URANTIA FOUNDATION'S NEWS ONLINE



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GRATITUDE TO THOSE WHO SERVE THE REVELATION

Greetings, fellow readers of The Urantia Book. I hope this report finds you healthy and happy. As those of you who attended the UAI Conference in Malaga, Spain, know, it was a delightful conference. Urantia Foundation's Expanded Board of Trustees quarterly meeting was held two days before the conference and we thank the conference organizers for hosting our meetings. Special thanks go to Associate Trustee Olga Lopez for her logistical support which made our meetings comfortable and efficient. Beyond the work accomplished at the meetings, we'll treasure the new friendships established in Spain.

At the end of the Trustees meeting on Friday afternoon, Urantia Foundation hosted a Global Leadership Roundtable for leaders attending the con-

ference. Some 25 people joined in a 2 1/2 hour exchange of ideas and experiences. The attendees came from Asia. North and South America. Africa, and throughout Europe. Board members and roundtable participants were truly inspired by the faith, loyalty, and devotion of these leaders. On behalf of the Expanded Board of Trustees, thank you, participants of the roundtable, for sharing your heart- felt stories. The Board has a renewed understanding of the difficulties and opportunities that readers face as the Urantia Revelation expands into their countries. Most of our Board members live in nations where the book is somewhat established. How quickly we forget those early struggles and limited successes when the book first gets launched. Words can hardly express the

thrill we felt as we heard details about the work these good people are doing as they bring this new revelation to their country. We stand in humble gratitude for their day to day efforts on this vital project. I suspect the angels rejoice as they watch them bring light to this world through their lives and their work for the Urantia Revelation.

A warm thank you goes to every member of the Board for their expenditure of volunteer time and money between and during meetings as they serve the Revelation and Urantia Foundation. If those of you reading this report could hear Associate Trustees Claire and Henk

Continued on Page 2

PRE-CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLE



By Samantha Nior, Hilversum, the Netherlands.

Editors Note: The April 2009 quarterly meeting of the Expanded Board of Trustees was held in Malaga Spain prior to the Urantia Association International Conference. At the suggestion of Ms. Irmeli Ivalo-Sjölie, Associate Trustee, a leadership roundtable was sponsored on Friday the 17th of April at five o' clock. Each person invited to attend was a

leader in their respective country and gave a short presentation about Urantia Book related activities. Samantha Nior (Netherlands) has written a brief summary of her perspective about the roundtable. The picture on Page 4 is of the attendees.

It was a beautiful experience meeting these people who are bringing readers together and helping them to form study groups and associations. I learned that the difficulties we have in the Netherlands are common to reader groups worldwide. It was wonderful to hear how in some countries there exist large communities of readers who regularly come together to study the book and to form local and national associations.

The presentation by Joel Chong Myula from Zambia

Continued on Page 4

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Mylanus describe their trials and tribulations as they dramatically improve book distribution in Italy, France, Spain, and Holland, you'd stand up and clap. If you could see the smile on Trustee Georges Dupont's face as he showed us the new European Edition of *El Libro de Urantia*, you'd feel confident about our future! Then there are the unsung heroes, Jay Peregrine

and his team, who work tirelessly for the Urantia Revelation. I could go on about the day to day accomplishments of each member of our team because everyone is giving a tremendous amount of their life energy for this project. We're truly blessed to have this Expanded Board of Trustees and staff at Urantia Foundation.

We are all part of a long-

planned spiritual and intellectual unfolding aimed at bringing new understanding to the peoples of this world. The Trustees, Associate Trustees, and staff of Urantia Foundation deeply appreciate your support, work, prayers, contributions, and goodwill for the ongoing human efforts in behalf of *The Urantia Book*. Together we can and will plant seeds of truth that will someday enlighten and spiritually liberate all humankind.

