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Healing This Paralytic (Excerpts from a diary)

THOMAS OUTERBRIDGE
England

The religion of the spirit consists in progressive revelation ... [1731:2]

That's a quotation I wrote down a few weeks ago from *The Urantia Book*, but neglected to write down the reference. Now as I write this article, I can't look it up because I lent my only copy to a visiting Unity minister currently in Bermuda for three weeks. Typical! Seems like every time I lend my book to someone, I invariably need it the next day. When this affable chap first saw the revelation, his eyes widened. "Oh, I've heard about this book!" he remarked, and seemed keen; so I loaned him my personal copy even though my wife Angela had "forbid" me to lend it out to anyone, after giving it to me last Christmas. The loaned copies seldom if ever get returned. My first copy of *The Urantia Book*, a 1967 edition, was given to me in 1976, and as the Master once said: "*Freely have you received, freely give*" [1102:7]. I just hope this minister appreciates this revelation. Since Reverend Charlotte left Bermuda almost a year ago, we have been without a Minister at the Unity church and certain members of the church have taken turns to speak. I preach the sermons the first Sunday in every month using passages straight out of *The Urantia Book*, but although the congregation invariably loves the content of the message, nobody wants to hear about the Source. Now to get to my story . . .

The God-knowing man describes his spiritual experiences, not to convince unbelievers but for the edification and mutual satisfaction of believers. [30:5]



"Healing" collage

On December 29, 1956, in King Edward's Hospital, Bermuda, I was born feet first. To most people that will mean little; but at the time my mother was accosted by a stranger who told her it meant I was "destined." My dad seized on this as an omen that I was destined to make a lot of money. Certainly that was his greatest wish. But I was not destined to be the maritime lawyer Dad envisaged. I was already focused on Divinity when I was eight, but I blame this on my Indwelling Adjuster, as Dad and Mom did little to further any spiritual beliefs.

Continued on page 3

IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 **Healing this Paralytic (Excerpts from a diary)**
THOMAS OUTERBRIDGE, ENGLAND
- 2 **Have You Changed Your Mind Lately? (editorial)**
GUY PERRON, CANADA
- 7 **The Revelation Within Us**
RICK LYON, USA
- 11 **UB Youth in Motion**
CHRIS WOOD, USA
- 13 **The Morontial Mind**
ALAIN CYR, CANADA
- 16 **How to Fatten Upon Disappointment and Enthuse Upon Defeat**
BENET RUTENBERG, USA

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Have you changed your mind lately?

Dear friends, brothers and sisters in Spirit, readers of *The Urantia Book* and living examples of the teachings of the Fifth Revelation

I hope that this new issue of your Journal is finding you in your higher mind, in God's Spirit, who indwells each of our minds. Do you change your mind often? Have you made up your mind... yet? Do you have a clear mind of what you want and what you want to do? Have you changed your mind lately?

I work at changing my mind each day; I work at making up my mind, my new mind, my morontia mind, the mind of my soul... many times a day with all the decisions-actions that I make and do. And with that new mind, an amazing peace progressively takes place within me and allows me to look at everything from a different point of view. We can live another level of reality, the religious living in the spiritual kingdom which becomes our new dwelling.

One of the most amazing earmarks of religious living is that dynamic and sublime peace, that peace which passes all human understanding, that cosmic poise which betokens the absence of all doubt and turmoil. Such levels of spiritual stability are immune to disappointment. Such religionists are like the Apostle Paul, who said: "I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else shall be able to separate us from the love of God." [1101:1]

As you know, there are many levels of reality, physical, intellectual, morontial, spiritual, universal, eternal. There are many levels but how many do we really understand and experience?

When the mortal intellect attempts to grasp the concept of reality totality, such a finite mind is face to face with infinity-reality; reality totality is infinity and therefore can never be fully comprehended by any mind that is subinfinite in concept capacity. [1152:2]

In order to understand and live in other levels of reality, we need a more appropriate tool, we need another mind, first a morontial mind (our soul) and then a cosmic mind. And it is



often through our human struggles that we decide to access this new place within us or as our friend Rick calls it in his article "The Revelation Within Us." We are the co-

builders of our new mind, of our soul, and when we are equipped with that new mind, we can live the morontial life here and now as our friend Alain explains in his essay. In living the morontial life here and now on Urantia, we fatten more and more upon disappointment and enthuse upon apparent defeat, quite a change of point of view as our brother Benet explains in the transcript of his workshop given at the Australian conference. This whole process can take us from the depth of the darkest moments of our lives to the consciousness of our God within as our sibling Thomas relates in the brief summary of his amazing life experience in our cover story. Sometimes, these experiences start early in our life, and it is the hope of many that this will be the case with the new generation as Chris discusses in answering the question "When will the UB youth do something?"

Well, my friends, sooner or later, we will have to get on with our cosmic task, and in order to do that we need a powerful new tool, a morontial mind. Nobody else can build our higher mind than each of us in close collaboration with our best friend, our Thought Adjuster.

Have you made up your mind yet? In which level of reality do you wish to live? Have you started changing your mind...for a better mind, a higher mind, your morontia mind?

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Healing This Paralytic, continued from page 1

The divine presence cannot, however, be discovered anywhere in nature or even in the lives of God knowing mortals so fully and so certainly as in your attempted communion with the indwelling Mystery Monitor, the Paradise Thought Adjuster. What a mistake to dream of God far off in the skies when the spirit of the Universe Father lives within your own mind! [64:6]

Or, as it says in the Bible:

"Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?" [Jesus, 1 Corinthians 3:16]

With time it became almost an obsession of mine to communicate with my Adjuster by any means possible—meditation and the I Ching oracle being just two vehicles. Recently I read some of *The Triumphant Spirit*, where A.K.Mozumdar describes connecting with his Mystery Monitor, except he reckoned it was the voice of Jesus Christ in his head. It suddenly seemed to come naturally to him, perhaps a little too easy—one must be wary of wolves in sheep's clothing! If, when I was young, I could perhaps vaguely sense my Monitor — very faint and patchy — then later, growing into adolescence, with the onslaught of wine, women and song, I inevitably lost any conscious contact whatsoever. I loved to party and partying loved me; I come from a Party Family. But during my summer holidays when I was 11, I was actually "saved"!

If survival is gained, all other losses can be retrieved. [315:2]

On a bright, beautiful Bermuda afternoon, I was puttering along in my boat in Harrington Sound, a landlocked body of bright blue water, very picturesque and very deep in the middle. The tides flow in and out to the Atlantic Ocean under Flatts Bridge and through

Editorial, continued from page 2

Morontia mind is a term signifying the substance and sum total of the co-operating minds of diversely material and spiritual natures. Morontia intellect, therefore, connotes a dual mind in the local universe dominated by one will. And with mortals this is a will, human in origin, which is becoming divine through man's identification of the human mind with the mindedness of God.

[1205:4]

My attitude depends on my altitude and my altitude depends on my gratitude; therefore, I made up my mind and I live in a constant attitude of gratitude coming from my higher mind where I live and interact in thought, in word and in action.

May the love, peace and divine light of your God be with you and within you in everything you do.

Your brother in Spirit and loving service,

Guy ☐

Flatts Inlet. I was Horatio Hornblower and Harrington Sound was my "local universe" all summer. Whilst on an exploratory voyage between Cockroach Island and Abbot's Cliff, on the port I noticed an old black fellow, the "Mussel-man" Charles Trott, harvesting mussels off the grassy bottom using a long pole and a glass through which he peered at the water's surface. He hailed me over, and once I'd made fast along side his weathered old fishing boat, this imposing character earnestly inquired: "Have you been saved?"

But my boat was not sinking. Saved? Saved from what? "Saved from damnation, from the Devil," he intoned reverently. Saved from the very fires of eternal Hell! Was I assured of Jesus entering into my life and going to heaven? Now was a chance to confess my sins, accept forgiveness and be saved.

Well, this was capital and in "divine order," a logical next step in the unfolding of my life; I was almost expecting it. Solemnly I bowed my head, closed my eyes, formally repented and was officially "saved!" Bursting with evangelistic zeal, in the next few weeks I brought my friends to meet this fisherman, now labelled "The Preacher," so that they too could be saved. But none seemed impressed; in fact, it became something of a joke. Only my brother Barclay, five years younger than I, was suitably solemn. But aged six, he had trouble getting a grip on it all, and when you came right down to it, even I wasn't certain from what we were really being "saved." I didn't believe in a burning hell for sinners. But I was glad to know that I was now guaranteed not to suffer eternal damnation, just in case.

