



# A REPORT ON TRANSLATIONS OF *THE URANTIA BOOK*

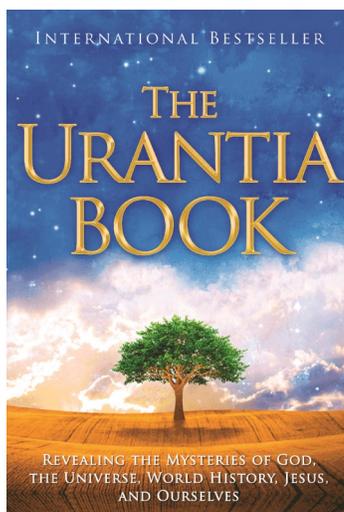
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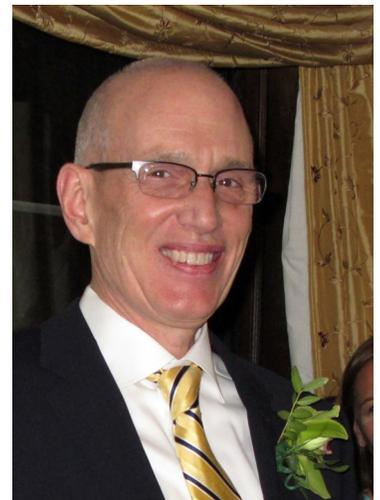
By Georges Michelson-Dupont, Trustee, Manager of Translations, Recloses, France

Translations of *The Urantia Book* and revisions of translations constitute much of the work of Urantia Foundation. There are fourteen translations in print, two translations in electronic format only, and eight translations in progress. In addition, three revisions of translations are under way. The translators and revisers work diligently, and everyone at Urantia Foundation is grateful for the efforts and service of these remarkable individuals!

## Translation Software: Déjà Vu

In 2013, Urantia Foundation established policies and procedures to achieve its goal of producing the highest quality translations. To implement these policies and procedures, translation software was necessary. In 2015, Jay Peregrine, retired executive director now working with the Translation Committee, investigated a dozen software programs. He concluded that Déjà Vu was the software program best suited for translations and revisions of *The Urantia Book*. Déjà Vu provides 1) superior project management, 2) helpful translation tools, and 3) effective ways to ensure a consistent use of terms. In addition, the program can confirm if a translation is complete when compared to the English text.

The first step with Déjà Vu was creating exhaustive lists of English terms found in *The Urantia Book* requiring translation into all target languages. As you can imagine, this is quite a job. Thank you, Jay!



Jay Peregrine

## The Term Lists

**1. Compound Nouns.** There are 477 terms with definitions specific to *The Urantia Book*. Example: Adamic Sons of the Systems—one of the orders of permanent citizenship, the Material Sons and Daughters known on the planets as Adam and Eve.

In addition, the first reference in the book is included.

**2. Neologisms.** There are 164 new terms with definitions specific to *The Urantia Book*. Example: Abandoners—a dual-origin being of the stationary order resident on Uversa headquarters spheres.

In addition, the part of speech (male, female, adjective, substantive, etc.), the pronunciation, and the etymology (when possible) are included.

**3. Words in the Dictionary.** There are 57 terms that may

pose difficulties for translators. Example: Absolute—complete and total; not limited in any way; having unlimited power.

In addition, the part of speech, a definition from *The Urantia Book*, and a contextual reference are included.

**4. Ancient Egyptian and Acadian Names.** There are 39 such terms found in *The Urantia Book*. Example: Amenemope—an ancient

Egyptian pharaoh of the Twenty-First Dynasty.

In addition, the meaning is given (when possible) and a reference for other sources: [wikipedia.org/wiki/Amenemope\(pharaoh\)](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Amenemope(pharaoh)).

**5. Ancient Roman Names and Places.** There are 39 terms found in *The Urantia Book*. Example: Herod Antipas—the son of Herod the Great.

