



URANTIA FOUNDATION'S NEWS ONLINE

PULLING TOGETHER FOR THE COMMON GOOD

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Pulling Together for the Common Good</i>	1
<i>Noteworthy Decisions from the July 2012 Board of Trustees Meeting</i>	1
<i>Election of a New Associate Trustee</i>	2
<i>The Urantia Book and its teachings in Babasa Indonesia</i>	3
<i>Spanish UBIS—One More Step in the Expansion of the Urantia Book Internet School</i>	4
<i>The Evolution of Translations</i>	4
<i>A Timeline for The Urantia Book</i>	5
<i>Five Days at 533 W Diversey Parkway</i>	5
<i>A Summer Urantia Book Conference in Berlin</i>	7
<i>Remembering Mary Lou Hales</i>	8
<i>Remembering Werner Sutter</i>	8
<i>Volunteers Needed</i>	9
<i>Comments from readers</i>	9

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

Tears of joy flowed from my wife and my eyes as Taylor Ritzel won a gold medal in the "Women's Eight" rowing competition during the 2012 Summer Olympics in London. Taylor was a childhood friend of our kids and her parents, Tom and Lana, were our close friends. One year and nine months ago, Taylor sat by her middle-aged mother's bedside watching her fight for life after a long and debilitating struggle with breast cancer. Just before her mom passed away, Taylor promised her mother she would make the Olympic team in her honor. On August 2, Taylor, along with seven other women surpassed the promise by winning gold.

There they were, eight women pulling as a team. What a magnificent sight, people pulling together for the common good of each other and for the nation they represented. It made me think of our Urantia Book community with hope that we will become as good of teammates as these rowers. The history of the Urantia movement, like all

other religious movements, comes with the normal ups and downs of the human condition. Like in families, when we're harmed we can choose to love and forgive or remain angry and unforgiving. When a person or a group of people turn us away we can either accept the broken relationship as a permanent condition or we can rely on love to heal the situation.

Edwin Markham said it beautifully in his poem, "The Shoes of Happiness":

He drew a circle that shut me out—Heretic, rebel, a

thing to flout. But love and I had the wit to win: We drew a circle that took him in.

Whether you are an independent reader or a supporter of Urantia based organizations, we are in this boat together. Individually we are following the voice of a new revelation and trusting our souls to these higher truths. Now we need to pull further together as a team and create goodness far beyond the power of individual acts. It is time to win the gold medal as team Urantia.



Taylor Ritzel celebrating after winning the gold medal for the Women's Eight rowing. London 2012 Olympic Games

NOTEWORTHY DECISIONS FROM THE JULY 2012 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

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

IT and Social Media Roundtable

Urantia Foundation will host the 3rd IT Roundtable this October. Because of the growing importance of social media, the

topics discussed at this meeting will include social media in addition to information technology. The invited guests will include representatives from Urantia Association International, The Urantia Book Fellowship, and TruthBook. The organizers also wish to invite four or five new participants who actively serve

the Urantia Book project via IT and social media. Please send your resume to joanne@urantia.org if you would like to attend. We are looking forward to a productive meeting.

Lower Book Prices in Latin America

For the last few years the price of *El libro de Urantia* in Latin America has ranged from \$29.95 to \$100 despite a low selling price from the Foundation. Between tariffs and taxes, warehouse and

shipping costs, and distributor and retail margins, the book has become too expensive for most spiritual book shoppers. In April, the price was lowered in an effort to bring down the prices in Mexico, Central, and South America. If this initiative is successful, the books could retail as low as \$19.95.

New Book Initiatives

The Board approved new initiatives that will keep *The Urantia Book* foremost in North American bookstores, make translations more accessible worldwide, and expand penetration into the digital book market. Within the next year you will begin to see the fruits of these new initiatives as they are implemented.

Through the first half of 2012, book sales increased 12% over the corresponding period in 2011.



Russian fire aftermath

Russian Books Destroyed

Urantia Foundation began distributing the Russian translation of *The Urantia Book* in 1997. Thanks to the amazing work of Vitaly Kondratjev, over 15,000 books have been distributed from Siberia to St. Petersburg, Russia. In 2011, Vitaly retired after 14 years of service.

Before retiring he arranged for distribution to be transferred to the largest spiritual book distributor in Russia.

