



# URANTIA FOUNDATION'S NEWS ONLINE



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We hope this online tool will be a useful service to supporters of Urantia Foundation.

## NEW PLANNED GIVING WEBSITE AT URANTIA.ORG

By Jay Peregrine, executive director, Urantia Foundation, Chicago, Illinois, United States

[Urantia.plannedgiving.org](http://Urantia.plannedgiving.org) is a free online service to help you develop a good estate plan, whether you are thinking of leaving a gift of cash or property to your family, to Urantia Foundation, to another charity, or a combination of these. This new website, recently rolled out as an adjunct to Urantia.org, includes

- an estate planning section;
- a will planning wizard; an online tool to help you calculate your personal financial goals;
- an interactive tool to help you Plan-a-Gift;
- ways to support Urantia Foundation (or another charity) that do not affect your current lifestyle or your family's security;
- gifts that pay you income;
- gifts that protect your assets; and
- a tool to compare gift plans to see which is best for you.

On the site you will find free brochures covering many of these topics, which you can download and read at your convenience, share with your

spouse or financial advisor, or give to a loved one who may need help with estate planning.

Do you know how to avoid the potential double taxation your retirement savings would face if you designated them to your heirs? Read the section "Put Your IRA to Work for Urantia Foundation."

Do you know that fifty-five percent of adults in the United States do not have a will (according to WikiAnswers.com)? The government will receive a large portion of your estate if you do not have a will! Use the Will Planning Wizard to assemble the information you need to draft a will, or use the sample codicil to add a gift to Urantia Foundation to your existing will.

If you need a monthly income in retirement but want to save on your taxes, read the section on charitable or gift annuities, "Gifts that Pay You Income."

If you have a professional financial advisor, ask him or her to look at the section entitled "For Professional Advisors." There they will find important information about making gifts to Urantia Foundation as well as helpful free tools.



We hope this online tool will be a useful service to supporters of Urantia Foundation, and that, as you think about estate planning, you will consider remembering what *The Urantia Book* has meant to you by remembering in your will Urantia Foundation, the original publisher and distributor of the book worldwide.



Planned giving is a family affair.

# NOTEWORTHY DECISIONS FROM THE APRIL 2013 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING



By Marilynn Kulieke, vice president, Urantia Foundation, Lincolnshire, Illinois, United States

### Urantia Books

The board reviewed the recently printed dust covers for the Spanish, Russian, and Portuguese hardcover translations of *The Urantia Book*. The English paperbacks with new covers arrived a few days after the meeting. This production run of 16,000 books came just in time for an unveiling at the annual Book Expo America. New covers bring renewed interest and opportunities for *The Urantia Book*. Without an occasional new cover the book industry would view *The Urantia Book* as an old and tired book. New covers keep the book relevant in the book industry and desirable to bookstore shoppers.

Book sales in the United States were up four percent in the first quarter of 2013 compared to the first quarter in 2012.

The historical index to *The Urantia Book* is almost complete. Publication plans are underway.

The Russian translation of *The Urantia Book* has just been reprinted, and Urantia Foundation now begins the process of reintroducing the book into Russia. Even though 17,000 books have been distributed there since 1997, distribution remains a daunting task. Despite our best efforts, the Foundation has never collected a penny for any of these books. We hope this will improve with this new print run.

### Donations Made Easier

Urantia Foundation recently launched a new page at [www.urantia.org](http://www.urantia.org) that answers many of your questions about making wills, passing on property, and donating to your favorite Urantia Book projects. Please visit [urantia.plannedgiving.org](http://urantia.plannedgiving.org) to find creative ways to support Urantia Foundation while benefiting you and your loved ones at the same time. (See page 1 for highlights.)

### Editorial Policy

The board passed an editorial policy for Urantia Foundation publications, a policy that helps insure quality in all of the Foundation's publications.

### Standard Reference Text Committee

With the copyright of *The Urantia Book* no longer valid, protecting the original text has become problematic. To solve the problem Urantia Foundation and the Urantia Book Fellowship established a Standard Reference Text Committee to look at all the changes to *The Urantia Book* since its first 1955 publication. After years of work, the committee recommended the "definitive

text," free of typographical errors. This text has been subsequently referred to as the "Standard Reference Text." When you see the words "Standard Reference Text" on a Urantia Book, you can trust that the text inside is the bonafide and unadulterated Urantia Book.

