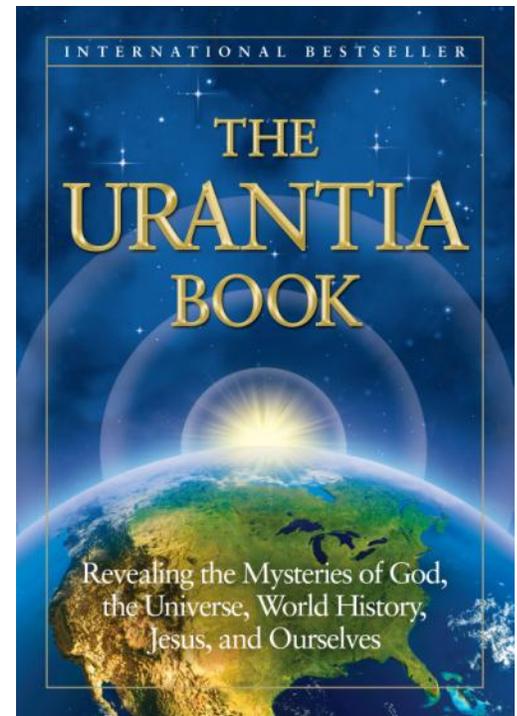
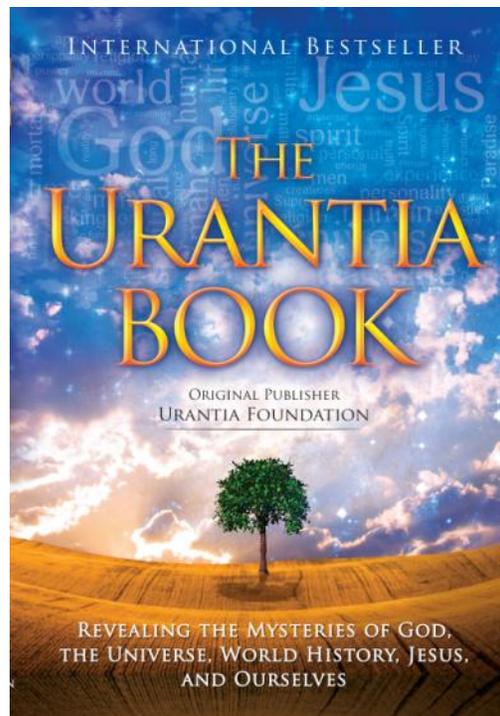




URANTIA FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES NEW BOOK COVERS FOR *THE URANTIA BOOK*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>New Book Covers for The Urantia Book</i>	1
<i>Noteworthy Decisions from the January 2013 Board of Trustees Meeting</i>	2
<i>The 2012 Survey of Readers of The Urantia Book</i>	4
<i>Finding a Distributor in Hungary for the Hungarian translation, Az Urantia könyv</i>	7
<i>Around the World with Urantia Book Ambassador Irmeli Inalo-Sjölte</i>	8
<i>How the Idea for a Urantia Book Translation Tool was Born</i>	10
<i>A Group Meditation at Urantia Foundation</i>	11
<i>Half Price Books—an Opportunity for Urantia Book Dissemination</i>	12
<i>A Thank You Note from Chile</i>	12
<i>A Reader's Comment</i>	13
<i>Announcements</i>	14



After a lengthy design process which generated 500 submissions from over 100 graphic designers worldwide, Urantia Foundation's Board of Trustees is pleased to announce that the English paperbacks and hardcovers will soon have new cover designs. The print run is scheduled for the end of March, and the books will be available for distribution shortly thereafter.

Why is Urantia Foundation changing the cover of the book?

The book industry is changing rapidly. Borders, a large chain of

bookstores throughout the US, went bankrupt, Barnes and Noble, another American bookstore chain, has been losing money, bookstores are downsizing, eBook sales are exploding, bookshelf space is decreasing, the number of book titles is increasing, and competition for a spot on a spiritual bookshelf is fierce. Especially for a book published in 1955! The book industry demands new covers, and we cannot minimize the book industry's needs.

Why is Urantia Foundation choosing these two covers?

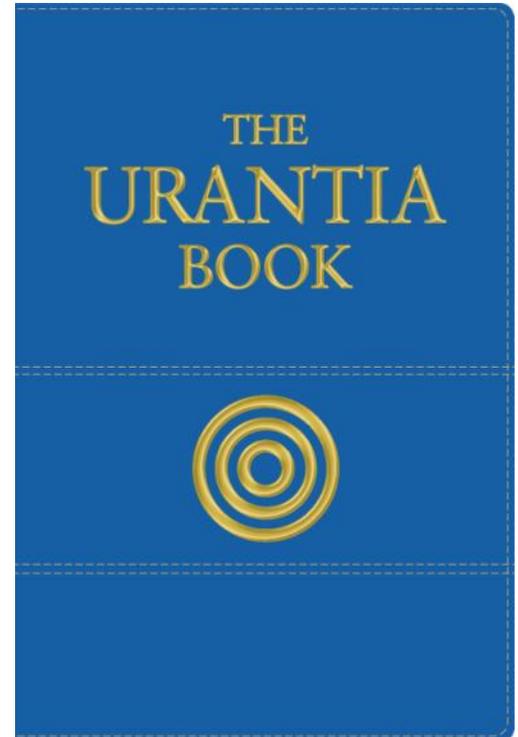
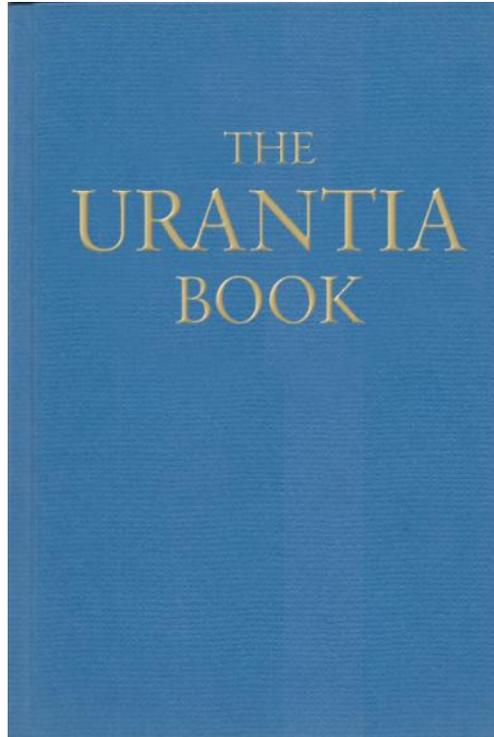
In the fall of 2012, Urantia Foundation hired an outside research firm to survey 699 North American spiritual book shoppers to determine what they thought and felt about seven unique book cover designs. Out of the seven covers tested, spiritual book shoppers significantly preferred the Tree of Life cover over all other designs. While the Tree of Life cover won with all ages of shoppers, its highest appeal was to the younger audience between

the ages of 18-35. The Earth cover also did well. When questioned what the book was about based on the cover design, the top two responses for the Tree of Life cover were spirituality and God, and the top two responses for the Earth cover were God and religion. The top two impressions on the plain cover were new age and cult.

