### Volume 15, Issue 1. April 2021

### URANTIA FOUNDATION'S NEWS ONLINE





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# SPRINGTIME FOR THE NEW EL LIBRO DE URANTIA



By Víctor García-Bory, associate trustee emeritus and Spanish revision team manager, Urantia Foundation, New York, United States

Springtime graces the city of New York as I write this article. It is the season of renewal. rebirth, and the blooming of bulbs planted long ago. Working from home, I glance over at my 12-year-old son, Miguel, who is doing homework on his computer. He is focused yet looking tired after a long day of online classes in this pandemic-era reality. Observing him, feeling fortunate to be together and healthy, I shift my attention away from the human toll of the last year and onto a larger horizon. I am reminded of the many positive things

happening around the world. We are transitioning into a more hopeful time, capitalizing on learned lessons as the negative memories fade into the past.

My imagination jumps ahead 12 years to the spring of 2033. I wonder what my son will be like as he emerges out of the springtime of his life, during which he was loved, nurtured, and nourished, and enters into the summer of adulthood. My son is an engaging, inquisitive boy, precocious and trilingual, and I hope we will continue to have meaningful and earnest conversations. Looking back himself, he might very well ask me, "Why did you spend so much time during my childhood working on the El libro de Urantia project?"

He would be right to ask since it has been a full decade of work. And I would be very happy to answer him. It would be an opportunity to share the very essence of divine inspiration and spiritual unity that moved me and a group of dear friends into a unique journey of loving service. And in this conversation, Miguel would expect me to precisely explain what I mean by all that!

I would explain that I did this work for the progress and

spiritual unity of our family, our extended family of Spanish speakers around the world, and the brotherhood of men, women, and angels on earth under our Heavenly Father. I would emphasize that I labored as a member of a team of likeminded religionists seeking to discern the will of God and to be of service. Each of us, having received the gift of divine revelation, desired to give something in return.

I would share with him that since the mid-'90s and into 2021 there had been two Spanish translations of The Urantia Book, and that the first translation began in 1986 when Urantia Foundation worked with a professional translation company. With oversight from several bilingual Spanish- and English-speaking readers, it was finally published in 1993. Miguel then would hear me explain that El libro de Urantia had barely been released when readers in Europe began revising it. This first revision became the European Edition of El libro de Urantia and was published by the Foundation in 2009.

I'd explain to my 24-year-old son that it soon became evident that having two different Spanish translations caused confusion among the

readership. After all, there were distinctive differences between them. So, in the spirit of creating one unified, high-quality, Spanish text, I joined Urantia Foundation's expanded board of trustees in 2010 to assist in this project. We developed a work process and methodology, and then formed a revision team.

He'd look at me attentively, wanting to ask many more questions, but I'd ask him for a little patience and explain that since 2011 this team of dedicated and longtime students of the revelation spent the next 10 years collaborating on a single, indepth, high-quality revision of the Spanish text. He'd learn of my happiness that the fruits of our efforts were plentiful. But it was not just the work of the revision team, but that of dozens of Spanish-language readers who volunteered to study the text, ask questions, and provide feedback on its clarity and fidelity to the original.

Collectively we represented a diverse cross section of Spanish-speaking countries

from both sides of the Atlantic; yet through our work, camaraderie, and friendship we experienced profound spiritual unity. We recalled the discussion at Amathus, when James Zebedee asked, "Master, how shall we learn to see alike and thereby enjoy more harmony among ourselves?" We were reassured by his emotional reply, "James, James, when did I teach you that you should all see alike? . . . I do not desire that social harmony and fraternal peace shall be purchased by the sacrifice of free personality and spiritual originality. What I require of you, my apostles, is spirit unity-and that you can experience in the joy of your united dedication to the wholehearted doing of the will of my Father in heaven. You do not have to see alike or feel alike or even think alike in order spiritually to be alike. Spiritual unity is derived from the consciousness that each of you is indwelt, and increasingly dominated, by the spirit gift of the heavenly Father." 141:5.1 (1591.6)



And indeed, I'd say to Miguel, this was the case, as each of us can testify. We experienced unity in our service to God, each contributing our unique endowments of mind, body, and soul. We enjoyed the sublime sense of harmony that comes with sharing a common spiritual purpose. As imperfect human beings, we were unified in the desire to do our Father's will.