In mid-January 2012, a fire destroyed the distributor's warehouse and our entire inventory burned. The distributor was not insured, so we will be reprinting the book in Germany and looking for better ways to store and distribute *The Urantia Book* in Russia. Distributing books in Russia has been a labor of love financed by donations. If you have a desire to support this outreach, please contact Urantia Foundation.

Translations and Revisions

The French, Russian, Portuguese, and Spanish revision teams are proceeding according to plan and budget. Within a few years the French and Russian revisions will be completed. Ongoing

translations such as the Chinese, Czech, Farsi, Hebrew and Japanese are moving forward. It is anticipated that the Chinese translation will be completed by 2017.

A translation into Indonesian is in the planning stage. With over 248 million people living in Indonesia, it ranks as the fourth most populated nation

in the world. Ninety percent of the people over 15 years of age are literate.

Urantia Book Reader Survey

It has been nearly a decade since a reader survey was done. As sales increase in Latin America and Eastern Europe, the readership profile is changing. Within the next few months we will field a broad based survey to better understand the constituency and needs of the current reader community.

Building Usage Policy

As of July 2012, extensive renovations of the first and second floors of Urantia Foundation were completed. Urantia Foundation desires to make this historic landmark available to the Urantia Book reader community to further the purposes and goals for which the Foundation was established.

Reader groups such as Urantia Association International, The Urantia Book Fellowship, local groups and other non-profit Urantia Book groups are encouraged to use the building for their work. There are beautiful meeting rooms on both the first and second floors, the famous Forum room, completely remodeled kitchens, bathrooms, and bedrooms.

To learn more about the cost and availability of the building please contact Joanne Strobel at joanne@urantia.org

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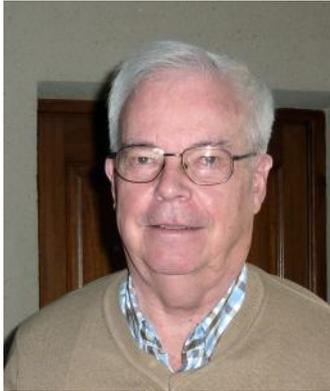
Reader groups such as Urantia Association International, The Urantia Book Fellowship, local groups and other non-profit Urantia Book groups are encouraged to use 533 W Diversey for their work.

ELECTION OF A NEW ASSOCIATE TRUSTEE



Sandra Maria Burga-Cisneros Pizarro was elected as an Associate Trustee. Sandra, born and raised in Lima, Peru, is a second generation Urantia Book reader. She is a citizen of Peru and Italy, reads and speaks five languages, has received degrees in higher education in Chile and Switzerland, and now lives and teaches in Switzerland. Welcome Sandra!

THE URANTIA BOOK AND ITS TEACHINGS IN BAHASA INDONESIA



by Henk Mylanus, Trustee, Urantia Foundation, Brittany, France

My place of birth was Surabaya in East Java, Indonesia, before the Second World War.

We moved to Bandung in West Java, and before leaving Indonesia in 1950, I spent two years in a high school where, besides other languages, Bahasa Indonesia—the language that became the official language for the entire archipelago in 1945—was a mandatory course.

In 1981 I returned to Indonesia for business, mainly staying in Djakarta, but enjoying very much the contact with Indonesians and getting back in touch with my roots.

In 1992 I went back for an extensive one-month trip through the main islands of Sumatra, Java and Sulawesi. What an experience: to see Bandung again; to see Yogyakarta with trips to the Borobudur and the Prambanan temples; to see Bromo and Merapi—two of the 130 active volcanoes in Indonesia; and to see the island of Bali and breathtaking Sulawesi! And so much more to visit and to enjoy!

If you have never been to Indonesia, I give you this advice: take a trip and get to know the friendly Indonesians and savor the incredibly

beautiful landscapes and the rich, old culture.

In July, when the Board of Trustees discussed translating *The Urantia Book* into Bahasa Indonesia, I was very much in favor of doing so for the following reasons:

