Creating Translations out of Love: Urantia Foundation’s Quality Process

By Marilynn Kulkeke, Chair of Translations, vice president, Urantia Foundation, Illinois, United States

Editor’s Note: During the Cultural Symposium held at Urantia Foundation in April, Marilynn gave an excellent and informative presentation on the process used to produce quality translations. It was video recorded, so please view it here. The end result is a deeper appreciation for the incredible work required to translate The Urantia Book.

A main avenue in fulfilling Urantia Foundation’s principal object is the production of translations of The Urantia Book into the many languages of our world. They are a vital part of our work in fulfilling the mission of seeding The Urantia Book and its teachings globally.

It is my pleasure to serve as chair of the Translation Committee. Other members are Georges Michelson-Dupont (manager of translations), Henk Mylanus, Jay Peregrine, Minoo Treichler, and Tamara Strumfeld. Our work, including the creation of this process, is truly a team effort.

It is our goal to be the producer of the highest-quality translations, and therefore our translation committee created a systematic process based on our love for the Urantia Revelation. The process development began in 2006, and is based on the Standard Guide for Quality Assurance in Translation that was adopted by ASTM International.

As we applied these standards, it became clear to us that a five-stage process of approximately 40 years or more was needed to produce a high-quality translation. These stages are outlined as follows:
Stage One: Preparation
1–10 years
- One or more individuals have been inspired by The Urantia Book’s teachings.
- The motivation required to translate the book is finally alive.

Stage Two: Appraising
6 months–1 year
- Is the chief translator qualified?
- Are there resources available?
- Is it possible for the translation to be readable, faithful, and uniform in terminology?

Stage Three: Translating
9–10 years
- The work begins!
- Translator must deeply understand English text.
- New words and syntax must be developed.
- Must be beautiful.

Stage Four: Maturing
5–15 years
- Translation is published and distributed.
- Interest develops among individuals and groups.
- Feedback is given.
- Ideas for revision are formulated.

Stage Five: Revising
5–6 years
- A team is developed.
- Terms are clarified.
- Quality is improved.
- Text is polished.
At the end of this process, when the revision has matured, it is time to reintegrate the enhanced language and clarity of thinking into the evolutionary channels and cultures just waiting for this new truth. The following quote truly sums up the work we are engaged in:

The spread of civilization must wait upon language. Live and growing languages insure the expansion of civilized thinking and planning. During the early ages important advances were made in language. Today, there is great need for further linguistic development to facilitate the expression of evolving thought. 81:6.16 (908.5)

Noteworthy Board Decisions from the April 2019 Trustees Meeting

1. The Spanish Revision

When finalized in 2020, the new and improved Spanish revision will replace the current Latin American and European editions. After nine years of work, the revision is in the final copy/polishing phase.

The Foundation’s translation and revision process is designed to produce the best translations of the English text. After producing two Spanish translations, we have learned that one high-quality translation is better than two. Multiple translations cause confusion in study groups and can result in disagreements as has been seen in Korea. It also causes confusion with book distribution as we have experienced in Russia. You could imagine the chaos if many versions of the English book existed. We believe that reader communities are best served with one translation.

2. Fighting City Hall

We continue to fight the 300% tax increase Chicago put on 533 Diversey. Legal measures have been taken to roll back this crippling Chicago property tax increase. With optimism, we are jumping through hoops to reverse the new assessment. In county records, you see many mistakes made by the county assessor’s office. But it’s a tough legal job convincing a financially troubled city to lower taxes. 533 is the birthplace of the fifth epochal revelation, and we need your financial support to safeguard this historic building for future generations.

3. Board Reports

The board reviewed: a) a report from the president and the executive director, b) a financial and an investments report from the treasurer, and c) reports from the following committees: Book, Education, Governance and Nominating, Finance, Fundraising, Outreach, and Translations.

4. Sponsoring Community Activities

In Q1 we sponsored two regional UAI conferences in Estonia and Nigeria. We are also prepared to support the Fellowship’s Pipeline of Light’s efforts of placing Spanish Urantia Books in Latin America.

