



URANTIA FOUNDATION'S NEWS ONLINE



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THE FILIPINO TRANSLATION— LOYALTY AND DEDICATION IN ACTION!

By Urantia Foundation
staff

The Urantia Book reminds us in Paper 81 that “Ten men are of little more value than one in lifting a great load unless they lift together—all at the same moment.” 81:6.37 (911.2) There are few places where teamwork is more important, and more challenging, than among a translation team, where “an enthusiastic and effective load-pulling spirit” is key to success.

This project began in 2020, and a team of dedicated individuals have been diligently working to make *The Urantia Book* available to the peoples of the Philippines, in a language spoken by millions. While they may be geographically far from most of us, they are part of our spiritual family.

Eugene Asidao and his wife, Belen, both retired and living in the Chicago area, began attending the Tuesday night study group at 533 W. Diversey in 2014. It was here that seasoned readers helped facilitate their



understanding of *The Urantia Book*, and no question was too big or too small. Belen recalls, “The vibes of brother- and sisterhood were wrapped up in a bigger, more spiritual sense of the fatherhood of God, and it was super welcoming! We thought of seeding books in the Philippines, our country of origin.” Thus began an enduring outreach program.

Urantia Foundation supported their efforts by donating hundreds of Urantia Books, which the Asidaos distributed and placed in major libraries across the vast archipelago nation of over 7,000 islands. With so few people involved in the Urantia

Book movement in a country of 110 million people, and a diaspora of 10 million Filipino expatriates, the task often felt overwhelming. But thanks to their selfless service, the readership grew steadily, and the need for a Filipino translation was recognized in 2019. This followed the first national conference in the Philippines, which was co-sponsored by the Foundation, the Urantia Book Fellowship, and Urantia Association International.

To date, the team has completed Parts I and II and is currently working on Paper 71. Meet the team as they share what inspires them to continue their valiant efforts.

**Raquel Aguilar**

"Being part of the translation team, I strive even more to follow the will of the Father. I have learned to not stop moving forward despite many obstacles. My patience is being honed, and my sincerity is being purified."

"*The Urantia Book* liberates me from the fear of losing my soul to hell. I understand that not all that is happening in my life is God's will, but most things are a consequence of my actions and decisions. Most of all, I realized that we are all brothers and sisters with only one Father who indwells us."

"Because of the translation work, I have become more determined to live by the teachings of *The Urantia Book*—to love unconditionally."



Coron Islands

**Belen Asidao**

"My life before retirement was devoted to a career as a medical technologist. Viewing things under a microscope, one can see the beauty of microscopic living organisms. I have always appreciated the macro and micro of nature. As medical technologists, we assist in testing so that doctors can diagnose their patients. I always viewed this as a service to my fellow man. And with that came an inner longing to know more of God, his nature, and his boundless qualities."

"We are living in a time of rapid advancement of science and technology, when many more people are asking about the mysteries of existence. *The Urantia Book* addresses comprehensive questions about God, the origin and purpose of life, the spiritual hierarchy of beings, different personalities that are guiding us, and so much more. I'm honored to invest time in this incredibly powerful book, so widely acclaimed across various cultures and faiths!"

**Eugene Asidao**

"It has been an educational process for me, not only in understanding the correct meaning of what the celestial authors are conveying, but also in how to express those ideas in the most accurate way possible in our native language."

"Another lesson has been how to work in a team. I learned to recognize the different sensitivities of members, the proper use of language when communicating to avoid misunderstandings, and to evaluate my own reactions. In short, there is a lot of balancing and adjustment when relating to others. But in the end, everyone's spirituality evolves, and we all gain more wisdom."



Manila, Philippines

**Allan Bancairen**

"*The Urantia Book* has strengthened my faith in God and deepened my commitment to spiritual principles. It has elevated my understanding of truth, beauty, and goodness—not merely as abstract ideals, but as guiding forces in my personal life. Above all, it has given me a profound assurance of eternal life and a greater sense of purpose in the present. As a member of the Filipino translation team, I've learned to be patient in understanding the context of *The Urantia Book*. It has helped me discover new English words and recall the old Filipino terms that I believe bring greater clarity to the book's concepts."

**Nestor Racelis Nano**

"I joined Eugene and Belen at their residence to participate in a study group in 2012, and several other Chicago-area study groups. I was with them at Urantia Foundation headquarters when we first proposed a Filipino translation to Georges Michelson-Dupont. I have accompanied Eugene in distributing *The Urantia Book* around the Philippines since 2014. Every morning, the first half hour of my two-hour radio program draws from *The Urantia Book*, proclaiming, in our Filipino languages, truths that are manna to an audience of more than 2,500 around the world. I am thankful to be a part of the translation team so that my countrymen will be inspired to seek and find truth, beauty, and goodness in our own language!"