- Indonesia declared its independence from the Dutch on August 17, 1945, and after a decades-long transitory period, it became a true Republic with executive, legislative and judicial branches of government. The capital is Djakarta on the island of Java.
- Indonesia is the world's largest archipelago with more than 17,500 islands of which 6,000 are inhabited. It is the fourth most populous nation in the world with 250 million people consisting of many ethnic groups, mainly Javanese and Sundanese.
- It has the largest Muslim population, 86.1%, of any nation. Protestants account for 5.7%, Catholics for 3%, and Hindu and other religions make up the remainder.
- The official language is Bahasa Indonesia, which is a modified form of the Malay language. It is spoken throughout the archipelago, while English, Dutch, and about 400 local dialects are also spoken, the most widely spoken being Javanese.
- The literacy rate is over 90%.
- Indonesia's heraldic saying is, "*Bhinneka Tunggal Ika*"—meaning "Unity in Diversity" or literally "many, yet one"—and connotes the diversity and the oneness that shapes the country.
- "Belief in the one and only God" is the first of five principals constituting the Pancasila, which is the official philosophical foundation of the

Indonesian state. According to the translator, "a number of different religions are practiced in the country, and their collective influence on the country's political, economic and cultural life is significant. The Indonesian Constitution guarantees freedom of religion. However, the government only recognizes six official religions (Islam, Protestantism, Catholicism, Hinduism, Buddhism and Confucianism), and Indonesian law requires that every Indonesian citizen have an identity card that identifies that person with one of these six religions. Indonesia does not recognize agnosticism or atheism, and blasphemy is illegal."

The translator has already translated 60 Papers into Bahasa Indonesia as a "work of love." His proposal is to translate the remaining 136 Papers in a relatively short time, and he is

requesting a modest remuneration. The Board of Trustees has approved his proposal if sufficient funds become available.

Urantia Foundation is operating on a restricted budget during these economically difficult times, so we are in need of donors to provide funding for this translation.

If 50 donors contribute \$500 per donor, Urantia Foundation could give the green light to the translator to continue his work, knowing that the Foundation will compensate him what he has requested.

Please consider a donation and send your gift to Urantia Foundation earmarked for the Indonesian translation. Help us present to the people of Indonesia *The Urantia Book* and its teachings in Bahasa Indonesia!



SPANISH UBIS—ONE MORE STEP IN THE EXPANSION OF THE URANTIA BOOK INTERNET SCHOOL



By Olga López, Associate Trustee, Barcelona, Spain

The [Urantia Book Internet School](#) (UBIS) is an educational initiative of Urantia Foundation with more than ten years of activity. Since its implementation, all of its courses have been given in

English. But one of the main goals is to fully internationalize UBIS, so that many more students can take courses in their native language.

The Spanish readership has been growing dramatically; so it seemed natural to expand UBIS to offer courses in Spanish. After a long period of training and preparation, which included updating the UBIS website, the first official course in Spanish was given in January 2012. I served as the teacher-facilitator. This first course was titled "Evolutionary Religion vs. Revealed Religion, A Comparative Study." Twenty-one people from seven different countries participated. The second course in Spanish was given in April by Virginia (Ginger) Heller, a qualified teacher-facilitator living in Tulsa, Oklahoma, USA.

Ginger speaks Spanish. Her course was titled "A Leap of Faith: From Here to Eternity." This class had twenty-one people from ten countries. In both courses, there were many more applicants than places. This shows the great demand for Urantia Book courses among the Spanish-speaking readership.

The first requirement to become a teacher-facilitator is to take two UBIS courses as a student. The next requirement is to organize a teacher-training class to train more teachers. The first teacher's training class in Spanish was held from July 2 to August 5, 2012. It was a five-week course; I taught it with the help and support of Polly Friedman who has given previous teacher-training courses in English. We had seven UBIS students from

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Dominican Republic, and Spain. All of them are enthusiastic about the UBIS project, and I'm fully confident that they will become excellent teacher-facilitators.

Our goal for 2013 is to offer two courses in Spanish per semester; so we need to have at least six teacher-facilitators to achieve this goal. Little by little, step by step, we plan to develop a core of Spanish-speaking teacher-facilitators in order to offer as many courses in Spanish at the same level of excellence as we do in English. I am convinced we shall succeed for the sake of the spiritual advancement of our planet!

THE EVOLUTION OF TRANSLATIONS



By Georges Michelson-Dupont, Trustee, Manager of Translations, Urantia Foundation, Recloses, France

The fifth epochal revelation, prepared by our unseen friends, was given to our world with the goal of "expanding

cosmic consciousness and enhancing spiritual perception."

Exposure to the teachings of *The Urantia Book* often results in a new and expanded perspective of life; the realization of our origin, history, and destiny. The desire to share this treasure with our brothers and sisters is strong, and hence the supporting, sponsoring, and funding of translations are high priorities for Urantia Foundation.