Upward and inward,

Ma

Mo Siegel President Urantia Foundation

NOTEWORTHY DECISIONS FROM THE APRIL 2009 BOARD MEETING

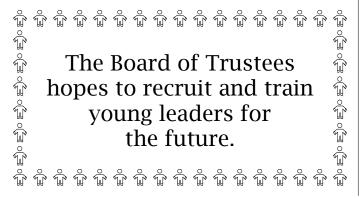
By Mo Siegel, President, Urantia Foundation, Colorado, USA

- 1. The meeting started with an emphasis on fostering the next generation of leadership for Urantia Foundation. Currently one Trustee position sits vacant, and two Associate Trustee positions will open after the Board's October 2009 meeting. With the aging of the current leadership, the Board of Trustees hopes to recruit and train young leaders for the future. In addition, the Trustees desire to find service-minded, qualified individuals who live in Mexico, Central, and South America. We would appreciate your recommendations for qualified candidates. Contact Mo Siegel at Urantia@urantia.org.
- 2. The Board reviewed a plan to host groups at Urantia Foundation's second floor facilities. The Foundation's building has a spacious conference room available with a large board- room table, which comfortably seats 16 persons. Adjoining the conference room is a small meeting room that works perfectly for break- out groups. The facility has a kitchen, three bathrooms, and four bedrooms that comfortably sleep up to 10 persons. Suggested mini-

- mum donations for the meeting rooms are \$125.00 per day. Overnight accommodations can be used for a minimum donation of \$50.00 a room per night. If you are interested, please call 773-525-3319 to plan your event. All proceeds will go to upkeep and to the 533 Building Fund.
- 3. The Board re-instituted the youth internship program at Urantia Foundation. You will hear more about this program as it unfolds.
- 4. The Board reviewed Urantia Foundation's finances. With a significantly reduced 2009 budget, conservative spending, and generous donations, we will survive the "great recession" of 2009. After the outpouring of financial support in 2008, we know the readership cares and will help us pull through this year. A special thank you goes to our longest serving Trustee, Richard Keeler, for his wise and profitable investing on the Foundation's behalf during the last 12 months.
- 5. The Book Committee has been busy with four new translations that need printing in the next 12 to 24 months. Considering that we're in the

- worst financial market in decades, the Board is moving cautiously forward when spending money. A translation is an enormous accomplishment requiring thousands of hours. Once a translation is printed, the timeconsuming and expensive job of finding and maintaining book distribution begins. Complicating this job is the fact that outside the United States every national book- vendor system operates in an idiosyncratic way from every other country's system. After discussing various financial and logistic issues surrounding book printings, the Board approved the following priorities for book printing, storing, marketing, and distribution.
- The first priority of the book distribution program is to support the supply of Urantia Books already in a marketplace. Once a book is printed

- and distributed, that book must stay in stock. Based on this decision, the 2009 reprintings will be Spanish, Portuguese. Lithuanian, Russian, and English.
- The second priority of the book distribution program is to print new translations that have been approved by the Board for printing, and for which a market, distribution, and warehousing plan has been established. Based on this criterion, the Polish translation has been scheduled for printing no later than mid-2010.
- The third priority of the book distribution program is to print books which currently do not have a defined market, distribution, and storage plan. The Board acknowledges the value of the



extraordinary work done by the translators and wants their work into circulation. Therefore, Urantia Foundation will make every effort to establish a plan to print, store, market, and distribute these translations as soon as possible. The Hungarian, Swedish, and Estonian translations fall in this category and will be made available in an electronic format, including on the internet and on CD in 2009 and printed soon after.

- The fourth priority of the book distribution program is to coordinate the completion of translations which are not ready for printing but which are past first-draft.
- 6. The Translation Committee, chaired by the Manager of Translations, Georges Michelson-Dupont, presented a plan for improving the translation process over the next decade. The translation committee has an enormous number of projects currently underway. Those projects include new translations, revisions, computerization of the translation process, and more. Intensive revision efforts are focused on the 1993 edition of El Libro de Urantia

The Board heard plans to improve Urantia Foundation's Website during the next 12 months.

and the new Portuguese translation.

The committee is seeking individuals who speak and read Chinese to review the Chinese translation of *The Urantia Book*. Contact Georges Michelson-Dupont for more information at georges.michelsondupont777@g mail.com.

7. The Governance Committee has embarked upon the process of creating committee charters for the 9 Board committees. Those committees are the finance, governance, public relations, education, books, fund raising, translation.

compensation, and planning committees. As the work of the Foundation expands, it has become critical that the growing work load with our mainly volunteer team gets accomplished as efficiently and pleasantly as possible. The committee charters articu-

late the roles and responsibilities which help insure the work gets done with redundancies eliminated. The Board approved the Committee's recommended charters for the Finance and Education Committee.

