



URANTIA FOUNDATION'S NEWS ONLINE

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RICHARD KEELER RETIRES



Compiled from many sources

Editor's Note: Richard Keeler is the Foundation's longest-serving trustee and has been a major contributor to the Urantia Book project for decades. The entire board and many others in the Urantia community are grateful for his dedication, his generosity, and his goodwill. We are thankful

that Richard is continuing his role as trustee emeritus.

In the fall of 1959, Richard Keeler, then recently elected Governor by his peers at Oklahoma Boys State (a leadership training project), left Bartlesville, Oklahoma, and followed in the footsteps of several family members by heading to the University of Kansas. Like his relatives before him, Richard pledged the Sigma Chi fraternity, where he met another recent pledge, Vern Grimsley.

Vern had recently taken a class taught by Meredith Sprunger. At the end of the class, Vern asked Meredith if he had any suggestions for summer reading. Meredith wrote *The Urantia Book* on the blackboard but made no further comment. Vern became enthralled by it and soon thereafter showed it to

several of his fraternity brothers, including Richard. They all read and discussed it together, and some were hooked for life.

Within a few years Richard traveled to Chicago to visit Urantia Foundation at 533 W. Diversey Parkway and met Dr. William Sadler, E.L. Christensen (Christy), and others. They were immediately accepted into this group of early readers and learned about the history and culture of the two organizations that had originally been set up to disseminate *The Urantia Book* and its teachings, Urantia Foundation and Urantia Brotherhood.

One of the documents that Richard was exposed to during this early education was the Publication Mandate. One particular line caught Richard's attention: "But the publication of the book has not been postponed to that (possibly) somewhat



A Richard Keeler sing-along

remote date. An early publication of the book has been provided so that it may be in hand for the training of leaders and teachers. Its presence is also required to engage the attention of persons of means who may be thus led to provide funds for translations into other languages.”

At this point in time, our young college student decided that his mission in life would be to secure funds to ensure the future translation, publication, and distribution of *The Urantia Book*. He became a successful commodities broker, and donated money to Urantia Foundation to support these ends. He was generous in ways that went far beyond his financial support.

In 1989, Richard accepted the honor and the responsibility of serving on the board of trustees. During his tenure, among many things, he was treasurer and president of the board for six years. He also served on the Public Relations, Fundraising, Finance, Compensation, and

Translation committees. At one point, when circumstances dictated, he even moved to Chicago for several months and served as executive director.

Richard traveled extensively to expand the activities of Urantia Foundation. He met with countless readers of *The Urantia Book* across the globe, established translation efforts in as many languages as possible, kept the text perpetually in print, and solidified the Foundation’s financial stability, oftentimes from his own pocket. Perhaps most importantly, he endeavored to promote spiritual unity while keeping alive the efforts and projects of Urantia Foundation.

By now you may know that, due to health problems, Richard has resigned from active duty as a trustee to become a trustee emeritus. His dedication to the Urantia Revelation, evidenced by his work at Urantia Foundation, has become legendary. Richard generously gave his love, time, and treasure to



Richard Keeler, Marta Elders, Gard Jameson

the mission of seeding *The Urantia Book* and its teachings globally.

Richard, thank you for all you have done and for who you are inside! We miss and love you ... especially how you made us laugh, dance, and join in your famous banjo sing-alongs!

A statement made by Richard while president of the

Foundation embodies how he served: “May we join with our Heavenly Father, with our Creator Son, and with our brothers and sisters—seen and unseen—to participate in patient cooperation and selfless service to our young movement. May we all be so saturated with the love, truth, and goodness of God that all persons coming into contact with us will know from our behavior that we are truthseekers and spiritual explorers, dedicated to the supernal task of doing the will of our Heavenly Father.”

Amen!



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

Richard,
thank you for
all you have
done and for
who you are
inside!

NOTEWORTHY DECISIONS FROM THE APRIL 2018 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING



*By Judy Van Cleave, secretary,
Urantia Foundation, Idaho,
United States*

Two New Associate Trustees

Please help us welcome two new associate trustees to Urantia Foundation. Gaéтан Charland and Gary Deinstadt have joined the board of Urantia Foundation. Both men are highly experienced servers of the Urantia Revelation and accomplished in their chosen occupations. Gaéтан was formerly the president of Urantia Association International, and Gary spent 13 years serving on the General Council of the Urantia Book Fellowship.

We welcome them with open hearts and are confident that they will bring wisdom, an enlarged perspective, and much service to our work. Congratulations, Gaéтан and Gary! Thank you for continuing to accept the call of devoting your lives to the most important spiritual project taking place in our world.

Incomplete Translations

It has been the policy of Urantia Foundation to only publish completed

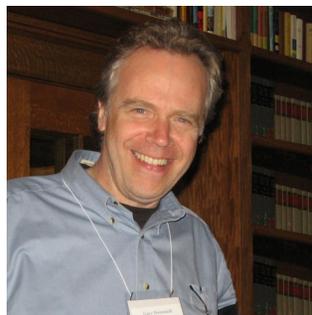
translations on urantia.org. Some translators, however, have a passion to share their work in progress with individuals who desire to read *The Urantia Book* in their mother tongue. To support a growing world wide readership, a new policy was approved making incomplete translations available on urantia.org and other approved websites.