Why doesn't Urantia Foundation just sell a plain-cover book?

For many long time readers, the all blue cover evokes simplicity and elegance. For you, Urantia Foundation offers a plain-covered book in two forms. We make an all blue, *LeatherSoft™* book, or you can remove the dust jacket from any hardcover book, and you will find a plain blue book.

We have done extensive testing on spiritual book shoppers' interests in plain book covers. In 1999 we did an extensive test using eight book covers with 1,094 spiritual book shoppers. The lowest scoring cover in that test was a plain cover preferred by only 1.2% of respondents. In 2007 we did another book cover test, and the plain cover was preferred



by 3.7% of respondents. Once again, in 2012, we tested a more artsy variation of a plain cover, and only 2% out of 699 respondents preferred it. Plain covers do not work in this market. Urantia Foundation must provide covers that will encourage the book store industry and the next generation of readers to buy *The Urantia Book* and read it.

Since Urantia Foundation does not advertise, have celebrity endorsements, nor public promotions of *The Urantia Book*, the best way to assist the Spirit of Truth, Thought Adjusters, and angels with leading future readers to the book is by word of mouth and a good cover. These new covers provide the greatest opportunity to attract spiritually hungry book

shoppers who are browsing bookstores and the Internet.

This approach may be Pauline, but remember, even though the angels respected Abner, they worked with Paul.

NOTEWORTHY DECISIONS FROM THE JANUARY 2013 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING



by Marilynn Kulieke, secretary, Urantia Foundation, Lincolnshire, Illinois, USA

Urantia Foundation's January meeting of the Board of Trustees included a yearly planning session with members of the expanded board and members of the board's committees.

The session began with a

presentation by Marilynn Kulieke of the results of the 2012 survey of readers of *The Urantia Book*. The survey was sponsored by Urantia Association International, the Urantia Book Fellowship, Urantia Foundation, and Truthbook.com. In November and December, 3,196 readers from around the world participated. (See page 4 for highlights.)

Marta Elders facilitated the

planning session and led the group in a guided meditation. Next, she and Judy Van Cleave led a discussion about the Foundation's vision, mission, values, and goals. Becoming more goal oriented and mission focused was the main outcome of the morning session.

In the afternoon, participants used the World Cafe format to start a dialogue about the



Marta Elders

important questions that face Urantia Foundation and the Urantia Book reader community now and in the future. Four areas were considered: the Urantia reader community, education, *The Urantia Book*, and Urantia Foundation. The day concluded with group leaders presenting highlights from their discussions, and Marta Elders compiled the findings.

Many thanks to Joanne Strobel for creating a festive ambiance for the World Cafe!

The following are some of the noteworthy decisions from the business part of the board meeting.

Books

The Book Committee completed an almost year-long process of designing a new book cover for the ever competitive North American

spiritual book market. (See page 1 for more details on the book cover design process.) The book cover was approved for the North American book market and other select markets.

Additional print runs were approved for the English book and the Spanish, Portuguese, and Russian translations of *The Urantia Book*. The cost of these printings will be about \$150,000. Your donations for these print runs are needed and greatly appreciated.

The board accepted an offer by the Urantia Book Fellowship to share a booth at the 2013 Korean book fair to be held in Seoul, South Korea. This is another opportunity for Urantia organizations to work together towards enhanced world-wide peace and understanding.

Renovation of the Third Floor of 533 W Diversey Parkway

Needed improvements to the electrical and plumbing systems of the third floor and attic have prompted the board to develop a renovation plan. Under consideration is the repurposing of the third floor from a rental apartment to a space for meetings and for educational purposes.

Education Committee Update

The Education Committee of Urantia Foundation is sponsoring a workshop on forgiveness that will take place

in the fall of 2014. Readers associated with organizations that were affected by the events of 1989 are invited to attend. The Trustees of Urantia Foundation stand committed to do all they can so our community is a light unto the world as Jesus requested of believers.

This gospel of the kingdom belongs to both Jew and gentile, to rich and poor, to free and bond, to male and female, even to the little children. And you are all to proclaim this gospel of love and truth by the lives which you live in the flesh. You shall love one another with a new and startling affection, even as I have loved you. You will serve mankind with a new and amazing devotion, even as I have served you. And when men see you so love them, and when they behold how fervently you serve them, they will perceive that you have become faith-fellows of the kingdom of heaven, and they will follow after the Spirit of Truth which they see in your lives, to the finding of eternal salvation.
(2044.3) 191:6.2

The Education Committee



Joanne Strobel

is also sponsoring a program facilitated by Jeff Wattles in late spring. Please see the last page for more information.

Translations

A number of ideas were discussed in regard to translations and revisions of translations, and they will be a primary topic of the April Board meeting. In addition, the Board approved agreements with the Bulgarian translator to facilitate the arrival of the Bulgarian translation at Urantia Foundation sometime during 2013.

Additional print runs were approved for the English book and the Spanish, Portuguese, and Russian translations of *The Urantia Book*.

THE 2012 SURVEY OF READERS OF THE URANTIA BOOK



By Tamara Strumfeld, Skokie, Illinois, United States

In November 2012, Urantia Association International, the Urantia Book Fellowship, Urantia Foundation, and Truthbook.com sponsored a survey for readers of *The Urantia Book*. To the more than 3,200 readers who participated, we say: Thank you!

Results of the survey were garnered from persons who chose to participate—indicating that the results came from readers of the book who have a strong interest in it. Therefore, although the survey is not scientific, one may assume that the information accurately reflects the readership community.

Some of the results are as follows.

Age: 44% are between 40 and 59 years old. 43% are older than 59.

