

URANTIA FOUNDATION'S NEWS ONLINE



MATTHEW THE MONEY-GETTER

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By Ralph Zehr, Associate Trustee, Waverly, New York, United States

As every holiday season approaches, I am grateful to have received a gift that keeps giving, the teachings of *The Urantia Book*. Giving this gift to others around the world comes with a cost, and I find myself contemplating an individual who did much to fund the cost of Jesus' public ministry: his seventh apostle, Matthew Levi.

Jesus, accompanied by his first six apostles, first met Matthew, a customs collector, at the customs office in Capernaum. Looking into Matthew's face, Jesus said, "Follow me." Matthew, whom Andrew had chosen, responded immediately to the Master's call. In subsequent years, Matthew always liked to speak of the kingdom as "this business of finding God." He seemed early-on to grasp that "when men search for God, they are searching for everything. When they find God, they have found everything."

After becoming an apostle, Matthew had an uphill struggle. Because he was a customs collector and came from a family of businessmen and tax collectors, he was regarded by fellow Jews as a "publican and sinner." But his time with the Master would prove that he was up to the task of overcoming the intolerances and biases toward him. His fellow apostles affectionately called him the "money-getter." He was the apostolic fundraiser. What the other apostles never knew was that frequently the money he "raised" came from his own pocket. There were times "when the evidence of disdain of the publican would become manifest, Levi would burn to reveal to them his generosity, but always he managed to keep still." "He did all his financial work in a quiet and personal

way and raised most of the money among the more substantial class of interested believers. He gave practically the whole of his modest fortune to the work of the Master and his apostles... and...when he went forth to proclaim the gospel of the kingdom after the beginning of the persecutions, he was practically penniless."

Matthew always remained overwhelmingly grateful that the Master and the apostles accepted him, a former publican, into their group, and he expressed his gratitude through wholehearted devotion and heartfelt generosity to the cause. His dedication must have been genuine as well as infectious since both his wife and eldest daughter were close followers of Jesus, while he was donating their inheritance to the apostolic cause. His wife



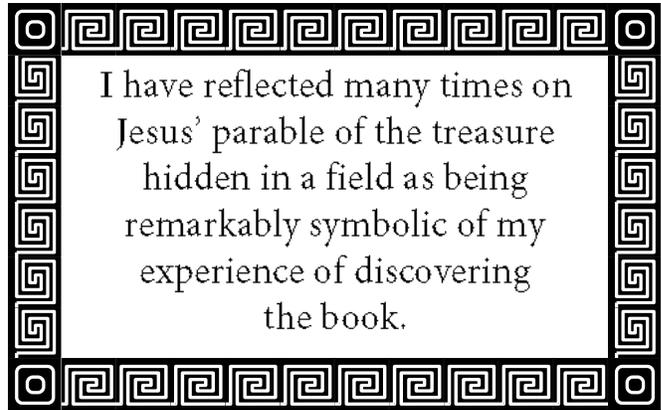
was a member of the women's corps, which was organized for the Pella mission, and Ruth was one of the ten women selected and commissioned by Jesus to teach the gospel and minister to the sick along with the seventy evangelists.

Like Matthew, you and I are privileged to have an epochal revelation during its early stage. The invitation-command to follow the Master is no less compelling today than in Matthew's time. In many ways the Fifth Epochal Revelation is far more comprehensive, replete, and accessible than was the fourth. Certainly the concept of "ever-ascending citizenship in the eternal universe" is far more a reality for us than Matthew could have imagined. We have been given an extensive, detailed description of the ascension career that we can read and reread many times over a

lifetime.

Having found *The Urantia Book* in 1967, while serving as a medical missionary in the rain forests of Ghana, I have reflected many times on Jesus' parable of the treasure hidden in a field as being remarkably symbolic of my experience of discovering the book. No price to acquire the field in which the treasure is buried can be too high; there seems to be no limit to the gems of mentation to be found, and every genuine attempt to dig deeper is rewarded beyond measure.