Per this policy, each time an incomplete translation is approved to appear on our website or others, it will be accompanied by:

- A branded identifier that shows that the files are a Urantia Foundation publication
- The Foundation's copyright



Gaéтан Charland



Gary Deinstadt

notice on the publisher page

- A note, both on the publisher page and another prominent place that is easily seen, explaining that the HTML version of the translation is a "draft-in process"

- The Text Identification Number (TIN) on the publisher page

- The watermark or note "DRAFT" at the beginning of every paper for PDF, Word Docs, and all other downloadable files of the translation

In addition, the use of these identifiers will extend to all Urantia Foundation translations appearing on a website. They include:

- A branded identifier that shows that the files are a Urantia Foundation publication
- The Foundation's copyright notice on the publisher page
- The Text Identification Number (TIN) on the publisher page

Staffing at Urantia Foundation

Joanne and John Strobel have decided to remain in Chicago and work at Urantia Foundation. Considering how much they do, this is a huge benefit, and we are grateful they are staying!

After reviewing internal roles and responsibilities, we hired Lainey Doremus to join our team on a part-time basis. Lainey brings many skills



Lainey Doremus

including a professional background in editing. She is enjoying her time supporting the staff with day-to-day tasks and other projects. Welcome Lainey!



The Use of the Concentric Circles Symbol as a Trademark on Books

In 2007, the board of Urantia Foundation approved a book trademark policy to use the Concentric Circles Symbol only as a means of identifying *The Urantia Book* and its translations. As *The Urantia Book* finds its way throughout the world, this is one of the tools that Urantia Foundation uses to protect the integrity of the original English text and its translations.

The board reaffirmed this policy during its April meeting. Urantia Foundation will no longer use the trademarked Concentric Circles Symbol on any secondary books it publishes. The policy also applies to any books published by groups who are licensed to use the symbol.

This policy does not pertain to the personal use of the three concentric circles. It pertains only to the use of the Concentric Circles trademark on books. This will help us safeguard the original text and translations being created through our quality processes. For more information on personal usage of the three concentric circles, [click here](#).

Outreach

The Philippines: The board is supporting the Urantia Book related activities of Eugene and Belen Asidao during their current trip to the Philippines. This is their third trip to continue establishing reader groups and placing Urantia Books in libraries and universities. The Philippines is proving to be fertile ground for the revelation because 92% of its 100 million inhabitants are Christian. Huge thanks go to Eugene and Belen for their unselfish service to people in the Philippines.

Colombia: Wilson León and Andrés Ramírez spoke with the board via video teleconferencing. After listening to their inspiring stories, the board agreed to further support their outreach efforts. Wilson and Andrés attend book fairs throughout Latin America and place books in locations such as schools, universities, study groups, and libraries. Huge thanks goes to the Colombian Urantia Association for their amazing efforts in Latin America.



Wilson León



Andrés Ramírez

If you are inspired to donate to these outreach efforts, please send your restricted contributions to Urantia Foundation specifying outreach for the Philippines or Latin America. You can make a difference getting the Urantia Revelation into the world!

Parliament of the World's Religions 2018 and the Wild Goose Festival: Urantia Foundation is happy to report on the cooperative efforts between Urantia Foundation, UAI, the Fellowship, and truthbook.com to design, create, and operate a booth at the upcoming Parliament. Thanks to the efforts of all four organizations, this year's Parliament booth will be beautiful and operated by well-trained individuals. The Parliament will be held in Toronto, Canada, from November 1-6. Urantia Foundation is also working



Back: Eugene Asidao

Front: Belen Asidao, Allan Bancairen, Arnel Lacson, Georcynt Peattie

with the Fellowship to support a booth at the Emergent Christian Wild Goose Festival this July.

Outreach Joint Ventures: In future years, Urantia Foundation will increase its participation in coordinating and supporting many outreach programs. While the budgets do not allow for supporting every outreach effort, the Foundation is thrilled to participate and sponsor as many programs as it can.

Book Sales

Book sales for the quarter were up in almost every language except German. Last year there was a surprisingly high volume of German book sales in the first quarter that did not reoccur this year, so the overall sales numbers were

down. The good news, however, is that English, Spanish, Portuguese, and French sales increased. Downloads were also up 27% for the quarter with Spanish and Portuguese books being the vast majority.

Finance and Donations

Year to date, there have been no surprises to the financial situation at the Foundation. Expenses were 3% above 2017 but slightly below budget. Donations were on track; even so, there is still a long way to go to hit the required \$750,000 for 2018. We appreciate your support!

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THE PARABLES BOOK— A RESOURCE FOR OUTREACH



By John Hales, Illinois, United States

More than three years ago, when a health issue brought to my attention that I was indeed mortal, I considered what service project I might do in my remaining time on planet 606. I woke up one morning with the realization that the opportunity was just five blocks away from my home: My nondenominational Protestant church, which I have been attending since the late 70s! Back when I first joined, music was the attraction for me. We are a musical congregation, and singing is how I like to worship.