Education: 32% have had some college. 38% have graduated from college. 22% have a post-graduate degree.

Language: 55% speak English as a native language. 57% speak English as a second language.

Religious affiliation: 48% were raised Catholic; 12% are still practicing. 38% were raised

Christian (other than Catholic); 22% are still practicing. 7% were raised with no religious practice; 22% now have some religious practice. 2.6% were raised with a personal religion, including the Urantia Book teachings, and 40% now participate in an organized religion. It is interesting to note that the greatest percentage change in religious practice came from those individuals raised without a traditional religion.

How *The Urantia Book* was found: 52% from a friend, 19% through the Internet, 14% in a bookstore, 13% from family, and 3% from a library. Person to person dissemination is still the strongest method.

Amount of *The Urantia Book* read: 53% in its entirety, 19% more than half, and 18% less than half.

Study group attendance: 14% attend weekly. 12% attend monthly. 5% attend semi-annually. 4% attend yearly. 65% have never attended a study group.

Financial support: 8% give monthly. 2% give quarterly. 3% give semi-annually. 16% give yearly. 57% have never given.

How many different persons have contributed to the Urantia Book project via Urantia Foundation since the first contributions were received in the early 1940s? One lady said, "A hundred thousand." The correct answer is fewer than 3,000 of us have financially supported this project since the beginning. If about 2,500

of us contributed \$365 a year, a dollar a day, the support of Urantia Foundation would be totally democratized, which would be almost unheard of for a charity. Most charities receive ninety percent of their support from ten percent of their contributors.

Many participants wrote comments at the end of the survey. A few comments were scathingly negative, but almost all of them were full of goodwill and appreciation for the work the organizations are doing, many expressed gratitude for having the teachings in their lives. There was high praise for organizational cooperation with encouragement for more joint projects. Many readers expressed a desire to have a place of worship, be it in a church or in study groups, and many expressed their anxiety that the movement was starting to be churchified. Readers want more family-oriented activities/communities, and they want more secondary works geared for children. Readers want study aids with good visuals, more YouTube videos, and online discussion groups. *The Urantia Book* has concepts difficult to grasp, and people want help understanding them. (I think study groups are the best way.) There was a cry to get the younger generations interested. The international readership has asked for the organizations to become less "US-centric." (Sometimes we cannot seem to help ourselves, but we are working on it.) For certain, there is much work still to be done in seeding *The Urantia Book* and its teachings globally.

You may enjoy the following, which are comments from readers:

"Here in New Zealand it is easy to feel a little isolated from the Urantia community, and so I appreciate the online resources you provide for study and interpersonal connection. Thank you very much for all your hard work and leadership."

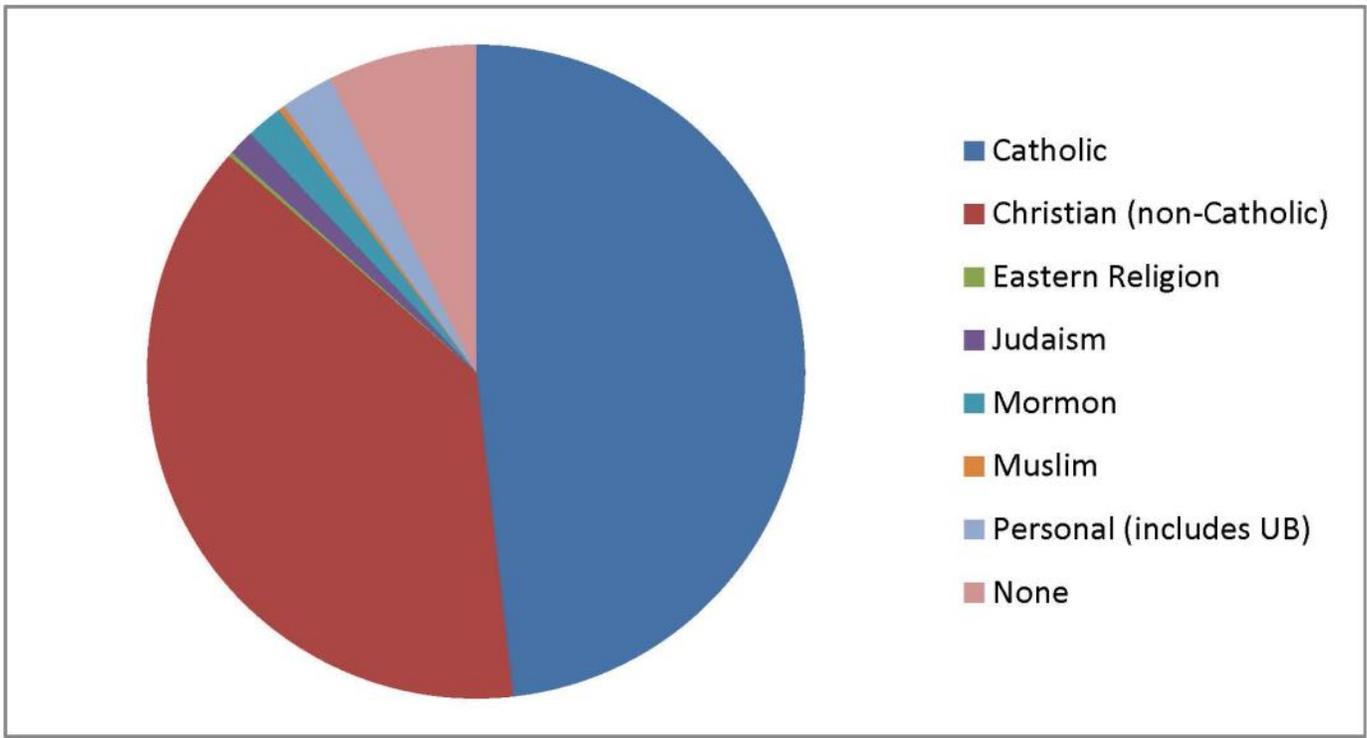
*"I started reading *The Urantia Book* when I was about 10 to 12 years old. My mother used to make me read it as punishment, yet it wasn't punishment to me. I found it very interesting. Although I didn't understand some of what I was reading as a child, I have found that going back and rereading has enlightened me a great deal. I have a few friends that have read it in its entirety just by my recommendations. I am a seed planter you might say, and then I watch the seed take root in my friends, and it blossoms! Thank you for keeping this book alive!"*

"I think the most important area to focus on is appealing to the youth and young adults, and we need vibrant and inspirational leaders to do it."