8. The Board heard plans to improve Urantia Foundation's website during the next 12 months.

In March of 2009, the Foundation's website had over 125,000 unique visitors. The internet search engines naturally steer people to our website for information, education, and validation of the "Urantia Revelation." We

must keep improving the relevancy, ease of access, and educational quality of the Foundation's website. The site must provide an easy way for people to learn about the book's teachings, to have basic questions answered, to connect to the Foundation's educational efforts such as UBIS, and to find out about Urantia Foundation.

9. The Fellowship recently inquired if Urantia Foundation would share its mailing list with them. While the Board appreciates the search for cooperative efforts, we graciously decline sharing our mailing list with any groups because the list was devel-

The Board initiated an

Information Technology

(IT) Roundtable

for

Oct. 17th and 18th,

2009 at our

Chicago offices.

oped with the implicit understanding of the privacy rights of individual readers. We were never given the right to share our mailing list and we will honor that agreement.

10. The Board initiated an Information Technology (IT) Roundtable for

Oct. 17th and 18th, 2009 at our Chicago office. We're inviting 12-14 of the best and brightest internet/tech minds who read and work with *The Urantia Book* via IT/Web technology

Numerous individuals and groups approach Urantia Foundation with their technology ideas for UBIS, search engine optimization, standard digital text referencing, software for hand held devices, common data bases for secondary works, social networking, internet study groups, and much more. The growth of the internet and digital technology has fundamentally changed the distribution of *The Urantia Book* and its

teachings. During this session we'll share best practices, experiences, strategies, and new ideas for serving the community of potential and current Urantia Book readers via IT/internet technologies. We'll spend time discussing various strategic IT/internet alternatives that maximize reader benefits while minimizing redundancies, over expenditures, and conflicts. If you feel you should be one of the 12-14 individuals invited to attend, please contact Jay Peregrine at Urantia@urantia.org.

11. Anticipating growing interest in *The Urantia Book*, a team headed by Trustee Richard Keeler has been drafting answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the book and Urantia Foundation. The work on this project is continuing and now the Education Committee has agreed to share the load by writing answers to questions about the book's teachings.

The committee is seeking individuals who speak and read Chinese to review the Chinese translation of The Urantia Book.



Bottom from left to right: Claire Mylanus (France); Samantha Nior (Netherland); Nemias Mol (Brazil); Ricardo Machado (Portugal); Rogerio Reis da Silva (Brazil)

Top from left to right: Byung Seo (South Korea); Rick Lyon (USA); Seppo Kanerva (Finland); Gaétan Charland (Canada); Joel Chongo Mvula (Zambia); Gary Rawlings (United Kingdom); Werner Sutter (Germany)

Not Pictured: Michael MacIsaac (Sweden)

From Page 1

was especially intriguing to me and the other attendees at the roundtable. Most Zambian readers range from high school age to people in their 40's. To speak freely about *The Urantia Book*, one has to register with the government as an association and be acknowledged as a religion. Joel introduces the book to young people and fosters study groups by visiting them once a month.

All the participants at the roundtable gained an understanding and insight as to how the community of readers is slowly moving forward and coming together. I feel blessed to have been able to participate in this learning experience and to have met such wonderful people.

GOD CONSCIOUSNESS - A LIVING UNIVERSITY



By Paula Thompson, Administrative Director, Urantia Fellowship, Arvada, USA

Oh, My God Consciousness!

I hope you don't my saying it, but, "Your God-consciousness is showing!"

Have you noticed that *The Urantia Book* places defini-

tions of God-consciousness conspicuously in the last sentence of the Foreword and the first sentence of the last paragraph in the entire book?

"...the ever-progressing reality of personal religious experience—God-consciousness." (0:12.12)

"And god-consciousness is the equivalent to the integration of the self with the universe..." (196:3.32)

The entire teachings are held in the arms of God-consciousness. At every level of our progress, it is the continuous effort to push the envelope of self, soul and spirit consciousness that constitutes God-consciousness. It is the experience and fact of becoming more real.

