quite a bit of, you know, personal religion in the Urantia movement, but, you know, we're getting D minuses in the realm of religious collectivism and have been from the beginning. We need to look at what the book itself says about religious collectivism. It does say that there has to be definite legislative action, so it's not all purely spiritual, there is organization (change of tape) exactly like a government because the judicial procedure is a procedure and not a court. In any case, these are issues that have, it's like we haven't even begun to deal with them, and I just feel like we need to deal with these issues.

**Larry Geis:** I'm Larry Geis from San Francisco. This was somewhere in talking with people about the teaching mission. It's interesting that Rebecca raised an issue about dialoguing with humanity, I'll use humanity not just theologians, but dialoguing with humanity about the truth that we've learned from reading the book or from experiencing the fifth epochal revelation. I was told by somebody that part of the teaching mission was to teach Urantia Book readers to do that without resorting to the book. To teach them to do it in kind of a dialogue, just coming from their own personal experience of what they know as truth and that that was part of what was going on and I didn't hear that mentioned in any of what was said here today. So, I've, that's a question. Is that, do you understand?

**Bob Slagle:** Yes, Larry. And in response to several questions that have been raised in our group about the shortage and afford ability of *The Urantia Book*, I've quoted a couple in my paper, but not wanting to appear glib at all, I'll say a few more words about it which is that, in response to question about that turning off the spigot, so to speak, of the publication, the answer was that at the present time, being that that is the case, that the teachings are for us to become living books, to become the figurative resurrection, to live the truth in our lives as Jesus said, "Not so much by the words you speak, but by the lives you live, shall men know that you are my disciples."

**Larry Geis:** Well, I'd just like to comment that if there's one thing that the collective mission of Urantia book readers needs, it is to do that and so whatever leads us that way, I would certainly be for.

**Rebecca:** —had a chance and I want to get to the cards and then we're going to wrap it up and you will be the last one. We're going to give each panel member one minute to make a closing statement and then we'll close with a prayer.

**Mr. M:** This question is, has anybody or anyone here actually been the source of a channel or, I guess, a teacher, is a teacher-transmitter, teacher-receiver? If so, can you explain anything about the experience? That's the question, to any of you.

**Bob Slagle:** Yes. I have. And I would say that I am not a very excellent transmitter. I am like Jimmy Hendrix, I transmit sort of (sweeping gesture) poof—and then it, I block it, reflexively, because we have this natural, animal fear, it's only a part of us, that just kind of reflexively comes up. I am very impressed with those who have this gift, this facility. My experiences are limited and I feel my smallness in this regard. I would love to be able to be more skilled at this, but I have briefly transmitted for three different teachers.

**Mr. M:** And then the other question is, why are the teachers ascended mortals? *The Urantia Book* refers to secondary midwayers as essential to contact efforts. Is there any knowledge of where the midwayers are in this?

**Bob Slagle:** Yes and that's of course true. The midwayers are essential to the contact with the human mind. Not all of the teachers are ascendant mortals as I understand it. There are other beings who serve as teachers as well. My own opinion is that this is a kind of reclaiming of the dalmatian model where the Prince had his one hundred ascendant beings, the corporeal staff. In this case, it doesn't appear that incarnation is the plan, yet, but rather utilizing the circuits and allowing any individual in the privacy of prayer to ask for further guidance. And if that is not asked for, then the will of the mortal is respected above all.

**Byron Belitsos:** If I may address that also. In the text of, that I, where I derived, or excerpted various statements, one of the teachers says, "I am a human from another planet who has fused with my adjuster. Humans are called upon to serve as teachers in this effort established by Michael because it is thought that we have some natural sympathy of connection with humans on a planet such as yours." Just that kind of logic. Not all of them are ascendant citizens, but many of them, most of them seem to be.

