

Why the need for teachers and what does it mean to be a teacher?

Presented by Rita Schaad, Anzura Conference, Tasmania on September 16, 2016

Living Water



"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." [Paper 100:4.2, page 1097.6]

Before we attempt any task, before we become anything at all – in a professional or private arena we need to learn and know about it – we have to **equip** ourselves.

So asking the question WHY – and later HOW – is crucial to an in-depth understanding of the subject matter before going ahead and ‘turning the key’ in the ignition. Experience shows us that we save ourselves – and others - a lot of pain and trouble and avoid major miss-takes.

And so it was. By trying to arrive at a workable answer to this big WHY – why teachers of a religion, why the *need*, why *we*, we Urantia Book readers!? why *now*? – I’ve asked the why and what for questions over and over again.

Asking questions in any case opens up those windows in the mind, lots of them actually! It has been so intriguing and I like you to now come along on that trail with me and help ask and answer some of them.

WHY?

Firstly we ask ourselves – Why is there a *need* at all to teach – teach the Religion of Jesus.

Doesn’t everybody know it by now?

The one that says:... do unto others what you would like to have done to you.....

That religion who frees humankind - from fear of the great unknown, from alienation (cosmic, social), that religion who promises us Peace and Joy in this life and Eternal Survival and adventure in the great beyond, that religion that has acquainted us to a mighty Father God to worship.

Then - A way of living which demands no rituals and obscure practises, isn’t secretive and coded *but asks/demands only* sincere goodness – and may I say courage - in the way we relate to others, the showing forth of Spiritual Fruits and, even if at times need be, as Martin Luther King said, to embrace a ‘*committed non-conformists*’ attitude when Truth, Beauty and Goodness are compromised in whatever worldly situation we find ourselves in. ⁱ

Spiritual Fruits – what were they again – remember one...or two??

loving service,
unselfish devotion,
courageous loyalty,
sincere fairness,
enlightened honesty,
undying hope,
confiding trust,
merciful ministry,
unfailing goodness,
forgiving tolerance,
and enduring peace.

...Modern men and women of intelligence evade the religion of Jesus because of their fears of what it will do to them — and with them. And all such fears are well founded. The religion of Jesus does, indeed, dominate and transform its believers, demanding that men dedicate their lives to seeking for knowledge of the will of the Father in heaven and requiring that the energies of living be consecrated to the unselfish service of the brotherhood of man. [Paper 195:9.6, page 2083.2]

Bubble world



Such a fragile looking world....plagued with natural disasters and a humanity largely unaware of our planetary purpose, falling from one calamity into another – who will catch us?

Even The Urantia Book, in the very first paragraph of the Foreword clearly states the reason for this celestially endorsed communication with us mortals:

*IN THE MINDS of the mortals of Urantia — that being the name of your world — **there exists** great confusion respecting the meaning of such terms as God, divinity, and deity. Human beings are still more **confused** and uncertain about the relationships of the divine personalities designated by these numerous appellations. Because of this **conceptual poverty** associated with so much ideational confusion, I have been directed to formulate this introductory statement in explanation of the meanings which should be attached to certain word symbols as they may be hereinafter used in those papers which the Orvonton corps of truth revealers have been authorized to translate into the English language of Urantia. [Paper 0.0.1]*

One example of the ‘conceptual poverty’ I’ve overheard recently on a Radio interview: It took me aback!

“All the religions of this world are only there for human sexuality to be manageable and death be palatable!”...

crude isn't it, leaves you speechless!

Why do such ideas become the creed of people?

But then...

It requires revelation to show that the First Cause of science and the self-existent Unity of philosophy are the God of religion, full of mercy and goodness and pledged to effect the eternal survival of his children on earth. [Paper 4:4.7page 59.3]

There are other voices though. I found a perfect antidote from Alexander Müllerⁱⁱ - an Austrian psychologist and contemporary with Carl Jung (1920ies) and of course William Sadler. Doubt that he knew him though.