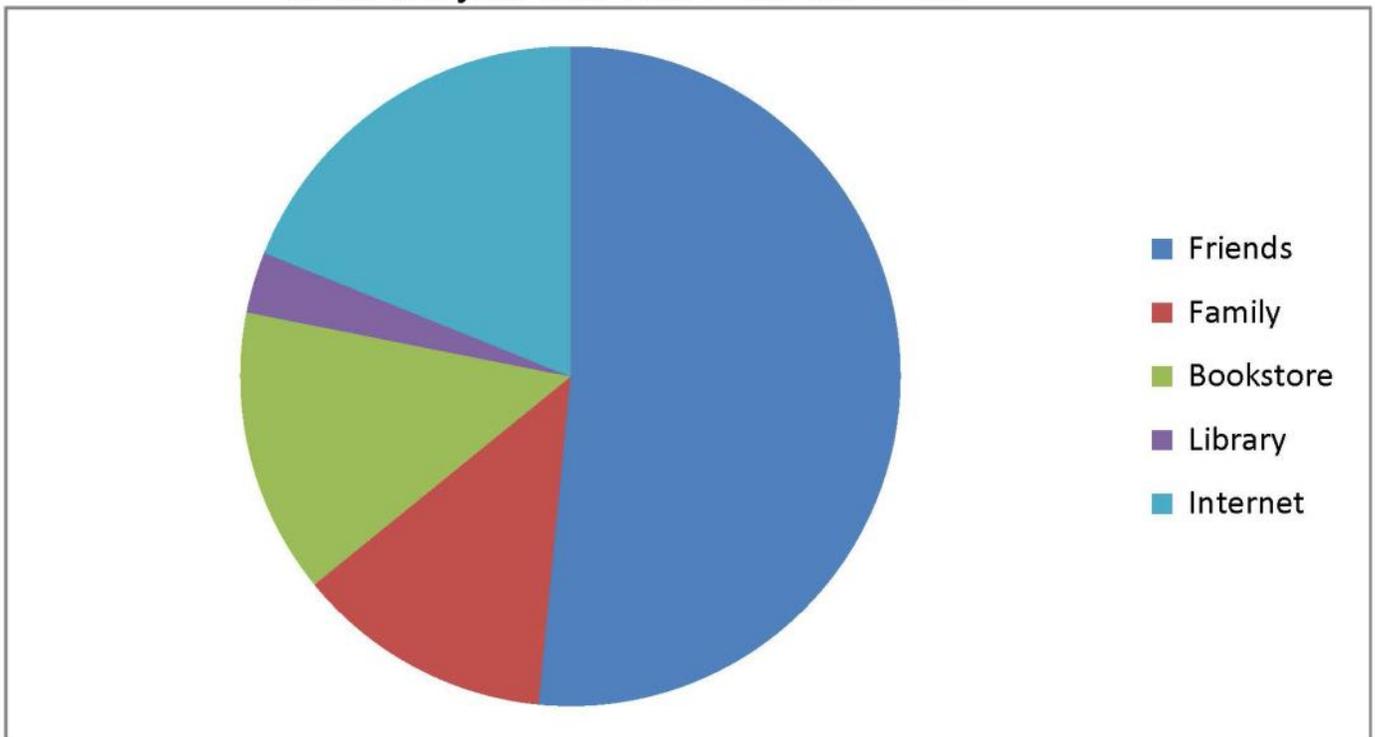
"Spreading the Urantia Revelation and sharing all that it teaches us, person to person, is a challenging job. Thank you for all you do!"

If you would like to receive the full results of this survey, you are welcome to email me at tamara@urantia.org.

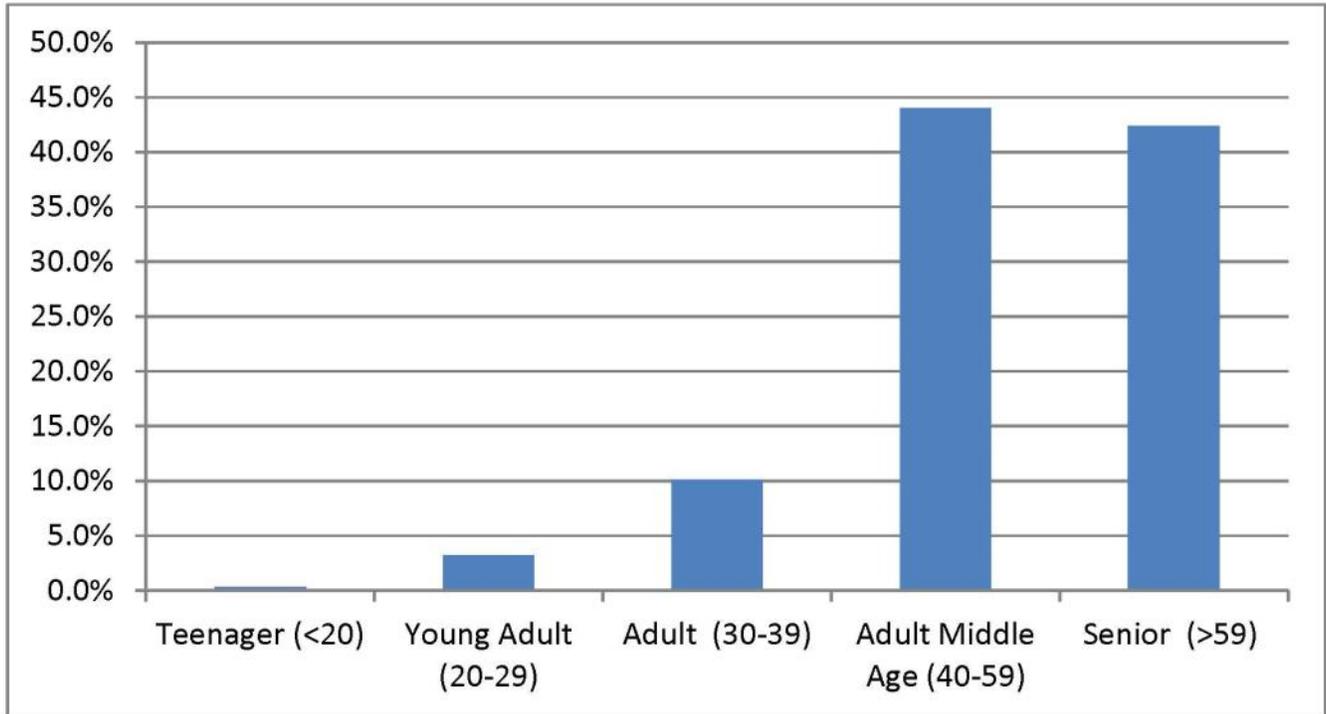
What was your childhood religious upbringing?