In view of the above, let me ask you: Where else can you participate in a project that is global in scope and will penetrate to the very spiritual core of every human being? Do you know of any other investment opportunity that will continue to yield returns for the next millennium? Is there another project where



one can partner with the Supreme Sovereign of ten million inhabitable worlds? Have you had any other opportunities to work side-by-side with a thoroughly proven group of faithful beings who have been growing in wisdom for many millennia and whose motto is: "What the United Midwayers undertake, the United Midwayers do"?

dissemination of the Fifth Epochal Revelation is, I believe without reservation, life's greatest opportunity. Please consider a contribution to Urantia Foundation and participate in the mission of seeding *The Urantia Book* and its teachings globally. Visit <http://www.urantia.org/news/2013-12/urantia-foundation-needs-your-help>.

To join hands in the

NOTEWORTHY DECISIONS FROM THE OCTOBER 2013 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING



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

The \$320,000 Year-end Fundraising Drive

Urantia Foundation has been challenged by four anonymous benefactors to raise \$320,000 between now and December 31, 2013. These donors have pledged \$160,000 in matching funds.

This means your donations will be doubled, dollar-for-dollar, until we reach our goal of \$320,000. The Foundation needs this money to insure the budgetary needs are met.

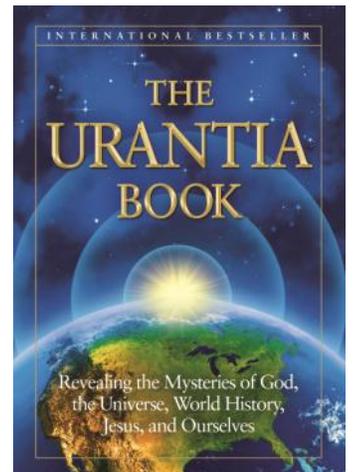
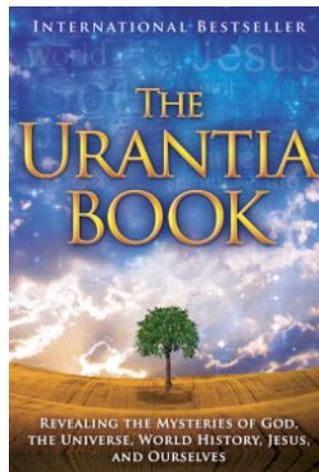
Urantia Books

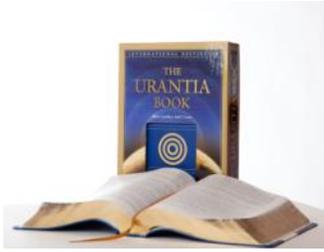
Book sales for the first nine months of 2013 were down compared with sales during the same time period in 2012. After researching the book industry, we learned that overall sales for books like *The Urantia Book* are down about ten percent for the year. In addition, eBook sales for the entire book industry are slowing for the first time since they became available. The good news is that Urantia Book sales rallied in October. Even so, this year may prove difficult in reaching our annual sales

goal of a seven percent increase.

Urantia Foundation has launched its annual holiday sale featuring hardcover books for \$17.95 with free shipping in the USA as compared with the suggested

retail price of \$24.95. Cases of ten books are \$139 with free shipping in the USA as compared with the normal retail price of \$250. You can choose either or both the new "tree of life" and "world" book-cover designs.





The blue and white LeatherSoft™ books are also on sale for \$27.95 with free shipping in the USA as compared with the suggested retail price of \$39.95. Cases of five books are \$125 compared with \$200. To order, please visit www.urantia.org/products.

We have lowered the price of books to encourage you to place books in youth hostels, hotels, restaurants, nursing homes, hospitals, cruise ships, and other places that have informal lending libraries. Readers might also buy these inexpensive books and re-sell them to used bookstores. With the bankruptcies and closings of many large book retailers, used bookstores have gained a vital role in the distribution of books.

The board approved the price reduction of the English eBook edition of *The Urantia*

Book from \$8.95 to \$4.95. The second revision of the French translation is nearing completion and will be printed in mid-2014.