**Mr. N:** There was a question for Bob.

**Mr. O (one of the panelists?):** This question I guess relates to what I was trying to explain about confronting the unconscious and experiencing the archetypes directly rather than have it colored by your personal unconscious. And, by saying personal unconscious, the idea there was that you somehow need to go through your own personal shortcomings, find your own weaknesses, your own problems with adjusting and seeing reality somehow get through that and that way you have no veil between you and the real experience. Otherwise if you do have some problems you haven't seen through and gone through yourself, personal problems, then you will experience the archetypes or the collective unconscious in a distorted fashion. That's pretty much what I tried to say, but, you know, reading about these concepts is very enjoyable and trying to explain them is a real experience. But anyway, I think that addresses it, just the idea of taking care of your own personal psychological problems before you get into the universal issues or the collective unconscious.

**Jim Kimmel:** I'm just curious, from what I've heard, one of the things that has really amazed me the last few years starting with Vern's thing, is how we've all read the same book, everybody that I know, we've all read the same book. But it blows my mind increasingly how little it seems we understand it. And we read the same thing, we've read it in common but we don't understand it in common, which is not a surprise, everybody being different. But, like I'm standing here talking to you and I'm looking at you in the eye and I'm talking to Jesus at the same time, talking to God at the same time. Whatever we don't know, all we have to do is ask and we have direct dialogue with Jesus, we have direct dialogue with God within ourselves and between one another. All we have to do is externalize it and socialize it and we have heaven on earth. We don't need any go-betweens, we don't need any in-betweens. We have direct, personal one-on-one with the head of the brotherhood of man and the Father of all. Why don't we entertain the potentials of unifying ourselves spiritually and reorganizing ourselves behind the pattern that Jesus established? I mean, the social brotherhood of the Urantia thing has been in the way of the spiritual brotherhood. We haven't even established a spiritual brotherhood within *The Urantia Book* reading circle to this point in my opinion.

**Don T.:** You sound like a teacher.

**Jim Kimmel:** What's that?

**Don T.:** You sound like one of the teachers.

**Jim Kimmel:** Well, maybe I am. (laughter) Yeah, well, I have been one of the teachers for a long time and the teacher's in me, the teacher's in all of you. The teacher of teachers is present. And forget Jim Kimmel and if you hear the words of truth, wherever you're hearing the words of truth from, they're coming from the source of truth. Forget the external, you know, forget the external. Forget who I am. Forget who you are and pay attention to God. He's within us. Let's stop side-tripping and ripping off everybody else, you know.



## CONCLUDING COMMENTS

**Moderator:** One minute.

**David Kantor:** One minute, ugh. Well, let me make one comment then. That's all I've got time for. I think *The Urantia Book* is quite clear in articulating the sequence of spiritual experience. God contacts the mortal mind and we then try to understand and comprehend that experience. And that is the basis of the whole theological enterprise—is to try to somehow, in human language, create symbols that allow us to understand that experience of contacting God and to share it with each other. And, to me, something like the teaching mission is backwards. It's a fundamentalist kind of position that says, first you have to accept some underlying assumptions and once you do that, you will then have a spiritual experience. That's backward. That's not the way *The Urantia Book* says it works. It says the spiritual experience comes first and then we're challenged to learn how to interpret it and understand it.

**Bob Blackstock:** Well, most have been, most of us have been reading *The Urantia Book* a great many years. I know I started reading in 1967 and it was only with the FOG experience that I realized the danger of isolating oneself, so to speak, with that one source of information. I time and again talk to people who say, the only information I need is presented in *The Urantia Book*. I'd just like to stress what David said and I tried to say, and that is that you need to have a balance, you need to approach truth and your own life experience with, from various directions and with various viewpoints. And *The Urantia Book*, in a sense, is one viewpoint in the sense that I'm talking about, that is, coming from God. The historical perspective, psychological perspective, these come from the other direction. They come from the mud instead of from the cosmos or from the spirit world. So, that's the main point I'd like to make is that we need the various perspectives to stay balanced.

**Gennie MacKinnon:** I would just like to reiterate what Jim Kimmel just said, which is go with truth, wherever you find it. Never mind what the source of it is. If it speaks to you, it has value in your life. I find that these transcripts and teachings have value to me so I'm willing to stay open to them and to explore

them. As to whether or not they really will turn out to be teachers or something that's an upsurge of our collective unconscious, or whatever it turns out to be, doesn't matter a whole lot to me because I'm inspired by it and I'm willing to have patience and wait and see and check it out because by their fruits, you will know them. And in time all of this will become clear.

