



URANTIA FOUNDATION'S NEWS ONLINE

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JOINT EDUCATION SEMINAR AT URANTIA FOUNDATION FOCUSES ON SHARING THE TEACHINGS

By David Kulieke, Illinois,
United States

The latest educational initiative of Urantia Foundation was a joint seminar with the Education Committee of the Urantia Book Fellowship on the topic of "Giving of the Truth of Heaven: Using Our Talents." The seminar focused on exploring different ways that students of *The Urantia Book* could share the book's

teachings without necessarily referencing the book itself.

Over the four-day weekend of March 23 through 26, twelve individuals representing a cross-range of responsibilities within Urantia organizations gathered at Urantia Foundation in Chicago. Each person wrote a paper and gave a presentation on ideas and experiences each had encountered while sharing

the teachings. The group included Gard Jameson, chair of Urantia Foundation's Education Committee, and David Kulieke, chair of the Fellowship's Education Committee. Both were co-organizers of the event. Other presenters included Chris Wood, Elisabeth Callahan, Guy Perron, Marilynn Kulieke, David Elders, Barbara Newsom, Daniel Glazer, Andre Radatus, Bruce Johnson, and James Perry. Several observers attended in person, and many more watched and



Back row: Chris Wood, Andre Radatus, Daniel Glazer, James Perry (on Zoom), Bruce Johnson, Guy Perron, Paul Anderson

Middle row: David Kulieke, David Elders, Gard Jameson, Ken Keyser

Front row: Elisabeth Callahan, Marilynn Kulieke, Barbara Newsom

contributed questions and comments via the Zoom Room.

The presenters constituted a lively forum for discussing a multitude of topics, including the nature of our audience, our philosophy of education, the possibility of developing a more intentional teacher program, and the benefits of institutionalizing our educational efforts. Practical experiences in the classroom, giving guest sermons, consideration of the use of words, and even whiteboard animation were included as ways to share *The Urantia Book*.

The gathering closed late Sunday morning with a discussion of essential principles and concepts derived from the seminar. For example, the kinds of settings where one might share the Urantia Revelation include both formal situations, such as a classroom or a church class, or giving service to a patient, as well as spontaneous moments "as we pass by." Among themes that emerged, some focused on the individuals with whom one is interacting, such as "Listen empathetically: be interested in the person you are talking to." Other observations

reflected the message that an individual can share including: "Be prepared with a response" and "Use your talents and expertise; teach what you do." People also emphasized the importance of *taking action*. A full report of the conclusions will be shared along with the individual papers at urantia.org.

This seminar was one of many collaborative educational efforts during the past few years comprising different combinations of committees from the Fellowship, the Foundation, and Urantia

Association International. Another is planned for this summer in Denver at the Fellowship's International Conference (IC'17). There will be a forum of a number of educational organizations for the study of *The Urantia Book*, including a report from this seminar.

The weekend included lovely hosting by Joanne Strobel and delicious meals by Ashley Hayes.

NOTEWORTHY DECISIONS FROM THE JANUARY 2017 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING



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

2016 Community Relations

During the past year, a new high-water mark of cooperation and understanding between various Urantia Book organizations has been achieved. Urantia Foundation stands firm on supporting goodwill among all readers and organizations working for the Urantia Revelation. While we continue to follow our

policy of not interfering in the affairs of the social organizations, we are ready to work with the social groups whenever possible.

2016 Book Sales and Distribution Highlights

Over twenty thousand books were sold in 2016, about 10 percent more than 2015.

Over one hundred thousand free Urantia Books and apps were downloaded from www.urantia.org and iTunes.

Combined, Spanish and Portuguese books outsold English books.

The index is nearing completion and is undergoing a final review before being published as an e-book in 2017.

Urantia Press published its first book, *The Parables of Jesus—Complete Teachings from The Urantia Book*. The book was well received in the

trade and with readers. The Parables book has provided us with the opportunity to share *The Urantia Book* with bookstores.

The Foundation displayed *The Urantia Book* at BookExpo America.

Ads were placed in a few distributor catalogs to keep bookstores familiar with *The Urantia Book*.

About ten thousand books were printed in Portuguese, French, and Polish.

2016 Financial Highlights

2016 was the most difficult fundraising year we have had in many years. Normally, 52 percent of our annual donations come in the last two months of the year. This year that number moved to over 68 percent. Even so, the 2016 donation budget of \$740,000 was exceeded because generous donors gave \$741,326. With more

good news, new donors were up 15.6 percent over 2015. In 2016, 888 people donated, up from 768 in 2015. The year-end match was a success, and we entered 2017 in a financially secure position. Urantia Foundation lives to serve another year!