At that time, however, I was not able to really get involved, due to my full-time work on the Urantia Book project.

Now that time was no longer an issue, I volunteered myself once again and became deeply involved with the members of my church. In short order, I was asked to join the usher corps, care guild, Bible reading class, men's coffee group (I am known as "John, the baker" because I bake goodies to share), and sundry other activities that exposed me to many members whom I wished to know, and be known by, including my three ministers.

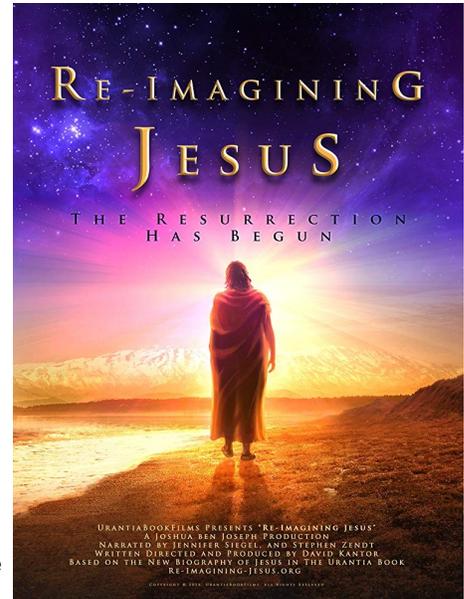
My involvement led me to go to Israel 18 months ago with a group of fellow church members that included our senior minister and his wife. It was a great opportunity to become friends and better understand how my Christian brothers and sisters think. Prior to the trip, I shared the video [Re-Imagining Jesus by David Kantor](#), with group members via an email link. I received two or three thank you responses. When I returned, I sent the link again, and several more responded that it enriched their

experience after having actually been to Israel.

On the one-year anniversary of the trip I sent each fellow pilgrim a copy of the book [The Parables of Jesus—Complete Teachings from The Urantia Book](#), along with a personal note. I received effusive thank you notes from all 27. I also gave copies to the church staff and our three ministers (12 in all), and they were all well received. Everyone loved the art and quality of the book.

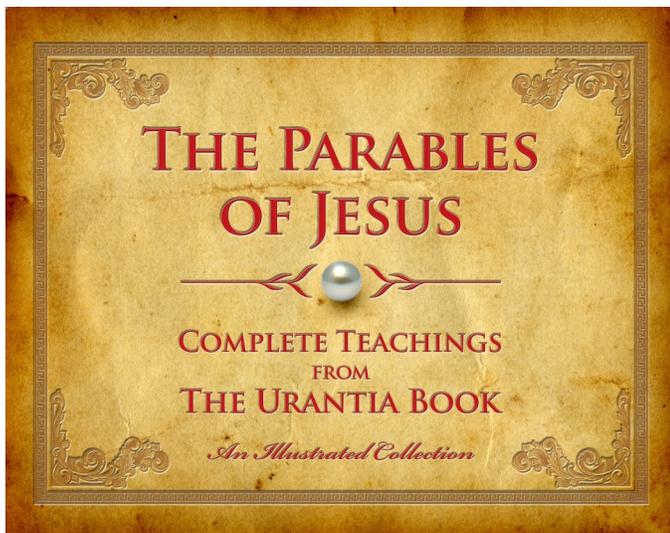
While I had not mentioned *The Urantia Book* in church circles, the Parables book became a most useful introduction to expanded conversations on Jesus' life among us. In Bible reading class, when it is time for discussion, I always begin with, "This is what I think based on my life's experience, and I am also interested in what you think"—or words to that effect.

One of the three ministers, our youth minister in her mid-thirties, called me in to ask about *The Urantia Book* because it was mentioned in the Parables book. We had a delightful hour-long conversation. She marveled that in all her time at McCormick Theological Seminary, she never heard of the existence of such a spiritual work and movement. I did not take a book to this meeting since I felt it would be too much at one time. I depended on Michael/Jesus to lead me in what to say.



After these three years of preparation and meditative contemplation, I felt the time was right to be more specific—using only Part IV. And what better occasion than the Easter story! I used the links to papers on truthbook.com. I feel this text has greater appeal to my church family since it has beautiful artwork portraying common stories from the Bible. I began with Paper 175, "The Last Temple Discourse." Over a period of two weeks I sent to my men's coffee group and ministers the link to one or two papers, progressing to Easter morning with Paper 189, "The Resurrection." One of my coffee mates commented, "I felt I was there," like the old Walter Cronkite TV series *You Are There*. I also received positive reactions from two of the ministers.

Why am I doing this? My primary reason is that I want to establish an island of friendliness toward the Urantia teachings in a liberal Protestant church with a conservative congregation. The key is to first become known



so that your contribution will be coming from a trusted person who grew up like them, shares their love of Jesus, and offers insights that they have not thought of, but are within reach of their understanding. Seed planting is another reason. I have finally experienced "the act is ours, the consequences God's." 117:5.5 (1286.3)

I'm just working in a small patch of Michael's spirit garden, but what a journey I am having. I have come to love many, many members of my church family by getting to know them—surprise, surprise! "You cannot truly love your fellows by a mere act of the

will. Love is only born of thoroughgoing understanding of your neighbor's motives and sentiments. It is not so important to love all men today as it is that each day you learn to love one more human being." 100:4.6 (1098.3)

Or, maybe it's the cookies?

