



## BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE HEBREW TRANSLATION PROJECT

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Behind the Scenes of the Hebrew Translation Project</i>	1
<i>Noteworthy Decisions from the April 2014 Board of Trustees Meeting</i>	3
<i>The Urantia Book: A Blessing for Ukraine</i>	6
<i>The International Book Fair in Bogotá, Colombia</i>	7
<i>Second In-depth Revision of the French Translation</i>	8
<i>The Urantia Book Study Group Directory</i>	9
<i>Journal of a Journey: Seeding Urantia Books in the Caribbean</i>	10
<i>A Workshop on the Soul</i>	12
<i>Trip to the Holy Land</i>	13

By Gabriel Rymberg, on behalf of the translation team, Nazareth, Israel

### How It All Started

A translation of *The Urantia Book* cannot be anything else but a "labor of love." In fact, the first question I was asked when I approached Urantia Foundation about translating the book into Hebrew was: "Do you propose to translate the book as a labor-of-love or as a labor-for-hire?"

At that time, almost three years ago, I was reading the book for the first time, and from the moment I began, I could not stop. I would read in every spare moment, squinting on my little iPhone screen.

It took about a year for me to complete the first and second readings (every translator is asked to read the book cover-to-cover at least twice before commencing work). Then I took a test consisting of the translation into Hebrew of two full papers of my choosing. I chose the Foreword (just kidding). I chose Papers 1 and 120. Soon after, the Papers were submitted to a long-time reader who is fluent in Hebrew. Following his green light, in May of 2012, the translation project began in earnest.

Would you like to know what is required to produce a high-quality translation of *The Urantia Book*? Then, you are cordially invited to read on.

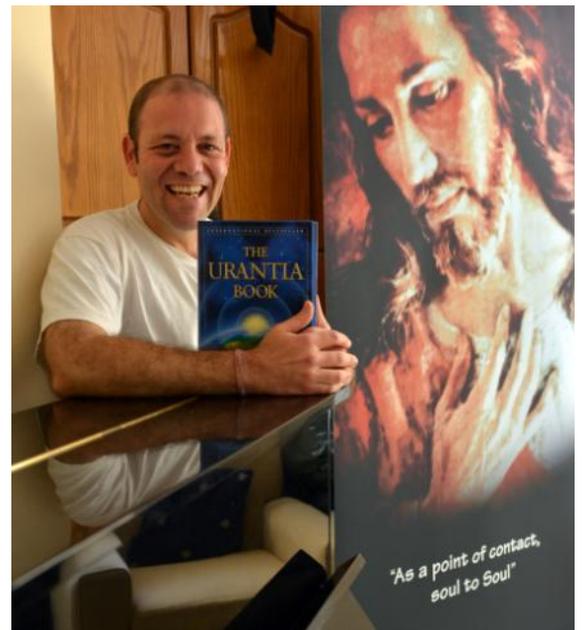
### The Team

We started as a duo, and we are now a trio. A team that is both minimal and complete. No wonder the triads are so popular in the universe of universes. Our team members complement one another with our skills and contributions.

One team member was born in Israel and has lived in the U.S. for many years. He has been studying *The Urantia Book* for the last forty years and has a perspective that comes with such a long experience. He is principally responsible for the accuracy of the translation and its fidelity.

About a year ago, our third member joined the team. He is a native of Israel and a gifted poet, writer, and editor in English and Hebrew. In the application of his unique skill, the draft becomes a "symphony of words" with vast superior quality in comparison with the first draft.

As for me, I am Gabriel Rymberg, and I serve as chief translator. I have been translating professionally for four years. I have been on a long search for answers, some of which were found in *The Urantia Book*, all of them were found in the heart.



# The translation of *The Urantia Book* cannot be anything but a labor-of-love inspired by the Spirit of Truth.

## The Process

We would like to share with you the details of what it really takes to translate *The Urantia Book*. What follows is indicative of all the translations that are officially sponsored by Urantia Foundation. The Foundation's process is designed to ensure that a translation is of the best quality by using the best translation practices.

Before commencing the translation, the chief translator translated from English into Hebrew a list of special terms consisting of more than 1,000 entries. These terms include all of the names of personalities, places, and things revealed in the book, as well as all the special words the revelators created to supplement the English language in order to denote concepts unknown on Urantia at the time of the revelation. An example is *absonite*.

Next, we started with the Papers themselves. In order to produce a quality translation, we started with the Foreword and are proceeding in sequential order to Paper 196. However, the translation process embraces two drafts of the entire book. The initial draft is produced by the chief translator, paragraph by paragraph, section by section, and paper by paper. Next, each of the revisers reads this draft and comments on it. Comments are made paragraph by paragraph, and we all use a dedicated tool developed by the Foundation specifically for this process—The Translator's Portal. As soon as both revisers have commented on the initial draft, the chief translator integrates all of the comments, and this constitutes the "final" first draft. At the current rate of work (two papers per month), the duration of this phase is projected to be a little more than eight years.

