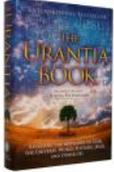




# URANTIA FOUNDATION'S NEWS ONLINE



## A URANTIA BOOK BOOTH AT THE PARLIAMENT OF THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS

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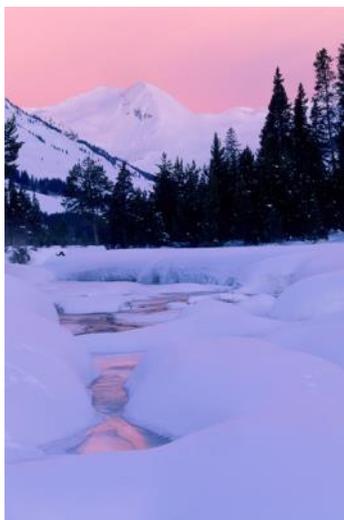
By James Woodward,  
California, United States

The Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions and *The Urantia Book* have some things in common. Both were inaugurated in Chicago; both

have a mission of expanding humanity's knowledge about religion and philosophy; and both continue to gather momentum among truth seekers around the world.

The first Parliament (a name for a gathering of leaders) took place in 1893 in conjunction with the World's Columbian Exposition held in Chicago. That event is now considered the birth of formal interreligious dialogue worldwide. Sometimes referred to as the interfaith movement, it is a growing trend among progressive religionists who take pleasure in exploring the common elements that flow through traditional religions

and spiritual paths. That first gathering in Chicago witnessed high priests, swamis, tribal chiefs, and many other religious leaders discovering that they all were seeking a greater understanding of the Divine. The Parliament was resurrected for a centennial celebration, became structured as a non-profit with a board of diverse leaders, and again convened in Chicago in 1993. Since then, Johannesburg, South Africa; Barcelona, Spain; and Melbourne, Australia, have hosted the gathering about every five years. This October an estimated 10,000 persons will attend the Parliament, which will be



held in Salt Lake City, Utah, United States.

Readers of *The Urantia Book* have been attending Parliaments since 1993. There were several Urantia-themed presentations included in the Melbourne program, and there may be more this year. At least five proposals have been submitted to the organizing committee. And again this year, as in Melbourne in 2009, Urantia Foundation, The Urantia Book Fellowship, and Urantia Association International are cooperating in efforts to support an information booth featuring Urantia Books, educational materials, and, of course, friendly volunteers to interact with interested seekers.

The event runs from October 15 to 19 and will include speeches by well-known and respected religious leaders, hundreds of spiritually themed workshops and presentations, and stage performances representing the music and artistry of a diversity of religious cultures. Also featured is the expo hall where one may find information booths about every religion and spiritual path under the sun. Our booth, simply named *The Urantia Book*, will be located very near the entrance, which should afford great visibility and the opportunity to introduce the book and its teachings to lots of active religionists.

My personal experience at the Parliament in Melbourne remains a highlight of my religious journey. The combination of camaraderie with my Urantia Book reader friends, the pageantry of the nightly performances, the thought-provoking speeches and workshops, and the exhilaration of mingling with so many people of such diverse religious backgrounds, were memorable and soul-enriching.

To find out more about the mission of the Parliament of the World's Religions, you can visit their website: [www.parliamentofreligions.org](http://www.parliamentofreligions.org). If you are interested in attending the Parliament this fall, it would be wise to register now as the fee will increase at

the end of March. And if you have an interest in volunteering with Urantia Book students at the event, you may contact Cristina Seaborn at [seaborn@cloudnet.com](mailto:seaborn@cloudnet.com), who chairs the Fellowship's Interfaith Committee, James Woodward at [TBandG@friendlyuniverse.org](mailto:TBandG@friendlyuniverse.org), who is organizing the efforts of Urantia Association, or Joanne Strobel at [joanne@urantia.org](mailto:joanne@urantia.org), who is assisting efforts for Urantia Foundation.

## FOUNDATION HIGHLIGHTS OF 2014



*By Mo Siegel, president, Urantia Foundation, Colorado, United States*

To all of you who wonder what happens at Urantia Foundation, here are some of the highlights from 2014.

