



THE URANTIA BOOK IN CAMEROON: REFLECTIONS FROM A STUDY GROUP LEADER

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By Paul Tsekar, Cameroon

I would like to share my experience with discovery, sharing, and study of *The Urantia Book*.

In 2004 I personally came to know about *The Urantia Book* after becoming tired of religions and their doctrines. I had asked many questions about certain stories in the Bible, which the Pastors and Evangelists were not able to answer, so I got fed up with these religions and was looking for something more convincing.

On Google I began searching for spiritual and religious organizations. Finally I came across *The Urantia Book*, the website of Urantia Foundation, and later Urantia Association International. What I discovered about the book concerning God, religion, creation, Jesus, etc.,

caught my attention. I started reading the book, and there came into my mind the urge to share my newly discovered knowledge with others.

I then started the Cameroon Urantia Book Study Group in my house. Later there was a need to rent a suitable site for our meetings. That lasted until 2010, when I lost my job, and could no longer keep the meeting site. Consequently, the group scattered.

Since then, I had been doing all I could to re-establish the group, but was without success until September 2015. At that time, with the help of Rick Lyon and some other readers, I received twelve copies of the French translation of *The Urantia Book*. Cameroon has two official languages: English and French. I had decided to target the French-speaking Cameroonians, so I requested the French translation of *The Urantia Book*. When these books arrived, I set out to meet the French-speaking people.

My habit is to visit Christian people and talk to them about Christianity, religion, and the Bible. One fateful day I visited Pastor Mvondo in his church—a branch of a Pentecostal church based in Yaounde—with one of the copies of *Le Livre de Urantia*. He asked me what this big

book was, which led to my introduction of *The Urantia Book* to him.

I must say here that I believe my encounter with Pastor Mvondo was directed by higher beings that had decided to intervene in our case to solve our problem of needing a permanent site for our study. Pastor Mvondo acted with a surprising interest when I introduced the book to him, as if he had been looking for it for many years. He called a meeting of his Elders and Deacons the following week and introduced the book to them in turn. He then established a study meeting giving us a permanent site for the Cameroon Urantia Book Study Group.

Our new group has thirteen members. We meet on every Saturday of the week. Members are more interested in the Life and Teachings of Jesus, so that is what we are studying at the moment. The French-speaking members have the French books, and the English speakers have English books. One member may read aloud in French or English, and we then continue in either of the languages.

I have learned a big lesson from this experience. Our unseen friends assist in the work of spreading this good news. We should not worry about the means to do it, but we should try our best and leave the rest to faith. "When man goes in partnership with God, great things may, and do, happen."



I HAVE LEARNED A BIG LESSON FROM THIS EXPERIENCE. OUR UNSEEN FRIENDS ASSIST IN THE WORK OF SPREADING THIS GOOD NEWS.

NOTEWORTHY DECISIONS FROM THE JANUARY 2016 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING



By Judy Van Cleave, trustee, Idaho, United States

Decisions

Conference Sponsorship

The board agreed to co-sponsor the following three conferences:

- 1) The 2016 joint Urantia Association International (UAI) and Urantia Book Fellowship conference in San Antonio, Texas.
- 2) The 2016 UAI Budapest conference.
- 3) The UAI Latin American conference in Colombia, South America.

Video Conferencing at Board Meetings

Because quarterly face-to-face meetings are expensive and logistically difficult for international board members, the board adopted a new policy to install a video conferencing system so that members can attend some meetings digitally. This policy will enable us to expand the number of international board members by permitting them to attend meetings virtually.

Science Symposium Coming June 2, 2016

The Education Committee of Urantia Foundation will hold a science symposium this summer. Topics will range from neuroscience, evolution, astronomy, molecular biology, to cosmology. To learn more, please email Joanne Strobel at Joanne@urantia.org.

Chinese Translation Team to Visit Chicago in April

The Chinese translation team will attend parts of the April board meeting in Chicago. We are thrilled for this opportunity to visit with the team and begin discussions and plans for the day the Chinese translation becomes available.

