



URANTIA FOUNDATION'S NEWS ONLINE

A GATHERING OF READERS IN ITALY

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By Georges Michelson-Dupont, Trustee, Recloses, France

The first meeting of Italian readers of *The Urantia Book* took place in Verona, the beautiful and historic city of Romeo and Juliet. Danielle La Scala, who organized the meeting, is a former resident of France and Switzerland and is my old and dear friend.

The meeting was held from Friday, August 28, to Sunday, August 30. Of the eight Italians who wrote that they would attend the gathering, only three were present for the full meeting, Memo Z., the chief translator of the Italian translation, came Saturday and Sunday, and one person came just for Saturday afternoon. In addition to Danielle, my wife, Marlène, and I, Antonio Schefer from the Netherlands, representing Urantia Association

International (UAI), were in attendance. A Swiss man from Lausanne was also present as well as three French readers, a woman and two men, from Marseille, France.

Friday night was devoted to socializing and enjoying a good meal at the hotel.

On Saturday morning, Danielle introduced the schedule for the weekend. As an attending trustee and on behalf of Urantia Foundation, I said a few words of greeting. The president of the Association Francophone des Lecteurs du Livre D'Urantia (AFLLU) delivered a short welcome, and Antonio Schefer spoke briefly about UAI.

The Saturday morning session was devoted to the study of the Thought Adjuster. After five minutes of meditative silence we engaged in the study of the introduction to Paper 107.

We sat in a circle, each participant reading one paragraph and commenting. Many questions were raised during the sharing. Cross-references with other paragraphs of Paper 1, Paper 108, and the Foreword were used during the discussion to answer participants' questions. Many clarifications occurred in the minds of participants, especially the Italians. Participating in a study group like this was a new and significant experience for the Italians, as they had never attended a study group.

Saturday afternoon, after lunch, we gathered again in the same study room and had our five minutes of silence. The afternoon session was devoted to the study of "the divine perfection plans," using the same study methodology as the morning session. Again, many clarifications came from the questions and cross-referencing with other



Verona



Verona

paragraphs. Each participant could feel the atmosphere of fellowship that comes when truth seekers are gathered to find out more about God, and we really experienced the meaning of the first paragraph of paper 100:

The experience of dynamic religious living transforms the mediocre individual into a personality of idealistic power. Religion ministers to the progress of all through fostering the progress of each individual, and the progress of each is augmented through the achievement of all.

We finished with a silent prayer.

A short visit to Verona was organized that evening. After the visit we had a tasty dinner with much fellowship. All the Italians spoke some French, which facilitated our communication and enhanced the convivial spirit of the evening. We discussed 1) plans for future gatherings, 2) the formation of study groups in Italy, and 3) ways to find other Italian readers. Two of

the Italian participants expressed a desire to participate in our six-day seminar next summer in Recloses, France.

We devoted the first part of Sunday morning to the study of mind spiritualization. We read and then discussed paragraph 7, section 3 of Paper 1:

In the inner experience of man, mind is joined to matter. Such material-linked minds cannot survive mortal death. The technique of survival is embraced in those adjustments of the human will and those transformations in the mortal mind whereby such a God-conscious intellect gradually becomes spirit taught and eventually spirit led. This evolution of the human mind from matter association to spirit union results in the transmutation of the potentially spirit phases of the mortal mind into the morontia realities of the immortal soul. Mortal mind subservient to matter is destined to

become increasingly material and consequently to suffer eventual personality extinction; mind yielded to spirit is destined to become increasingly spiritual and ultimately to achieve oneness with the surviving and guiding divine spirit and in this way to attain survival and eternity of personality existence.

A two-hour sharing ensued about the meaning of "the adjustments of the human will and those transformations in the mortal mind" described in this paragraph. Again, clarification of ideas and consequences in human daily life were examined.

After eleven o'clock it was time to pack and get ready for lunch, which took place in a nice, typical Italian *ristorante* with much *frutti di mare* and pasta.

The results of this gathering look very positive and promising. Two of the three Italians are dedicated readers and want to become active in the process of



Danielle La Scala

creating study groups, preparing other gatherings, and fostering interest among Italians in *The Urantia Book*.

Memo Z. wants to retire from his position as contact person. Danielle offered to take over his position.