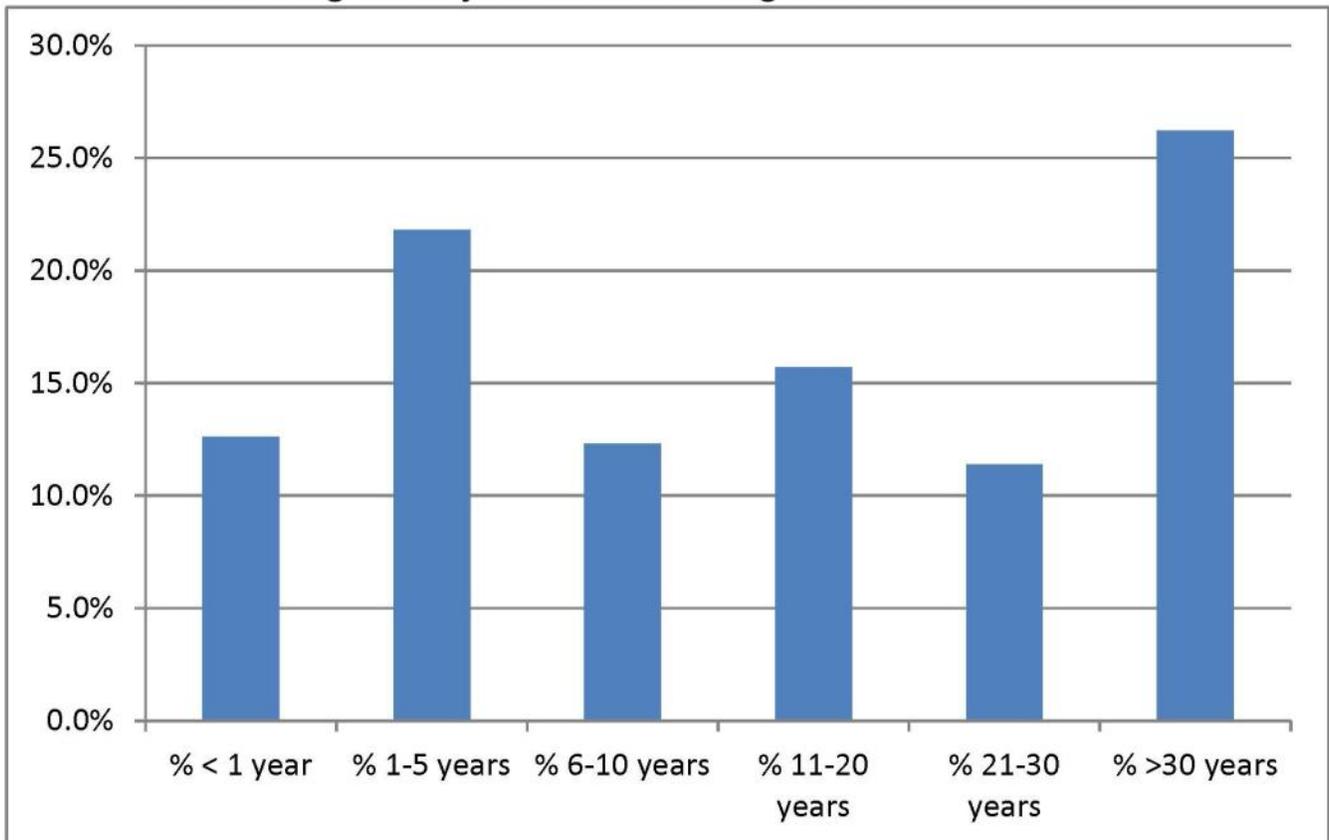
How did you find *The Urantia Book*?



How old were you when you first began reading *The Urantia Book*?



How long have you been reading *The Urantia Book*?



FINDING A DISTRIBUTOR IN HUNGARY FOR THE HUNGARIAN TRANSLATION, *AZ URANTIA KÖNYV*



by Henk Mylanus, trustee, European sales manager, Brittany, France

Finding a good distributor for European language translations of *The Urantia Book* is always a difficult job, but finding one in Hungary proved to be most difficult. Let me explain.

When we were flying to Chicago in April 2010, we heard a passenger in the row behind us say to her companion, "Look at that enormous explosion!"

At that moment we were flying over Iceland, and we witnessed the volcanic eruption of the Icelandic Eyjafjallajökull, which disrupted all European air travel for six days, and we



Eruption at Fimmvörðuháls/Eyjafjallajökull by Henrik Thorburn

had to stay in Chicago for about ten days before we could fly back to Europe.

We were supposed to fly to Budapest to attend the Budapest International Book Fair, but the fair was over before we could reach Budapest. Our first attempt to find a distributor ended in a Force Majeure situation.

Our second attempt began after we signed a distribution contract in Poland with an independent distributor in Lodz. We drove through southern Poland, passing through Brno and Bratislava to arrive in Budapest.

We had done an extensive Internet search for independent distributors but could not find a suitable one for the Hungarian translation. As is our usual practice, we started talking to bookshop owners to discover where their supplies came from, and shortly thereafter we had a list of three independent distributors.

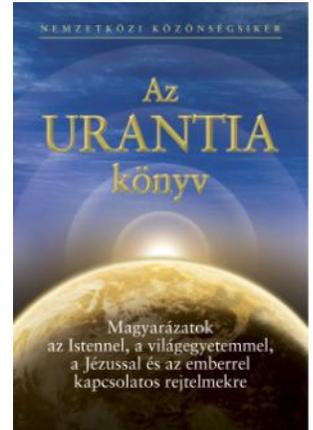
We began our negotiations with the largest of the three, ending with the signing of a contract, which had to be countersigned by the then

absent owner, who was on holiday. We had a difficult choice to make: Wait in Budapest for two weeks for the owner to return or go home and trust that he would countersign the contract. Two weeks in Budapest would be quite expensive, so we decided to go home. Two weeks later, we received an email stating without explanation that the owner refused to sign the contract and would not distribute *Az Urantia könyv*.