Knowing that money was very tight in 2016, board committees and staff spent cautiously. Because of conservative spending, we finished the year 8 percent below budget and only 3 percent above a year ago.

Improvements to www.urantia.org

Because website traffic is now over 50 percent via mobile devices, such as phones and tablets, we are updating the website for better mobile accessibility. Other significant improvements will be made during this process. The site continues to serve people

speaking in seventeen languages with high volume traffic in Latin America and throughout the world.

Translations in 2016

Work continued on Chinese, Czech, Danish, Farsi, Hebrew, and Indonesian translations. Revision efforts continued on the Spanish, Russian, and Portuguese translations.

Further progress was made using translation policies and procedures to manage the day-to-day production and quality of translations and revisions.

Progress was made on the Spanish revision that incorporates focus groups to review the revision.

The Chinese translation team visited during a quarterly meeting of the board.

The revised Korean translation may be read online at <http://www.urantia.org/ko/yransia-caeg/ilggi>.

New translation software was fully implemented.

Education in 2016

The new Zoom Room technology installed in the Forum Room at Urantia Foundation has raised the capabilities for meetings and events for the Foundation and other user groups. If you are interested in conducting a Urantia Foundation-sponsored seminar via Zoom, please send your proposal to Joanne Strobel at joanne@urantia.org.

The Science Symposium was conducted and streamed to hundreds of observers.

Half of the basement at 533 was renovated into a professional and educational center and library. Due to the kindness of a generous donor, a diligent book collector, and

THE URANTIA BOOK
Redefining spirituality in the 21st century

Over 800,000 in print
★★★★★ 4.03 out of 642 reviews goodreads

Welcome to the literary masterpiece that answers questions about God, life in the universe, the history and future of this world, and the life of Jesus. *The Urantia Book* harmonizes history, science, and religion into a philosophy of living that brings new meaning and hope into your life. If you are searching for answers, read *The Urantia Book*!

The world needs spiritual truth that provides individuals with a pathway into a personal relationship with God. The book describes an endless destiny for humankind, teaching that living faith is the key to spiritual progress and eternal survival.

The last part is the inspiring story of Jesus' life and teachings as never told before. It includes his birth, childhood, teenage years, adult travels and adventures, public ministry, crucifixion, and 19 resurrection appearances. When you read his story, you'll find your own life purpose invigorated and transformed.

Paperback – 978-0911560-150 \$19.95 Hardcover – 978-0911560-077 \$24.95

NEW
THE PARABLES OF JESUS
Complete teachings from *The Urantia Book*

Life is about stories and Jesus was the master storyteller. His entire life and teachings are told as never before in *The Urantia Book*, including 38 parables. This highly illustrated parable book brings alive Jesus' familiar parables with new and expanded teachings in rich context and visual settings. These simple stories run deep with sublime inspiration and instruction.

ISBN: 978-0-9974049-0-6 Price: \$19.95 Hardcover

Distributor Catalog Advertisement

the work of Steve Dreier, a library was created containing hundreds of books from human source authors. As you know, the revelators said: "We are to be guided by the mandate of the superuniverse rulers which directs that we shall, in all our efforts to reveal truth and co-ordinate essential knowledge, give preference to the highest existing human concepts pertaining to the subjects to be presented. We may resort to pure revelation only when the concept of presentation has had no adequate previous expression by the human mind." 0:12.11 (16.8) This new library contains some of the writings that the revelators used in creating *The Urantia Book*.

The Urantia Book Internet

School (UBIS) offered a total of thirty-nine courses, nineteen in English, nine in French, nine in Spanish, and two in Portuguese. Thirty-two individuals volunteered to facilitate classes.

Staff and Committee Reports

All in all, 2016 was a productive year at Urantia Foundation. Joanne, Tamara, and Ashley did an excellent job keeping the strategic objectives balanced with the day-to-day needs of the organization. Thanks to the board, the board committees, the staff, the volunteers, the outside contractors, the donors, the educators, and the translators, we moved forward.

Religious Practices of the

Millennial Generation

The board received a presentation from Angela Thurston concerning communities that have been formed by millennials for personal transformation—social, spiritual, mental, and physical—outside of our traditional institutions.

After listening to Angela's presentation, the obvious became more obvious: The Urantia Revelation belongs to future generations who will use and assimilate its teachings in a very different manner from past generations.