5. Election of Urantia Foundation Officers

The board voted for the following slate of officers for the next three years: Mo Siegel—president; Marilynn Kulieke—vice president; Georges Michelson-Dupont—European vice president; Judy Van Cleave—secretary; and Gard Jameson—treasurer

The 2018 Annual Report is available online. Please click here to read it.
URANTIA FOUNDATION’S GLOBAL CULTURAL SYMPOSIUM

By Claire Mylanus, associate trustee emeritus, Brittany, France

Finally, it was happening! After almost three years of planning and weeks of anticipation, Marilyn Kulieke, Marta Elders, and I joyously welcomed participants from 12 countries. They travelled from five continents to share a year’s worth of research combined with their personal experiences of introducing the Urantia Revelation into their native cultures. This was a unique gathering, even for Urantia Foundation.

Our goal in sponsoring this symposium had been to help the Foundation gain firsthand knowledge of the evolutionary context of different parts of the world, and to better understand the complexities of disseminating The Urantia Book globally. We pondered how to introduce The Urantia Book to other cultures, taking into consideration their ethnic and national heritage. Obviously, a single, identical approach doesn’t work and could even be counterproductive.

While The Urantia Book is finding its way into the world, on different continents, and in many countries, these cultures are not yet blended and remain distinctively different from one another. We therefore proposed to explore some of them by tapping a few dedicated readers.

We reached out to individuals from Africa, Asia, the Middle East, South America, North America, and Europe. Upon agreeing to spend a year in extensive research and to present their findings to the board of trustees, our participants were given a document filled with categories and relevant quotes from the book to help them prepare.

Here are two of the many quotes which inspired us:

But it is only foolish to attempt the too sudden acceleration of religious growth. A race or a nation can only assimilate from any advanced religion which is reasonably consistent and compatible with its current evolutionary status, plus its genius for adaptation. Social, climatic, political, and economic conditions are all influential in determining the course and progress of religious evolution. 92:2.4 (1004.7)

And

Each race must become familiar with the thought of all races; each nation must know the feelings of all nations. 52:6.4 (597.5)

More about the Symposium program can be found in the Foundation’s April Newsletter.

It started with a Jeffersonian dinner, led by Marta Elders, seated around a beautiful table decorated by Joanne Strobel. The meal was an array of foods from the 12 different countries, lovingly researched, prepared, and served by Chef Jennifer Siegel. This dinner was the perfect opportunity to get to know one another—and our special foods!

From Friday morning, April 12, until Sunday afternoon, April 14, the event was live-streamed by Gaétan Charland. Each of the participants gave a talk based upon their written paper. They had spent many months researching their cultures and it showed!

- Ade Awoyinka—Nigeria
- Khat Bernard—Uganda
- Sandra Burga-Cisneros—Peru
- Enrique Traver—Brazil
- Widi Nugroho—Indonesia
- Belen and Eugene Asidao—The Philippines
- Mark Khoury—Lebanon
- Mahtab Tehrani—Iran
- Gabriel Rymberg—Israel
- Line St-Pierre—Canada
- Antón Miroshnichenko—Ukraine
- Claire Mylanus—Europe

NOTE: A recording of the full presentations may be seen on the YouTube channel of Urantia Foundation. Go to https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3z3tEociOK5VVU1DNLgW0Q/videos.

Please watch them. They are educational and interesting—an open door to the rest of the world!

It wasn’t “all work and no play.” There were warm exchanges and great discussions between the participants. We enjoyed musical entertainment by Bob Solone. Sunday evening was a “Taste of Chicago” as we dined on the 55th floor of the Siegels’ Chicago residence. There we enjoyed breathtaking views while we sampled Chicago-style hot dogs, pizzas, and other delectable foods and beverages. Thank you, Jennifer and Mo, for your generous hospitality and a wonderful evening!

Our committee is grateful to Urantia Foundation for making the Symposium possible. Special thanks go to Gard Jameson, chair of the Education Committee, who supported this project from the beginning. Special thanks go to Joanne, who worked behind the scenes on the travel, logistics, and internal organization. She and the staff also hosted a delightful afternoon tea party to welcome our guests on Thursday.