**Geo Sunga**

"I've discovered that our growth and evolution as students of the revelation can be enhanced by transcending cultural boundaries and broadening our understanding beyond language barriers. By acknowledging the universal patterns that surround us, we can uncover new meanings and insights that may have been hidden beyond our use of local language. As we shed our limited perspectives, we can tap into the rich word symbolism that already exists within our minds, allowing us to expand our consciousness and enhance our spirituality even further."

"I initially felt the challenges of learning

Filipino because we each acquired language from our respective provinces. The team has often faced the difficulty of deciding which is the right term or sentence construction to use.

"Ultimately, there is nothing more inspiring than knowing our Thought Adjusters have been faithfully working within us since childhood, leading the way for us to follow the Father's will. They intimately know our stories and guide us to love and unfold into the true spirit personality reality that we are becoming."

**Bacuit Archipelago, Palawan****Annual Dinagyang Festival, Iloilo, Philippines**

UPDATES FROM THE APRIL 2025 TRUSTEE MEETING

**Judy with her granddaughter**

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

Five-Year Planning

Committee chairs reviewed the goals developed and assigned to their teams during the October 2024

strategic planning session. The goals will be further developed with strategies for achieving them.

Books

Q1 sales and distribution of *The Urantia Book* and its translations declined 11% compared to 2024, mainly

due to low sales of the Portuguese books. We anticipate a rebound in overall sales because the beautiful Cambridge LeatherSoft edition is now back in stock, and sales of Portuguese books should bounce back.

Top priorities for the second quarter of 2025 are investigating new channels for book distribution worldwide; developing a new app for Android and Apple devices; and implementing sales and distribution strategies for the five-year goals.

Education

Joanne Strobel reported that during the January trimester of Urantia Book International School (UBIS), Associate Trustee Richard Zhu facilitated a beta course in Chinese, which was well received by the readers who were invited to enroll. Richard plans to present another class in September, and it will be open to the general Chinese readership.

The April session lasted six weeks, and 16 courses were offered across six language branches. Trustee-liaison Olga López shared that UBIS is working to implement a consistent structure within their international branches, and the UBIS Governance Committee is offering some essential help with that. An annual meeting of all faculty and staff took place on June 21.

Chris Wood reported that Science Symposium IV, "The Evolution of Human Knowledge—100 Years Later" will be held November 6–8, 2025, with Marjorie Ray serving as emcee. Presentations will be given by Tom Allen, Phil Calabrese, Brad Garner, Gard Jameson, David Neuffer, Nigel Nunn, George Park, Gabriel Rymberg, Geoff Taylor, and Ralph Zehr.

Tamara Strumfeld reported that the Urantia Book Study Group Directory team continues its dedicated service to the community of readers. The team is looking at ways to refresh the site and enhance user experience.

This quarter, the total for all groups remained constant at 521, and while the directory lost 12 groups in the United States, it gained one in the lovely Magnolia State, Mississippi. The directory also gained 10 groups worldwide, both online and in person, and have added a group in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Fundraising and Finances

- Q1 unrestricted donations were 327% above Q1 of 2024, and 15% above budget. Restricted donations were 5074% above Q1 of 2024, and 4% below budget.

- Q1 estate gifts totaled \$10,551.

- Total income increased 205% compared to Q1 of 2024 and came in at Q1 budget.

- Administrative expenses were up 22% compared to Q1 of 2024, and 1% over budget.

- Total expenses decreased by 8% from Q1 of last year, and came in 16% under budget.

Translations

Georges Michelson-Dupont presented his 106th translation report. The Esperanto and Filipino teams continue to

collaborate. It has been more than a year since the Chinese translation in simplified characters was published on the Foundation's website in March of 2024. The results have been promising, with more and more Chinese people becoming aware of the revelation.

Invited Guests

Geraldo Queiroz joined the meeting so the board could express their gratitude for his work with UBIS. In 2019, he began offering courses in Portuguese. Geraldo developed and offered courses three times a year, often two at a time, for 18 consecutive trimesters. He also mentored students to become facilitators.

In 2022, Geraldo turned his attention to developing German courses. He recruited and trained three facilitators in Germany who are now ready to take over.

Olga López shared how great an inspiration he has been to everyone at UBIS, adding that sometimes it just takes the right person to show up!

Georges Michelson-Dupont thanked Geraldo for his dedication. Geraldo responded that Georges was his first teacher-facilitator—a very good teacher-facilitator—so good that he used Georges's example and style for facilitating and relating to his students. Geraldo will now retire from UBIS and write a book he has long been planning.