Associate Trustees

The board reappointed Ralph

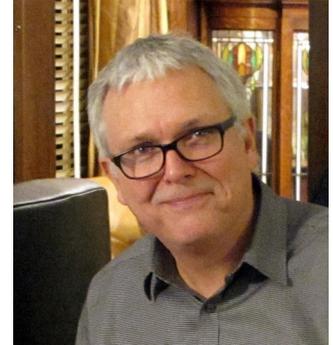
Zehr, associate trustee emeritus, to actively continue serving on the board through 2016. Richard Jernigan was reappointed for his third annual term as an associate trustee.

Safeguarding and Preserving *The Urantia Book*

The Declaration of Trust that established Urantia Foundation states the following: "It shall be the primary duty of the Trustees to perpetually preserve inviolate the text of *The Urantia Book*." The Declaration of Trust also mandates the safeguarding of the original inviolate text, its media for printing, all future printings, and all translations. Three copies of all printed books and translations thereof are stored in a salt mine. Today, translations and formatted books (media for printing) are stored digitally. Because of the change in media, we are developing a new system to protect physical books and digital files. This system is expected to be in place within the next three months.

Help Wanted

From time to time, Urantia Foundation is in need of associate trustees, committee members, UBIS facilitators, staff, and volunteers. If you have specialized skills, such as bookkeeping, accounting, writing, editing, teaching, text



Richard Jernigan



Ralph Zehr

formatting, marketing, sales, computer technology, book industry experience, outreach experience, board experience, and more, please send your resume to Joanne@urantia.org. Your data will be kept on file in case a relevant opportunity arises.

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SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM 2016



By Joanne Strobel, *Urantia Foundation, Illinois, United States*

Thursday evening, June 2–Sunday morning, June 5

Over the first weekend of June, ten individuals with long-term interests in science will gather at Urantia Foundation in Chicago to convene a dedicated science symposium. Under the direction of Associate Trustee Emeritus Dr. Ralph Zehr and Trustee and Education Chairman Dr. Gard Jameson, a slate of scientifically minded readers of *The Urantia Book* were invited to accept the challenge of presenting a scientific paper—based on reliable data, defensible reasoning, and accepted scientific methodology—that establishes beyond a reasonable doubt that the observed phenomena could not have evolved by mechanical means alone.

According to Ralph Zehr, the impetus for this symposium comes directly from Paper 195.

“A new and fuller revelation of the religion of Jesus is destined to conquer an empire of materialistic secularism and to overthrow a world sway of mechanistic naturalism. 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.”
195:9.2 (2082.7)

Ralph went on to say, “There can be no denial that our world is ‘quivering on the very brink’ of a most phenomenal explosion of data leading to an unsurpassed rate of new discoveries. The doubling time for total world knowledge is now estimated to be less than one year! And nowhere is the ‘world sway of mechanistic naturalism’ more apparent than in academia.

“Our supervising midwayer friends offer us a challenging approach to counteract the materialistic-mechanistic philosophy permeating modern-day scientific thinking. They report that they have collected more than fifty thousand facts in the fields of chemistry and physics and more than one hundred thousand observable facts

outside these disciplines that leave no doubt that there is intelligent planning and design directing the evolutionary processes on our planet. Could there be any reason for telling us this, other than to challenge us to develop the list ourselves?

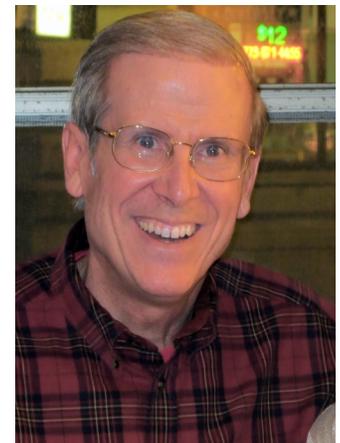
“This approach carries the battle to the mechanistic scientist’s own turf. It

completely bypasses the limitations associated with the so-called ‘God of the gaps’ approach. In contrast, the midwayers’ approach is proactive and is entirely based on positive data.”