Danielle did a great job in taking the initiative and organizing this gathering. She deserves a great deal of respect for this service.

NOTEWORTHY DECISIONS FROM THE JULY 2015 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING



By Judy Van Cleave, Trustee, Idaho, United States

Decisions Made

Fundraising

Because of a number of future translations and revisions, Urantia Foundation needs money for day-to-day operations and for completing long-term projects such as the Chinese translation, the Spanish revision, and book distribution. Grant proposals will be created this year in the hope of finding people interested in funding these projects.

A new endowment aimed at raising \$25 million dollars has been established. This endowment, named the Revelation Bridge, is intended to protect the Urantia Revelation and Urantia Foundation during the 25-year transition between the baby boomer generation and the millennial generation. The intent is to build a fund that generates income to pay day-to-day bills without depleting the principal of the endowment. At the end of 2013, the average university in the

United States had an endowment of \$355 million dollars. Inasmuch as Harvard University has an endowment of \$32.7 billion dollars, it seems prudent and reasonable that the most important spiritual endeavor on this planet has at least a \$25 million dollar endowment. It is a gift that the baby boomer generation needs to make for the welfare of the world and the support of the Urantia Book project.

Translations

Trustee and Manager of Translations Georges Michelson-Dupont reported on each translation and revision in progress. Every board meeting comprises two parts. One is the general session with the full board. The other is the executive session that is attended only by the trustees and invited presenters. During July's executive session, the majority of time was spent reviewing outside evaluations of current revisions to ensure they are of the highest quality.

Education

Ralph Zehr reported on UBIS and informed us all by his report that classes are now being conducted in English, French, Spanish, and Portuguese.

Gard Jameson also reported on the upcoming Parliament of World Religions in Salt Lake City, Utah, this October.

Books

As always, the Book Committee presented current facts about the global distribution of Urantia Books. We also reviewed the newly printed English, Spanish, and Portuguese books. The new British Tan LeatherSoft™ book, which is receiving excellent reviews from long-time readers, is available on Amazon at <http://amzn.to/1JflEty>.

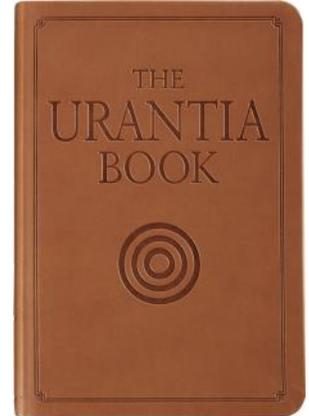
One of the most important things you can do for the Urantia Book project is to post a short book review of *The Urantia Book* on Amazon. Sharing with others how and why this revelation has improved your life may make a compelling difference regarding their decision to read the book. At the moment, 460 people have reviewed it with an average rating of 4.4 out of 5. The more reviews the better! We are hoping to reach 500 reviews by the end of the year. Here is the link: <http://amzn.to/1UFu2Vh>. And while you are there, if you have time, please add your

review to the Foundation's LeatherSoft™ books. Their links are <http://amzn.to/1TwvzQh> and <http://amzn.to/1JfnKcU>.

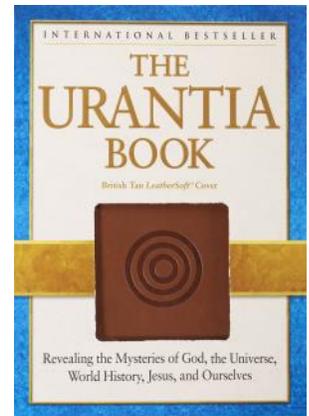
For those of you who order books directly from Urantia Foundation, we encourage you to buy directly from Amazon instead. When you buy from Amazon you benefit everyone because you keep the book selling in commercial channels of book distribution.

Associate Trustees

Guy Perron from Montréal, Canada, was elected to serve a three-year term as an associate trustee. Guy has been one of UBIS's most esteemed teachers, and we welcomed him to our team. Simultaneously, Sandra Burga-Cisneros has cycled off the board. We deeply appreciate her time and service as an associate trustee.

