



URANTIA FOUNDATION'S NEWS ONLINE

A SEASON OF GRATITUDE AND A TIME FOR GENEROSITY

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

"Urantia is now quivering on the very brink of one of its most amazing and enthralling epochs of social readjustment, moral quickening, and spiritual enlightenment." (2082.7) 195:9.2

During certain years or decades of the twentieth century, wars and economic turmoil made it feel as though retrograde evolution had set in. Yet, if you look at the trends over the last 50 to 100 years, progress is observable on virtually every front. The glorious and progressive hand of the Supreme can be seen uplifting our planet. We are not going backwards! On the contrary, we are moving forward at an unprecedented speed compared to the million-year history of humankind.

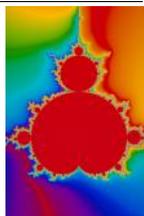
Consider the following material changes since 1955. In "2005, compared with 1955, the average human being on Planet Earth earned nearly three times as much money (corrected for inflation), ate one-third more calories of food, buried one-third as many of her children and could expect to live one-third longer. She is less likely to die as a result of war, murder, childbirth, accidents, tornadoes, flooding, famine, whooping cough, tuberculosis, malaria, diphtheria, typhus, typhoid, measles, smallpox, scurvy or polio. She was less likely, at any given age, to get cancer, heart disease, or stroke. She was more likely to be literate and have finished school. She was more likely to own a telephone, a flush toilet, a refrigerator, and a bike. All this during a half-century when the world population more than doubled..."

(Matt Ridley in his book *The Rational Optimist*)

The number of countries functioning as a democracy has grown from 30 countries in 1974 to 117 countries in 2011. World literacy has doubled between 1970 and 2010. At the end of November 2011, there were 5.3 billion mobile subscribers (that's over 77 percent of the world's population) using cell phones. We are living in the most abundant and technologically advanced society ever seen on Urantia.

Of all the spectacular advances in the twentieth century, the biggest jump forward was when the universe government, for the fifth epochal time in world history, stepped into the affairs of humankind. The world needed a new spiritual vision commensurate with the unprecedented advances in living standards and scientific discoveries. A new morality, based on recognition of our heavenly Father and the corresponding responsibilities toward the family of man, needed to emerge. The revelators knew that positive material changes were on their way, and that society required enhanced spiritual values and ethics to cope with the dramatic changes. "The higher a civilization climbs, the more necessitous becomes the duty to 'seek first the realities of heaven,' in all of man's efforts to stabilize society and facilitate the solution of its material problems." (2075.4) 195:5.1

"Our unseen friends planned and created *The Urantia Book* anticipating that science would, in many ways, free humankind."



The Mandelbrot Set

Thus our unseen friends planned and created *The Urantia Book* anticipating that science would, in many ways, free humankind. They also understood that the scientific secularist revolt could crumble ecclesiastical authority while materially enslaving humankind if we lost sight of a personal God. So they provided us a book filled with God, hope, love, truth, beauty, goodness, and a better way of living.

You and I are some of the first people to read and treasure this new revelation. We are blessed to have the teachings of *The Urantia Book* in our minds and souls. Imagine your life if you didn't know about Thought Adjusters and the mansion worlds. However it happened, be it good luck or the reward of a long, diligent search, you discovered a book that explains Paradise, a friendly and inhabited cosmos, eternal life, and so much more! You found a book that

answered questions about inhabited planets and dinosaurs within the same text that tells the thrilling story of our Creator Son coming to earth and living as Jesus of Nazareth. Plain and simple, you won the truth lottery. Future generations will look back at you with longing curiosity about what it must have been like being the first people on Urantia to discover this revelation.

Much has been given to us, and much shall be expected. The saving truths in the book are the pearls of great price, worth every bit of love and energy we can muster for this cause. The saving power of *The Urantia Book* is like a life jacket tossed to a struggling swimmer. In this case and at this moment, we are holding the life jacket.