Accepting the challenge, ten individuals agreed to present papers based on subjects of their expertise.



Phil Calabrese
“The Implications of Free Will in the Cosmos”



Gard Jameson
“The Cosmogentic Principle: How Unity, Diversity, and Autopoiesis Form the Universe”



Marta Elders
“The Spiritual Brain: Where Neuroscience Meets Revelation”



Bruce Johnson
“The Seven Adjutant Mind-Spirits—a Revelation for a Scientific Explanation of Mind”

Do you love science? Would you like to watch the symposium?

Gaétan Charland has graciously offered to record the entire symposium. All presentations and discussions will be available to the public live via USTREAM video on your computer, tablet, or mobile device. The broadcasts will also be recorded for future viewing. The link is <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/XhtGPaUe4mh>.



Nigel Nunn
“Revisionist Cosmology—from Segregata to Exploding Dark Islands”



George Park
“Proving Divine Providence Is Responsible for Universe Evolution: Empirical Proof of the Revealed Plane of Creation”



Marjorie Ray
“Crystallization of Water Vapor: What May We Discern from a Snowflake?”



Ralph Zehr
“Molecular Cell Biology—How the Intracellular Nano-Robots Actually Work”



Neal Kendall
“Is There Intelligent Planning and Design in the Universe? Is Materialism True?”



Dick Reim
“The Atom and the Outer Atom Periodic Table”

“The symposium presents an opportunity to address some of the doubts about the scientific content in *The Urantia Book*, which is all too often considered irrelevant, outmoded, or incorrect. This content presents, in my opinion, the single greatest obstacle to a wider acceptance of the book’s soul-saving message by this ‘new age of scientific minds.’”

~ *George Park*



UBIS: A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



By Michael Barrett, California, United States

Before I took my first class with the Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS) in 2013, I remember being very nervous and unsure of what to expect. For one, I was not (and am still not) very computer-savvy. For two, I hadn't been to any type of school in over twenty years. And for three, I did not know how much time the class would really take. Besides, I simply never felt a need, had a desire, nor thought of myself as one who would go back to school.

When I took my first class on the resurrection of Jesus, I

was pleasantly surprised by the inspiring support of the staff and the comfort of finally finding fellow truth seekers to be students with. The time constraints I had worried about were all but nonexistent. All students partake and proceed at their own pace, and ample time is allotted for all weekly requirements. The insights and pure wisdom that get thrown around a virtual classroom are simply mesmerizing!

During this course, I learned so much that I took another, and then another, and then another. Now, in between semesters, I find myself greatly anticipating the next classes to be offered. One can hardly imagine just how much soul expansion and spirit attunement takes place in one ten-week period. I would have never thought a single online class could teach and inspire us so much, not to mention align us with eternal truth and bring more meaning and fulfillment into our lives. I was spiritually "blown away," and I thank the Good Lord still to this day for the experiences during my first class.

One thing I have learned along the way is that *continual spiritual growth* truly leads to the peace that surpasses all understanding. The classes with UBIS have helped me tremendously to achieve this lasting inner peace. The Teacher-Facilitators are not intimidating and inspire much more than instruct. The wonderful people I have met from all over the world have truly broadened my personal perspective and brightened my spiritual horizons.

If there is anything I could do for anyone who is serious about learning of the spiritual realities revealed in *The Urantia Book*, it would be to encourage that person to take a UBIS class and experience the power of the Spirit that guides us all and somehow permeates these virtual classrooms. If learning how to experience God's peace, joy, and love for you is of interest at all, UBIS provides a platform for people from all parts of this planet to do just that.

