

UBIS Newsletter

ubis.urantia.org

Volume 5 > Issue 1

2015 > January Trimester

Dear Friends and Students,

Our team hopes you are enjoying family and friends during the holidays.

Traditionally, the new year is the time when people make thoughtful resolutions for the year to come, and we suggest that taking a course with the Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS) would be a good one.

We are pleased to email our UBIS January trimester newsletter to you and invite you to spend some time reading it. We would also remind you that all individuals serving UBIS are volunteers with the exception

of the web master, and all courses served by UBIS are free of charge because we believe in the teaching, "Freely you have received, freely give." However, with our international development, expenses are growing. Would you be willing to help us with these expenses? If so, please send your contribution to Urantia Foundation and mark it for UBIS.

In November, the UBIS board and staff members met for our annual meeting at Urantia Foundation in Chicago. The board is comprised of nine individuals, and the staff has seven members. During the meeting, the Portuguese division of UBIS was launched, and its website will be operational in September 2015.

UBIS has a core of trained teacher-facilitators comprised of twenty-four who speak English, sixteen who speak Spanish, and two who speak French.

In 2014:

- Sixteen courses were given in English, six in Spanish, and four in French.
- Over 540 students from 27 different countries around the world took a course.
- Seven students took a teacher-training



Orchid Cactus photo by Don Paulson

class to become teacher-facilitators in Spanish, and six took the class in English.

- In addition, 507 students opened an account on the UBIS website from 50 different countries.

(See the breakdown on the following page.)

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Over 540 students from 27 different countries took a course.

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You cannot perceive truth until you feelingly experience it.

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**Urantia Book Internet School
(UBIS)**

ubis.urantia.org

Questions? 773.525.3319 or
joanne@urantia.org



UBIS Newsletter

South Pacific	
American Samoa	1
Australia	8
French Polynesia	2
Total	11
Europe	
Belgium	3
Cyprus	2
Denmark	1
France	22
Ireland	1
Italy	2
Jersey	1
Latvia	1
Lebanon	1
Netherlands	2
Portugal	2
Spain	13
Switzerland	4
United Kingdom	4
Total	59
Asia	
China	1
India	1
Indonesia	2
Korea republic	1
Philippines	3
Total	8
South America	
Argentina	6
Bolivia	2
Brazil	17
Chile	8
Colombia	33
Ecuador	5
Peru	8
Venezuela	4
Total	83

Central America	
Costa Rica	3
Dominican Republic	4
El Salvador	1
Guatemala	1
Honduras	1
Nicaragua	1
Puerto Rico	2
Total	13
North America	
Canada (English)	18
Canada (Québec)	24
Mexico	38
United States	240
Total	320

Africa	
Congo	1
Ivory Coast	2
Ghana	3
Kenya	1
Malawi	1
Nigeria	2
Réunion	1
Senegal	1
Uganda	1
Total	13

Our team wishes you a Happy New Year!

Teacher-Facilitator Musings

By Marta and Dave Elders

The Urantia Book is a revelation of living truth. Unlike human education, which makes information and knowledge accessible to the thinking mind, in the encounter with Urantia Book teachings, the Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS) has to provide students with the opportunity to realize truth in their own experience. As mota 16 declares: "You cannot perceive truth until you feelingly experience it..." That begs several questions: How do we provide for that experience in the online UBIS classroom comprised of students who are not physically present to one another? What role (if any) does the soul play in both the experience of truth and in its consequent perception? As we read and study together

the words which embody the fifth epochal revelation, can the Teacher-Facilitator (TF) and students together create an enhanced awareness of the possibility of, and the necessity for, the personal experience of truth which will lead to its subsequent perception?

The TFs have the dual responsibility identified in their functional name. The Teacher aspect comes into play early on in the design of the course. Each TF must, with the guidance of the Curriculum Committee and the Course Review Committee, develop a design which will be of interest to the students, encourage depth of study in response to carefully worded questions, and open the invisible doorway to the experience of new truth. The Facilitator role is key to implementing

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the course over ten weeks as the process moves during four periods from reading the text, responding to questions, and sharing insights in interactive group discussion.

There are related dynamics which are important to consider in this process. One of these is the natural human tendency, which we have all likely experienced, to project our existing level of understanding onto newly revealed truth. This can have the unfortunate effect of obscuring or diluting the new illumination offered by the revelation. For example, the reality of a finite God, the Supreme, is not comprehensible through a projection of existing human understanding because such truth has never been revealed to the human mind until now. The TF must remain vigilant to model a non-interpretive approach in facilitating his or her course, choosing instead to encourage the students to explore for themselves the new truths revealed and to build their comprehension together as they share the fruits of their exploration with their fellow students.