### Website and Social Media

- Unique visits to [urantia.org](http://urantia.org) totaled 701,405, up 17.5% from 2013. The top five countries from which people visited the site were: 1. US, 2. Brazil, 3. Mexico,

4. Colombia, and 5. Canada.

- Converted the website to be mobile responsive.

- Improved participation in social media with Facebook "likes" up 25%.

### Finances

- Decreased spending between 2013 and 2014 by \$14,000.

- Transferred the Foundation's long-term investments and Perpetual Printing Funds to a new financial advisory firm.

- Received \$825,000 in donations, up 6% from 2013. Donations were above budget and 2.5% more than the needed goal of \$800,000.

- Received an increase of \$128,006 in unrestricted donations, up 21% from 2013. Restricted donations were down 46% due to donations for the building

renovation project in 2013. 844 individuals donated in 2014.

### Translations and Revisions

- Approved a translation-revision procedure and policy recommended by the Translation Sub-Committee (perhaps the biggest accomplishment of the year).

- Transferred the Urantia Foundation translation portal to a dedicated server located in the United States.

- Implemented the Quality Translation Procedure for assessing the status of potential and revised translations.

- Received an evaluation-assessment of the quality of the French, Japanese, and Hebrew translations. Submitted the Spanish and Korean translations for evaluation.

- Began the development of an English Term List, now

called an English Glossary, which will be translated into other languages in which the book is published.

- Implemented a process model for the flow of the master translation text for use in different applications (print, web, eBook).

- Purchased a computer and programmed it as a vault for all the master files, printer files, and other translation-related information to be stored at Urantia Foundation.

### Books (Production, Distribution, and Sales)

- Sold more than 17,000 Urantia Books which, when all sales figures are submitted, will be a few percent points higher than 2013.

- Set up new distributors in Colombia, Poland, Russia, and Ukraine.

- Finished, published, and commenced distribution of

the revised French translation.

- Worked with Urantia Association International (UAI) to supply books to the Philippines and Africa.
- Moved the Index Project forward.

**Building at 533 W. Diversey Parkway**

- Finished remodeling the third floor and coach house. For the first year in memory, rent from the third floor and coach house offset expenses. This enabled Urantia Foundation to use the first, second, and basement floors at no expense.
- Performed numerous repairs, necessary housekeeping projects, and

building improvements throughout the year.

**Community**

- Hosted sixteen groups plus a weekly study group at 533 during 2014. Included were four Board of Trustee meetings, the Greater Lake Michigan Urantia Association (GLMUA) annual meeting and study group, two Urantia Book Fellowship Executive Committee meetings, a Women's Retreat planning sessions, and a joint Education Committee Seminar. We also welcomed international visitors after the UAI's Study Group Symposium in Madison, Wisconsin, and we hosted the UAI's International Service Board meeting, a Women's Retreat, a workshop on "The Soul", the annual director's

meeting of the Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS), the annual holiday party co-sponsored with GLMUA and First Society, and a Saturday workshop sponsored by the First Society.

- Sponsored financially the UAI and the Fellowship's conferences. Urantia Books were sold at both.
- Sent out four quarterly editions of the *Urantia Foundation's News Online*, three UBIS newsletters, the 2013 Annual Report, and two fundraising letters.

**Education**

- Moved the UBIS software platform to Moodle. It allows for having classes in multiple languages with a friendly user interface.

- Conducted 26 UBIS classes in three languages with 22 teachers and nearly 400 students.
- Held three seminars sponsored by the Education Committee at 533 W. Diversey Parkway.
- Participated in advancing the Study Group Directory. All listed study group hosts were contacted to ensure that the group is still active. A button to find Virtual Study Groups was installed. We remain bullish for the future of this global Study Group Directory and appreciate the UAI and the Fellowship for our partnership in this important project.

## NOTEWORTHY DECISIONS FROM THE JANUARY 2015 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING



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

**Decisions Made**

**1. Improvements to the Urantia Foundation Website**

The board approved updating the "look" of Urantia Foundation's website. The new look makes it easier for international visitors to navigate the site. The board

also approved a new content network management team responsible for keeping [urantia.org](http://urantia.org) and social media current and interesting.