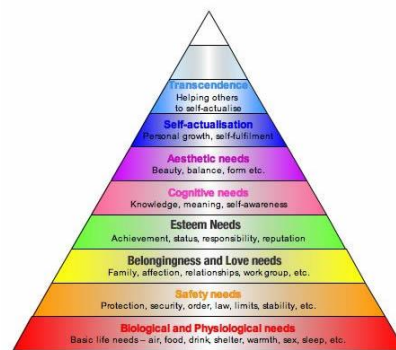
“Without an alliance with God, Man can neither find a meaningful goal for his life nor a convincing reason for fellowship. Because man is not connected with his fellow humans on a religious level, morality is not an obligation; and because on a psychological level he has to deal with situations representing goodness or evil, there remains only one possibility: to strive for general wellbeing from a social point of view. And those who are not willing to come to social insight and mutual aid, but who want to remain egotists for their own sake and not for the sake of community, for them there remains only force and coercion. Without man's connection with God, even a society intent on promoting general well-being is hardly possible without compulsion.”

Does this sound familiar?

No social system or political regime which denies the reality of God can contribute in any constructive and lasting manner to the advancement of human civilization.[Paper 195:10.7, page 2084.7]

Confusion reigns in a God-less world, abject spiritual poverty resides in the minds of people where God is excluded.

When we consider societies and endeavour to change them we actually deal **with people**. And it is beneficial then to be aware of how they function and what it takes for them to entertain ‘good thoughts’ or practise ‘higher thinking’. Only in the realms of moral self-consciousness is it possible for the Adjuster to function effectively and afford those spiritual experiences where individual mortals can become God-conscious.



Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs

By ascending and meeting the needs level, men *are* able to reach their higher potential. Conversely – if the unfolding and growth is stunted and perverted on any of the levels, it has a disastrous effect on individuals and on the societal structure at large.

It might seem too easy to explain all the horrific suffering we witness in this world which people are inflicting on each other, but for me at least, this ‘hierarchy of needs’ⁱⁱⁱ gives an understanding what happens in the mind/personality when we depart from the ordained laws of growth. It evokes compassion with others when understanding what went wrong along the way.

To help this world then is to help our fellows. To help our fellows is to accompany them on the journey of self discovery and to accompany our fellows means to apply that certain coercion and compulsion Alexander Müller was talking about. Jesus expressed it very similar and forceful in this way at the last address to believers before his ascension

“.....By the spirit fruits of your lives **impel souls** to believe the truth that man is a son of God, and that all men are brethren. Remember all I have taught you and the life I have lived among you.

My love overshadows you, my spirit will dwell with you, and my peace shall abide upon you. Farewell.” [Paper 193:5.4, page 2057.4]

What a sweet life it will be when all God’s children share those delicious fruits of the spirit amongst themselves.

Looks like the recipe for such a feast is clearly set out!

*The great challenge to modern man is to **achieve better communication with the divine Monitor** that dwells within the human mind. **Man’s greatest adventure in the flesh consists in the well-balanced and sane effort to advance the borders of self-consciousness** out through the dim realms of embryonic soul-consciousness in a wholehearted effort to reach the borderland of spirit-consciousness — contact with the divine presence.*

And

The Father is living love, and this life of the Father is in his Sons. And the spirit of the Father is in his Sons’ sons — mortal men. When all is said and done, the Father idea is still the highest human concept of God. [Paper 196:3.34, page 2097.2]

WHY WE?



As Urantia Book readers we have been made to feel at home in this cosmic organisation. We know where we belong. We are operating, so to speak, from a higher platform. We *believe* in God as the universal Father, first and original source - creator of all we perceive to be, and we *believe* in Jesus and his earthly mission 2000 years ago, and we *believe* in the infinite Spirit and her gifts to us - and we *believe* that somehow in all this gigantic enterprise we *have a role to play*.