These are thrilling times; these are the days to remember. "The call to the adventure of building a new and transformed human

society by means of the spiritual rebirth of Jesus' brotherhood of the kingdom should thrill all who believe in him as men have not been stirred since the days when they walked about on earth as his companions in the flesh." (2084.6) 195:10.6

So please, in this holiday season, dig deep and give all you can to this revelation. Be big hearted to the various groups moving this spiritual project forward. At Urantia Foundation, we need your financial help to publish, translate, and distribute the book, and to educate people about its teachings. Your generous gift makes a difference in advancing the spiritual life on this world. When you get to the mansion worlds you won't miss the money and you'll be mighty grateful you gave while on earth. So please join us in seeding *The Urantia Book* and its teachings throughout the world.

May your holiday season be filled with the joy of selfless giving to those around you. As expressed so eloquently by Mother Teresa, "Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier."



NOTEWORTHY DECISIONS FROM THE OCTOBER 2011 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

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

Decisions

1. Year-end Matching Fund Raiser

The annual year-end Urantia Foundation Fundraiser has begun. Five individuals have donated \$150,000 to the matching fund. So far \$63,000 has been raised. That means we need another \$87,000 to utilize the match. This year-end fundraiser is critical to the Foundation's operations because it is the largest fundraiser we conduct each year.

2. 2012 Budget

The Board approved the 2012 budget. This budget calls for no increase in spending over the 2010 and 2011 budgets. With such uncertainty in the world economy, the Board took a conservative position for 2012. The Foundation's annual operating expenses total about \$800,000.

3. 2012 Fund Raising

The Board approved the following three major fundraising initiatives for 2012 and thereafter.

- *533 W Diversey Building Restoration Fund:* The Board approved the next stage of

renovation to Urantia Foundation headquarters at 533 W Diversey Parkway. In October the restoration of three bathrooms on the second floor was completed. Now serious plumbing and bathroom problems have arisen on the first floor. The Board approved the renovation of the two bathrooms and kitchen.

Approximately \$175,000 has been raised toward the needed \$400,000 to complete the renovation. Your tax deductible donations, earmarked for the 533 Building Renovation Project, are greatly needed. To complete

the first floor bathrooms and kitchen, we need an additional \$45,000 before year end.

- *Chinese Translation Fund and French, Spanish and Portuguese Revision Funds:* The first draft of the Chinese translation has been completed and, to a certain extent, revised, but it needs extensive review and revision before it is

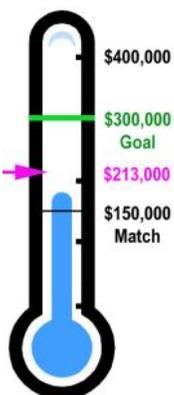




ready for publication. Our team is committed to completing an excellent Chinese translation within the next five years.

Teams are working on the revisions of the Spanish and Portuguese translations, and completion for both is anticipated in five to seven years. The French revision is underway and should be completed within the next two years.

To complete the Chinese translation and the revision of the Spanish and Portuguese translations, Urantia Foundation needs to raise at least \$300,000. Revisions, and especially translations, can be costly, not to mention the costs of distribution. Your tax deductible donations marked for translations are needed and greatly appreciated.



- **The General Fund:** this fund is used to pay for book printings, book distribution, salaries, and education.

4. New English LeatherSoft™ Urantia Books for Christmas
The Board viewed the two

versions of the new LeatherSoft™ edition of *The Urantia Book*. The elegant covers in combination with thinner, more opaque paper and state-of-the-art printing and layout make this as fine a book as the Foundation has ever printed. While being thin and light weight, this Standard Reference Text edition also features a ribbon, gold-gilded edges, and paper that almost eliminates bleed through type.

These books will make wonderful gifts for the holiday season. Between now and December 18, you may buy the books for \$24.95 each plus shipping compared to the normal price of \$39.95. Study groups listed in the Urantia Book Study Group Portal may buy five books for \$99.88 plus shipping. This price is a 50% discount. [Click here to purchase.](#)

If your study group is not listed in the Urantia Book Study Group Portal, please sign up now at <http://urantiastudygroup.org>.

5. Translations: The Board approved the following resolutions regarding the translation work

- *Resolution Regarding Website Revisions*

For many reasons, there is a need to have one master database for the most current revisions of a translation. Therefore the Board resolved that all translations and revisions are done using Urantia Foundation's Translation website. Individuals willing to translate *The Urantia Book* or revise an existing translation are directed to the Manager of Translations to implement this policy.