We give special thanks to Jennifer for serving memorable meals with her unique and creative flair. And we deeply appreciate Gaétan Charland for his hours of recording.

Finally, a big THANK YOU to each of the participants who traveled great distances to share their personal experiences of living and disseminating the teachings of the revelation!
Back: Khatukhira Bernard, Anton Miroshnichenko, Ade Awoyinka, Gard Jameson, Sandra Burga-Cisneros, Claire Mylanus, Gabriel Rymberg, Mo Siegel, Eugene Asidao, Chris Wood, David Kulieke, Enrique Traver, Suely Traver, Mark Khoury, Judy Van Cleave, Line St-Pierre, Marta Elders, Gaétan Charland, Widi Nugroho

Front: Henk Mylanus, Geraldo Queiroz, Marilynn Kulieke, Belen Asidao, Jennifer Siegel, Joanne Strobel
By Khat Bernard, Uganda

From the start of my presentation research, to the end of the symposium, everything was an adventure. As a truthseeker, I found this to be one of the most fruitful experiences I have ever had. It was my first time ever to commune with so many individuals who read The Urantia Book.

I met the industrious team at Urantia Foundation that did everything possible to make us understand the history of The Urantia Book and the work of the Foundation and how it relates to different readers around the world. What I saw and heard caused me to appreciate their dedication and determination in making sure the book is printed, distributed, and preserved accordingly.

The symposium opened my mind to the need to respect and understand the cultural diversity of the world and the different challenges this diversity presents in the spreading of the teachings. Examples include: institutional religion, traditions, politics, personal attitudes, and reading levels.

Questions related to the book were diligently answered by the Foundation team and the presenters. This inspired confidence and reinforced our motivation to make known the teachings of The Urantia Book in our respective countries. Their guidance has inspired me to introduce and promote the book in Uganda.

Lessons I learnt personally:

• Everything is possible if you have faith and believe
• You will always find the truth if you seek it
• The Fatherhood of God and Brotherhood of Man is possible
• Kindness, trustworthiness, faith, care, perseverance, unity, and, above all, love can bring great change among humans
• Sharing and giving are the basics of bridging gaps among us
• Tolerance for one another promotes peace and understanding
• Meditation and shared experience of the teachings inspire experiential spiritual growth
• The providence, guidance, and love of God are everywhere present for all to embrace.

Lessons we learnt about a culturally diverse world

• Appreciate every culture of the world: they all have something unique to share
• Every one of us is unique and experiences spiritual enlightenment differently
• We are globally one, but different in thought processes and how spirituality is experienced
• The Urantia Book is not a religion
• Everyone needs the teachings of The Urantia Book
• Some world peoples are ready for The Urantia Book while others are not yet
• The concept of God is universal to all cultures though revealed in different forms and experienced differently
• Family affects our belief systems globally and so has influence in our choices.

Suggestions

• The cultural symposium be carried out again with different countries
• Representatives of various countries can make up a team/group that embraces the cultures of the world and the spread of The Urantia Book
• Different countries can hold their own cultural symposiums with assistance from Urantia Foundation.

Conclusion

I am grateful to God for having made it possible for this symposium to take place. From the inception of its idea to its completion, the inspiration was surely guided by God because it fully achieved its aim. I believe it was my time to receive inspiration and guidance, and now my time for service has begun.

I thank everyone involved for giving me a Urantia Book experience full of insight, revelation, and above all, God.
Ways to Help Spread the Urantia Revelation

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

1. Place Urantia Books into all types of libraries

If you are looking for a fun service project, you can place Urantia Books in:
- Public libraries
- Religious libraries (seminaries, churches, ashrams, synagogues, etc.)
- Hotels, youth hostels, cruise ships, and other libraries provided for travelers
- Hospital libraries
- Private libraries
- Coffee shops with “free book” shelves
- Waiting rooms where people look for something to read.