...I dreamt a tremendously vivid nightmare that I dropped off a cliff

"When you have by faith once established yourself as a son of God, nothing else matters as regards the surety of survival. But make no mistake! this survival faith is a living faith, and it increasingly manifests the fruits of that divine spirit which first inspired it in the human heart. That you have once accepted sonship in the heavenly kingdom will not save you in the face of the knowing and persistent rejection of those truths which have to do with the progressive spiritual fruit-bearing of the sons of God in the flesh. You who have been with me in the Father's business on earth can even now desert the kingdom if you find that you love not the way of the Father's service for mankind." [Jesus, 1916:3]

Come September I returned to boarding school, Le Rosey in Switzerland, where the grounds lay next to a railway track and you could hear the sounds of passing trains quite clearly. One late night or very early morning, I don't remember exactly which, I dreamt a tremendously vivid nightmare that I dropped off a cliff. Falling is not an uncommon dream, but I plunged at long length to crash - bang! on to my back and startled awake only to hear the loud and distinct clickity-clack of a speeding train, a *real* train. This amplified the dream resoundingly before receding

eerily into the distance, and a vivid impression was forged. But in the following years the episode naturally slipped away to the far recesses of my memory. Fifteen years later, on Father's Day, 1984, however, it actually came to pass.

Blind and unforeseen accidents do not occur in the cosmos. [556:9]

Whilst endeavouring to build a nest for Bermuda's indigenous sea bird, the Longtail, I was atop a 100 foot cliff near my home, when the ledge collapsed and I plummeted to the rocky beach below. I broke my neck, my back and my left arm. Upon surfacing from a coma three days later, it was a strange new world. I was a C5 quadriplegic strapped to a Stryker frame, wearing a halo brace and delirious. After a frightening period of auditory and visual hallucinations, I became lucid, but my memory was shot, vaguely hovering at about age seven, and the rest of my past was a blank. The next four long years were spent in six different hospitals in Bermuda, England and Canada.

Physically crippled with flailing spasms and mentally handicapped by amnesia, my mind and body were seriously challenged. I was not abandoned, however, thank God.

Mortal memory of human experience on the material worlds of origin survives death in the flesh because the Indwelling Adjuster has acquired a spirit counterpart, or transcript, of those events of human life which were of spiritual significance. [450:6]

Two years after my fall and firmly entrenched in hospital, my memory was still blank and my Adjuster must have been working overtime, because I often mentioned *The Urantia Book* in those dim days of rehabilitation. Eventually I asked the hospital bursar to procure a draft to send to the Urantia Foundation in Chicago, so that *The Urantia Book* was sent to the library at my old school, Stowe in Buckingham, England, where I went after the three years at Le Rosey. Then soon after having made that connection, the same dream occurred of falling, falling, falling and crash, I landed - bang! onto my back to awake with a startling jolt, only to hear the loud and distinct clatter of a train outside my window. It faded eerily into the distance, same as I'd heard somewhere before, but where? Slowly, over a period of several months, the past was brought back to me. Sixteen years previously, a little lad at my boarding school in Switzerland.

To God there is no past, present or future; all time is present at any given moment. [34:4]

This was a great deal more than coincidence. Slowly, inexorably, memories surfaced of the days before my fall when I was into the fast lane of sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll. High levels of booze, smoke, coke and speed had caused a personality change wherein I was out of touch,

vain, obnoxious, a traitor to even my closest friends. I had succumbed to the temptation to *indulge in a lawless plunge into cheap and sordid adventure*, [2076:1] and the *more man withdraws from God, the more he approaches nonreality—cessation of existence.* [1285:3]

We are not wholly certain as to whether or not God chooses to foreknow events of sin. But even if God should foreknow the freewill acts of his children, such foreknowledge does not in the least abrogate their freedom" [49:3]

I wish my parents had been more strict and had "abrogated my freedom" before an age when I was beyond their reach. One can only blame one's parents for so much however, and then you take the rap for your own behaviour. But looking back, not "chastening" me "for corrective purposes," was a duty neglected. *True, wise fathers may chasten their sons, but they do all this in love and for corrective purposes. They do not punish in anger, neither do they chastise in retribution.* [2017:5]. I quit "righteousness" and "withdrew from God" and embraced a party path in life's progress, another Prodigal Son story. But I can't castigate mum and dad. They were partiers too, after all, quite happy.

Slowly, over several years of recovery, important past pieces of my life mosaic have been recalled and chronologically assembled. *The Thought Adjuster will recall and rehearse for you only those memories and experiences which are part of, and essential to, your universe career.*" [1235:4]. I had been given so much: good health, good home, good schools; yet from about the age of seventeen I squandered it all when I consciously embarked on a campaign of drink, drugs and debauchery. I thought my life was fantastic, but I had lost it. "*To him who has shall be given more, while from him who has not shall be taken away even that which he thinks he has.*" [Jesus; 1692:0]. Having re-examined my fall, which started long before I got near that cliff, I recognize "angels" in each step along the road of recovery, including three human ones: my girlfriend Michelle who found me at the bottom of the cliff; my nurse Jenny who cared for and guided me in the early days; and best of all, my physiotherapist who stepped into my life at Stoke Mandeville Hospital to treat me for a chest infection, then reappeared months later when I was ensconced at the Chiltern AMI Hospital.

"Hello Tom," she announced with a smile. "I am your new physio."

My new physio?? Angela was my new Godsend! This was the beginning of a great romance, the love of my life, now my wife and the mother of our son Robert, born on 19th August, 1992. Providence permeates the entire saga.

"The lowest ebb is the turn of the tide." Longfellow

After two gruelling years of rehabilitation in four hospitals in England, I wanted to go home even though I was helpless mentally and physically. Really I just wanted

...I often mentioned The Urantia Book in those dim days of rehabilitation.

to depart hospital because I could remember little about home. However I was not yet ready to go. Physically there had been little progress; I could now feed myself and could laboriously type slowly with a “plonker” strapped to my palm. And my bladder training appeared to reach a satisfactory stage: by thumping my lower belly it could ‘express’ and pee into a leg bag strapped below my knee. But I was still light years from being an independent and walking human being.

Sister Sally asked me who would I like to accompany me back to Bermuda, as I was incapable of travelling solo. There were a couple of nurses who could have done the job well; or maybe bring back Jenny from Bermuda. No thanks. I just wanted my pretty physiotherapist. Angela was trained to do standing transfers with ease; thus getting me in and out of a perennial wheelchair into taxis and plane seats was not an insurmountable task. This made good sense. Plus there was another reason. I had fallen head over heels in love with her.

Neither of us had an inkling of this, ironically, until the ambulance ride to Heathrow airport. Our only “courtship” consisted of one dinner together at the hospital’s restaurant and kidding around flirtation in the gym, playing to the gallery. There were no serious advances and neither of us had revealed any kind of fervour. But when the ambulance took a sharp turn and Angela leaned over to support me, the time for revelation was at hand. I wrapped my arms around her neck and pulled her close. Our lips locked and we kissed all the way to the airport! We boarded the plane and smooched for six or seven hours to Bermuda, pausing only twice over the middle of the Atlantic. Once for lunch. The second time when I proposed. This time it was serious, not like in the gym. She said yes, with no hesitation, because she had ‘fallen’ for me! Yahoo!! Where did our love come from? God knows; the onslaught of our romance is a terrific wonder to us.

Five days later my fiancée had to return to England to resign her job, arrange her affairs and say good-bye to her family and friends. She would join me as soon as she could. Meanwhile I was on my own. Predictably, my world fell apart. The previous two years in hospital had been supervised and catered for with nurses, physios, and staff. Plenty of attention. Lots of care. Now, all of a sudden, I had nobody. Summerhaven provided a roof, hot water, company and an evening meal, but no nursing care. I found myself sad, abandoned, confused, and a pathetically depressed paralytic. Building up cosmic stamina, presumably.

Much of what a mortal would call good luck might really be bad luck; the smile of fortune that bestows unearned wealth may be the greatest of human afflictions; the apparent cruelty of perverse fate that heaps tribulation upon some suffering mortal may in reality be the tempering fire that is transmuting the soft iron of immature personality into the tempered steel of real character. [1305:4]

An almost helpless quadriplegic, singularly ill-equipped to be living independently, I suffered chronic pain on my left side and sailed three sheets to the wind mentally, with no recall of breakfast, lunch or dinner. I regularly wet myself due to a disastrous urinary condom system. I endured a rotation of temporary private nurses, hired by my dad, who were ignorant of even the basics for spinal cord lesions. A bank of three or four would take turns: one would show up each morning and get me up, bathed and breakfasted, and then leave me until the next day. My physio-therapist-wife-to-be was far away in England undergoing surgery on her ear, and I was fast losing a firm recollection of who she was. Dad paid my bills but was rarely in Bermuda, and I hardly ever saw him. Mom had died in 1981. My brother lived in relative isolation at the other end of the island, mired in a plethora of his own drug-related problems. God knows how I remembered them, but I thought of Adam and Eve and imagined how they must have felt, and of their isolation. No friends visited me. All my previous “buddies” had melted into the woodwork after my fall.