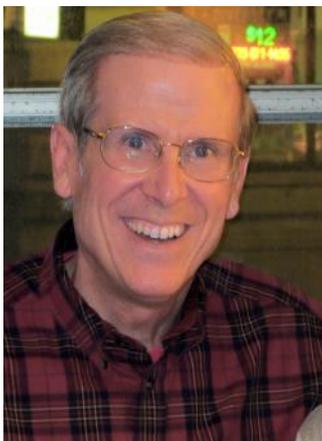


The Urantia Book British Tan LeatherSoft™ edition



The Urantia Book British Tan LeatherSoft™ edition in its box

THE HIGHEST JOY



By Gard Jameson, Trustee, Urantia Foundation, Nevada, United States

One of the easiest misunderstandings on the planet is the distinction between joy and pleasure. Joy is an attribute of an internal state of awareness that emerges from within the consciousness of the participant, while pleasure is a fleeting awareness that emerges from some external input. Joy lasts; pleasure disappears quickly. William Blake, the English poet, reminds us that joy is not something that can be controlled or manipulated like pleasure. Joy is a spiritual reality. Blake writes: "He who binds to himself a joy / Does the winged life destroy; / But

he who kisses the joy as it flies / Lives in eternity's sun rise."

The greatest quality of joy or bliss is associated with communion with those spiritual realities that indwell the human person. All the pleasures of the world cannot compare with the bliss of worshipful communion. It is in that communion that one experiences the unity and interdependence of all things and beings; there is no greater joy than this realization. It is our sense of separateness and isolation that leads to a quality of alienation and suffering. It is

when we ask, seek, and knock on the door of Divine Presence that it suddenly opens, pouring forth a wave of joy and blessing.

Hafiz, the Persian poet, asks the question, "O wondrous creatures, / by what strange miracle / Do you so often / Not smile?" If joy is inherent in human existence, as it is, then why is it that we so often do not smile? It is our birthright, the precious gift of the Divine Presence; how could we not open that gift every morning?

"With an eye made quiet by the power / Of harmony, and

the deep power of joy, / We see into the life of things," writes William Wordsworth, the English poet. Our perception of reality is altered by the presence or absence of

joy. Joy is the precursor of wisdom, which sees to the core of all things and beings.

Joy is the clear sign of the Presence of God. When

somber holy men and women approach, beware! Without joy there is little capacity for relationship. Joy opens the heart and the mind so that there can be a perception of

the divinity within all things and beings. So, what are you waiting for? Claim the joy that is your birthright!

REMEMBERING LUIZ CARLOS DOLABELLA CHAGAS

By Susana Hutner, São Paulo, Brazil

Luiz Carlos Dolabella Chagas was born on February 28, 1940, in Belo Horizonte-MG-Brazil. He graduated recently to the mansion worlds.

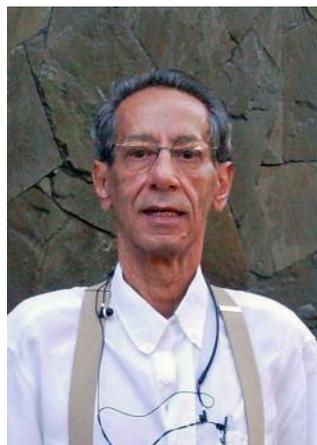
Luiz was a civil engineer by education and an author and artist (a painter) by avocation. He was also a translator, the chief translator of the Portuguese translation of *The Urantia Book*.

Luiz discovered *The Urantia Book* at our study group in São Paulo in 1996. We were reading *El libro de Urantia*, the Spanish translation of the

book. The teachings of the book changed his life, and he decided to contact Urantia Foundation about translating it into Portuguese. From 1998 to 2006, he dedicated his life entirely to the translation project. In 2008 the Brazilian and the Portuguese readers were gifted with Luiz's Portuguese translation: *O Livro de Urântia*.

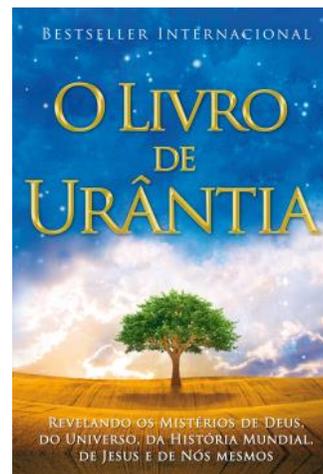
Luiz wrote a prayer book inspired by the teachings of *The Urantia Book*, and he wrote another book about the life and teachings of Jesus.