Over time, it has become increasingly difficult keeping the book on bookstore shelves. Now is the time to innovate by placing books into all types of libraries. Urantia Foundation will provide you with library books at the lowest possible price. Here is our policy: https://bit.ly/2VtGrWo. For logistical details, contact us at urantia@urantia.org.

Better yet, please buy The Urantia Book on Amazon and give it away. When you purchase books on Amazon, the book stays relevant to their algorithms. Relevancy prevents a book from falling into obscurity.

2. Help get 1000 reviews on Amazon

Today The Urantia Book has 782 reviews on Amazon. If you haven’t reviewed the book, please go here (https://bit.ly/30gBkYv) and do so. Your 5-star ratings matter. Most people buy books based on reviews. One thousand good reviews make a bold statement about the most important book on earth.

The book has over 140,000 words from Part IV of The Urantia Book. “Of all human knowledge, that which is of greatest value is to know the religious life of Jesus and how he lived.” 196:1.3 (2090.4)

The original editor spent nearly five years producing the first draft of the text. After she finished, an editorial team spent two years reviewing the manuscript. They ensured that the right parts of the right stories ended up in the text. Collectively, that editorial team had read The Urantia Book for over 300 years. After they finished, a team of experienced book designers created maps, designed pages, and triple-checked for errors.

There are 106 paintings by 35 of the best religious artists over the last 200 years. Many of the commissioned illustrations portray scenes only found in The Urantia Book. The paintings bring familiarity and gravitas to the majestic words found in Part IV. “The high mission of any art is, by its illusions, to foreshadow a higher universe reality, to crystallize the emotions of time into the thought of eternity.” 48:7.23 (557.7)

Please help and go to Amazon (https://amzn.to/2Q7bSQA)

3. Order The Untold Story of Jesus—A Modern Biography from The Urantia Book to introduce his life and teachings

After 12 years in the making, Urantia Press has published a new book: The Untold Story of Jesus—a Modern Biography from The Urantia Book. The book’s mission is to capture many of the great stories and teachings from the Master’s life. If you’ve been hesitant to introduce your family and friends to the teachings of Jesus from the revelation, this book can help.

Today there is a fantastic app for Urantia Book students who use Apple devices. Yet, 85% of all smartphone users have Android phones. Because of this, we have hired a firm to develop an easy-to-use Android app for The Urantia Book. We expect to have it by December 2019. For Android users, you can help by downloading the app when it’s ready. Then spread the word that the free app is available. This app includes not only the English book, but also the Spanish, Portuguese, French, Russian, Polish, and Hungarian as well.

4. Download the new free Android app when completed

The Revelation Bridge Fund in Your Estate Planning

The Revelation Bridge Fund was established in 2017 to ensure that The Urantia Book would be available to truthseekers to find in the generations to come. This fund financially bridges the baby boomer generation to the upcoming millennial and Z generations. Your estate contributions put a safety net under the Urantia Revelation. For more information, please visit urantia.plannedgiving.org.
CosmicCreations—Our Service Project

By Rick Lyon, Indiana, United States

Editor’s Note: After hearing the presentation Rick gave on service and CosmicCreations, we asked him to write about it in hopes that you would find it as inspiring as we did.

The topic of service seems to be on everyone’s minds right now. One of the service projects that my wife, Susan, and I are involved in is CosmicCreations—an online store that offers Urantia-related products with the concentric circles such as hats, tee shirts, coffee mugs, pens, necklaces, pins, and artwork. We also carry music and publications that readers might be interested in.

How We Contribute

We believe that our biggest contribution is dissemination of the Urantia teachings. Using the concentric circles symbol and the word “Urantia” invites people who know nothing about The Urantia Book to ask: “What do those circles represent?” Or “What is Urantia?” We find that people are more open to having a conversation because they are approaching us rather than us approaching them.

One example was at the 2015 Parliament of the World’s Religions in Salt Lake City. I was wearing a shirt with the Urantia logo on the front and one of the inevitabilities quoted on the back. A teenage girl tapped me on the shoulder and asked, “Sir, can we take your picture?” I turned around, puffed out my chest, and said, “Sure!” To which she and her two friends replied, “No, the back of your shirt. We really like what it says.” The result, three young people learned about The Urantia Book. Also, when we were walking out of a movie theater wearing our tee shirts, someone yelled, “Urantia!” He then came up to me and said, “I read that book.”