With an ongoing need for studying the text, for formatting it, and for implementing the referencing system now used in digital books, we are asking that the joint Foundation and Fellowship sponsored committee be reconstituted under the leadership of Marilynn Kulieke.



Georges Michelson-Dupont

### Translations and Revisions

The manager of translations, Trustee Georges Michelson-Dupont, presented reports on the Hebrew, Chinese, Indonesian, Farsi, Czech, and Japanese translations, which are currently works-in-progress. A report was also given on the revisions-in-progress: the Spanish, Portuguese, Hungarian, French, Russian, Romanian, and Polish translations. Urantia Foundation continues, with a steadfast

determination, to produce and distribute quality translations that stay true to the original English text. The current translations that need donor support are the Chinese, Indonesian, and Hebrew translations.

The number of Urantia Foundation's translations is increasing, and there is need for professional procedures to produce, revise, manage, and safeguard them. In 2013-2014 the Foundation will be establishing such procedures.

### Education

2013 Seminars at Urantia Foundation:

- *The Cosmic Power of Spiritual Truth*, Jeff Wattles, May 2013. (See page 4 for highlights.)
- *Scientific Facts That Point to God*, Ralph Zehr, November 2013.

If you are interested in participating in the November seminar, please write to [urantia@urantia.org](mailto:urantia@urantia.org) for more information.

By the end of 2013, the Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS) will move to a new educational software platform that will make conducting and taking classes more intuitive and easier to use. This will be a significant upgrade to the UBIS educational experience. (See page 10 for highlights.)

### Elections of Officers, Associate Trustees, and Committee Members

The following trustees were elected as officers for a three-year term:





A renovated second-floor bedroom

## A DECIMAL SEMINAR



By Jeff Wattles, Stowe, Ohio, United States

*Editor's note: "Urantia is a decimal planet, a life-experiment world."*

The decimal seminar, conducted by Jeff Wattles, was an experiment. It tested whether a method of experiential education, which

had shown dramatic results in the classroom, could be adapted to a four-day gathering. The result was a resounding yes.

Twelve students of *The Urantia Book* gathered at Urantia Foundation on May 30-June 2, 2013, after having been invited to prepare for the seminar by doing an experiential project.

This seminar focused on spiritual truths of cosmic power. Participants were invited (1) to identify a personal growth need, (2) to select a relevant quotation of spiritual truth from *The Urantia Book*, (3) to apply that teaching in their lives for several weeks, and (4) to give

a presentation of the fruits of their labors at the seminar.

Participants were David Fabe, Marvin Garwyn, Sherry Layton, Janelle Mazza, Bill Martin, Bill Page, Barbara Newsom, Margie Ray, Cristina Seaborn, Eija Seppänen-Bolotinski, Evette Twyford, and Jeff Wattles. They responded to the project assignment in a variety of ways. Eight presentations were given, and the effect was truly inspiring. We heard stories of personal transformation in connection with projects that had been going on for years, stories of struggle and work in progress, and stories of the power of truth and love in challenging situations.

The presentations were interwoven with brief studies of five projects highlighted in *The Urantia Book*: 1) becoming like God, 2) constructing a new philosophy of living in truth, beauty, and goodness, 3) proclaiming Jesus' gospel, 4) uniting the families of the professed followers of Jesus, and 5) revealing advanced truth. One of Jeff's dreams for the seminar was to launch teamwork on these projects, and such teamwork was a natural fit for some of the group.

Janelle Mazza led off with a presentation on the Fatherhood of God. Her experience of growing up without the presence of her



Sherry Layton

a new revelation of Jesus with a new and enlarged presentation of his saving message which would spiritually unite in loving service the numerous families of his present-day professed followers.” (2086.2) 195:10.16 David’s experience has taught him to begin his interactions with people without introducing *The Urantia Book*. “The world needs to see Jesus living again on earth in the experience of spirit-born mortals who effectively reveal the Master to all men.” (2084.1) 195:10.1 David, Jeff, and Barbara Newsom began their “teamwork” on that great hope.