I should also mention that other people have noticed a change in me for the better. I

find, just from the objectivity and assurance these classes have provided, that now more people are asking me about things they didn't ask me about before I started studying online. Friends and family frequently ask me about God, Jesus, life, and other topics/questions they have about spirituality in general. And (almost) always I can answer much better than I ever could have before I started taking classes with UBIS.

To those behind the scenes at UBIS who volunteer their time to make this superb school possible, thank you very much! You have compassionately developed and are magnificently maintaining a place to learn about the infinite love of God and the incredible life He offers His beloved children here on earth.

May the Father above hold us all in the palm of His hand and turn us around which way He will.

2016 JOINT CONFERENCE—TIME DWINDLES AND PLANNING INTENSIFIES



By David Kulieke, Illinois, United States

Once again Urantia Foundation is helping to financially support an important event for readers of *The Urantia Book*. This event is a jointly sponsored conference and Summer Study Session of the Urantia Association United States

and the Urantia Book Fellowship in San Antonio, Texas. The organizing entities are the Lone Star Urantia Association (LSUA) and the Education Committee of the Fellowship. The conference begins on Thursday evening, June 9, and concludes at noon on Sunday, June 12. The theme is "Jesus, the Master Teacher."

The summer conference is gaining momentum! As of March 9, three months before the conference, the total registration was 139. If you have not yet registered, please do so at <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ebme6wgw7b52a349&oseq=&c=&ch>. There

is still plenty of time to be a part of what promises to be a warm and spiritual gathering of reunion and education.

Katrina Glavan-Heise of LSUA is the overall head of the details, registration, and logistics for the conference. She wants people to know that there is scholarship money for individuals who reside outside of the United States or who are twenty-two years of age and younger. To apply for one, please do so during the registration process.

Conference attendees wishing to rent a vehicle may use the specific BUDGET CUSTOMER DISCOUNT (BCD) number of U001963 when they call Budget at [1-800-842-5628](tel:1-800-842-5628) to make a reservation. The BCD is effective from seven days

prior to the event until seven days after. The BCD number will automatically be placed in the reservation detail when used with this hyperlink:

[Budget Discount for Lone Star Urantia Association 2016.](#)

Sherry Layton of the Fellowship Education Committee is chair of the Program Committee, which also includes David Glass, David Linthicum, and Neda Tehrani. She announced that there remain several applications to either present a plenary or give a workshop. Highlights for the conference will be announced soon, including the main talks. Sherry said, "A fuller program will be developed that encapsulates all activities, from Tuesday through Sunday."

The first plenary will begin Thursday evening, and the conference will include presentations by dedicated readers of *The Urantia Book* and special events Saturday night. Before each plenary, there will be prayers of dedication along with inspirational videos and music.

Katrina and Sherry are also looking for IT experts for various needs at the conference.

There is a number of nonconference events planned before and after the conference itself. Bobbie Dreier and Gard Jameson will host a preconference retreat from Tuesday evening until Thursday noon, as they have done before several Summer Study Sessions. Spots for this event are nearly filled.

The Council of Presidents of the UAI will host a meeting, as will the Fellowship's General Council (after the conference). During the day on Thursday, the Fellowship Membership Committee will host a gathering that will include a Society Conclave. The education committees of the Fellowship, Foundation, and the UAI plan to meet again, on Thursday afternoon, in joint session. More details will follow.

Everyone involved with this joint conference is looking forward to enjoying a convivial and spirit-filled study of "Jesus, the Master Teacher" with other readers of *The Urantia Book!*

THE WOMEN'S ASSEMBLY— AN UPLIFTING EXPERIENCE



By Line St-Pierre, associate trustee, Québec, Canada, and Katharina Becker, New Mexico, United States

"Union of souls—the mobilization of wisdom. Every human being sooner or later acquires a certain concept of this world and a certain vision of the next. Now it is possible, through

personality association, to unite these views of temporal existence and eternal prospects. Thus does the mind of one augment its spiritual values by gaining much of the insight of the other." ~ Rodan of Alexandria 160:2.7 (1776.1)

Attending the Parliament of the World's Religions last October in Salt Lake City, Utah, United States, was a dream come true, especially because the first day was dedicated to women and to their importance to, and participation in, the current epoch. The members of a fifteen-woman panel—composed of multi-faith speakers who were mothers, grandmothers, daughters, and sisters—shared their experiences, knowledge,

passion, and vision of how to make this world a better place.

