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THE AGE OF WONDER



Light from the center of our superuniverse
From the Hubble- the center of the Milky Way

not factor in was the truth that the universe is lovingly governed by the Paradise Father and the well-nigh infinite heavenly hosts. "In God, we move, live, and have our being." Instead of a collision between two galaxies that would destroy life in the Milky Way, we head into a distant time when the Supreme Being will become fully manifest, and unification, not destruction, will be the destiny of this universe age. With these certainties in mind, off went the lights and I fell asleep.

We live in an age of wonder, and nothing is more wonderful than the enlightened teachings of *The Urantia Book*. In 2015 the new, super-powerful Webb telescope will replace the Hubble. What wonders will the Webb telescope reveal that will dazzle our imagination? And how shall we understand such wonders? I venture to say that understanding lies within the pages of *The Urantia Book*. The spiritual vision the revelators portray dissolves our fear of the unknown and replaces it with faith in a friendly and purposeful God-centered universe.

We are so blessed to be the early pioneers of the Fifth Epochal Revelation. Thank God for *The Urantia Book!*

By Mo Siegel, President,
Urantia Foundation,
Boulder, Colorado, USA

The clock read 11 pm, yet my brain and eyes said "wide awake." I had to be at work early the next morning, so the best way to fall asleep was either to read or watch the science channel. So on went the TV to the science channel featuring an hour-long show explaining the history and destiny of galaxies.

There, in 3D and high definition, were brightly colored photos from the Hubble telescope: red star clouds, swirling blue and green nebulae, and a vast array of galaxies portraying an enormously large universe previously

unimagined by our starry-eyed ancestors.

For 45 minutes I lay in bed watching, mesmerized by the beauty and promise of the heavens. Then a panoramic infrared photo of the Milky Way galaxy appeared, showing a thick cluster of countless stars. At the center of the galaxy was a brilliant zone of light that can possibly be explained as the luminosity emanating from masses of suns in close proximity to the headquarter worlds of Orvonton, our superuniverse. As I watched I felt in awe of the grandeur of the Divine Creator.

Then the shoe of disaster dropped. The show's narrator described the "certain and inevitable" destruction of the

Milky Way galaxy when it someday collides with the Andromeda galaxy. He explained that life in this part of the universe would come to a fiery end.

At that point I turned off the TV and thought about the overcontrol of the Seven Master Spirits who are, in an overly simplified but easily conceptualized way, the embodiment of the seven superuniverses. There is no way the Master Spirits would let that grim destruction happen. Then I pictured 100,000 Creative Mother Spirits in our superuniverse lovingly and actively protecting the worlds within the boundaries of their beings. I smiled inside knowing, from information gleaned from *The Urantia Book*, that the Milky Way galaxy and all its inhabitants are safe and secure. What the astronomers did

UNIFICATION, NOT DESTRUCTION, WILL BE THE DESTINY OF THIS UNIVERSE AGE.

NOTEWORTHY DECISIONS FROM THE JANUARY 2011 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING



Marilynn Kulieke

By Marilynn Kulieke, Secretary, Urantia Foundation, Lincolnshire, Illinois, USA

1. Planning

Marta Elders lead a planning session during which the Board members discussed their projections for what Urantia Foundation would be doing in, and will have accomplished by, 2025. After contemplating the future, we established one-year and five-year goals to help Urantia Foundation in its mission to see *The Urantia Book* and its teachings throughout the world.

2011 Goals

A. Community Relations

- Increase goodwill and communications with readers and reader groups worldwide via quarterly newsletters, local reader gatherings, and the fostering of organizational cooperation wherever possible.

- Make available the facilities at 533 W Diversey Parkway in Chicago for activities related to furthering the Foundation's mission.

- Involve younger readers in the work of the Urantia Revelation.

B. Book Printing, Sales, and Distribution

- Increase book sales and distribution – including e-books, audio books, bookstore sales, and web downloads – by seven percent.

- Improve distribution in the Americas, Holland, Hungary, Italy, and Russia.

- Reprint 20,000 books in English, Spanish, and Portuguese.

- Prepare audio versions of translations of *The Urantia Book*.

C. Translations

- Advance the translations and revisions of existing translations now in progress. This includes the Chinese and Japanese translations and the French and Spanish revisions.