As surely as spring ushers in new life, the 2021 edition of El libro de Urantia likewise offers an opportunity for new beginnings, a fresh presentation of the book's meanings and values, and a renewed confidence in its quality and fidelity. We believe that the fruits of our labors will help manifest fruits of the spirit for generations to come.

Once more I rest my eyes on my now enthusiastic 12-year-old, who tells me his homework is done, and he's ready to play. And I think to myself, "Yes, it took a full decade, but an epochal revelation deserved no less. I did it out of love for our Heavenly Father, and also for you, my son."

### UPDATES FROM THE JANUARY 2021 TRUSTEE MEETING



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

### 1. Standard Reports

As always, the board listened to and reviewed information from the president, executive director, and the following committees—Book, Finance, Fundraising, Education, Translation, Outreach, and Governance.

### 2. Books

Distribution: The Urantia Book and its translations (including physical, electronic, and downloadable books) totaled 132,210 books distributed. This is an increase of 12% from the previous year. What good news that so many discovered the revelation during such a difficult year!

Outreach: Requests for books were minimal in 2020, but the Foundation did send 165 gift books to individuals unable to purchase them. The Urantia Book Fellowship's Pipeline of Light was given 110 Spanish books as well.

Book printing: 10,000 English books were printed. Next on

the docket are Russian, French, and Portuguese books.

Multi-Language Urantia Book: This new study tool was published on the Foundation's website in 20 languages. Now students of the book can read and compare the text, side by side, in 2 languages of their choice. The remaining translations will be added once they are coded for Paper:section.paragraph. You can find it here: <a href="https://www.urantia.org/MultiLanguageBook">https://www.urantia.org/MultiLanguageBook</a>.

Urantia Press: The first printing of *The Untold Story of Jesus—A Modern Biography from The Urantia Book* has almost sold out. Five thousand new copies were printed, and this edition contains new paintings, improved maps, and color enhancements. The books will be available for purchase soon.

### 3. Translations

Revision of *El libro de Urantia*: After a decade of work by the Spanish revision team—Víctor García-Bory, Olga López, the late Carmelo Martínez, Anibal Pacheco, and Raúl Pujol—the revision is almost ready. The electronic text will be published online this summer, and the printed book will be available later this year.

Hebrew: The copyediting of the Hebrew translation was completed. Gabriel Rymberg, the chief translator, is in the final review process. The translation is published at urantia.org/he.

Indonesian: After many revisions, Nugroho Widi finished the Indonesian translation, and it was published online at <a href="mailto:urantia.org/id">urantia.org/id</a>. The text was also entered into the online search engine.

Chinese: Vicki Yang, new associate trustee and Chinese translation team member, and her team held the first Urantia Book conference for Chinese-speaking people via Zoom. Foundation members presented to 102 people from Taiwan and 26 people from China. What an accomplishment!

Translations and revisions in progress: Translators moved forward the Arabic, Farsi, and Filipino translations. Revisors made progress on the Greek, Portuguese, and Romanian. We are so grateful for the dedication and service of all individuals working to bring the revelation to the peoples of these native tongues.

### 4. Outreach

Urantia.org: The website had strong growth in 2020.
Users, new users, sessions, page views, and direct search were all up significantly. Social traffic is growing as well, which indicates our social media reach is attracting people to the site from around the world. The top five countries generating visits were the United States, Brazil, India, Mexico, and Colombia.

Social Media: Four additional Facebook pages were created. They are now in English, French, German, Indonesian, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish.
Followers are also growing through Instagram, LinkedIn, and Twitter. Our goal is to disseminate the teachings through the many outlets available.