So, to you out there who are still wondering how to serve: Your opportunity is probably just a few blocks away. Make a plan and take the first step. You can do it! The God within and the Spirit of Truth will stand by you and show you the way. But one must act. What took me so long?



Here's to the continuing adventure of serving our sisters and brothers, wherever we find them.

A KNOWLEDGEABLE GUIDE TO POINT THE WAY—URANTIA FOUNDATION'S INDEX



By Bruce Johnson, New York, United States

The Value of Guides

Most of us can appreciate the value of having a knowledgeable guide to point the way while exploring new places. I experienced this firsthand during my trip to the April 2018 Urantia Association International Conference in Amsterdam. As a novice international traveler, I was coping with "travel anxiety" even before leaving home.

After the flight from New York to Amsterdam, I began

following the somewhat daunting directions I had copied from the hotel's website: Take a train, then a bus, and transfer to another bus. By frequently asking for help, I made it to the final transfer bus stop—in a remote neighborhood, with no businesses in sight. My cell phone was deactivated, and I had no idea where I was.

There was one other person waiting at the bus stop. This young man, seeing my suitcase, asked, "Are you going to the conference?" He lived in Amsterdam and said he had recently discovered *The Urantia Book* while doing a web search for his many unanswered spiritual questions. I couldn't have been more relieved and grateful to find not only another reader, but also a "guide" who knew exactly how to get to the conference. For the next 45 minutes, we got so caught up in talking about spiritual discoveries that we almost missed our destination stop.

A New Guide to *The Urantia Book*

This article is really about discovering another type of guide for those moments when you're thinking: "I read it somewhere in the book, but I can't find it now." Searching *The Urantia Book* definitely isn't easy. I've been active with the Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS) for several years, where deeper study of topics takes place in online classes. Currently I'm preparing a fall class that includes the subtopic "Limitations of Revelation." My work involves searching for examples and then cross-referencing to various authors' advice about developing "wisdom" around this issue. The process is typically very time-consuming so having the right guide is essential!

Of course, there are several existing search tools for *The Urantia Book*, including online searches; the *Paramony*, which correlates *The Urantia Book* with the Bible; and *The Urantia Book Concordance*.

Also, one of my early Urantia movement heroes is Clyde Bedell, widely known for his labor of love, the *Concordex of The Urantia Book*. The third edition has over 110,000 references, and was finished just before Clyde's death in 1986. Many times the 500-page Concordex has led me to my destination in the book. But Clyde writes in the Concordex introduction, "Some time in the future a professional staff may do the job as it should be done ... better than any individual can do it."

The Foundation's Index has arrived!

Several years ago I heard that the Foundation was nearing completion of its Index. That was great to hear! For me, anticipating this Index felt similar to waiting for my first driver's license. I am excited to share the news that Clyde's prediction has finally come true, and the Index I had been waiting for is finally available online.

Try It for Yourself

You can find the Index by on Urantia Foundation's website by clicking on the tab "Study" which is on the left sidebar menu on the home page. You'll see it listed (again, in the left sidebar list) under "Index of The Urantia Book." [Or you can click here.](#) To begin your own guided journey, click on the link for the first letter of your search word, and scroll down in alphabetical order to the word you want. You'll see subentries and sub-subentries introduced by key words and phrases, sometimes with multiple links pertaining to a phrase. For some major terms in the book (see my example below) the topic is broken out into subcategories, arranged alphabetically.

Each phrase in the results is followed by two ways to locate it: a one-click feature taking you to the "paper:section.paragraph" in the text of the book on the

Foundation website, with the whole paper scrollable from there. In addition, the page and paragraph numbers are shown in parentheses.

Here is an example of a search I did. Being interested in understanding the concept of "spiritual capacity and receptivity," I was wondering in what ways one could expand it, while maintaining a healthy balance with other important aspects of living.

My search began by clicking "S" and scrolling to "Spiritual." The Index lists seventeen "Spiritual" subcategories such as Attainment, Beings, Destiny, etc. For this example, I scanned the subtopic "Attainment" where there are about 40 quotes grouped into about 10 even more specific categories. These subcategories typically list 3-10 related descriptive short phrases. At this point I had more than enough references to satisfactorily answer my

question. The only problem is that finding an answer inevitably leads to even more questions—so the searching usually goes on!

The Fruit of Decades

The one thing I really like about the Index is that it shows you a *manageable* number of closely related references. These are the fruits of decades of experienced study and work by those who were involved in this project from the early days, results that are only now available. The editing team's knowledge and wisdom were absolutely essential to the monumental task of properly indexing the fifth epochal revelation.

As a bonus, this is discussed in a fascinating background preface on the Index home page, which states, "Our watchword ... was *utility to the user*. We hope ... [the] product ... is genuinely useful, however elaborate and comprehensive."