Once the final first draft is complete, the entire team will switch to "revision" mode. All three of us will re-visit the entire book and make comments, and then the chief translator shall integrate all of the comments into the second draft. This second draft will then be ready for publication. The duration of this phase is projected to be an additional two years.

## Why Does It Take Ten Years?

One might ask why it takes ten years to translate *The Urantia Book*. To achieve the highest fidelity in meaning to the English text and the highest possible aesthetic representation in the target language can require 15 minutes or more to translate one paragraph. And I read

and re-read it until I feel I cannot do any better at this point. Professional translators, working for hire, have a limited amount of time and attention that they can invest in any particular task because the customer will not be willing to pay them more. This is why the translation of *The Urantia Book* cannot be anything but a labor-of-love inspired by the Spirit of Truth and the Thought Adjusters of all the individuals involved—not to mention our unseen friends.

## We Need Your Support

The estimated time that it will take for three people to complete this translation is the following.

90 hours/month x 12 months x 10 years x 3 persons = 32,400 hours.

This is the equivalent of 1,350 days or 3.7 years of non-stop work.

At any given time, Urantia Foundation sponsors and manages several translation and translation-revision projects. If you find in your heart the desire to contribute financially to the Hebrew translation or to any other translation (the following languages are currently being translated for the first time: Japanese, Chinese, Farsi, Czech, and Hebrew), you can ask to dedicate your contribution to the translation fund of Urantia Foundation.



# NOTEWORTHY DECISIONS FROM THE APRIL 2014 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING



By Judy Van Cleave, trustee, secretary, Urantia Foundation, Boise, Idaho, United States

## Information and Decisions

### 1. International Vice President

In January 2014, for the first time in the history of Urantia Foundation, the trustees added a second vice president position to the Foundation's organizational structure. The Declaration of Trust and bylaws long ago provided for multiple vice presidents. We chose to act because of the growing need to be globally responsive. Trustee Georges Michelson-Dupont of France was elected to the position.

At the April 2014 meeting, the board clarified that Marilynn Kulieke, the first vice president, would assume the duties of the president if the president were unable to perform his duties. Marilynn would serve as president until the president was able to resume performing his duties or a new president was elected.

### 2. Reappointment of Associate Trustees

The trustees voted to reappoint Víctor García-Bory

to his fifth term as an associate trustee and Share Beasley and Line St-Pierre to their third terms as associate trustees.

### 3. Reports from the President, Executive Director, and Board Committees

The Translation, Education, Book, Finance, and Fundraising Committees provided updates on their latest activities. A few highlights include:

**Physical book sales and distribution** in the first quarter of 2014 continues to be challenging. The world bookstore business faces lost sales and profits due to growing internet sales and digital book downloads. While on one hand it might seem easier to sell books on the internet and replace physical book sales with digital book sales, the reality is more complex. Last year total digital book sales from all publishers in North America declined for the first time since digital books were first introduced. As to selling more books via internet bookstores, the opportunity and problem is helping people find the book as easily as if they were browsing in a physical bookstore. We are working on solving that logistics problem.

Thanks to a team of dedicated readers in Colombia, a new distribution system was launched in the first quarter. We anticipate that books will become less expensive and more available in Colombia because of this new arrangement.

There are at least two ways you can help Urantia Foundation seed *The Urantia Book* in the world.

1. Word-of-mouth continues to be the number one way people discover *The Urantia Book* (and most other things). We need you to tell your family and friends about the book and how its beautiful teachings have made your life better. Then tell them it is available at Amazon or other internet booksellers.

2. Buy a few extra books and place them in used bookstores. It will cost you a few dollars to do so, but used-bookstores are becoming more important with the shrinking number of new-bookstores. Used-bookstores do not purchase their books from large book distributors because they buy their inventory from individuals. They need you to stock the store. And for those of you who have ten books on your shelf, you might take seven of them to used-bookstores and get them into circulation.

**The Operations Report** reviewed book production and logistics, the website and social media, human resources, the building, finance, accounting and auditing, the study group directory, and trademarks. Portuguese soft cover books have been printed, and hardcovers of the newly revised French translation are being printed now.

**The Education Committee** reported on their activities including their seminars for the rest of the year:

*June 9–11 at 533:* Collaborative Education Seminar with Urantia Foundation, UAI, and the Fellowship.

*October 24–27 at 533:* Line St-Pierre's Retreat for Women

*October 30–November 2 at*

*533:* Marta Elders's Soul Seminar

Marta Elders, on behalf of the Urantia Book Internet School (**UBIS**), demonstrated how the new Moodle educational software platform performs. Moodle, UBIS's new operating system, is an open source, multi-language learning software platform. It is designed to provide educators, administrators, and students with a single, secure, and integrated system to create personalized learning environments. UBIS now offers classes in English, Spanish, and French.

**The Translation Committee** reported progress on all fronts. The French revision was completed and typeset for the upcoming printing. Congratulations for an excellent job done by the hard-working volunteer French revision team consisting of Georges Michelson-Dupont, Claire Mylanus, Richard Lachance, and Jean Royer. We look forward to seeing their improved revision move into circulation.