- *Resolution Regarding a Hebrew Translation*

The Board authorized the Manager of Translations to review a proposal recently submitted to Urantia Foundation regarding a Hebrew translation.

- *Resolution Regarding the Chinese Translation*

Because the Chinese translation of *The Urantia Book* is a high priority for Urantia Foundation, the Board authorized the Manager of Translations to finalize a contract with the Chinese revisers.

6. Governance and Nominations Committee

The Board voted to expand the duties of the Governance Committee to include nominations to the Board. The new committee will be named the Governance and Nominations Committee.

7. Historical Archive Project

The Board voted to establish an archive of information on the history of *The Urantia Book*.

8. Book Sales Information Program

Due to the global expansion of Urantia Book distribution, the

increased need for data and the changing complexity of the world book industry, the Board appointed Irmeli Ivalo-Sjölie to test an information gathering program. Irmeli will organize a group of volunteers in Europe and Brazil to visit book stores and report back on the availability and pricing of *The Urantia Book* in their countries.

9. Electronic Management Committee

The Board approved the establishment of this committee to do the following:

- Maintain Urantia Foundation's translation website.
- Develop, maintain and update all electronic files concerning *The Urantia Book* and its translations.
- Develop a strategy pertaining to electronic file security.
- Adapt *The Urantia Book* and its translations to new media.
- Develop presence and visibility of Urantia Foundation in the electronic world.

The Electronic Management Committee is chaired by Georges Michelson-Dupont and its members include: Jay Peregrine, Rogerio Da Silva, and Rob Reno.

10. Education Committee

The role of education in the work of Urantia Foundation continues to increase in importance. The Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS) now offers courses in

English and Spanish and will begin offering courses in Portuguese next year. The history project, educational seminars, and other educational programs are gaining momentum. Urantia Foundation is slowly but

steadily becoming an educational institution.

Conclusion

Forward progress on most initiatives continues with vigor at Urantia Foundation. With book

sales growing in 2011 and internet downloads exceeding book sales by six to one, the work and opportunities for service are ever expanding. Thanks to the efforts of so many readers, the Urantia Revelation keeps seeding cultures throughout the world.

The Trustees, expanded board, and staff at Urantia Foundation wish you the happiest of holidays and a new year that is blessed by the love of our Father.

FAST START FOR URANTIA BOOK STUDY GROUP PORTAL – TRI-PARTISAN SUPPORT TEAM FORMED



By James Woodward, Team Captain, Placerville, California, USA

In only a few short months students of *The Urantia Book* worldwide have embraced the new Study Group Portal. Readers now have online access to over 200 study groups in 24 nations!

The Urantia Book Study Group Portal was designed to provide the community of Urantia Book readers with a new resource by consolidating all active Urantia Book study groups. Heartily supported by Urantia Foundation, The Urantia Book Fellowship, and Urantia Association International, this joint project exhibits a unity of purpose in the development of study groups for all readers of *The Urantia Book*.

Featuring an easy-to-use interface, the Study Group Portal is a web-based

directory and resource center for study groups where hosts create a profile to share details about their local meetings. This voluntary approach to listing and managing data improves upon previous publishing methods as contact information, meeting times, meeting format, and current topics can now be updated as the group evolves, at the convenience of the host — *virtually anytime*.

Currently the website is available in English and French with translations in other languages coming soon. The Urantia Study Group Portal is designed to recognize the native language of the visitor and will automatically display it if that language is available.

In recognizing the need to support and administer this new resource, all three sponsors have provided members to serve on the Portal Support Team.

Representing Urantia Foundation:

- ◇ Marta Elders
- ◇ Tamara Strumfeld

Representing The Urantia Book Fellowship:

- ◇ Emilio Coppola
- ◇ Lenny Cowles
- ◇ John Hales

Representing Urantia Association International:

- ◇ Scott Brooks

- ◇ Caio Donega
- ◇ James Woodward, *Team Captain*

Ex-officio members include the presidents of each organization:

- ◇ Gaetan Charland, *President, Urantia Association International*
- ◇ Michelle Klimesh, *President, The Urantia Book Fellowship*
- ◇ Mo Siegel, *President, Urantia Foundation*

The team recently participated in a conference call and made some key decisions regarding the group process and the operation of the Portal. Perhaps most important was the decision to work in consensus on policy matters, reflecting a commitment that the service of readers transcends the interests of organizations. Now that a representative team has been formed, issues related to improving the scope and function of the portal can be addressed and implemented.