As such, we are taking the Masters request serious and to heart, like this one from the Tenth Appearance (At Philadelphia)

*“Peace be upon you. You all know that we have one Father in heaven, and that there is but one gospel of the kingdom — the good news of the gift of eternal life which men receive by faith..... **“Go, then, into all the world proclaiming this gospel of the***

fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of men to all nations and races and ever be wise in your choice of methods for presenting the good news to the different races and tribes of mankind. Freely you have received this gospel of the kingdom, and you will freely give the good news to all nations. Fear not the resistance of evil, for I am with you always, even to the end of the ages. And my peace I leave with you.” [Paper 191:4.3, page 2041.6]

And also we are taking to heart those sections in the publication mandate where it is stated that:

There is need for teachers and leaders to be at hand when the ideological struggle and the confusion has passed. And it also says, that we doubtless live and die without fully realizing that we are participating in the birth of a new age of religion on this world.

That is a huge statement and carries a great implication to each of us here!

So we *do* elect and participate – on a wing and a prayer...



And so – many have done just this – heeded the call and gone out into the World.

Gospel Map



https://www.google.com.au/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=3&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKewjK5liC97_NAhXH3YMKHYUICqIQtwlIKjAC&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3D9Gp-ZsUagc&usg=AFQjCNEz3i0gNChKSJqR9x8_Hw9ds2BSTQ

the caption says:

*This animated map is a powerful visual depiction of the most important movement in history
(westernconservatory.com/products/spread-gospel-map)*

Charting the geographic progress of the Gospel over the last 2,000 years, this map shows the missionary journeys of the apostles, the outposts of the early church, the hotbeds of persecution, the staging grounds of the Church's major theological battles, and more. See the power of the Gospel to transform "every nation and tribe and language and people," and be inspired by the legacies of the brave brothers and sisters who faithfully carried the Gospel of Christ to the farthest ends of the earth.

Looks impressive – but at what price! That ‘sending out’ message from Jesus certainly being followed but where did that advise go – “*be as wise as serpents and gentle as doves*”..? Again we shudder when confronted with the effects of those century long brutalities in the name of Jesus of Nazareth . All seems lost at times.

But ...

Christianity contains enough of Jesus' teachings to immortalize it. [Paper 195:10.18, page 2086.04]

We can deliberate and lament about the **state of this world** and all the enormous change in every conceivable area of human civilisation and all the reasons for why things are in a bad way, for as long as we like, there will be more to come each time we turn a corner! Yes yes – we know.....

The greatest affliction of the cosmos is never to have been afflicted. Mortals..... only learn wisdom by experiencing tribulation. [Paper 48:7.14, page 556.14]

But not only does *The Urantia Book* explain where and why things went wrong – it also, and this goes with many thanks to our fellow Urantian citizens, the Midwayers - has given us huge insights into all of Jesus’ life amongst our kind, a new and enhanced expression of the previous epochal revelation. Its mission surely, to rescue us, untangle this confusion, introduce us to the Thought Adjuster and the presence of the Spirit of Truth plus providing that enlarged cosmic framework we’re so excited about.

When asking:

WHAT



I wonder, does the world need an update? Of what exactly?

As we study this – the book - in groups or otherwise – to learn about the faith journey of the Master on this earth, we find that when coming to those thresholds in our lives where we have to make choices – over and over again - and leap that leap of faith, that we are securely held and land on the other side as it were, intact to see just a little further into the great unknown..... this is our *own* experience, *our* knowing and the foundation of our understanding of the reality of Spirit.

[Given the history of Christianity and the appearance of *The Urantia Book*, why are teachers needed ?](#)

This world has never seriously or sincerely or honestly tried out these dynamic ideas and divine ideals of Jesus’ doctrine of the kingdom of heaven. [Paper 170:4.14 page 1863.12]

Never really tried !– if that is the case – what a statement! And what was tried has and is failing constantly.