### 4. A Standardized Formatting and Numbering System Across All Books

Over the many years of publishing *The Urantia Book* in multiple languages, and in various formats, Urantia Foundation has used numerous systems inside the book to designate the part of the book, title of the part, paper number, name of the paper, page number, and *paper:section.paragraph* notation. At the April meeting we adopted a universal system that will be consistently used in future printings and in all languages. This user-friendly system

makes it simple for you to reference book locations and find your place whether you are at a study group or reading alone. It conforms to the Standard Referencing System and looks elegant on the page.

**5. Renovation of the Third Floor and Coach House Completed**

After extensive work over the last year, the renovation of the third floor and coach house of the historic home of the Urantia Revelation was completed. Now,

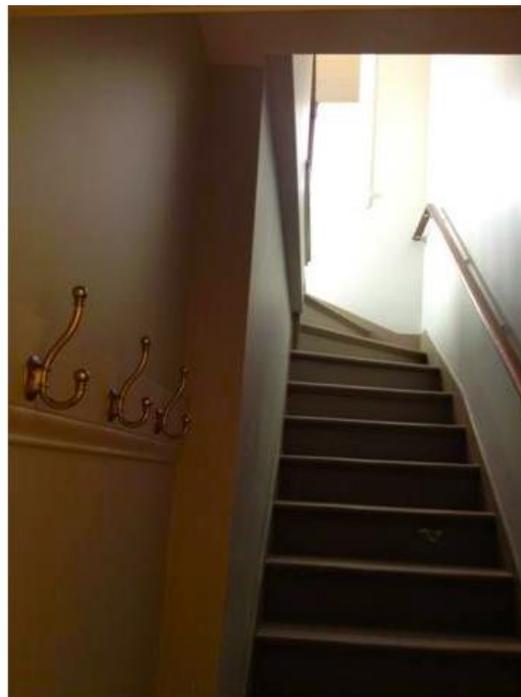
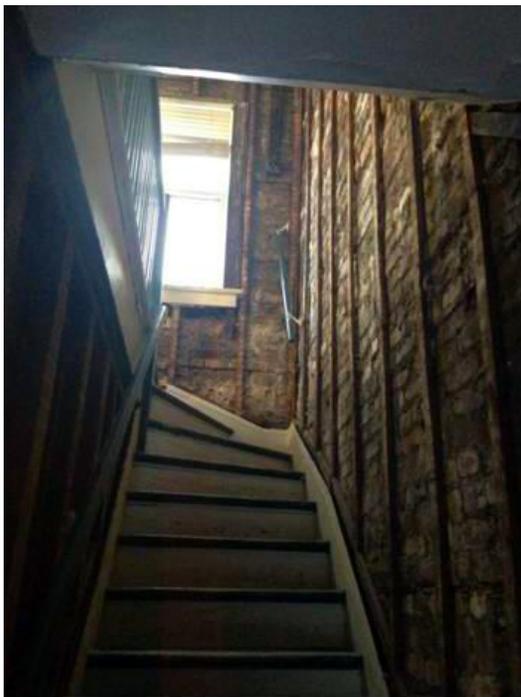
with the exception of the basement, the restoration of 533 W. Diversey Parkway is complete. We are deeply grateful to the donors who financed this renovation.

The board toured the coach house and marveled at the transformation of the property. What an accomplishment! The coach house had deteriorated so badly that it was becoming irreparable. We renovated it just in time. Now, the

upstairs apartment has new windows, floors, kitchen, bathroom, electrical, heat, insulation, and much more. Amazingly enough, the slope of the upstairs floor was six inches before the floor was leveled. Additionally, the garage has been redone with a new floor pad poured and leveled.

Special thanks go to Jennifer Siegel and Dalius Budas for their outstanding work in completing these renovations.

Both the third floor and the coach house were restored in the classic architectural style of the era that 533 W. Diversey was built. Upon completion, the third floor, coach house, and garage were immediately rented. Now, for the first time in decades, the building is self-supporting.



Staircase to the Coach House apartment



In the kitchen facing east



Small but spectacular—the new kitchen



View from landing into kitchen

# THE URANTIA BOOK: A BLESSING FOR UKRAINE



Anton Miroshnichenko and the truck driver

*By Anton Miroshnichenko, acting president of Urantia Association of Ukraine, Kyiv, Ukraine*

In January 2014, we, the members of Urantia Association of Ukraine, began negotiations with Urantia Foundation concerning the importation of Urantia Books into Ukraine. There have been almost no books available in Ukraine since the distributor of the Russian translation in St. Petersburg, Russia, lost the inventory in a fire in 2012. Also, the average cost of *The Urantia Book* in Ukraine increased to 60–75 US dollars (USD).

In the fall of 2013, due to the demand for *The Urantia Book*, we asked Urantia Association International (UAI) to help us obtain books. Rick Lyon sent us ten books, and we sold them at an affordable price and started a fund for repeat purchases. After selling the first ten books, we were able to buy another ten from Amazon.com. We did this for the next five to six months and sold fifty

copies of *The Urantia Book*. The disadvantages of this method were the wait times of one month for delivery and the cost of 40–45 USD per book. This is quite expensive for Ukrainians. Also, when purchasing goods, including books, on Amazon, according to Ukrainian legislation, we have to pay customs duties on goods worth more than 300 euros. Hence we prefer smaller orders valued at less than 300 euros.