Their love, power, and inner strength gave the attendees hope by elucidating real possibilities for "Reclaiming the Heart of our Humanity" (to borrow the title of a pre-Parliament event). Many of the speakers helped us understand what has to happen to effect the healing of humanity. They urged women to listen to and trust their inner teacher and to speak nonjudgmentally from the heart. They called upon women to be the bearers of light and love and to take on the attributes of God. They asked the women attendees to form circles with sacred spiritual centers, to be activists from within, and as women of Spirit and faith, to uplift all women.

This first Women's Assembly was attended by more than three thousand people, including a few hundred men. Throughout this day and continuing during the entire conference, there was a growing understanding and even a sense of urgency felt by women at the Parliament for the need to regain our dignity, our importance, and our value as women, mothers, and teachers. *The Urantia Book* reminds us that "woman has always been the moral standard-bearer and the spiritual leader of mankind. The hand that rocks the cradle still fraternizes with destiny." 84:6.4 (938.8)

Notwithstanding the diversity of religious faiths at the Parliament, the attendees exhibited a spiritual unity, a looking in the same direction towards a higher purpose, a divine one, to God our Father-Mother. During workshops, in circles, women connected at the heart level through rituals, prayers, and reflections. In supporting each other with compassion, women planted seeds of love and experienced greater understanding.

The Urantia Book encourages us, as we grow more spiritual, to "construct a new and appealing philosophy of living" that integrates truth, beauty, and goodness. We felt that the gathering of women at the Parliament demonstrated how women are feeling the call to construct a new philosophy of living. 2:7.10 (43.3)

"But the great problem of religious living consists in the task of unifying the soul powers of the personality by the dominance of LOVE." 100:4.3 (1097.7)

What will resonate for a long time—perhaps forever—is the sharing of stories by many God-conscious women with voices and thoughts, such as:

"What's my religion? It's the presence and the breath of our divine source—love—unconditional love!" ~ *Dr. Rose Pere*

"Revolutionary love is the call of our times.

Forgiveness is not forgetting. Forgiveness is freedom from hate." ~ *Valarie Kaur*

"Be students of each other, be teachers of each other. Mothers are nurturers of the world." ~ *Amerind grandmother*
"Hope starts it, but faith completes it." ~ *Bishop Barbara King*

"The belief is that we can create whatever we want." ~ *Mallika Chopra*

"It's very important to teach our children to take responsibility for their lives, to understand their purpose and their power, and to rewrite the wrongs of our society." ~ *Ilyasah Shabazz*

"The idea of women changing the world is a very real possibility. We are the solution if we could see the beauty, the strength, and the capacity in women." ~ *Jean Shinoda Bolen*

"Welcome to the revolution and shine with the divine." ~ *Diana Butler Bass*

"When you give women education, they become passionate and freethinking. They raise passionate and freethinking children, who grow up to be passionate free-thinking adults—and passionate free-thinking adults are difficult to manipulate and impossible to control." ~ *Marianne Williamson*

We can recognize in many of these voices some of our own thinking, and even perceive, in some of the statements, aspects of the teachings in *The Urantia Book*. We feel deeply grateful for the cosmic perspective that we have received from the fifth epochal revelation. What a peace of mind it is to know where we came from, and where we are going.

REGISTRATION STARTS SOON FOR THE URANTIA BOOK INTERNET SCHOOL APRIL TRIMESTER



By Georges Michelson-Dupont, director, Recloses, France

The Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS) is pleased to announce that the April trimester is starting soon, and we want you to join us!