Luiz hosted and participated in study groups in São Paulo and in Belo Horizonte. He



Luiz Carlos Dolabella Chagas

lived and disseminated the teachings and did so with a rare good sense of humor.



All honor to his name!

THE WORSHIP EXPERIENCE AT SSS15



By Sherry Layton, North Carolina, United States

Editor's note: Sherry Layton was a member of the Planning Committee for the *Urantia Book Fellowship's Summer Study Session 2015*

(SSS15), which was held at *Techy Towers in Northbrook, Illinois, in July. The worship program offered a daily time of worship, themed "Love One Another." Daily themes included Fatherly Love, Motherly Love, Brotherly Love, and Divine Love. Sherry reports on the program as it was experienced by the participants.*

With a call to worship from Marion Perry, the worship program of SSS15 began. With the motive to provide a rich and diverse experience of gratitude to, love for, and adoration of our heavenly

Father, the conductors of the worship program showered the worshipers with Persian poetry, personal stories of forgiveness, readings from *The Urantia Book*, the recitation of personal prayers, PowerPoint presentations, a candle lighting ceremony celebrating the divine light within, and uplifting music, including John Rutter's choral piece, "The Lord Is My Shepherd."

At the conclusion of the week's worship program, participants had a "Last Breakfast," instead of a "Last Supper." Worshipers were

encouraged to reflect on Jesus' life by answering the same questions that Jesus asked his apostles after breakfast, as he visited with them two by two:

"Do you love me?"

"Do you trust me?"

"Do you serve me?"

"Do you obey me?"

"Do you believe in me?"

The act of answering and sharing our answers to Jesus' questions was a worshipful

experience. "The act [was] ours, the consequences God's."

Epilogue: Dear reader, you might want to answer these questions for your own edification. What does it mean for you to love, trust, serve, obey, and believe in the Master? How does this meaning apply to your daily decisions and desires?

PHOTOS OF THE SUMMER STUDY SESSION



Paula Thompson



David Kulieke



Arlene and Buck Weimer



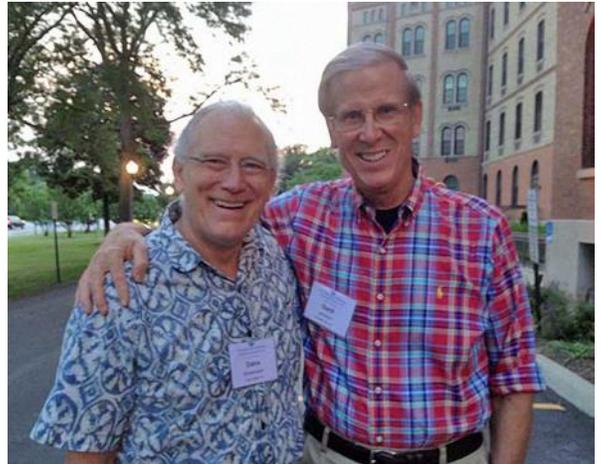
Linda Buselli



John Callahan and Merritt Horn



Part of the audience.



Dana Bredemeyer and Gard Jameson



Outgoing Executive Committee 2015

- | | | | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Tim Hobbs | Larry Bowman | David Kulieke | Tony Finstad | Andrea Barnes | Lenny Cowels |
| Lara Amyx | John Hales | Cristina Seaborn | Lila Dogim | Linda Buselli | Emilio Copolla |
| | | (not shown - John Hay) | | | Steve Dreier |



John Stevens, Lenny Cowles, and Bob Arkens



Cabot Eudaley and Steve Dreier



Incoming Executive Committee 2015

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Michael Challis | Thomas Orjala |
| Anthony Finstad | Dana Bredemyer |
| David Kulieke | Lara Amyx |
| John Hales | Janet Graham |
| Cristina Seaborn | Tim Hobbs |
| | Steve Dreier |
| | Paula Thompson |
| | Geoffrey Theiss |

LOOKING BACK AT THE UAI 2015 QUÉBEC CONFERENCE



By Gilles Brien, Montréal, Canada

Encounters in life are said to be like winds. Some are able to just caress you, while others can bowl you over. The conference was hosted by Urantia Association International (UAI) this last summer in Lennoxville, a small university town near the US border, and was marked by a storm of unforgettable encounters and a whirlwind of discoveries that shook the hearts and souls of many. More than 225 people from twenty-one countries attended the conference. Unfortunately, dozens more readers were refused visa applications by the Canadian authorities.