Do you feel more real today than you did yesterday? Perhaps it's time to get more real. Come to the Fellowship's Summer Study Session 09, "God Consciousness - A Living University" Friday, July 31st through Sunday August 2nd, at Dominican University, River Forest, Illinois. There is a preconference retreat and other activities beginning on Wednesday evening, July 29th through Thursday, July 30th.

In this session we will explore avenues to reach heightened states of God-consciousness no matter what 'level' we are on, or think we are on. This includes:

* Revelatory-inspired learning methods, action study and immediate application of what is learned.

- * Expanded pre-conference day with choices of:
- (1) Spiritual Retreat
- (2) Education Workshop or
- (3) Chicago City Tour
- * Launch of an ongoing program of in-depth study of the teachings that begin with an exciting new program of prestudy for the 2009 meeting.

To register online click here: https://www.regonline.com/F ellowship SSS 09

To request a paper registration form or for more information send an email to: Fellowship@urantiabook.org or call 1-877-288-3772

We hope to see you there!



"...the Father is not very far from any one of you; he dwells within you, and in him do we all literally move, actually live, and veritably have our being."

The Urantia Book, Page 139 (12:7.12)

UPDATE FROM THE URANTIA BOOK INTERNET SCHOOL (UBIS)

By Dorothy Elder, Chair of the Board of Directors of UBIS, California, USA

UBIS is like one big wheel that continues to turn throughout the year! As soon as one semester is underway, planning for the next one begins. During the summer months the annual Fall Teacher-Training course is planned, so the board, staff, and teacher-facilitators all have a hand in keeping the wheel turning smoothly during the 12-month cycle. Here are a few notes on our recent activities.

UBIS BOARD MEETING HELD March 14 and 15, 2009

After two months of in-depth planning and preparation, seven of the nine-member UBIS Board of Directors met in March in Chicago at Urantia Foundation headquarters for our annual "in person" meeting . This was an important meeting in which we laid the foundation and focus for the next ten years. We covered a lot of ground and many topics during the two-day meeting, but the main focus concentrated on these three areas:

1. Curriculum. Polly Friedman

presented an excellent and detailed plan for a new four-part Basic Core Curriculum program to be initiated by UBIS. After much enthusiastic discussion the plan was eagerly endorsed, and implementation of the plan is targeted for the September 2010 semester.

- 2. Website. Early in 2009, UBIS received a generous gift for enhancing the UBIS website. After considerable examination of options in preparation for the meeting, and consequent meeting discussion, four priority upgrades were decided upon. The upgrade proposal is currently being finalized with additional input from the designer, and the work completion date is targeted for the September 2009 semester.
- 3. Organization. It was decided that the UBIS volunteer work force will be enlarged with six additional staff members within six months. In addition, our volunteer program is rapidly growing, and ways to enhance our annual operational schedule were identified and decided upon. The need for operational funding was evaluated. In this respect, an annual budget and fund-raising activities will be established for the immediate future.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY NEWS

The April 2009 semester is currently underway, and for the first time UBIS is presenting a course designed as an introductory course for new readers. Polly Friedman is the Teacher-Facilitator for this course titled, "An Intro-

duction to *The Urantia Book.*" This culminates a year of our UBIS team's contemplation and discussion on the subject, and we are enthusiastic about its potential and as a learning experience. The course was fully enrolled with 18 students, including new and experienced readers



Top left to right: Susan Flacks, Pauline Friedman
Bottom left to right: Pam Maunakea, Dorothy Elder, Jane
Ploetz

from Russia, Brazil, South Africa, and Spain, as well as readers from the USA.

THANKS TO THE TEAM!

In closing, I want you to know that, without the dedication of such devoted volunteer board members, The Urantia Book Internet School would not exist. Each one fills a vital job that keeps UBIS functioning year in and year out. Thank you, Pam Maunakea, Susan Flacks, Georges Michelson-Dupont, Polly Friedman, Jay Peregrine, Jane Ploetz, and Betty and Ralph Zehr for all that you do and especially for the wonderful "Team Spirit" you bring to UBIS.

LOOKING FOR A FRENCH DISTRIBUTOR



By Claire Mylanus, Associate Trustee, Bretagne, France

Editors Note: Claire joins her husband Henk Mylanus as they work to open up the channels of distribution for The Urantia Book in Europe.