Registration opens on Monday, April 4, and runs for two weeks through Sunday, April 17. The free online courses start on Monday, April 18, and will run for ten weeks.

You may visit <http://www.urantia.org/education/course-schedule-and-registration-information> to

read about the courses and the Teacher/Facilitators. You may also visit ubis.urantia.org and select the desired language to view the April selection.

If you are not yet a student of UBIS, it is easy to enroll. Simply go to ubis.urantia.org and click on **Login** in the upper right hand side of the page. Look for **Is this your first time here?** Then follow the steps, and click on **Create New Account**. You will receive an email notification.

This trimester we are offering a total of thirteen courses—six in English, three in French, three in Spanish, and one in Portuguese. UBIS classes do not require attendance at any fixed time. Our virtual classrooms are open 24/7 so students may participate according to their own schedule. Space is limited so don't wait too long to register!

For questions or additional information about the courses, please write to Joanne@urantia.org.

HOW *THE URANTIA BOOK* INSPIRES GIVING

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Urantia Foundation
533 W. Diversey Parkway
Chicago, IL 60614
USA

Telephone:
+1 (773) 525 3319

E-mail: urantia@urantia.org

Credits for News Online

Editors: Marilyn Kulieke, Tamara Strumfeld, Richard Keeler, and Cece Forrester

Writers: Paul Tsekar, Judy Van Cleave, Joanne Strobel, Michael Barrett, David Kulieke, Line St-Pierre, Georges Michelson-Dupont, William Cooper

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Urantia Foundation Trustees

Gard Jameson, Richard Keeler, Marilyn Kulieke, Georges Michelson-Dupont, Henk Mylanus, Mo Siegel, Judy Van Cleave

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By William Cooper, Texas,
United States

At Christmastime in 1970, my mother spent a few days with us in Dallas, Texas. She gave *The Urantia Book* to me because she was impressed with it. For the next several months, I would read some about the nature of God and then some in the Jesus papers. I would read to my wife, Kaye, and ask her: Could this be true? Could God and Jesus really be this wonderful? Tears of joy often ran down my cheeks (and into my smile) as I contemplated what was said about them. Since then, Kaye and I have come to trust the book as being spiritually true. I believe we would continue to feel this way even if we found it to be inaccurate as to scientific fact.

From very early in our exposure to *The Urantia Book*, Kaye and I have had a special interest in using the lessons that the book has taught us to optimize our



Kaye Cooper

relationship with God, Michael, the Holy Spirit, and our celestial family.

Much has changed for the better since I started reading the book. In 1972, there was official opposition to anything that brought public attention to the book. There was even resistance to translating it into other languages. Today, there is enthusiasm for translations and for projects involving public exposure of the book and its teachings. What a wonderful time to be living on Urantia—seeing these new and miraculous events unfold and participating in the awesome undertaking of the celestials in correcting the course of this planet by applying the teachings of *The Urantia Book*!

It is a good time to join our celestial family in this effort. There are many things we can do. There are already a score of activities and organizations working to

promote Urantia Book principles on the planet. They need volunteers, and they need funds to cover necessities that volunteering does not cover. Coordinating actions around a cause people believe in can result in their making small financial contributions and becoming active in small armies of volunteers. There can be many positive effects from this approach to disseminating the teachings.

Lately, I am trying to encourage, with words and funds, those worthwhile Urantia Book activities that I discover. I look for activities with which I have substantial agreement, but I do not demand agreement on every detail. We have a wonderful opportunity. I pray that neither you nor I will insist on putting our time, efforts, and money into our social or financial success while wasting the opportunity to participate right now in our celestial family's adventure of reclaiming this planet. I want my little piece of that action, and I want you to have yours too. There is adventure to be had now by giving regularly of service and financial assistance. Contributions do not have to be large to have a huge effect—provided there are enough of them.

So grab hold, and hang on. It is a cosmic ride, but the price of the ticket is modest.

On the web at
www.urantia.org

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