

# UBIS Newsletter

[www.urantiabookschool.org](http://www.urantiabookschool.org)

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## The Value of Questioning

**Reading and studying is worth the effort.**

“The law of the universe is: Ask and you shall receive; seek and you shall find.” [\(1838.3\) 167:5.2](#)

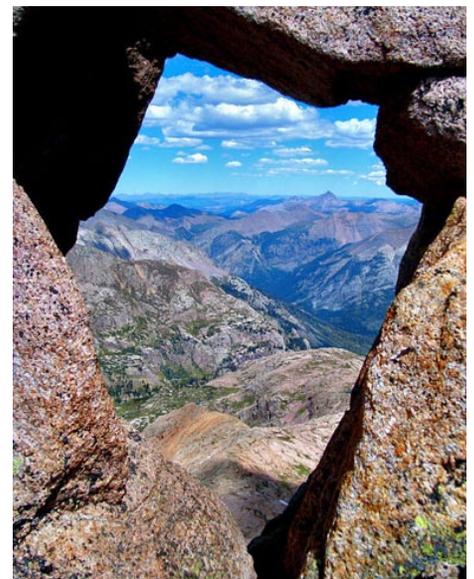
Reading and studying the material of *The Urantia Book* is worth the effort for it affords our consciousness a cosmic perspective from Urantia to Paradise and beyond; it gives a goal to our lives: “Be you perfect, even as I am perfect.” [\(21.3\) 1:0.3](#) that transcends even our highest hopes. The reason? It is an epochal

revelation that brings man closer to God on the four levels of reality: material, intellectual, spiritual and personal. For all of us, such an attainment seems so far away in time and space that it is an act of faith. I question myself—how can I become perfect as God is perfect?

Our Thought Adjusters, fragments of God himself, are also a revelation: “the will of God abroad in the universes.” [\(25.6\) 1:3.6](#) Descending from an absolute level, He incorporates a portion of all realities available to us as we progressively grow—our Thought Adjuster is the perfection of God.

What a paradox: God asks us to become perfect as he is and to seek for his will, and at the same time he instills in us his perfection and will.

The goal of perfection is already in all human beings! Now, the attainment seems not so far: we have everything at hand, we just have to ask for it as a child with his father. The role of personality, another gift of God, is instrumental in the process since the exercise of our free will may unify or not (depending on our choice) those realities and make them active in our experience.



*“Window in Sky” by David Rahbany*

Do you realize that all realities: material (energy), intellectual (knowledge), spiritual (values); are already in us? What we seek for is inside us for “all human progress is effected by a technique of conjoint *revelational evolution*.” [\(2094.14\) 196:3.15](#)

*(continued on page 3, see “Questioning”)*

***“an epochal revelation that brings man closer to God on the four levels of reality...”***

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(UBIS)**

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# UBIS Newsletter

## Teacher/Facilitator Training

As experienced by a Teacher/Facilitator training participant.

### Learning to Teach and Teaching to Learn

by Marta Elders

This past June, ten growth-oriented UBIS students had the pleasure and challenge of taking the UBIS Teacher/Facilitator (TF) training led by Dorothy Elder.

The four-week period focused on:

**Week 1:** Qualities of an effective teacher.

**Week 2:** The process of developing a course with appropriate and meaningful questions.

**Week 3:** UBIS procedures for students and teachers including problem solving techniques.

**Week 4:** The procedural process working with the in-place UBIS system, Course Review Committee (CRC), teacher/facilitator requirements, and any additional questions, concerns, thoughts, feelings, and insights that arose throughout the work.

During the **first week**, Dorothy wisely encouraged us to consider our own experiences over the years and reflect on what kind of teacher has been personally most influential. What were the qualities we deemed most important and/or essential? By having us look to our own experiences, we moved into the “of”



Careful, step-by-step training leads to understanding, wisdom and grace.

Photo courtesy of shutterstock.com

rather than the “about” sense of teaching. We then reflected on what abilities and qualities would be needed to be a successful UBIS teacher/facilitator and what skills are called for in teaching on the Internet. This experience reinforced the wisdom in the focus on discovery rather than interpretation that is a hallmark of UBIS teaching/facilitating.

*“...while we don’t  
‘teach’ truth,  
we can live truth  
in such a way  
that it is  
perceptible  
to others.”*

Dorothy engaged the class in responding to one another’s insights and after highlighting the inherent wisdom that was offered by many, she added additional insights, fleshing out techniques that were especially meaningful for Internet teaching/facilitating. As she continued this process we began to coalesce as a group and deepen our appreciation for one another.

Our **second week** assignment was to design a course, stating the purpose of the course, writing an intro for the first reading to be studied, and offering three questions for that period. Courses offered were either topical or thematic and many of us commented that we would love to attend the courses that were being put forward by others. During this period we considered the questions using the six levels of understanding described in Bloom’s Taxonomy—knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. Using this classification as well as considering

Urantia Book Internet School was created and exists as a means to help students from all over the world study *The Urantia Book* together free from the constraints of distance, timetables, and physical presence.

questions in terms of fact, meaning, and value gave us more clarity and understanding of the UBIS system.

As we began the **third week** we looked more closely at the expectations for students and discussed different ways to both support and further their learning and involvement. And how to accomplish this in the UBIS internet format. We discussed and pondered ways to respectfully interact with students while maintaining structure and openness, all the while focused on *The Urantia Book* and its teachings. This led to an inquiry as to how to solve the problems as they arise in the course. Problems such as lack of participation, off-topic posts, etc.