The support team is well aware of the historic implications and

opportunities of this first tri-partisan working group of the three major Urantia Book organizations. Publicizing the important role of study groups in the evolution of our reader community is one of the tasks of the Portal Support Team.

Please join us in our enthusiasm for the promotion of study groups all over Urantia and feel free to repost this announcement to any forum or Urantia Book communication medium. If you host a study group and wish to attract readers, visit the website now and create a profile. Join the growing network of study groups!

<http://urantiastudygroup.org>

Wishing everyone a joyous holiday season and good reading.



Emilio Coppola & Lenny Cowles

THE REWARDS OF BEING A TEACHER/FACILITATOR FOR UBIS



By David Elders, Darien, Connecticut, USA

Even after taking three Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS) online courses followed by a teacher/facilitator training course administered by Dorothy Elder, a founder of UBIS, and despite my having read and studied *The Urantia Book* for more than 40 years, it was not without a large helping of trepidation that I agreed to teach my first course.

As I began to develop the course, *Michael's Seven Bestowals: Revealing the Will of the Supreme*, I learned that a teacher/facilitator is not left alone to sink or swim. Unseen just beneath the surface of the UBIS online school, a structure of experienced and thoughtful personalities, systems, and procedures has been built to assist the teacher/facilitator, whether a first-timer or an old hand,

to provide a course experience of value for readers of *The Urantia Book*.

A UBIS course is 11 weeks long, broken down into registration followed by four basic two-week study periods and ending with a summary week. Each teacher/facilitator develops six questions based on *The Urantia Book* paper assignment for the first week of each study period and then facilitates and stimulates student discussion the second week of each period. Finally the course ends with the creation of four essay titles during the summary week.

Nearly three months before a course begins the Curriculum Review Committee evaluates the teacher/facilitator course elements—course description, selected readings in *The Urantia Book* (4-5 Papers), and initial questions—and makes appropriate suggestions. Even after my course was approved I worked to fine-tune my questions fueled by the anxious desire to offer an edifying course.

Teaching a course seems like a lot of work, and it is. But my recent experience confirms the

ample rewards that accompany the work. Not only is there great satisfaction in the process of facilitating the search for truth by a dedicated group of fellow readers of *The Urantia Book*; even more, I found I learned a lot, A LOT, about the content of my course.

Questions are a vital part of UBIS educational pedagogy, and in my view, are designed to meet several criteria: 1) to encourage a careful reading of the selections from *The Urantia Book*; 2) to satisfy the need for a multi-dimensional mindal challenge (I used fact, meaning, and value as a guide); and 3) to stimulate discussion. The balance is delicate. Whereas strictly factual questions generate true or false answers, questions demanding more interpretive or personal responses can result in opinions that may not be consistent with the teachings of *The Urantia Book*. When that happens, an important UBIS guiding principle comes into play—the teacher/facilitator fosters discussion to reach understanding without offering an

authoritative or personal interpretation.

At the end of my first teacher/facilitator experience, there is at least one lingering question: Is there a difference in the process of facilitating the learning of newly revealed truth versus the teaching of evolutionary knowledge already in human consciousness? I'll have to get back to you on that one.

The students in my class rose to the occasion and contributed insights that enriched the course for all of us. At the same time they provided me with actual teacher/facilitator experience that I hope will make me better at it the next time. In any case, for me, the entire experience was well worth it.



REPORT ON THE KICKOFF MEETING FOR THE REVISION OF THE PORTUGUESE TRANSLATION



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

From September 30 to October 4, the first meeting of the Portuguese Revision Team was held in São Paulo, Brazil. Present were team members Susana Hüttner Palaia, Carlos Leite da Silva, and Caio Mario Caffee. Ricardo Machado

was unable to attend. Also present were Trustees Richard Keeler and I, the Manager of Translations and the chair of the Translation Committee. The meeting was held at the home of Susana.

