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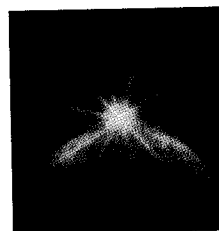
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*A History*  
*of the*  
**URANTIA PAPERS**

BY LARRY MULLINS  
with DR. MEREDITH J. SPRUNGER



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Bedell. Bedell was a member of the original Forum that helped publish the Urantia Papers as a book. Larry is author of *Jesus: God & Man* (1976), the first derivative work to be accepted for publication by Urantia Foundation. He has served the Urantia movement

as President of the First Urantia Society of Oklahoma, and eight years as a General Councilor for Urantia Brotherhood. He is a noted public speaker and the author of several books on the Self-Actualization process, including *Immature People with Power: How to Handle Them* and most recently: *Get Real*. In reference to writing this book, Larry believes *A History of the Urantia Papers* is the achievement of a team of dedicated Urantians who agreed to follow truth wherever it led. He adds that he is fortunate that his wife, Joan Batson Mullins, so enthusiastically contributed to this project.

Joan and Larry live in Boulder, Colorado with Larry's youngest daughter, Michelle, who is a devoted student of the Urantia Papers. Larry is CEO of UltraSales, Inc., a nationally syndicated advertising and marketing business.

**Dr. Meredith Justin Sprunger** has had a remarkable career as a college president, professor, and executive administrator, a licensed psychologist and therapist, and an ordained minister. He has served congregations in the midwest and taught at Elmherst College and the Indiana Institute of Technology, functioning as the head of the Department of Psychology, Chairman of the Division of Liberal Arts, and as President. He is the only living colleague of Dr. William Sadler (1875-1969), a prominent Chicago psychiatrist and debunker of psychic phenomena. Dr. Sprunger is a devoted Urantian, serving in numerous capacities including President of Urantia Brotherhood. He is author of many secondary works, including his book *Spiritual Psychology* (Jemenon, 1988). Dr. Sprunger is probably the most reliable source of first-hand information about the intriguing origin and history of the Urantia Papers. He is founder and executive editor of *The Spiritual Fellowship Journal* and lives in Fort Wayne, Indiana with his wife, Irene.



Are we children of God, or simply complex animals?  
Will we survive death, or are we doomed to extinction?

Is humankind an accident, or are we part of a grand universe plan?

The Urantia Papers give persuasive answers to these questions. Nearly 500,000 copies of *The Urantia Book* are now in print. But, *who wrote it, and by what authority?* More intriguing and thrilling than any science fiction or mystery story are the actual events that were set into motion in Chicago nearly 100 years ago and eventually resulted in one of the most astounding publications ever printed. However, until now, a carefully documented history of these Papers, where they came from, and how they became published as *The Urantia Book*, has not been available. In *A History of the Urantia Papers*, Larry Mullins and Dr. Meredith Sprunger have collaborated to strip away prejudice and superstition and unfold the facts about the origin and history of the Urantia Papers. Whether you are familiar with the Urantia Papers or simply curious about them, you will find *A History of the Urantia Papers* a captivating and challenging story.

From the Introduction by Ángel F. Sánchez-Escobar, Ph.D.:

"Many members of the Urantian community on both sides of the Atlantic have so far suffered the consequences of an 'official,' biased interpretation of the events leading to the materialization, authorship, and controlled dissemination of the Papers, and find them unacceptable. It is my experience, being a Spanish reader of the Papers acquainted with this issue, that due to the lack of a sound narrative, many members of the Spanish-Urantian community are being deceived by a misleading, undocumented interpretation of the origins of the Papers. Mullins' dissemination and translation into different languages of his competing, well-founded version of the facts will, of course, not be welcomed by the 'establishment' with its vested interest in its 'rightness,' but it will open the eyes of many readers around the world."

Ángel F. Sánchez-Escobar, Ph.D. (Vanderbilt University)  
Seville, Spain

"Larry Mullins and Dr. Meredith Sprunger's *A History of the Urantia Papers* is by far the clearest, most carefully researched and documented history of *The Urantia Book* yet to appear in print. Their team explores the inconsistencies in the 'official' story, removing much of the fog from the speculative windows through which the formative events of the readership community have been traditionally viewed. The careful review of the process by which changes have been made to the text between printings as well as the concluding analysis of Urantia Foundation's use of 'messages' as a means of attempting to establish proprietary control over the revelation border on shocking and raise questions which cry out for answers. This is a must-read for any serious student of the fifth epochal revelation."

David Kantor

Chairman: International Fellowship Committee, The Urantia Book Fellowship  
Webmaster: urantiabook.org, librourantia.org

PENUMBRA PRESS

A HISTORY of the URANTIA PAPERS

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*by Dr. Ángel F. Sánchez-Escobar*

## *INTRODUCTION — Page 2*

Are there Spiritual Beings of higher intelligence in the vast universe? Do they take any notice of us? Presuming there are such intelligences and they do care about us, would they ever try to communicate with us and attempt to assist us? In other words, is the concept of *revelation* a valid premise? What would — or what could — higher, more mature celestial intelligences safely reveal to us?

## *CHAPTER ONE — Page 14*

*“If this is not an authentic picture of reality, it is the way it ought to be!”*

Dr. Meredith Sprunger first saw *The Urantia Book* in 1955, when he was 40 years of age. He was not impressed. However, in 1956, while on an automobile trip to a church conference board meeting, a conversation with a companion set into motion a series of events that would cause him to reconsider *The Urantia Book*, events that would eventually reconfigure his life.