Line St-Pierre and Sue Secombe, presidents of



Geraldo Queiroz



Line St-Pierre



Sue Secombe

Urantia Association and the Urantia Book Fellowship, joined the meeting to update board members on the activities of their respective organizations. Line shared her experience of being nominated and recently elected as the Association president. Sue thanked the trustees for



Jim English

their willingness to partner on projects and grants.

The presidents and board continued with an hour-long discussion on their respective organizations and how they might collaboratively best serve the work of the revelation.

Jim English joined the meeting so the trustees could personally thank him for his work in formatting the revised Korean translation for printing. The board joined together in expressing sincere appreciation for his service on many projects of Urantia Foundation, which illustrates his ever-willing character as a "Soldier of the Circles."



Mustard Seed Grants Project

The board approved the following 10 grants for the first round of 2025.



1. Training of Educators according to *The Urantia Book*

- **Applicant:** Moustapha N'Diaye
- **Country:** Senegal
- **Focus Area:** Education



2. Third Nigerian Urantia Book Conference

- **Applicant:** Emeka Anazodo
- **Country:** Nigeria
- **Focus Area:** Education



3. Urantia Revelation Video Channel

- **Applicant:** Nugroho Widi
- **Country:** Indonesia
- **Focus Area:** Digital Outreach



4. CherubiMail Videos

- **Applicant:** Benjamin Brill
- **Country:** United States
- **Focus Area:** Family-Based Programs



5. Translation of the Simplification of the Foreword Pamphlet

- **Applicant:** Jean Ascher
- **Country:** Denmark
- **Focus Area:** Secondary Publications



6. Urantia Book Teacher Education Program

- **Applicant:** Urantia University Institute
- **Country:** United States
- **Focus Area:** Education



7. Spotlighting the Teachings of Jesus from *The Urantia Book*

- **Applicant:** Daniels Hussaini
- **Country:** Nigeria
- **Focus Area:** Digital Outreach



8. New York Urantia Outreach Tables

- **Applicant:** Charles Lehner
- **Country:** United States
- **Focus Area:** Book Fairs



9. Strengthening the Urantia Community in Spain

- **Applicant:** Urantia Association of Spain
- **Country:** Spain
- **Focus Area:** Digital Outreach



10. Cultural and Spiritual Exchange through Urantia Book Teachings

- **Applicant:** Alain Cyr
- **Country:** Canada
- **Focus Area:** Education

THE FOURTH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE IN PARIS



By Georges Michelson-Dupont, trustee and manager of translations, Urantia Foundation, Recloses, France

Editor's Note: Urantia Foundation was pleased to be a sponsor of this conference and support the meaningful scholarly dialogue and thoughtful presentations shared throughout these proceedings. The Foundation's director was graciously given time toward the end of the program to present a 15-minute PowerPoint about the Foundation's mission and work. What a special privilege it was to be in Paris alongside such diverse and enthusiastic readers of The Urantia Book. Thank you to all of the organizers for such a well-planned conference!

The fourth European conference of Urantia Association was organized and hosted by AFLLU, the association of French-speaking readers of *The Urantia Book*. It took place from June 6 to 9 in Paris Intramuros, Latin for "within

the walls," which refers to the 20 arrondissements within the historical city limits.

We were pleased to bring together 80 people from Europe, North America, South America, and Africa to share the teachings of *The Urantia Book* and enjoy fellowship. Presentations were simultaneously translated into English and Spanish, and were professionally filmed for later viewing.

The general theme of the conference, "The Distributivity of God: Man as God's Heir," was chosen by the organizing team with the aim of tackling concepts which may seem, to some, "intellectual." They are, in fact, the foundations of the reality in which we live, move, and have our existence.

It would seem that the Father, back in eternity, inaugurated a policy of profound self-distribution. There is inherent in the selfless, loving, and lovable nature of the Universal Father something which causes him to reserve to himself the exercise of only those powers and that authority which he apparently finds it impossible to delegate or to bestow.

10:1.1 (108.4)

The Hotel CIS Paris Ravel was easily accessible by

public transportation, and the general consensus was that the rooms were comfortable and an excellent value for the price. Meals were served at tables of 10, allowing people to meet and get to know one another. Particular care was taken to provide organic food, beverages, and, of course, French wine.

On Saturday we studied the preparatory phase of events prior to the coming of space-time itself; how the First Cause, the I AM, the unity of infinity-eternity, manages to diversify and produce the foundations of all reality. The workshops got us thinking about the very nature of reality.