Mandatory Retirement Age for Trustees

The board passed a resolution that requires mandatory retirement of trustees at eighty years of age. Succession planning for the board and the staff continues as a vital and active topic on our minds. In North America, the Urantia movement is filled with aging baby boomers who need to pass the torch to the next generation. We are actively building a financial and leadership bridge, so that the Urantia Revelation can safely be transferred to future generations.



Angela Thurston

THE POLISH TRANSLATION AFTER SIX YEARS



By Paul and Gosia Jaworski, Australia, and Jolanta Kupiec, Poland

Six years have passed since the first printing of *Księga Urantii*, the Polish translation of *The Urantia Book*, in 2010. The third printing of this translation was sent to distributors in Poland in 2016.

At this moment, we are concentrating on spreading the teachings of the book in Poland. It is not easy, since we live in Australia, and electronic media and online communication are the only tools we use in this task. To the best of our knowledge, there are no study groups in Poland. But Polish readers are becoming more active and helpful each year. They have created two Facebook pages about *Księga Urantii*. On one, a minimum of three quotations from the book are posted weekly. On the other, there is an ongoing discussion about all aspects of the book. We also have a website with the complete

text of the book. It has existed since 2006 and has had nearly 230,000 viewings. And for YouTube, a reader created two informative videos about *Księga Urantii* (totaling nearly two hours).

For the translation itself, the work is a never-ending job! A few thousand changes were made to this current printing. The main objective for this revision was to remove any traces of English sentence style from the Polish text. Also, many errors were corrected.

A few years ago, Jolanta Kupiec, a Polish reader, contacted us and sent a long list of typographical errors and other types in the Polish translation. In cooperation, she significantly contributed to the work of the current revision.

Let us allow Jolanta to introduce herself:

I was born in Oświęcim, Poland, in 1950, the same

year that Urantia Foundation was established. My love of art allowed me to complete an art history degree at Jagiellonian University in Kraków, as well as postgraduate museum studies. I worked for several years in education and for thirty years in the State Museum of Auschwitz-Birkenau in Oświęcim. My work there tremendously enriched my life experience.

Knowledge of the cruel system of genocide taught me humility, compassion, and respect for life. This subject permeated my life from childhood because during World War II, my mother worked in the resistance movement as a liaison officer, close to Auschwitz. In 1944 she was arrested by the Nazis and imprisoned in Konzentrationslager, Auschwitz, where she was beaten and tortured. In January 1945, she was evacuated from Auschwitz in the notorious "death march" toward Germany. She was able to escape from this forced evacuation because of great perseverance and a will to return home.

Events sometimes take strange courses. After the war, my mother came to live with family in Oświęcim—today a small but charming city. I worked for many years in the museum created after the war on the grounds of Auschwitz, for the commemoration of the history of these inhuman times and the suffering of thousands. I wrote three books describing life in Auschwitz, based on surviving works of art (pictures and drawings) made by prisoners.

I am a person who is constantly reading history, including ancient history. Since I was a youth, I was fascinated with ancient civilizations as well as legends, myths, and tales from ancient times, and the old "gods" living on earth. Today, in the face of new archeological discoveries, there is emerging the ancient knowledge of humankind concealed in these "legends." This knowledge is consistent with my current passion for the oldest civilizations: Mesopotamia, Egypt, Indus Valley, Pacific Islands, Mesoamerica, Armenia, Turkestan, etc.

I remember one unusual experience when I was working at the Museum Auschwitz-Birkenau. In 1994, I spent three weeks in Israel at a seminar for the workers of my museum. Aside from interesting lectures in Yad Vashem and various meetings, we traveled extensively in Israel with a professional guide who informed us about the history, places, and antiquities that we visited. It was something amazing, particularly when we realized that we were walking practically the same paths



Jolanta Kupiec

that Jesus walked. How many ancient wonders are hidden in various places of our earth? Even their ruins are fascinating.

The Urantia Book has become for me an excellent supplement to this knowledge. It is a remarkable source with logical explanations, which our science is lacking. In 2014, I had read a few fragments of the book online and decided to buy a printed version. This reading occupied me for an entire year as I meticulously studied the book from beginning to end. I know that an online index exists, but I also created my own index. In the margins of my book, I wrote entries to help me remember important content, and later, from these notes, I created for my own needs an "Index of Names and Persons" (over fifty pages). Thanks to this, I can always find specific information and answers if someone asks me a question.