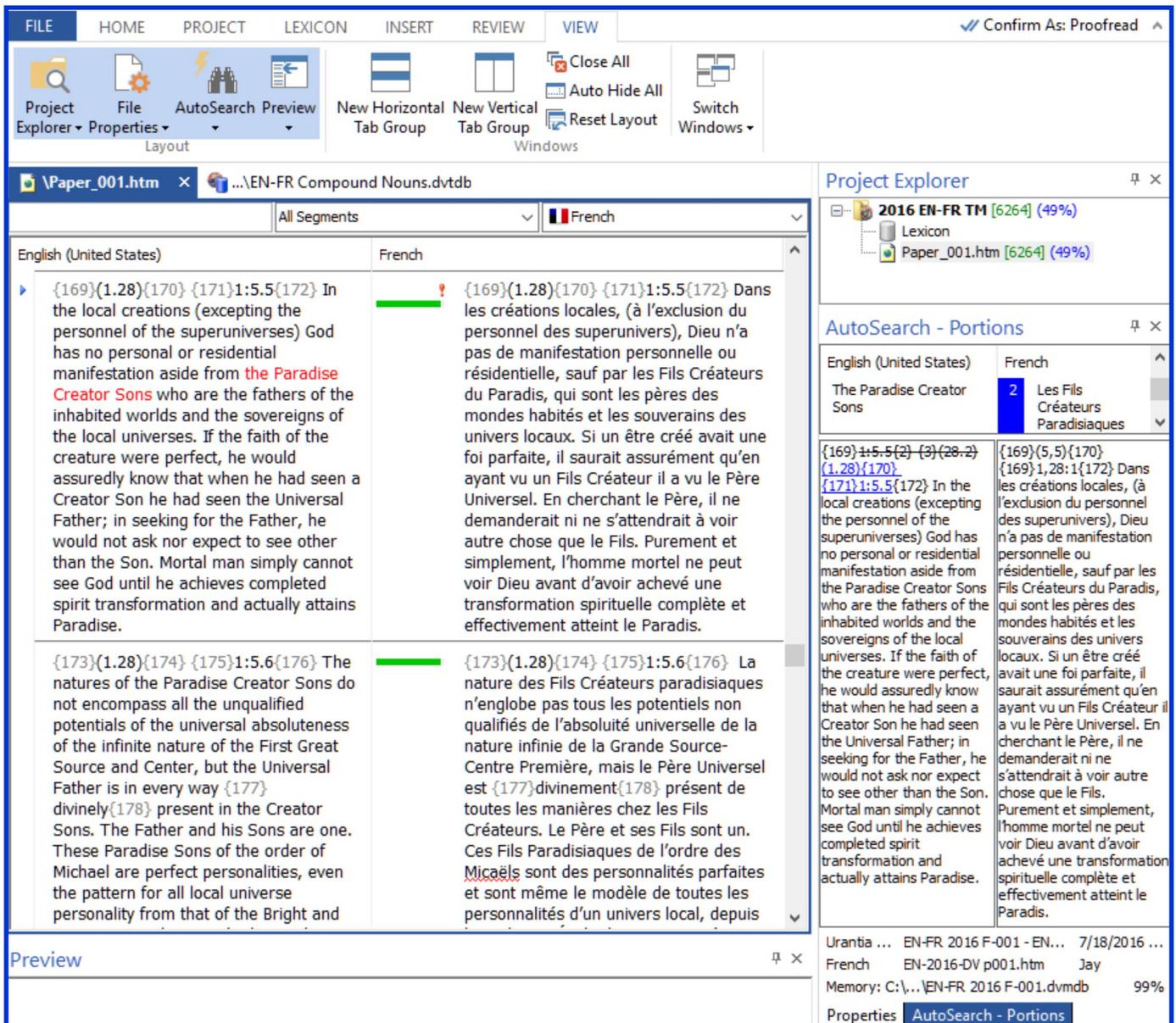
In addition, the meaning

(when possible), the Greek name, and a reference from the Bible and *The Urantia Book* are included.

**6. Biblical Greek Names and Places.** There are 168 terms found in *The Urantia Book*. Example: Abimelech—the man who appropriated Abraham's wife Sarah after the disappearance of Melchizedek.

In addition, the meaning (when possible), the Greek spelling, and references from

## Déjà Vu Translation Software Program Screenshot



the Bible and *The Urantia Book* are included.

**7. Biblical Hebrew Names and Places.** There are 288 terms found in *The Urantia Book*. Example: Abila—a city in the Decapolis. In addition, the meaning (when possible), the Hebrew spelling, and references from the Bible and *The Urantia Book* are included.