Attendees introduced themselves and then had a discussion about the

Portuguese language and the cultural differences between Portugal and Brazil. Portuguese is spoken in Brazil, Portugal, certain countries in Africa and Asia, and Macao. Portuguese is the sixth most spoken language in the world with 240 million speakers. The population of Brazil is 192 million, and the population of Portugal is 10



Richard Keeler, Carlos Leite da Silva, Nemias Mol, Ligia Zotini, Georges Michelson-Dupont, Susana Hüttner

- Ambiguities and difficulties. Using a word in the plural instead of the singular is an example. Another is the meaning of “actual” and “potential” which can change depending on the context. “Unqualified” used in conjunction with something that is not on an absolute level is another example.

- Missing or added words. In some translations, words are added or are often missing. Translators and revisers must remember that the authors were very precise and specific in their word choice and use of the English language.

million. Certain words spoken in Portugal are unknown in Brazil and vice versa. Or the same words may have different meanings in the two countries. Therefore, a simplification of the Portuguese language was conducted and adopted in 2009 by the Portuguese Language Academy.

The team was organized according to the strengths of each member. Caio is the chief reviser who is responsible for the quality, consistency, and schedule of the revision. All other team members agreed to work according to the key criteria outlined in a document distributed before the meeting commenced. It is expected that each person will contribute to the rendering of an excellent final text by bringing their unique perspectives and talents, good will, wisdom, and team spirit to the table. Group wisdom and team effort are crucial to the success of this endeavor.

We discussed and agreed that a good translation or revision should reflect the following criteria:

- True to the original English text, that is,

an accurate expression of the words, thoughts, and ideas of the authors.

- The clarity of their writings and presentation to the human mind.

- The coherence in the utilization of proper names and specific words.

- The quality of the style.

- The proper utilization of typography, punctuation, syntax and grammar rules. (The Chicago Manual of Style [ISBN 0-226-10390-0] was used as a reference for the first printing of *The Urantia Book*.)

A revision of a translation of *The Urantia Book* is a difficult task requiring multiple skills that are not easy to gather in one team. The work must concentrate on two aspects:

1. A careful checking of how the translator translated the content of the English text.

2. A careful revision of the style. The revision should exhibit a coherence of the syntax and the proper utilization of the Portuguese

typographical rules, including italics and capitalization which might be different from the English language.

The following points regarding revision of the Portuguese translation were discussed:

- Faithfulness to the concepts described in the English text. This requires a good understanding of the concepts and doctrines of *The Urantia Book* along with a mastery of the English language.

- Accuracy and exactness of the Portuguese vocabulary. Has an English sentence been fully and correctly translated? Choosing the wrong article (masculine when it should be feminine, for example), could completely change the meaning of an idea.

- Consistency and correctness in the translation of proper names and specific words. This aspect of a translation or revision should be carefully checked and corrected.

The revisers will use Urantia Foundation’s Translation website. This website has been designed to offer translators and revisers a safe and efficient environment with many beneficial features to produce and revise translations.

The meeting was very positive and productive. The members of the revision team are enthusiastic and determined to produce an excellent quality translation for the Portuguese speaking peoples of our world.



Caio Mario Caffee, Susana Hüttner Palaia, Carlos Leite da Silva

DAS URANTIA BUCH PRESENTED AT THE BOOK FAIR IN RASATT, GERMANY



Editor's Note: Iremli Ivalo-Sjölie and Werner Sutter hosted a booth at the book fair in Rasatt, Germany this past October.

Many German readers assisted them in the booth, presented Das Urantia Buch to the visitors, and engaged in meaningful discussions about the book's teachings.

The audio version of the German translation was also available.

It was an enjoyable experience for all.

THE SIEGELS VISIT SWEDEN, ESTONIA, RUSSIA, AND FINLAND IN JUNE, 2011

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

SWEDEN



Meeting with Swedish Readers

My wife, Jennifer, and I visited with Mike Maclsaac and three other Swedish readers of *The Urantia Book*. Mike has been annually attending a new age book fair to promote the book. Since the publication of *Urantiaboken*, the book is available in Sweden, Swedish-speaking bookstores in

Finland, and at least a dozen online retail outlets.

There are about 25 readers of *The Urantia Book* that have made contact with the social group. Only eight of the twenty five are Swedish. There is one study group that meets twice a month.