I longed for death where resurrection awaited on a Mansion World; a far better life than this mortal coil. The problem was how to kill myself with the least amount of fuss. I dwelled on it intermittently every day

When men shut off the appeal to the spirit that dwells within them, there is little to be done to modify their attitude. [1672:5]

I don’t know how much time passed; it’s all a bit fuzzy now, but on one sunny day I wheeled over Devil’s Hole Hill and carefully drove on to the wooden public pier located next to a little house called Fishnet, where my boat had been moored so very many moons ago. Memories flooded as I sat on the end of the jetty and gazed out at the choppy blue waters of Harrington Sound. Below me, courtesy of the drinkers who loitered nearby every weekend, lay scores of discarded beer bottles. Should I drop down and join them? I recalled the yellow sandy bottom of the summers of ‘68, ‘69 and ‘70, and thought about the scores of clams and scallops I dove up near Trunk Island and being “saved” by that old fisherman near Cockroach Island. This recollection led me to thinking about God and the question of predestination.

No friends visited me. All my previous “buddies” had melted into the woodwork after my fall.

You are all subjects of predestination, but it is not foreordained that you must accept this divine predestination; you are at liberty to reject any part or all of the Thought Adjusters’ program. [1204:5]

I was rather perplexed. Would my Adjuster “program” suicide? Not likely. But was I “predestined” to kill myself? Did I have the pluck to go through with it? Or was I chicken? I pictured lying drowned on the bottom in roughly four minutes. Did I have the guts? I desperately uttered a prayer: “Father,



you know the past, present and future. As you love me and presumably knew I would be here right now and that I would ask to see her, when I turn this wheelchair around, let Barbara be standing before me!" If she was there, that would be a sign for me to live. Crazy? This didn't seem ludicrous as Barbara lived at 'Fishnet' and would have clearly seen me were she at home and glanced out the window. Back in 76-78 we were engaged to be married, but she wisely dropped me after I 'dropped out' and started a downward slide. I drew breath, whirled my chair around and lo! nobody was there. There was a presence but no person. I laughed. How dare I make such ludicrous bargains with God! The crisis was past.

"The Father reveals himself to the Universe by the methods of his own choosing." [1627:5]

Another sunny afternoon a few months later I found myself parked in exactly the same spot at the end of the dock, gazing out at the glistening blue waters of Harrington Sound, reminiscing once again about those happy boating days and being "saved" near Cockroach Island. Now it was bright and beautiful and I was chipper. Completely forgotten were the previous visit, the previous morbid depression and the deal I had the effrontery to try and strike with God. Today I was content to sit and go "to level," as Jose Sylva calls a meditation technique of controlled relaxation. After a few minutes I opened my eyes, drank in a last look at the lovely, deep blue stretch of the vibrant waters of Harrington Sound and turned to leave. I spun my wheelchair round and, lo, there was

Barbara, larger than life, five steps in front and closing in fast. A mere coincidence?

Revelation as an epochal phenomenon is periodic; as a personal human experience it is continuous. [1107:2]

"My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord; neither be weary of his correction, for whom the Lord loves he corrects, even as a father corrects a son in whom he takes delight." [Jesus quoting from the scriptures; 1662:2]

...now I humbly accept my "correction" with contrition, ironically grateful for the "accident" where I was "afflicted and learned wisdom through tribulation".

Now, twenty three years after my fall, I feel suitably "chastened." Yes, I went wild in my youth but now I humbly accept my "correction" with contrition, ironically grateful for the "accident" where I was "afflicted and learned wisdom through tribulation". As well as adjusting my thoughts, the events led to meeting and marrying Angela and the birth of our son, Robert. After twenty three years of disability, of which the last eighteen have been filled with prayer and meditation, I feel as happy as possible in these circumstances. Feelings return and intensify. But I want to heal, to walk again. There are things to be done on foot. I need to recover. My memory needs to be normal. I ought to be independent once more. Thus I humbly beg you, dear Reader, to say a quick prayer for my healing. Lower me down through the ceiling like the chap on page 1667 of *The Urantia Book*.

The earnest and longing repetition of any petition, when such a prayer is the sincere expression of a child of God and is uttered in faith, no matter how ill-advised or impossible of direct answer, never fails to expand the soul's capacity for spirit receptivity. [1621:1]

Thank you. □

The Revelation Within Us

RICK LYON
USA

On September 29 and 30, 2007, the Greater Lake Michigan Urantia Association hosted a regional conference in Chesterton, Indiana. Even though this was a small regional conference, we were blessed by the attendance of guests from California, Ohio, Washington State, the United Kingdom and other places near and far. Several people traveled quite a distance to participate in our conference, and we appreciate that. “Participate” is the key word, as we made the presentations as interactive as possible. This generated some very good group discussions. Our unofficial motto for GLMUA seems to be “Joyful Active Participation,” so we try to encourage that. No matter how well an event may be planned, it is the participants (seen and unseen) that make it a success.

The theme for this conference was “The Revelation Within Us.” Some of our goals were to illuminate the importance of the individual – you and me – in our Father’s Divine Plan of Perfection and the coming mortal epochs of man.

How important are we as individuals to this vast universe of universes? What worth can we possibly have in such an unimaginably huge creation? We are so important that God created this material universe for us to live in. Life was not created because of the universe. This universe was created for life. When you look up at the stars at night, realize that all this was created for you and billions and billions of people just like you and me. And while it may make you feel insignificant, remember who created it and why He created it. Remember too that out there lies our purpose and our destiny.

We are so important that the God of Paradise, the upholder of everything, created universe governments, judicial systems, teachers to teach us, Seraphim to guide us, and vast numbers of beings to support our journey to whatever grand purpose God has in store for us. I like to tell people “God has a plan for your life.... But this ain’t it!” I work in a steel mill. Is that God’s purpose for my life? No. God has something much more important and much grander than that waiting for you and me somewhere in eternity. We can only marvel at the immense vastness of God’s creation and the brilliance of his plan for it. We can only be awed by the beauty,



grandeur, and the simple complexity of creation. And yet, much of this wonderful creation is designed with the individual in mind, designed with the purpose of helping the individual to grow and progress until one day we will actually stand before our Father in Paradise and discover our ultimate purpose.

Why is the individual important? Because you do have a purpose. Each day the task to accomplish that purpose may change but yet your ultimate purpose remains.

Each of us individuals is so important that the creator of everything sent us our own personal unique individual guide and helper, our Thought Adjuster, to lead us along the pathways from where we are today to someday return to our Father from which we came. The devotion of this Indwelling Spirit to the individual is described as touchingly sublime and divinely Father-like. Our Father in Paradise has reserved this form of personal contact with us as individuals exclusively for himself.

Thought Adjusters are primarily concerned with our spiritual development, but they are very interested in our life and our achievements here on earth.

Think about that for a moment. The God of all, the creator of everything, has reserved this intimate form of personal contact with each of us as individuals exclusively for himself. No other entity, being, or personality in all the universes will ever share such a relationship with us.

God is so trusting, so loving, that he gives a portion of his divine nature into the hands of even human beings for safekeeping and self-realization. [1283:5]

The Father of all loves each of us so much that he gave a part of himself to guide us away from evil, to guide us and teach us during this long journey—this ultimate adventure—to Paradise.

Thought Adjusters are primarily concerned with our spiritual development, but they are very interested in our life and our achievements here on earth.

*...our children are a gift to God.
One more person, a part of
ourselves, created to love God.*

They enjoy contributing to the health, happiness, and prosperity of this life they share with us. This Indwelling gift from God is a loving leader and our safe and sure guide through this dark and uncertain mortal life on earth. As we travel this road we should not be afraid because this piece of God himself is with us at all times, ever vigilant to our needs and constantly urging us forward in the paths of progressing perfection. Guiding—but not forcing—us along the path of truth, beauty, and goodness. We are never alone or beyond instantaneous reach of God’s personal presence, guidance, and love.