The preface refers to "the original Index team of the 1940s and 1950s," which is said to have included Dr. William S. Sadler, Wilfred Kellogg, Anna Kellogg, Bill Sadler, Jr., Anna Rawson, Edith Cook, Marian Rowley, and many more over the decades. It was finally finished by a twenty-first century team under the direction of Urantia Foundation staff Tamara Strumfeld, Cece Forrester, and Larry Watkins.

My New Favorite Search Tool

This Index is an ideal guide for getting even more connected to *The Urantia Book*—whether you're a new reader or a longtime student. Of course the real test is for you to try out the Index and experience it for yourself!

The screenshot shows the website's navigation bar with language options (English, Español, Português, Русский, Français, Deutsch, Italiano, Magyar, Română) and search boxes for the website and the book. The main header features the Urantia Foundation logo and the text "CUSTODIANS OF THE URANTIA BOOK SINCE 1950". Below the header is a navigation menu with links for Home, The Urantia Book, Urantia Foundation, Donate, Get Involved, Contact Us, and Contact Readers.

The "Study the Book" section is active, displaying a list of links on the left sidebar and a main content area. The sidebar includes links like "FAQs", "A Strategy and Practice for In-depth Study Groups of The Urantia Book", "A Study of the Master Universe", "An Artist's Conception of the Master Universe", "Appendices to A Study of the Master Universe", "Bible Study", "Bill Sadler Talks", "Concerning Human Survival", "Consideration of Some Criticisms of The Urantia Book", "Foreword and Part 1", "General Organization of The Urantia Book", "Guide to Pronunciation of Names and Words in The Urantia Book", "Jesus", "Jesus' Steps - Maps of Jesus' Travels", "Index of The Urantia Book", "Jesus' Travels - Google Earth Publications", "Science in The Urantia Book", "Terminology", "The Unceasing Campaign of the Master Seraphim", "The Urantia Book Concordance", "The Value of Study Groups", "Theology of The Urantia Book", "Topical Studies", "Worship and Wisdom", and "Inspiring Questions".

The main content area has a "Study" header and a "View" button. Below it is a list of frequently asked questions, with "FAQ - Frequently asked questions about The Urantia Book" highlighted by a red arrow. Other items in the list include "The Urantia Book Workbooks by William S. Sadler, MD", "The Urantia Book Workbooks by William S. Sadler, Jr.", "Indexes and Dictionaries", "History", "Introductions", "The Standard Reference Text", "Seminars & Presentations", and "Video".

At the bottom of the main content area, there is a section titled "The Urantia Book Workbooks by William S. Sadler, MD" with a list of volumes: "Foreword and Part I - Volume I", "Science - Volume II", "Topical and Doctrinal Studies - Volume III", "Jesus - Volume IV", "Theology - Volume V", "Bible Study - Volume VI", "Terminology - Volume VII", "Worship and Wisdom - Volume VIII", and "(Purchase Dr William S. Sadler's Urantia Book Workbooks individually)".

JESUS AS A TEACHER— 2018 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN AMSTERDAM



*By Antonio Schefer,
International Conference
Chair, Urantia Association
International, the Netherlands*

Urantia Association International (UAI) held its first international conference in Nashville, Tennessee, in 1997. Since then, there have been nine more. We have traveled to North America, Europe, Australia, and Latin America to learn more about *The Urantia Book* and to fraternize with friends and fellow students around the globe.

From April 12 to 15, 2018, the Dutch Urantia Association (UAISUN) of UAI hosted the 2018 International Conference with the theme: "Jesus as a Teacher." It was held at the NH- Leeuwenhorst Conference Centre in Noordwijkerhout, a small city not far from Amsterdam, the capital of the Netherlands.

When we asked Jaap Terra (the president of UAISUN) and his team in 2015 to take on the huge responsibility of organizing the 2018 event, it did not take long before they had a formal proposal to organize the conference. Organizing big events like

these can be quite challenging for an association, but Jaap and his team did not hesitate for one moment.

On Thursday evening, Jaap officially opened the conference following the meet and greet, dinner, and some words and music from our Masters of Ceremonies Pato Banton and Antoinette Rootsdawtah. After that, Chris Wood, president of UAI, gave a short introductory speech, followed by remarks from Mo Siegel, president of Urantia Foundation. Karen Huigsloot, the program chair, added a few words of instruction for conference-goers. We ended with music performed by Cristina Seaborn and Bob Solone.

During the following days, there was an interesting mix of plenaries, breakout sessions, workshops, meditation sessions, excellent music performances, and many opportunities to foster friendships with fellow Urantia Book students. This all took place in a very beautiful setting next to the amazing flower fields for which this region is world famous.

Most plenaries were fifteen minutes and served as a natural introduction to the small breakout sessions that consisted of the same group of people for the duration of the conference. The sessions were well received, and many commented on the benefits of repeated meetings with the same intimate group. This will be worth repeating in future conferences. The program committee worked hard to create these small groups and



Jaap Terra



Pato Banton, Antoinette Rootsdawtah

to get the best mix of students together. It was not easy; there were many criteria they used to make up the ideally balanced groups.

