

Commentary:

The 2010 website goal will be exceeded. By year end, the website will be partially translated into thirteen languages with seven being almost complete. Fourteen translations of *The Urantia Book* will also be on display.

3. Safeguard the Text

Goals:

Create seven standardized and downloadable translations that comply with the standard referencing system. Place these html files on www.urantia.org so Urantia Foundation's translations are current, clean, and standardized.

Commentary:

This goal has been exceeded. The Foundation's website will have fourteen compliant translations completed in 2010. Of all the Foundation's website projects, the most important may be providing these high quality, digitally consistent, and readily available translations. Clean, standardized files, which are properly identified and referenced, provide the basis for translation revisions, topical studies, and consistent books in all digital formats.

4. Community Relations

Goals:

Increase goodwill and communications with Urantia Book readers and reader groups worldwide especially in Latin America.

Commentary:

- a. Fostering goodwill and cooperation with readers worldwide remains a top priority. Board members and staff attended many regional conferences this year and gave presentations about the work of Urantia Foundation. *Urantia Foundation's News Online* has been published twice this year with over seven thousand downloads per issue.
- b. Many groups are holding

multi-day meetings at the Foundation's headquarters in Chicago. This wonderful building, the birthplace of the Urantia Revelation, is becoming an increasingly important center for various groups working for the Urantia Book project.



533 by Stelios

5. Education:

Goals:

Inaugurate the new Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS) website and further the educational activities provided by, or coordinated with, Urantia Foundation.

Commentary:

- a. New software for UBIS was launched this past spring. Improvements are being made as teachers and students discover how the new software works and how to improve it.
- b. In June, the Education Committee held an Appreciative Inquiry session on study groups at the Foundation. Attendance exceeded twenty leaders consisting of people intent on running successful study groups. Urantia Foundation remains committed to the goal of having one thousand study groups by 2020, and we desire collaboration with individuals and organizations committed to study groups. Urantia Association International and the Urantia Book Fellowship have a number of significant projects underway to foster study groups, efforts which have the Foundation's full support.

6. Organizational Development

Goals:

Continue improving governance at Urantia Foundation: Board orientation, Board education, succession planning, and various other governance processes that improve Urantia Foundation's ability to serve the Urantia Book project and the community of readers.

Commentary:

The infrastructure for building an enduring and service-motivated organization continues to progress. Standing and special committees have become a strong working component of the Foundation. Largely due to the Governance Committee's work, 2010 will see a higher water mark in organizational integrity.

7. Financials

Goals:

Stay within the approved 2010 operating budget and increase donations by five percent.

Commentary:

Operating expenses in the first half of 2010 exceeded budget. Measures have been taken to reduce expenditures for the rest of the year. Donations have slightly increased this year, but by less than our goal. Urantia Foundation needs your support to fund translations, book sales and distribution, digital dissemination, UBIS, website improvement, and maintenance of the headquarters building in Chicago. Profits from book sales fund less than five percent of the Foundation's expenses. More than ninety-five percent of what it takes to run Urantia Foundation comes from contributions. Urantia Foundation relies on the reader community's generosity and financial support to make available *The Urantia Book* and its translations.

Urantia Foundation relies on the reader community's generosity and financial support to make available *The Urantia Book* and its translations.

NOTEWORTHY DECISIONS FROM THE JULY 2010 BOARD MEETING



By Marilyn Kulieke, Secretary, Urantia Foundation, Illinois, USA

Book Pricing for Library Placement and Outreach Initiatives

The Board voted in favor of pricing books for library placement and outreach initiatives according to the following formula: cost of the book times 1.3 plus shipping. Books, however, will not be sold for less than \$10 each. All orders must be prepaid, and buyers must agree not to resell the books to bookstores or on the internet. By using this formula, the Foundation will have enough money for the next print run, yet the price will be low enough to encourage readers to buy books for library placement and outreach initiatives. Outreach initiatives apply to book placement with readers

or study groups, in, for example, outback Brazil, where the book is not yet available through the normal channels of book distribution. For more information, please contact Urantia Foundation at urantia@urantia.org.

Google Ad Words

The Board voted in favor of testing Google ad words as a means to attract younger people to *The Urantia Book* and to the Foundation's website. Google ad words are those small links that appear on the right side of your computer screen when you Google something. For example, in this experiment you might Google the word "God" and have our sponsored link appear. If you click the link, it would take you to Paper 1. A small test will run in 2010, and, if successful, the test and budget may expand in 2011.