For me, the conference was an amazing experience. It was my first UAI gathering. It was also the first time in my almost forty years of reading *The Urantia Book* that I could see so many readers from all over the world on the same day and in the same place. I could not believe it! In the 1970s, there were so few readers of *The Urantia Book* in Québec that you could not fill a room with them. And now this! As a member of the organization committee and as a French Canadian, I was proud to have been part of

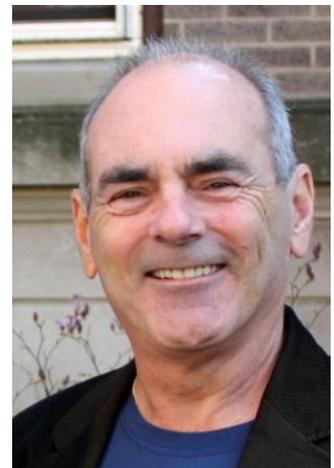
the team that helped to bring this wonderful event to life, thanks to Gaétan Charland's vision! Months of preparation, countless meetings, phone calls, and e-mails were abundantly rewarded. We played music. We laughed. We talked. We shared prayers and insights. We learned to be closer to God and to our brothers and sisters.

It was very moving when, during the first evening of the conference, at the opening plenary, the master of ceremonies, Guy Perron, joined the audience and invited participants to say their name and country into the microphone. Hearing so many languages and accents filled my heart with joy. Seeing and meeting so many "strangers," Urantia Book lovers soon to become my new best friends, from four continents (Africa, Europe, North and South America), was a great thrill for me.

There were people of all ages. And there were a dozen children, some less than two years old. Attendees hailed from Belgium, Canada, China, Colombia, Congo, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Holland, Israel, Korea, Mexico, Peru, Senegal, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

This international Urantia gathering was a huge success. We had doubts at the beginning. We had financing fears. We had many problems that looked impossible to solve, but we did it. We were not alone behind this enterprise. If my material vision could have been expanded to see our unseen friends, I am sure that I would have seen many other guests at the conference. They were behind all the speakers when they were giving their speeches of light to the audience. They

were backing the musicians and singers. And they helped stop the rain on our UAI parade. Thank you to all who lent your presence, your efforts, and your spirit to the UAI Conference in La Belle Province. And for those, like me, who could not get enough, see you in Amsterdam in 2018!



Gaétan Charland



Bishop's University. Sherbrooke, Québec

UAI 2015 QUÉBEC CONFERENCE PHOTOS



International readers saying hello in their native languages.



The group photo.



Doreen Heyne



Chris and Alice Wood



Mo Siegel



Lourdes Burga-Cisneros



James Woodward



Hara Davis



Sue Tennant



Richard Lachance



Jeffrey Wattles



Georges Michelson-Dupont



Bob Solone

OCTOBER 12, 1955



By Carolyn Kendall, Illinois, United States

Editor's Note: Carolyn Kendall, a member of the Forum and a longtime student of The Urantia Book, shares her perspective on the events leading up to its first printing almost sixty years ago.

Sixty years have passed since a new epochal revelation appeared on our world, Urantia. A small group of humans performed the service of recording the words spoken by the revelators, though in some cases they were provided in handwritten form. Common, everyday tools were used to create the Urantia Papers: pencils, paper, an upright manual typewriter, and a printing press. No golden tablets or chiseled stones materialized.

The Urantia Book project took nearly fifty years to complete from the beginning to the publication of the book. The first twenty years were spent by the unseen superhuman revelators and the six humans, known as the contact commissioners, persuading one another of the reality and reliability of the other group. The book's delivery included another and

larger group called the Forum, which acted as a sounding board of human listeners. The Forum was composed of average, everyday people who listened to the papers read to them every Sunday afternoon. They submitted questions, the answers to which provided greater insight into the complex new concepts being presented. The human perspective was vital; the content of the text had to be comprehensible to a range of humans, not only to the superhuman providers and their small group of human associates. As the revelation evolved, some of the papers were retyped several times until the revelators were satisfied with the content.