I can email you a gift certificate from Wal-Mart for your birthday, or I can come over and clean your gutters and spend time listening to your stories and concerns, sharing a few minutes of my life with you. Which would you appreciate more? What is the difference between being friends and being lovers? A friend is there for you. A lover gives their self to you. Which of these do we long for the most? The greatest gift we can give, to each other or to God, is the gift of our self. Our Indwelling Spirit, our Thought Adjuster, is a gift from God. Our Father has given us a part of himself to be with us and eventually a literal part of us for eternity. What gift could possibly be greater than that?

How can we in turn give ourselves to God? We can give ourselves to God in several ways. Worship—thankful communion with God. I think communion is a shortened version of the word communication. What we are doing is communicating to God our thankfulness for the blessings he sends our way. We are spending time with our Father and sharing our life with him.

I think another way we give ourselves to God is through our children. We often think of children as a gift from God, but perhaps our children are a gift to God. One more person, a part of ourselves, created to love God.

Most importantly, we give ourselves to God by choosing to do his will rather than our own. We give ourselves to God by choosing to love him and to serve man. We then see all men and women as children of God. And because of that, we find a desire to serve our fellow man. After making such a choice, we want to reveal our Father to others by living our life as we believe he would live it. We want to be like our Father when we grow up. With the guidance of our indwelling Spirit, we can live according to these teachings and demonstrate God’s love for all of us. This is **the revelation within us**.

There are many things we can do with this life, many ways to serve our fellow man, but one of the tricks of this life is to lead us to believe that we can do nothing or how terrible it will be if we do something wrong or

fail. Many elements of this life lead us to believe that we are not smart enough, we don’t have the time or the money, or that we are too busy to do something. But we can find the time or money to contribute to some cause or purpose. It is simply a matter of priorities. We all can learn to do something.

Each one of us is smarter or not as smart as someone else. Each one of us are physically better equipped or less physically equipped than others. Some of us have healthy bodies, and some of us have physical difficulties. Some of us have lots of money and some of us don’t, but everyone can do “something.” For even the tiniest detail—in something like our conference for example or in one of our committees—is very important to the success of such projects.

This is from “The Young Man Who Was Afraid.”

By this time the young man very much desired to talk with Jesus, and he knelt at his feet imploring Jesus to help him, to show him the way of escape from his world of personal sorrow and defeat. Said Jesus: “My friend, arise! Stand up like a man! You may be surrounded with small enemies and be retarded by many obstacles, but the big things and the real things of this world and the universe are on your side. The sun rises every morning to salute you just as it does the most powerful and prosperous man on earth. Look--you have a strong body and powerful muscles--your physical equipment is better than the average. Of course, it is just about useless while you sit out here on the mountainside and grieve over your misfortunes, real and fancied. But you could do great things with your body if you would hasten off to where great things are waiting to be done.” [1437:3]

This mortal life and this revelation provides us with many opportunities to serve, many opportunities to do great things if we will only hasten off to where great things are waiting to be done. Go into partnership with God and great things can and will happen.

Further down in the story we read:

*“Your mind should be your courageous ally in the solution of your life problems rather than your being, as you have been, its abject fear-slave and the bond-servant of depression and defeat. But most valuable of all, your potential of real achievement is **the spirit which lives within you**, and which will stimulate and inspire your mind to control itself and activate the body if you will release it from the fetters of fear and thus enable your spiritual nature to begin your deliverance from the evils of inaction by the power-presence of living faith. And then, forthwith, will this faith vanquish fear of men by the compelling presence of that new and all-dominating love of your fellows which will so soon fill your soul to overflowing.” [1438:0]*

I understand this to mean that our fear of failing, our fear of making a mistake, our fear of looking stupid is replaced by a desire to be active, a desire to serve, because our faith and our love for our fellows will overcome these fears.

The conclusion of this story is:

"This day, my son, you are to be reborn, re-established as a man of faith, courage, and devoted service to man, for God's sake. And when you become so readjusted to life within yourself, you become likewise readjusted to the universe; you have been born again—born of the spirit—and henceforth will your whole life become one of victorious accomplishment. Trouble will invigorate you; disappointment will spur you on; difficulties will challenge you; and obstacles will stimulate you. Arise, young man! Say farewell to the life of cringing fear and fleeing cowardice. Hasten back to duty and live your life in the flesh as a son of God, a mortal dedicated to the ennobling service of man on earth and destined to the superb and eternal service of God in eternity."

[1438:1]

Notice that "victorious accomplishment" included trouble, disappointment, difficulties, and obstacles. We face these things every day anyway, so why not turn them into a "victorious accomplishment"? Perhaps it is because of these things that we value a sense of achievement and success so much. Is victorious accomplishment—the successful achievement on one's purpose—desirable? Then must man have trouble, disappointment, difficulties, and obstacles to overcome.

This story tells us that any man who comes to Christ is born again—a new person. Yesterday I was this person, but today I am a new person. Yesterday I woke up and asked God to protect me and to make me wealthy, but this morning I woke up and asked God, "What can I do to serve you today?" Do this each day, and God will open the doors for you to do things that you never imagined you could do or would do.

Too often we spend our lives preparing for defeat. We spend time preparing for the failures or troubles in life and do little to prepare to win. We exercise each morning preparing for our heart attack. We spend time keeping meticulous files in case we get audited. We check our insurance policies to make sure that our loved ones are taken care of when we die, but what do we do each day to prepare to be successful at what God has planned for our life? What do we do each morning to help our Thought Adjuster and the angels to lead us in the path that we need to go?

The Urantia Book tells us that the ideal life is one of loving service rather than an existence of fearful apprehension. Fear blinds us to what we can do to be successful—to make a contribution to the divine plan or any other form of service. We listen to CNN and hear about all the bad things that are going to happen to us. Turn off CNN and think about something positive—and then go do it. Don't fall to the temptation of evil to do wrong, but also don't fall for the temptation to do nothing. God gives each of us a vision, a dream. Stay focused on that vision and all the good things that you,

as an individual, can do. Do what you can with what you have been given. Grow where God has planted you. God put you here to do something great with your life.

One of the things we most desire in life is the admiration of our peers. Everyone has that desire. Everyone wants to feel important. Everyone wants to contribute—to make a difference. At work we want the boss and co-workers to give us a pat on the back. At home we want our wife to thank us for taking out the trash. In sports we enjoy the cheering of the crowd. When hosting a conference we enjoy the praise and appreciation of those attending. The fear of not getting this admiration of our peers often leads us to do nothing, to be inactive when action is needed.

Several years ago, I got into doing stained glass as a hobby. The nice thing about that was that no matter what you do, no matter how bad it may look close up, when you hang a piece in the window and the sun shines through it, it always looks beautiful. When you do get involved in various opportunities to serve, when you view the details up close, you can see the things that aren't perfect, but once you hang it up for everyone else to see and the sun (with an O) shines through it, it is a beautiful thing. Our 2004 conference in Chicago was an example of that.

There are a lot of people who recognize and appreciate the time and energy you put into something like this conference and obviously we are grateful for that, but there will always be someone telling you that you are wrong or making mistakes. So what if you do something wrong? You are not the first person to make a mistake and you won't be the last, but at least you are doing something. If we make a mistake, all that really happens is that we become wiser about how to get where we want to be. Perfection awaits us in Paradise, not here.

Being perfect in our realm as God is perfect in his doesn't mean that we are perfect. I think it means that we are as perfect as we can be at the moment. Practice makes perfect so perhaps that is what this life is about—practice that someday will make us perfect. God didn't put us here to shrivel up and die. He put us here to grow and to experience life. He put us here to do something. He has sown this seed. Did it fall on fertile soil or upon rock? Will it be choked by the weeds or will it bear much fruit? Will we help to spread the teachings of love and hope from *The Urantia Book* by living them and sharing them without apology to those people who need and want to hear them?

Thomas Edison failed something like 1000 times to make a light bulb, and when asked what he learned from all this failure, he said that he learned 1000 ways not to make a light bulb. He failed many times. He succeeded only once—and look at what that has done for us!

If we make a mistake, all that really happens is that we become wiser about how to get where we want to be.

"Heeding the Call" collage



God times 0 is 0...But God x 1 is a number too large to write on the wall.

Abraham Lincoln was not well educated. A face like that would never get elected today. He was abused as a child, and we now believe that he suffered from a disfiguring disease. He lost elections and failed at many things. Abraham Lincoln was a humble, simple man. No different than you or I and less fortunate in many respects than most of us. However, his face will be on Mt. Rushmore for the next few million years.