ESTONIA



Mo Siegel, Karmo Kalda, Peep Sõber

We met with Peep Sõber and Karmo Kalda, President of the Estonian Association of Urantia Association International. Since the publication of *Urantia Raamat*, 309 books have been sold. Although the number one way to find the book is via the internet, half of the bookstores within the

four largest cities have the book on the shelf.

There are two active study groups in Estonia that meet regularly. One meets monthly with ten to twenty attendees, and the other meets weekly with five to ten attendees.

RUSSIA



Meeting with Amrita-Rus

We met with Vyacheslav Mokhovikov, President of Amrita-Rus, the current distributor of the Russian translation, which is in its fourth printing. Vyacheslav has read the book in its entirety and understands its importance.

Sales of the Russian translation have dramatically declined in the past few years. The economy of Russia went into a steep decline in 2008. Vyacheslav reports that now is a difficult time to sell big and expensive books. He does recommend that the Russian translation be printed with the new cover.

A social gathering with readers of *The Urantia Book* was planned by Vitaly Kondratjev. The location of the meeting was something out of the movies. The room was located off a dark and remote courtyard which took 15 minutes to find once we

arrived at the address. While Russia has dramatically advanced since the breakup of the former Soviet Union, it remains a somewhat Byzantine empire compared to the West.

It is difficult to express in words my feelings about meeting with the Russian readers. To see the joy in their faces because they know about Havona, that they dream of a better life, that they read stories of Michael of Nebadon and know the Father first hand is amazing. It makes all of our work and financial expenditures worthwhile. Just imagine how our unseen supervisors watch over the Urantia Revelation's progress in Russia. We are not alone in this mission, and in many ways, efforts to build a spiritual foundation for a safer world require a permanent transformation of religious freedom in Russia.



Gathering with Russian Readers

FINLAND



Gathering with Finnish Readers

We met with Kalevi Eklof, the office manager of Urantia Foundation's Finnish Office, and his wife. They took us to a café for a social gathering with Finnish readers including Joel Rehnström, the translator of the Swedish Urantia Book, *Urantiaboken*. It was a lovely time, but the group expressed some concerns about the future. The community of readers is old, and very few young people read the book or associate with other readers.

Approximately 7000 Urantia Books have been sold in Finland. Sales are at a fraction of their former numbers, and the book design needs adjustments to remain viable in this market.

The book is stocked in about 15-20 book stores throughout the country, and the price varies from 25 euros to 40 euros.



Joel R, Mo Siegel



Kalevi Eklof, Mo Siegel



Meeting with Vitaly Kondratjev

CENTERING PRAYER RETREAT IN BRITTANY, FRANCE



By Claire Mylanus,
Associate Trustee, Brittany,
France

About a year ago, I asked Gard Jameson to facilitate a week-long retreat on prayer and worship because I wanted to personally experience worship. I knew that he was capable of doing so because he has his Ph.D. in Comparative Religions, and he teaches at the University of Las Vegas. Gard decided to come to Brittany. He recommended that the retreat participants be English speaking, and he suggested that they be younger readers, preferably potential teachers, between 30 and 40 years of age. The retreat attendees consisted of ten persons: three French persons, one French woman living in the Netherlands, one Mexican man, one English woman, and four

persons from the United States.

Each day Gard provided us with a different speaker, and each day Gard led us in the practice of "Centering Prayer."

Centering Prayer evolved from a discipline practiced by Cistercian monks and was named and popularized by Father Thomas Keating who wrote "Open Mind, Open Heart." The goal of Centering Prayer is silence, which helps one to communicate more deeply and personally with God and to experience His presence. Centering Prayer is done in silence during sessions of 20 minutes and is personal and different for everyone. This personal communion results in healing emotional issues and in growing the soul because it works at the level of the soul. We have vertical and horizontal relationships. With God we have a vertical relationship, which manifests itself as enhanced capacity to love and to be loved. With others we have a horizontal-social relationship, which involves, among other things, the ministry of forgiveness and service.

It seems to me that Centering Prayer could be compared to worship. God exists behind our thoughts and feelings. Centering Prayer increases our

capacity to receive God's divine presence and to appreciate His nearness.