Urantia Foundation was established in 1950, and the trustees began planning to copyright the text and to register the three concentric

circles symbol, following the instructions of the revelators in each case. The human associates reviewed the final text before it was sent to the printing company, checking for errors, such as spelling and typing errors. The revelators indicated their preferences regarding design, font, and binding.

After the Second World War, while evaluating the dangers of nuclear weaponry and envisioning the likelihood of the fall of Communism, the revelators announced that the contact commissioners could begin the printing process. In 1953, publication was approved by the revelators to begin in early 1955; the actual date of release was in October of 1955.

Meanwhile, Urantia Brotherhood was established as a social outreach



The Forum in 1933

organization. At first only one organization was envisioned. But it was soon realized that there were several functions that needed to be considered and perhaps separated. The Foundation assumed the responsibility of publishing, translating, and protecting the text, while the Brotherhood took on all of the more public, social, and outreach activities.

Finally, the great day arrived on Wednesday, October 12, 1955. Attendees at the Wednesday evening study group, the "Seventy," received their books that evening. Also, they engaged in a Remembrance Supper led by Edmond Kulieke, who gave a brief talk. He was assisted by Lee Miller Jones, Lulu Steinbeck, and Clarence Bowman. Everyone present was given their previously ordered copies of *The Urantia Book*. The members of the Forum received their books the following Sunday afternoon, also at 533 W. Diversey Parkway, in Chicago.

Publication happened to fall on the anniversary of the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus in 1492. That year in the fifteenth century also marked the traditional end of the Middle Ages. It was at that time, according to the contact commissioners, that the midways of Urantia sent a formal request to the rulers of the superuniverse, the Ancients of Days, requesting permission to impart a new revelation to our world, Urantia. They wished to include more about Jesus than was contained in the four Gospels of the New Testament. It was not until the time of the fifth epochal revelation, in the twentieth century, that the midways received the answer to their earlier request: permission to include Part IV of *The Urantia Book*—The Life and Teachings of Jesus.

Thumbing through the book for the first time was a thrill beyond imagination. Here were all the papers in their proper order. The expanded table of contents was a pleasant surprise. The quality of the paper—"Bible-type paper"—according to Bill Sadler Jr, was "exquisite." It was an opaque white. Lighter-weight paper was used in the middle of the book, while slightly thicker paper was used for the beginning and ending papers of the book. A young man, whose name I did not know, sat on the front steps and began reading his copy of the book. Another man was photographed carrying a partial box of books on his head while his wife carried some of the books in her arms to lighten his load.

There was satisfaction on the part of older Forum members, who were thankful they had lived long enough to hold the book in their hands. But there was also some anxiety. How would they share the book with others? What would their pastors say? What if they were ridiculed by their friends and relatives? Two Brotherhood committees made lists of well-known individuals to whom gift books would be sent. Not one of those recipients responded, prompting the policy of introducing the book by person-to-person means.

Two years after publication, I noticed that some books brought to meetings were well-used. They were dingy, cross-references filled their margins, and makeshift plastic covers protected their books. Others' books were still in pristine condition.

At first, Dr. William Sadler urged us to "infiltrate the churches." But soon he changed his mind after a couple of readers became too aggressive in their dissemination tactics. Eventually things sorted themselves out. Those who

were good at introducing the book did so, and the others bolstered their courage and prayed for guidance.