Revision of the Spanish Translation

The Spanish revision team consisting of Víctor García-Bory, Carmelo Martínez, Olga López, Aníbal Pacheco, and Raúl Pujol met face-to-face on November 15, 16, and 17 at 533 W. Diversey Parkway in Chicago. Since the revisers live in the Americas and Spain, most of their work has been done via the internet. They cherished their time together, as they are finishing revising the last few papers of Part II and will soon start revising Part III of *The Urantia Book*. They have completed their revision through Paper 47, including the Foreword.

Renovation of the Third Floor, Attic, and Carriage House

New plumbing and electrical wiring have been installed on the third floor. New oak floors were laid, sheet rock hung, bathrooms rebuilt and added, and the kitchen completely renovated. Renovation of the

Values Statement of Urantia Foundation

In July the board approved the word TRUST as an acronym for the Foundation's values. The values statement is the following:

Teamwork. We are dedicated to mastering the art of teamwork.

Respect. We respect the personality of our fellows, which we regard as a gift from God.

Unity. We have unity of spirit purpose which comes from our desire to live the will of God and to serve our fellows.

Service. We view service as sacred and exhilarating and are motivated by love and the fruits of the spirit.

Transparency. We are open, communicative, accountable, and responsible so as to cultivate trust.

third floor will be completed by the end of December with plans to rent it in January or February.

Renovation of the coach house (otherwise known as the garage and garage apartment) has begun and should be finished by the end of February.

Associate Trustees Elected for Another Term

Associate Trustees are re-elected every year. We are pleased to report that Ralph Zehr and Marta Elders were re-elected as associate trustees.

URANTIA BOOKS EN ROUTE TO THE PHILIPPINES



By Mike Wood, Urantia Foundation, Chicago, Illinois, United States

The mission of Urantia

Foundation is to seed *The Urantia Book* and its teachings globally.

Several months ago, Jay Peregrine entered my office late one afternoon and asked if I could name the largest Christian country with the highest religiosity in the world with no translation of *The Urantia Book*. I could not. His answer: the Philippines, a country that speaks Tagalog, an Austronesian language spoken as a first language by a quarter of the population of the Philippines

and as a second language by the majority. Its standardized form, officially called Filipino, is the national language and one of two official languages of the Philippines, the other being English.

A few weeks later, Eugene Asidao and Nestor Nano, two gentlemen from the Philippines now living on Chicago's north side, came by Urantia Foundation to visit and talk about study groups. Eugene informed me that he and Nestor were hosting a study group on Saturday afternoons just a

few miles north of 533 W. Diversey Parkway, and they invited any interested readers to join them.

I attended their group the next Saturday and had a wonderful time. I also invited them to our regular Tuesday night study group, and several of them have attended frequently. During one of my conversations with Eugene and Nestor, we talked about their taking books to the Philippines.

Then, in early November, Eugene told me that he and

Nestor were traveling to the Philippines in mid-January and were planning on spending six weeks placing *The Urantia Book* in libraries, universities, and churches, and with any study groups they could find or start while there.

I immediately approached both Urantia Foundation and Urantia Association International on Eugene and Nestor's behalf, hoping that one or both would quickly agree to supply the necessary funds for books. Within days, both organizations agreed to jointly support the project, and on Thursday, November 21, 2013, four large boxes, each containing 40 new hardcover copies of *The Urantia Book* and weighing 135 pounds, were loaded

into a van on the first leg of a six to eight-week journey to the Philippines.

Beginning in mid-January, Eugene and Nestor will spend six weeks placing 160 copies of *The Urantia Book* throughout Metro Manila, a metropolitan area of twelve million people, and throughout some of the outlying areas. I say some of the outlying areas because the Philippines is an island nation spread out over more than 7000 islands, and many parts of the country are not easily accessible. But even covering Metro Manila and the surrounding Greater Manila Area (comprising an additional 12 to 14 million inhabitants) will be a daunting task.