Every morning Susan and I enjoy coffee served in one of our coffee mugs, and we contemplate how we are part of a very important project—the fifth epochal revelation of God—a project of Christ Michael. Each day we are reminded that we can change the world by changing ourselves, to be of service to others, to seek the will of the Father by spending time each day in meditation, prayer, and worship.

Our Outreach and Publishing Efforts

We have a chance to talk to many people who know nothing about Urantia Foundation, the Fellowship, or Urantia Association. Those of us serving in these organizations tend to measure the community by those who are active and/or connected, but there are thousands of other students of the book out there.

Through CosmicCreations we have encouraged customers to find or start study groups, attend events (often for the first time), and sign up for mailing lists. Everything we send out includes a bookmark to find study groups through the Study Group Directory, a joint project of Urantia Association, the Fellowship, and Urantia Foundation. Our hopes are that readers will find study groups when they are ready to study with other readers.

We also publish a monthly newsletter for our customers. Recently we included an announcement for the upcoming 2019 Midwest Conference, and it turned out that a lady on our mailing list is a close friend of the event chair, Janet Guaderrama—but neither of them knew that the other one reads The Urantia Book. There are so many coincidences!

Why We Do This

The personal benefit is sharing the wealth of hitting the spiritual lottery by finding The Urantia Book. CosmicCreations is a project that Susan and I can work on together, and we feel so blessed to have this service opportunity.

Jesus taught that service to one’s fellows is the highest concept of the brotherhood of spirit believers. 188:4.9 (2017.4)

Where to Find Us

Please visit our website and learn more about us at CosmicCreations.biz.
Celebrating Moussa N’Diaye and Norman Ingram

By Cece Forrester, Urantia Foundation, Illinois, United States

Editor’s Note: Two longtime readers whose lives were dedicated to spreading The Urantia Book and its teaching internationally, and whose paths crossed notably, have recently graduated to the mansion worlds.

Moussa N’Diaye, of Senegal, passed away on March 29. A former professor of Social Psychology at Dakar University, Moussa found the first French translation, Le Livre d’Urantia, in 1973. Having grown up Muslim and living in a Muslim country, he determined to introduce the teachings by a careful and patient approach. He first gathered a group of students to study new truths and concepts he found in the book, eventually introducing some of them to the book itself when he felt they were ready. When Norman Ingram visited Senegal in 1998, he was amazed to find a study group of 100 using just one book. Moussa traveled to Europe, Canada, and the United States, was a Representative of Urantia Foundation, and was the first president of the national Urantia Association of Senegal. Commented Guy Perron, “Moussa was a true spiritual instructor, teacher, mentor, and so much more.” Line St-Pierre observed, “He was such a humble and kind soul, interested in everyone, helping everyone.”

Norman Ingram passed away on May 29. He discovered The Urantia Book in 1971 while living and working in Hawaii, and later lived in Colorado and California. Eventually he formed plans to take The Urantia Book around the world. His travels began in Latin America and later took him to Africa, where he visited nearly every country, placing Urantia Books everywhere he went—not just in educational institutions, libraries, and prisons, but with seekers of truth he chanced to meet along the way. It was during these travels that he met Moussa N’Diaye and his large group of students, and brought them books of their own. He later visited China and, between missionary travels, operated a Urantia Book booth on the boardwalk at Venice Beach, California. Commented Kwadjo SPIRi after Norman’s talk at the 2017 conference in Ghana, “The extensive nature of his travels around the world to do outreach and propagate The Urantia Book and its teachings really impressed everyone.” Wrote Saskia Raevouri, “Norman was truly one of the greatest promoters of the revelation!”

What The Urantia Book Means to Me

By Agnès Lazar, Belgium

What is the meaning of The Urantia Book for me? This is the question I was asked. I cannot answer it without first talking about how this book came into my life.