Very few people on this planet can be Thomas Edison, Abraham Lincoln, or live the perfect life that Jesus lived, so don't expect that from yourself. However, don't think that just because you cannot change the entire world overnight as these men did that you cannot change the world at all. Because you can. If you have fear, fear the temptation to make excuses. If you have fear, fear the temptation to look for reasons to fail. If you have fear, fear anything that keeps you from joyful active participation in the world around you. If you have fear, fear anything that will keep you from enjoying the spiritual satisfaction that comes from doing God's will and serving our fellow man.

As a kid in school we learn our multiplication tables: $1 \times 1 = 1$, $2 \times 2 = 4$, $4 \times 4 = 16$ Personally, I am a wizard at multiplying by 0. 1×0 is 0, 100×0 is 0, $864,932 \times 0$ is 0. Anything times 0 is 0.

God times 0 is 0... But God x 1 is a number too large to write on the wall. God could do anything and everything himself, but that is not the way God has chosen to do things. God needs the one, the individual, in order to do something. Don't sit and fret about why you are divorced or why you have financial problems or why someone doesn't have the same interest in this revelation that you do. Give God something to work with. God times 1.

Don't make excuses and say "I don't want to offend anyone" or "I don't want to force my religion on someone else." Don't let life keep you from traveling the path that God has planned for you. Just look at what God has given you. He sent you his indwelling spirit and the angels to guide you and to help you. Christ Michael sent us the spirit of truth. Obviously, in the mind of God,

you must be pretty darned important for him to provide you with all that.

When man consecrates his will to the doing of the Father's will, when man gives God all that he has, then does God make that man more than he is. [1285:3]

Be the tool that God needs to accomplish his purpose in your life. God times 1.

Religionists must function in society, in industry, and in politics as individuals, not as groups, parties, or institutions. A religious group which presumes to function as such, apart from religious activities, immediately becomes a political party, an economic organization, or a social institution. Religious collectivism must confine its efforts to the furtherance of religious causes. [1087:6]

I think this is saying that religious groups should stay focused on religious causes and not on politics, economics, or social issues. However, as individuals we should be involved in such things.

We based our theme for our conference on the following quote:

The religionist is not unsympathetic with social suffering, not unmindful of civil injustice, not insulated from economic thinking, neither insensible to political tyranny. Religion influences social reconstruction directly because it spiritualizes and idealizes the individual citizen. Indirectly, cultural civilization is influenced by the attitude of these individual religionists as they become active and influential members of various social, moral, economic, and political groups. [1088:4]

Our own personal religion, this revelation within us, spiritualizes and idealizes each of us. This revelation within us then influences society and civilization because of our attitudes and beliefs, what we do and what we say, as we joyfully, actively participate as influential and individual members of various social, moral, economic, and political groups.

By discovering *The Urantia Book* teachings and by then living them, we are small revelations of our Father—who he is and what he is. Jesus came and revealed God to man. He who has seen Jesus has seen the Father. We too can live that kind of life. We too have this **revelation within us.** □

UB Youth in Motion

CHRIS WOOD
USA

This article is adapted from a plenary speech given at the 2007 UAUS conference in Seattle. Chris is the Program Chair for the 2008 UAUS conference in Kansas City and reports that their theme of "Origin, History, and Destiny" will expand upon some of the ideas expressed here.

Last July, while attending a conference for readers of *The Urantia Book*, a man asked me, rather straightforwardly, "When will the UB Youth do something?"

Now I should tell you, in interests of full disclosure, that I, like many-a-twelve-year-old, am pre-disposed toward inappropriate laughter. I think as you age, you develop a gate between your inner funny farm, and your mouth. My gate has rusted. So I will laugh most inappropriately at any serious situation. So imagine, if you will, my battle for self control when the father of the girl I have been dating for two years approaches me and asks me to go for a walk with him. Alone. He has a question he wants to ask me. We walk out into the cold, dark, surprisingly deserted streets of Chicago. A silent duel develops between us. He is armed, I assume, with

...I, like many-a-twelve-year-old, am pre-disposed toward inappropriate laughter.

the question any man dating a father's daughter is afraid to hear – ("When will you make an honest woman out of my little girl?") – and I am prepared

with the answer every daughter's father has no stomach for – ("During the second trimester, before she starts to show.") That is, if I could keep a straight face. Bob Arkens is no fool, so he throws a curve ball at me. Imagine my confusion when he asks "When will the UB Youth do something?"

I had no answer. Indeed I'm sure I came across like a novice in these gun fights. But the question stuck with me. I began to ponder what my answer to this question might have been, were I a more clever man. I now believe the reason I was so confused was that by asking this one question, I must really answer three.

First, who are the UB Youth?

This seems to be a generational title. Ten years ago, the then youths began migrating together from across the globe. We were in our late teens/early twenties, fresh faces at conferences and study groups. Today we are in our late twenties/early thirties. We are no longer truly youths, but the name has stuck to our generation.



I assume in forty years when we are older, and grayer and balder, we will still be referred to as the UB Youth. Wishful thinking, perhaps, but nicknames die hard.

In a greater sense, though, the UB Youth might be the latest rung of the Fifth Epochal Generation. *The Urantia Book* says: *The true perspective of any reality problem--human or divine, terrestrial or cosmic--can be had only by the full and unprejudiced study and correlation of three phases of universe reality: origin, history, and destiny.*

[215:3] Readers gain a unique perspective of our origins, or the Epochal Generations which have come before us, and the glorious destinies which lay ahead for this world, all the way to light and life. History is where our challenges lie. It is as if the generations before us laid the bricks of a road leading us to a hill, and illuminated on top of that hill is Light and Life. The challenge of the Fifth Epochal Generation is: How do we climb this mountain?

...the generations before us laid the bricks of a road leading us to a hill, and illuminated on top of that hill is Light and Life.

And when will the UB Youth do something?

Well, to answer you, I need to know what exactly are we called to do? Here we are on the first world of our ascension career. What are our first tasks, our first lessons?

The primary lesson, I reason, is to learn to love one another. We are told:

It is not so important to love all men today as it is that each day you learn to love one more human being. If each day or each week you achieve an understanding of one more of your fellows, and if this is the limit of your ability, then you are certainly socializing and truly spiritualizing your personality. [1098:3]

For ten years now, a UB Youth Tour has crisscrossed the country, this continent, and in more ambitious years this world, from the Czech Republic to Thailand. Perhaps you yourself have sent one of your children off on this trek, not knowing exactly what you were getting your child into. One of the underlying motives behind the tour is the idea to learn to love one new person everyday. *Urantia Book* reader or not. In Colorado or in Norway. Those who travel with the tour, be it for a week or month or four months, are learning many of the various ways mortals live on this kindergarten planet of ours.

This is not an intellectual lesson, or even a spiritual one. It is a social challenge. We are told:

Love is dynamic. It can never be captured; it is alive, free, thrilling, and always moving. Man can never take the love of the Father and imprison it within his heart. The Father's love can become real to mortal man only by passing through that man's personality as he in turn bestows this love upon his fellows. The great circuit of love is from the Father, through sons to brothers [1289:3]

In order to be “doing something” this generation must be learning to love.

After we have learned to love, or at least are confident enough to accept a second challenge, we are called to service. We are told directly that faith is enough to get you in the door to the kingdom, but not enough to stay. To stay, you must serve:

The right to enter the kingdom is conditioned by faith, personal belief. The cost of remaining in the progressive ascent of the kingdom is the pearl of great price, in order to possess which a man sells all that he has. [1583:2]

The message of Jesus was one of love; the method of Jesus was one of service.

Jesus taught that service to one's fellows is the highest concept of the brotherhood of spirit believers. Salvation should be taken for granted by those who believe in the fatherhood of God. The believer's chief concern should not be the selfish desire for personal salvation but rather the unselfish urge to love and, therefore, serve one's fellows even as Jesus loved and served mortal men. [2017:4]

Jesus' method was a universal game of hot potato. He told both Peter and Nathaniel in his appearance at

In order to be “doing something” this generation must be learning to love.

Galilee: *Serve your fellow men even as I have served you.* [2047:6 and 2049:1]. Jesus taught the apostles and the disciples, and the messengers, and the throngs. The apostles taught the disciples and the messengers and the throngs. The disciples and messengers taught each other and throngs. And the throngs taught their neighbors, their brothers, their sisters and their children, and so the message of Jesus spread throughout the world. And though relatively few of these life interactions were glorious or worthy of historical note,

the universe refers to this method as the Revelation of the Father to his children.

When will the UB Youth do something? **Perhaps what I truly need to answer is: When will they do this?** In our own ways, we are.

Origin, history, and destiny. Origins have guided us to the foot of this hill, our destiny lies on top. Ralph Waldo Emerson said “There is properly no history; only biography.” Climbing this mountain will not be done by a generation, but by a collection of individuals.