Nestor Nano and Eugene Asidao

I look forward to sharing occasional emails with Eugene and Nestor during their journey as well as receiving a more detailed report of their adventures upon their return.

It was thrilling and inspiring to box-up those books and prepare them for shipping. Godspeed, Eugene and Nestor!

A FILMMAKER'S APPROACH TO PROMOTING *THE URANTIA BOOK*



By Richard Jernigan, Plano, Texas, United States

For my entire adult life, I have been a filmmaker and a reader of *The Urantia Book*, and over the past few years, I have been combining these two interests to promote this remarkable text. My first effort was *A Feast of Uncertainty*, a 106-minute documentary that retraces the places in Israel and the Palestinian Territories where

Jesus lived and taught according to *The Urantia Book*.

With my second effort, I aimed for short and sweet. *Urantia Book* readers speak directly to the camera against a white background answering basic questions: What is it you love about this book? What convinced you that this book is what it purports to be? What sections or passages do you return to over and over? What trait of Jesus appeals most to you? How have these teachings changed your relationships?

In an effort to appeal to the non-reader, I encouraged interviewees to describe the ideas and concepts in the book in their own words. Some interviewees answered very simply, others went into great depth.

Initially, I intended to create one short video about three minutes long, but because the testimonies from readers were so rich and thoughtful, multiple videos will be coming. Some of them will focus on an individual reader; others will be topical, such as readers talking about Jesus, the inner presence of God, and life after death.

It has always struck me how *The Urantia Book*, as a religious text, is always so fresh and modern; it transcends time and space. I wanted to reflect this same appeal in my videos, and by filming everyone against a white background, the effect was non-spatial, and each testimonial appears as if it were shot at the same time.

My goals for these videos are to reach out to non-readers, to inspire the Urantia



Janelle Mazza talks about *The Urantia Book*

community, and to exhibit a diverse cross-section of the readership. It has been my experience that one cannot

stereotype the typical Urantia Book reader: socioeconomically, politically, nationally, racially, religiously, or educationally. What a pleasurable and continuous surprise!

These videos have been made available to Urantia Foundation, The Urantia Book Fellowship, Truthbook.org, and other

groups that faithfully disseminate the book and its teachings.

My two shoots so far are interviews from participants at the Fellowship's 2013 Summer Study Session and the Youth and Young Adult Conference in Boulder City, Nevada, this past October.

I plan to film more testimonials at the 2014 conference in Berlin, Germany, and to shoot at one of the U.S. conferences next summer.

The videos can be accessed at <http://www.urantia.org/urantia-book-video>, and each can be linked to any website. Many people have posted these

videos on Facebook, which I encourage. It is my hope that this medium is another way to help others find the supernal teachings of *The Urantia Book*.

THE URANTIA BOOK STUDY GROUP DIRECTORY



By Bill Beasley, Brandon, Florida, United States

Editor's Note: The Urantia Book Study Group Directory is a joint project of Urantia Association International, The Urantia Book Fellowship, and Urantia Foundation. The members of the committee that govern the directory are: Bill Beasley, Scott Brooks, Barry Clark (chair), Jackie Koury, and Tamara Strumfeld.

A few years ago I calculated the percentage of people who followed the true teachings of Jesus based on the population of the civilized world in his time. Then I calculated the percentage of the number of students of *The Urantia Book* based on the world's population today and compared the two. Of course, the numbers could not be exact because no one really knows them. But guess what? Based on my calculations, there was little variance in the percentages. It seems that for 2000 years, the core group of believers—as a percentage of the total population—has remained unchanged.

How important is it that we are prepared as individuals and as a group for the time when the religion of Jesus breaks through the clouds of confusion? Jesus assembled

groups around him to study. He taught his apostles to become leaders and bade them to encourage others to study and reflect on what he taught. On a personal level and within the Urantia community, we have a “once in our eternal career” opportunity to do the same. Connecting students of *The Urantia Book*, using internet sources, is the most effective long-distance resource at our disposal to accomplish this.

