



URANTIA FOUNDATION'S NEWS ONLINE

OUR JOURNEY TO SOUTH AMERICA

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

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One hundred and eighty thousand copies of the Spanish translation of *The Urantia Book* have sold since its first publication in 1993. The Portuguese translation was published in 2008, and more than eight thousand copies have sold in Brazil. With this in mind, on January 26, 2012, my wife, Jennifer, and I sallied forth to 1) meet readers in Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, and Chile; 2) check on the availability, price, and distribution of *The Urantia Book* in bookstores; and 3) experience some of the sailing adventures of Magellan by traveling around Cape Horn by ship. For decades I've yearned to travel through the Straits of Magellan, go around



Susana Hüttner Palaia, Mo Siegel, and Ligia Zottini at a FNAC book store

Cape Horn, and visit the southernmost communities in the world. Mission accomplished!

Throughout our journey we met many kind-hearted and dedicated Urantia Book readers. For these students, finding affordable and available books is more difficult than it is in North America. In the United States Amazon.com sells the Kindle version of *The Urantia Book* for \$7.16, paperbacks for \$15.61, and hardcovers for \$18.45. Paperbacks sell for the equivalent of \$27-44 US in Brazil, \$40-50 US in Argentina, \$100 US in Uruguay, and \$70-80 US in Chile.

Internet bookstores are virtually nonexistent outside of Brazil. Most bookstores do not stock *The Urantia Book*, but it can be special ordered. Despite high prices and scarce availability, the Urantia Revelation has robustly been accepted in South America.



Reader gathering at Susana and Sabino's home



A fantastic night at the home of Carlos and Maria

Argentina. He has fathered study groups, reader communications, gatherings, book fairs, and other outreach efforts.

Carlos and his wife, María Inés, hosted a meeting and delicious dinner at their home. We started by discussing how we discovered *The Urantia Book* and ended with delicious Argentine empanadas and pizza. The setting was everything you would dream of in the home of an artist inspired by *The Urantia Book*. Beautiful paintings hung on all the walls, and feelings of goodwill abounded.

On our second day in Argentina we visited Urantia Foundation's new book distributor. Thanks to the efforts of Henk and Claire Mylanus, last year we added an Argentinian distributor who will increase the distribution of the book. They expect to sell 600 books in their first year. After meeting at their office, they took us to five bookstores in Buenos Aires. All the stores had prominent displays of *The Urantia Book*, and it sells for \$40 US or more depending on the store.

Uruguay

We left Buenos Aires and headed to Punta del Este, Uruguay. In this beautiful seaside resort, we met with

BRAZIL

We started our journey in São Paulo with a warm welcome at the airport from Susana Hüttner Palaia and Ligia Zottini. On the first afternoon we visited bookstores in São Paulo. Thanks to the hard work of Jay Peregrine and Tamara Strumfeld, the book is shelved in the ten FNAC bookstores in Brazil. FNAC sells the book for the equivalent of \$27 US. Most other stores in Brazil sell the paperback for at least \$44 US.

After visiting stores we went to Susana and Sabino's home and spent time with readers. We had a wonderful dinner hosted by Caio and Nancy Caffé. The next day Susana held a sizable gathering at her home; some of

the readers traveling many hours to attend. We were deeply touched by their enthusiasm for the Urantia Revelation and their gracious hospitality. Afterwards we attended Carlos Leite de Silva's birthday party.

Today there are 57 active study groups in Brazil. We heard amazing stories about how people found *The Urantia Book* in Brazil. Nearly half of the people said that the writings of J.J. Benitez prompted them to pick up the book. In his multi-volume saga *Caballo de Troya*, Benitez generously lifted teachings from Part IV of *The Urantia Book*.

One thing is very obvious: Susana has been a unifying and coordinating influence for

Brazilian readers. She is a remarkable force of loving energy and social coordination.

If you want to learn more about activities in Brazil, visit www.urantia.org.br and www.elub.com.br. In addition, there are Facebook and Orkut (www.orkut.com) social network Urantia groups.