To make *The Urantia Book* available at an affordable price to the readers in Ukraine, we decided to accept the offer of Urantia Foundation and proceed with the official importation of a pallet of 270 books. We arranged for the shipment of the books, paid the customs and import fees, and will pay for the books on consignment. A few months prior to importing the books, I received a legal license to import goods in connection with my employer. This is serving our Urantia Association well! Special thanks go to a close friend of my mother, Larisa from Sumy City, who is the director of a customs brokerage firm. She

helped me a lot and greatly simplified the process of my registration at customs.

Initially our association wanted to pay all importation costs ourselves, but we could afford only one fourth of the amount. Rick Lyon advised us to ask for help from the Urantia community. Gary Rawlings, the membership chair of the UAI, advised me to send a request to the UAI for a loan.

A few days later the dissemination chair and the president of UAI, Chris Wood, approved the loan. So I signed another contract with the UAI to receive this loan, which we promised to pay back after we sell this shipment of books.

Below is a list of all the fees paid for the 270 books.

Expenditure	Amount in USD
The cost of one book from Urantia Foundation.	\$15
Ecological certificate.	\$145
Customs.	\$892
Delivery of books to Lviv, Ukraine, from the Netherlands.	\$520
Services of customs broker.	\$145
Payment for 1-day parking of the car at the customs terminal.	\$21
Overhead (5% tax for transfer of funds to the bank account to return funds to UAI and Urantia Foundation and banking costs of 1%).	\$292
The total cost of import.	\$1,723
Import costs per book.	\$7.50
The contribution towards the next shipment per book.	\$5.80
The final price of one book.	\$28.30

We sell the book in Ukraine for 340 UAH (28.33 USD). One week after receiving the 270 books, we had sold 20 books. As of today, June 19, we have sold 50 books.

Our plans for the future include putting the book in the main bookstores, on the internet stores, and in the retail chains of bookstores.

The complexities concerning the importation of the books has attracted the attention of many people. Everyone involved now knows about the existence of *The Urantia Book*. You should have seen the eyes of the Ukrainian frontier guard at

customs in Lviv when he opened the sealed container with the 270 books. It was funny!

I would like to say thank you 1) to Henk Mylanus, trustee of Urantia Foundation and European sales manager, for his patient answers to my emails and his comprehensive assistance with the importation of the books; 2) to Michael Hanian, the translator of the Russian translation, for the idea of importing the books; 3) to Vladimir Slyn'ko, a member of Urantia Association of Ukraine, for helping with the import arrangements and believing that it was possible; 4) to Gary

Rawlings for his continuing support and his offer to apply to the UAI for help; 5) to Andrew from Lviv, another member of Urantia Association of Ukraine, for helping with transportation and storage of the books; 6) to Chris Wood and the dissemination committee of UAI for their support and quick response to our need for financial assistance; and 7) to all the members of the Urantia Association of Ukraine for their full support of this project.

And finally we express our gratitude to the Father and to all our unseen friends. Truly, when man goes into partnership with God, great things can and do happen.



## THE INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR IN BOGOTÁ, COLOMBIA



By Wilson León, Bogotá, Colombia

On behalf of Urantia Association Colombia and the Bogotá Urantia Association, we are pleased to inform you of the results of our having had a booth at the international book fair in Bogotá this past April. Also, we are grateful to Urantia Association International for donating 167 copies of the Spanish translation to our association. And thanks to Urantia Foundation, we now have an excellent import channel through which to obtain *El libro de Urantia* at an affordable price.

The results of the book fair include:

- A reunion with people who have been reading the book for a long time.
- Over 7,500 flyers were distributed.
- More than 500 email addresses were collected.
- More than 230 Urantia Books were sold.
- Thirty-nine readers tended our booth at the fair.

Our future plans include:

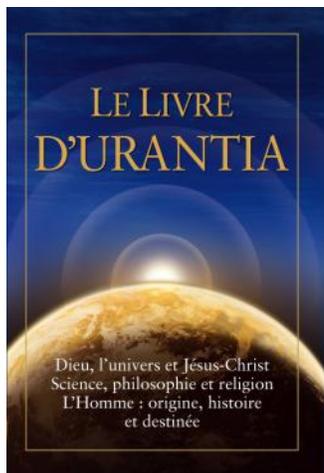
- Giving talks to introduce the book.
- Hosting conferences and workshops.
- Hosting workshops to train teachers and leaders.
- Selling 667 books in 2014.
- Starting a study group in Ombú and other areas.
- Visiting study groups throughout Colombia.
- Growing from 15 study groups to 20.
- Launching a Urantia-related website for readers in Colombia.

Thank you UAI and Urantia Foundation for your help for which we are most appreciative. And now, if you will excuse me, I must get to work with other readers to materialize our future plans.