**8. Other Historical Names and Places.** There are 89 terms found in *The Urantia Book*. Example: Agni—the Rig Vedic

three-headed fire god.

In addition, the meaning (when possible), the Greek name (when necessary), references from the Bible and *The Urantia Book*, and a reference to another source are included: [wikipedia.org/wiki/Agni](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Agni).

These term lists are necessary for translators and excellent study tools for scholars and students of *The Urantia Book*. These lists total 1,351 terms. When the

translation of these lists are complete and uploaded to Déjà Vu, translators and revisers will no longer have to worry about these terms because they will automatically “pop up” when the translator is working in the software system. This assures the consistent use of terms throughout the entire text.

To date, the term lists have been completed and uploaded to Déjà Vu for the French translation and for

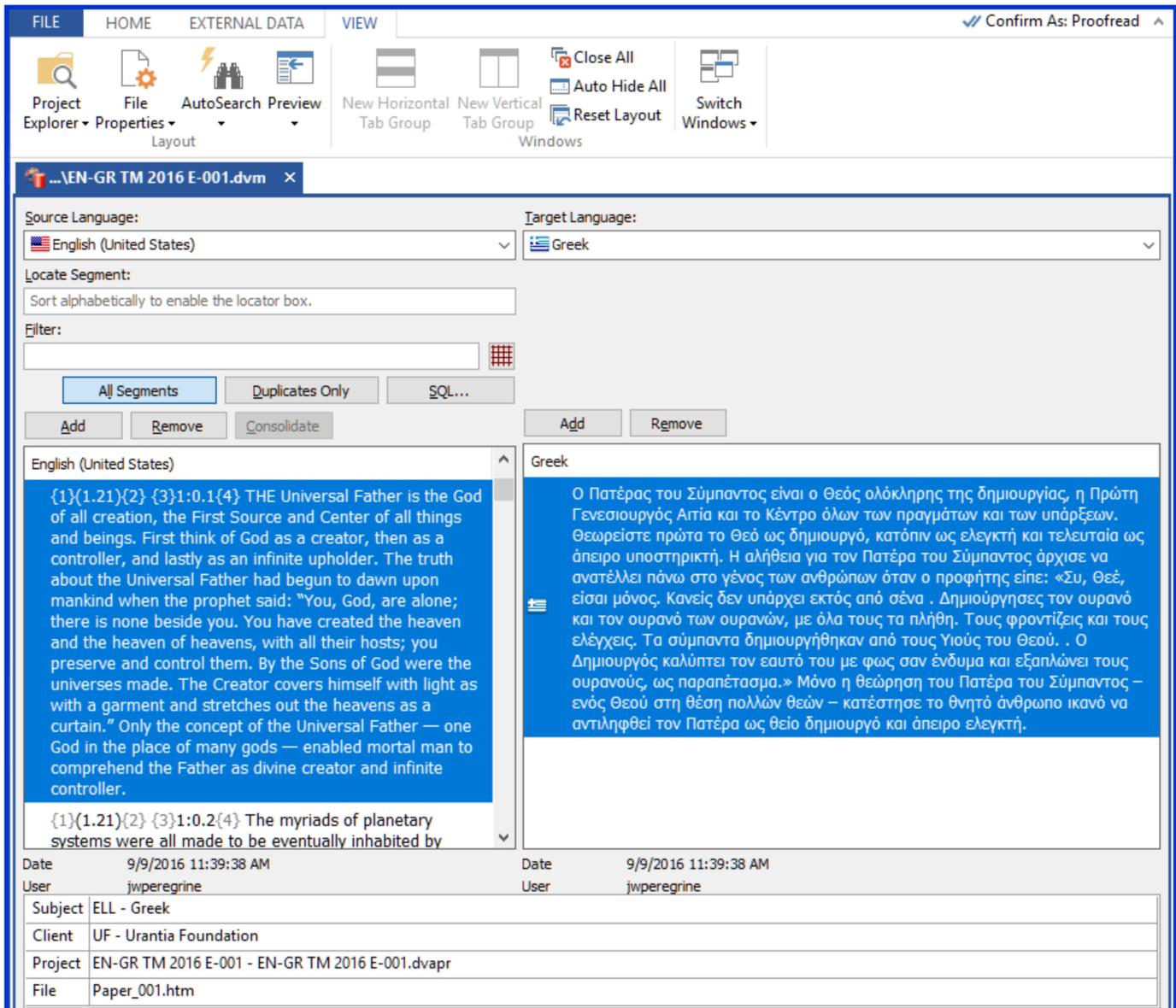
the Chinese translation in simplified format.