Argentina

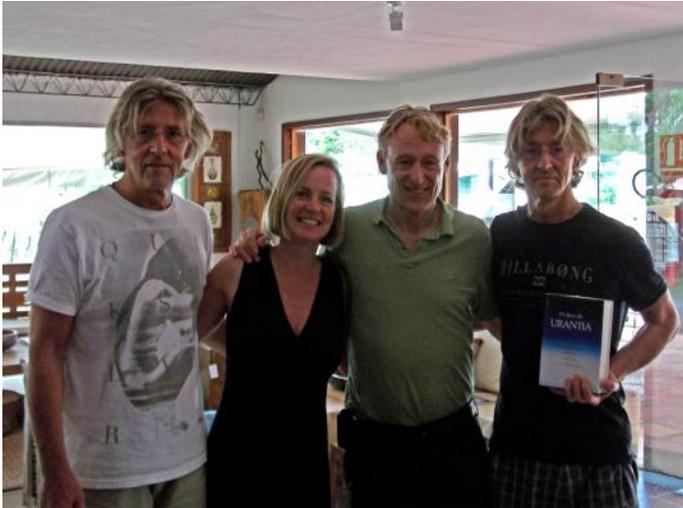
After leaving Brazil, we flew to Argentina and were greeted by Carlos Rubinsky. If we learned one thing on our journey, it's that it takes leadership to plant the Urantia Revelation in a country. Carlos Rubinsky has been the unifying and driving force for *The Urantia Book* in



Distributor's warehouse in Argentina



Jennifer and the Argentinian sales team



Horacio, Jen, Mo, and Alberto in Punta Del Este, Uruguay

Alberto and Horacio Brupacher, longtime supporters of Urantia Foundation. We spent a lovely afternoon with them discussing *The Urantia Book's* teachings, study groups, and book distribution. Alberto and Horacio showed us interesting Urantia Book internet sites, which they use for personal study and book introductions. They told us about hosting a meeting of 80 Urantia Book readers. Now, whenever possible, they hold introductory seminars for new readers. There are no active study groups in Punta del Este, and the book is hard to find. They found one book in a town about 25 miles away. The price, \$100 US, is the going price for Urantia Books in Uruguay.

We loved spending time with the Brupacher brothers. These identical twins live in the same house, married sisters, and own a furniture business together. Alberto's son laughed as he told Jen that the brothers often show up at breakfast wearing identical clothes. Jen said the brothers looked like rock stars or movie stars in a surfer film. I feel blessed to have spent an afternoon with these fellow truth seekers. After returning to Boulder, we went to study group and were reading about the local universe. I closed my eyes and pictured Alberto and Horacio a half a world away reading the same breathtaking descriptions of Nebadon.



Jennifer with Jon DeToy and Pradhana Fuchs

Cape Horn, Ushuaia, the Straits of Magellan, and the Chilean Fjords

Oftentimes disparity exists between reality and your dreams. For me, the journey around Cape Horn was one of those situations. Traveling the waterways that Magellan, Sir Francis Drake, and Captain Cook sailed seemed like a romantic adventure. The reality for me was six days of seasickness. They say those waters are some of the roughest in the world; so I should have known better. Nonetheless, I am pleased we made the journey.



Alessandro Guarneri, Mo, and Jen

a number of Urantia Book readers with more readers moving in soon. Jon, an American citizen, recently moved to Chile and brought 120 Spanish Urantia Books with him. We had a visit with a lovely group of readers, after



Route around Cape Horn

Chile

which Jon and his family drove us to a larger reader gathering in Santiago.

Puerto Varas

Of all good fortune, Marian Hughes, a long time reader from Hawaii and a homeowner in Chile, heard about our journey. Marian arranged for a guide and a car so we could meet a reader, Alessandro Guarneri, who lives in Puerto Varas. We had a delicious meal and a good conversation with Alessandro.

Santiago

Flor and George Robles hosted a gathering of Santiago readers from 1:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Flor and George graciously provided lunch and dinner for everyone. It was a warm, summer, Sunday afternoon, and the meeting was pleasantly casual. We chatted, read the book, and ate, while the children swam in the pool.

Renaca

Jon DeToy picked us up in Valparaiso and drove us to the artist community, "Blowing in the Wind" at Renaca. This community has

We learned several things during the meeting. There are about three hundred active readers in Santiago and six



Discussing Urantia Book teachings with Santiago readers

study groups. Books are expensive. Paperbacks sell for \$70-80 US. The group was very vocal about the high prices and felt it should sell between \$30-40 US. They accounted for the price being so high because of a 19% value added tax and a 9% import duty. I explained that Urantia Foundation wanted fair prices, and that we sold paperback books to our Latin American distributor for \$10 US.