*Vaya con Dios.*



## SECOND IN-DEPTH REVISION OF THE FRENCH TRANSLATION



By Jean Royer

Revising a text such as *The Urantia Book* is a tremendous task, sometimes more difficult than a new translation. See Seppo Kanerva's article, "The Art of Translations" in the December 2010 edition of *Urantia Foundation's News Online* (<http://www.urantia.org/news/2010-12/art-translations>).

Of course, when seen from the outside, it might appear that a revision consists only of a few rules:

- Correcting the spelling mistakes and punctuation.
- Deleting the mistranslations and inserting missing words.
- Ensuring that consistency is respected throughout the text.

But, when seen from the inside, this is not so. A revision is quite different from a translation; a revision is always a question of "compromise." The main questions are what to keep and what to change?

The difference between "must be changed," "should be changed," "could be changed," "may be changed," "is possible," and "can be kept" is far from obvious.

The members of our revision team were Georges Michelson-Dupont of France, the director, Claire Mylanus of France, Richard Lachance of Québec, and I, a long-time reader from France, who has been revising the text for 45 years.

Our work was facilitated by the new revision-translation tool developed by Rogério Reis da Silva, which allowed our team to compare our suggestions and make decisions based on what we considered the best solution. We did keep in mind that even the Trinitized Sons of Perfections "have sometimes erred in judgment."

(244.4) 22:1.13

Anyone who has never done translation



Georges Michelson-Dupont

work might think that once you have found a fairly good translation for a word, all you have to do is stick to it. Unfortunately, languages are

such that a word translated in one way for a certain situation is not always the best translation in a different situation. For example, the English language has the following words: liberty and freedom. Most Latin languages have only one word: "liberté" in French, "libertad" in Spanish, and "libertà" in Italian. So how does one translate these words? Sometimes these words appear in the same sentence as pure synonyms; "spiritual liberty" and "spiritual freedom" are examples. And sometimes



Claire Mylanus

"liberty" and "freedom" are used in *The Urantia Book* with nuances that are not perceived by native English speakers. In the English language one normally speaks of "freedom of speech" but not of "liberty of speech."

As Emerson said: "A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds." Freedom cannot always be translated as "liberté" in French.

Despite our many challenges, after years of regular, diligent work, we reached the end of Paper 196 and experienced great satisfaction. We well know that all translations are



Richard Lachance

an interpretation, and that no translation can be perfect or entirely satisfactory for all the readers. But let us remember that translations are works in progress. Let us remember that new translations and revisions of the Bible are still being done. As we progress in our understanding of *The Urantia Book* we shall need to make more—but probably fewer—revisions and corrections to the French translation. Nevertheless, we hope that this latest revision of the French translation will help French speakers to expand their cosmic consciousness and enhance their spiritual perception.

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# THE URANTIA BOOK STUDY GROUP DIRECTORY



By Scott Brooks, Columbus, Ohio, United States

A project that began in 2009 to build a website where readers could find study groups has matured into an independent institution with broad sponsorship and a wide reach. Over 350 study groups representing 34 countries have chosen to list their study groups with the online search engine called *The Urantia Book Study Group Directory (UBSGD)*. Each month a growing number of people, approximately 700 at the present time, visit the site. The site serves pages in four languages and there are plans to add more languages in the coming months.

A reader who visits [urantiastudygroup.org](http://urantiastudygroup.org) can specify a country, city, or postal code and will be presented with a list of study groups that meet his search criteria. It sounds simple enough, but the road to this simple interface was far from easy. Issues such as what constitutes a study group, how to fairly administer the directory, how to deal with inactive or errant study groups, and dozens of other thorny issues have been the challenge of the eight-person management team who has worked through these concerns.

The directory is managed by a team whose members come from the three sponsoring organizations: Urantia Foundation, The Urantia Book Fellowship, and Urantia Association International. The presidents of each sponsoring organization are ex-officio members of the governing board, while the other five members function as a team to manage day-to-day issues. Under the leadership of Barry Clark of New Jersey, USA, the team began the development of a governance model that would provide a fair and robust set of principles and operating guidelines to satisfy

the interests of the sponsoring organizations, without favoritism, and to serve the interests of Urantia Book readers around the world.

The directory team meets frequently via teleconference to manage and work on the directory. Today, the UBSGD is an independent directory managed by this volunteer team with ongoing programming funds donated by the three sponsoring organizations.

The team responds to the many questions sent in by users. There is a procedure to deal with reports of listed study groups that may not be aligned with the requirements of the directory (i.e., a study group must be focused exclusively on the study of *The Urantia Book*). When such a report is submitted, the team follows this approved process to investigate the complaint and delist the study group if necessary.

The team continues to plan new features and make necessary tweaks to the interface. While the site will remain simple, straight-forward, and focused on the primary task of helping readers find study groups, there are always new challenges.

A most daunting challenge is that of keeping the database up-to-date and ensuring that only active study groups are listed in the directory. To that end, a campaign began this spring to contact all study groups hosts and request that they validate their study group information.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Unresponsive study groups may face removal from the directory! Surprisingly, getting all listed study groups to periodically verify their current information has proven to be

one of the biggest, among the many big challenges, to have faced the UBSGD team in these early years.