The UBIS classroom seems itself to be a shared experience of progressing Supremacy consistent with the revelators' stated purpose in the second paragraph of the Foreword to "expand cosmic consciousness and enhance spiritual perception..." It is true that the UBIS virtual classroom does not afford the opportunity for face-to-face discussion. But for anyone who has participated with other student seekers in such a dynamic process, it is inescapable that the discussion-sharing process results in knowing your fellow students at a deep level. Each participant makes a unique contribution to the process notwithstanding the lack of physical presence in the same space at the same time. This is similar to the Supreme whose synthesizing unity occurs despite the fact that the contributing will creatures are separated by the immensity of time and

space, experience level, universe and planetary origin, consciousness, function, psychic-circle development, etc. It is also a reflection of the model apparent in the Urantia Revelation itself: The revelators responsible for the illumination woven into each paper are not present to us as we seek to comprehend the truths we encounter in our studies. Is it possible that, as we progress, soul consciousness obviates the need for physical proximity as a requirement for knowing another being?

Moodle, the new UBIS website platform,

The reality of a finite God, the Supreme, is not comprehensible through a projection of existing human understanding because such truth has never been revealed to the human mind until now.

has been designed and built for global learning. It is a wonder in its ease of use, scalability, pedagogy adaptability, and multi-lingual capabilities. Moodle today has 70 million users in 230 countries. Not only has the evolved UBIS pedagogy been integrated faithfully into the Moodle platform, but also, and equally important, Moodle's intuitive ease of use has resulted in a surge of student posts during each of the four discussion-sharing weeks. For

many years UBIS has asked its students to post at least three comments during each discussion week. Now the conversation during discussion weeks often reaches 15-20 posts per student, up to 200 posts for an active class of 10 students, which provides the sense of a real time interactive conversation. Moreover, the global nature of the online classroom makes it possible for students from many different countries to participate together, something which is often difficult for readers separated by planetary time-space considerations. This past trimester UBIS offered a total of ten courses, including two each in Spanish and French.

Based loosely on an actual class experience, here is an example of how a discussion week might begin. One student post offered that the Supreme was like a symphony orchestra made up of all time-space will creatures, each playing a unique instrument. Another student noted that the musicians play their music wherever in grand universe space and whenever in grand universe time they choose. A third student noted that somehow the Supreme was able to blend this unique music into a unified reality symphony that bathed the universes in finite harmony all the way to Paradise. And these were just the first shared insights—of nearly 150 posts in all—in a week filled with student observations, questions, and interactions on the UBIS website.



Photo courtesy of Shutterstock

Things to Know*

*All dates and times are subject to change. Please check our website for the latest: [Registration Information](#)

Click Here
for more information
about UBIS.

January 2015 Trimester

5-18 January trimester registration.

19 January 10-week trimester begins and continues until March 27.



Following are the courses and Teacher-Facilitators (TFs) for the January session. For the most recent information, visit ubis.urantia.org



Spanish and French Courses

To see the Spanish and French courses available this trimester, please visit the Spanish and French websites:

<http://www.urantia.org/es/>

<http://www.urantia.org/fr/>



1. Course Title: The Son of Man—A Focus on the Human Jesus (ages 14 through 29)

Course Level: New Reader
Papers: 126, 127, 128, 129

Course Description: While living on Urantia, Jesus was both human and divine, the Son of Man and the Son of God. In this study we will focus on the human Jesus, the Son of Man, from ages 14 through 29. We will examine how Jesus lived from his teenage years up to the time before he achieved total union with his Thought Adjuster just prior to his baptism.

Teacher-Facilitator: Susan Flacks

A children's librarian living in New Jersey, Susan is married and has one son. She discovered *The Urantia Book* in 1974 and has been reading it ever since.

2. Course Title: Our Next Universe Home

Course Level: All Readers
Papers: 45, 46, 47, and 48

Course Description: This course will review and investigate the local system, its administration, its physical headquarters, the Mansion Worlds (our next stop), and life on the worlds of morontial existence, the vast level intervening between the material and the spiritual.

Teacher-Facilitator: Tom Hansen

Tom lives in the Bronx, New York. He is a retired medical equipment salesman, a Vietnam veteran, and has been an active reader and student of *The Urantia Book* since 1972. Over the years he has participated in many different study groups in the NYC metro area.