**2. Sponsorship of the UAI's July 2015 International Conference in Québec, Canada**

The board agreed with a request to sponsor Urantia Association International's conference in Québec, Canada, this summer. It is part of the board's philosophy to work with other organizations dedicated to spreading the teachings of *The Urantia Book* worldwide.

**3. Preparation of Systems and Processes for Quality Publications**

As Urantia Foundation matures, it is vital that the knowledge of how to translate the book and to print quality

books becomes part of the Foundation's institutional memory. With this in mind, Georges Michelson-Dupont presented the first written road map that details the process intervening between a completed translation and a finished book. With this draft in hand, the Translation and Book Committees will proceed to finalize the systems.

Urantia Foundation has entered a new stage of its existence. When Dr. Sadler



Georges Michelson-Dupont

and the early team readied *The Urantia Book* for printing, they knew every aspect of its production. Back then, the book was available only in English and was sold mainly in North America. Today there are sixteen translations distributed in over 35 countries. The book is now available in physical-book form and in digital format. These changes have required that we evolve from an early-stage organization to a more mature organization that is built to last for generations. Employing procedures and systems, like the ones described above, ensures that a lucid and comprehensive legacy is left for those who follow us.

**4. Transference of Wealth for the Urantia Revelation**

More and more Urantia Book-reading Baby Boomers are asking how they can pass on

some of their wealth to Urantia Foundation. Just as the early readers passed on wealth for the safeguarding and perpetuation of *The Urantia Book* for our generation, so must we do likewise for the next generation. The board agreed to provide help to those individuals who want to give but need information about how to do so wisely. Please visit the Foundation's Planned Giving website at [urantia.plannedgiving.org](http://urantia.plannedgiving.org).

**5. Revised Terms for Associate Trustees**

The board approved changes to the terms for future associate trustees. In the past, associate trustees were elected every year with a five-year term limit. Going forward, new associate trustees will be elected for a three-year term with a possibility of serving an additional three-year term (six years in total). This change allows for better planning, both for the elected associate trustees and for the trustees.

The board also approved the possible appointment of an associate trustee emeritus if involved in a project that requires additional time to

stay on the expanded board.

Associate trustees emeriti may also serve on board committees while working on specific projects assigned them by the board.

**6. Organizational Consultant**

The board decided to hire a management consulting firm for assistance in defining the role and responsibilities of the next executive director. During this consultation, an organizational assessment will be conducted to ensure that we are filling the right job with the right person. This

assessment should be completed in September.

**More and more Urantia Book-reading Baby Boomers are asking how they can pass on some of their wealth to Urantia Foundation.**

# THE 2015 INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR IN JERUSALEM



*By Gabriel Rymberg, Nazareth, Israel*

It was wonderful! We were five persons in a small booth. Claire Thurston came from Washington, DC, Tim Hobbs from Colorado, Avi Dogim from New Jersey, and Buck Weimer from Colorado. I only had to drive a couple of hours south to reach Jerusalem.

Jerusalem's weather in February can be inclement. During the fair, the temperature dropped to almost freezing. And southeasterly winds from the

desert blew in much dust. It covered everything with a thick layer.

Inside at the book fair, however, everything, including our booth, was clean and dust free. We displayed several copies of *The Urantia Book*, including the English text and the French, German, Italian, Russian, and Spanish translations.

By Sunday evening, before the fair started on Monday, all was ready.

What I liked the most was our team. Once again I witnessed and experienced what the fruits of long-term exposure to spiritual guidance look like. It was a pleasure to feel the love from all the team members. It was as though we experienced a preview of the age of light and life. I felt the presence of the Master and was reminded that "where two or three believers are gathered together, there am I in the midst of them." (1762.5) 159:1.3

Our interactions with the visitors at our booth were very interesting. We had a big bowl of Spiritual Vitamins, which proved to be great ice-breakers. One elderly gentleman even took a handful and was about to toss them into his mouth, when we stopped him. How hungry he was for the divine word!

When people stopped at our booth, often their first question was: "What is this?" or "What is Urantia?" Then it was incumbent upon us to respond with something engaging that would elicit

more questions from the visitor.