Another interesting and important development in recent years has been the growth of virtual study groups via the use of Skype, FaceTime, and other communication tools that allow local study groups to include virtual guests. The UBSGD is working to incorporate virtual study groups into the search routines.



In addition, a UBSGD function will be added to assist readers who want to start a study group.

Please visit the site and register your study group. If your study group is already listed, and you have not validated your information, please be sure to do so. You may also send any questions, concerns, or suggestions to [team@urantiabookstudygroup.org](mailto:team@urantiabookstudygroup.org).

Please help us evolve this valuable resource and keep its content both relevant and accurate.

Current UBSGD team members are: Bill Beasley, Scott Brooks, Barry Clark, Jacquelyn Koury, and Tamara Strumfeld



# JOURNAL OF A JOURNEY: SEEDING URANTIA BOOKS IN THE CARIBBEAN



By Share Beasley, associate trustee, Brandon, Florida, United States

Like Urantia Book readers, Jesus, at fourteen years of age, found a certain book of interest: *The Book of Enoch*. *The Urantia Book* states that Jesus, "while turning all these problems over in his mind, found in the synagogue library at Nazareth, among the apocalyptic books which he had been studying, this manuscript called 'The Book of Enoch.'" (1390.3) 126:3.8

Now begins another adventure in placing Urantia Books. Our library-placement team, consisting of four members, put a copy of the English book on a shelf in a ship's library. The next day we saw a gentleman looking at it. Hooray!

On a Sunday our team was in Grand Turk, the largest of the Caribbean [Turks and Caicos Islands](#). The library was closed. We may never pass this way again; so plop went the book into the return book slot. "The act is ours the consequences God's."

Serendipity or...? Joseph, a gentleman from New York, moved to the Dominican Republic to open a school for pregnant teens. His service

was motivated by the fact that these girls were not allowed to attend regular school. Joseph soon found himself engaged in teaching young men *and* women English for the purpose of supporting themselves as tour guides. This school is housed in an open air thatched roof "lean to" in the jungle, three hours from the capital of Santo Domingo. Upon learning of our quest, he volunteered to take *El libro de Urantia* to the nearest library in Santo Domingo on his next trip there for supplies. We hope, of course, that, before placing the book, curiosity might compel Joseph to peek between the covers.

Our next ports were the Dutch-speaking Antilles. In preparation we had asked Henk Mylanus, a Dutchman and trustee of Urantia Foundation, to write a letter of introduction to Dutch librarians. We learned that this formal letter of introduction elicited appreciation and respect for our donation of *Het Urantia Boek*. We immediately began to accompany all of our Urantia Book donations with introductory letters.

Another serendipitous experience was our meeting with Sue, whom we encountered as we paused to look at a map. She is a resident of Bonaire, Antilles, and is an avid reader, who informed us that most people in Bonaire use an exchange library. She then volunteered to put *Het Urantia Boek* in this library the following day. Will her curiosity move her to peek between the covers?

Curaçao, Antilles, has a large, modern, busy library. The majority of patrons appeared

to be teens and young adults. A security officer phoned the director to meet with us, and he appreciated the quality of the Dutch translation and was happy to add it to the books in the "religion" section of their library.

A third Dutch translation was placed in a highly busy and modern library in Aruba. The director graciously accepted the book, had our pictures taken to put on their website, and declared an article would be written for their newsletter regarding our donation of *Het Urantia Boek*.

We arrived in Phillipsburg, St. Maarten, the Dutch capital, depleted of Dutch translations. Undeterred, we drew upon our stock of French translations (the other half of St. Maarten Island is French), grabbed a taxi cab, and headed for the French Capital, Marigot. While at a pharmacy, we asked the clerk about the location of the library and learned that it had been

moved a considerable distance away. We told her we had a book to donate. After pondering our statement for a few moments, she made a phone call and gave us directions to the office of International Organization for

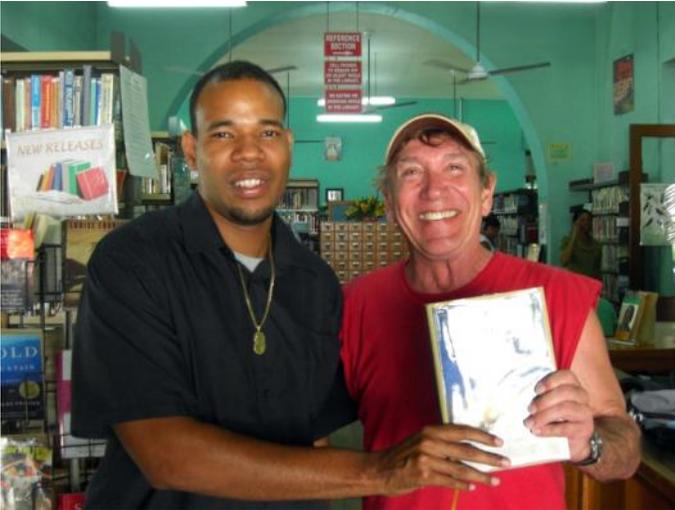


Schoelcher Library

Youth Affairs. It is a cultural center where young women and men are trained in the art of government. Pricilla Bade, the director, gave us a warm welcome. She assured us that *Le Livre d'Urantia* would be put in the library. Once again serendipity seemed to follow our determined footsteps.