We decided to try a different approach and did an extensive Internet search for publishers of literature. We had communicated with the Hungarian translator, and he gave us a list of two hundred publishers in Budapest. Our shortlist of eight companies contained the most promising partners for a distribution arrangement.

We booked another flight to Budapest in May 2011, but disaster struck as I had a near-fatal accident. Any possibility for travel was now cancelled for quite a long time. Once again, our third attempt ended in a Force Majeure situation.

More than a year later, in August 2012, we decided to drive to Budapest and visit the eight companies and try to negotiate a contract. Our fourth attempt! And "presto," on the second day we came into contact with



Bioenergetic, an ideal partner because this publisher was interested in representing foreign publishers and making their distribution network available. Our second meeting took place one week later, and we signed a distribution contract.

We shipped several pallets of books to Bioenergetic, and they distributed the entire lot to about thirty-five clients. Book sales began on November 8, 2012, and by the end of December, a total of 160 copies of *Az Urantia könyv* had sold mainly in Budapest, but also in neighboring countries like Slovakia.

Prospects for 2013 are estimated to be promising.

Better late than never!



AROUND THE WORLD WITH URANTIA BOOK AMBASSADOR IRMELI IVALO-SJÖLIE

Editor's Note: The following are illustrations from Irmeli's travels from September 2012 to January 2013.



Martti Vanninen and Irmeli in the booth at Minä Olen

The Finnish Urantia Association had a booth at the Minä Olen book fair in Helsinki. Minä Olen means "I Am." It is one of the most popular book fairs in Finland. We had the Finnish hardcover and softcover with the Swedish book in the middle. There were also brochures in both languages and our quarterly magazine, "Heijaste."



Irmeli visiting Era Nova, a bookshop in Helsinki, Finland

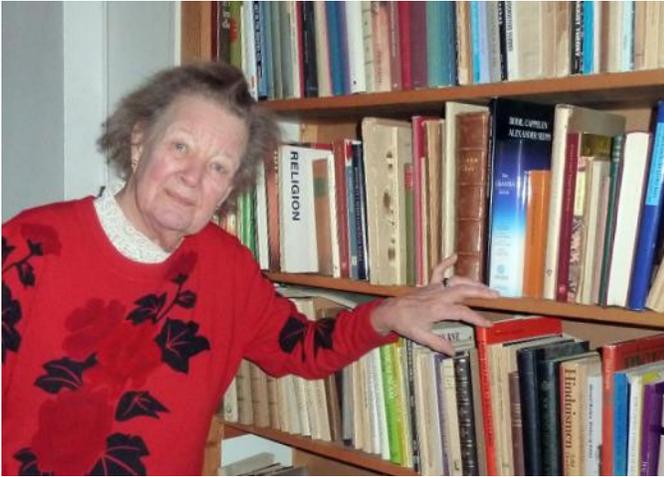
At the Gaia Book Fair in Rastatt, Germany, there was a Urantia Book booth where copies of *Das Urantia Buch* and *Geburt einer Offenbarung* (*The Birth of a Revelation*) were sold.



Walter Sutter (Werner Sutter's brother) and Erwin De Craecker at the Gaia Book Fair



Irmeli visiting Livraria Cultura, a large bookshop in São Paulo, Brazil. "There were piles of Urantia Books, like pyramids rising high above all the others." They had both soft and hardcovers in the religious book section.



Irmeli visiting Antiquariat, a second hand bookshop in Oslo, Norway.

Urantia Book reader, Nigel Hornby, placed an English hardcover there.



Irmeli visiting Rombach Bookstore in Freiburg, Germany. She was surprised to see *Das Urantia Buch* on the shelf. It took her years to convince the woman in charge of the spiritual book section to keep the book in inventory.



Irmeli showing off the newly printed perpetual calendars recently translated into German. She brought them to Paris when members of the Blue Club, European readers of *The Urantia Book*, were meeting with the Trustees.



German Urantia Book readers

In Frankfurt, Germany, the German Urantia Book readers held their sixth gathering at the Hotel Monopol. "We read the first two papers of the book. Christian Ruch led the group and facilitated our discussions. We decided it was time to form an association for the German speaking readers in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland."

"On Saturday evening we had a quiet moment of remembrance for Werner Sutter, the man who got all of this going seven years ago; a devoted student of *The Urantia Book* and a loyal son of God. "

HOW THE IDEA FOR A URANTIA BOOK TRANSLATION TOOL WAS BORN



By Rogério da Silva, Braganca, Portugal

More than a decade ago, on a Sunday in September 2000, just after lunch, I decided to read *The Urantia Book* in Spanish. There was no translation in my native language, Portuguese, at that time. Although I had had this "very strange book" for at least eight months, I didn't open it until I had a very unhappy experience in a meeting at the Catholic Church—an experience that made me very sad and drove me to *The Urantia Book*. Two hours after I started reading, I was already smitten with it.

The following day I sent an email to Urantia Foundation asking, "Is this true? Are there more people in the world who believe in its contents?" A response came back with contact information for a reader living in São Paulo, Brazil. He was translating the book into Portuguese and lived very close to my office. A few days later, we met, and I had my first glimpse at what a giant work it would be to translate this marvelous book.

The translator started giving me some of the translated papers, and he asked me to produce files that could be sent to Urantia Foundation to

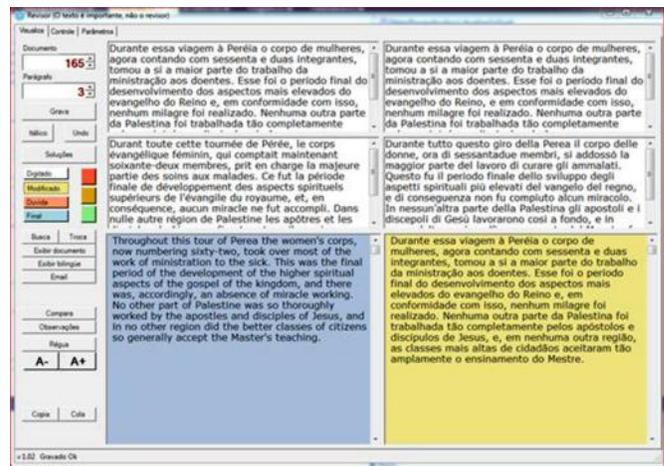
start the publishing process. With the translated papers in my hands, I decided first to make a bilingual database with the English text in order to check the translation.