Translation Revisions

The Board voted in favor of accepting the recommendations of the Translation Committee:
1. Revisions and corrections of the Russian translation will commence immediately and will be completed before 2013.
2. The preliminary plan

(people, budgets, and schedule) for revising the Latin-American edition of the Spanish translation will be presented at the October 2010 Trustees meeting.

3. The Board encouraged the Manager of Translations to continue creating a policy for the translation and revision process. This process will provide quality control checks and balances during the long course of a translation and revision.

4. New translation software is in full development and should be completed by the end of 2010. Among its many capabilities, this software allows translations and revisions to be compared to the current version, the original English edition, and other translations. All changes will be saved for tracking purposes and later comparisons. It also provides consistency, quality control, ease of revision, and many more features.

Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS)

The Board appointed Georges Michelson-Dupont to be the next Executive Director of UBIS. Georges will assume this responsibility starting in October, 2010. Members of the Expanded

Board expressed their strong desire to see UBIS and other educational efforts flourish during the coming decades.

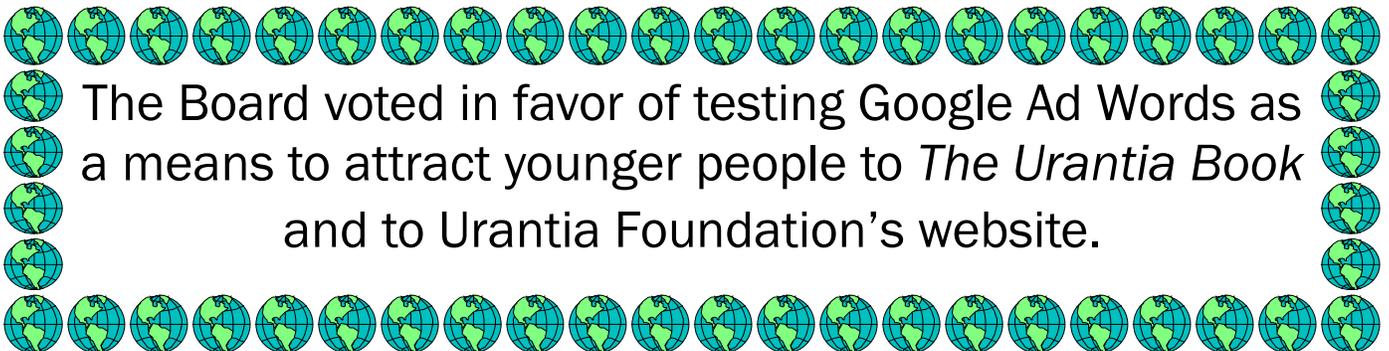
Future Meeting Dates:

- October 15-16, 2010 (Chicago, Illinois)
- January 14-15, 2010 (Dallas, Texas)
- April 15-16, 2011 (Chicago, Illinois)
- July 2011 (Chicago, Illinois)
- October 2011 (Paris, France)
- January 13-14, 2012 (Chicago, Illinois)
- April 13-14, 2012 (Chicago, Illinois)

Trustees: Gard Jameson, Richard Keeler, Marilyn Kulieke, Georges Michelson-Dupont, Henk Mylanus, Mo Siegel, and Judy Van Cleave.
Associate Trustees: Jan Bernard, Marta Elders, Merritt Horn, Irmeli Ivalo-Sjölie, Olga Lopez, Claire Mylanus, and Ralph Zehr

Executive Director: Jay Peregrine

Staff: Connie Gutierrez, Tamara Strumfeld, Marcel Urayeneza, and Mike Wood.



APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY FOR STUDY GROUPS



By Jeff Wattles, Ohio, USA

Two dozen study group enthusiasts gathered at Urantia Foundation on June 10-13 for an Appreciative Inquiry session to generate creative initiatives for study groups. Marta Elders led the proceedings, along with Bobbie Dreier and Jeff Wattles.

Appreciative Inquiry is a four-part process to help the creativity of a group by emphasizing the strengths and interests of the individuals involved. In the first phase, individuals in pairs interviewed each other on the basis of proposed questions broadly relevant to study groups. Having discovered some of each other's peak experiences and strengths, each partner presented his or her partner to the larger group. In the second phase, people reflected on and shared their ideals for study groups (we had groups present humorous skits). In the third phase, based on individuals' written statements of their dreams, a few different focuses were

distilled, and then people grouped themselves according to their chosen focus in order to design a project to make their shared dream a reality. In the fourth phase, people made commitments to begin their work to actualize the project they had cooperatively designed. Given the time we had—and the time that our busy participants have generally—it was the group on technology that led the way with projects to accomplish for this fall, while other groups tended to pool their wisdom for the health of study groups.