Explaining the scope, range, and significance of *The Urantia Book* can be a long story. I compare the knowledge of this book with both scientific and nonscientific studies. The book's content speaks about spirituality, science (physics and astronomy), evolution, the structure of the universe, our past, and the future. Additionally, as never before, it conveys the beautiful story of Jesus' life, from his universe identity to his life on Earth, year by year. Despite the enormous number of pages and seemingly difficult content, for me *Księga Urantii* has opened insights into the perfection and beauty of many worlds with a multitude of variety of life on them. The book unravels the origin and evolution of the oldest race on earth, the origins of the extraordinary and mysterious achievements of ancient civilizations, and their surprising similarity. The book explains the meaning of our existence as well as the meaning of other forms and levels of life in the

universe taking origin in our Creator.

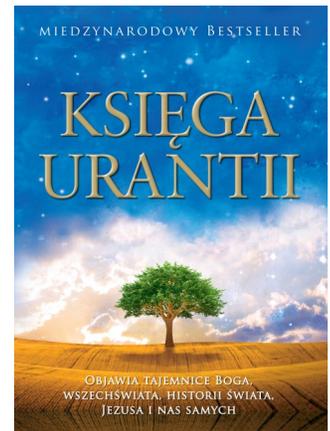
When I read any book, I am able to effortlessly find inaccuracies in the text. In reading *Księga Urantii*, I discovered some typographical and other errors, about 150 of them. I sent all my findings to the Polish translators, and so began a pleasant friendship which is of great value to me.

The Polish monthly *Nieznany Świat*—a journal dedicated to spiritual development with a circulation of about eighty thousand—published three of my articles about *Księga Urantii*: in the February 2016 issue, "Amazing Source and Surprising Discoveries" and "When Gods Walked on Earth"; and in the September 2016 issue, "Evidence from the Other Side."

I was able to attract the interest of a widely-read Polish author, Igor Witkowski from Warsaw, about some aspects of *Księga Urantii*. Now in a jointly written book

called *Instructions for Awakening, Vol. 8: Unknown Roots of the Earth Religions* there is a chapter written by me, "*Księga Urantii, a Source about the Roots of Religion on Earth.*" The book was published in February 2017. Earlier, I inserted my text about the Garden of Eden in his book *Instructions for Awakening Vol. 2: Distorted Traditions of Christianity*.

I have three wonderful children and numerous grandchildren, but all of my free time is spent on my passion—doing research.



REPORT FROM THE FINNISH OFFICE



By Tapio Pulli, branch office manager, Finland

Editor's Note: The Finnish branch office of Urantia

Foundation has been in operation since 1993. Many individuals have volunteered their time and resources ensuring its efficiency. We are grateful for their service.

I am fifty-nine years old, with a wife and three grown daughters. I work as a bookkeeper and have my own accounting firm. I have been reading *The Urantia Book* for thirty years. The most convincing and beautiful thing in the text is how it combines science, philosophy, and religion. The story of Thought Adjusters is thrilling as well.

I have been an active member of the Urantia Association of Finland since it was founded in 1989, acting as the treasurer for most of that time.

Urantia Foundation's office in Finland was started in 1993 by Seppo Kanerva and Seppo Niskanen. The Finnish translation of *The Urantia Book* came out in the same year. In 2002, Kristina Frigren (Siikala) started running the office and did so for the next six years, until 2008. The next person to run the office was Kalevi Eklöf, who ran it until 2016. Kalevi and I worked together during



Seppo Kanerva

the last year selling books, and I want to thank Kalevi for his cooperation and for helping me to get

acquainted with the tasks of running the office. It is an honor to continue the excellent work Kalevi has done during the last nine years. (Marja-Leena, his wife, has been a wonderful support to him!)

In 2014, our Urantia Association of Finland produced and financed a Finnish audiobook available in both USB and CD-ROM formats. For the sales of the audiobook, Tapio Talvitie established an online store that has been working well, and we have plans to launch a similar online store for the Finnish office. We also cooperate with the Urantia Association by participating in book exhibitions and maintaining the Finnish website.

My wish is to help Urantia Foundation by selling Urantia Books in Finland and in adjacent countries, even though sales have been slow

of late. In Europe there have been prevailing two opposite trends—secularization and spiritual seeking. These trends make me question if religious leaders are making the same mistake they made two thousand years ago. Recall, if you will, where *The Urantia Book* recounts what is called the Damascus Episode, where Jesus was offered the leadership of a school of religious philosophy, a school to outrival Alexandria. “He who was rejected by the Jerusalem religious leaders, even after he had demonstrated his leadership, was hailed as a master teacher by the businessmen and bankers of Damascus, and all this when he was an obscure and unknown carpenter of Nazareth.” 128:43 (1412.6)



Kalevi Eklöf, Marja-Leena Eklöf



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED—A URANTIA CONFERENCE IN GHANA



By Kwadjo SPIRi, Ghana

Recently in Accra, Ghana, Pato Banton, Antoinette “Rootsdawtah” Hall, and Urantia Association International (UAI) joined forces with the Urantia Book readership in Ghana for a beautiful, international gathering and conference at the Accra City Hotel in the heart of Accra, the capital city of Ghana.