**Translations in Progress**

• **Chinese Translation—Simplified Format**

The translation has been completed through Paper 95. The revision of the Chinese term lists and the uploading of the translated papers to Déjà Vu required the majority of the translator’s time over the past few months.

**Déjà Vu Translation Software Program Screenshot**



• **The Czech Translation**

The translators of the Czech translations have completed their first draft and are working on its revision. So far they have revised the Foreword and Paper 1 through Paper 170. They hope to finish by the end of 2017.



The Little Mermaid  
by Edvard Eriksen  
Langelinie Promenade,  
Copenhagen, Denmark

• **Danish Translation**

The translator is Jean Ascher, a.k.a. "Yourantiaman." Jean is working on the first draft of the Danish translation and is almost done. He has only seven papers remaining and three additional papers requiring some revisions. He works alone and would very much enjoy some input from a Danish-speaking reader of the book. If you are that someone (or if you know someone), please contact Tamara Strumfeld at [tamara@urantia.org](mailto:tamara@urantia.org).

Jean has done much to prepare the way for this translation. He places books of the English text in the main libraries in Denmark. He gives books to local persons from various trades and professions, and on certain occasions, he writes articles for public media.

Jean has a library consisting of his translation and about two hundred secondary works and other printed materials related to *The Urantia Book*. Under agreement with the Danish Royal Library, this collection will be saved and made available for future generations.



Hamid Mazdeh

• **Farsi Translation**

The translator has written the following: "My name is Hamid Mazdeh. I was born in Iran, and I come from a Muslim background. In the early nineties, an Iranian doctor introduced *The Urantia Book* to me. She spoke about the book with such love, respect, and enthusiasm that I became fascinated with it. Soon the book became the centerpiece of my life, and, as the result, my philosophical views became dramatically influenced and transformed by its teachings. Some time later I learned that only a handful of Iranians knew about this amazing book, and that no one had taken any initiative to translate it into Farsi. So I decided to become that special person who

would bring this life-changing book to the Farsi-speaking people around the world.

"So far I have translated about 63% of the book. Since I could not wait for the book to become officially published, I started posting my partial translation on the internet and quoting from it on Facebook. As a result, from only a handful of Iranians who knew about *The Urantia Book*, there are now tens of thousands of Iranians who have read my translation, and who have been tremendously inspired by it. I have received email messages of appreciation for my work from hundreds of persons."



The Parthenon  
Athenian Acropolis, Athens,  
Greece

• **Greek Translation**

The Greek translation is being uploaded to Déjà Vu and is being checked against the English text to make sure it is complete. Two readers of the book who speak Greek have expressed interest in reading the translation to help with this verification process.

• **Hebrew Translation**

The translator, Gabriel Rymberg, has written the following: "The Hebrew translation has entered its fifth year. Currently, I am working on the first draft of

Paper 147, and my editor is revising Paper 90. Progress is proceeding according to schedule.

"We are looking forward to uploading the translation to Déjà Vu! It will make our lives as translators much easier.

"Please keep us in your prayers!"



Candi Prambanan  
Central Java, Indonesia

• **Indonesian Translation**

The Indonesian translation began in April 2013. Nugroho Widi is the chief translator; Yusuf A.M. is the copy editor; and Rahman Trimulyana, Jahan Miyadi, and Intan Nugroho make up a reader focus group that comments on the translation.

The team has begun their second revision.

For some history, please read (<http://www.urantia.org/news/2014-10/happenings-in-indonesia>).

• **Japanese Translation**

For a variety of reasons, the Japanese translation has been the sole work of Hagiko Wattles. Her husband, Jeff, has served as the consultant on the meaning of the English text; Rob Reno has provided technical assistance; there has been some financial

Soon the book became the centerpiece of my life, and, as the result, my philosophical views became dramatically influenced and transformed by its teachings.



Itsukushima Shrine  
Hatsukaichi, Hiroshima  
Prefecture, Japan

support, and an offer to increase that support has been recently made.