Here are a few of these findings. Silent communion for five minutes at the beginning and the end of the meeting proves very helpful to the tone of the meeting and the socializing that follows. Loving service includes providing a place to meet that

feels safe and secure. In reaching out to youth, be aware of their accelerated processing of inputs (and shorter attention spans). Promote the expectation that study group members should eventually start their own study group. Discuss your study group mission to refresh motivation toward shared goals (unity, not uniformity). Readers can present a section of the Paper to be studied: Make a presentation, ask questions, or refer to passages elsewhere in the book. Co-leaders—steadfast stabilizers—are also important. For transformation, let each person select a quotation from each study session to put into practice—and report to the group the following meeting.

Ongoing projects include Urantia Association International's Leadership Symposium next July and Kathy

Wanenmaker's UAUS project (volunteers, please) to visit every study group and cultivate relationships with each member.

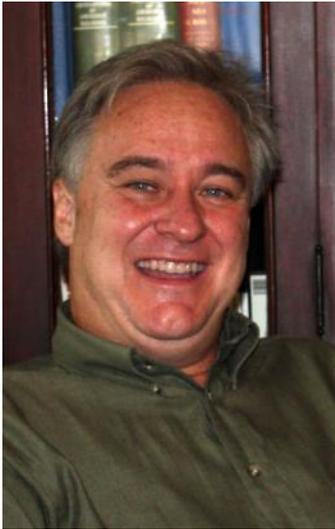
The participants were Vicki and Bob Arkens, Bill and Share Beasley, Robert Burns, Linda and Bob Buselli, John Causland, Ann Garner, Tim Hobbs, Nathen Jansen, Robin Jorgensen, Ken Keyser, Chris Lepine, Maurice Migneault, L.P., Aaron Rogers, David Spicer, Phil Taylor, Kathy Wanenmaker, Mike Wood, and Seth Wood.

For a copy of the handouts on small group process, study, teaching, and leadership, write to jwattles@kent.edu.



5th row: Robert Burns, Bob Buselli, Kathy Wanenmaker, John Causland
4th row: Phil Taylor, Aaron Rogers, Bill Beasley
3rd row: Mike Wood, Share Beasley, L.P., Maurice Migneault, Chris Lepine, Marta Elders, Bob Arkens
2nd row: Jeff Wattles, Ann Garner, Robin Jorgensen, David Spicer
1st row: Bobbie Drier, Ken Keyser, Vicki Arkens, Nathen Jansen, James Woodward, Linda Buselli, Hagiko Wattles

STUDY GROUPS: NEW THOUGHTS FROM AN OLD READER



By Mike Wood, Urantia Foundation, Illinois, USA

I found *The Urantia Book* in the early 1970s and have been attending and hosting study groups since the late 1970s. Early on, I found that hosting a study group became the highlight of my week. After hosting a couple of small study groups in less populated areas, I moved to the greater Kansas City area in 1986 and started hosting a study group in Overland Park, Kansas. It still continues to this day. That group took on a life of its own and quickly became one of the great joys of my life. For more than 20 years my study group has brought me joy, friendship, and spiritual fulfillment on a level that few other things in my life can match. And that alone is a great reason for anyone to consider hosting a study group. But in more recent times, I have found an even better and perhaps more important reason to host a study group: service.

In March of 2009, I moved to Chicago to work at Urantia Foundation. Among the first tasks I was given to do was Reader Services. Nearly every day I read and answer letters, emails, and phone calls from readers around the world. There is also another very

important part of Reader Services involving referrals. Urantia Foundation maintains a worldwide database of both study groups and individuals who have given us permission to share their contact information (phone number and email address only) with other interested readers. One of the great pleasures of my job is speaking with a new reader who is "on fire" with the excitement they experience when they begin to realize what they have in their possession. And that great pleasure is increased when I am able to tell them that someone in their neighborhood hosts a study group for students of *The Urantia Book*. But all too often I have to tell them that there are not any listings of study groups in their area.

Jesus taught that religion, in its highest form, is a personal experience—a relationship between creature and Creator. Consequently, the Urantia Movement doesn't have physical churches, a clergy, or any other type of infrastructure that easily brings new readers into

contact with other like-minded individuals. In the end, the only thing that we really have to perform this vital function is study groups. But from my perspective, there are not nearly enough study groups.