"Jesus taught his followers that, when they had made their prayers to the Father, they should remain for a time in silent receptivity to afford the indwelling spirit the better opportunity to speak to the listening soul. The spirit of the Father speaks best to man when the human mind is in an attitude of true worship." (1641.1) 146:2.17

On the second day of the retreat, David Elders, who has been reading *The Urantia Book* for more than thirty years, dynamically illustrated the new teachings and concepts in *The Urantia Book*. David showed us how these new concepts are a way for us to learn, to perceive truth, and to experience it in our lives.

Dr. Sadler found 64 new concepts, a few of which we studied. To become cognizant of and to understand these concepts provides a larger framework that enables us to expand our perspective and to see and understand the vision and the plan behind the Urantia Revelation.

We learned that God shares, gives us the tools, and provides us with a means to grow and advance. All new truths evolve from old ones. A number of these new truths contain the potential to enhance our spiritual insight. These include truths related to such topics as: personality bestowal, Thought Adjuster bestowal, mind, the Supreme, the soul, personality survival, and the identity of Jesus.

On the third day of the retreat, Marta Elders, a long-

time reader and a clinical psychologist, led us in a study of the soul. We paired off with one other person and participated in "Lectio Divina," a practice of Benedictine monks in the sixth century. Lectio reveals four aspects of a sacred text:

1. Read the sacred text with the eyes (literal appreciation) – share an emerging word.
2. Read the text with the mind (reflective appreciation) – share a short thought.
3. Read the text with the heart (responsive appreciation) – share a short prayer.
4. Read the text with the soul (silence in God's presence) – share the silence.

Lectio Divina is an excellent aid to the study of *The Urantia Book*. It enhances one's understanding and appreciation of the book and the internalization of its teachings. This exercise was special, most importantly, because it gave us a deeper understanding of our partner and allowed for greater communication at a completely different level.

On the fourth day, we studied personality. The goal was to better understand the different types of personality and to identify the potentials of each type. By doing so, we hoped to become more understanding, forgiving, and compassionate toward our fellows.

Carol Schindler, a long-time reader, facilitated our study of personality by presenting the "Enneagram of Personality" from the Enneagram Institute.



1st row: Cyril C., Carol Schindler, David Elders, Claire Mylanus, Samantha Nior, Marta Elders

2d row: Gard Jameson, Marc Joly, Luis García-Bory, Ade Awoyinka

According to the book, *Wisdom of the Enneagram*, there are nine types of personality or identity including the: Triad of Feelings, Triad of Mind, and Triad of Instincts.

It was very interesting because it was an "intermezzo" which enabled us to know ourselves and one another better. The benefits of this are improved relationships with others, better team work, and greater

contributions to the Supreme.

All of us really appreciated this retreat. We shared our souls; we experienced brotherhood; and we had

beautiful evenings of discussion, good cheer, good meals, enjoyment of life, and profound gratitude for the privilege of this unique experience.

A NEW ASSOCIATE TRUSTEE IS APPOINTED



By Jay Bird, Associate Trustee, Tulsa, Oklahoma, USA

Editor's Note: *Urantia Foundation* is pleased to

announce its newest member to the Expanded Board of Trustees. Jay Bird of Tulsa, Oklahoma, graciously accepted the invitation to serve as Associate Trustee.

James (Jay) discovered *The Urantia Book* in 1970. He was in college studying religion, philosophy, art, and literature. These pursuits helped him realize that the exploration process can become a conversation filled with amazing and thrilling discoveries. *The Urantia Book* was the most important of these discoveries, and he remains amazed by it to this day.

Jay has spent his career as a business manager and is President and Chairman of the Board of Industrial Vehicles International, Inc., and Hanley and Bird, Inc. Industrial Vehicles International, Inc., is a worldwide manufacturer and supplier of seismic vibrators. Hanley and Bird, Inc., is an integrated natural gas marketing, distribution, exploration, and production company. He also serves on the Boards of educational and industry non-profits.

In addition to these duties Jay enjoys working with technical teams in the

development of innovative solutions to tough challenges. He is interested in a new technology enhanced art media which combines dynamic fluid properties with optical effects. He would like to develop a 21st century technology based solution for enhancing the beauty of our homes and workplaces.

A native of Tulsa, Oklahoma Jay is happily married to Nancy Bird and is blessed with three amazing children, Heather, Dylan, and Chris.