### 5. Education

The Education Committee of Urantia Foundation co-hosted an online spiritual retreat with Urantia Association International, the Urantia Book Fellowship, and UrantiaUniversity Institute in July. This retreat paved the way for future online events, in which the importance of personal spiritual experience, the source of both healing and transformation, is affirmed.

Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS) finished 2020 with a total of 47 courses, offered in four languages: English (21), French (9), Portuguese (5), and Spanish (12). Throughout the year, over 730 students enrolled.

The January 2021 trimester began with a record number of 18 courses, enrolling 259 students in English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish languages. Urantia Foundation is grateful to the many volunteers who help prepare, edit, and present these courses to readers all over the globe!

### 6. Cultural Advisory Council

The revelation is spreading globally with worldwide study groups. Because of this reality, the board needs global advisors to help inform Urantia Foundation's decision making. Therefore, the board is planning to establish a Cultural Advisory Council. Once the policy and procedures for the Council are established, individuals from various cultures will be invited as members. The board will engage in continued planning when it meets in April.

### 7. Enrique Traver

As part of our commitment to the cultivation of cultural awareness, the board enjoyed a Zoom conversation with Enrique Traver of Curitiba, Brazil, president of Urantia Association of Brazil and now president of Urantia Association International.



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**Enrique Traver** 

Enrique participated in the Urantia Foundation Global Cultural Symposium in April of 2019. His insight into the activities of the Brazilian readership and the ways that Urantia Foundation can help the Association in supporting dissemination efforts in Brazil is an example of the importance of building relationships with associations worldwide.

### 8. Study Group Directory

The study group directory is a worldwide cooperative managed by Urantia Association International, the Urantia Book Fellowship, and Urantia Foundation. Foundation representative Tamara Strumfeld reported that there are 242 study groups in the United States, 229 international groups, and 197 virtual groups. In 2020, 70 new study groups were listed in the directory. There are now study groups in 61 countries, with the top five languages being English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, and Korean.

### 9. Finance and Fundraising

Donations: The Foundation received unrestricted and



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restricted gifts that exceeded the goals for the year. Estate gifts were beyond expectations as well. It is inspiring how generous the readership is with their monetary gifts that ensure that the Foundation's mission-driven projects continue.

Planned Giving: A new and improved Planned Giving section of our website was launched. If you are interested in including Urantia Foundation in your will, please visit <a href="mailto:urantia.plannedgiving.org">urantia.plannedgiving.org</a> or call our office at 773-525-3319.

Revelation Bridge: The board moved recent estate donations into this fund, which was created to sustain Urantia Foundation for future generations. The fund has been endowed with \$4,486,768.



## THE URANTIA BOOK IN EUROPE— OUR JOURNEY BUILDING A DISTRIBUTION NETWORK



By Claire Mylanus, associate trustee emeritus, Brittany, France

Editor's Note: Henk and Claire Mylanus made The Urantia Book and its translations available throughout Europe. Their incredible efforts led to sales and distribution throughout the European Union and the United Kingdom. Urantia Foundation will always be grateful for their labors of love, which will leave a legacy to generations of future readers.

What is involved in distributing *The Urantia Book* in Europe today? There's actually a lot to it, and I have found it to be a rewarding adventure.

Our story starts in January 2009, when my husband, Henk Mylanus, was appointed by the Board of Trustees of Urantia Foundation as manager of European sales. We were both members of the board, and we decided to do this work together. Henk was chosen because of his experience not only in international business, but also in commercial negotiations. I have used my knowledge of commerce and public relations. We form a good complementary team!

Henk speaks five languages and I speak three. This proved to be especially useful in dealing with the different European distributors. In the northern countries, you can usually speak English, but in Italy, for example, French is very useful. In Portugal you can use Spanish. In eastern countries like Poland, you will need German or Russian to communicate.