In attendance were brethren from France, Nigeria, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

There was a beautiful array of people from various religious backgrounds in attendance. There were Christians, Muslims, Pranic healers, voodoo practitioners, traditional believers, people from the Ethereal Mission, light workers, and students of *The Urantia Book*.

There was an early call-out for online registration, and a little over 100 people registered to participate in the event. However, only 44 people turned up.

Music performances from various artists in between talks maintained high vibrant

frequencies throughout the event. All participants left the conference grounds in high spirits on both days of the event.

The night before the main event, Friday, February 10, 2017, after Pato and Antoinette had been on a live TV3 Network broadcast to publicize the event, registered people were invited to the hotel so we could meet and greet one another and, most importantly, answer any questions new readers had about *The Urantia Book*. This was beautifully carried out around a round table in the hotel lounge. Among the questions, a young man asked, “What does *The Urantia Book* teach about how one builds his or her faith or grows spiritually?” Satisfactory answers were given, most of which bordered around loving service to our brethren.

The main event started at approximately noon on the following day, February 11, with beautiful music from Antoinette “Rootsdawtah” Hall.

Pato warmly welcomed everyone and said the opening prayer.

The first talk was given by Norman Ingram from the United States on “Early Seeding in Africa.” In this talk, he spoke about his early experiences in Africa introducing *The Urantia Book* to the African people. Norman has been to almost every country in Africa! The extensive nature of his travels around the world to do outreach and propagate *The Urantia Book* and its teachings really impressed everyone.

Emeka Anazodo from Nigeria immediately followed with a powerful talk on “Friendship.” Oh, what a talk it was! He cited Jesus’ friendly nature as a good



Emeka Anazodo

example for us all to emulate as spiritual people. If even God wants to be friends with mortals, the least of His created intelligent beings, then mortals should discern the great importance and value of friendship as a stimulus for universe growth.

A musical interlude followed Emeka's talk by Cutch-i, a rising reggae artist from Birmingham, United Kingdom. He performed two songs, one entitled “Too Deep” and the other, “Calling.” Awesome talent!

Collins Lomo from Ghana ended the first half of the program



Cutch-i



Collins Lomo

with his inspiring talk on "To Be or Not to Be." He touched on very sensitive subjects. One beautiful highlight of his speech was:

For we're all believers. Believers of our very existence; whether created or self-caused, one thing which is undeniable is our existence, our essence. After all is said and done, whether religious concepts were right or not, whether science was right or not, whether philosophy was right or not, whether we were right or not, one thing that remains is—US! And the power and reality of our existence is that we're not just conscious that we do actually exist, but we dare to question its meaning.

And another highlight:

Could there be any more meaning to our existence than to find out the meaning of existence—to come up with the meaning ourselves? Maybe there is a meaning! And if we get to know what that meaning is, would man, would we, find a justification for it? Would we accept it? Would we find our own meanings? And would we feel we can find the meaning ourselves? We all look forward to finding answers to these questions—answers which will give us a sense of fulfillment in life.

In conclusion, Collins said, "What a joy! What a noble calling! To be or not to be agondonters! The choice is yours!"

KriXy, a talented gospel musical artist and rapper in Ghana finished off the first half with a beautiful song and performance titled "Where We Belong." Awesome music!

The second half of the program commenced with a soothing musical piece from Antoinette to welcome everyone back from lunch, interactions, and socializing. The whole atmosphere was charged with such brotherliness and love irrespective of our varying backgrounds. Spiritual unity is really an achievable feat considering what happened at this conference.



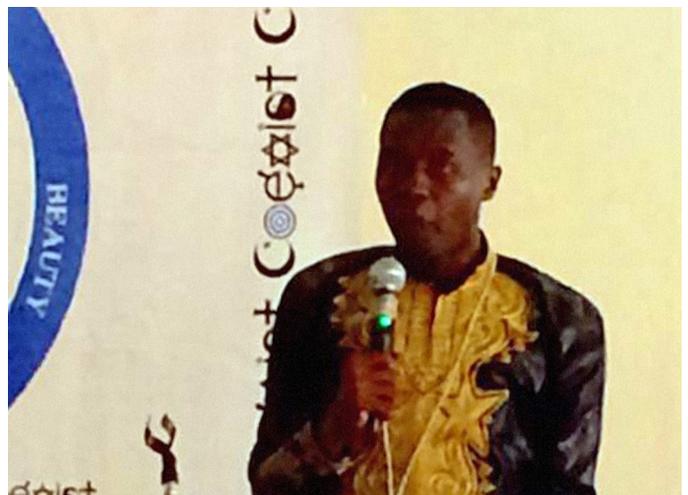
Krixy and Pato Banton

Georges Michelson-Dupont from France and Guy Stephane Nyasse from Cameroon represented the Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS) at the conference.