One night in January 2001, in tears, completely depressed by things I was going through and seeing around me, I asked God to show me the true meaning of unconditional Love, as He had never stopped loving me. In September of the same year, I found myself face to face with an instructor of the Truths contained in a big, blue book. This man of God, filled with love, patience, and kindness towards me, taught me, to the rhythm of my own thoughts, how God is Love, how much He loves me, and that it is good to discover Him within myself. This man welcomed me with all my fears, my doubts, my questions, my tears, and especially my deep desire to know my Creator—and he taught me for hours and hours without expecting any compensation!

In writing these lines, I see, feel, and perceive the significance of Truth, Beauty, and Goodness in service. This man was the channel through which God Himself approached me with all His Love. Even before I read The Urantia Book, the transformation of living that the revelators suggest to us, demonstrated by this servant of God, had deeply touched me to the point of inspiring my
own spiritual path: serve, serve, and serve dynamically!

And so, I proceeded to read The Urantia Book all the way through. Motivated by service, I first personally explored the meaning of all the passages of the book that provided keys of transformation in my current life: the mansion worlds, the psychic circles, the religion papers, the Thought Adjusters, the life of Jesus, Rodan, and other important topics. Gradually transformed, I began to come into contact with people whose souls were thirsty as mine had been years before. God was and always is in every encounter.

So what is The Urantia Book to me? It is an extraordinary toolbox through which I draw nourishment for my expanding soul, food necessary for the Adjuster to work in my mind, this thinking, feeling, and perceiving mechanism of my being, to help my mental functioning for more effective service.

Service is all around me! When I let go and let God guide me, He brings me exactly to where He wants me to be. He led me into a prison to approach His children who have been flayed alive, abandoned, and rejected by society, to remind them how much He loves them. It is in this place of misery that I experienced the immensity and simplicity of unconditional Love!

From day to day, I realize the power of the brief definition of love that the book offers us: “Love is the desire to do good to others.” 56:10.21 (648.4)

Adding my personal touch: Love is doing good to others!

I am filled with gratitude for the journey toward my Father which has also put me on a path to serving my brothers and sisters. I must also pay tribute to the man of God who fed my soul: Moussa N'Diaye, who graduated from Urantia on March 29, 2019. May God continue to bless him abundantly where he is now.

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Announcements

RUSSIAN REVISION NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE!

We are happy to announce that the Russian Revision is available at urantia.org/ru. The revision team consisted of Michael Hanian, the chief translator, Andrey Raznikov, the chief editor, and Ludmila Pavlova who contributed hundreds of pages of comments, suggestions, and in-depth analysis of the text. It took many years for this team to revise the text, and their dedicated efforts have resulted in a very high-quality Russian translation.

If you have any feedback on this work, please send it to Tamara Strumfeld at tamara@urantia.org. Thank you!

NEW SEARCH ENGINE FOR THE URANTIA BOOK AT URANTIA.ORG

A new search engine for The Urantia Book—faster and easier to use than the previous one—is now up and running in English (more languages will follow soon). You can customize your search results based on the order of appearance in the book, or by relevance. You may also select “any search words” or “exact match”—no need for Boolean instructions anymore. For more helpful hints just click the 🛠️ icon to the right.

Try it out by clicking here. Please let us know what you think. We hope this new engine helps you with your study of the book.
Dancing with God—Our Supreme Calling
A Retreat for Women 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. During our next retreat we will once again co-create a milieu of trust within a spiritual circle. Together we will explore and share our personal experiences and discoveries of how we answer this calling to dance with God, which is an open invitation to bring God’s love into this world by pursuing a spirit-led unified life that creates our tomorrow through our life today.

We will delve into questions such as:

● How do you allow yourself to be divinely led?
● What are the moments, the circumstances, when you fall out of step?
● What is the melody that resonates within your soul?

The cost for the three days is $250.00 and includes all meals and shared overnight accommodations on a first-come basis. For more information contact joanne@urantia.org.

Many souls can best be led to love the unseen God by being first taught to love their brethren whom they can see.

*The Urantia Book*, 155:3.4 (1727.4)