PROGRESSIST

Dedicated to Progressionists in Michiana and to Readers of *The Urantia Book.*
From Mark Kurtz, Goshen, Indiana

”This magnificent and universal injunction to strive for the attainment of the perfection of divinity is the first duty, and should be the highest ambition, of all the struggling creature creation of the God of perfection. This possibility of the attainment of divine perfection is the final and certain destiny of all man's eternal spiritual *progress*.” The Urantia Book, (22:1)

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Grumbling Or Rejoicing

One could live a grumbling existence and drive our fellows away or drive them crazy. Or we could rise up against these tendencies and look for better living. Which of these choices is progressive, in your opinion?

We ought to think more often about progress. Are we progressing, measuring up to Jesus' magnanimous progressive model of living for all Nebadon citizenry? This is a tough question for anyone to consider! He was born a babe and grew in stature; he became a faith-son and fulfilled the Divine Father's will to live as a human of his design. His progression shall eternally serve as our model of growth.

A suggestion is to examine carefully a commonly used word---progress--to find reason for all life decisions. Without personal progress we mortals falter and fail, stagnate, and risk our social, financial, and spiritual relationships. Let's briefly summarize this.

A “bingo” moment for me came one day while thinking about the role of individuals and about what we should be doing with our Urantia time. Persons do experience those moments of enhanced understanding (insight) and instantly realize a new appreciation for something in life. This one taught me an important “A-ha!” and it was this: We are to help each other make it to Paradise! We cannot expect to land on Paradise without progressive strides in understanding and a great desire to be Godlike. Without spiritual progress we are destined to remain small in our concepts and experiences. Service to one's fellows is wrapped up in this simple understanding—to help one another with personal progress.

We have a choice of grumbling, always finding fault or we may find a better way to relate and share for mutual benefit with our fellow Urantians. A friend uses ACR for her guide and for teaching her children. They are attitude, choices, and responses and are related to our decisions, relationships and life priorities.

Looking backward into our lives, we are able to discern progress, or perhaps little movement. We may discover we've been living a perfunctory existence, one in which we have made little effort at finding deep meaning and value for time here on Earth. This discovery need not be frightening and it could be grounds for reflection.

Or we may look backward and feel pleased for having made progress. We see this by comparing what we know what was with a feeling that what we did is better than what we might have been doing.

A feeling of progress comes from somewhere. Is it not true that we cannot know what progress is without knowing something about what progress could be? I submit to you that this is a prime reason why Michael taught us what he did through his life as Jesus of Nazareth. He gave humanity a new basis for hope and he raised mankind to a high level of dignity and worth. We are more valued than all the plants and animals! We are designed to discover worth and to desire progress!

“Man's inadequate concept of the personality of the Universal Father can be improved only by man's spiritual progress in the universe and will become truly adequate only when the pilgrims of time and space finally attain the divine embrace of the living God on Paradise.” (30:1) Herein lies a prime reason for thinking about and desiring spiritual progress---to know the Universal Father God better! No more noble adventure could man engage in than to work to know the Father better!

“Can you not advance in your concept of God's dealing with man to that level where you recognize that the watchword of the universe is progress?” (54:6)

It seems right to personally desire progress. Why not include spiritual progress in planning self-improvement and self-mastery? *The Urantia Book* is here to help people discover new personal meanings and values for personal attempts to find and adhere to godlikeness. It is a latent inference in Jesus' Great Commission to go forth into all the world and preach the good news that all men are sons of God. Certainly he had progress in mind!

We are able to go into the entire world, as local teams to encourage our fellows to think of personal spiritual progress, working valiantly to the best of our abilities. We have a ripe field right in our back yard with friends and neighbors. Being a progressist seems better than doing nothing! Work to enjoy life as God intends! Maybe we shall learn the deeper meaning of rejoicing!