- Complete the development of software and then implement it for the translation and revision process.

D. Education

- Support the goal of creating 1,000 study groups by 2025. Cooperate with readers and reader organizations by supporting a centralized study group portal, participate in the study group initiative, and help provide study group, teacher and leadership training.

- Support the efforts of the Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS) to double the number of classes offered and to start offering courses in Spanish and Portuguese. UBIS needs teachers. The winter semester classes filled up in less than three days. If you want to share what you have learned, please consider becoming a teacher. To learn more please visit <http://www.urantiabookschool.org/UBIS/needs.gsp>

- Explore the implementation of study forums at 533 W Diversey Parkway, study group blogs, and interactive study group webinars.

- Cooperate with other individuals and organizations whose goal is to educate others about *The Urantia Book* and its teachings.

E. Budgets and Donations

- Stay within the approved 2011 Operating Budget which is less than the operating budget of 2010.

- Increase donations and the number of donors by 10%.

- Continue to build a strong treasury that can withstand social and economic storms while securing Urantia Foundation's short and long term ability to serve.

F. Renovation of Building at 533 W Diversey Parkway

- Launch a midyear capital fund drive to fully renovate, including electrical wiring and plumbing, the aging birthplace of the Fifth Epochal Revelation. Approximate money needed: \$250,000.

- Complete the renovation of the second floor.

G. Safeguarding the Text

- Create the best user-friendly internet download center at www.urantia.org that offers readers the standard reference text and the latest translations formatted using the standard reference system.

- Finalize a book electronic data base that synchronizes, coordinates, and safeguards, without redundancy, the processes necessary to create error free printed books, e-books, hand held devices, on line texts, translator tools, and all other media.

H. Organizational Development

- Continue strengthening governance procedures at Urantia Foundation.

- Provide continuing education for the Foundation's team.



Jay Peregrine and Jesús Pérez, Printing Manager, Rotãbook, Spain

Total book sales increased 22% in units and 23% in dollars.



2nd floor living room

- Replace three outdated computers at the Foundation.

2. Executive Director's Report on the Highlights of 2010

- Total book sales increased 22% in units and 23% in dollars.
- Total contributions exceeded budget. Total 2010 donors were up 15% from 2009.
- Total number of books printed was 24,266 in seven languages, including four new translations.
- Distribution contracts were signed for Poland, Sweden, Estonia, and Belgium/ Great Duchy of Luxembourg. A revised contract was signed for Germany. Watkins Books reopened and continues to be the main bookstore where *The Urantia Book* is available in the UK.
- EU book storage, accounting, and distribution is consolidated in Rotterdam.
- Nine cleaned and standardized HTML translation files were created and uploaded on the website.
- Translator's website is nearly completed – in final testing and moved to live server.
- New UBIS website went live for last year's spring semester.

Dorothy Elder retired as founder and director of UBIS, and Trustee Georges Michelson-Dupont became the director.

- Phase 1 of the building renovation is underway with the second floor renovation in progress and more than halfway completed.
- Meetings hosted at Urantia Foundation: three quarterly meetings of the Board of Trustees, two meetings of the International Service Board of Urantia Association International (UAI), a meeting of the Education Initiative, an IT round table, a UAI/ Fellowship meeting, and a UBIS Board meeting.
- New QuickBooks inventory system was implemented.

3. 2011 Budget Modifications

- The Board approved an additional \$10,000 for the maintenance of the UBIS website, the development of classes for Spanish and Portuguese speaking readers, and the creation of a UBIS website manual.
- In 2010, \$786,646 was spent on program and operational expenses compared with \$775,000 projected for 2011. Capital expenses in 2010 were \$241,435 for printing books.

4. Book Related Decisions

- The Board decided to modify the book cover by adding a gold frame border.
- The Board accepted restricted donations to fund the development of an index for *The Urantia Book* and has placed Seppo Kanerva in charge of the team.

5. European Advisory Committee Replaced by European Union Sales System

The Foundation now has a European warehousing, shipping and distribution infrastructure that covers most of the EU. Therefore, the Board, upon recommendation from the Governance Committee and the European Advisory Committee, disbanded the European Advisory Committee, as it is no longer needed. We thank Henk and Claire Mylanus for their outstanding efforts in creating this new and superior system.