After weeks of searching on the internet and talking to distributors and publishers, my husband Henk, and I made some appointments and went to Paris. The book market in France is well regulated and *Le Livre d'Urantia* has been distributed by a few different distributors. The last distributor charged so much for storage that Urantia Foundation could not make a profit on the sale of the book.

In France, distributors do not want to distribute a book that is published by a "single-title" publisher, that is, a publisher which publishes only one book. So the solution had been to go to a "diffuseur," which is an intermediary between a publisher and a distributor. The "diffuseur" adds



Henk Mylanus

your book to many other books that he provides to distributors. The "diffuseur" advertises your book in newsletters and catalogues. The Foundation's "diffuseur" in France went bankrupt, and the resulting litigation prevented the Foundation from reclaiming some 1,800 copies of *Le Livre d'Urantia*.

Thanks to the team at the head office in Chicago and especially to Marcel Urayeneza, whose tenacity and persuasiveness on the phone dislodged *Le Livre d'Urantia* from the legal logjam, the Foundation retrieved all 1,800 copies of the French translation. Alas, we had to find a new "diffuseur" or a distributor.

The French system of book distribution allows a bookstore to accept a book from a distributor and return it after two months if it is not sold. To avoid "returns" and

high storage costs would be ideal.

We contacted one distributor after another. We were a foreign publisher, contracts with other distributors forbade it, it was a single title publisher. We were facing a wall but were not discouraged. There had to be a solution. We continued our search, trusting the help of our unseen friends. Finally, through a distributor we found a gentleman who owned a bookstore in Paris which carried thousands of titles of the religious, spiritual, and esoteric genres. His bookstore was located in the center of Paris, and he and his team had experience in the book market for more than thirty years. He offered to carry Le Livre d'Urantia.

After discussing the matter, Henk and I decided to recommend that Urantia Foundation accept his offer. Through his bookstore - <u>la Librairie de</u> <u>l'Inconnu</u> - Le Livre d'Urantia will have independent distribution, no storage costs, and no returns because there is no time limit for having the book in his bookstore. He has his own internet site, sells through fax orders and through his newsletter, and distributes to other French bookstores, as well as to bookstores in Belgium and Switzerland. He will accept books on consignment and when sold, order more.

Finding distributors for *The Urantia Book* in Europe will be a challenge, as we have discovered in France. *The Urantia Book* is a special book, a "single title" from a foreign publisher, and a book which appeals to a small segment of the book market. But what a book, and what an adventure we have the privilege to participate in!



THE URANTIA BOOK AND CHRISTIANITY



By Richard Keeler, Trustee, Urantia Foundation, Wyoming, USA

Editor's Note: Richard Keeler shared an article from Wikipedia on The Urantia Book and Christianity. Kristina Stoianova, (London, United Kingdom) and Paul Tsekar, (Yaounde, Cameroon) comment on the article.

Do you know that if you go to Wikipedia at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urantia Book on the Internet, you can read a comparison between *The Urantia Book* and Christianity? If you want to know what it says, please read on.

The Urantia Book shares the following general concepts with most Christian faiths:

- God is the creator of all reality
- God is omniscient, omnipresent, omnipotent, infinite, and eternal
- God is described as a loving personality "God is love"
- God is a single deity that exists in a Trinity of three persons
- God has a vast "heavenly host"
- Believers who have a personal relationship with God

are "born of the spirit"

- Those having faith in God survive death
- Angels and divine personalities exist and are sent to guard and minister to people throughout their lives.

Some differences with Christianity include:

- Jesus' crucifixion is not considered an atonement for the sins of humanity. The crucifixion is taught to be an outcome of the fears of religious leaders of the day, who regarded his teachings as a threat to their positions of authority.
- God is never wrathful or angry. He is a personality entirely motivated by Fatherlike love.
- Jesus is the human incarnation of "Michael of Nebadon," one of more than 700,000 "Paradise Sons" of God, or "Creator Sons." Jesus is not considered the second person of the Trinity as he is in Christianity. The book refers to the Eternal Son as the second person of the Trinity.
- Jesus was born on earth through natural means of conception instead of a virgin hirth
- Jesus did not walk on water or perform some of the miracles that are attributed to him in *The Bible*.
- Jesus commissioned twelve women (and later more) as religious teachers, who were permitted to travel about with Jesus and his apostles on their preaching missions.
- Jesus rose from the dead in a "more glorified form", reflective of a transitional state between material and spiritual existence known as "morontia". As with all mortals, his physical body was subject to decomposition, but

celestial beings removed his body from the tomb for the dissolution of his remains through a process of "accelerated time."