## *CHAPTER TWO — Page 26*

*Chicago and Dr. William S. Sadler*

On May 7, 1958, the stage was set for a remarkable meeting. Dr. Meredith Justin Sprunger sought out Dr. William S. Sadler in hopes of learning more about the origin of the Urantia Papers. Dr. Sprunger wanted to know how the Urantia Papers came to be written, and who had authored them. What Dr. Sprunger learned in that Chicago meeting so intrigued him that he began a lifelong search to better understand the origin and meaning of the Urantia Papers.

## **FORMATTING OF QUOTES:**

Quotes from the Urantia Papers are set in **bold-face, standard** (not *italic*) type. Reference pages and paragraphs of these notes refer to, and were derived from, the original text of the 1955 printing of *The Urantia Book*, unless otherwise stated.

## **SOURCE MATERIALS:**

Key source materials used as references in this history may be found and down-loaded. A summary list of these documents will be found in Appendix A.

The main website access is through <http://urantiabook.org> (English) and through <http://librourantia.org> (Spanish).

Access to source material documents will be found at:  
<http://urantiabook.org/mullinshistory>

**CHAPTER THREE — Page 42*****“Something has happened to my husband”***

One summer between 1906 and 1911, there was a remarkable encounter involving two couples. One of the couples was Dr. William Sadler and his wife, Doctor Lena Sadler; the identity of the other couple is not known. The event would completely alter the lives of all four individuals, and have implications that are still not fully grasped nearly a century later.

**CHAPTER FOUR — Page 64*****“There is one peculiar case I have not yet been able to solve”***

Dr. Sadler: “With one or two exceptions, all the psychic phenomena which I have investigated have turned out to be either conscious or unconscious frauds. Some were deliberate frauds — others were those peculiar cases in which the performer was a victim of the deceptions of his own subconscious mind.” Another member of the group spoke up. “What were the exceptions? Doctor, if you have found cases which you have been unable to solve, this would be interesting. Tell us more about them.”

**CHAPTER FIVE — Page 86*****“We were introduced to many new, and to us, somewhat strange concepts”***

Dr. Sadler: “We never realized how much our religious thinking had expanded until the Papers began to arrive. As the revelation progressed we came to more fully appreciate how much we had been prepared for the vast alteration of our religious beliefs by these preliminary contacts extending over a period of twenty years of pre-education.”

**CHAPTER SIX — Page 112*****“The majority of your Forum shock me with their lack of enthusiasm”***

The purported message said in part: “Your group of Seventy may seem to show more interest because you are selected and because you are under more or less discipline. But the majority of your Forum shock me with their lack of enthusiasm. . . I admonish you to be ever alert to the importance of the extraordinary trust that has been placed in your hands.”

**CHAPTER SEVEN — Page 134*****“It was not portrayed to be error-free”***

Carolyn Kendall: “The multiple processes of transcribing from handwritten manuscript to typewritten pages; the retyping of these pages two to five times; and from typewritten to typeset form, presented opportunities for errors to creep into the papers which were not caught by even two professional proofreadings. By publication day, Christy and Marian had already collected a list of errors noticed by sharp-eyed Forum members. The midwayers did not volunteer the location of errors, just that there were errors in the published text.”

**CHAPTER EIGHT — Page 164*****“You are now on your own”***

Shortly after the publication of *The Urantia Book*, a final message from the Revelators was received: “You are now on your own.” After nearly fifty years, the connection between the mortals of our planet and the unseen Revelators was severed and went dead. “They didn’t even say goodbye,” remarked Dr. Sadler.

**CHAPTER NINE — Page 186*****“In my opinion there can be only one edition of The Urantia Book, the first”***

Trustee Emeritus James C. Mills believed there was only one editorial change in *The Urantia Book*, and that it had been changed back. When confronted with evidence to the contrary, he wrote to Ken and Betty Glasziou in the letter dated March 5, 1991: “It looks like we need to carefully proofread the present printing against the first printing. In my opinion, there can be only one edition of The Urantia Book, the first.”

**CHAPTER TEN — Page 232*****“The baptism of joys and sorrows”***

Dr. Sprunger has noted: “Most of us now realize that the Fifth Epochal Revelation has been launched on the troubled and turbulent seas of evolutionary struggle.”

*EPILOGUE — Page 274*

The purpose of this epilogue is twofold. First, to review some of the most important information and some conclusions the team reached about the history of the Urantia Papers. Second, to consider examples of the effects of proprietary and entitlement attitudes toward the Urantia Papers.

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*Preface*

by Dr. Ángel F. Sánchez-Escobar

**A**NOMALIES IN THE “OFFICIAL” interpretation of the origins of the Urantia Papers along with a much needed restructuring of events within a sound historical inquiry prompted Larry Mullins to write *A History of the Urantia Papers*.

Conventional wisdom tells us that a narrative is a recorded account of how specific events followed each other in the temporal flow of things. And this has been done by Urantians without too much disagreement. However, more than a laundry list of a series of milestones, history is ideally an interpretation of linkages. To be truly understood and meaningful, events must be examined within the context of numerous connections and the holistic patterns they collectively create. Among Urantians, there has been considerable disagreement about the *meaning* of the various remarkable episodes that have driven the movement. Indeed, this second level of historic endeavor, the discovery and interpretation of meaningful patterns, had not been significantly achieved until the publication of *A History of the Urantia Papers*.

The historic inquiry cannot simply leap from the discovery of documentary evidence to analysis. There are rules that govern historical narrative, all of which have been followed by Larry Mullins. Initially, the historian must seek evidence, and historical