Georges shed more light on what UBIS is and what they do. He encouraged old and new students of *The Urantia Book* to partake in UBIS activities, as it would benefit them in enhancing their understanding of the book and meeting new reader friends online.



Pato Banton and Georges Michelson-Dupont



Guy Stephane



Awana



Antoinette "Rootsdawtah" Hall

With the help of Pato, he recited a beautiful narrative about a lady's experience with UBIS.

Guy Stephane followed with a short talk on "Consciousness."

Awana, a Muslim musical artist, briefly performed a nice single after the talk.

I, your correspondent, Kwadjo SPiRi, Ghanaian musical artist and one of the leaders of the Urantia movement in Ghana, performed my track "Light Up the One Love" featuring the legendary Pato Banton and his partner Antoinette Rootsdawtah. A video for this song was shot in Ghana last year when Pato and Antoinette last came around

to organize a spiritual conference in the capital. The room was lighted with love and dancing as the song was performed. The energy in the room once again reached a peak!

To see the video for this song, visit <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=854PyjOL5kw>.

After this performance, I gave a talk on "The Spiritual

Journey" where I shared my personal experiences on my spiritual walk, supported heavily with quotes from *The Urantia Book* and delivered in a very practical manner. After this talk, I was approached by many, even among the participating Muslims, about how they're experiencing similar things on their religious paths—proving that, irrespective of our religious backgrounds or books of engagement, we can meet on common spiritual platforms when we allow experience to be the common denominator, for the God of the universe ministers to us all, irrespective.

Antoinette gave an awesome speech afterwards on "Coexisting in African Unity." She touched a lot on spiritual unity. She has many times proposed Ghana as the hub or center for all Urantia activities in Africa.

Pato and Antoinette crowned the next space with a great musical interlude. The song title was "Love Is the Greatest," a very infectious song which got us all singing along easily and beautifully.

Pato masterfully rounded up all talks and performances with his talk on "Urantia Africa." As he always does, he admonished

everyone to strive to live righteously within our chosen paths of worship or religion. The Muslim should strive to be the best and most righteous Muslim; likewise Christians, voodooos, etc. We should all seek a better understanding of the will of God and endeavor to abide by this will in life. Many other uplifting things did Pato say, as did the other speakers.

There was a prayer circle after Pato's talk. Group and individual pictures were taken, and everyone naturally swung into the mood of socializing.

That was a day indeed! A good day!

The following evening, Sunday, February 12, was dedicated to study of *The Urantia Book* with Pato as host. The theme for the study was "Spiritual Unity." We read from Paper 141, section 5. It was a very interactive study, as almost everyone contributed to the discussion.

There was a buffet afterwards, and more socializing, and indeed our mission was accomplished!



MY EXPERIENCE AS A URANTIA BOOK INTERNET SCHOOL FACILITATOR



By Erika Webster, Oklahoma, United States

My experience as a facilitator of the Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS) has been as enriching and rewarding to me as when I participated as a student. It has been a privilege and an honor to have the opportunity to serve in the dissemination and study of *The Urantia Book* within the Spanish-speaking community around the world. I am truly happy to see how in a few years the number of

readers of *The Urantia Book* has grown.

I am also happy that UBIS has striven to meet the growing demand for teachers by recruiting readers like me to fill the role of facilitator. The leaders and the facilitators of UBIS have guided and instructed me from the beginning, with excellence and enthusiasm, in how to facilitate courses.

It does not take a scholar with a title to fill this role, but it does require cooperation, commitment, sensitivity, and sincerity. As facilitators, we work together to review, correct, and approve the courses before they are taken. At the same time, we encourage each other to give our best effort.

With the opportunity to serve comes great responsibility, which demands discipline. As a facilitator, you must commit to weeks of personal time. You

must also conduct in-depth research to prepare reference and support materials for the better visualization and understanding of the subject being studied, and design it for different intellectual levels. A successful course is one in which all students will fully participate by presenting questions, sharing experiences, exchanging views, and working together during the participation periods.

