

Spreading the Word

What does it take to create something from nothing?

Dorothy Elder, leader, heart and soul of UBIS since its inception, tells us the fascinating story of how UBIS came to be and what hurdles had to be overcome as she led the young school through birth, infancy and spiritual growth.

FULL CIRCLE

by Dorothy Elder

The Beginning.... I retired from a career as a Public School Educator in 1997. At the time of my retirement I

could not have imagined what actually lay ahead so soon on the horizon of my life. At this exact time in France, Georges Michelson-Dupont was envisioning in his mind the concept for a Urantia Book educational outreach project via the internet which would be sponsored by the Urantia Foundation. Georges was a very busy businessman so he went looking for someone who could “put the project in motion.” A year passed and he was still searching for that person when someone suggested to him that I might be the person he was looking for. Georges and I met in July of 1998, and he explained his concept to me: an internet school which embraced the Jesusonian approach to education: the format of a non-interpretive “question and response” method so beautifully demonstrated for us by the Master Teacher, Jesus. Immediately I was inspired!

I saw in my mind this amazing picture of readers from all corners of the world coming together for study and fellowship via the internet! I saw its enormous potential and how it could be an effective tool in the decades to come in playing a part in furthering Spiritual Brotherhood on



Photo courtesy of shutterstock.com

the planet! I said to Georges, “Let’s do it!” And so we did. In that moment the UBIS was founded.

What came next.... I could see that a project such as this with all its future potential required careful preparation, and so an entire year of planning ensued. First, a “practice” course needed to be developed and experienced by a group of student “testers.” I designed the course, “The Divine Perfection Plans”, and we learned a lot during that 9-week “practice” experience. Also, during this year information about the UBIS had to be written and placed on

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Using a non-interpretive, question-and-response, Jesusonian approach.

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UBIS Newsletter

An Echo of Creation

Disseminating the teachings throughout the world

A Unifying Internet Experience

by Georges Michelson-Dupont
Director of UBIS

Dear Friends,

This is with a great joy and some apprehension that I will continue the task our dear friend Dorothy began 12 years ago. She started from scratch, by herself, without any Internet knowledge and expertise, the construction and development of what was called since the very beginning of the adventure: the Urantia Book Internet School.



Photo courtesy of photos8.com

What an example for all of us of patience, tenacity, and dedication. In a recent conversation, she said to me "when we were discussing the project I understood



UBIS sows seeds of spiritual understanding around the globe.

Photo courtesy of donpaulson.com

immediately the extraordinary power and advantage of using the Internet technology to reach out to the entire world and disseminate the teachings of The Urantia Book in a non-invasive, non interpretative and Jesusonian way to all people of the planet." This vision, engraved in her mind, supported all of her effort to keep this challenge alive.

Many difficulties, problems, stress, and sometimes discouragement assaulted her mind, and many of us would have given up; but that very vision was stronger and she overcame the difficulties, she solved the problems, she put her stress under control and her faith dissolved all discouragements. She gained an incredible experience. Again, what a lesson! From here to Paradise, dear Dorothy, you will be known as "the hero of UBIS."

Therefore I asked Dorothy to remain on the board of UBIS to help me during the transition period and she kindly accepted even if she had in mind to resign and take

some rest. She also expressed her desire to continue as a teacher: this is what she loves to do.

I strongly believe that UBIS is fully participating in the dissemination plan of the revelation throughout the world. There is no doubt in my mind that our unseen friends help each of us, support the entire project, and manipulate the circumstances to make it successful. It is amazing to see UBIS working on a benevolent basis since more than 12 years. We were fortunate to receive some large donations to develop our dedicated website.

Looking into the near future, one avenue of service is to develop the international audience of UBIS services in all countries where the book is available. This is a challenge, a ten years plan. I suggest to proceed step after step, introducing first the most popular translations: Spanish, Portuguese and French on a regular courses basis.

Urantia Book Internet School was created and exists as a means to help students from all over the world study *The Urantia Book* together free from the constraints of distance, timetables, and physical presence.

The second avenue of service is fostering and training teachers and leaders to serve in study groups. This might be a new project to discuss. The UBIS format is well adapted to this task and specific courses might be set up to develop a core of certified international study group leaders.

Again, thank you Dorothy for your inspiring example, thank you all of you who participate in this cosmic adventure.

“Service—purposeful service, not slavery—is productive of the highest satisfaction and is expressive of the divinest dignity. Service—more service, increased service, difficult service, adventurous service, and at last divine and perfect service—is the goal of time and the destination of space.”

Thank you.
Georges



Spreading (continued from page 1)

the UF website. Jay Peregrine was the UF Website Administrator at that time, and he was immediately enthusiastic about the project. He devoted much time during this year to prepare the UF website for the upcoming program, and gave us much needed advice and assistance. Without his effort and support, the UBIS may never have gotten started!

With the groundwork in place, the next big task was to find the teachers! This took place during the months of February-April, during which time such things as the UBIS philosophy, purpose and format were explained to these first willing souls.... And so, at last we were ready! The first UBIS course, “A Study of Personality” was presented on the UF website, (email format), in July 1999, by the first UBIS T/F Jerry Prentice.