In our **fourth and final week**, we learned more about the teacher/facilitator requirements, procedure for course preparation, and the available UBIS support and mentoring system. We asked any lingering questions and expressed our appreciations for and to one another, and for and to Dorothy.

Dorothy modeled the teaching/facilitating style we sought. In doing so, it became quite clear that while we don't "teach" truth, we can live truth in such a way that it is perceptible to others.



### Questioning (continued from page 1)

This is where we encounter the importance of "Ask and you shall receive."

Life's inevitabilities create the frame and conditions for such progressive transformation providing that we understand the purpose of all this and develop a cooperative attitude. Therefore, questioning is the most effective method for consciousness expansion, spiritual progression and personality realization.

Contrary to passive listening, as in classic academic learning, searching for answers to fundamental and existential questions induces a dynamic process for the emergence in our consciousness of the inner truth, beauty and goodness within us. It is a non-invasive, non-coercive, and self-discovery learning method.

*...it is up to every human being to transform intellectual acquisitions into living experience in daily life.*

This technique of questions has inspired UBIS pedagogy. Well-adapted, intelligent, tactful, and progressive inquiry creates a tension of consciousness in our God-seeking mind. That tension is resolved by our God-revealing Thought Adjuster with the emergence in our human mind of new and higher levels of realization of our relationship with God, appreciation of his love for us, and increasing desire to do his will and to become like him.

But it will always remain that it is up to every human being to transform those intellectual acquisitions into living experience in daily life. Without experience, knowledge is just a pure intellectual satisfaction and does not lead to the will and perfection of God.

Georges Michelson Dupont  
*UBIS Director*



## We are not a church or an organized religion...

Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS) is part of the Urantia Foundation, a non-profit, educational association. We are not a church or an organized religion, nor is that our intent.

UBIS does not express opinions or take positions on political, social or economic issues. We welcome people of all faiths, races, and nationalities seeking spiritual fellowship. We view true religion as the personal spiritual experience of each individual. This internet-based school is a group endeavor of people inspired by the teachings of *The Urantia Book*. We wish to cooperate with all religionists to pursue the spiritual, social, and moral advancement of our world.



*Photo courtesy of shutterstock.com*

While people's beliefs may differ, our faith and destiny are the same, for we are all children of God. Spiritual uniformity is not our goal, spiritual unity is. Please join us!



## Things to Know\*

\*All dates and times are subject to change.  
Please check our website for the latest information.

CLICK HERE: [Registration Information](#)

**Click Here**

for more information  
about Urantia Book  
Internet School.

### September, 2011

**5-18** September. Trimester registration.

**19** September. 10-week trimester begins (continues until November 27.)

#### Course Title:

The Way, the Truth, and the Life: A Focus on Michael, Urantia's Master Son

**Papers:** 7, 21, 119, 180

We will study the origin and role of Urantia's Michael Son, his elevation from self-limited rulership to his experiential supremacy of self-earned sovereignty, and the significance of this to Urantia and all of Nebadon.

**T/F:** Pam Maunakea

**Course Title:** The Post Bestowal Age on Urantia: A Perspective

**Papers:** 52, 92, 103, 195

The Post Bestowal Age on Urantia is totally unique, intriguing, and challenging, as our world is out of step with the normal order of planetary mortal epochs. The purpose of this course is to discern the keys in the four papers we will study that may contribute to, and culminate in, an illuminating perspective of Urantia's Post Bestowal Age.

**T/F:** Dorothy Elder

**Course Title:** Michael's Seven Bestowals: Revealing the Will of the Supreme

**Papers:** 10, 16, 119, 117

We will undertake an examination of Michael's seven bestowals as they respond to the wills of the Paradise Deities, reflect the varying natures of the Seven Master Spirits, and reveal the will of the Supreme.

**T/F:** David Elders

**Course Title:** The Lucifer Rebellion—Tragedy and Triumph

**Papers:** 66, 67, 53, 54

This course will explore the causative factors, the repercussions, and the gradual resolution of the Lucifer Rebellion, why it was allowed to run its course, and the ultimate Triumph of God's Plan.

**T/F:** Virginia (Ginger) Heller

#### Course Title:

Personality: A Unique Gift from God

**Papers:** Foreword Section I, 1, Sections of 12 and 16, 56, 112

This course is an in-depth study of what personality is and where it comes from; of defining personality by its attributes and how it functions; a fascinating probe into the realities of eternal individuality.

A good knowledge of *The Urantia Book* is helpful.

**T/F:** Ray Gardini

### October, November, 2011

September trimester continues 10 weeks until November 27.

#### Teacher/Facilitator Training

Dates to be determined. If you are interested, please contact UBIS.

## UBIS Needs TEACHERS!

UBIS needs experienced *readers* to serve as Teacher/Facilitators (T/Fs).

Enrich your life and the lives of fellow truth seekers worldwide by facilitating a broader and deeper understanding of the teachings of *The Urantia Book*. What you learn as a teacher will be well worth the effort. Treat yourself!

Those interested must first complete two or more courses as a student, read the entire Urantia Book, and be recommended by their T/Fs.

You can do it! For more information, please call or write: 773.525.3319  
[urantia@urantia.org](mailto:urantia@urantia.org)

## What Students Write...

#### From March, 2010:

"I find that the class participation pushes me into deeper study of *The Urantia Book* content."

#### From a new reader:

"I do so pray with a whole heart that this educational opportunity continues...Thank you, teacher and class. As a new reader, you made me feel validated and appreciated."