• The book states that Jesus may return to the world many times. This contrasts with traditional Christian eschatology, in which Jesus returns only once.

RESPONSE TO WIKIPEDIA by Kristina Stoianova from London, United Kingdom

I consider myself to be a new reader of *The Urantia Book* as I have been reading the book for only four years. But for me, this book is everything.

We can compare *The Urantia Book* with the sacred books of other religions, and I agree that, of all of them, Christianity is most closely associated with it. This is mainly because of the importance of Jesus in and to both of them.

I think that the Wikipedia article will help many people who are searching for the truth. It will help them see that Jesus – Michael of Nebadon – is more than what *The Bible* says he is. He loves not only Christians but all of us, regardless of our religion, even persons with no religion. I hope this article will make people more curious and encourage them to discover *The Urantia Book*.

RESPONSE TO WIKIPEDIA by Paul Tsekar (Yaounde, Cameroon)

Christianity is an organization established by Jesus' followers after his departure from this world and was founded with the good intention to perpetuate Jesus' teachings and to make them popular in the world. Christianity has suffered much over the years, first from persecution by Jewish leaders and later by some political and religious leaders. Some religious leaders have used Christianity – and even made changes to *The Bible* – as a means to exercise power over their believers.

These manipulations of Christianity and the twisting of Jesus' teachings have continued to this day. Take the Jehovah Witnesses for example. Their Bible, which is called the New World Version, is about 50% different from the Bible. Why? In order to make the Bible agree with their beliefs and doctrines. Numerous Christian denominations exist, each with its own doctrines, which explains why there is so much disunity among Christians.

In my opinion, *The Urantia Book* contains the only accurate account of the life and teachings of Jesus.

He loves not only Christians but all of us, regardless of our religion, even persons with no religion.

PRINTING OF EL LIBRO DE URANTIA EUROPEAN EDITION

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

Editors Note: Trustee Georges Michelson-Dupont has provided pictures of the printing of the new El libro de Urantia European Edition which is being marketed in Spain. The 1993 Edition of El libro de Urantia is currently under revision by a team of readers, with hopes for completion in the near future.



Rotabook Printing Mill



Pre-press operation and plates flashage



Preparation and checking first pages



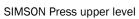
Preparation and checking first pages





The large roll sheet is cut and folded







SIMSON Press ground level



Folios are conditioned for the binding mill









Shrink-wrapping the books for distribution

THE SECOND MILE AS A COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE



By Chris Wood, Johnson City, New York, USA

Editors Note: Chris Wood, a second generation Urantia Book reader, describes how he and two friends decided to embark upon a service project for the Greater Urantia Community.

I remember last August at the Kansas City Farmer's Market, eating spring rolls and talking about the Kansas City youth conference that had just finished, about what we liked. and what we didn't like. And why aren't there more conferences? And Noah, my brother, said, "We should do it again next year." And because we thought that people would prefer a change of venue, we agreed that Boulder would be an excellent choice.

So the seed was planted. In October I called Shane C, who lives in Boulder. Shane liked the idea of having a conference in Boulder, and he said that he would help. In fact, he volunteered to be the impresario of the conference. Then we communicated with Mike MacIsaac and infected him with the Boulder youth conference bug. In January we signed a contract with the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Urantia Boulder: The Second Mile and Beyond will be an experiment that we are running for the Greater Urantia Community from June 25 to 28. Can three persons plan, organize, and put on a conference? If so, then it opens up a whole new world of possibilities. We raked the leaves of our conversation into a pile of the following guidelines for the experiment:

First, keep it inexpensive. We reasoned that we needed to balance higher travel cost with lower conference cost.

Second, make no money. Mike, Shane, and I are not an organization. We have no need to fundraise. Conferences can be ends in themselves, not means to an end.

Third, aim small with room for expansion. We think fifty people is a great conference size. Don't get me wrong. I love a good, five- hundred person conference, but during the off years, when large conferences are not being held, we need small, local conferences. At the same time, if 150 people show up, we've

got to be prepared, and we are.