Barbara Newsom

Barbara’s project and presentation focused on love. She discussed her ministry activities in the Episcopal Church, including a time at a hospital when she led her fellow church members in prayer for a church member who was at the point of death. The patient had been prescribed an overdose of pain medication, which critically depressed respiration. As the group prayed, everyone felt the presence of God. The priest had been delayed, but by the time he arrived, the patient had almost completely recovered.

earthly father left her with negative attitudes. But when she started her spiritual quest, she met many men who were living spiritual values. Today, as a new reader of *The Urantia Book*, with a charming, sensitive, and gentle manner, with eloquence buttressed by her intelligence, and with a gift for leadership, she expressed unforgettably her wholehearted commitment to the Father’s will.

The other young adult, David Fabe, studied in the Great Books program at St. John’s College and just graduated from the renowned New School in Manhattan with concentrations in writing and philosophy. David gave a presentation on his experience of having dedicated his life to “the great hope of Urantia,” which “lies in the possibility of

Bill Page’s project focused on the concept of the friendly universe, using this saying of Jesus, “I am absolutely assured that the entire universe is friendly to me—this all-powerful truth I insist on believing with a wholehearted trust in spite of all appearances to the contrary.” (1469.3) 133:1.4 Last year Bill lost his wife to cancer. With two days to live, she asked, “Why me? I never did anything bad to anybody.” Bill has been developing an ever-further answer to that question ever since. Bill is addressing his own difficulty in loving people who behave badly, realizing that we can help

make the planet friendlier.

Then Margie Ray told the group about the awesome transformation in her life that happened when she took up the habit of starting every day with this prayer: “Father, I love you. It is my will to do your will. Show me the way. Please make me a good servant of your will today.” In the past four years, she has been frequently experiencing spiritually effective interactions with people she meets. Even though she is involved in many complex projects, she never experiences life as hectic; time always makes gracious room for what needs to be done. Margie will retire from her career as a university scientist after this year, and then she will pursue a Ph.D. in philosophy. She and Jeff began “teamwork” on constructing a new philosophy of living in truth, beauty, and goodness.

Eija Seppänen-Bolotinski, who has been the co-leader of Jeff’s internet Gospel School since its beginning, gave a presentation on the spiritual meaning of work. She is a psychiatrist and works in a setting where she is prohibited from sharing her religious beliefs. Even so, she told us that she experiences the beauty of silently expressing spirituality in working with clients.

Sherry Layton’s presentation on love in personal ministry won the prize for effective communication. She used slides and vignettes that touched us profoundly. She began “teamwork” with Jeff on the project of becoming Godlike.

There is much more to tell, but this is enough to give evidence that the decimal seminar was another one of those gatherings in which human efforts are complemented by superhuman ministry.



Cristina Seaborn



Marvin Garwyn



Janelle Mazza

“I am absolutely assured that the entire universe is friendly to me.”

# THE URANTIA BOOK IN SPAIN



By Olga López, Barcelona, Spain

The Urantia movement is growing slowly and steadily in Spain. The book is easy to find and order, and its price (thirty euros) is affordable if we take into account that any best-selling book costs about twenty to twenty-five euros. Recently, I went to a FNAC bookstore in Barcelona, and, to my surprise, they had about thirty copies of *The Urantia Book* in plain sight! Book distribution has come a long way since the time when the book was available only in a few esoteric bookshops, and it was next to impossible to find on the shelves.

*El libro de Urantia* is selling well in spite of the financial crisis in Spain. Why? These are the answers that come to my mind:

- In times of uncertainty, more and more people are looking for meaning in their lives, and they find *The Urantia Book* as a result of this search.
- The “J.J. Benitez effect”: Many people have found *The Urantia Book* after reading Benitez’s novels. Benitez has

published two novels recently, and they are more or less related to *The Urantia Book*—more specifically—to the life and teachings of Jesus as it is told in *The Urantia Book*.

- Dissemination efforts are bearing fruits. The Urantia Association of Spain has been working diligently since 2004 to make known the teachings of *The Urantia Book*.
- The Catholic Church made the Spanish people spiritually thirsty but insufficiently quenched their thirst.