6. Centralized Download Center

The Board agreed to develop and operate the best possible, user friendly internet download

center at www.urantia.org. The future internet download center will offer readers the most updated files for downloading *The Urantia Book* while simultaneously enabling the Foundation to update translations, protect the text, and disseminate the book in many digital formats.

7. Future Meeting Dates

- April 15-16, 2011 (Chicago, Illinois)
- July 15-16, 2011 (Chicago, Illinois)
- October 14-15, 2011 (Chicago, Illinois)
- January 27-28, 2012 (Chicago, Illinois)
- April 27-28, 2012 (Paris, France)
- July 2012 (to be determined) (Chicago, Illinois)
- October 26-27 2012 (Chicago, Illinois)
- January 25-26, 2013 (Chicago, Illinois)



Henk and Claire Mylanus

THE EDUCATION INITIATIVE



Florence and Gard Jameson

By Gard Jameson, Treasurer, Urantia Foundation Boulder City, Nevada, USA

An important part of the work of the Trustees of Urantia Foundation is an educational mandate to help disseminate the teachings of *The Urantia Book*. In line with this aspect of our trust, we are spending more time and giving more attention to education. More resources are being dedicated to the educational endeavor, and we are working in concert with Urantia Association

International (UAI) and the Urantia Book Fellowship in all of these efforts.

We have been charged to expand the number of study groups and to facilitate the training of teachers and leaders. During the study group initiative, started a few years ago by Urantia Foundation with the help of the UAI and the Fellowship, it was made clear that study groups are the best forum for the dissemination of the teachings of *The*

Urantia Book worldwide. They are large enough to encourage thoughtful and heartfelt study of the book, and they are small enough not to draw political attention, which is an issue in many countries around the world. Study groups are a "home" for the appreciation of the Urantia Revelation.

Among the goals for this year, Urantia Foundation will continue to sponsor the work of the Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS) under the leadership of Trustee Georges Michelson-Dupont. Georges is enlarging the

teacher and curriculum base of the school as part of the school's vision. Teachers for Spanish readers are being trained so that the courses can be delivered in Spanish as well as in English.

There will also be educational forums commencing at 533 W Diversey Parkway this upcoming fall giving readers a chance to come to Chicago and join fellow readers in the study of a particular topic of the book. The book suggests that the model for schools should be based upon thinking, feeling, and doing. This summer there will be an experiential school in Europe, bringing students together around the topic of prayer and worship. To help in the training of study group teachers, a webinar is being developed by Merritt Horn. We shall be developing a Study Group Mentorship program to bring forth time-tested study group leaders who will visit other study groups to inspire a deeper quality of study. The new Study Group Portal, initiated by the IT team and developed by Scott Brooks, will lead people to study groups in their area and provide a method to track the growth of study groups worldwide. We hope that within five years there will be over 1,000 study groups around the planet.



Merritt Horn



Scott Brooks

feel free to direct them to me, Gard Jameson, in care of Urantia Foundation. Peace be with you.



Urantia Foundation is also on Facebook. This is a tremendous educational outreach tool. There are other sites important to the study of *The Urantia Book* including Wikipedia. A team is being formed to review this site and improve its quality, not only in English, but also in other languages.

From the above report, I hope you are able to glean that Urantia Foundation is taking seriously its mandate concerning education. If you have any ideas for educational initiatives, please



A SHORT HISTORY OF THE FRENCH TRANSLATION



By Georges Michelson-Dupont, Vice President and Manager of Translations, Urantia Foundation Recloses, France

Soon after the publication of *The Urantia Book* in 1955, Mrs. Caroline Brown, a member of the Forum, sent a copy to her friend Jacques Weiss. Mr. Weiss was a brilliant man who graduated from L'École Polytechnique, one of France's most prestigious universities. He was an engineer, a successful businessman in the field of coalmines and transportation, and a professional translator of spiritual books.