We met enthusiastic and dedicated readers. For example, Yolanda Silva Solona, a Santiago reader, has a blog which spreads the book's teachings to 5000 people. Flor has created many study aids that can be seen at <http://www.scribd.com/diagramas606>. Our trip to Santiago was extremely worthwhile. We are thankful for the new friends we made in Chile.

Conclusions

The Urantia Book has deep roots in South America. We felt the respect and passion for the Urantia Revelation everywhere we went. We also felt support and loyalty toward Urantia Foundation. In addition, we learned the following about book distribution in these countries:

On Monday we visited bookstores and found one paperback—wrapped in cellophane in the “on reserve” non-browsing section—priced at \$70 US. Readers expressed appreciation for the help they had received obtaining books, thanks to the generous efforts of Marion Hughes, the Pipeline of Light, and other donors.



Flor Robles with her study aids

1. The North American digital book revolution has not taken hold in the countries we visited. It has started in Brazil, but it will take another five or more years to have a major impact. We neither saw nor heard evidence of internet/digital books affecting bookstore sales in Argentina, Uruguay, or Chile. Bookstores remain the vital link in the chain, and they appear to be thriving throughout South America.
2. The price of *The Urantia Book* is very high except in Brazil. Transportation costs, government taxes, duties, and distributor and retail margins make the price unaffordable for many Latin Americans. *The Urantia Book* is one of the most expensive books in the bookstores. We need an active

- program to bring down the price.
3. Study groups are the best way to spread *The Urantia Book* and its teachings. Every effort we put forth supporting study groups will help create infrastructure and stability for the Urantia Revelation.
4. Continued support is needed for dissemination efforts of individuals and such organizations which send boxes of books to readers and study groups in Latin America.
5. We need to expand internet tools for reading, teaching, and sharing *The Urantia Book*.



“Sorely Tried”, HMS Beagle off Cape Horn, 12 January 1833, by John Chancellor

NOTEWORTHY DECISIONS FROM THE JANUARY 2012 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

By Marilynn Kulieke,
Secretary, *Urantia*
Foundation, Lincolnshire,
Illinois, USA

2011 Highlights

Books Sold and Downloaded

Total book sales and downloads were up for the year by 13%. Book sales were even with 2010, which seemed like an accomplishment considering the decline of the North American bookstore industry. 16,000 books in 2011 were sold and 29,808 electronic books were downloaded from www.uran-tia.org. It is estimated that the total downloads of *The Urantia Book* from various sites exceeded 60,000 in 2011.

North American bookstores continued their long-term decline in the rapidly changing book market. Digital books, internet downloads, Amazon.com, and the shrinking number of bookstores has significantly altered how books are disseminated to readers. Most of the changes have negatively affected the financial dynamics of printing and selling books. But that's the world we are living in, and we gladly accept the challenge of securing distribution of *The Urantia Book* in these changing times.

Contributions and Budgets

Total contributions for 2011 totaled \$800,396, a 10% increase from 2010's contributions of \$725,633. The year-end matching fundraiser was a great success. We are exceedingly grateful for your generous donations. Your contributions covered 2011 expenses and helped pay for printing more books.

We expect that expenses in 2011 will be flat or down. Capital expenditures were high in 2011 due to the printing of 22,421 books. Thus the Foundation's cash flow for the year, because of printing, required us to dip into cash reserves by about \$75,000.

Book Printing

Urantia Foundation printed 22,421 books in 2011.

- 1,800 Spanish 1993 hardcovers
- 3,813 Portuguese paperbacks
- 1,890 Polish hardcovers (2nd printing)
- 3,240 Spanish 1993 paperbacks for Argentina
- 1,178 Spanish 1993 paperbacks for South America
- 6,300 English paperbacks
- 2,700 English hardcovers
- 2,000 English faux leather soft covers

International Book Distribution

International distribution expanded because:

- New distribution channels were made in Argentina.
- Distribution of the Russian translation is now with Russia's largest spiritual book distributor.
- New distribution channels were made in Australia. Heartfelt thanks go to Kathleen and Trevor Swadling for their many

decades of hard work serving as distributors of *The Urantia Book* in Australia.

- Most European book distributors made steady progress throughout the European Union. Thank you, Henk and Claire Mylanus, for your diligent work advancing distribution in the EU.

Serving the Community

During 2011, the facilities at 533 W Diversey Parkway were used by Urantia Association International (UAI), the Urantia Book Fellowship, the Board of Trustees of Urantia Foundation, the Urantia Book Internet School, and the Tuesday evening study group.