Today there are eleven study groups in Spain, including one virtual one. Study groups are proving to be crucial in the efforts made by the Urantia Association of Spain to disseminate the book’s teachings. Study group members find places to make presentations about the book, they take care of logistics, and they make themselves available as contacts for new readers.

The virtual study group meets every Sunday at 6:00 p.m. on the internet. Thanks to the generosity of the Urantia Association of Brazil, we can

use their chat room to participate in a study group session using voice, image, and written text. This endeavor has proven to be very successful so far. About 13-15 readers participate per session, and they come not only from Spain but also from other Spanish-speaking countries. I strongly recommend that isolated readers join a virtual study group! Although the experience does not compare with face-to-face meetings, it does allow for lively interaction and a fruitful exchange of insights and ideas.

do we do it? We want to encourage attendees to find their own way to disseminate the book so that more people will discover this wonderful revelation.

There is still much work to do and challenges to face. Materialistic-secularism is still prevalent throughout Europe. Most people are not interested in religion, and truth seekers are not easy to find. We know, however, that they are here, craving for meaning and thirsting for truth, and we are going to find them! We also want to involve younger people in the

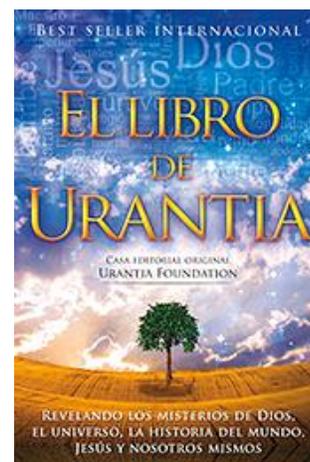


The Spanish Urantia Association has also developed a new discussion list, “El rincón de Urantia,” which means “the Urantia corner” in English. It was conceived as a forum to discuss *The Urantia Book* and its teachings in a loving and respectful way.

Other efforts are made to disseminate the book, including giving presentations in different cities throughout Spain and hosting an annual national conference in Madrid, this year being the twelfth. The theme of this year’s conference is “*The Urantia Book: What? How? Why?*” Our focus will be on answering the questions: 1) *What do we do to disseminate The Urantia Book and its teachings?* 2) *How do we do it?* and 3) *Why*

Urantia movement because they will be tomorrow’s leaders.

*When the materialistic-secular panic is over, the religion of Jesus will not be found bankrupt. The spiritual bank of the kingdom of heaven will be paying out faith, hope, and moral security to all who draw upon it "in His name." (2076.6) 195:6.1*



**IN TIMES OF UNCERTAINTY, MORE AND MORE PEOPLE ARE  
LOOKING FOR MEANING IN THEIR LIVES.**

# TRANSLATING *THE URANTIA BOOK* INTO FARSI: THE INSPIRING STORY OF HOW THIS PROJECT BEGAN

*Editor's Note: The author of this article wishes to remain anonymous. Someday this world will know religious freedom, and we pray for the day that all of its inhabitants will be able to express themselves freely.*

I am the translator of *The Urantia Book* into the Farsi (Persian) language. In 1990 I discovered *The Urantia Book* in the office of a Persian doctor. At that time I regarded myself as a progressive Moslem thinker, and I practiced Islam, the religion of my parents. I had read the Koran and the Bible. Although I found some inspiration in these two books, they did not answer my fundamental questions about life, the universe, God, the afterlife, and the earth's history. The Bible and the Koran did not quench my intellectual and spiritual thirst, and their answers to my questions did not appeal to my scientific mind and my soul. It seemed to me that the creator of the universe must be far

more encompassing, universal, and loving than the portrayal of God in the Koran and the Bible. Furthermore, I thought that we could not have been placed on earth just to live a short life and then end up either in heaven or hell, depending on whether or not we conformed to a certain belief system.