The online resource, The Urantia Book Study Group Directory, formerly known as The Urantia Book Study Group Portal, continues to move forward. Currently there are 334 study group accounts representing 35 countries and 44 states in the U.S. The listings are available in English, Spanish, French, and Russian.

The committee that governs the directory is the second one since the directory's inception in 2008. Our team usually meets via WebEx three times a month. We work off of an open-list-items system to insure continued growth and participation in the directory. Each item is assigned a priority of high, medium or low. The latest item completed was the governance document.

The next major step is to clean the data to ensure that listings are current and accurate. Following this, the study group contact information of Urantia Association International, The Urantia Book Fellowship, and Urantia Foundation will be placed in one self-registering database and centralized list. It is my belief that this step will ensure that Urantia Book students will find others to study with, and



Scott Brooks



Jackie Koury



Barry Clark



Tamara Strumfeld

that the growth of our community will continue.

Our goal is to make the directory the "go to" site for anyone desiring a road map to find a study group. Many students are geographically

isolated without a study group nearby. So another item of high priority is to make the directory capable of accommodating virtual study groups. There are several of these groups now functioning.

Please join us in our enthusiasm for the promotion of study groups all over Urantia! If you host a study group that is focused on *The Urantia Book* and you want to attract readers, please visit urantiastudygroup.org and

register your group. If you have a website and would like to display a link to The Urantia Book Study Group Directory, please email me at bill.beasley@gmail.com.

HOLIDAY PARTY AT URANTIA FOUNDATION

Editor's Note: The First Society of The Urantia Book Fellowship, The Greater Lake Michigan Association of Urantia Association International, and Urantia Foundation hosted their annual holiday party on Saturday evening, December 7. The party began with a short program directed by Carolynn Kendall. She asked attendees to read selected quotes about God the Father, the Father's love, God's goodness, God's justice and mercy, God's watchcare, the light of the Father's presence, the Supreme Being, and human love and devotion.

Joanne Strobel prepared and served a delicious meal, young children ran around and played, and friendships were strengthened. It was an evening of fun and fellowship enjoyed by all. Perhaps you will make plans to attend next year!



ADVENTURES IN PLACING *THE URANTIA BOOK*



By Share Beasley, Associate Trustee, Urantia Foundation, Brandon, Florida, USA

How has finding *The Urantia Book* affected you? How has it affected those around you? Are you a better person? If so, you are changing the world one person at a time, beginning with yourself.

Are you interested in making the Urantia Revelation more accessible?

Let the brainstorming begin! I am interested in your ideas as well as sharing some of my own.

Ideas

Donate books to libraries in hotels, on cruise ships, and in other places people may have time to browse. What are some of these other places?

Donate Urantia Books with older covers to Goodwill and the Salvation Army, or trade them at second-hand bookstores.

Sell books with the new Tree or World cover to used bookstores for \$5. This would amount to a personal donation by subsidizing the cost difference. How many books can each of us afford to subsidize annually? What

would we be giving up to do so?

Now is a good time to buy discounted books, which are on sale during December. For details, visit <http://www.urantia.org/news/2013-11/urantia-book-holiday-sale>.

Recently, I spent some time placing books in Miami, and I offer my experiences in hope of stimulating more ideas:

Miami Area Used Bookstores

On my first visit to a used bookstore in Miami, I learned that the store owners neither buy books nor take consignments. They do, however, give a discount on your purchase if you trade-in books.

On my second visit, I learned to call a bookstore first to make sure it is still in business and to learn when it is open. This lesson I learned the hard way: I found the bookstore online, it took a while to drive to it, I paid to park, and then I walked a long way to get to it only to discover that the bookstore had gone out of business.

The perfect store, I thought, specialized in books on geology, biochemistry, astronomy, anthropology, physics, history, and religion. I thought they would be delighted to add *The Urantia Book* to their offerings. A perfect fit!