Once you accept this role, you undertake to be a moderator between the participants, to help create an atmosphere where all can freely express themselves. You must encourage all students to interact, and you must foster their respect for one another, so that each one will feel free to express their thoughts without the fear of being judged.

There are challenges in facilitating a course using the medium of the Internet, where the main communication is only in writing. Without seeing faces and hearing voices, there may be some loss of expression and clarity of intent. On the other hand, a big advantage is that participants may take the course on their own schedule, without having to be present at the same time.

We facilitators sometimes face individual challenges in doing our best, but the team is very supportive. We help each other to prepare and fulfill the responsibility we assumed, and to continue offering this service. Above all, we help each other to see that in this work we are not merely aiming for a personal benefit but striving in a noble cause.

THE GIRL IN THE PINK SHIRT



By Jennifer Siegel, Colorado, United States

Editor's Note: Jennifer Siegel is a longtime reader who is

inspired to service by The Urantia Book . Her ongoing projects include running a youth study group, preparing meals for meetings and events hosted at Urantia Foundation headquarters, and heading renovations to the building. In this story she shares one of her experiences during a recent service adventure. She and her husband, Mo Siegel, traveled to Ethiopia to assist the Himalayan Cataract Project (www.cureblindness.org) with curing the world's needlessly blind.

Day three volunteering at the Eye Clinic at the Arba Minch General Hospital in Ethiopia with the Himalayan Cataract Project began like all of them. The good news of removing the bandages from more than 175 waiting patients and their sounds of utter joy was incredibly moving. Some fell to their knees with disbelief at their first sight, others threw their hands in the air and made the joyful chirping noise that I thought I'd only hear in documentaries about faraway places. Many were subtle and shy, embarrassed to make their first eye contact in so very long.

As the day progressed, a new group of patients were examined and marked with tape. One piece above one eye means blind in that eye, two pieces of tape signals blind in both. I saw her squeezed in the crowd of the hopeful elderly sitting on benches awaiting their surgeries. She was impossible to miss. So pretty, about ten, in her stained pink shirt. Someone had put her hair up in braids, causing her sad yet beautiful face to be accentuated by two pieces of tape above each eye. Her blindness was not



cataracts, she needed cornea replacements in both eyes.

I knew we had only six corneas brought in a cooler. They were kept in the break room fridge next to the water. Precious cargo waiting for the lucky ones. She needed two, she got one, she was a lucky one. Corneal transplant patients were special, the surgery was difficult and intricate and the corneas so valuable. We watched

Dr. Geoff perform one on the night we arrived. Every delicate stitch made the eye look like the minutes on a clock when finished. Both gruesome and beautiful.

After her surgery my pink shirt girl was put in a small room with the other "lucky ones" and monitored for infection. And there she stood watching me from the crack of the doorway, all day and all evening long for four days. Waiting for me to pass, she'd wave, nod, or give a thumbs-up. Her new life became my reward for another hour spent trying to do my best.

She could see me with one eye, and I could feel her with all of my heart. We never saw a parent come visit, which made it traumatic saying goodbye. I had to leave my girl in the pink shirt in Ethiopia, but she will never leave me. She changed my heart and therefore changed my life. It's good to remember you have a heart.



Jennifer Siegel at Arba Minch General Hospital

It's good to remember you have a heart.

DANCING WITH GOD: EMERGING IN SACREDNESS — A DAUGHTERS OF GOD RETREAT



Thursday evening,
September 21 through
Sunday, September 25,
2017

Announcing the latest in our continuing series of women's retreats at Urantia Foundation, the Daughters of God facilitator team (Katharina Becker, Doreen Heyne, Carolyn Prentice, and Line St-Pierre) invites you to an intimate, experiential, and fun weekend.

In our next retreat, "Dancing with God: Emerging in

Sacredness," four daughters of God have designed a program where we will cocreate a milieu of trust within a spiritual circle, so that we can explore together such questions as:

What does it mean to you that "Jesus never failed to exalt the sacredness of the individual?"
170:3.10 (1862.7)

"Angels do not invade the sanctity of the human mind." How do you relate to this?
113:5.1 (1245.7)

How do you become aware of the sacred in the drudgery of everyday life?

The Daughters of God
 Mission: To enhance the status of being a woman dedicated to spiritual growth, intellectual advancement, and moral progress.

The Daughters of God Vision: To touch women's hearts by exploring the dignity of being daughters of God by honoring their value and importance, and by cooperating with the divine spirit to bring forth the beautiful harvest of the fruits of the spirit.

The cost for the three days is \$240.00 and includes shared overnight accommodations and all meals.