The UAI, the Fellowship, and Urantia Foundation agreed to a new Study Group Portal at <http://urantiastudygroup.org>. Thanks go to the Study Group Portal team: Scott Brooks, Emilio Coppola, Lenny Cowles, Marta Elders, John Hales, Tamara Strumfeld, and James Woodward.

Urantia Foundation and the Fellowship have also agreed to cooperatively produce Spanish and Russian audio books. In addition, Marilynn Kulieke serves as liaison between Urantia Foundation and a team producing a Portuguese audio book.

Translations

The Translator's Website went live in 2011. French, Spanish, and Portuguese translation teams are using it. Special thanks for this accomplishment go to Rogério da Silva, Rob Reno, Georges Michelson-Dupont, Jay Peregrine, and Larry Watkins.

Progress was made on the Chinese translation as well as on several other translations.

The Revision of the Spanish and French Translations

The Spanish revision team began its work of amalgamating the 1993 Spanish translation and the European edition into one beautiful translation appealing to all Spanish speaking readers across the globe. Special thanks go to Carmelo Martínez from Spain (chief translator), Anibal Pacheco from Chile, Raul Pujol from Puerto Rico, Olga López from Spain, Gard Jameson, Georges Michelson-Dupont (manager of translations), and Víctor García Bory (team liaison).

The French translation team of revisers consists of Georges Michelson-Dupont, Jean Royer, Richard Lachance, and Claire Mylanus. They expect to finish the revision in 2014.

Clean Book Files on the Internet

HTML web versions of all translations of *The Urantia Book* were checked for errors, cleaned up, uploaded to the web, and made available at www.uran-tia.org. Special thanks go to Larry Watkins for his thousands of hours of work on this project.

Education and the Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS)

The UBIS website was translated into Spanish to allow for Spanish language classes. UBIS classes expanded. Preparations were made to offer classes in Portuguese.

A UBIS Board meeting was held in Chicago to discuss short- and long-range plans. We owe a big "thank you" to Dorothy Elder, Georges Michelson-Dupont, Polly Friedman, Olga López, Ralph and Betty Zehr, Tom Brachna,

Judy Cosky, Susan Flacks, and Pam Maunakea for their immense contributions to UBIS.

Restoration of Urantia Foundation at 533 W Diversey Parkway

Phase 1 of the 533 W Diversey Renovation Project (2nd Floor: three new bathrooms, a new kitchen, and upgrades in the sleeping porch, hallway, and breakfast nook) was nearly completed in 2011. We expect to finish the 2nd floor by July. We started Phase 2, which is the renovation of the first floor and plumbing repairs in the basement. In 2011 we added a new conference room, redid the visitor's room, and started renovation of two bathrooms, the copy room, the break room, and the hallway. Many of the old pipes and all of the risky plumbing in the basement was repaired or replaced.

Approximately \$215,000 has been raised toward the \$400,000 needed for the full building renovation. This historic building is a heritage for future generations and a vital community resource today. Your tax deductible donations, earmarked for the 533 Building Renovation Project, are greatly needed. To complete the first floor we need an additional \$50,000 before the end of 2012.



Joel Wood

Staffing Changes at Urantia Foundation

In December, Joanne Strobel joined the team at 533 as Jay Peregrine's executive assistant. Joanne comes from Atlanta, Georgia, and brings a broad set of skills to the team. Welcome Joanne! Joel Wood has been working while Tamara and Connie take leave to welcome two new souls into the world.

Urantia Foundation's Website

Total visits at www.urantia.org were 772,939 in 2011, up 44% from 2010. Pages visited were up 24%. Urantia Book downloads were up 24%. Social Media expansion continued in 2011. Facebook "likes" exceeded our goal by one third at year end with 3,000 likes.

During the planning meeting extensive conversation centered on the increasing role of the internet, digital technology, and social media in furthering the purposes of *The Urantia Book*.

New Decision

The Board approved the printing of 10,000 Spanish paperbacks for Latin America.



Joanne Strobel

TEACHER-FACILITATORS NEEDED FOR THE URANTIA BOOK INTERNET SCHOOL



By Betty Zehr, Co-chair of the Faculty Development Committee for UBIS, Waverly, New York, USA

The first trimester of the Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS) in 2012 is just beyond the half way mark. Seven courses are in session; topics range from the "Wisdom of the Melchizedeks" to "Time and Space." The teaching method is Jesusonian and non-interpretive. This is a place for Teacher-Facilitators (TFs) and students to share together, in a focused and nurturing way, the knowledge he or she has discovered in *The Urantia Book*. The goal is to delve more deeply into the subjects of eternal significance and to enlarge our concepts of that precious, life-giving, living truth that nourishes the soul so abundantly.