3. Course Title: The Family and Home—Mankind's Greatest Human Achievement

Course Level: All Readers
Papers: 82, 83, 84, and selected sections of 72, 74, 142, 160, and 177

Course Description: In this course we will explore many concepts concerning the origin, history, and central role played by the human family in the march of civilization on our planet. We will seek to discover the wisdom and advice offered in *The Urantia Book* to assist us in all phases of family life, including establishing a home, rearing children, and ongoing parenting and grand parenting.

Teacher-Facilitator: Ralph Zehr

Ralph, a retired radiologist, spent his entire career at a teaching hospital. He and his wife, Betty, have been students of *The Urantia Book* since 1967. They have a

daughter and a son who are also students of the book. Working together on Urantia activities is one of the family's greatest joys.

4. Course Title: The Lucifer Rebellion—Adversity and the Triumph of Love and Mercy

Course Level: Intermediate to Advanced
Papers: 53, 54, 66, and 67

Course Description: The purpose of this course is to examine how the origin and development of the Lucifer rebellion has contributed to the adversity experienced on this planet. *The Urantia Book* offers us a description of the events of the rebellion, the problems that emerged, the individuals responsible, and in the end, the resulting consequences impacting Urantia.

Teacher-Facilitator: Charlene Lutes

Charlene is a retired college director with additional careers as a journalist and communications specialist. She is an avid reader and writer. She and her husband have five children living in five different states. She has been a reader of *The Urantia Book* since the 1970s.

5. Course Title: Jesus' Approach to Teaching Living Truth

Course Level: Intermediate to Advanced
Papers: 130, 141, 157, 174, section 4, and 180

Course Description: We will analyze Jesus' masterly approach to teaching living truth during the various stages of his life. Special emphasis will be placed on the various questions he used so effectively to reach people's souls. The course will encompass the truth he taught, the interaction with truth seekers, and the way his questions lead the seeker into living truth, the soul felt experience that changed

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by facilitating a broader and deeper understanding
of the teachings of *The Urantia Book*.

people's lives.

Teacher-Facilitator: Betty Zehr

A retired teacher, Betty and her husband, Ralph, both students of *The Urantia Book* since 1967, have a daughter and son who are students of the book. Working together on Urantia activities is one of our family's greatest joys.

6. Course Title: The Soul— Offspring of Divine Spirit and Material Mind

Course Level: Intermediate to Advanced
Papers: Foreword, Section V, and sections
from Papers 34, 100, 101, 103, 108, 110,
111, 112, 132, 133, 160, 193 and 196

Course Description: One vital creative and divine process during our short journey on Urantia is the birth, evolution, and development of our souls. Jesus commented to an inquiring Greek scholar, "The soul is the self-reflective, truth-discerning, and spirit-perceiving part of man which forever elevates the human being above the level of the animal world." We shall spend the next several weeks deepening our understanding of the experience of our own souls, as we consider their origin, nature, and destiny.

Teacher-Facilitator: Marta Elders

Marta has been a student of *The Urantia Book* since 1970. It informs and inspires every aspect of her life. She lives in Connecticut with her husband, Dave, where she is wife, mother, grandmother, friend, seeker, and clinical psychologist.

UBIS Needs TEACHERS!

UBIS needs experienced *readers* to serve as Teacher-Facilitators (TFs).

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 Urantia Book* in its entirety, and be recommended by their TFs. The final and most advanced requirement is to successfully complete the Teacher Training Program, a four to five week intensive training course, offered annually, covering the Jesusonian teaching approach, course development, skillful questioning techniques, and classroom management.

For more information, please call 773.525.3319 or write to joanne@urantia.org.

If you cannot teach at this time but would like to help in some other way...

UBIS needs loyal readers to serve in many other capacities. Please let us know how you might be willing to help.

Using the UBIS Website

ubis.urantia.org

To register for a course on the UBIS homepage for the first time, click "Create new account." Save your username and password for current and future trimesters. When registration opens, you may log in to request enrollment in the course of your choice. Please contact us about any questions at the following email address: joanne@urantia.org

Moodle is an online, multilingual e-learning platform developed under an open-source license. More than 80,000 universities around the world are using it daily. Our UBIS team wishes you a pleasant and fruitful experience!

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What Students Write...

"I must say our TF went above and beyond the call of duty in making me feel comfortable enough to take on the new levels of thought that at first were intimidating. A warm thanks to all of you working behind the scenes as well for such hard work and kingdom-promoting service!"