Urantia Foundation does not choose which language to translate. The proposal to translate comes from individual readers. One or several individuals have approached Urantia Foundation after having read

the book, been moved by its teachings, and been motivated to translate the text for the benefit of others who speak their language. This has been the case for all of our published translations with the exception of the Spanish translation. Professional, non-reader translators were employed for the Spanish translation, and the result was less than we expected.

The timing of each translation is unpredictable. One might think that translations would be done according to the greatest number of potential readers speaking that language. But such is not the case. The French translation came first and was followed by the Finnish translation. Who would have predicted that Finnish, a language spoken by fewer than six million people,

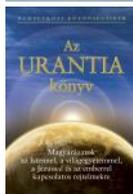
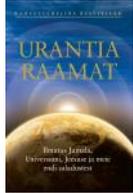
would be the second language to have a translation of *The Urantia Book*?

Has the evolution of translations happened by chance or by design? We have our suspicions, but we really do not know.

The desire to share this treasure with our brothers and sisters is Strong



A TIMELINE FOR *THE URANTIA BOOK* AND ITS TRANSLATIONS



Editor's Note: Here is a timeline showing when The Urantia Book was first published followed by each translation. It took only six years for the French translation to appear. Thirty-two years passed before the Finnish translation, Urantia-kirja, was published. Sixteen translations are now available (the Romanian translation is only available on a CD). Translations continue with six more in progress.

Language	Year	Chief Translator	Title
English	1955		The Urantia Book
French	1961	Jacques Weiss	Le Livre d'Urantia
Finnish	1993	Seppo Kanerva	Urantia-kirja
Spanish	1993	EurAmerica (several translators)	El libro de Urantia
Russian	1997	Michael Hanian	КНИГА УРАНТИИ
Dutch	1998	Henry Begemann & Nienke Begemann-Brugman	Het Urantia Boek
Korean	2000	Kwan Choi	유란시아 서
Portuguese CD	2003	Luiz Carlos Dolabella Chagas	O Livro de Urântia
Lithuanian	2004	Algimantas Jokubėnas	Urantijos Knyga
Romanian CD	2004	Dan Sorin Chiaburu	Cartea Urantia
German	2005	Urs Ruchti	Das Urantia Buch
Italian	2006	Memo Z.	Il Libro di Urantia
Portuguese	2008	Luiz Carlos Dolabella Chagas	O Livro de Urântia
Spanish EE	2009	Antonio Moya	El libro de Urantia <i>Edición europea</i>
Estonian	2010	Meeli Kuura	Urantia Raamat
Hungarian	2010	Gábor Cseh	Az Urantia könyv
Polish	2010	Paul & Gosia Jaworski	Księga Urantii
Swedish	2010	Joel Rehnström	Urantiaboken

FIVE DAYS AT 533 W DIVERSEY PARKWAY



By Angela Thurston, Brooklyn, New York, USA

Chicago, Illinois, was the birthplace of the fifth epochal revelation in the 1930s. At 533 W Diversey Parkway—what is now Urantia Foundation—the members of the Forum asked questions for almost two decades—questions that were answered and compiled into what we now know as *The Urantia Book*.

For five full days in late July, the Urantia Book Fellowship's Youth and Young Adult

Committee hosted a conference at this historic site. More than 35 young adults, aged 14 to 35, attended this conference prior to the Summer Study Session held at Techy Towers. It was the highest attendance for an event so far in the YaYA Committee's short history. This large turnout is an exciting sign of the younger generation's galvanizing to build a strong and supportive community.

We spent the week engaged in a variety of activities, including workshops, discussion groups, daily worship, community meals, service projects at the Foundation and a local homeless mission, documentation for an introduction to *The Urantia Book* video project, an in-depth spiritual survey, a study group with local readers, a Urantia Book history lesson and tour of Urantia Foundation, exploration



Youth and Young Adults (YaYAs) at 533 W Diversey Parkway

of Chicago, and socializing in the historic, recently renovated building at 533. We were also privileged to be hosted by First Society at an intergenerational gathering at the home of Marilyn and David Kulieke. We were treated to a potluck and social with Urantia Book readers whose families have been studying the book for four generations!