At first glance I was right. The owner took the book, looked at it with apparent interest, and then scanned the table of contents. When she got to Part IV, WHAM, she flung *The Urantia Book* back and delivered herself of a two-

word expletive with "Jesus" as the first word. This woman does not yet know the Master, and with obvious pride she announced, "I am a Buddhist." She then proceeded to give me a "bad Christians" sermon and hatefully repeated, "GET OUT." Hmmm, she claimed to be a Buddhist. What a reminder that we represent our personal religion in everything we do!

A friendly, professional, reader's paradise was next; a huge store with a café, collectables, art, and new and used books. They host author presentations, which are videotaped for online viewing at the bookstore's website. Dancing in my head were thoughts of professionals in our community giving an overview of *The Urantia Book* here.

This was by far the most progressive and intriguing bookstore I had visited. Upon inquiring, I found that they have ordered *The Urantia Book* from the Foundation in the past and will continue to do so, but they are not interested in stocking the book. I left a Foundation contact card just to give them a second opportunity to think about it. I wonder how they would react to an offer to give a presentation.

The last bookstore that I visited was a store in a mall where they sold antiques and used books. They were not willing to purchase a book outright but gave me \$7.50 for trading in two books that I purchased.

Donated Books

At Marriott's Villas, I went into the recreation room and

placed a book on a lending bookshelf. It stood out and looked inviting next to other beat-up, dog-eared paperbacks.

At a Hyatt and a Trump golf resort there were no lending libraries.

Cruise Ships

Holland America had locked glass shelves with a librarian to whom I presented the book. The next day it was on the shelf in the glass case. This was repeated on two different ships.

Royal Caribbean has open bookshelves; it felt good to just place the book there myself.

RV Resort Community Room in Tennessee; I placed *The Urantia Book* on the shelf.

Public Libraries

Costa Maya Library; the librarian appreciatively accepted a Spanish translation. The library was difficult to find but perseverance paid off.



Urantia Book placement on a cruise ship

I wonder how many souls it will eventually touch.

Tampa Area Local Libraries

Three libraries declined due to space limitations.

Two declined due to the wariness of the Christian librarians.

Three accepted! "The act is ours; the consequences God's."

I ponder the exponential effects that *The Urantia Book* has had on my life and have an idea of what my life would have been like without it. I always have a spare Urantia Book with me, as I never know when the opportunity to

impact a life may arise...and it does.

Do you have a burning desire to share the teachings of the Urantia Revelation? I invite you to participate in this passionate adventure with me. Do you have ideas or experiences or both which will assist in perfecting and expanding our approach to

the placement or sale of *The Urantia Book*?

Share your experiences and ideas:
Share.Beasley@gmail.com

GROWING OLD GRACEFULLY



By Mo Siegel, president, Urantia Foundation, Boulder, Colorado, United States

What a dinner-crazy conversation we had! Max and Karen described Max's aging parents. Grumpy and bored would be an understatement in explaining the day-to-day cold war going on in their home. After 60 years of marriage, they cannot stand each other. Both aging parents meander around the house as tortured souls in a long-term fight with each other and with life. Recently Max's dad, age 93, announced to the family that he is sick of his wife and wants to start dating. Since that time, Max's mom, age 87, has a packed suitcase sitting by the front door as a warning to the family. Whenever she gets overly annoyed at Max and her husband, she points to

the suitcase and threatens to split at a moment's notice. In the meantime, they stay cloistered in their house, waiting for the next shoe to drop.

Beth was also at the dinner party and started explaining her mom and dad's story. Wow, if Max's conversation sounds nuts, it fits perfectly with Beth's. Her ailing parents live in a perpetual state of contention with an occasional truce during a televised football game. Beth's father, age 84, has become nocturnal in an obvious attempt to avoid his 75 year-old wife. Both yell at each other and accuse each other of practically everything, including their daily aches and pains. They are generally miserable and angry, and it often feels as if they are waiting to die. One could cut their discontentment with a knife.

Notwithstanding that the stories were actually sad, we couldn't help from laughing as we told and listened to "crazy old-parent stories." The "he said, she said" sounded like a TV sitcom, but in the clear light of day, what a tragic end to their earthly lives.