It took one year for Mr. Weiss to read *The Urantia Book*, to understand its teachings, and to convince himself to translate it. In 1956, Mr. Weiss wrote to the Urantia Brotherhood, mentioning his interest in translating the book into French. A stream of correspondence ensued, and in response to a letter from Mrs. Rowley, dated December 1956, Mr. Weiss wrote:

I have personally made several translations, such as the books by Spalding, *Life and Teachings of the Masters of the Far East*, published in French in 1946, and more recently, *Esoteric Healing*, by Alice Bayley.

Mr. Weiss began translating *The Urantia Book* in late 1956 or early 1957. On November 13, 1957, he wrote to Ms. Christensen (Christy) the following:

In order to test the ground, I took the first steps myself. I have presently translated into French the first half of Part I. During many months this work has taken me several hours a day. . . It is hard because you have to create new terminology and therefore must meditate on many sentences. Also there are words which are "false friends" in English and in French. Among scores of examples, I quote "realize." In English it means mostly "to understand clearly," but in French "réaliser" means "to actualize."

In this paragraph, Mr. Weiss enumerates some of the many challenges and difficulties all translators experience. Not only must a translator translate ideas and not words, but also, in the case of *The Urantia Book*, new concepts must be understood clearly and translated accurately.



Mr. Weiss hired several people to finalize the translation, and the result was a team effort. The following names appear on the first edition of the book: Lysie Guionic and Simone

and has taught me some elements of the Hebrew language during the early forties. Neither of them has given me a final answer.



Jacques Weiss

Leclerc. Mrs. Guionic was in charge of the French syntax and punctuation while Simone Leclerc, who did not speak English, was involved with the translation's spiritual flavor.

In a letter dated June 16, 1958, Mr. Weiss wrote:

As to the translation into French, I have assumed full responsibility for it, and I bear the full load of all the work, the costs, the supervising, the correcting, the unified terminology, and the choice of the team. I translated myself Parts I and II. A good professional translator will soon start Part III, and an amateur lady has started Part IV.

It is also possible that other individuals participated in the translation. In the following paragraph from the above mentioned letter to Christy, Mr. Weiss wrote the following:

Since the translation in its entirety is more than a one man job, I have contacted two men and asked them to translate the third and fourth parts as a pay job. The first man is a Hungarian refugee, a spiritualist speaking equally well German, English, and French. The second is a French expert on the Bible

By March 8, 1960, Mr. Weiss completed the translation and received a telegram of congratulation from Urantia Foundation. He sent his work to Chicago for review by Mr. Gelsey, a "corrector" hired by Urantia Foundation.

On April 14, 1961, a contract was signed between Urantia Foundation and Mr. Weiss, and 2,625 copies of Part I and II of "La Cosmogonie d'Urantia" were printed on November 28, 1961, followed by the printing of Part II on March 14, 1962, and Part III on April 12, 1962.

Thanks to the tenacity and the

persuasive attitude of one man, and the exceptional circumstances surrounding the translation effort, the French translation came into existence and new potentials for spiritual growth were offered to the French-speaking world. It was a team effort led by a man of conviction and a group of five responsible individuals who, with courage and patience, transformed a dream into a

reality.

The French translation was the first translation of *The Urantia Book*, and many of the subsequent translators, while translating from the English text, have used the French translation as a reference and source of inspiration.



SECOND SOCIETY FOUNDATION AND A STUDY OF THE MASTER UNIVERSE



By Jay Peregrine, Executive Director, Urantia Foundation, Chicago, Illinois, USA

Second Society Foundation was founded in 1961 for the "...further teaching of the principles of *The Urantia Book* for the betterment of all mankind" – which in practice meant the publication and promotion of two works by William S. Sadler Jr., *A Study of the Master Universe* (SMU), published in November 1968, and *Appendices to A Study of The Master Universe* (ASMU), published in 1975. These books were rarely found in bookstores even in the early days, being typically obtained by requesting a copy from Second Society Foundation.