The ensuing years.... Most of you are familiar with our past decade’s history and

what we have gained from this wonderful time of experiential learning we have shared, but I think the “landmarks” along the way highlight the wise and progressive path the UBIS has taken along the way. Most notable was the decision to establish a Board of Directors in order to ensure the functioning of group wisdom in our decision-making. This took place in March 2001. Other important and valuable “landmarks” along the way have been the establishment of the Teacher-Training program, the Course Review Committee function and the Mentor program, the ongoing development of the Course Data/ Archives/“Library of Courses” function, documenting the Student Evaluation questionnaires and more recently the focus on Curriculum Development and Public Relations/Outreach.

Full Circle.... And now, the UBIS leadership role has passed from my hands to Georges’ able hands, and in thinking over these past twelve years I am filled with the memory of that first moment when I saw in my mind that amazing picture of readers from all over the world studying *The Urantia Book* together in friendship, fellowship and Spiritual Brotherhood. That picture became a reality with the UBIS September 2010 Semester. What joy it gave me to register UBIS students from twelve countries spanning five continents!

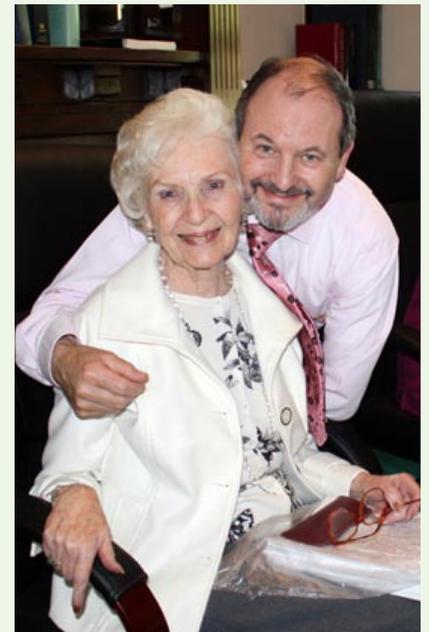
The plans envisioned on that eventful early day have indeed come Full Circle! ... from an idea to a reality! Let us briefly take note of that, and enjoy the soul satisfaction it brings, and then go forward on the path with a new and enhanced vision for the next Full Circle of the future! “When man goes in partnership with God, great things may, and do, happen.”

Sent with love and abiding friendship,
Dorothy



A Moment in History

After 12 years of spearheading the startup of UBIS, Dorothy passes the torch to Georges’ sure and able guidance. The grand experiment has proven worthwhile. UBIS is ready for the next adventure of further development in English and expansion into other languages. As Georges seeks counsel and develops the master plan, Dorothy remains an able and willing partner in the quest to bring spiritual fellowship to all corners of our planet.



Dorothy Elder and Georges Michelson-DuPont welcome you to a life-enriching, spiritual internet experience.



Things to Know*

*All dates and times are subject to change.
Please check our website for the latest information.
CLICK HERE: [Registration Information](#)

Click Here

for more information
about Urantia Book
Internet School.

January, 2011

3-16 January Trimester registration.

17 January 10-week trimester begins
(continues until April 3):

Course Title: Time and Space

Papers: 11, 12, 118, 106, 130:Sec. 7

This course explores the origin and nature of time and space, the limitations of time-space creatures, transcending time and space, and how the time-space viewpoint differs from the eternity viewpoint.

Course Title: Our Evolving Selfhood in God the Supreme

Papers: 110, 111, 112, 117

This course is a study of the components of selfhood--mind, spirit, soul, and personality--their inter-relatedness, unity, and contribution to the emerging God the Supreme.

Course Title: Jesus' Public Ministry: The Second Year, AD 28

Papers: 146, 147, 148, 149

As this course follows Jesus and the apostles during his second year of public ministry we will study the various methods and content of his teachings to his apostles, the women's corps, the

evangelists, the disciples, his enemies, the highly educated, the sick and afflicted, and the common people. We will seek to understand from Jesus how best to share truth.

Course Title: The Paradise Sons and Personalities of God

Papers: 20, 21, 22, 24, 25

In this course we will learn of the magnificent careers of the Deity-created descending orders of the Sons of God and conclude the study with a view of the higher Personalities of the Universe.

April, 2011

4-17 April Trimester. registration.

18 April 10-week trimester begins
(continues until June 26, course titles to be determined.)

September, 2011

5-18 September Trimester registration.

19 September 10-week trimester begins
(continues until November 27, course titles to be determined.)

Teacher/Facilitator Training

Dates to be determined. If you are interested, please contact UBIS.

June "Summermester"?

Summer courses are under consideration. If you are interested as a student and/or T/F, please let us know. If there is enough interest, we will have them.

UBIS Needs TEACHERS!

UBIS needs experienced *readers* to serve as Teacher/Facilitators (T/Fs).

Enrich your life and the lives of fellow truth seekers worldwide by facilitating a broader and deeper understanding of the teachings of *The Urantia Book*. What you learn as a teacher will be well worth the effort. Treat yourself!

Those interested must first complete two or more courses as a student, read the entire Urantia Book, and be recommended by their T/Fs.

You can do it! For more information, please call or write: 773.525.3319
urantia@urantia.org

What Students Write...

From Wisconsin, USA:

"I have read the UB since 1975 and I got more understanding about the Universal Father from this Course than I did with all the past reading that I did."

From Russia:

"It was my first contact with other UB believers. It started for me an active UB life. I love it, and it inspired me as well. I will continue taking the UBIS courses and eventually hope [to] be useful for you as well."