**Bob Slagle:** It's my desire in coming down here really to share my experience with you and to be your friend. And I hope that as we leave here, whatever our differences may be in opinion, and so forth, that I can greet you as the brother, sister, the Son of God or the Daughter of God, that you are, because Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. And to me what's really important is the way we relate to each other. What was important to me about going into the shelter, more than anything else, was the way it happened. And I saw people do that with a lot of love and a lot of caring. And this is the same thing to me. If you feel it's divisive or I'm in some way causing you grief, come and speak to me. I'm happy to hear your point of view. I crave your love and I love you.

**Byron Belitsos:** I'm not really a panelist so I'll just take five seconds. Just one word of advice. When you go home tonight, don't forget to count your socks and confront your archetypes.

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\*\*\*\* Quotations from teachers were taken from Ham, Will, and Rayson transcripts—thank you!

when you were small, and when you have physically grown and returned there are things, or were things, that looked different. But it was home. It is much the same way, my child, if that helps your perception? Susan: Thankyou.

Ted: You mentioned a vortex of confusion and that we are involved in this confusion in a way that is affecting us and you also mentioned changes be present in physical symptoms that are occurring with each or all of us?

EVE: Correct. Yes. As your body's vibrational patterns are changed-outward signs occur. The young one so generously gives service for me to bring you this message, has been with ease and assumes that it is what you call pollen in the air. That fraction is beyond minute, compared to the changes taken place within her system. It is an example of one of the things that is taking place, my friend. Yes. Ted: thankyou

Bea: Dear Eve: I was aware that in the book, the comment is made that you and Adam will come back to the Planet in the time of Light and Life, therefore, my natural question is - "Is this the time?" and is this, why, we are so fortunate as to be able to be with you?

EVE: A natural question, My dear one. Preparations are being made, my child, this is part of those preparations. Yes, they have begun.


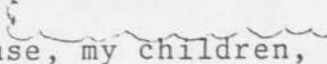
Bea: Eve, we fell in love with our planet when we saw it in the photograph that the astronauts took, many years ago now, it was, they said a great change in our consciousness, and then, like you, we loved it and we enjoyed it's emerald beauty. Could you comment on that?

EVE: What you have already so eloquently put it. If you could but see it from outer space, the changes that have taken place, the planet literally sings with these changes. It has been stated and will be confirmed, that even the very gravity, has been altered.

Bea: Dear EVE, did you know that when you and Adam came, that this would be the planet that Christ Michael would live out His last bestowal life

EVE: Not all information was given to us, my dear one.

Bea: How can it feel to know that you are going to be here as H E comes here

EVE: Hear my silence  Magnify this 1000 x, my dear, and you will have an  idea of this feeling. If you could but see this house, my children, your beauty is so exquisite and as I know now, the visitors that come and observe are amazed - They learn much from you, as you learn from them, my children. Your unique abilities and individual personalities sparkle and shine many faceted colors. If you were but to see this, you would all but forgive yourselves completely of your humanness, dear one.

Bea: I read about the jubilee when Jesus Christ Michael went on, and the great celebration and the adoring souls. I guess, I am envisioning something like that happening on the planet and I think many other people are, too, but of course, this is a very human thing to do.

EVE: Correct - my dear, and there is nothing wrong with this- But your vision is limited. It will be far beyond what you can comprehend, now, in your state. You have no idea what is it simply like to be among you and experience each loving soul in this room. If I would say only one thing to you, I would say "c.o.n.t.i.n.u.e, continue your journey, oh my children - so much awaits you - so many are willing to guide and aid. Embrace all you can, little ones, take in the truth, like you were parched - fill yourselves- continue. My time draws near and I am saddened by this brief experience was divine and I am joyous, my children, because I shall return and I shall greet you all. I have been told, that I ~~am~~ to leave. I bless you all, Turn inward, my children, and know who you are, you have my deepest love and farewell