But Christianity contains enough of Jesus ’message‘to rekindle the original message. What are we to do?

You, as did his apostles, should the better understand Jesus' teachings by his life. It is his life, and not his lessons to the twelve or his sermons to the multitudes, that will assist most in revealing the Father's divine character and loving personality. [Paper 140:8.19, page 1581.6]

“What the world needs now is love sweet love...” – it needs to see Jesus in spirit born people!

*Being a teacher – of Jesus' religion - in our case then does mean that we need firstly to understand what we are on about and who we are – personally! We also might check up on our realistic and positive outlook. Then we need to have comprehensive knowledge of the Life of Jesus and how he lived it to be able to experience the freedom it gives us and to ‘follow’ in his footsteps, then we come to understand the mission of Jesus as portrayed in *The Urantia Book* and the need to support the un-confusing of this world by employing this same spiritual program.*

We understand that we can build upon what is still ‘sleeping ‘ and with compassion and devotion re-awaking in our fellows, what is innate in all of humanity – especially since the coming of the Spirit of Truth – the spirit of the Master-our universe Michael himself.

Being watered



Nothing ever seemed so important to Jesus as the individual human who chanced to be in his immediate presence. He was master and teacher, but he was more - he was also a friend and neighbour, an understanding comrade. [Paper 138:8.9, page 1545.10]

Is this our approach, could this be a way to remind people of the spark within?

But why do people need to *be reminded* of that..?

Consider the Prophets



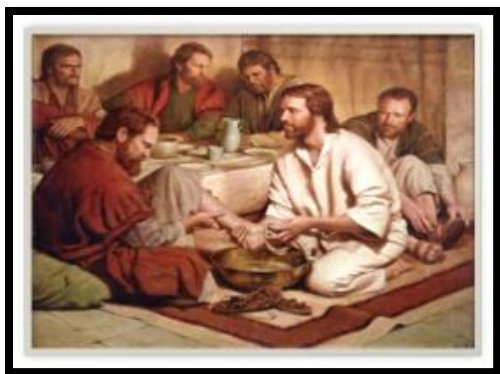
It's been done before - Machiventa Melchizedek on his ‘emergency mission’ many thousand years ago, came to salvage what was left of the ancient adamic religion of the one God, others came as well – prophets like Moses, Jeremiah

“...to root out and to pull down, to destroy and to throw down, to build and to plant” and ... to *remind* folks that God had made a covenant with them saying:

“I will give (you) them a heart to understand that I am Yahweh, and (you) they shall be my people and I will be (your) their God when (You) they return to me with all (your) their heart.” Jeremiah 24.7

Then another ‘reminder’ – Jesus on his 7th bestowal, also made a covenant with his followers – a new covenant – *love one another - as I have loved you, and ...” when two or more people are gathered in my name - I will be amongst them.”*

WELCOME MASTER



This surely was a promise of that unbroken communion.....a *reminder* of the God within; reminder of the brotherhood of man as the family of the heavenly Father.

And yet still – *The Urantia Book* as well is re-newing, re-stating, unveiling what many of us innately know.

Is that *the need* we are inquiring about, is that what we are called to demonstrate in our lives?

Intelligence alone cannot explain the moral nature. Morality, virtue, is indigenous to human personality. Moral intuition, the realization of duty, is a component of human mind endowment and is associated with the other inalienables of human nature: scientific curiosity and spiritual insight. [Paper 16:7.1, page 192.8]

We find that when we study the various papers and pages of *The Urantia Book* there is a precise aim to *unconfuse* our minds, ... re-string our harps.. ☺ ... to regain a common outlook...and this needs to be shared! It just depends *how* this is done to be effective.

[In the context of the conference theme, what does it mean to be a teacher?](#)

If we agree that the connection with God awakens in the mortal races, and those ‘troublesome mortals’ in question - those desires and dreams that lures them willingly into the world of spirit realities - we have to become *technicians* to make this connection in and with people.