Indeed! Indeed! MK

A Place To Discuss Progress

Welcome to this first issue of Progressist. It is intended as a forum for sharing thoughts on the meaning of spiritual growth for those persons who are open to any resource of inspiration.

I suggest you read *The Urantia Book* and think about what God intends for humanity. Then you are invited to share your writings about personal understanding of progress definition. What could be your definition of progress if you thought more extensively of personal movement toward God?

No one is expected to automatically adopt the opinion of others, but we are able to think about varying possibilities. Recall the book teaches a great concept: we each have a *unique spirit fragment of our Universal Father living within us*. We are taught these noble fragments are able to lead us, to adjust us and inspire us to a noble life journey to Paradise through many life stages. Consider the possibility Adjusters are teaching us through sharing with each other.

With that said, readers are invited to submit short articles of 500 to 1,200 words to Progressist, to share your best insights of the meanings and values of life as you are led. This is worth your prayer and meditation for it is in our quiet time that we are most susceptible to divine leading. What great experiences in your life have resulted in spiritual growth? MK

Many Spirit Agencies At Work

"It is because of this God fragment that indwells you that you can hope, as you progress in harmonizing with the Adjuster's spiritual leadings, more fully to discern the presence and transforming power of those *other spiritual influences that surround you and impinge upon you* but do not function as an integral part of you." (64-7)

The Urantia Book clearly substantiates the teachings of many religions that multiple, non-visible agents and agencies are at work on our behalf. The Holy Spirit is described and many orders of celestial beings and Sons of God are at work to effect progress in a great Cosmos. With this said, why should anyone ever feel isolated and alone? We are so highly valued that every possible effort is used by divine design to provide help and guidance!

The Fifth Epochal Revelation, as the book is known, was authored by personalities who know of the many agencies and forces abroad and who are working without rest on behalf of mortals everywhere. We would do well to love them. The Cosmos is lovingly managed and creatures everywhere are adored and served. The Father God of all life initiated a great Ascension Plan of mortal eternal adventure. We are told the Cosmos is teeming with activity of unimaginable proportions and design. We are not alone. We have multiple reasons to rejoice, look forward, and participate in a great plan of progress. Each stage of life is a new revealing level of joy in service and teamwork with numerous orders of beings. MK

Yarn Talk; Knots or No Knots

A kinked garden hose is an aggravation for earnest gardeners or plant "waterer persons"! Especially aggravating is one with several kinks.

Imagine if you will a piece of knotted and twisted yarn, one that has many knots of double ties, of a few triple ties, and some knots that are loose. Some of those would be easy to untie and straighten. If a person wants a straight piece of yarn he will have to untie the knots. This would require real work, but imagine the pleasure from a repaired yarn. Keep an *open mind* and read on.

Extrapolate the concept and think of spiritual progress. How far can we move if we have a knotted life? Knots could be tight and difficult or loose and easily removed. No, a scissors would not be good, because you'd sever the flow. Flow?

Yes. Let's play a bit and imagine the yarn as a connection to God. How can we know God if we are so busy with material life and priorities that we have no time for prayer and meditation? What kind of God is worth our time and prayer? Maybe the knots are psychological, or fear, ignorance and cynicism. Are there other knots? A closed mind?

It seems progress is inhibited by materialism and personal self-entertainment. There are many types of human life knots. Some of these are imposed on us by the errors of others while most knots are there because of our mistakes or poor choices. According to the book Urantia is a badly knotted sphere and Jesus declared he came to begin the repair we so intensely need. "Have no fear", he said to many people. Urantia is destined to a great age of Light and Life. There is no need for anyone to continue with a knotted life for the Father places great value on each mortal, regardless of knots. We should release our knots for we are worthy of great spiritual progress! Indeed, we are highly valued by God. MK

All quotations from *The Urantia Book* are by permission and policy of the publisher, Urantia Foundation, 533 West Diversey Parkway, Chicago, IL 60614. Quotations are referenced with page number and paragraph as in the following examples: (22:1) and (945:7-946:0).

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