We drove sixty thousand miles in three years. We made a tour of Europe, starting with France, and including Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, England, Sweden, Estonia, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Hungary, and Poland. We traveled to Italy and Poland three times.

Our objective was to ensure that *The Urantia Book* was distributed throughout Europe, while navigating the complex laws of commerce and distribution in the European Union. By doing this work, Urantia Foundation would avoid the high costs of sending small quantities of printed books from the United States to Europe.

To interact with the different distributors, you need to 1) have knowledge of business, 2) understand the different distribution systems of each country, and 3) develop a good personal relationship with them. The main challenges were:

- Finding distributors interested in selling *The Urantia Book*.
- Urantia Foundation is a foreign publisher of a single-volume, backlisted book dating

to 1955. Most distributors work with publishers that publish new titles regularly, as it stimulates the book market. They normally do not work with only one book.

• We needed means of distribution, transportation, and an accounting system to pay the taxes effectively and legally. Europe has a most complicated system!

Before we went anywhere, we started an internet search for potential distributors for each country, based on the genre of the book. It took about three weeks. Then our travels began.



When distributors met with us, they had questions about the content of *The Urantia Book*. We did our best to provide answers in accordance with the culture and book market of the particular country—each one being different. We were intuitively selective in our responses.

In some countries, we were literally thrown out; in others the book's religious content was too challenging for strong Catholic societies. But others were much more welcoming. In France, one famous editor told us, "This is a book which should stay on the market because it makes people think!" He helped us find a distributor. In Poland, a certain distributor was on holiday, but we met a young man who worked there; he spoke English and told us he knew the book and was reading it. What an incredible surprise!

Of the 23 distributors we visited, we now have contracts with 12 of them, and because of the great personal

relationship we have with them, we all have become good friends.

Even after having found distributors, you still need to be able to transport the books through Europe without paving taxes in every country. American companies doing business in Europe tend to create a subsidiary in each country, with their Luxembourg headquarters overseeing the business. But these companies have very high sales and revenue and can afford the high legal costs of having a subsidiary in each country. For a small publisher like Urantia Foundation, this model was too costly to be viable.

Henk did a tremendous amount of research about the European VAT (value added tax) rules and concluded that the best solution was to have a fiscal representative in one of the EU countries linked to an EU VAT number for Urantia Foundation. This would allow the Foundation to have a bank



Libros. Malasana, Madrid

account in that particular country. A Dutch fiscal representative who owned a warehouse and transportation department met our requirements very well. We have been operating this way since 2009. This system is not only the most economical, but it also complies with the EU VAT rules.

While using our individual talents to help with book distribution in Europe, we

have felt many times the help of our unseen friends, behind the scenes, putting the right people in the right place at the right moment. It has been an incredible adventure, with so many anecdotes of human encounters in so many different cultures. They will stay forever in our memories as a unique, exciting, and wonderful privilege of service to the Urantia Revelation.

### LOVING SERVICE SPIRITUAL RETREAT—THE POWER OF STORIES



By Alice Wood, Wisconsin, United States

Editor's Note: The Loving Service online retreat was sponsored by the Urantia Foundation Education Committee, co-chairs Gard Jameson and Guy Perron.

Jesus taught through stories. People remember a good story. If I give a speech at a conference, people will only remember a small portion of it by the time they start heading home, and chances are, that portion will be a story. They are

also a refreshing change from lectures which require charts and graphs in order to be engaging. Stories, on the other hand, are pleasant enough when told over coffee and between friends. The organizers of the Loving Service Retreat that took place on February 14, Valentine's Day of 2021, counted on the power of stories to convey their message.

Many people in the Urantia community have benefited from the rise of online videoconferencing as a method for bringing us together. The online conferences and study groups have provided a social outlet while opening the eyes of many to the growing international representation of Urantia Book students. But while we gained the fantastic ability to interact frequently with each other, we lost the ability to "shoot the breeze." The cancellation of in-person conferences meant that there were no chats at breakfast in the cafeteria, and no one was late for a plenary because of a great conversation in the hall.