From this bilingual database, it took a single step to design a tool that enabled all the Latin languages to be seen on the same screen. It was great! It was now 2006, and although Urantia Foundation had not yet printed the Portuguese translation, a revision team had started working on a revision. Whenever a translation question arose, we could find the solution by comparing the Spanish, French, or Italian translations with the English.

In 2009, during Urantia Association International's conference in Malaga, Spain, I met with Georges Michelson-Dupont, the Foundation's manager of translations. He saw the database tool and

wanted to expand it so that all translators of *The Urantia Book* could use it. With this new technology, we have an online system enabling us to have the final work of each translation/revision team, the history of all changes made to each paragraph, and the ability to show, on the same screen, all previous revisions made to each specific

paragraph. *The Urantia Book* has more than 16,000 paragraphs, and revisions average four changes per paragraph. That is roughly 70,000 revision records; a small recording task for a computer database, but an impossible one for a human being.



This is a screen shot from the first bilingual database tool.



This is a screen shot from the current translator tool. What progress!

A GROUP MEDITATION AT URANTIA FOUNDATION



By Share Beasley, associate trustee, Brandon, Florida, USA

Here I sit with people from North America and Europe: committee members, trustees, and associate trustees. They are from different walks of life. Some are young; some are middle age; and a few are elders. Many speak several languages, but we all communicate in English. This hallowed room where men, midwayers, and angels prayed, thirsted and dreamed of an uplifted planet years ago, is once again filled to overflowing with our prayers, dreams, and profound desires for an uplifted planet.

Through the efforts, determination, and dedication of our predecessors, we have the Urantia Revelation to enlighten us and to aid us with our spiritual growth. In addition to a narration of our planetary history from which we may glean knowledge and wisdom, *The Urantia Book* brings to life the teachings of Jesus. We are also presented with hope by way of a glimpse into our glorious destiny—to **find God and be like Him!** Never in my wildest dreams would I have imagined being visited by such a profound blessing.

Marta Elders, with her natural exuberance, has voluntarily undertaken the difficult challenge of shepherding this group into deriving more spiritual leading and insight

through a daily commitment to worship our Father in heaven and to pray for wisdom in dealing with an epochal revelation.

“Revealed religion is a new quality of divine wisdom which is added to purely experiential human wisdom.”

(1101.4) 100:6.9

Marta also requested that we daily document our insights and inspirations, and that we commit to doing so for ten weeks. Did she forget that we have work, families, responsibilities, commitments, and holidays on the way? That didn't stop her; she gently and regularly reminded us to complete our assignment.

We have gathered in the Forum Room, preparing for silent group meditation, and Marta shares our insights, inspirations, and images that we sent her in connection with our ten-week assignment. Among those shared are the following:

This is the gift of hope to humankind.

The light of faith illuminates the world.

Souls touching souls illuminate life.

Dare to inspire.

Incoming spiritual energy slowly but surely surrounds and illuminates the planet.

Profound eternal love spreads across the planet, transforming individuals, groups, and nations.

The room is pin-drop silent, yet the presence of spiritual power is palpable. I have little doubt that our Thought

Adjusters, our guardian angels, the Spirit of Truth, the Holy Spirit, and a few midwayers are present.

We are bound together in timeless silence for a while. As we conclude our meditation, we share several of our insights with those in the room. I feel comfortable sharing mine with you:

We believe in universal goodness.

We know that we are not alone.

We know that we are loved.

We know that we have powerful assistance from unseen friends.

We know that every person is important.

We know that every individual has a purpose.

We trust God, and He trusts us even more.

We realize that to lead we must inspire.

I believe we were all led to

The Urantia Book, and now it is our turn to lead and seed the book and its teachings in our own realms and throughout the world, as such opportunities present themselves.

This morning's meditation comes to a close, and as we sit in this historical room, we are inspired with one another's insights and inspirations. We asked for guidance, and we got it. The rest of the day will be devoted to discussing how to apply our ideals and actualize our insights. I am quite aware that we are not alone, that this is really the project of our unseen friends. Through the actions of worship and wisdom, we allow ourselves to become their associates and temporary actors in this ongoing drama.

“Human evolution is still in progress, and the revelation of God to the world, in and through Jesus, shall not fail.” (2097.1) 196:3.33

And now our day begins...

**PROFOUND ETERNAL
LOVE SPREADS ACROSS
THE PLANET,
TRANSFORMING
INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS,
AND NATIONS.**

HALF PRICE BOOKS—AN OPPORTUNITY FOR URANTIA BOOK DISSEMINATION



By Rod Holland, Dallas, Texas, USA

This impromptu Urantia Book placement project was conceived by Irmeli Sjölie, Urantia Book ambassador for Urantia Foundation, and Rod Holland, a member of the Urantia Book Fellowship. Irmeli purchased twenty new Urantia Books from the Foundation; Rod provided ten Urantia Books (five slightly used) from his personal library.

Rod then gifted the thirty books to Half Price Books, a large, independent, bookseller chain with fifteen branches in the Dallas/mid-cities area and a total of one hundred and eighteen stores

in fourteen states. Half Price Books offers a unique environment for placement of Urantia Books since these stores sell high-quality books at great prices. Also, Half Price Books maintains long business hours, encourages casual browsing, and provides plentiful seating.

We placed the books two weeks before Christmas, and by mid-January, we checked on seven of the stores and five of them had sold a Urantia Book. This suggests that gifting new and slightly-used editions of *The Urantia Book* to all Half Price Book stores in the United States

should become an ongoing, volunteer-based distribution effort.

Half Price Books typically pay minimal amounts for the books they sell (or receive by way of donation), but their monetary return is often sufficient to cover transportation expenses and the purchase of additional books to keep the project moving forward.

This volunteer distribution project will not result in profit, but it does result in helping to disseminate the teachings of an epochal revelation.

A THANK YOU NOTE FROM CHILE



By Flor Robles, Santiago, Chile

the Urantia Book Fellowship make this project a reality.