While I was struggling for answers, I started reading *The Urantia Book* with tremendous curiosity. Soon it became obvious to me that I had come across an unearthly treasure. Its intellectual appeal and the wisdom of its authors far surpassed anything that I had ever read. My life-long, unanswered questions now found satisfactory answers that appealed to my inner being. What a magnificent God we have! What a glorious universe we live in! I now look forward to a universe career of growth and discovery. I asked

می چیزها و موجودات. اول به خدا به مثابه یک  
یک حامی بیکران. حقیقت در باره پدر جهانی  
"تو، خداوند، تنها هستی، هیچ کس غیر از تو  
فریده‌ای. تو آنها را نگاهداری و کنترل می‌کنی.  
امه‌ای با نور می‌پوشاند و افلاک را همانند یک  
خدا — انسان فانی را قادر ساخت که پدر را به

بسیاری از انواع گوناگون مخلوقات هوشمند  
را دریافت کنند و متقابلاً به او عشق بورزند.

myself: How can I share my happiness and forward thinking with other hungry souls, especially those who speak the Farsi language?

I started by translating a few passages from the book and sharing them with friends. Then I decided to translate the book. I have translated nearly

half of it. I am certain that, when the translation is completed, and the book is published in Farsi, it will transform the thinking and philosophy of Iranians and other Farsi-speaking people around the world.

What a delight and honor it is to be a translator of *The Urantia Book* and to be here on Urantia when, as is stated in the book: "All Urantia is waiting for the proclamation of the ennobling message of Michael, unencumbered by the accumulated doctrines and dogmas of nineteen centuries of contact with the religions of evolutionary origin. The hour is striking for presenting to Buddhism, to Christianity, to Hinduism, even to the peoples of all faiths, not the gospel about Jesus, but the living, spiritual reality of the gospel of Jesus." (1041:5) 94:12.7



Persian language map created by Sehend [commons.wikimedia.org]

## INSPIRE AND BE INSPIRED



By Line St-Pierre, associate trustee, Ste-Sophie, Québec, Canada

As my friend Chichi said, "We need to be attentive." This is how this opportunity came about. I never thought I would return to Peru to visit the women I met in 2010 when my husband Gaétan Charland and I travelled to South America, promoting the Urantia Association International's Leadership Symposium in 2011.

Last October, while in Chicago for a trustees meeting, I met Sandra Burga-Cisneros Pizarro, who lives in Switzerland. Like me, she is a new associate trustee and also the daughter of my friend Lourdes who lives in Peru. When Sandra and I first met, immediately we had a connection beyond friendship. During the weekend we shared many ideas. She informed me that she was going to visit her family in South America in April 2013. She invited me to join her. I told her not to tempt me but finally decided to take advantage of her offer to experience deeper fellowship with the people I met in 2010.

How many of us can declare that the world is a friendly and welcoming place?

This trip had an important purpose: to tell these women how personally inspiring they were to me and to share with them my project to educate women in Canada, to teach them their value, their importance, and their beauty, and to impart to them the truth that God has a plan for each of us.

As I arrived in Lima, I was treated with much kindness and generosity. During my two weeks stay, the Pizarro sisters, Lourdes and Cecilia, introduced me to 35 readers of *The Urantia Book*, only five of whom, surprisingly, were men. In all the places I have visited around the world, I have never come across any group with so many women readers!

During my visit I attended three study groups lead by Cecilia Pizarro in Lima. There were six to nine participants, and at the end of each meeting, Cecilia would ask the attendees to share their understanding and feelings about the meeting. Even the quietest ones would share something, something beautiful about what they learned. An energy very pure and touching was present.

I was witnessing women leaders acting upon their understanding of the teachings. They want to make a difference and want that service to others be their legacy.

Some of the women serve the needy in their local communities, where people share their concerns and beliefs about life. One woman helps in a center for abused women and children. Others publish articles in local newspapers and invite people for coffee and discussion about life issues. When the

timing seems to be opportune, they share some teachings from *The Urantia Book*, and this can continue for months.

Another woman works with young adults and rephrases the *Thoughts to Ponder* into words that the younger generation will relate to and then posts them on her Facebook page. Others have put up billboards by the highway with thought-provoking statements, wake-up calls you might say.

An example appears on the billboard below. "If I do not do it for myself, then who will? If it is not now, then when?"

Many of these women have been reading *The Urantia Book* for almost 20 years, and they recognize the great responsibility suggested by its teachings. I sense that it is just the beginning of a new era in Peru for service to people by sharing their own understanding with the needy in their country.