Hagiko began her work in 2001, and it took ten years to produce the first draft. Then she took a break from the work, began a revision a few years ago, and has in the last several months shifted into high gear to complete it. After this month, only Part IV will remain for her to do. After this revision, there will remain one more significant task: to establish terminological consistency in the translation of the approximately one thousand key terms. Déjà Vu will be able to help.

### Revisions of Translations

#### • Portuguese Revision

The chief reviser, Susana Hüttner, has finished Paper 120.

Saulo Fraga is working on Paper 112.

Helder Cherubin is working on Paper 73.

The reader focus group is commenting on Paper 72.

The Foreword and Papers 1 through 72 have been officially signed off on.

To read more on the details of how this revision team works, please see <http://www.urantia.org/news/2016-06/revision-portuguese-translation-urantia-book>.



Michael Hanian



Andrey Reznikov

#### • Russian Revision

This revision team consists of Michael Hanian, the chief translator, and Andrey Reznikov, the chief editor. An immense contribution to the revision project was made by Ludmila Pavlova, who supplied hundreds of pages of comments, suggestions, and in-depth analysis of the text. The revision is currently approaching the proofreading stage. The Foundation will do its best in helping Michael and his team create the highest quality translation possible.

#### • Spanish Revision

This revision team continues to function harmoniously and to generate papers of excellent quality. The copy editor and the chief reviser sustain their work pace and continue to improve significantly the linguistic aspects of the revised text.

To date, the team has revised the Foreword and Papers 1 through 138. The copyeditor has completed editing the Foreword through Paper 35.

### Upcoming Translations

#### • Ukrainian Translation

The project of translating *The Urantia Book* into Ukrainian began in 2010 with a young lady, Oksana Andrushchyshyn, who lives in Toronto, Canada, and her

brother Andrey. She has already translated 45 papers.

In September of 2015, Anton Miroshnichenko of Ukraine approached Urantia Foundation requesting to be a member of the translation team. More details concerning the establishment of this team are being worked out, and the next step will be the completion of the list of terms.



The Chocolate Hills  
Bohol Province, Philippines

#### • Proposals

Recently some individuals have proposed to translate *The Urantia Book* into Tagalog (the language of the Philippines). In addition, conversations have commenced concerning a translation into Urdu (the language of Pakistan). More conversations are required, and we hope to have more information for you in the future.

All translations and revisions require funding. Urantia Foundation depends on the generosity of the readership community to help support this work.

Please help seed *The Urantia Book* and its teachings globally by contributing to the Foundation's translation fund. If you have a particular translation that you are passionate about, translators and revisers welcome your support.

Thank you!

Click here to donate  
<http://www.urantia.org/donate/online-donations>

# NOTEWORTHY DECISIONS FROM THE JULY 2016 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING



By Judy Van Cleave, Trustee, Secretary, Urantia Foundation, Idaho, United States

## 1. Recent Activities

The second quarter of 2016 was another productive quarter for Urantia Foundation. The Foundation hosted a booth at BookExpo America, the Chinese translation was evaluated, the basement was partially remodeled to accommodate a library pertinent to *The Urantia Book*, the Science Symposium was held at 533 with live video streaming, a financial book analysis was completed, the annual report was published, the French translation and the Polish translation were reformatted, the revision of the Korean translation was formatted electronically, distribution of the Lithuanian translation recommenced, continued progress was made on the index, and normal day-to-day duties were conducted. Special thanks go to Joanne, Tamara, and Ashley for outstanding performances during this last quarter. As always, we thank trustees, associate trustees, volunteers, committee members, and special project teams for doing so much work.

## 2. Community Relations

The Summer conference in San Antonio was a new high water mark in community building since the difficulties of the late 1980s. Urantia Association International (UAI), Urantia Association United States (UAUS), The Urantia Book Fellowship, and Urantia Foundation came together in a joint conference for the first time in decades. The overall quality of the presentations was excellent, but what is more important, the social interactions were friendly and cooperative.

The presidents of the Fellowship, UAI, and Foundation continue their quarterly meetings. They are committed to building bridges of cooperation and trust between all Urantia Book organizations and individuals working to foster these teachings in the world.