Notwithstanding some controversy in the early days of their publication, stemming from concerns over the wisdom of publishing interpretations of the teachings of *The Urantia Book*, the appearance of SMU and ASMU did not in the long run seem to have much of an impact on the general readership. The works have remained of interest mostly to students of Urantia Book cosmology and philosophy. The books outline an "Hegelian" reading of the history and projected future of the Universe of Universes as portrayed in *The Urantia Book*, using Hegel's famous "thesis, antithesis, synthesis" approach to understanding



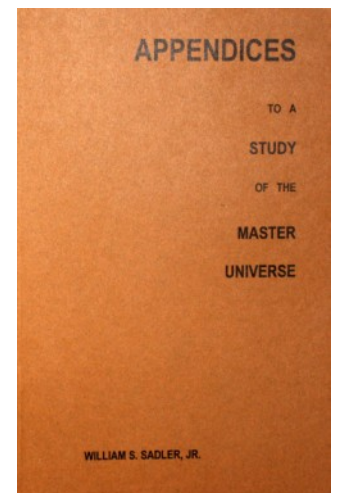
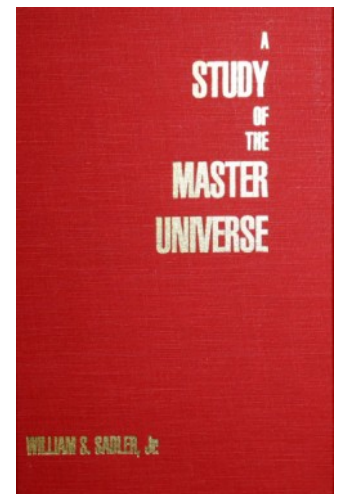
William S. Sadler Jr.

the material. Sadler Jr. had a reputation among readers of really knowing the "hard parts" of the book. He was in demand as a lecturer and teacher on these subjects at Urantia gatherings. Much of his life's work on these subjects is summarized in these two volumes.

Second Society Foundation continued after Bill's death and reprinted the two books at least once. By the mid 2000s, the Foundation was all but defunct. The President, Patricia Mundelius – Bill Sadler's daughter and Trustee Emeritus of Urantia Foundation – asked Urantia Foundation to act as agent for selling the books, which the Foundation did for several years.

In 2010 the Board of Second Society Foundation voted to cease operations and turned over to Urantia Foundation the disposition of the two books. The copyrights were transferred to Urantia Foundation, which obtained International Standard Book Numbers for both books. Both *A Study of the Master Universe* (ISBN: 978-0911560-11-4), and *Appendices to A Study of the Master Universe* (ISBN: 978-0911560-12-1) will soon be available for purchase through regular book

sales channels. The books are still available directly from Urantia Foundation.



THE TRUSTEES MEET IN THE LONE STAR STATE



By Suzanne Kelly, Texas, USA

The Lone Star Association of Urantia Association International (UAI) recently hosted a meeting and BBQ with the Trustees of Urantia Foundation. From my perspective as co-organizer of the event and as vice president of the Lone Star Association, a great time was had by all. The Hyatt Hotel provided a cozy and comfortable gathering space with a great coffee bar and dining area to meet and greet people from all over as they arrived for the event. People traveled from Louisiana, Oklahoma, and all over the great state of Texas from San Antonio to Houston, Port Lavaca, and the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. Everyone came to support Urantia Foundation and meet the Trustees.

I was happy to open the meeting and introduce Richard Keeler who gave a wonderful tribute to the late Bert Cobb from Idaho in one of the coolest buffalo shirts I have seen in a while – or ever! Richard then introduced Mo Siegel, President of Urantia Foundation, who gave a power point presentation overviewing the Foundation's projects. He then introduced Georges Michelson-Dupont, Vice President and Manager of Translations, who gave an informative talk on the process

of translating *The Urantia Book*. He was followed by Gard Jameson, Treasurer, who spoke on the educational endeavors of the Foundation. Next, Jay Peregrine, Executive Director, spoke about book printing. One can only imagine how involved the process is! Dr Ralph Zehr, Associate Trustee, gave an inspiring speech titled "Life's Greatest Opportunity." Tamara Strumfeld, Urantia Foundation's office manager, made the concluding remarks by giving a run down on the daily operations at 533 W Diversey Parkway and asking each of us to consider donating to Urantia Foundation by joining the Dollar-A-Day Club. They all entertained and enlightened the crowd of 60 or more attendees.

The informative talks were then followed by a question and answer session. Each answer gave us a greater understanding of the meaning and purpose of Urantia Foundation, its mission to seed *The Urantia Book* and its teachings throughout the world, its goals, and how important we all are in its outworking and success.