Our greatest need is to identify, recruit, and train passionate students of the truths found in *The Urantia Book* who have the potential to become TFs. An internet community of dedicated and experienced TFs is committed to helping new teachers so that they are not alone in this process. After taking the teacher training course, the new teacher is

assisted in selecting a topic and constructing the course. The teacher is then mentored throughout the first course; there is always someone to turn to for assistance when questions arise and to offer words of encouragement.

One of the special aspects of UBIS is that now truth seekers anywhere in the world who have access to a computer and speak English or Spanish can share in the rich fellowship of learning no matter how isolated they are. We shall be offering classes in other languages as soon as we find qualified teachers. If you are interested in becoming a TF, please register for a course to begin the process.

The following quotation makes us reasonably confident that our efforts vis-à-vis UBIS will continue to bear fruit worthy of its association with the Fifth Epochal Revelation:

"That which the enlightened and reflective human imagination of spiritual teaching and leading wholeheartedly and unselfishly wants to do and be, becomes measurably creative in accordance with the degree of mortal dedication to the divine doing of the Father's will. When man goes in partnership with God, great things may, and do happen."
(1467.5) 132:7.9

The teaching method is Jesusonian and non-interpretive.

THE URANTIA BOOK...AROUND THE WORLD

Editor's note: Former Associate Trustee, Irmeli Sjölie, continues to jet set the world engaging in Urantia Book activities. Following are some pictures of events and bookstores selling The Urantia Book.



Urantiaboken on the shelves in Vattumannen – a bookstore in Stockholm, **Sweden**. Sales: A few books each month.



Rombach is the largest bookstore in Freiburg, **Germany**. *Das Urantia Buch* can always be found on the shelves. When Irmeli and Werner Sutter first visited Freiburg, they gave a book to Rombach Bookstore on condition that, when it sold, they would order another one from the German distributor. Rombach now sells Urantia Books regularly. It is found in the spiritual section and sells for 29 euros.



Swedish readers had a booth at the Harmony Expo in Stockholm on October 29 and 30, 2011.

Werner and Irmeli attended the Gaia Book Fair in Rastatt, Germany in 2011. Next to their booth was the booth of a Rastatt bookstore that has been selling *Das Urantia Buch* since its publication in 2005. What a pleasant surprise!

Riitta Tuiri, secretary of the Swedish association of Urantia Association International, attended along with Jacob Dix and a few other readers.

Marja-Leena and Kalevi Eklöf at the "Spirit and Knowledge Exhibition", which takes place every autumn in Helsinki, **Finland**.





FNAC is a large bookstore chain with 10 stores located in the big cities of **Brazil**: São Paulo, Campinas, Ribeirão Preto, Rio, Curitiba, Porto Alegre, Belo Horizonte, etc.

They have placed *The Urantia Book* in the religion and spiritual section.



Bacchus Books in Golden, B.C., **Canada**. *The Urantia Book* has been sold there for years.



Buchhandel im Licht, a bookstore in Zurich, **Switzerland**. *The Urantia Book* is placed next to C.G. Jung's book. The French and Italian translations can be found in another section in this store.



Irmeli Sjölie in Canada





The Portuguese translation of *The Urantia Book* sells very well in Livraria Cultura, a bookstore on Avenida Paulista in São Paulo, Brazil.

We found a stack of paperbacks, one hardcover, and an English hardcover there.

They have placed the books in the "Christianismo" section next to the Pope's latest book.

They sell the paperback for 73 real (\$41 US) and the hard cover for 93 real (\$52 US).

COMMENTS FROM READERS



How to be a Child of God

By Alice Wood, Green Bay, Wisconsin, USA

Humans have an innate "love of adventure, curiosity, and dread of monotony." (159.6) 14:5.10 Before having my son, Huck, I looked at my own life—the habits I had developed, routines I had fallen into—and I wanted to do something new. Ironically, embarking on a parental adventure led me into the monotony of parenting.

When I'm feeling burdened by

having to repress my desire to satiate my desire for adventure (the Grand Canyon has been calling to me for months), I take comfort in knowing that my parenting experience has boundless value in enlarging my understanding of the relationship between God and his children. *The Urantia Book* states, "A true family—a good family—reveals to the parental procreators the attitude of the creator to his children." [942.1] 84:7.30 This statement has given me a purpose that affects me daily. Every moment provides me with an opportunity to learn about an ideal child-like attitude toward the Father.