If you would like to be a part of this event at Urantia Foundation headquarters, 533 W. Diversey Parkway in

Chicago, contact Joanne Strobel at joanne@urantia.org.

CIRCLES OF TRUST: AN EXPERIENCE IN SOUL SHARING



By Bobbie Dreier, New Jersey, United States

Editor's Note: This retreat has been conducted by Gard Jameson, Bobbie Dreier, Marta Elders, and Carol Schindler for many years. The goal is to enhance the spiritual growth of readers and to deepen their appreciation of loving service.

"Happiness and joy take origin in the inner life."
 111:4.7 (1220.6)

The preconference retreat for the Urantia Book Fellowship's "International Urantia Conference 2017"

will provide a space where the shy soul feels safe, an experience which favors religious growth by ...sharing one's spiritual life with one's fellows. 100:1.8 (1095.3) By listening to spiritually evocative stories and poetry, and through deep respectful listening, we will support one another in our personal spiritual journeys. Participants will enjoy extended periods of communion and a worshipful time leading to loving service.

Circles of Trust are based on principles described in *A Hidden Wholeness* by Parker Palmer and participants are required to read the book in preparation for the retreat.

If you feel moved to learn how to "love by listening" in an experience designed to increase your soul consciousness, you are invited to join us for this summer's Circles of Trust.

The retreat begins on Monday, July 17, after dinner, meets all day and evening on Tuesday, and Wednesday until lunch. Participation will be limited to thirty attendees.

You may register for the retreat as well as the conference at www.IC17.org.





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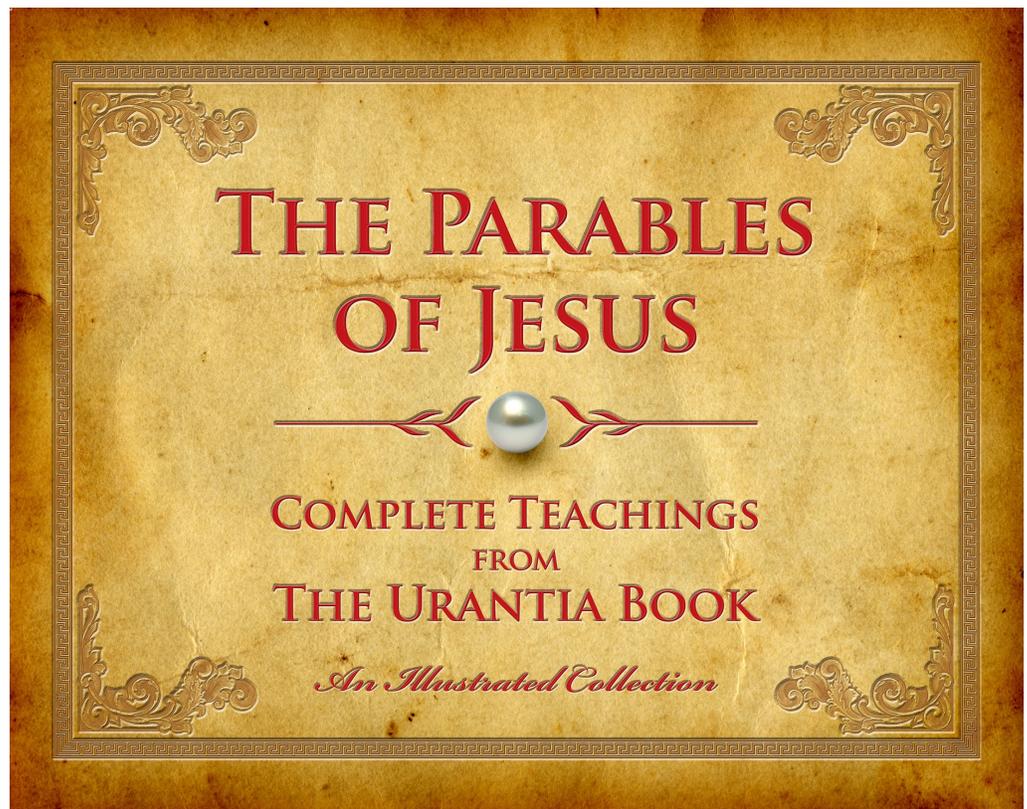
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www.urantia.org**

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Greatest Stories Ever Told

Editor's Note: The Parables of Jesus— Complete Teachings from The Urantia Book is the first publication of Urantia Press. The book contains the parables as Jesus told them, word for word, in Part IV of The Urantia Book. This book is now discounted for \$13.56 on Amazon.com.



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