This is a thank you note from Chile to readers of *The Urantia Book* who participated: Agustin Arellano from Mexico; Nélica Oliver from Ecuador; Buck Weimer, Tim Hobbs, Joy Brandt, Janelle Mazza, and Linda Tarufeli from the United States; and Lissette Mancilla, Marcelo Galaz, Jon DeToy, Daniel Espinoza, Pradhana Fuchs, and Pablo Segóvia from Chile. We all worked together to set up the booth, to roll spiritual vitamins, and to give away different brochures, pamphlets, and other gifts. We answered questions and gave our time, love, and service to everyone who visited the booth.

There were two conferences on the last day. An experienced Chilean reader, Yolanda Silva, came to the last conference and spoke

about *The Urantia Book* and answered questions.

This is a thank you note from Chile for the new readers and the energy generated by the book fair. We have fresh inspiration to work harder at spreading the teachings of the fifth epochal revelation in this beautiful country. Our goals for 2013 include the formation of new study groups, the planning for conferences and workshops, and the placement of *The Urantia Book* in libraries in Santiago and other communities.

We have a great team, and we have passion to work for our Father by sharing the most beautiful teachings about his creation, about the origin and destiny of planets and mortals, and about our beloved

sovereign, Michael of Nebadon, and his mortal life on Urantia as Jesus of Nazareth.

Finally, this is a thank you note from Chile to our Father for giving us the opportunity to contribute, from this part of the world, towards moving our planet closer to the future stage of light and life.



Marcelo Galaz, a visitor, Agustín Arellano, Lissette Mancilla

This is a thank you note from Chile for the great experience we had sharing the teachings of the fifth epochal revelation during the seventeen day 2012 international book fair in Santiago, Chile.

This is a thank you note from Chile for having Urantia Foundation, Urantia Association International, and

A READER'S COMMENT



What *The Urantia Book* Means to Me

By Michael Edwards,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma,
USA

I was first introduced to *The Urantia Book* in the spring of 1985 by a man named Clyde, who was soon to become my sponsor and spiritual advisor for the next twenty years until his death in 2005. To say that I have studied this book continuously since my introduction would be an overstatement, but once I became familiar with some of its basic concepts, I have returned to *The Urantia Book* over and over again. My study has intensified over the past ten years largely due to an increased inner motivation to have a greater understanding and to live a more dedicated lifestyle according to true spiritual principles.

The Urantia Book is unlike any book I have ever encountered. When I began my reading, I had many questions concerning the inconsistencies that I observed in my limited exposure to traditional Christianity. For example, I found it impossible to believe that, if indeed God existed, the universe and God would

operate in the inconsistent manner I had been taught in church.

Another big problem for me was the idea that God would "save" and send to heaven only certain people because they adhered to one set of beliefs, and that any other peoples not having this exact set of beliefs were to be cast into an eternal life in hell. It seemed to me that the few religious teachers of my youth were picking and choosing only the parts of the Bible that fit their own agenda, and that many of these supposed religious people actually lived lives that appeared to me to be much more hypocritical than many others who claimed no religious preference.

Another problem was the absence of logic in their views of how the universe operated. The idea that God could be the original "I AM"—and at the same time operate with love and care for every single one of his children—seemed impossible to explain. No explanation for any of these questions was ever given. I was expected to believe it because "the Bible told me so." My solution was to dismiss religion entirely.

When I found *The Urantia Book*, I was one year into a twelve-step program. At this time of great personal difficulty and by working the twelve steps, I had begun to discover a "God of my own understanding." In some ways, this period was a very exciting time in my life because I was developing a deeply personal conception of God and was seeing the literal miracle of my being able to live life one day at a time without using any mood altering chemicals. For the first time in my life, I came to believe that God truly existed

and seemed to have a real interest in me, though this realization was vague at best.

One crucial part of my practicing the twelve steps was to practice meditation and prayer on a daily basis. Being completely unable to meditate at that time in my life, it was suggested by this spiritual teacher that I begin reading something from *The Urantia Book* on a daily basis. Among other things, Clyde said that he believed this was the only book he knew of that contained the highest concepts of spiritual value that we humans were capable of understanding, which he referred to as "essential knowledge."

At first, I began reading only small recommended parts of the book and discussing them later with Clyde. Initially and often I found the book to be extremely difficult to understand, but I also felt that every time I read it, I gained something. More important for me was an indescribable "feeling" or "intuition" that I often experienced, even when reading a Paper that was at first mostly incomprehensible. Clyde called this a form of "God-consciousness."

As time passed, my understanding increased. Fairly soon came the day I began to read the Jesus Papers. After a few months of reading Jesus' life story in *The Urantia Book*, I knew

something of the actual person of Jesus—a person strikingly different from the Jesus of traditional religion. I now think that the Bible and *The Urantia Book* describe attributes of the same Jesus, but the difference is the depth, context, and tone of the message in *The Urantia Book*.

One of the most amazing results from my study of *The Urantia Book* is that it made sense and answered the religious and spiritual questions I have had since I was a child. It expanded my concept of God! *The Urantia Book* also logically synthesized philosophy, psychology, astronomy, and history.

The book remains very simple and incomprehensibly complex at the same time. But it has explained to my satisfaction how God can be the original "I AM," and be the personally available God of love, as well as an enormous range of manifestations of God in between. Within the pages of *The Urantia Book* is a concept of a "divine order" and answers to questions that once seemed impossible to answer. *The Urantia Book* has provided me with an entirely new frame of reference with which to view myself, my fellow humans, and the universe of universes.





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SPIRITUAL TRUTHS OF COSMIC POWER: SEEK, STUDY, GROW, SHARE

A Program facilitated by Jeff Wattles, Stow, Ohio, USA

A program titled “Spiritual Truths of Cosmic Power: Seek, Study, Grow, Share” will be held at Urantia Foundation, beginning on Thursday evening, May 30, and ending at noon on Sunday, June 2, 2013. We will study, commune, hear presentations from participants, address difficulties, and support one another. It is designed for the young, the old, and the in-between. There is an optional project that uses revealed and tested methods of experiential education. If you are interested, contact organizer Jeff Wattles: jwattles@kent.edu, and choose the level of participation that fits your spirit of adventure.

KEEP YOUR CALENDARS OPEN IN JULY — IT’S URANTIA BOOK READER CONFERENCE MONTH



The Urantia Book Fellowship
Cultivating the Spirit of Religion

The Urantia Book Fellowship’s Summer Study Conference

July 10–July 14

<http://www.urantia-book.org/announcements/pre-conference-retreat>



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July 25–July 28

<http://urantiausa.com/index.php?view=show&page=conferences>