For every referral request that I can respond to with an active study group, I have five responses with a letter that begins with the words "I am sorry, but I was not able to find a study group in your area." So, when someone asks me what they can do to serve the Urantia Revelation, I ask them, "Do you host a study group or actively support someone who does?" If their answer is "yes," I say, "Thank you very much!" But if their answer is "no," I encourage them to start a study group, not only for the joy and satisfaction it will bring them personally, but also as a service to those readers who are dying to talk to someone about the most incredible book they have ever come across in their life.

If you are not quite sure how to start a study group, call or

email me, and I will gladly give you a few ideas and a list of referrals in your area who might be interested in attending. If you do host a study group or are available to talk to interested readers in your neighborhood, please contact Urantia Foundation to make sure your contact information is correct. My email address is mwood@urantia.org or call 773-525-3319 during business hours (M/F- 9/5).

In an article entitled *The Timing of The Urantia Book*, Bill Sadler Jr. quotes "certain wise comments and advices."

"You must learn to possess your souls in patience. You are in association with a revelation of truth which is a part of the natural evolution of religion on this world. Over rapid growth would be suicidal. The book is being given to those who are ready for it long before the day of its world-wide mission. Thousands of study groups must be brought into existence and the book must be translated into many tongues. Thus will the book be in readiness when the battle for man's liberty is finally won and the world is once more made safe for the religion of Jesus and the freedom of mankind."

Much like the journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step, thousands of study groups will be brought into existence one study group at a time. Have you started yours yet?"

If you are not quite sure how to start a study group, call or email me.



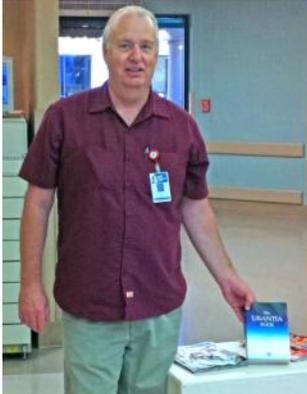
Tuesday night study group at 533

Back row: David Browe, Mike Wood, Sarah, Svetlana Lambrino, Brad Hanson-Smith, Wanda, and Angelique

Front row: Bill Martin

Photo by James Woodward

A FOLLOW UP TO PLACING URANTIA BOOKS IN ALTERNATIVE LIBRARIES



By Aaron Rutan, Arizona, USA

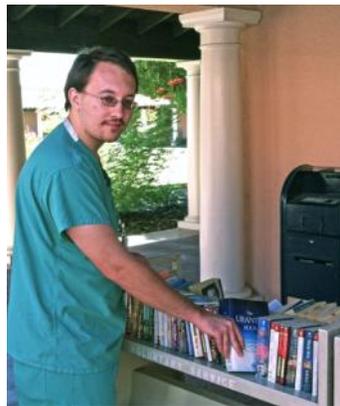
Life in the kingdom is so great. The spread of this restatement of the gospel and the life and teachings of Jesus has become a passion of mine for the last five years. It has been a journey with ups and downs, excitement, adventure, and downright fun.

For anyone who is deciding to place books in "alternative libraries," here are a few tips from a fellow reader:

1. Have a map of your area. or use your car's navigation device, and mark out all the places or targets where you want to place a book. Make it easy on yourself and choose targets near your place of work so it's not too far out of the way. I work at a Veterans Affairs Hospital and have found that waiting rooms are great for placing a book because the people there are looking for something to read.

2. Take nothing personally. Set aside all your fears about whether the books will be read, about who is going to find them, or about who

might see you doing it. **JUST GET THE BOOKS OUT!** "Unreasoned fear is a master intellectual fraud practiced upon the evolving mortal soul." (556.4) 48:7.4. Remember, we have the greatest revelation to hit this planet since the Master himself was here, and we have the entire spiritual hierarchy helping. They just need our arms and legs. So try not to over think it. Just do it.