Click Here to See the Video

There were no stories told during the "in-between" times.

The Loving Service Retreat was still a structured discussionwe've all learned that structure is necessary for a large group on Zoom-but it came close to satisfying the "getting coffee with friends" vibe. By instructing the speakers to share their thoughts through the telling of stories, the organizers of the retreat acknowledged the role that stories play in our lives, which is itself a loving service. I was so happy to be a part of a captivated audience.

The stories centered around service, with each presenter handling a different realm of service: service to self, family, community, world, and universe. With each round, the presenter would tell his or her story, after which the entire community was welcomed to chime in with their own contribution, beautifully orchestrated by the dedicated hosting team of Guy Perron and Agnès Lazar.

My husband, Chris, and I shared a time slot. Between

our banter, we managed to tell two stories. Chris talked about the birth of our first son. The experience expanded his understanding of Melchizedek and Abraham, and the promise that people need only have faith; God will do the rest. In those moments of early infancy, our son needed only to accept what Chris had to offer him; Chris would do the rest. His sharing of that experience was a very sweet and poignant moment.

On the other hand, I brought forth a story about Chris, who once smashed into the back of a parked car while riding his bicycle. He has been made fun of repeatedly for that incident. During his recovery, his helplessness reminded us of

the fact that we are reliant on each other. When we are children, our human model for God is our parents. When we are adults, God is no longer just a parent figure but also a partner. One way in which marriage partners grow in their relationship with God is through interaction with each other. We practice partnering with each other, becoming comfortable with our joint reliance, and hopefully, translating that into our relationship with God.

We were each enriched by hearing the stories of others and contributing our own, and this retreat was a release for a year's worth of untold tales. This event was a beautiful gift for all those who attended!

"The stories centered around service, with each presenter handling a different realm of service."

### URANTIA FOUNDATION OUTREACH COMMITTEE



By Geri Johnson, associate trustee, Hawaii, United States, and Guy Perron, associate trustee, Belgium



Urantia Foundation's Outreach Committee has been activated with the following committee members: Minoo Claire, Gary

Deinstadt, Geri Johnson, Guy Perron, Mo Siegel, and Tamara Strumfeld. Since our first meeting in October 2020, we have defined our purpose, have set an agenda to work cooperatively with Urantia organizations, and have begun to explore ways to support new readers while also drawing individuals to the teachings of *The Urantia Book*.

As we have done in the past, the board and staff of Urantia Foundation will continue to support the Urantia readership community through conferences, book fairs, free book distribution efforts, and by creating promotional

material that can be used on websites and social media.

We commend the joint Study Group Directory team in their efforts to identify study groups that are friendly to new readers. We are looking forward to developing avenues of outreach activities that will attract and support individuals who are new to the incomparable teachings of *The Urantia Book*.

Expect to hear more from this committee as our ideas evolve from potentials to actuals.

### DANCING WITH GOD— LIVING IN LOVE IN TRYING TIMES



By Line St-Pierre, Québec, Canada

After more than 15 months without being able to meet, would it be possible to create the proper atmosphere in an online retreat?

The four of us—Katharina Becker, Doreen Heyne, Carolyn Prentice, and I—decided to do some experimenting. First, we wanted to assess the possible discomfort or technical difficulties before gathering a small group together in "the cloud"! In particular, we wanted to ensure our ability to see the participants and then address each woman accordingly. This is not always easy on a small screen!

With a touch of this new retreat experience on Zoom, and more preparation and practice on our part, our plan was ready for action.

We invited women who had already participated in one of our previous retreats. Since these attendees already knew how the in-person retreats worked, we were confident they would be able to adjust their participation to the small screen.

On Saturday, December 12, we scheduled a two-hour get-

together as an icebreaker. We enjoyed an aperitif in our own homes and interacted with the group online. It was wonderful to see each other again and catch up with news and updates.