About a week after the dinner party, our 88-year-old friend Scott died. We had last seen Scott in July 2013. His Parkinson's disease had overtaken his body as he sat there hooked up to oxygen. Yet his demeanor was

positive, he was interested in us, hopeful about life, and very upbeat even though he was obviously dying. Scott had lived an active life filled with accomplishments and was rooted in his deep relationship with God. After retiring, Scott never stopped growing. He spent the last years of his life learning and actively caring for others. He was interested and interesting. Selfless and bighearted, Scott manifested grace, purpose, and joy even during his consuming illness.

The contrast between the dinner conversation about malcontented, aging parents and Scott's life kept me thinking for weeks. Why were some older people much happier than other older people? Was it purely genetic or a combination of genetics and something deeper? Two quotes from Paper 159 in *The Urantia Book* helped explain the dilemma.

The first quote, "Increasing happiness is always the experience of all who are certain about God" required me to learn more about both older couples. As it turns out, neither unhappy couple had much of a personal relationship with God. One couple passively admitted to God's probable existence, but they have no active personal faith. The other couple is culturally religious twice a year, and God was rarely discussed in the family.

Scott, on the other hand, had a life-long, active relationship with

God and continually practiced his personal religion. His happiness could be seen as the Father finding expression in the life of a love-saturated soul.

The second quote reveals another important truth. "Idleness is destructive of self-respect." As we age, we can stay at home regretting our lost youth while agonizing over our progressive deterioration. Or we can get out of the house and help others with greater problems than our own. It does not take more than a few minutes to find someone in need who has it much worse off than we do. Helping others is joyful "feel good medicine." Freedom from a grumpy self comes by forgetting one's self and actively loving and serving others.

While being high minded and intellectual, the teachings of *The Urantia Book* are also exceedingly practical and real. The Urantia Revelation promises that a personal relationship with God brings lasting happiness. For those of us who experience God in our daily lives, we know the fact and truth of that statement. With God we have everything, and without God we have nothing.

JOB OPENING AT URANTIA FOUNDATION



Can you imagine being the executive director of an organization whose mission is "to seed *The Urantia Book* and its teachings globally" and whose vision includes fostering the spiritual transformation of humankind by presenting these teachings to the world?

Urantia Foundation's executive director, Jay Peregrine, is retiring after more than a decade of service to Urantia Foundation. If you have the experience and qualifications to be an executive director of a non-profit foundation, and you are a dedicated reader of *The Urantia Book*, Urantia Foundation needs you!

Job Title: Executive Director.
Location: 533 W. Diversey Parkway in Chicago.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

Leadership

- Ensure ongoing programmatic excellence with rigorous program evaluation.

- Actively engage and energize staff, committees, partnering organizations, and donors.

Publishing, Financial, Fundraising, and Legal Management

- Manage global publishing and distribution systems to grow sales of *The Urantia Book*.
- Oversee fundraising planning, implementation, and donor communications.
- Oversee ongoing policies, processes, and production of translations and revisions of *The Urantia Book*.
- Oversee accounting systems and provide quick access to accurate financial information that enables strategic budgeting.
- Ensure the annual audit is completed on time.
- Actively participate in the oversight of Urantia Foundation's investments.
- Ensure that all legal and fiduciary responsibilities and compliances are met.

Administration

- Assume the responsibility for the training, the development, the performance evaluation, the recruiting, and the compensation and benefits of staff.
- Oversee website, social media, and reader services.
- Assist the president and the chairs of board committees to efficiently carry out their responsibilities and achieve their goals.

Allocation of Time

- 25% managing publishing, translations, and global distribution of *The Urantia Book*.
- 20% managing donor-centric activities.
- 15% on managing internal financial and information systems.
- 20% on leadership, management, and administration.
- 20% on project management.