Because the Hebrew translation is still a work-in-progress, we prepared a brochure in English and Hebrew titled "Introduction to *The Urantia Book*." This brochure proved to be a popular handout. In it, we had a short introduction and about a hundred quotes from the book. Everyone who visited the booth was given one of these brochures, which, after being read, frequently induced the visitors to engage in conversation



Tim Hobbs, Gabriel Rymberg, Claire Thurston, Buck Weimer, and Avi Dogim

concerning something that intrigued them. Not many visitors opened the book.

We had much time to socialize and converse—mainly with ourselves. We had many conversations, some deep, some funny, and all imbued with love. For me, the main

treat of attending the fair and staffing a booth was getting to know intimately new sisters and brothers and having the opportunity to love and serve them and to be loved and served by them.

We have undoubtedly helped seed *The Urantia Book* in Israel. And years from now, I

venture to say that someone will recall having seen *The Urantia Book* for the first time at the 2015 Jerusalem International Book Fair.



The calanit, Israel's national flower.

## DISSEMINATING *THE URANTIA BOOK* IN UKRAINE



By Anton Miroshnichenko, Kyiv, Ukraine

The Urantia Association of Ukraine posted an announcement on their website, [www.urantia.org.ua](http://www.urantia.org.ua), that *The Urantia Book* is for sale. The announcement was also posted on all other free resources on the Internet: for example the OLX (ex slando) free classifieds [kiev.ko.olx.ua/obyavlenie/kniga-urantii-IDcr3DR.html](http://kiev.ko.olx.ua/obyavlenie/kniga-urantii-IDcr3DR.html) and the Prom.ua online marketplace [kiev.prom.ua/p28379988-kniga-urantii.html](http://kiev.prom.ua/p28379988-kniga-urantii.html).

Book orders can be placed by phone or by e-mail. Payment may be made online or through a bank card. Also, a buyer can pay for the book by cash on delivery when he picks it up at the delivery office. Shipping is done through Nova Poshta (New Mail) commercial delivery

service. This delivery method is very convenient because in Ukraine there is a network of delivery offices. Customers only need to travel to the closest office to pick up their purchased book. The average delivery time is one to two days. The postage for one book costs about \$2 US to any city in Ukraine.

There are many small bookstores in Ukraine that usually work directly with publishers of books. Unfortunately, putting *The Urantia Book* on the shelves of these kinds of stores is very difficult because *The Urantia Book* was not published in Ukraine. The book is not promoted by major publishing houses. So it cannot be found by buyers for small bookstores; it is neither in the directory of books nor in the catalogues of publishing companies.

Some of these shops are willing, however, to take a book on consignment. Usually, these are small shops that sell mostly esoteric books. We have given several books to one of these bookstores in Kiev.

The disadvantages of this method of book placement are: 1) They always mark up the price of the book by 100%, and 2) you have to work

individually with these shops. Then you must call the stores and monitor the sales. It is inconvenient and time consuming.

It is the same with book bazaars. In Kiev there is a very large book bazaar called Petrivka where you can find any book. Book sellers sell *The Urantia Book* there, marking up the price of the book by 100%.

We signed a contract for the sale of books through one popular Internet book store: yakaboo at [new.yakaboo.ua/kniga-urantii.html](http://new.yakaboo.ua/kniga-urantii.html).

In three months this shop has sold only one book.

In Ukraine there are two major bookstore chains that carry books: Book Club [www.bookclub.ua](http://www.bookclub.ua) and Bukva [bukvashops.com.ua](http://bukvashops.com.ua). Book Club sells through the postal service and we were eager to have *The Urantia Book* in their catalog because it would have offered us a wide audience of people who love to read. Unfortunately they denied us a place in their mailing directory.

Stores in the Bukva chain are usually located in shopping malls or in a central area of the city. In Ukraine we have



thirty-nine such stores. In the summer of 2014, we decided to put the books into the Bukva chain. In order to have the Bukva chain carry the book, one must have a formal contract with the company. In December 2014, I, as a legal entity (an entrepreneur) signed a contract and the marketing manager proposed that we choose the "presentation" of the book. For example, the book can be placed on special promotional pedestals near the cashier. Signs advertising the book can be placed near the books in the storefront. A special promotional audio clip can be played with some frequency in the store. All of these services cost money. We

chose to place *The Urantia Book* in the Bukva stores in Kiev.