A small group have designed a board game with questions on cards. Their idea was to share the teachings in a playful manner as an attractive way to help them solve their human problems, discover their higher self, and take them gently towards the

discovery of the book and its teachings.

Our cultures may be different, but women are the same and have the same concerns everywhere. We yearn to have a better world for our children and our grandchildren. By educating mothers to be better mothers, their children will be better parents, better citizens, better doctors, teachers, politicians, bus drivers, technicians, and so on.

This trip was meant for me to meet people on spiritual ground where bonding in action can expand. Just like a spiral that starts with one idea or concept and is elevated by something more, it continues on as the spiral grows wider and higher. While they inspired me in 2010, when I returned to share my project on educating women, they told me that I was an inspiration to them through what I do. We do not always realize the extent of our actions.

*The God-knowing man describes his spiritual experiences, not to convince unbelievers, but for the edification and mutual satisfaction of believers. (30.5) 1:6.6*



# THE THIRD MEETING OF THE BLUE CLUB IN FRANKFURT, GERMANY



By Christian Ruch, Chur, Switzerland

It was an amiable group, which came together in Frankfurt, Germany during the last weekend in April for the third meeting of the Blue Club. Have you ever heard of the Blue Club? It is a private, non-institutional fellowship of European readers of *The Urantia Book*, who hail from the south of Spain to the north of Finland. Three years ago some people had the idea to talk, to exchange experiences, and to have a good time together in a relaxed and casual atmosphere. The idea became a reality, and we had our first meeting in 2011 (also in Frankfurt.) Someone there had the idea to call us the Blue Club—the color of the three blue concentric circles.

Last year we met in the charming City of Lights, Paris, and this year we met again in Frankfurt. The hotel there knows the “Urantia” people quite well because it is also where the German readers have their November annual meetings.

It was indeed a pleasure at

this year’s gathering of the Blue Club to welcome readers from Austria, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States. Some of the readers from Austria, Germany, and Norway had been wanting to connect with other readers for many years. For them, it felt like a home coming, and it was an emotional occasion.

Chris Wood, the new president of Urantia Association International (UAI) also came. I think it was important for him to see what is going on in Europe.

There were many topics of discussion at the meeting. Since the attendees hailed from many different countries, we discussed

personal and group experiences with disseminating *The Urantia Book* and its teachings. We also shared what works and what does not work.

Erwin DeCraecker is very successful at starting new study groups in southern Germany. He spoke about his experiences in presenting *The Urantia Book* at book fairs and shared very useful instructions on how to talk with people about this big, thick book.

Michael Maclsaac helped us to recharge our spiritual batteries by having us discuss in small groups how *The Urantia Book* affects our daily lives.

The final item on our agenda was to discuss and plan for a

“big” European conference, which will take place in Berlin from August 21-24, 2014. We hope that you will join us and meet the European readers of *The Urantia Book*!



## A NEW PLATFORM FOR THE URANTIA BOOK INTERNET SCHOOL



By Michael Zehr, Winter Garden, Florida, United States

*Editor's Note: The Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS) is now in its fourteenth year of operation. The school has been facilitating in-depth study of The Urantia Book to scores of readers around the world. The demand for more classes in more languages has grown, and now there is need for new virtual classrooms.*

A few times a year, readers of *The Urantia Book* from around the world gather virtually at [urantiabookschool.org](http://urantiabookschool.org) to

participate in classes. This site has served its purpose well, but an updated system called Moodle is now available, and UBIS will be offering future courses in online classrooms based on the Moodle platform.

Moodle is an open-source application, which means that it is maintained by a community of volunteer developers. Moodle is designed specifically to support online classes and education. There are more than 80,000 registered sites using Moodle in over 200 countries with more than one million teachers and 70 million students. Its widespread use helps to ensure that it will remain compatible with future browsers and computer versions, but the primary reason for choosing Moodle is the built-in support for many languages, including English, Spanish, French, and German.

Moodle has many more capabilities that UBIS could use in the future. For example, although UBIS uses a weekly-format course (the students are all participating in the

same activity which changes on a weekly basis), the system could also support topical or self-paced courses.