It was great to see my local Urantia study group friends and to meet new ones from across several states. It was also fabulous to see long time friends who I've known since my first UAI Conference at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee – friends such as Judy Van Cleave, Tamara Strumfeld, Richard Keeler, Ralph Zehr, and too many more to list here!

We ended the meeting with a great Texas BBQ, lots of camaraderie, and plans to do it all again in the near future. Thanks to Rick Warren, Betty Tarpley and Tamara Strumfeld for pulling together such a great meeting!



Bart Gibbons, Richard Keeler, and Henk Mylanus



Judy Van Cleave and other attendees.

COMMENTS FROM READERS

What does *The Urantia Book* mean to me?

How can I briefly answer this question when the teachings of *The Urantia Book* have been a daily living reality within me? I have been using them in my daily spiritual service to my brothers and sisters for close to 11 years now. The book has been an amazing blessing!

When I came to *The Urantia Book* while still involved in a Fourth Way school, a school of consciousness, I felt right away that the content of this book would give me the answers to all my existential questions and much more. And so it did, so much so that, for me, it became the "wow"

book. Page after page, I was filled with amazement, from the nature of God, our Father, all the way to the last page of the book where the greatest challenge of man on earth is explained.

Through that month and a half that the first reading of the book took me, I was fully immersed each day all day from morning to late in the night in the teachings of *The Urantia Book*, connecting the dots of the cosmic puzzle. And through that period, I was touched by the grace of God when He allowed me to feel Him with all my being and made me perceive that He was and is truly my Father, our Universal Father, a person that I can relate to person to

person. Wow! And not only is He my Father, but His Divine Presence, a perfect guide, a fragment of Himself, is within me, lives within me so we can ultimately be one. Wow!

May our Father continue to bless each of you abundantly.

Guy Peron, Quebec, Canada



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Quiet?

Our days are often crowded with the activities of necessity: family, work, play. We seem to be bombarded by the clanging of multi-media (distracting us) supposedly keeping us "informed." Yes, there is much to be aware of and stay alert to. Yes, busy, busy people — busy, busy planet.

"Urantia is now quivering on the very brink of one of its most amazing and enthralling epochs of social readjustment, moral quickening, and spiritual enlightenment." (2082.7) 195:9.2

As this amazing epoch unfolds before us, with its heightened energy, it becomes evident to me that one must, with purpose, seek out that which is seemingly elusive: the Still, the Quiet.

This Stillness — this "Quiet" — is essential to our personal growth.

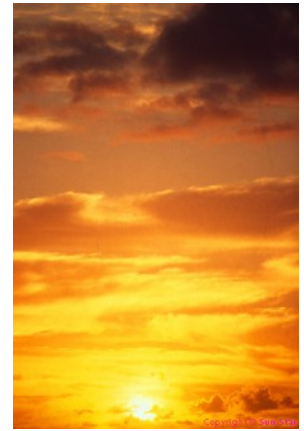
"Quiet meditation..." (1513.0) 136:3.3, "to pray...amidst the quiet surroundings..." (1620.12) 144:3.14, "...peace, be quiet..." (1695.1) 151:5.5, "...a period of quiet and rest..." (1734.5) 156.1.3. Additionally, our mission work as students and teachers of the Truth, Beauty and Goodness we fondly embrace in the teachings of *The Urantia Book*, is to be performed in a quiet manner.

Repeatedly we are reminded of this, as shown in the following excerpts: "The Master's plan of sending them out to labor in a quiet and personal manner..." (1540.3) 138:2.10, "...going about his Father's business in the most quiet and undramatic manner..." (1543.3) 138:6.5, "Jesus had planned for a quiet missionary campaign..." (1543.4) 138:7.1, "...months of quiet work...a great test to the apostles..." (1546.4)

138:9.2, "Their efforts were chiefly of a more quiet and personal nature..." (1595.3) 141:8.2, "...to do some quiet work..." (1617.3) 144:0.3.

As we contemplate the unfolding of life on Urantia, let us also endeavor to seek out and embrace the calming, prosperous influence of Quiet. God bless!

Evett Twyford, Illinois, USA



**Trustworthiness
is the true
measure of
self-mastery,
character.**

The Urantia Book,
(315.6) 28:6.13