The cost of this advertising campaign for two months was 4,100 hryvnia. At the exchange rate at the beginning of February 2015, this was about \$245 USD; as of today it was \$190 USD.

We placed three books in each of the stores. They marked up the price of the book by 100%, which we negotiated down to 50% by discounting the cost of the books to Chitay Misto by 33%. Fortunately Chitay Misto is selling the book at the same price for which we sell it on our website.

I am confident that we should use all modern marketing tools available to us in trying to distribute *The Urantia Book*. As is stated in the book in the parable of the shrewd steward:

"If you were so diligent in making gains for yourselves when in the service of self, why should you show less diligence in gaining souls for the kingdom since you are now servants of the brotherhood of man and stewards of God?" (1853.5) 169:2.2



## WHAT *THE URANTIA BOOK* MEANS TO ME?



By Devon Landis,  
Pennsylvania, United States

In my moments of highest appreciation of heavenly things, *The Urantia Book* is literally the written words of a Divine Counselor, an Archangel, or a Brilliant Evening Star of Nebadon. In other moments, my *Urantia Book* is used as a makeshift pillow when I am traveling.

To me, written words are like a dry canal dug through the land. When I take a book, any

book, and begin to read, my mind becomes like water, which fills and flows through the channel—cascading, pooling, veering, holding, narrowing, or broadening in an ever-flowing stream of concepts.

Books are also like a window frame, allowing the reader to gaze upon a new and different landscape. An acquaintance recently said to me that "books are liberty."

*The Urantia Book* is my favorite book. It begins like this:

"In the minds of the mortals of Urantia—that being the name of your world—there exists great confusion respecting the meaning of such terms as God, divinity, and deity. Human beings are still more confused and uncertain about the relationship of the divine personalities designated by these numerous appellations." (1.1) 0:0.1

The Divine Counselor goes on to say:

"Because of this conceptual poverty associated with so much ideational confusion, I have been directed to formulate this introductory statement in explanation of the meanings which should be attached to certain word symbols as they may be hereinafter used in those papers which the Orvonton corps of truth revealers have been authorized to translate into the English language of Urantia." (1.1) 0:0.1

These Orvontonian authors, the Divine Counselors, attempt to transport the human mind over eons of time and across unfathomable tracts of space all the way to Paradise, the dwelling place of God. From there, it flows back to the shores of the place of the

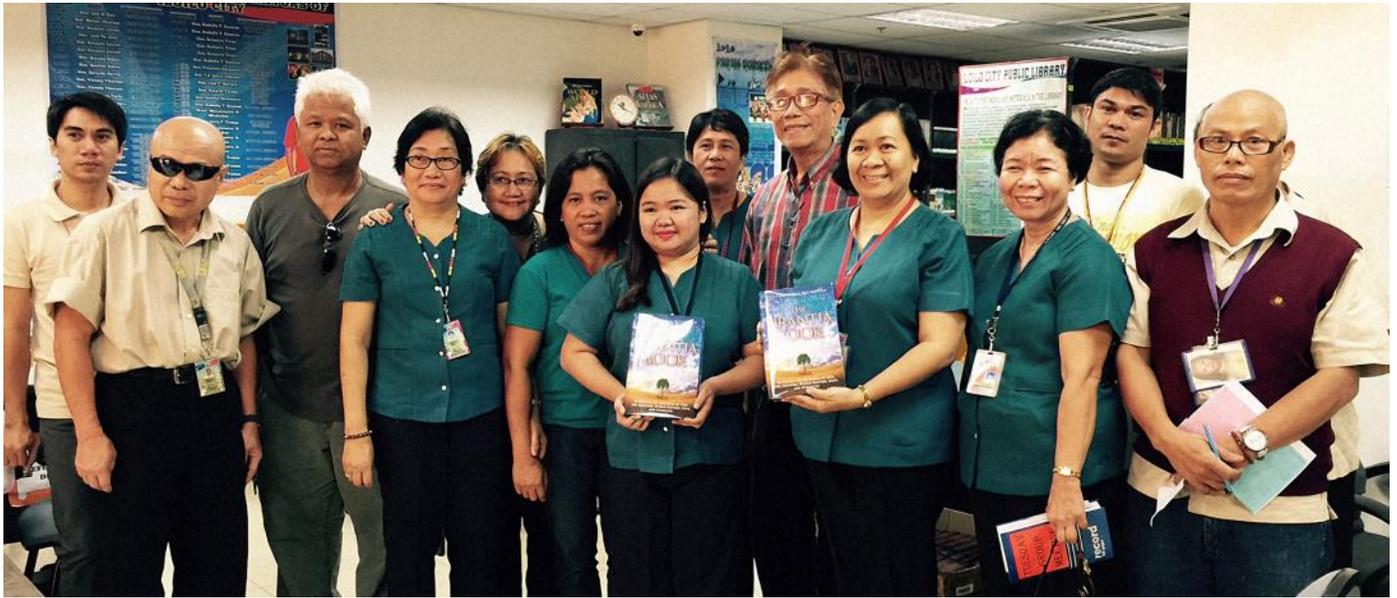
physical person, the humble home world which we call "Urantia," the place where we put into action the doing of the will of God.