The launch date for the new site has not been officially announced, but we are implementing it as quickly as possible. Care is being taken to fully support the question/response/discussion format of the current school and allow for an easy transition for students, teacher/facilitators, and the UBIS administrative staff.

It is most gratifying to be working on this project as the primary developer. I am also working closely with my parents, Ralph and Betty Zehr, who are teacher/facilitators with UBIS, and my father is an associate trustee of Urantia Foundation. I look forward to a future in which UBIS offers courses in many languages and reaches more and more students of *The Urantia Book*.



## A READER'S COMMENT



**Reaching for Perfection**

By Sandra Burga-Cisneros Pizarro, associate trustee, Zürich, Switzerland

When I think about perfection and the mandate: "Be you perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect," I think about love, the pure and divine love our Father gives us, love in its most altruistic and selfless form, love as the path every human being can choose in order to be perfect as our Father is perfect.

I have learned that every human being has "a life to live." We all experience this labyrinth of life and try to achieve happiness through our actions at work and with our families and friends, and

with others. When I think about the moments of life that truly have fulfilled me, it is when I am motivated by love and activated by unselfish ministry that I feel a true connection with our Father.

Of course it is not easy, and I ask myself, "How can I feel that connection more often? I am reminded that:

*If mortal man is wholeheartedly spiritually motivated, unreservedly*

*consecrated to the doing of the Father's will, then, since he is so certainly and so effectively spiritually endowed by the indwelling and divine Adjuster, there cannot fail to materialize in that individual's experience the sublime consciousness of knowing God and the supernal assurance of surviving for the purpose of finding God by the progressive experience of becoming more and more like him. (63.4) 5.1.6*



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Constantly I have to say to myself: “Be conscious of His spark of divinity within you!” Only by being in a daily connection with my Thought Adjuster, my heavenly helper, do I allow Him to teach and guide me. If I wander off the path or I become distracted, there comes a time when I must face the reality of the true purpose of my life. We all have to do so, for once we have tasted such a way of living we shall not be able to forget nor live in peace until we return to this path.

Jesus, during his life in the flesh, showed us this path. He taught us the way, and He is holding and supporting us until the moment we decide to walk the path with Him. Nevertheless, it is our decision to do so; the choice is ours to make. Our life purpose is to be like our Father and to love each other as He loves us. “Jesus revealed a God of love, and love is all-embracing of truth, beauty, and goodness.” (67.5) 5:4.7

Every day we have to deal with the mundane, and sometimes it is difficult to have the reaching-for-perfection attitude when we are surrounded by complaining and negative-thinking brothers and sisters. But each of us has been blessed with an indwelling fragment of our Father, which means we have the blueprint of perfection inside. And those who have the privilege of being conscious of this truth have also the responsibility to show the way to those who are not thus minded.

*Man is spiritually indwelt by a surviving Thought Adjuster. If such a human mind is sincerely and spiritually motivated, if such a human soul desires to know God and become like him, honestly wants to do the Father's will, there exists no negative influence of mortal deprivation nor positive power of possible interference which can prevent such a divinely motivated soul from securely ascending to the portals of Paradise.* (63.5) 5:1.7

Let us not allow such connection to disappear when performing our daily duties! Let it become a daily ritual, a part of us that we cannot live without! Let us fight against our limitations and bravely pass every test life gives us. Let us “learn to feast upon uncertainty, to fatten upon disappointment, to enthuse over apparent defeat, to invigorate in the presence of difficulties, to exhibit indomitable courage in the face of immensity, and to exercise unconquerable faith when confronted with the challenge of the inexplicable.” (291.3) 26:5.3.



When I read *The Urantia Book* I feel myself in expansion, as a bird might feel when flying. Though the feeling is difficult to describe, I feel in connection with all of God's creation. I suppose that all readers are similarly affected. As human beings, we are limited in understanding the love our Father feels for us. But even with our limitations, we can experience immense feelings of love, an ineffable connection with our Father.

Let us not forget who we are and where are we going! Let us remember every day the commitment we have taken to search for truth. And with such a great revelation in our hands, let us put the teachings into practice, not just by believing them, but by living them motivated by love, activated by unselfish ministry, and with a true connection with our Father.

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