The Saturday evening dinner cruise provided guests an opportunity to enjoy the sights of Paris from the Seine River. Dancing followed the gourmet dinner, and our boat glided by the Eiffel Tower just in time to view the spectacular light show which sparkles for five minutes on the hour after dark.

On Sunday we continued the story of the promulgation by the will of our Universal Father of subinfinite reality; the various personifications of Deity; the creation of the universe; the mechanisms, laws, and archetypes governing the cosmos; the principles of causality and supremacy; the power-

personality synthesis; and the question "Why are we here?" that shapes our way of life and motivates our destiny in the immensity of this universe. The workshops led us to reflect on the fact that the "realities below" are the actualization of the "realities above."

On Sunday evening we were treated to an inspiring classical music concert in the hotel's theater.

Here are a few comments from attendees:

"Thank you very much for the extraordinary meeting in Paris. These are completely unforgettable moments that constitute higher values in my life."

"Over the course of the workshops, I realized that the chosen theme had a real resonance in our daily lives—something I hadn't expected at the outset. It became clear to me that divine distributivity is not just an abstract concept, but a living reality that manifests itself in everyone's life, every day."

"Thank you for the warm welcome, the kindness, and the attentiveness with which each of you has treated me over the past three days. The fraternity I felt truly nourished my heart."

THE FOURTH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE IN PARIS





MUSTARD SEED GRANT PROJECT—URANTIAPEDIA



By José Antonio Hernández,
Valladolid, Spain

Editor's Note: José was a recipient of the first round of Mustard Seed Grants awarded in 2023. The grant funded an open-source online Urantiapedia, a site intended to help readers navigate the complexities of the fifth epochal revelation. The following article is excerpted from his final report to Urantia Foundation.

The complexity of *The Urantia Book* is not lost on anyone who comes across it for the first time. The 196 papers, filled solely with text, and without illustrations, maps, footnotes, or diagrams, are daunting for most new readers. Many give up, depriving themselves of the greatest concentration of truth ever assembled in a single volume. Our dream was to help make this deep, rich, and diverse text available in a way that resolves doubts and avoids confusion.

During the past two years, we focused our efforts on several goals: to offer free, varied, and interconnected content that allows for better understanding; to provide centralized access to this content; to make it available in multiple languages; and to create a community of readers to sustain the project.

The content includes an archive of publications related to *The Urantia Book* from Urantia Foundation, The Urantia Book Fellowship, Urantia Association International, and other groups and individuals. Two years was not enough time to include everything since the number of publications is enormous, and it is often difficult to obtain copies of older ones. As of this writing, the archive lists almost 5,000 articles from 20 different sources.

We also created a library of relevant books, including the Bible; extra-biblical and apocryphal books; books from the world's major

religions; books that are presumed to have been used by the revelators; and even books written by readers. The collection currently contains 280 titles, which is a fraction of all the books that can be compiled from these categories. But it is a respectable start.

As the name *Urantiapedia* suggests, we also created a first-of-its-kind encyclopedia, which now boasts 4,400 entries. There is a page for every concept, idea, and proper name that appears in *The Urantia Book*. The information is presented horizontally, summarizing everything related throughout the book for each concept, thus allowing readers a better overview of each topic.

Last, but not least, we created a linking system that interconnects the content, all of which is available in English, French, and Spanish. Yes, it is massive! The number of links to date has exceeded everyone's expectations,

totaling 38,000, and we are just getting started.

The *Urantiapedia* project is ambitious, and it has taken much longer than expected. However, the journey has allowed us to learn important lessons. Not only have we found many useful tools, and even generated a few tricks to facilitate the processes, we have gained a vast amount of experience that we can use to better plan future content expansions.

The establishment of a community of collaborators around *Urantiapedia* is vital to ensuring the future of this project. The ultimate goal is continued growth, even with small increments. Only by ensuring its future will we achieve a tool that will prove invaluable to future generations of readers of the fifth epochal revelation.

View Urantiapedia here:
urantiapedia.org/en/home

MUSTARD SEED GRANT PROJECT— URANTIA SPIRITUAL SONGS



By Marti Garlow Leib,
Tennessee, United States

Editor's Note: Marti was a recipient of the second round of Mustard Seed Grants awarded in 2024. The grant funded the recordings of three spiritual songs inspired by The Urantia Book. In this article, Marti describes her music, inspiration, and project.

With deep roots in the Nashville music scene and a lifelong devotion to *The Urantia Book*, I love to create songs that invite listeners into a deeper space of meaning and connection.

At the age of 17, I first came to Nashville, Tennessee, to pursue a music career. I connected with Marijohn Wilkin, of Buckhorn Music Publishing, Inc., who gave me a copy of *The Urantia Book* as a gift. I have since written many songs with spiritual messages inspired by it and was fortunate to have Marijohn invest in recording my singing many of them.