The Urantia Book teaches us that the universal method of teaching is that those one step ahead are constantly leading those one step behind. We are all marching toward Havona together.

Alice, the daughter of the enquiring father, and I are second generation readers, which is to say that our parents have been reading *The Urantia Book* for longer than we have been alive. We have found that first generation readers, those who find the book on a shelf somewhere or through a friend or family member, have a glorious A-ha! moment. To hear it described, it sounds wonderful. For second generation readers, reading the book is more like a concession that, unlike sex, drugs, or rock and roll, our parents might have discovered something important before we did. It's a good lesson to learn, I suppose, to listen to our elders. Alice and I gain the wisdom and avoid the mistakes of our parents. As a consequence many of our mistakes are quite creative and unique. But we are learning to love and to serve those around us.

Origins have guided us to the foot of this hill, our destiny lies on top.

My experience is that some, though not all, of the A-ha!-ers expect an A-ha! moment to take us to the top of the mountain. They get frustrated when they do not see others making leaps up the hill with them. Second generation readers, generally, are more accepting of the long haul ahead of us. We will climb this mountain the same way a tadpole becomes a frog. *Pain and suffering are essential to progressive evolution.* [951:3]. This is a quote that Alice takes particular delight in reciting to me. She's evolving me, she says. I am learning to accept the fact that I will not be on this world when the Fifth Epochal Generation fulfills its destiny, but I can take delight in knowing that I am helping to lay some bricks for others to climb upon. I don't know if the entire world will ever read *The Urantia Book*, but I do not believe it is necessary for the fulfillment of the promise of the Fifth Epochal Generation. The lessons we have learned about service will guide those who are one step behind.

When will the UB Youth do something?

Don't just watch and wait. This Epochal generation is not finished yet. □

1 Although it is not a part of this essay, we are told very similar things about Truth.

You can know the truth, and you can live the truth; you can experience the growth of truth in the soul and enjoy the liberty of its enlightenment in the mind, but you cannot imprison truth in formulas, codes, creeds, or intellectual patterns of human conduct. When you undertake the human formulation of divine truth, it speedily dies. The post-mortem salvage of imprisoned truth, even at best, can eventuate only in the realization of a peculiar form of intellectualized glorified wisdom. Static truth is dead truth, and only dead truth can be held as a theory. Living truth is dynamic and can enjoy only an experiential existence in the human mind. [1949:4]

An interesting study could be made of the connection between the growth of truth and the growth of love.

The Morontial Mind

ALAIN CYR
Canada

We discover many things while studying *The Urantia Book*. We learn that God, from His eternal abode, has chosen to actualise His potential by first bringing into existence the central isle of Havona with its one billion perfect spheres, each one being different from the others and populated with citizens perfectly cognizant of their reason to be. In this unified action of the Paradise Trinity, the life models were then and thus projected with the assurance that all time and space creatures to follow would find its compliment of ideal.

All beings in all universes are fashioned along the lines of some one order of pattern creature living on some one of the billion worlds of Havona. Even the mortals of time have their goal and ideals of creature existence on the outer circuits of these pattern spheres on high. [157:7]

As a counter balance to this perfection, the Universal Father's will, through the Eternal Son's action and the Infinite Spirit's manifestation, created the

On our journey inward there will be many worlds to discover with many training schools made available to us.

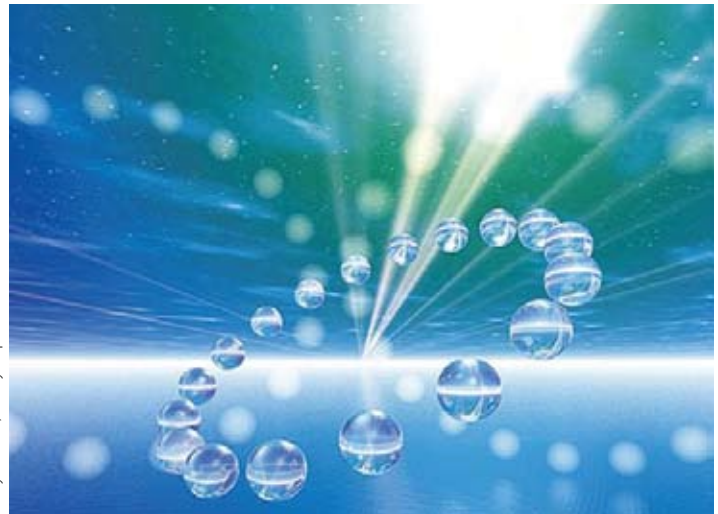
universes of time and space so that imperfect beings could live through the ascension scheme from animal to divinity. And to equip those beings when they reach the status of intelligence,

the Father has granted the greatest gift we can imagine, a free will personality; thus we may be king-in-chief of our decisions and we may partake in our own elevation towards the status of sons and daughters of God.

But the spheres on high as mentioned above are not yet Paradise where someday we will enter within the Father's personal residence, just as the heaven we envisage after our passage on Urantia is not Havona. On our journey inward there will be many worlds to discover with many training schools made available to us.

The Creator Son, when on Urantia, spoke of the "many mansions in the Father's universe." In a certain sense, all fifty-six of the encircling worlds of Jerusem are devoted to the transitional culture of ascending mortals... [530:1]

"Many worlds, many experiences" artwork



So, to work properly as from our native sphere, let us examine what God has introduced in us and analyse how we can make the best of it.

Aside from all the helpers our creators have abundantly supplied us with (the mind-spirit adjutants who are a must for us to orient ourselves in time and space, the seraphim protectors who guide us and who often whisper in our inner ears the proper direction to take and, many more), the Father of personalities has given to the most humble of His intelligent creatures the privilege to benefit from his personal presence within us; a fragment of His personality which indwells us like a counterpart of ourselves. Have you ever felt alone and isolated while thinking that you are lost? What had you effectively lost? Certainly not the Adjuster, this divine part which never leaves during our earthly career.

A child never sits on his knowledge, he is growing. Our heart must become as that of a child.

The Thought Adjuster is engaged in a constant effort so to spiritualize your mind as to evolve your morontia soul; but you yourself are mostly unconscious of this inner ministry. You are quite incapable of distinguishing the product of your own material intellect from that of the conjoint activities of your soul and the Adjuster. [1207:2]

The Adjuster seems to be the very source of our inspiration. As youngsters we were in full apprenticeship; our eyes were wide open and we were keen to everything moving about us. With time and successive experiences which have so well forged the self, we have come to be a self wrapped in a welded cocoon; I am this, I am that. Without realising it, we might have placed this self on the podium of a so-called social status and attributed the sum of our failure and success as being the portrait we have made of ourselves. What we lose most of the time is the vision we used to have which allowed us to associate the beauty, goodness and truth which sprang from everything we could immerse ourselves in. We were growing, in the physical sense as much as in the expansion of our conscience on the mind level.



A child never sits on his knowledge, he is growing. Our heart must become as that of a child.

Verily, verily, I say to you, whosoever receives not the kingdom of God as a little child shall hardly enter therein to grow up to the full stature of spiritual manhood. [1839:6]

And all this growth on the mind level which shapes the potentially eternal soul is pending on our decisions and actions.

Material mind is the arena in which human personalities live, are self-conscious, make decisions, choose God or forsake him, eternalize or destroy themselves. [1216:4]

But what does “choosing God” mean!? I am already doing the best I can to love and support my family, my colleagues, my neighbours...what more is there?

There is survival after life. A life where, after death, we will be provided new bodies in which the values of our past experiences will be reunited with our personality, in provisional custody of our Adjuster during the transient slumber. But if we consider the fact that what will have

***I am blessed by your presence.
I now give to you what I have
received today...***

been saved are only these pearls resulting from our decision actions in human experience having retrieving value for the growing soul, then we really should not put off until tomorrow what can be accomplished today. We are already in the process of building our morontial soul.

Your Adjuster is the potential of your new and next order of existence, the advance bestowal of your eternal sonship with God. By and with the consent of your will, the Adjuster has the power to subject the creature trends of the material mind to the transforming actions of the motivations and purposes of the emerging morontial soul. [1191:5]

And as you are the human parent, so is the Adjuster the divine parent of the real you, your higher and advancing self, your better morontial and future spiritual self. And it is this evolving morontial soul that the judges and censors discern when they decree your survival and pass you upward to new worlds and never-ending existence in eternal liaison with your faithful partner--God, the Adjuster. [1193:5]

So let us be attentive : The soul is man’s superconscience, the receptacle of actualised values in human experience rendered alive through the intervention of the Adjuster who will have translated them in the morontial level of our being. Life beyond starts here, natural death being only a means to escape mortal life. But do not err in suicidal thoughts in hope of fast gain. Only the giver of life can choose the proper time for our transition. That is why we should grant every moment of our life its duly earned dignity by referring to our Adjuster who strives to ennoble our choices so as to gain lasting values from them. The Adjuster depends on us to help us grow and survive, to build a soul worthy of being called Son of God, so this one and its divine counterpart may eventually be united in the same personality and follow the path to true spiritual growth. As such, in the effective rise towards God the Father, we finally become exempt from the uncertainty of survival while we participate in the realisation of the supremacy of the Almighty, that aspect of our loving father which is actualised on the scene of time and space so as to lead us towards the ultimate goals of his infinite plans.