Fourth, allow for unscheduled time. The most important event at a conference is often the hour- long conversation you have in a hallway, not the hour- long plenary speech. We want to balance a good program with enough time to allow for these conversations.

Fifth, experiment with the program. A small local conference is a great place to try different plenary lengths and different workshop styles. It's a great place to get new people up on the stage for ten, twenty, or thirty minutes. We can balance the established with the emerging talent.

Finally, believe and trust that a small, dedicated team can put on a conference. Three of us made a six- month commitment, six people made a onemonth commitment, and two dozen people made a one weekend commitment.

We truly believe that if you assemble fifty readers of The Urantia Book, they will make their own fun. Our job is not to get in the way. The Boulder conference is an experiment. Success for the conference will be fifty people walking away saying, "That was good." Success for the experiment will be small groups walking away saying, "We could do that. Heck, we could do that better." And hey, there is no big conference in 2010. If we can plant that idea in your mind in June, well then you're already two months ahead of schedule.

Register on-line at: https://www.regonline.com/63367
694721J

For more information, visit: http://www.myspace.com/ urantiaconferencekc

Questions? Contact Chris Wood:

cwesquire@hotmail.com



Mike MacIsaac and Shane C in Boulder, Colorado.

Can
three persons
plan, organize,
and
put on
a
conference?

REFLECTIONS - WHERE GAPS WERE BRIDGED



By Dr. Olga Lopez, Associate Trustee, Urantia Foundation, Barcelona, Spain.

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On the web at www.urantia.org

Editor's Note: Urantia Foundation trustees have had the opportunity to study with readers throughout the world by attending conferences. Last year we attended the Fellowship International Conference in Los Angeles. This year the Trustees attended an UAI conference in Spain.

Because of its geographical location, my country, Spain, has always been a passageway, a bridge between peoples from different continents: between Europe and Africa and - due to historical circumstances - between Europe and America. This is the reason that we chose "Bridging Gaps" for the theme of the 2009 Urantia Association International Conference. This theme can be applied to many concepts. As human beings we must "bridge" the distance between what we are today and what we are going to be tomorrow. As mortals we must cross the "bridge" from the life in the flesh to the life as morontia beings and later as spirit beings. We may apply the same theme in our daily lives. Today, just like any day, it is necessary to build bridges, to shorten distances between our brothers - particularly those who do not think as we do, nor profess the same religion, nor live in the same culture. The Urantia

Book is a powerful tool that helps us negotiate the distances which we must cover en route to spiritual perfection – both in this world and in the subsequent ones.

At the conference, we tried to bridge many gaps, of which the most important was the language gap. There were two very interesting presentations on this subject: one of the presentations was made by Antonio Moya, who proposed that Esperanto be the universal language (did you know that The Urantia Book has been translated into Esperanto?) The other presentation was made by Seppo Kanerva, the former President of the Urantia Foundation and former Manager of Translations, who pointed out the importance of translations to bridge the gap between cultures and to make the teachings of The Urantia Book known around the globe.

We also bridged this gap by translating the presentations from Spanish to English and English to Spanish. One presentation was made in French and was translated into English and Spanish. Attendees who spoke more than one language were in demand! My heartfelt "thank you" to all of you.

Also we Spaniards shared our

culture with non-Spanish attendees: We visited Gibralfaro Castle, which is part of our Muslim history; the Cathedral, which shows our Catholic inheritance; and the house in which Picasso was born. As you know, Picasso was one of the artists who contributed so much to Modern Art. These visits also provided conference attendees with a good opportunity to visit and become better acquainted.

We also "bridged the gap" with music. We know that music is "the universal language of men, angels, and spirits," and we enjoyed the musical presentations, which included some group singing.

Painting was another art expression that had its place at the conference. There were two exhibitions of paintings inspired by *The Urantia Book*.

I encourage readers of *The Urantia Book* worldwide to attend a conference of readers – whether it is a local, national, or international conference. The joy of sharing the teachings of *The Urantia Book* with kindred spirits is extraordinary and cannot be compared to anything else. It is, for a few days, like living in the age of light and life when love and fraternity reign supreme.

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