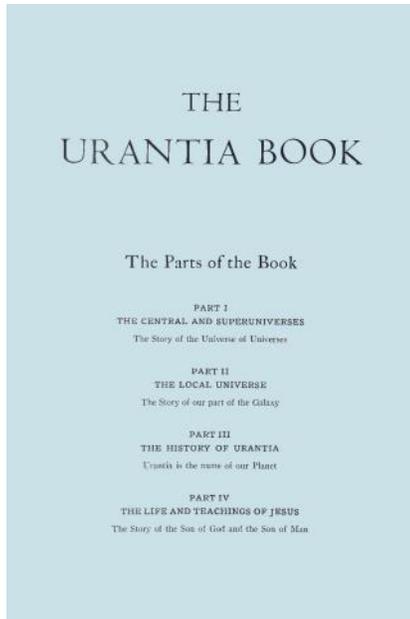
The first books arrive at 533



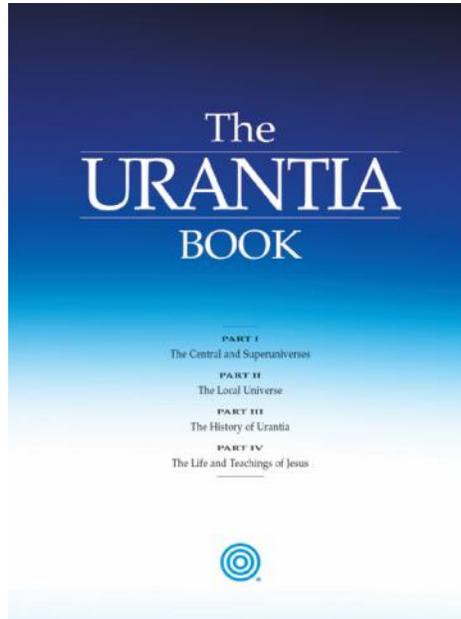
Bill Sadler Jr.



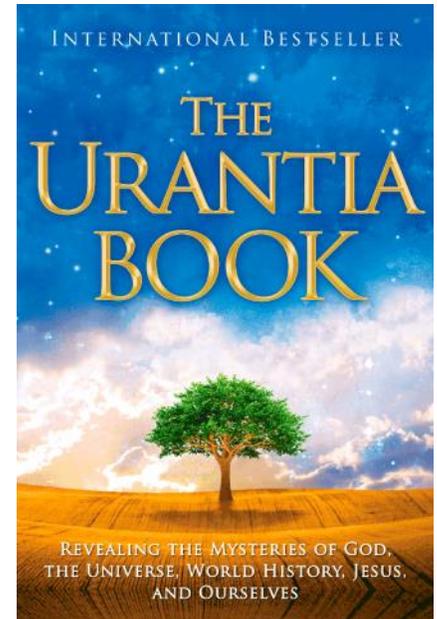
Edmond Kulieke



The Urantia Book—1955 edition



The Urantia Book—1995 edition



The Urantia Book—2015 edition

THOUGHTS AND REFLECTIONS ON WHAT *THE URANTIA BOOK* MEANS TO ME



By Lourdes Burga-Cisneros,
Lima, Peru

In 1994, when I was twenty-two and on a trip to Asuncion, Paraguay, a very special and dear person introduced me to the teachings of *The Urantia Book*. Even though I had been baptized as a Roman Catholic and had been raised in that faith, and even though I had undertaken a spiritual search involving New Age topics, I found it difficult to think of God as being close to me and as my very own personal Father, as I do now. I must

also admit that I was not comfortable with the idea that we are all brothers and sisters because we have the same all-loving Father. Later, however, I became truly conscious of what all this means and implies: Being brothers and sisters is a tremendous universal gift that we should not take for granted; instead, we should appreciate it as a key opportunity to fulfill our own life purpose and improve our world while embracing this challenge as soon as possible. Seizing upon and understanding these two crucial truths—the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man—changed my life forever. Although I spent a year becoming familiar with the teachings of *The Urantia Book* before I actually started reading it, by that time I was ready to accept and understand its truths while yearning to live them.

One result of those teachings

was to lure me out of Peru, my native country, so that I could undertake a sabbatical year during which I would backpack throughout South America. In the end, however, that original plan mutated into ten years during which I explored the path of spiritual growth by sharing ideals and perceptions with hundreds of brothers and sisters whom I met in a spiritual journey that led me through Latin America, the United States, and western Europe, and that also took me as far as the Middle East.

Throughout those years and all along this path, I felt that the Father himself truly blessed me while taking me by the hand, assisting me, and answering my questions while sustaining, fortifying, serving, and guiding me, and while teaching and enlightening me. I am deeply grateful that I had the opportunity for such an amazing experience during

crucial years that served to define and stabilize my character. Unlike many of my old friends who spent those years inventing new and crazy ways to gratify themselves, I focused on the Father's will and on trying to fulfill it.