Our arrival at Castries, St. Lucia, coincided with their Independence Day celebration. Exciting festivity preparations were everywhere. Our "tours by local" guide directed us to the library. Again it was a busy library with mostly





Bill Beasley



Share Beasley

young adults. After stating our purpose of book donation to the clerk on the first floor, we were escorted up three steep flights of stairs and introduced to the administrator. She graciously accepted *The Urantia Book* and asked for an address to which she could send a formal "thank you."

On the way to the library in Barbados, we encountered a long parade of schoolgirls, their mothers, and a marching band. They were chanting slogans, singing, and carrying banners calling for equal rights for women and an end to violence against women. Once at the library, we were warmly welcomed by gentlemen at the front desk and swiftly escorted to the administrator's office for a grateful reception for our donation of *The Urantia Book*.

In Fort de France, Martinique, the Schoelcher Library is a building of magnificent architecture. It was built in France, then taken down, then shipped piece by piece in the late 1800s, and then reassembled in Martinique. Much to our dismay, we had no more French translations. Not to be defeated in our purpose of seeding *The Urantia Book* in all the ports we entered, we met the administrator of the library, got his name and address, and shall mail him a copy of the book for placement in this historic library, which is on the "must see" tour lists.

Circumstances were such in Roseau, Dominica, that half of our team, Bill Beasley and Bernie Gingra, walked into town, found the library, and placed the book with a grateful librarian. This was

the smallest library encountered, yet it still had about a dozen patrons reading books.

Next stop was Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas. Here we found a very large down-town library that was closed. A locked, beat-up book drop was next to the chain-locked gate. As I dropped a copy of *The Urantia Book* into the book drop, it occurred to me that this may be a wasted *Urantia Book*. Then I remembered that this revelation is truly the project of our unseen friends, and that we are only the privileged and transient actors. They will work their wonders, using whatever tools are available. On another positive note, our taxicab driver, an older woman, overheard us discussing *The Urantia Book* with some fellow passengers

and was interested enough to ask for its name in writing so that she could find it in the library. Wow, our unseen friends certainly work fast!

We are now en route back to Ft Lauderdale, Florida, at the end of an exciting adventure seeding *Urantia Books* in the Caribbean. Our last effort on this trip was to leave *The Urantia Book* in the ship's exchange library in addition to the one already placed in the reference section of the ship. This trip has pleasantly surprised us by the many young readers in libraries. The enthusiastic reception of *The Urantia Book* and its supernal teachings brought hope and joy to our souls.



# THE URANTIA BOOK IN THE PHILIPPINES

By Eugene Asidao, Chicago, Illinois, United States

It is with deep gratitude that we, Eugene Asidao and Nestor Nano, present this report. Thank you, dear readers, Urantia Foundation, and Urantia Association International for your contributions to our book placement project in the Philippines by donating 160 Urantia Books and for providing financial assistance. Without it, we would not have succeeded in our endeavor earlier this year.

## Background and Significance of the Philippines

Let us provide you some data concerning the Philippines and how it relates to *The Urantia Book*. To our knowledge, the Philippines is the only Christian country in Asia. There are at least 98,735,000 Filipinos in the Philippines and another 10 million living in almost every country in the world. Out of the total population, 80% are Catholics and 10% are members of other Christian denominations. There are Christians in other parts of Asia, but only in the Philippines are Christians a majority of the population.

There are two official languages in the Philippines, Filipino and English. The middle class, which is mainly the educated class, can speak and write in English. Therefore distributing the English version of *The Urantia Book* will be suitable in the near future. The majority of the population, however, will require a Filipino translation when the popularity of the book increases.

## Library Placement of *The Urantia Book*

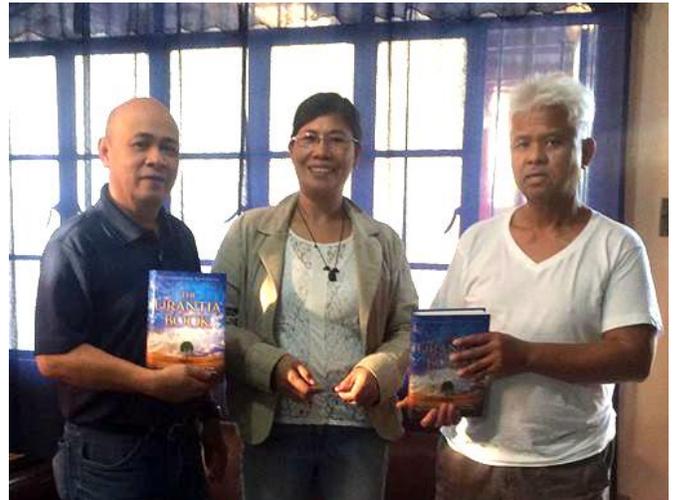
Earlier this year, Nestor and I placed 142 books in libraries and with individuals in Manila and its environs. The remaining books will be given to individuals who express interest in it.