In February 2025, with the Mustard Seed Grant, I recorded the songs: “Family Love,” “Light Up the World with a Song,” and “The Life That Jesus Lived.” Each song is drawn from life experience and inspired by *The Urantia Book*.

My lyrics for “Family Love” reflect the component of humanity's most successful and foundational structure. Family life is the civilizer of mankind, and ideally, a manifestation of God's unending and eternal love throughout all life and creation.

“Light Up the World with a Song” is meant to reach our children at an early age, to help them grow spiritually, and to become members of the family of God.

“The Life That Jesus Lived” seeks to acquaint us with the mortal life lived by our Creator Son, Christ Michael, on this troubled and backward world. Jesus' entire life from birth until death was the perfect example of how as mortals, we can overcome our own struggles and focus on the guiding light of God's eternal love by following in his footsteps and exercising faith to overcome any obstacles and challenges that we might face. His life and how he lived it infuses us with that unending hope that will see us through the various stages and phases of life.

My songwriting connects with *The Urantia Book* and helps facilitate the completion of spiritual thoughts through finding the appropriate words or

expressions to bring the truth to life. For me there is definitely a difference between writing a spiritual as opposed to a secular song in that faith, rather than feelings, guides my more harmonious and spiritual thoughts.

The struggles of my life since becoming a devout truth seeker have been more meaningful and insightful. I have grown in ways that I never imagined possible, especially with a new understanding of the life and teachings of Jesus as they are revealed in *The Urantia Book*. I have come to believe that songs, when accepted as harmonious truth in action, can be transformative to the individual soul, and I am tremendously privileged to share my experience with others.

You can enjoy listening to these songs on truthbook.com. Just scroll down and find them under Artists Inspired by *The Urantia Book*.



Nashville, Tennessee

WHAT *THE URANTIA BOOK* MEANS TO ME



By Bob Solone, *Urantia Foundation, Illinois, United States*

In 1983, at the young age of 33, I was already a lifelong skeptic and truth seeker regarding any paranormal activities or supernatural claims. One day I was browsing through

an antique shop in Mauston, Wisconsin, when I saw it—the big blue book. There it was—no frills, no blurbs, no enticing dust jacket. Urantia? Huh? Foreign language?

Being an overly curious person, I took the book down off the shelf and began what turned out to be a lifelong study of truth. Recognizing from the get-go the dignity, straightforwardness, and spiritually uplifting nature of the text, I at once set out to plow through the entire 2097-page tome cover to cover with all the skepticism I could muster tucked neatly in my back pocket, thinking “I’ll find the flaws.”

Meanwhile, armed with a thousand and one questions, I visited Urantia Foundation, located right in my hometown, Chicago. I met the kind, down-to-earth, “normal” folks at 533 Diversey, some of whom had been with the Urantia Revelation since the 1930s. They convinced me that indeed, reading the whole book would help to allay my incessant questioning and skepticism.

Fast-forward to today, and I can say now with all surety what *The Urantia Book* means to me. After quenching my insatiable thirst for truth and clarity, and after witnessing the testimonials of hundreds of

readers while working in the Reader Services Department of Urantia Foundation, I can truly say that I am one of the few lucky humans of our generation to have brushed up against, embraced, and shared the divine truths within its pages.

Personally, with the help of these writings over four decades, I have grown and developed into a confident, calm, and patient human being. And, most importantly, my belief has evolved into faith.

What more can one ask for?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Summer Study Session 2025

The Urantia Book Fellowship Returns to Unity Village

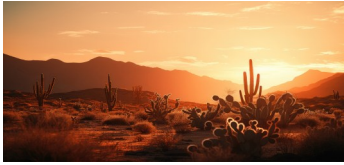
Wednesday, July 30–Saturday, August 2, 2025

The Fellowship’s Education Committee is pleased to announce that in 2025 the Summer Study Session will return to Unity Village, Kansas City, Missouri.



The theme is “Partnership with God: Day by Day.” The four-day gathering will allow for more unstructured time with a focus on humor. It’s where you’ll also find spiritual stimulation, group worship, and true fellowship.

[There is still time to register!](#)



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Expanding God's Presence in our Life

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Thursday evening, September 11 through Sunday, September 14, 2025

**A Sacred Gathering for Women Seeking to
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Urantia Foundation's Education Committee

Presents

Science Symposium IV: The Evolution of Human Knowledge—100 Years Later

Thursday, November 6–Saturday, November 8, 2025

More information will be made available closer to the event.