The Friday evening concert was unique. Iris Kroes gave a performance on her harp,

accompanied by a friend on the piano. We loved it! Hearing the music of the Master's instrument gives us a better understanding of why he played it while here on Urantia.

The emcees did an amazing job, sharing some original music during their concert on

Saturday evening, and the audience thoroughly enjoyed themselves dancing during this event. Throughout the entire conference, James Woodward, our DJ, provided beautiful background music, mostly sourced from Urantia artists (some of them famous).

There were 177 people from twenty three different countries in attendance, and when it ended on Sunday afternoon, it was hard to say goodbye. Thankfully, there was a pre-post-conference activity as well: a city tour, which included a boat tour through the Amsterdam canals to see and learn about the history of the capital of the Netherlands, organized by the Urantia Young Adults International (UYAI).

The next day, Monday, was when the official three-day post-conference began, featuring a bus tour of various historical towns, including Volendam, Enkhuizen, Edam, and the Island of Texel. The additional socializing and sightseeing was enjoyed by all.

Looking back, I think it was a hopeful and successful event overall. We have not seen such high attendance here in Europe since the 2002 International Conference in Dourdan, France. This gives me hope for the future of the reader community in Europe.

The same hope goes for our next International Conference, which will take place in Urubamba, near Cusco, Peru, in the year 2021. This will be the second time we have gone to Latin America. To have another successful conference, we need your financial

support. Latin America is booming, and you can give the revelation a boost by supporting our next conference there. We want participation from all six continents, and especially from Latin America. And for that we need your financial support. We also need sponsors to help with conference costs, such as translation, transportation, and the paying of the venue itself. Please consider a contribution. For information email the central office administrator, Margaret Slater Thomas, at centraloffice@urantia-association.org.

I want to thank the sponsors who made the 2018 International Conference happen. Our special thanks go to Urantia Foundation and Truthbook. I also want to thank all who helped the Dutch Urantia Association with donations. Your support was needed and appreciated! Finally, I thank everyone who came to the Netherlands. We truly enjoyed having you here and hope to see you again in 2021 in Peru!



James Woodward



Karen Huigsloot



Cristina Seaborn, Bob Solone



Iris Kroes

GHANA—THE TEACHINGS SPREAD WITH CONFERENCES AND GIFT BOOKS



By Collins Lomo, Accra, Ghana

Editor's Note: Urantia Foundation sent 50 English-language Urantia Books to Ghana in support of the efforts of readers there to seed the book and its teachings throughout Africa.

The 2018 Ghana International

Urantia Conference, held April 20–22 at the African Regent Hotel in Accra, was an inspiring and successful event. It was organized by Pato Banton, Antoinette Rootsawtah, the Urantia Association International, and the readership in Ghana and across Africa.

A main goal for this conference was to introduce *The Urantia Book* to citizens in Ghana and in Africa at large. Unlike conferences in Europe and America, which tend to attract existing readers, ours are aimed at getting new ones. We designed our publicity activities prior to the conference to target friends and families of existing readers and the general public. As a result, for a typical Urantia Book conference in Ghana, you'll find that about

half of the attendees are just getting to know the book.

During this recent conference, we realized that a good number of people who attended the meet and greet on day one or the main event on day two were actually curious individuals who had heard of the conference on Eventbrite, the online tool we used for registration.

We can never underestimate the seeds sown in this regard. Although young and curious minds may have just heard of the book for the first time, they may later decide to learn more and eventually read it. Sometimes I measure my success with the book by just getting its name in the minds and on the lips of my friends and family. Many of my schoolmates and colleagues at



Adinkra Artwork

work sometimes call me “Urantia Man” or “Mr. Urantia Book.” Some don’t even pronounce it well! But for me, it’s still a good sign.

I must admit that I was a bit skeptical when Pato and Antoinette proposed the theme for the Ghana conference, “Mother Spirit—Mama Africa.” They even suggested that we give the entire program over to the women readers. But after





thinking it through, Kwadjo, the Ghana readership, and I went along with it. Turns out it was the perfect theme, and the wonderful women readers in Africa presented their ideas on *The Urantia Book*. It was high time we witnessed what the women think and a gift to experience their energy and inspiration! Presentations included:

- “Self-Discovery in the Love Relationship” by Adi Namaran (Cameroon)
- “The Feminine Rising” by Delae Sowu (Ghana)
- “The Mother Spirit in Our Culture” by Bibie Brew (Ghana)
- “Meditation Experience” with Samrawit Muluneh (Ethiopia)
- “*The Urantia Book*—My Experience” by Charity Charles (Nigeria)
- “Disseminating the Fifth Epochal Revelation, the Role of the African Woman” by Sunshine Anazodo and Odochi Nzeako (Nigeria)

As I write this, I hear all the wonderful things they said resounding in my ears.