I have read *The Urantia Book* once from cover to cover, and I am confident that some of my thoughts traversed that immense time-space gap between Paradise and me, and that I am immeasurably better for it.

Right now my literary endeavor is focused on reading the Catholic Bible from cover to cover (I am currently in the book of Kings). I am also active in various Facebook groups including Urantia Book Science, Urantia Book Philosophy, and Urantia Book and History. Someday I will reread *The Urantia Book* from beginning to end and will dig deeper the intellectual and spiritual channel between God and man.

# URANTIA BOOK OUTREACH IN THE PHILIPPINES

*Editor's Note: Eugene Asiado and his wife, Belen, are in the Philippines for the second time placing Urantia Books in libraries. This second library project is taking place in the greater Manila area. Urantia Foundation donated 160 English hardcovers for this project, and Urantia Association International donated the shipping funds to get the books to the Philippines.*



Iloilo City Public Library



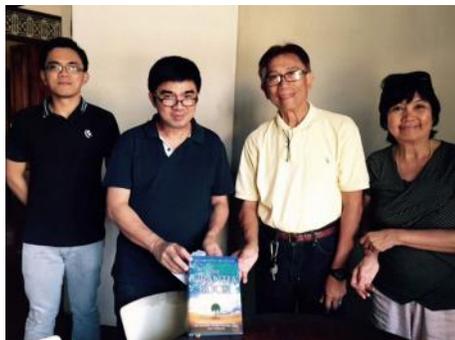
West Visayas State University



Central Philippine University



University of the Philippines Visayas



Saint Vincent Seminary

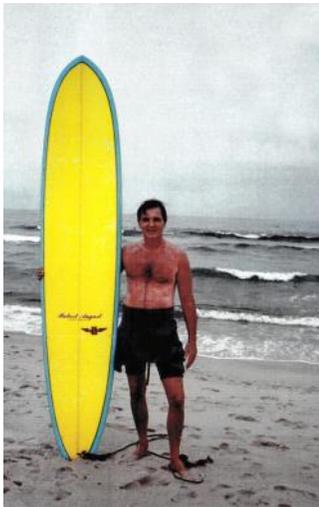


Philippine Science High School System



West Visayas State University

# HOW DISCOVERING *THE URANTIA BOOK* HAS AFFECTED MY LIFE



By Bill Evans, New York, United States

It was 1969. I was in my early twenties, pursuing my carefree career of surfing on Long Island, New York, when a few of us flew to Puerto Rico to find waves. We found them at an unknown, but now famous, coastal town called Rincón.

Several of the group decided to fly over to Barbados upon hearing about a storm there, which meant good waves. However, they found washed-out conditions. Seeking something to do, they descended into one of Barbados's caves with a boom box and the new Led Zeppelin album. After entering the pitch blackness of the cave, they played the tape to the end and sat in silence, when a strange voice broke in, talking about seventh heaven, Jesus, and other such topics. When they left, from out of the cave came a man in his fifties dressed in a long poncho. He said, in reply to their questions: "When you get back to the States, look up *The Urantia Book*."