So as to better accomplish the Father’s will, here is my evening prayer: “My faithful companion and guide, I am honoured that you are in my life and I am blessed by your presence. I now give to you what I have received today, so that tomorrow I may better understand what you expect of me.”

God’s plan is great for all that concerns us. He has given us a personality endowed with powers, and likely above all is the power to choose. He created us in His image in the fact that man has willpower. We can search for him or not. And when we find him, we can choose to follow him or not. We can only but feel that we come from a source of life prior to us and, take or leave any scientific rationalisation, we preserve the impression that we are not alone in our mind to analyse all this. Animals are instinctively aware of their needs and react to their environment accordingly. But the developed human can understand the significance of his hunger and create survival means. Without self consciousness we would be reduced to the form of inferior animals.



And how can we explain the very fact of consciousness!? I am thus I am. And if I exist as a creature in this universe, there inevitably is a creator. The causal theory in which each thing sprouts from another does not in the least explain the fact of my personality! How do we explain the uniqueness of each personality in motion on this planet? Science will always repeal any unfounded theory without tangible foundation, and this is well in line with tidy introspection. Philosophy allows us to speculate on the nature and tendencies of things, but here we are stuck at the idea stage. But analysing the facts in unity with their origin allows the enfoldments of an enlarged vision in which the values of things take their full meaning. By placing God at the center of all things, we can formulate an additional meaning to the word *evolution*: the actualisation on the material level of infinite values as they are established in the person of the creator father of all and every thing. Translated otherwise, we could say: "What I am today is actual but what I will be tomorrow is potential; what I am doing now is dynamic, but what I will do tomorrow, all the while being real in my intention, is static." God as a creator is a whole, but in terms of actualisation on the stage of time is only partially revealed. That is why the future exists for us and our children; to lively activate on the stage of time and space the divine and absolute intention of the creator of all, the supporter of, for us, what has been, shall be and will be.

In the light of all this, it seems that we are already horseback riding on the morontial plan of our existence. Our soul is in progressive construction. This soul, as the butterfly in its cocoon will someday, man wanting, emerge from its infantile growth and become a glorified being acknowledged as a son of the Almighty Supreme. We must let go of the tides of our sole materialistic ambitions which frame us so well in the monolithic burdens of everyday life.

You should understand that the morontia life of an ascending mortal is really initiated on the inhabited worlds at the conception of the soul, at that moment when the creature mind of moral status is indwelt by the spirit Adjuster. [551:7]

We should now tune in with the rhythm of effective progress in terms of spiritual development. Let us thus consider that the reality of a better world is as concrete as

the way we shape it. God personally came to us through his Adjusters; it's up to us now to greet him.

You humans have begun an endless unfolding of an almost infinite panorama, a limitless expanding of never-ending, ever-widening spheres of opportunity for exhilarating service, matchless adventure, sublime uncertainty, and boundless attainment. When the clouds gather overhead, your faith should accept the fact of the presence of the indwelling Adjuster...[1194:1]

But progress on the spiritual plane does not in the least affect the accomplishment of a life filled with success on the material level. While many people's fate will lead them to overcome appalling difficulties which are inevitably related to their proper ascension plan, opting for a righteous life has nothing to do with misery. On the contrary, much of our success is owing to our proper living in respect of people and things. As we often hear, what we freely give will always be returned to us a hundredfold. Material success is wholly compatible with spiritual growth. The whole game is played in the mind arena of our intentions and our choices. The doors of heaven are open to all.

"What I am today is actual but what I will be tomorrow is potential; what I am doing now is dynamic, but what I will do tomorrow, all the while being real in my intention, is static."

...whatever it shall cost you in the things of the world, no matter what price you may pay to enter the kingdom of heaven, you shall receive manyfold more of joy and spiritual progress in this world, and in the age to come eternal life. [1537:1]

The future that we may anticipate regarding God's fabulous plans for us is already a part of our present since we are the builders of our future. For us, the morontial world is in the making. Should we wait to awaken in mass resurrection at the next dispensation of grace and mercy when we could right now take our new forms on the third day as certified sons and daughters of God? In a practical sense, it is obvious that any eternity that we may conceive and anticipate will be the continuity of the morontial domains which we are building here and now on Urantia. May we all partake in the coming of God's peace on Earth so as to promote the emancipation of His will. □

How to Fatten Upon Disappointment and Enthuse Upon Apparent Defeat

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The following is from a workshop, which Benet presented at the 2006 UAI International Conference hosted by ANZURA in Sydney, Australia.

*But long before reaching Havona, these ascendant children of time have learned to feast upon uncertainty, to **fatten** upon disappointment, to enthuse over apparent defeat, to invigorate in the presence of difficulties, to exhibit indomitable courage in the face of immensity, and to exercise unconquerable faith when confronted with the challenge of the inexplicable. Long since, the battle cry of these pilgrims became: "In liaison with God, nothing—absolutely nothing—is impossible." [291:03]*

Upon accepting this assignment it immediately occurred to me that, oftentimes, people get disappointed and continue into depression. Once depressed, they eat and get fat. So that is how one goes about fattening upon disappointment. And I remain more disappointed than most. People can be so cruel...I wish they would just call me disappointed [as opposed to fat].

Tribulation is a fact and a necessity in life.

But this also means that we are asked to enthuse upon defeat. If we are going to fail, we might just as well get enthusiastic about it. Some fail and lose and are downright boring and listless. However,

when I am defeated, it just thrills the hell out me. Now that there is no hell, let us begin.

We are all confronted by various problems of differing degrees and priorities. To not have these problems would deprive the individual of what must be the most significant stimulus to growth.

*You are becoming more and more adorable as you leave behind the coarse vestiges of planetary animal origin. "Coming up through great **tribulation**" serves to make glorified mortals very kind and understanding, very sympathetic and tolerant. [538:05]*

*The greatest affliction of the cosmos is never to have been afflicted. Mortals only learn wisdom by experiencing **tribulation**. [556:14]*

Tribulation is a fact and a necessity in life. Yes there are many types that we can do without. The fact that we have them in this rebellion torn world is what makes us agondonters. It is not the routine but the real challenges that teach us more than we want to know until we actually know...and then we not only know, we know that we can know and that we will survive.

Death added nothing to the intellectual possession or to the

spiritual endowment, but it did add to the experiential status the consciousness of survival. [557:9]

Thus we find some of our greatest blessings in retrospective because they almost never feel like blessings at the time. The source of these troubles matters little. They could be from our superhuman watchcare, the karmic results of our own choosing, or just plain indolence and laziness.

*Religious living is devoted living, and devoted living is creative living, original and spontaneous. New religious insights arise out of conflicts which initiate the choosing of new and better reaction habits in the place of older and inferior reaction patterns. New meanings only emerge amid conflict; and conflict persists only in the face of **refusal** to espouse the higher values connoted in superior meanings. [1097:05]*

The solutions all entail determination, perseverance, wisdom, faith, triumph or just simply surviving the ordeal. As we all know, it is not so much what we do in these situations but how we go about doing it. Who are we when the going gets tough? Do we find our better selves? The attitude of sincerity tempered by humor is most descriptive of the better way to face life. It is when we expect much more from ourselves than we do from others that we find success. And when we leave the self out we have much more energy and poise to accomplish the work. The most obvious reason for not taking ourselves too seriously is: No one else does!