The conference also provided a platform for active readers and leaders of African groups to meet, get more acquainted, and discuss how readership is growing in our various countries. Participants hailed

from Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Benin, Cameroon, Senegal, and Ethiopia. I was impressed with how the Senegal readers, in a country with a Muslim majority, have found a method of sharing the teachings of the book by allowing truthseekers to find their own understanding about God and spirituality. This approach reminds us what the Master admonishes us to do: “In your living and loving ministry serve spiritual food in attractive form and suited to the capacity of receptivity of each of your inquirers.” 133:4.2 (1474.2)

The 50 books sent to us by Urantia Foundation were very much needed. On day one, we gifted 20 books, mostly to new readers. For some it was the first time hearing of such a book, and they immediately wanted to learn about it.

On day two—the main event—books were displayed on the registration table and were only given to those who requested one. Since full copies of *The Urantia Book* are hard to come by in Africa, we kept 10 copies to gift to interested people in the future.

For a post conference activity and community service, Pato planned a visit to Teshie Children’s Home, an orphanage in Accra. We toured the orphanage, learned of their needs and challenges, and made some donations of food

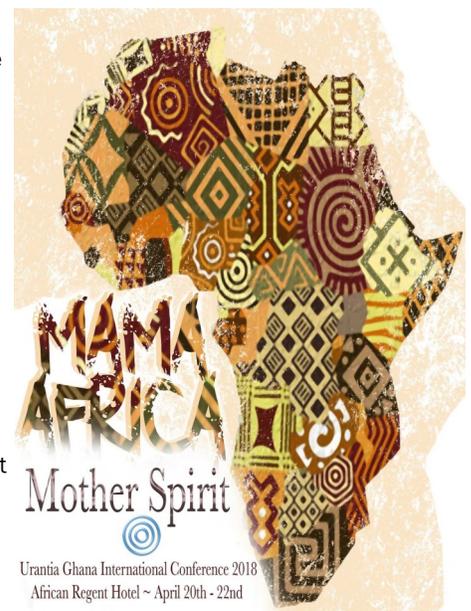
and sanitary items that we had collected on day two of the conference. After telling them about our recent conference and *The Urantia Book*, we learned that the orphanage had a small library. I then remembered that we had a box of books reserved for such situations, so we promised to return and gift one. Who knows, in the future we may get one or two readers from among those wonderful children we met there.

Over the four years that I have known Pato and Antoinette, they have motivated and collaborated with us to organize Urantia Book conferences regardless of how few our numbers were. With time, we have grown from three committed young male readers to a family of diverse nationality, culture, age, and gender. I believe the consistency of these conferences in Ghana serves as a motivation for other African countries to share this wonderful revelation with their fellows in a similar fashion. Accordingly, at the end of the Accra conference, we threw our support behind the Nigerian group to host the next African Urantia conference in 2019.

On behalf of the readers of Ghana, we give much appreciation to Urantia Association International and to Urantia Foundation for the books and support for this conference.

And to Pato and Antoinette: Your commitment, service, and inspiration over the years have contributed greatly to the growth of the Ghana group and to the rest of Africa. Knowing you both is a gift.

May we all keep shining the light of the supernal teachings in *The Urantia Book*!



CELEBRATING MARJORIE REED



By Ralph and Betty Zehr, New York, United States

Editor's Note: Marjorie Reed, a longtime reader of The Urantia Book and a friend of Urantia Foundation, has graduated to the mansion worlds. On behalf of the expanded board, we all miss her, cherish our times with her, and are so grateful to her service and contributions to Urantia Foundation.

Marjorie Reed touched many lives as a result of her long and deep commitment to the Urantia community. She was indeed a remarkable woman. And for those who were

privileged to know her, she was a dear friend, a role model, a mentor, and a most delightful fellow worker on Urantia Book projects and committees. She was dedicated to spreading the teachings of *The Urantia Book* and raising the necessary funds to seed it throughout the world.

As a long-term, dedicated member of the Education Committee, Marjorie made a personal commitment to share the teachings. She was responsible for planning programs for the intensive Summer Study Sessions at Lake Forest College year after year when they were held there during the 1980s. As a resident of Lake Forest, she was able to arrange this beautiful and serene setting as the venue. She hosted many of the committee meetings in her home, providing lodging during the two- to three-day committee sessions along with simple, elegant meals at her home and transportation to and from the airport. She also

worked behind the scenes at these conferences, personally supplying various needed services, especially to international attendees.

In addition to her extensive work sharing the teachings, Marjorie was also dedicated to providing funds necessary to support the widespread distribution of Urantia Books throughout the world. She served on the Urantia Foundation Fundraising Committee, a job for which she possessed considerable experience and expertise. Not only was she an effective fundraiser, Marjorie set an excellent example by her most generous personal contributions given over the years.



Marjorie Reed, Mo Siegel

While she is no longer with us, her inspiration continues. Let us all work together with continued service and the raising of much-needed funds that allow us to share the teachings and achieve the world that Marjorie so clearly envisioned.