The most valuable outcome of our experience in Chicago, as with all YaYA events so far, was the face time we shared, which allowed us to form and develop relationships that will help build our individual and collective visions for the future. In this regard, the group felt keenly aware of a need that has yet to be fulfilled. We were all impressed by the extraordinary spiritual

ambition of those present and the remarkable projects that so many are spearheading on their own. But we still feel we are missing a way to stay connected and to actively support each other in our endeavors. There was a lot of talk about building a community center or centers, places where Urantia Book readers and non-readers alike could take classes, hold

study groups, receive leadership and ministry training, have worship services, participate in meanings and values programs based on *The Urantia Book*, find resources for families, and get support for healthy living across generations. Many younger readers are involved in farming, sustainability, and working with the land, which came up repeatedly as a service to provide to the community.



YaYa at a luncheon for Chicago readers held at Marilyn and David Kulieke's house

The YaYA Committee is committed to holding regular youth and young adult conferences, so mark your calendars for the next one in Santa Cruz, California, November 2-4. We also know that this is not enough. Our generation craves places to gather and call home and communities of Urantia Book readers to support us in living the teachings. We crave teachers and leaders and

ways to train them, even as we work toward becoming those teachers and leaders ourselves. We crave living traditions—not the static rituals of evolutionary religion, but rather the regular expressions of dynamic, loving fellowship. We crave the opportunity to share this revelation with our

peers and to grapple with our challenges together. This is what we are working to build, and with each conference, we meet more people who are committed to doing this work.

We are deeply grateful to the staff at Urantia Foundation: Connie Gutierrez, Jay

Peregrine, Joanne Strobel, Tamara Strumfeld, and Mike Wood, for graciously hosting us at 533 W Diversey Parkway. We are grateful to Jennifer Siegel for providing delicious meals throughout the conference. We thank Marilyn and David Kulieke, Cece Forrester, John Hales, Carolyn Kendall, and all the members of First Society for organizing an intergenerational

gathering and for sharing Chicago's historic role in the Urantia Revelation. Finally, as always, we are indebted to The Urantia Book Fellowship for sponsoring our committee's work. We recognize there is much to be done, and we are excited to see our efforts bear fruit in the years to come.

A SUMMER URANTIA BOOK CONFERENCE IN BERLIN

By Michael Maclsaac, Nacka, Sweden

“An inspiring experience” is my description of the July Urantia conference in Berlin. It makes me look forward to more international conferences in Europe. “Spiritual growth is mutually stimulated by intimate association with other religionists,” (1094.2) 100:0.2 and I always find these gatherings of fifth epochal faithers to have special, joyous, fraternal and motivating qualities. Special thanks go to Clemens Trauzettel and Esa Irri who helped organize this wonderful event!

The conference took place at a large, relaxed and friendly hostel in the heart of Berlin just minutes from dozens of the city's top tourist attractions. About forty people attended the conference including a few new readers. A surprising number of readers from the US made the trip, and others travelled from various parts of Europe: England, Estonia, Finland, Germany, and Sweden. Some of the Spanish-speaking attendants who are living in Europe were originally from South America. All age groups were represented—from college-age students in their twenties to a few of Europe's first readers who found *The Urantia Book* in the 1960s. This was the first time I've attended a conference where

readers under the age of forty were in the majority. This is encouraging since fewer than 10% of conference attendees have been younger readers in recent decades. It helped that the conference was inexpensive. In addition, thanks to scholarship support from The Urantia Book Fellowship's Youth and Young Adult Committee, three young enthusiasts were able to join us.

“Living Faith” was the theme of the conference, which included numerous short and inspiring talks as well as study and discussion groups. We also enjoyed beautiful music, sightseeing, delicious meals at local eateries, time for socializing and bonding, and a viewing of Richard Jernigan's documentary *A Feast of Uncertainty*. It seemed as though all the attendees felt that the conference was a rewarding experience, and they all hope that conferences in

Europe will continue.

To all who participated and contributed to this event, thank you again. I look forward to seeing you and many others at future gatherings and conferences!

Editor's note: Clemens Trauzettel also wrote a piece on this conference. You may read it by clicking here:

<http://clemens.ubluedia.de/?p=2870>



REMEMBERING MARY LOU HALES



Mary Lou Hales, Emma Christensen (Christy), and William S. Sadler, Jr.

By Carolyn Kendall, Wheeling, Illinois, USA

It is with joy that we bid farewell to a lovely and gracious woman who has been a faithful server in the Urantia community for almost 80 years. Mary Lou Hales "graduated" to the mansion worlds on Saturday morning, August 4, 2012, at the age of 103. She suffered a heart attack in an ambulance

on the way to the hospital from her home in Winnetka, Illinois. Her last illness began just three weeks ago after years of moderately good health considering her advanced age.