*When we are tempted to magnify our self-importance, if we stop to contemplate the infinity of the greatness and grandeur of our Makers, our own self-glorification becomes sublimely ridiculous, even verging on the humorous. One of the functions of **humor** is to help all of us take ourselves less seriously. **Humor** is the divine antidote for exaltation of ego. [549:02]*

*You will learn that you increase your burdens and decrease the likelihood of success by taking yourself too seriously. Nothing can take precedence over the work of your status sphere--this world or the next. Very important is the work of preparation for the next higher sphere, but nothing equals the importance of the work of the world in which you are actually living. But though the work is important, the self is not. When you feel important, you lose energy to the wear and tear of ego dignity so that there is little energy left to do the work. Self-importance, not work-importance, **exhausts** immature creatures; it is the self element that **exhausts**, not the effort to achieve. You can do important work if you do not become self-important; you can do several things as easily as one if you leave yourself out. Variety is restful; monotony is what wears and **exhausts**. [555:05]*

*Be **less** critical; **expect less** of some men and thereby lessen the extent of your disappointment. [2049:01]*

*It is not so much what you learn in this first life; it is **the** experience of living this life that is important. **Even the work** of this world, paramount though it is, is not nearly so important as **the way in which you do this work**. [435:06]*

*The keys of the kingdom of heaven are: **sincerity**, more **sincerity**, and more **sincerity**. All men have these keys. Men use them--advance in spirit status--by decisions, by more decisions, and by more decisions. The highest moral choice is the choice of the highest possible value, and always--in any sphere, in all of them--this is to choose to do the will of God. [435:07]*

Analogy to Music

*There is a great and glorious purpose in the march of the universes through space. All of your mortal struggling is not in vain. We are all part of an immense plan, a gigantic enterprise, and it is the vastness of the undertaking that renders it impossible to see very much of it at any one time and during any one life. We are all a part of an eternal project which the Gods are supervising and outworking. The whole marvelous and universal mechanism moves on majestically through space to the **music** of the meter of the infinite thought and the eternal purpose of the First Great Source and Center. [364:03]*

First we will use a model of playing music to illustrate some concepts of being. As with life, all of these entail more or less continuous failure and disappointment to arrive, level by level, at a mastery of music. These examples are given as framework, with the realization that as soon as they are traversed they become scaffolding which is then no longer necessary.

- When starting out there is only inexperience and uncertainty. Single notes are played without much rhythm or feeling.
- Getting the basics there is primitive experience with timidity and trepidation. A simple melody is played in linear form.
- At the intermediate level competency is approaching and practicing is regular and devoted. The melody is complex and multiple parts may be played.
- At the advanced level the beginnings of mastery make their appearance through a fluid, conceptual, interpretive presentation of very complex lines of melody and harmony. A vision of the design and intent of the composer is given. **"A person is about as happy as he makes up his mind to be".**
- At the transcendent level the multi-dimensional reality of the music goes through the ceiling, and the creative design is portrayed as one who composes the symphony or work.

This analogy is given as a demonstration of problem solving. Ability is God given, but growth is the result of an increase in skills, perceptions and unification of things, meanings and values in a specific framework of a problem to be solved. We attain these skills by overcoming disappointment and failure. As living children of



God we must fail in order to learn. It is just another lesson until we get it and move on to the next one. But something more meaningful happens each and every time we survive and triumph. We lose one more limitation. Being progressively unlimited is becoming like God. None of this is possible without trial, tribulation, disappointment and failure. Fatten on that.

...we are thrust in and out of partnerships and team-based tasks, with many who are totally unlike ourselves... And pause to consider that in partnership with God, these are all real experiences that feel, hurt, confuse, challenge, cause the possibility of doubt and the danger of losing one's way. And

so Jesus says: *Fear not but be of good cheer.* In modern times it is said: *Don't worry, be happy.* And Abe Lincoln once said: "A person is about as happy as he makes up his mind to be." The assurances of faith are eventually replaced with the assurances of truth.

*Increasingly throughout the morontia progression the assurance of truth replaces the assurance of faith. When you are finally mustered into the actual spirit world, then will the **assurances** of pure spirit insight operate in the place of faith and truth or, rather, in conjunction with, and superimposed upon, these former techniques of personality assurance. [1111:04]*

The truth is that we will outlive every one of our disappointments, no matter how great, and come out the better for it. After this life, it won't wear our bodies and senses out so much as it does now. To the extent that we stand in our own way we can expect to have less wherewithal to do the work.

Types of situations that we are confronted with progress through this life and those that follow. We must set aside our limitations and attachments to temporary

things. Our willingness and sincerity accelerate the process but not the elapsed time. It is the quality and efficiency of our decision making that grows; slowly at first and then ever more quickly. We learn how it goes. We learn how to learn how it goes. We become conscious of learning how to learn how it goes. This consciousness brings deeper awareness of our connection to the great teacher and we feel gratitude for which the natural reaction is love. We have enough love that the natural response is to love and share that love with all who will receive it. We become conscious of God as He is living in our lives while we are living in his life. We are now doing His work. In doing His work we are becoming more and more like Him. Attunement is the result as well as the action. Spiritual growth comes through agitation, psychic conflict and tribulation as we actualize the supreme desire to love and know God the Father.

*Religious perplexities are inevitable; there can be no growth without psychic conflict and spiritual **agitation**. The organization of a philosophic standard of living entails considerable commotion in the philosophic realms of the mind. Loyalties are not exercised in behalf of the great, the good, the true, and the noble without a struggle. Effort is attendant upon clarification of spiritual vision and enhancement of cosmic insight. And the human intellect protests against being weaned from subsisting upon the nonspiritual energies of temporal existence. The slothful animal mind rebels at the effort required to wrestle with cosmic problem solving. [1097:06]*

The experience of learning how to fatten upon disappointment and become enthusiastic in confronting apparent defeat is the process of the basic learning paradigm along with the superimposed and simultaneous challenge of managing a self that clamors for attention by the higher self that chooses to seek, find and become more like God. And if this were not enough, we are thrust in and out of partnerships and team-based tasks, with many who are totally unlike ourselves, and who are involved with their own problems of growth and accomplishment. Many of these beings will have been created much higher and more perfect than ourselves and yet we will all be called upon to find the best solutions to the task at hand.

*While religion is exclusively a personal spiritual experience--knowing God as a Father--the corollary of this experience--knowing man as a brother--entails the adjustment of the **self** to other selves, and that involves the social or group aspect of religious life. Religion is first an inner or personal adjustment, and then it becomes a matter of social service or group adjustment. [1090:07]*

Man can never wisely decide temporal issues or transcend the selfishness of personal interests unless he meditates in the presence of the sovereignty of God and reckons with the realities of divine meanings and spiritual values. [1093:02]



"Defeat" image

On the mansion worlds you completed the unification of the evolving mortal personality; on the system capital you attained Jerusem citizenship and achieved the willingness to submit the self to the disciplines of group activities and co-ordinated undertakings; but now on the constellation training worlds you are to achieve the real socialization of your evolving morontia personality. This super-nal cultural acquirement consists in learning how to: . . . 1...2...

3. Achieve simultaneous adjustment to both fellow morontians and these host univiatia. Acquire the ability voluntarily and effectively to co-operate with your own order of beings in close working association with a somewhat dissimilar group of intelligent creatures.

4. While thus socially functioning with beings like and unlike yourself, achieve intellectual harmony with, and make vocational adjustment to, both groups of associates.

5. While attaining satisfactory socialization of the personality on intellectual and vocational levels, further perfect the ability to live in intimate contact with similar and slightly dissimilar beings with ever-lessening irritability and ever-diminishing resentment. The reversion directors contribute much to this latter attainment through their group-play activities. [494:3; 6-8]

Life is a never-ending series of multi-faceted complexities which demand a little more from us than we might, at first, be willing to give. The values of sincerity and willingness as goals of attainment in their own right as well as being the means of transcendence of the selfish self must find expression in our lives. In this first life, it is largely the experience of survival that makes the Morontia experience more real. In the continuing life, it is the problem solving situations and skills which

elevate and actualize our individual realities towards the progressive awareness of God consciousness. Even at times when we feel alone, and especially at those times, God is right here keeping His part of the deal. He knows that we will eventually realize it. And when we do realize it, we realize that He did not just arrive but that He has always been here. And so we feel alone when we could feel the immeasurable satisfaction and the sublime pleasure of His company in partnership with all that we do. How many times has He been here for us that we know of, let alone those that we have not discovered yet?

How many times has He been here for us that we know of, let alone those that we have not discovered yet?

Ability to comprehend is the mortal passport to Paradise. Willingness to believe is the key to Havona. The acceptance of sonship, co-operation with the indwelling Adjuster, is the price of evolutionary survival. [290:05]

So, that disappointment and that failure and that defeat are only real if we stop moving towards and with God. If we keep living in faith and in truth, there is no force, power or person in all the universe that can stop us because Our Father in Heaven so wills it. The table has been set from eternity, so let's fatten up. □



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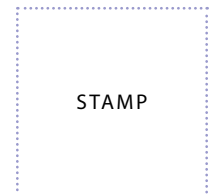
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