Emma Christensen – ‘Christy’- from her correspondence:

“ We need to be listing how we can all be of greater service. God has provided the vision and the call. The answer must be ours. There are steps we can take that will help us to meet this challenge:

First, we need to cultivate the power to envision our share in bettering the world.

Second, we need to believe that God can speak to us, that he can use us and our talents, and that he does call us to our particular place of service.

Third, we need to be willing to be used for the fulfilment of the vision.

Let us pray that we may all become valiant soldiers of the circles, wholeheartedly enlisted in the solid ranks of those mortals who shall go forth in the coming battle of truth against error under the unfaltering leadership of the mighty seraphim of progress.”

There is no way around it – as *would be* teachers we need to have been there; on the threshold of a faith-choice, have made that leap...into action.

So with this expanded and new understanding of the master's teaching we come to know from the midwayers account, we should be able to formulate – to others - in our own words what that kingdom of heaven is supposed to look like and we know – it will have to come from our own deep inner experience – opposed to some haughty recital of dogmatic phrases.

It's not enough *to hear* about the truth and ideals of Jesus- people need to see and witness the fruits of the spirit in the bearer of this message in order to consider to change their minds about certain things. We need to be able to *demonstrate*...make real.

Those along the way



So much to consider when faced with those reaching out – sick in mind, body and heart. Those who know little of the affection available between people. Maybe we could just think of one thing worth 'proclaiming' - our Moral code – the Truth Beauty and Goodness aspect of the Golden Rule.

"There can be no peace in the heart or progress in the mind unless you fall wholeheartedly in love with truth, the ideals of eternal realities". [Paper 157:2.2, page 1745.1]

- [Is it the same as being a preacher?](#)

A preacher might tell you what exactly you should do – to get wherever.....

- [What if I don't feel qualified to be a teacher? What if I don't feel capable?](#)

But a teacher will need to go with you, advise, encourage and believe in you.

The teacher and the student are a team going forward together – it's a give and take situation – we both benefit.

Looking at it in this way should give us the confidence to heed the original call to 'go out into the world' and minister in such way to our fellow beings.

The more completely man understands himself and appreciates the personality values of his fellows, the more he will crave to know the Original Personality, and the more earnestly such a God-knowing human will strive to become like the Original Personality. [Paper 1:6.6, page 30.5]

When we asked at the beginning WHY do we *need* to teach?

Maybe by now we have arrived at the conclusion and ask differently – why do we *have to* – why are we *compelled to* teach – to demonstrate - the Religion of Jesus !

"Sincere men are unafraid of the critical examination of their true convictions and noble ideals."

[Paper 146:3.2, page 1641.4]

Religion assures man that, in following the gleam of righteousness discernible in his soul, he is thereby identifying himself with the plan of the Infinite and the purpose of the Eternal. Such a liberated soul immediately begins to feel at home in this new universe, his universe. [Paper 101:10.7, page 1117.1]

When man hears God's spirit speak within the human heart, inherent in such an experience is the fact that God simultaneously hears that man's prayer. [Paper 46:2.4, page 1638.4]

Lake Van



If we could just be so sure about, so faithful, so patient and persistent like Van and his small band – we could be part in the rehabilitation efforts of Urantia.

Are you ready – are you willing?

Let's do it!

And remember, the Master was not a Man of sorrows, ever did he say – "*be of good cheer*".

Rita Schaad, Newcastle, 2016

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1. Martin Luther: in his Sermon from 1954 about *Transformed Nonconformist*
<https://thevalueofsparrows.com/2014/07/13/sermon-transformed-nonconformist-by-martin-luther-king-jr/>
 2. Alexandre Müller; You shall be a Blessing, *Main Traits of a Religious Humanism; Chapter VII, page 50*
<http://www.adlerian.us/mueller.htm> and all related resources
 3. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maslow%27s_hierarchy_of_needs