Her Urantia experience began in 1932 in the Forum room at 533 W Diversey Parkway when she attended her first meeting

with her then fiancé, William M. Hales, a second generation reader of the Urantia Papers. When Urantia Brotherhood was organized in 1955, Mary Lou was appointed to the 36 member General Council of Urantia Brotherhood and served for 30 years. She was a member of the Charter Committee for 32 years and its chairman for 13 years. During her tenure she travelled to many distant locations to install Urantia Societies. She and her husband were founding members of First Society in Chicago. Both were generous contributors to Urantia organizations financially.

Mary Lou's husband Bill served as the first president of Urantia Foundation for 23 years and served as a member of the Board of Trustees for a total of 33 years. He was also a member of the General Council for 33 years.

Mary Lou has been recognized as a true lady, a warm and gracious personality, but one who did not fear to express her



Mary Lou Hales

views on timely issues in the Urantia organizations. Although her memory was failing toward the end of her life, our memory of her lifelong spirit of volunteerism inspires us to even greater service to our fellows.

REMEMBERING WERNER SUTTER

By Irmeli Ivalo-Sjölie, Helsinki, Finland

Werner Sutter was born in Germany, but he immigrated to Canada in 1954. He found *The Urantia Book* in the early 1970s, and ever since, the teachings were the most important part of his life!

His dream was to have a translation of *The Urantia Book* in German, which came true in 2005. After *Das Urantia Buch* was printed, Werner moved back to Germany and dedicated his time and efforts to disseminating *The Urantia Book* and its teachings throughout Austria, Germany and Switzerland. And this he did very well!

Today there are active study groups in all of these countries, and the young readers are enthusiastically carrying on with his service. He will be missed by many!



Werner Sutter and Irmeli Ivalo-Sjölie

Volunteers Needed

Urantia Foundation is very excited about its new Urantia Book Index project. We need volunteers to help proof the electronic references for accuracy.

The project involves clicking links to verify that the referenced text matches the indexed word or phrase.

If you speak English, have read the book in its entirety, and are passionate about serving the Urantia Book readership, please contact Tamara at tamara@urantia.org for details.

COMMENTS FROM READERS



Knowing that God is my Father

By Andrew Story, Dayton, Ohio, USA

The value, meaning, and beauty that I find in *The Urantia Book* is directly the result of my experience of knowing God and knowing that God is my Father.

The time in my life when I found *The Urantia Book* was a time of much personal change. I had grown up in a Christian family, and my father was a pastor of a Christian church. I remember my first confirmation and having many questions about

my relationship to God and the meaning of Jesus' life as it related to our personal spiritual growth and our ability to attain eternal life.

I asked my father why it was necessary for someone to accept Jesus as their savior to have eternal life. I could not understand how someone would not go to heaven if they had never even heard of him. The answer that I was given only explained that this was God's plan, and that, in order for man's relationship with God to be restored, Jesus had to die on the cross. This answer led me to distance myself from a spiritual life. I believed that a person living a good life should be enough to have a relationship with God.

Later I became interested in reading about other religions and new-age books. When I read Leo Tolstoy's *The Kingdom of God Is Within You*, I had a rejuvenation of my spiritual search. Tolstoy wrote about looking specifically at Jesus' teachings and at the way he lived his life as being the best approach to understanding his message.

He felt that Jesus' message was that God is within each of us, a part of each one of us, and that when we experience this truth, we shall begin to see the truth of the Golden Rule.

A few months later I told a friend that I truly wanted to know God. I let go of my fears related to my earlier religious experiences, and I opened myself up and allowed God in. My friend then introduced me to *The Urantia Book*. I looked through it on my own and read on the back about study groups. I wanted to meet other readers and share with them what I was experiencing. I asked my friend if he knew of a study group in our area, and he suggested that we start one.

I remember reading Paper 1, "The Universal Father," and resonating so clearly with the words describing God's purpose, his goodness, and his plan for each person to achieve perfection.