## 3. BookExpo America

Urantia Foundation had a booth at BookExpo America, the largest book show in North America. It was a wonderful experience because Urantia Press debuted *The Parables of Jesus—Complete Teachings from The Urantia Book*. Its reception was of whole-hearted support because it allows our distributors to reintroduce *The Urantia Book* to bookstores. It is extremely difficult to keep a book published in 1955 on the bookstore shelf in 2016. We are hopeful that this book will bring renewed interest in *The Urantia Book* this fall and winter.

## 4. Financial Book Analysis

Over the last several months we have conducted a detailed cost analysis of every book the Foundation sells. These costs include formatting, printing, shipping, storage, distributor discounts, and returns. We ran the math on hardcover books, paperbacks, leather books, audio books, and eBooks. Simply put, virtually all *printed* books lose money worldwide, including in the United States. There is simply not enough volume or margins to make money selling Urantia Books. The Foundation is engaged in a truly non-profit venture!

Here are some specifics the analysis highlighted: 1) The English text of *The Urantia Book* books makes money *only* because of the profit on eBooks and audio books. All printed copies of the English text lose a small amount of money, and we cannot raise prices because of competitive pricing from another publisher. It is difficult to justify the selling of the English text of *The Urantia Book* to wealthy North Americans on Amazon.com for \$13 while hearing stories of people in



Tamara Strumfeld and Marilynn Kulieke at BookExpo America



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Urantia Foundation  
533 W. Diversey Parkway  
Chicago, IL 60614  
USA

Telephone:  
+1 (773) 525 3319

E-mail: [urantia@urantia.org](mailto:urantia@urantia.org)

### Credits for News Online

Editors: Marilynn Kulieke, Tamara Strumfeld, Richard Keeler, and Cece Forrester

Writers: Georges Michelson-Dupont, Judy Van Cleave

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Ecuador paying \$50 per book. It would be better to price the book higher in North America and make the book more affordable in poorer countries. 2) The translations that sell fewer books lose more money than the translations that sell more books. Storage costs significantly reduce the profitability of the book. 3) Except in North America, there is no opportunity to raise prices. In developing countries, people simply cannot afford to buy expensive books. 4) When you compare the costs of printing and storing very slow selling Urantia Books, it seems wiser to build up a reader community via the Internet before printing physical books. Since downloads in all languages significantly surpass physical book sales, starting on the Internet may be the way to launch new translations in the future.

### 5. Financial Results Through June

The good news: At the end of the first half of the year, year-to-date expenses were \$49,165 below budget and \$539.57 less than the prior year. The bad news: Donations are below last year. In the first half of 2015 we received two large, one-time gifts totaling \$200,000. In 2016 no such gifts have been given. Taking those two gifts out of the calculation, we are still \$45,000 less than last year. We have a lot of work to do in order to break even in 2016! After a splendid 2015, it is sobering to have such a tough start this year. The office team is searching for cost savings and committees are saving money wherever possible. Your donations are needed and greatly appreciated!

### 6. The Chinese Translation

After the April visit of the Chinese translation team,

Urantia Foundation is more committed than ever to producing a beautiful, accurate, and affordable Chinese translation of *The Urantia Book*. A second draft of a high-quality, “simplified” Chinese translation should be completed in 2019.

### Reports and Decisions Made at the July 2016 Meeting

#### 1. Associate Trustee News

The board elected Lucretia (Lu) Schanfarber from British Columbia, Canada, as an associate trustee. We welcome this gifted reader of *The Urantia Book* to our team.

#### 2. Board Reports

The board received the following reports: 1) a report from the president, 2) a financial report from the accountant, 3) a report on investments from the treasurer, and 4) reports from the following committees: Book, Education, Finance, Fundraising, Public Relations, and Translations. A few highlights of what we learned:

- With students from around the world, the Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS) continues to grow. Classes

are taught in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and French.

- Book sales are up 18% in the first half of 2016.

- All translations and revisions of translations are proceeding according to our expectations. Growing emphasis is being placed on the Spanish revision and the Chinese translation.

- Education—specifically the Urantia Book Internet School—is becoming a stronger component of Urantia Foundation services.

- Our outside investment team is prudently managing donor funds during these rather uncertain economic times.

- *The Parables of Jesus—Complete Teachings from The Urantia Book* from Urantia Press became available in mid-September.

- The new “secondary source” education library in the basement has been built, and thanks to a generous donation, hundreds of books relevant to the development of *The Urantia Book* are in the collection.



Lucretia (Lu) Schanfarber