I wasn't there, but the story was relayed to me later at a party. It sparked something inside of me, and I had to find the book. I went to libraries and bookstores, but

none had it or had heard of it. There was, however, a bookstore I knew of in Sayville, Long Island. It was run by an elderly couple whose entire life was books. But they had never heard of it either and claimed there was no such book. I insisted there was, at which time they produced a large volume marked "U". Leafing through it, just before Uranus, I saw it: *Urantia, Book, The*." He said "I can get you that book." I ordered two, and a week later I picked up two big blue books.

One of them is still my book with puffy pages and a broken spine from sitting on beaches and passing it around. It has such character, and I treasure it!

I've been reading this blue book since the day I found it. At first I read it from cover to cover. Somewhere in the Jesus papers I knew it was the truth. It has changed my

life and made me want to bring its message to others. I believe the road to damnation is broad and well-traveled, while His road is narrow, and few find it. I hope that my attempts to introduce people to the book lead them to the narrow road.

For me it's brought a calmness that I never had before. I pray that the coins I've returned to the master are enough to get me to the first mansion world, so that I can do more. For sure, I believe that God is my Father, and that Jesus is his son and my brother, as is humanity.

I hope to meet you all—if not here—then on the first mansion world.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THE URANTIA BOOK FELLOWSHIP SUMMER STUDY SESSION 2015



By Bobbie Dreier, New Jersey, United States

Location: Techny Towers, Northbrook, Illinois, July 9–12

Join with fellow readers of *The Urantia Book* this summer as we explore "Our Relationship with God the Father." With a focus on Papers 1–5, the Education Committee is initiating a journey through the major themes in *The Urantia Book*.

The conference committee is planning a variety of experiences, including workshops for new readers, in-depth study, experiential workshops, and advanced studies. In addition to the study program, there will be opportunities to participate in

worshipful meditation and to enjoy renewing old friendships and making new ones.

Although readers go to the Fellowship's Summer Study Session for a variety of reasons, a major incentive for attending is the high quality of the workshops. The conference team is requesting workshop proposals appropriate for new readers as well as in-depth study for "veterans." There will be a track for workshops which are primarily experiential, but all

workshop leaders should plan to engage participants actively.

If you have an idea for a workshop on this summer's theme, please request a Workshop Proposal Form from David Kulieke at [david.kulieke@gmail.com](mailto:david.kulieke@gmail.com).

A preconference retreat, "Creating Circles of Trust," will be held from July 7 to July 9.

Register online at [www.urantia-book.org/committees/education/summer-study-session](http://www.urantia-book.org/committees/education/summer-study-session).



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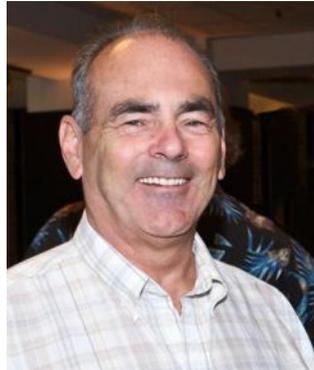
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[www.urantia.org](http://www.urantia.org)

## URANTIA ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2015



By Gaétan Charland, Québec, Canada

Something important is happening this summer in Québec, Canada. From July 30 to August 2, a conference sponsored by Urantia Association International is taking place and needs your participation. These international conferences are events that should not be

missed; they provide unparalleled opportunities of social interaction and inner growth while promoting a genuine fraternity with others from many cultures.

The conference will focus on one of the most important teachings of *The Urantia Book*: the education of the family and society. Many of us are looking for ways to disseminate and share advanced techniques with our children, family, and friends. This conference will feature plenaries and workshops that will explore these relevant topics. The program has been designed so that workshops are linked in synergy to the corresponding plenaries.

We are looking forward to seeing as many of you as

possible at this event. Many readers are coming from around the world, and our financial aid committee is working hard to collect funds and manage requests from readers who need financial assistance to attend this conference. If you feel generous, please contribute to our scholarship fund by visiting [urantia-association.org/get-involved/support-uai](http://urantia-association.org/get-involved/support-uai).

Please register for the event as soon as possible. By doing so, you will benefit from discounted pricing and from the exchange to Canadian money.

You may register at the following website:  
[www.regonline.ca/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1643032](http://www.regonline.ca/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1643032).



“Strong characters are not derived from not doing wrong but rather from actually doing right.”

*The Urantia Book,*  
(1572.6) 140:4.6