A few months ago I was talking to a Buddhist and another reader of *The Urantia Book*. The Buddhist said that she did not want to have children because she wanted to focus on reaching Enlightenment. My immediate response was to nod my head, thinking that, like

learning the violin, attaining Enlightenment would be put on the back burner upon having children. The *Urantia Book* reader, however, asked her the question, "Do you not think that the experience of having children would help you reach Enlightenment?"

Yes, singing children's songs all day can be monotonous, and when I have a crying child and pureed peas in my hair, I cling to the knowledge that the overall effect of parenting will be enlightening.

I can't estimate how much time I have spent doing nothing of any spiritual worth, forcing my Thought Adjuster to wait until my Thursday night sitcoms are over, and fighting off—I am sure on too many occasions—my Adjuster's prompting. But God continues to love me and tirelessly encourages my growth. Like myself, Huck has a lot to learn about trust, and it comes easier for him in some situations than in others. He has recently begun walking,

and I have been struck by how easy it can be to get him to walk where I want him to. If I get down on his level, point, and say, "Let's go this way," he'll walk right alongside me. He does not know why we are going that way; all he knows is that he's been told "over there" is a good place to be. On the other hand, almost every diaper change comes with a fair amount of kicking and screaming. Wouldn't life be easier if Huck just accepted the diaper change and trusted that it was all for the best? Wouldn't life be easier if I just accepted God's will and trusted that it would lead me down the best path?

Hopefully I'll be able to look back on this experience with satisfaction and enjoy a long awaited friendship with Huck. From a universal standpoint, there will be one more Finaliter to embark on the glorious adventure in the outer space levels—one more

Finaliter who will contribute to the growth of the Supreme. As beautiful as that is, what sustains me through the twentieth rendition of "Old McDonald" is the knowledge that, through this challenge, I will develop a greater understanding of how to be a child of God.

Capturing even a partial understanding of this message will improve the quality of life for any truth seeker.

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A Moment in Time

By Bernard Gabriel Belarski, Sydney, Australia

Looking back over the many years of reading and studying my beloved Urantia Book, it seems to me that the revelation has certain components that are more relevant during different stages of mind development. During different times in my life, certain teachings have captured my attention.

I remember the tremendous joy welling up in my soul, when I completed my first reading of *The Urantia Book* back in the summer of 1977. When I closed the book, I realized that after many years of searching for truth, I had finished what I deemed to be the greatest book ever published! How could it be that so many questions were answered by one book? A short time later I realized that a lifetime would be required to bring reality to what I had just discovered.

I remember how impressed I was with Rodan's philosophy and how very deep are the Master's words of insight and wisdom. How long would it take for these teachings to become part of me? I spent over ten years interpreting the ordination sermon, and after all my attempts at understanding these words, I found some meaningful understanding almost twenty years later.

Having a personal faith in life everlasting has been the main ingredient of my mind-set throughout this mortal life. Believing that this adventure will continue on throughout a universe career has taken me to a place of understanding that allows for successes as well as failures.

Making these teachings a personal understanding took many adjustments in comprehension and change in attitude. Most important, it means being able to speak of these in my own words. And so I wish to share three insights after my years of study.

The first is about the First Jubilee. Rather than telling you the insight I gleaned from this, I recommend that you study Paper 27, which will lead to an understanding and an appreciation of it and how

important it is to have this experience while living our mortal life.

The second is in Paper 140, "The Ordination of the Twelve." It has been my blueprint for happiness. I have found within these words more life and more value than in all the others. And how amazing is it to know that our Paradise Creator Son was giving advice to you, to me, and to all intelligent life. Capturing even a partial understanding of this message will improve the quality of life for any truth seeker.

The third is, for me, the expansion of maturity and the equivalent of soul growth. I think that we might be reading the most profound sharing of truth in Paper 118, section 1, "Time and Eternity." In the summer of 1977 the statement, "and this represents our best concept of eternity and the eternal" made me tremble at the power contained within this section, and even today, as I review these passages, I experience a great sense of humility and gratitude.



“You can only judge men by their acts, but my Father looks into the hearts of his children and in mercy adjudges them in accordance with their intents and real desires.”

Jesus, *The Urantia Book*, (1576.5) 140:6.5