Shane Wittington

3. Enlist help. Be an active recruiter for the cause. Teamwork is the key to success in any long-term endeavor. So find someone to help you with this project. It took me two years to find another laborer for the fields, but if you're sincere in getting this revelation to the people, then with a little prayer and friendliness, the Son's celestial team will bring you a companion. Mine is a great guy named Shane Wittington, and he is twenty-three and an enthusiastic worker for the kingdom. He has been reading *The Urantia Book* for about eight months. First, I befriended Shane. Then I introduced him to the revelation. Next I talked him into studying at my house, and all the while I was steadily placing books. After four months, he told me he had

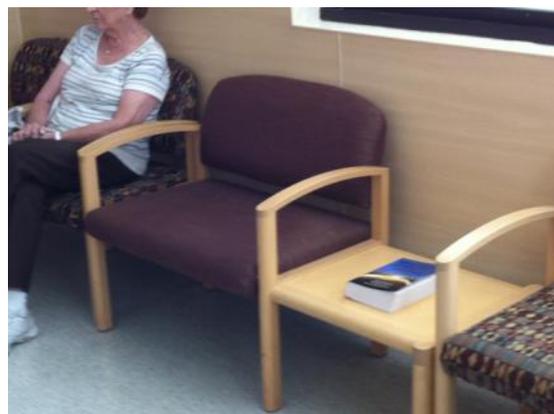
given his book away to his cousin's husband. I immediately gave him two more and said, "Try to keep one for yourself this time." He promptly gave away another book to his step-father. When he showed up to study, I asked him how he felt. Of course he was excited!

4. Stay positive. "The weak indulge in resolutions, but the strong act. Life is but a day's work—do it well. The act is ours; the consequences God's." (556.13) 48:7.13. "Impatience is a spirit poison." (577.4) 48:7.20. So take your time, and in a couple of years you will be surprised how much you will have accomplished. You really do not have to talk to anybody about *The Urantia Book* when you do it this way. Remember that the sower was not an agronomist or a horticulturalist either. He threw his seed on rocky ground and on fertile soil. It is just our job to get the books out so other men and women can find their way to the truth. I had the greatest thing said to me by a man at work the other day when he said that his wife had found *The Urantia Book* in the waiting room, and they both started reading it. He went on to say that I was really going about it the right way because, if someone had come up to him

and tried to tell him about it, he would have blown them off. But this way, a person could find it *on their own* and make up their mind without someone shoving it down their throat.

5. No pamphlets if you can help it. Most people will look at them briefly and then throw them away. Pamphlets just link *The Urantia Book* to other mainstream religious organizations which use tracts to browbeat potential kingdom believers. That leaves a bad taste in their mouths. Remember to be as wise as serpents and as harmless as doves.

6. Keep your eyes open. Whenever I travel anywhere, I am always on the lookout for new places to place books. This is something that really has not been pursued at all, and most people will be surprised to see a nice hard cover Urantia Book in some of these out of the way places. Their Thought Adjusters are hoping they can catch their subjects off guard like this. Enjoy, and remember, each of us can make a difference if we will just get out and do it!



COMMENTS FROM READERS OF *THE URANTIA BOOK*

For many years I searched high and low for the truth. My mother gave me *The Urantia Book*, and one day I opened it to a random page that discussed a particular question I had been wrestling with. I was very excited because the answer made logical sense. Although I remained skeptical about its origin, I decided to read it as a fiction book to see if I could gain a few pearls of wisdom. Soon I could not put it down, and I ravenously devoured every word. I kept looking for the part that did not make sense, but I never found it!

The Urantia Book means everything to me! It has changed my life. I had a very dreary outlook on life and not much hope for the future. Now life has meaning. Knowing that there is a God who lives this life with me, in fact in me, is comfort beyond expression! Knowing the truth about what Jesus went through gives me an inner strength that could not come from any worldly source. I owe everything to this revelation, and my greatest desire is to share it with others. Truth is truth, and when you hear it, it rings so deep within your being that its source is entirely irrelevant. Thank you Foundation. I am at your service.

Mahalo and Aloha

Mike B, Hawaii, USA



In this world
The Urantia Book reveals
that we are a human
family and sons of God.
By doing God's will we
can hope for future worlds
through loving service.
The liberating truth of
The Urantia Book is a
life-enhancing and an all
encompassing inspiration
that points the direction to
the Universal Father.

Brad R, California, USA

The book "Urantia" has answers to questions that I thought would never be answered. This book is wonderful and so full of good news. The answers to my questions, I know in my heart, are right. What wonderful times lie before us in the after life.

Marlina B, California, USA

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**Between the time of
planetary death...
and resurrection...
mortal man gains
absolutely nothing
aside from
experiencing the fact
of survival. You
begin over there
right where you
leave off down here.**

The Urantia Book,
(533.5) 47:3.7.