The retreat began the next day. Before regrouping at noon in the first of the three circles of trust that we would facilitate, we spent time in prayer and meditation. This set the tone for our four four-and-a-half-hour retreat.

The 11 participants had settled into a quiet place in the comfort of their homes, without any disturbance by electronic devices. The intimacy of this ensemble was experienced as standing in a sacred bubble, thus promoting the authenticity of each one in our sharing in this union of souls. We introduced and considered the question: The universe is meant to be a dance of cooperation and love, so how can we find the courage to progress and dance through these difficult times?

The format used in our retreats is called the Fishbowl Experience, with the

four facilitators going first to set the example. The four of us were "in the center," with our cameras on. while the participants turned their cameras off. After some prayerful silence, we began to engage in an intimate discussion on the question posed above. We set the space, allowing the rest of the group to silently witness the process



that the four of us experienced. The participants were invited to observe, feel, and absorb the discourse privately. Later each woman was invited to take a seat in the fishbowl, where they were able to express themselves in that very safe and intimate environment. Hearts were opened and were filled with love from our Heavenly Father and His spiritual helpers.

As Catholic priest, author, and theologian Henri Nouwen wrote, "Listening is a form of spiritual hospitality by which you invite strangers to become friends, to get to know their inner selves more fully, and even to dare to be silent with you."

All of us appreciated the level of trust, respect, and vulnerability in our sharing. Our individual contributions came from the Spirit, which does not differentiate whether we are together virtually or in person. The Spirit recognizes the state of the soul. In the afternoon on Sunday, we all felt uplifted and supported in this sacred circle.



Top row: Katharina Becker, Line St-Pierre, Doreen Heyne, Carolyn Prentice Middle row: Charlene Lutes, Karen Larsen, Peggy Brown, Bobbie Dreier Bottom row: Lila Dogim, Angela Lippi, Cecelia Lampley

### NEW ENHANCED ENGLISH E-BOOK

Is your beloved Urantia Book looking dog-eared?

Are you tired of lugging a heavy book to conferences, seminars, or study groups?

Do you reach for your reading glasses because your Urantia Book's font is too small?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then you will love our new e-book!

*The Urantia Book Enhanced Edition* is available for the device of your choice: smartphone, tablet, iPad or an e-reader such as <u>Kindle</u> or <u>Kobo</u>.



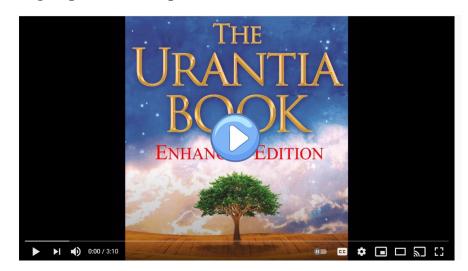
Reading and studying *The Urantia Book* has never been so convenient. For the first time you can enjoy a library of study aids at your fingertips for the low price of **\$5.99**.

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### Volume 15, Issue 1. April 2021

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On the web at www.urantia.org

### Learn About the New Revision of El libro de Urantia

The 2021 edition of *El libro de Urantia* will be available this summer. It is the product of an unprecedented team effort, which was motivated by love and grounded in a professional translation methodology using seven components:

- · An international revision team
- An advisory study group
- An English-speaking Urantia Book student counselor
- A Spanish-language professional consultant
- Evaluations by independent linguistic professionals
- Exclusive translation software
- Work and Quality Assurance processes

Each of the translators had a distinctive role. Learn more about the processes, the objectives, and the methodology of this dynamic team by joining our panel for an interactive discussion at the 11th Urantia Association International Virtual Conference, broadcast from Peru.

You must pre-register in order to participate.

Sign up for the free online conference here: https://register.urantia.org.pe/en.php.

Select the 2 p.m. CDT (GMT -5) workshop on Sunday called "New Spanish Revision ("La Nueva Revisión").

Live interpretation service will be provided.

In loving memory of our dear brother and friend Carmelo María Martínez Ortíz de Zárate

1947–2020