The following paragraph in Paper 1 held profound meaning for me:

On those worlds where a Paradise Son has lived a bestowal life, God is generally known by some name indicative of personal relationship, tender affection, and fatherly devotion. On your constellation headquarters God is referred to as the Universal Father, and on different planets in your local system of inhabited worlds he is variously known as the Father of Fathers, the Paradise Father, the Havona Father, and the Spirit Father. Those who know God through the revelations of the bestowals of the Paradise Sons, eventually yield to the sentimental appeal of the touching relationship of the creature-Creator association and refer to God as "our Father." ~ The Urantia Book, (23.2) 1:1.5

There is much meaning in *The Urantia Book*, but the truth of the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man is the truth most close to my experience of knowing God.



What *The Urantia Book* Means to Me

By Angela Thurston, Brooklyn, New York, USA

These few words just begin to describe:

Insight into the purpose of my existence, which begins and ends with love.

Inspiration to set ever higher spiritual goals and to take failures as the most valuable cosmic lessons.

Appreciation for the beautiful, challenging, lovingly-designed and clumsily-evolving world around me and the remarkable sojourners who call it home.

Encouragement to seek loving relationships with my brothers and sisters, through whom I find God.

Freedom from any dogma that would ask me to judge these brothers and sisters or myself.

Responsibility to act, to serve, to lead by example—to put the words of revelation into the deeds of a new era of spiritual growth.

Empowerment to take risks in a loving universe, knowing I am cradled by a cosmos in which I can only fall deeper into discovery.

Permission to enjoy existing, to participate in the humor, the creativity, the delight, the confusion, and the moments of extraordinary grace.

Opportunity to bridge gaps in dialogue among religion, science, and philosophy across existing cultures and creeds.

Faith that God has put his faith in me to journey ever closer to him.

Comfort that I have a legion of cosmic cheerleaders every step of the way.

Anticipation of a bright, eternal future in which we all, in our magnificent uniqueness, say together: It is our will that your will be done.



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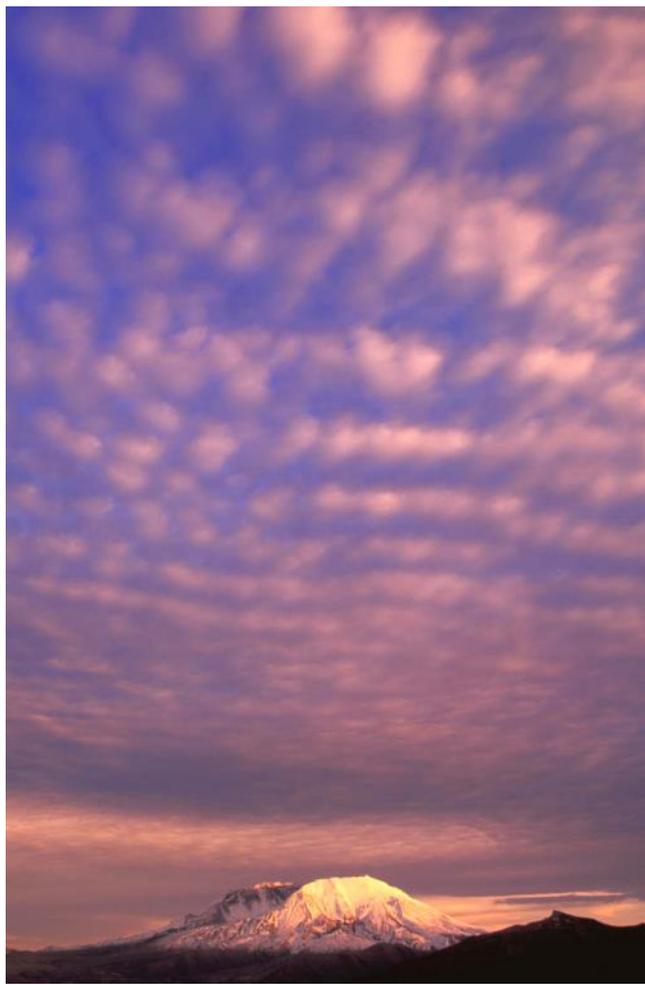
Writers: Mo Siegel, Marilyn Kulieke, Henk Mylanus, Olga López, Georges Michelson-Dupont, Angela Thurston, Michael MacIsaac, Carolyn Kendall, Irmeli Ivalo-Sjölie, Andrew Story

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**On the web at
www.urantia.org**



As prayer may be likened to recharging the spiritual batteries of the soul, so worship may be compared to the act of tuning in the soul to catch the universe broadcasts of the infinite spirit of the Universal Father.

The Urantia Book,
(1621.7) 144:4.8