SPREADING *THE URANTIA BOOK* THROUGHOUT ITALY



By Cesare Nicoletti, Viterbo, Italy

My discovery of *The Urantia Book* was a rebirth for me, the spiritual rebirth that I had been waiting for my whole life. I discovered God and Jesus as a child through involvement in a Catholic religious community. But the religious beliefs, which gave me so much in that period of my life, came to an end. My breaking point came in conjunction with the death of my father. I experienced what the great mystics refer to as the ecstatic "death of the soul" in union with God. This process, which generally leads the believer into an almost dreamlike and ecstatic state,

resulted for me in an awakening of my soul and the rediscovery of the true God.

I was evidently ready for *The Urantia Book*, which I found on the internet seemingly by chance. After a year, I began my first complete reading, using the electronic version on Urantia Foundation's website. Later, I bought the book in hard copy form and continued to read, deepening my understanding of its teachings.

When I had read the book for several years, I started to take courses from the Urantia Book

Internet School, some in English and some in French and Spanish, eventually completing about eighteen in all. Then I decided to make it my mission to make the book known in Italy.

To begin, I started doing whatever I could online. I started several Facebook groups in the Italian language, hoping to attract as many people as possible. Once that was done, I contacted the most important Italian online libraries, offering the free version downloadable from the Foundation's site.

Then, to take book dissemination beyond the internet and place physical books in libraries, I contacted Tamara Strumfeld at Urantia Foundation, who provided me with fifteen books. My next step was to contact libraries to make sure they would accept the book. I selected cities with more than 50,000 inhabitants, which were also relatively close to my home in order to have personal contact with the library.

After contacting many libraries and not receiving answers from all of them, I expanded my list to the whole Italian territory, giving priority to large cities and prestigious libraries. The result was very widespread. So far I have five placements in libraries near my home and ten in libraries located throughout the rest of Italy (Lucca, Palermo,

Mentana, Foligno, Crotone, Narni, Genoa, Marsciano, Cagliari, and Biella).

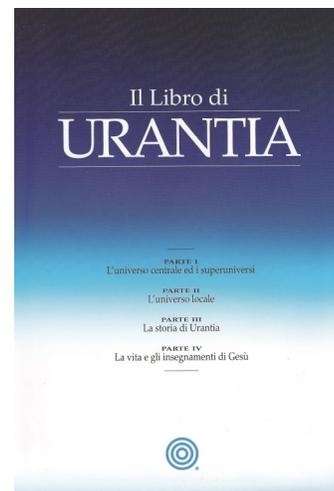
One impressive result was my correspondence with the Franciscan Library of Palermo. In their reply to me, they wrote, "We read with great pleasure and gratitude what you wrote. We wish to confirm our interest in the volume referred to." I never expected a Franciscan library to react in this beautiful way.

Currently I am trying to bring more people into the Urantia community through Facebook. It is my hope that those who visit my page will be positively influenced by the articles and will decide to read *The Urantia Book*. In twelve years, I will retire and will be able to devote myself more diligently to the diffusion of the book and its teachings and to the

organization of study groups. I pray that this work will bear fruit, and I will be honored to help all of my Italian brothers and sisters on this wonderful journey.

The future is uncertain for everyone, and in the present moment everything may seem very difficult. Yet the future is built with small gestures, with pure thoughts, with actions judged by our souls, and by transcending our fear of making mistakes. What matters is the intention, even more than the immediate results. Today is the point from which all future possibilities radiate, and everyone is given the opportunity to choose among them.

A future will come in which our world's confusion will recede little by little, and the era of light and life will approach



closer and closer. This is our planetary future, and all readers are working for the dawn of the new day. For us, the important thing is to begin building it now, even if we will not be here to see it ourselves.

Announcements

UPDATE TO THE APPLE URANTIA BOOK APP

After making *The Urantia Book* and many of its translations available as a free app to all users of iPhones and iPads for nearly a decade, the creator of the app has released the biggest update in its history—a top-of-the-line search engine within the app. The new version of the app is [available for download in the App Store](#).

The search engine becomes fully available after the purchase of an inexpensive subscription (starting at \$5.94 per year to unlock full search capabilities). All proceeds go toward covering the expenses and maintenance of this project as well as its associated website, bigbluebook.org. The app and website are both carefully designed to be “the book and nothing but the book.” There are no distractions, no ads, and both are easy to use and easy to share.



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THE URANTIA BOOK FELLOWSHIP'S SUMMER STUDY SESSION 2018

The Urantia Book Fellowship's Summer Study Session 2018 will be held at Techny Towers in Northbrook, Illinois, again this year. It is an opportunity to join your Urantia Book family in study, worship, and fellowship. As always, inspired speakers will share their thoughts, and creative students will provide engaging workshops.

In addition, there will be daily contemplative worship time. "Worship—contemplation of the spiritual—must alternate with service, contact with material reality." 143:7.3 (1616:5) We will take time to "contemplate the spiritual" so that we may *better worship* and *serve* along with our celestial family.

The Summer Study Session will be held from July 19 to 22, preceded by a two-day spiritual retreat, "A Circle of Trust: Faith, Trust, and Assurance" beginning on Tuesday evening, July 17.

There is still time to register online at www.regonline.com/Urantia_Fellowship_SSS18.



Happiness and joy take origin
in the inner life.

The Urantia Book,
111:4.7 (1220.6)