The logistics of placing the books in libraries were quite challenging and time consuming. The traffic in Metro Manila is horrific! Renting a vehicle with a driver also posed problems due to our tight budget. Placing the books in libraries took time as well, but it was a pleasure. We had the opportunity to inform the recipients of what the book was about. Overall, the people who received them were very thankful.

## Prospects for the Future

We believe that the ground in the Philippines is fertile for the seeding of *The Urantia Book* and its teachings. There are 2,180 universities and colleges and a vast public library system. We estimate an average of four libraries per 144 cities with even more in big cities like Quezon City, which has twenty libraries.

We also have to foster the individual's interest in the book by encouraging them to read it and form study groups. Facilitators are needed who are well versed in the teachings and who have the capability to organize and to teach. It is from the core of the study group that national interest will grow, and from there, the initiative of the Filipino translation will begin.



Nestor Nano, Febby Marshall, Eugene Asidao

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### A Workshop on the Soul

October 31-November 2, 2014

Led by Marta Elders, associate trustee, Darien, Connecticut, United States

Do you want to expand your consciousness and deepen your spiritual perception of the soul? Then you might consider participating in a workshop at Urantia Foundation—a workshop on the soul that will focus on answering the following questions: What is the soul? How does it develop? What is its purpose? Its value? Its meaning? Its origin? Its nature? Its destiny? Its significance in your life? Its relation to the Supreme Being? To mind? To cosmic citizenship? And what is newly revealed about the soul in *The Urantia Book*?

The workshop will consist of a small group of students of *The Urantia Book* who will meet on Friday, October 31 through Sunday, November 2. All participants will be asked 1) to prepare a 3-5 page paper to be distributed to the other participants prior to the weekend and 2) to prepare a short meditative type of experiential exercise to be offered during the weekend.

Marta Elders will be leading this workshop. If you would like to learn more or would like to participate, please contact Joanne Strobel at [joanne@urantia.org](mailto:joanne@urantia.org).

We invite you to attend this workshop and hope to grow and learn with you.

Facilitators are needed who are well versed in the teachings.



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# TRIP TO THE HOLY LAND



Carolyn Moon and Gabriel Rymberg

*By Carolyn Moon, Kirkland, Washington, United States*

This spring I joined the group of Urantia Book readers that went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. We wanted to experience something of the time and place of the Master's life on Urantia. At almost every place we visited, we shared and discussed pertinent readings in *The Urantia Book*, which deepened our experiences.

This trip was not about staying at the best hotels, dining in the best restaurants, or enjoying the present-day culture. It was about walking where Jesus walked and feeling and comprehending more fully the meaning of his life and teachings.

The trip was organized by Diane Labrecque of the United Urantia Family Foundation in Québec, Canada, and Gabriel Rymberg of Nazareth, Israel, the chief translator of the Hebrew translation. Participants came from Canada, Finland, and the United States. For five days, we stayed at a French

Mt. Hermon, which was a rather long drive up to the northern part of Israel; Jesus walked there several times with his disciples.

We sat at the site of the Capernaum synagogue (more recently the ruins of a Roman temple) and remembered that this was where Jesus preached many times. Also, we stood on a high hill in Nazareth—perhaps the hill up to which Jesus and his father liked to hike and from which they could see many surrounding places. And how thrilling it was to sail on the Sea of Galilee, this same sea which the Master knew so well!

I was very interested in a scale model of Jerusalem at the time of the Second Temple (when Jesus lived) because I had never been able to visualize what "going up to the Temple" was like. I saw how the Temple totally dominated the city at the time. I also found it helpful to visit "Nazareth Village," which is an open air museum in Nazareth that reconstructs and reenacts village life in Galilee in the time of Jesus. The buildings are being built using only tools that were available then. We were treated to a Passover meal there.

Along with all that we saw in Israel, we had the experience of living and studying together, of feeling like a family, and of imagining what it must have been like to be one of Jesus' disciples.

Our trip to the Holy Land I shall always remember and cherish. I think that all of us experienced an expansion of our cosmic consciousness and an enhancement of our spiritual perception.

monastery on the Mount of Olives. The view of Jerusalem was breath taking! I never tired of looking at it. It was our home as we explored important places in and around Jerusalem. And for six days, as we explored places in Galilee that were important in Jesus' life, we stayed in Tiberius at the YMCA, which overlooked the Sea of Galilee. Almost all our meals were from these venues including our lunches, which we brought with us on our day trips.

Throughout our trip, as we rode in an air-conditioned bus, I kept thinking: "Jesus walked! He walked here, everywhere, many times." I had no idea the land was so hilly, even mountainous. When we left Jerusalem and went down to the Dead Sea and thence to Jericho, we observed that the Judean hills are stark and desolate. Maybe they were more lush in Jesus' day. Jericho to Bethany was one day's walk. No wonder they had many of their conversations while they were walking or resting along the way. We also traveled to