Key Qualifications

As a prerequisite, the executive director must accept the values of Urantia Foundation and enthusiastically serve the Foundation's mission and vision. The ideal candidate:

- Should have proven organizational experience and a demonstrated ability to lead and build the capabilities of a bright and devoted team of employees and volunteers.
- Should have knowledge of fundraising strategies and donor relations and should have demonstrated the capability to raise money.
- Should have 1) a proven

track record of exceeding goals and a bottom-line orientation, 2) the ability to balance the delivery of programs with the realities of a budget, and 3) propensity for problem solving, project management, and creative resourcefulness.

- Should have a thorough understanding of finance, fundraising, human resources, and office management, and a broad experience with strategic development and planning.

Professional Qualifications

- Undergraduate degree required; MBA or similar advanced degree highly desired.
- Five years management experience in for-profit or not-for-profit organizations.
- Past success working with upper management and preferably with a board of directors; able to cultivate relations with board members.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills; a persuasive and passionate communicator with excellent interpersonal and multidisciplinary project skills.

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

Base salary: \$75,000-\$85,000, depending on qualifications and experience. Excellent health and vacation benefits provided.

HOW TO APPLY

Please submit a cover letter accompanied by a résumé as a pdf or Word document to joanne@urantia.org.



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A READER'S COMMENT



What Makes Me Tick

By Karen Van Aarde, South Africa

What makes me tick is the truth—seeking the truth. Since I was a youngster, I have felt that there was more to know about God, more to experience of God.

Early on my relationship with the Father was relatively close, and I had a heartfelt longing, an intense hunger, to know the Father.

When I was five and a half, I can remember waking my mother in the middle of the night and asking her to read me the Bible. Later I would tear the pages out of the Bible and stick them in my pockets and underneath my clothes. I supposed that having those pages with me would bring me closer to God. In time, the Bible was insufficient to quench my thirst for truth. I wanted more.

While practicing the religion of my family, I started searching for truth in other religions. I did it in secret because “other

belief systems” such as the Apocrypha, Hinduism, Buddhism, Eastern Meditation, Mysticism, Gnosticism, the Kabbalah, and new age beliefs were regarded as heretical

I found bits and pieces of truth but far too little to be satisfied. I voraciously read religious and spiritual books but realized that none of these books and “other belief systems” and religions were helping me find the truth.

Strange how we long for something when we do not even know what it is, but we know when we find it as surely as we know that the sky is blue.

My friends could not understand my lack of passion for, and my dissatisfaction with, the church and certain scriptures of the religion we grew up with. I wanted more and trusted that our heavenly Father would lead me to higher truths.

Then one Saturday evening I encountered a friend at the supermarket. We shared the same passion for truth, and he asked me what I was looking for in life? He was testing me to see if I would be open to *The Urantia Book*.

After sharing with him my thoughts and feelings and my quest for truth, he said that he understood what I was experiencing. He said that he knew the perfect book for me.

I was excited but also weary of finding just another book again that danced around the truth, talking about things

that do not agree with my heart. But I ordered it, and when it arrived, I was like a child on Christmas Eve. I tore open the box and was surprised by how thick it was. As I flipped through the pages, I perceived that I was actually holding what I had been searching for. I found confirmation after confirmation about all the things I clearly knew in my heart. Many times, while reading *The Urantia Book*, I shouted, “I knew it, I knew it!” Sometimes I would laugh out loud with sheer pleasure.

Truly, for the first time, I could feel myself changing in a way words can never express. It felt as though I were “ingesting” life itself. Every day it was becoming easier to do the “right” thing.

I am happier now, more at peace.

I am developing a deep and ineffable love for the Father, for myself, and for my fellow man. I am truly building a personal relationship with the Father and a personal, private, and powerful understanding of the Fatherhood of God and brotherhood of man.

For my whole life, I was one big question mark. Now, the more I understand the teachings of *The Urantia Book*, the easier it is to be who God wants me to be. Being more like the Father is within my grasp. It is not always easy, but the more I understand the truth, the more strength I have. For the first time, I can say that I am truly free!



Real religion leads to increased social service.

The Urantia Book, (1121.6) 102:3.4