Naturally there were obstacles, problems, contradictions, and mistakes, most of them stemming from my ego, my stubbornness, and the undesirable patterns of behavior that I had developed during my childhood and youth in Peru. But I was determined to continue my quest, and fortunately I did. During those years, I was particularly fond of the following passage from *The Urantia Book*:

Having started out on the way of life everlasting, having accepted the assignment and received your orders to



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advance, do not fear the dangers of human forgetfulness and mortal inconstancy, do not be troubled with doubts of failure or by perplexing confusion, do not falter and question your status and standing, for in every dark hour, at every crossroad in the forward struggle, the Spirit of Truth will always speak, saying, “This is the way.” 34:7.8 (383.2)

At the deepest level within me, I realized that my most important task at the time was to take care of myself as a soul, so that I could attune my life to the whole program of planetary evolution, thereby contributing in my own personal way to enhancing evolutionary experience on this planet and therefore in the universe. I became aware of this challenge by reading *The Urantia Book* and especially the teachings about the Supreme Being. How satisfying and comforting it was to learn from a very reliable source that the evolving and experiential God of time and space actually acquires important experience alongside and through us, embracing and embodying the experiences of spiritual value that we ourselves contribute!

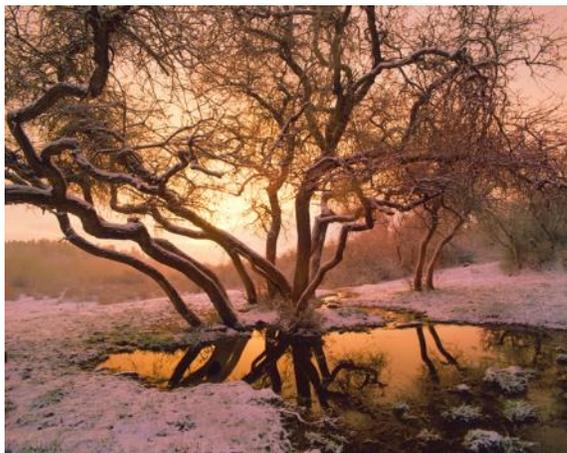
In view of this inspiring and

intriguing revelation of reality, “actually doing the Father’s will” made perfect sense to me, as if to say, “It is my will to do my Father’s will so that I can help achieve God’s purposes on earth.” Why not say to others the words that I would like to hear? Why not seek to inspire someone as I would like to have been inspired? Why not write a book that I would like to read or compose a song that I would like to sing? Why not help bring about the world I would like to live in? And so, I resolved to do that or, at least, to try.

I reached this understanding under the influence of someone whom I may call an older brother, but only in the philosophic or spiritual sense. He drew on many of the teachings of *The Urantia Book*, thereby helping me advance well beyond my previous view that, in my spiritual life, I would fulfill a mission somehow revealed by a being of light who would instantaneously raise my level of consciousness. This, of course, had been wishful thinking, and it was crucial for me to overcome and transcend it. Nonetheless, it was a hard lesson for me to realize that our spiritual mission in life consists of, and relies on, day-to-day experience, the context in which we can actually make a difference. Taking care of my soul so as to attune

myself to cosmic reality meant hard work! For example, I became aware that I was obliged to exert conscious effort after I awakened each morning, making wise use of space, time, and energy, so that I could offer my own life to God and to the universe in ways that would be appropriate and wise. In other words, I realized that the spiritual mission of my life was not fated or guaranteed but a potential outcome that I had to actualize by my own conscious effort.

It is amazing that twenty-one years have elapsed since then. Now I am once again immersed in regular life in society, and I have two children who motivate me to keep moving when my strength ebbs, and when I wonder whether I can complete my work, chores, and duties for that day. I am thankful for the moments of enlightenment and joy, but I must also be grateful for periodic stress and tension. These intervals remind me of the spiritual journey that I undertook in my youth. They stimulate decision-making, and they spur me on to renew the spiritual commitments I made years ago while acting on the knowledge and understanding I had acquired from the inspiring teachings of *The Urantia Book*.



There is but one form of prayer which is appropriate for all God’s children, and that is: “Nevertheless, your will be done.”

The Urantia Book, (146:2.12)