COMMENTS FROM READERS

What *The Urantia Book* Means to Me

By Samantha Nior, Hilversum, the Netherlands

I am a second generation reader of *The Urantia Book*. My parents, who are French, started reading the book when I was three or four years old. They studied for years, often with me in tow, with Henry and Bauk Begemann. Of course I did not understand it then, but later on, when I was older and had my own book, I read it some but found it difficult to understand. Nevertheless, I always kept it next to my bed because I felt safe and secure with it there.

At the time of puberty I had a lot of questions, and my mother answered many of them. So I did know the major teachings of the book, and I believed them.

As a young adult, I experienced some difficult and trying times and took little interest in spirituality. At the age of 29, I decided to read *The Urantia Book* in earnest, inasmuch as my other decisions until then only made me feel lost and disconnected. I felt like Pinocchio and as though my puppet strings were being cut one by one.

I decided to join a study group which I attended for two years. This was eight years ago, and since then, I have come to

understand so much about life, love, purpose and God. Currently I host two study groups and am the president of the Dutch Urantia Association. I know that more beautiful opportunities and guidance are in store for me. This I would not have, had I not made the decision to read *The Urantia Book* and to do the will of God.

The Urantia Book has been an inspiration, a calming influence in times of worry, a guide in times of confusion, a security in insecure moments, a source of hope in times of anxiety, a big picture perspective in times of narrow thinking, and the source of overall knowledge of the love of God and the

brilliant and loving guidance of the universe.

Life is sometimes difficult, but when it is, it is because I am not living my life as I should. Straying off the "path" brings uneasiness and unhappiness. Staying on the path brings happiness, love and peace.

I am still learning every day. I am blessed by friendships with other readers, people who continue to teach and inspire me. Connections with other readers around the world continue to arise, and opportunities for service to *The Urantia Book* project always present themselves.

Truly I have been blessed to have received the gift of *The Urantia Book*.



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www.urantia.org**

My Case for Study Groups

By Joel Wood, Lawrence, Kansas, USA

“As you journey toward your Paradise goal, constantly acquiring added knowledge and enhanced skill, you are continuously afforded the opportunity to give out to others the wisdom and experience you have already accumulated...you are not reckoned as having possessed yourself of knowledge and truth until you have demonstrated your ability and your willingness to impart this knowledge and truth to others.”(279.13) 25:4.12

I treasure *The Urantia Book*. I enjoy reading and rereading it, but I especially enjoy studying it with others.

My favorite parts of the Book are Jesus’ wise, loving answers to questions – even foolish questions. Jesus was the master of knowing what to say and how to say it with the appropriate non-verbal communication.

Regarding non-verbal communication, do you remember what the book says after Jesus spoke privately with the man who was mistreating his wife at the ships landing at Tarentum? It says: “It was not so much what Jesus said that touched this man's heart as the kindly look and the sympathetic smile which Jesus bestowed upon him at the conclusion of his remarks.” (1470.2) 133:2.1 “Never did Jesus say, ‘Whoso has heard me has heard God.’ But he did say, ‘He who has seen me has seen the Father.’” (1857.3) 169:4.12

The Urantia Book is an incredible text – spiritually enlightening and intellectually challenging, which is why I love study groups. Questions are asked and answered. Study groups give us the opportunity to be both teachers and students. New readers gain understanding and insight from experienced readers, who glean fresh

perspectives from novice readers.

We wouldn’t have study groups if we could have the same experience from reading the book alone. The fact is that we need one another. Our minds need to be poked and prodded in order to learn. “There is no growth without psychic conflict and spiritual agitation.” (1096:6) 100:4.2 We need to hear each others’ opinions. We need to struggle and grasp for words to express concepts and feelings. We need one another. We need study groups.

Cherish your study group if you have one. If you don’t have one, consider joining or starting one. You won’t regret it.

“A social group of human beings in co-ordinated working harmony stands for a force far greater than the simple sum of its parts.” (1477.1) 133:5.7



“From the human standpoint it is a question of combined meditation and relaxation. Meditation makes the contact of mind with spirit; relaxation determines the capacity for spiritual receptivity.”

The Urantia Book,
(1777.2) 160:3.1