A Celebration of the Chinese Translation—Now Published on Urantia Foundation’s Website

By Richard Zhu, chief translator, United Kingdom

Editor’s Note: The mission of Urantia Foundation is to seed The Urantia Book and its teachings globally. Providing high-quality translations is a top priority. The endeavor to provide this text to Chinese-speaking people around the world began in 2001. We are pleased to finally be able to make this translation available to readers of Simplified Chinese, who number over a billion globally.

This translation would not have been possible without the ongoing efforts of Richard Zhu, who began his work in March of 2012. Twelve years later, the trustees applaud and celebrate the fruits of Richard’s stellar efforts.

The Chinese translation in traditional characters is in progress, and papers will be published as they become available.

I am very pleased to announce that after 12 years of continuous effort on the Chinese translation of The Urantia Book, the simplified Chinese translation has been approved by Urantia Foundation and has been published on its website at urantia.org/zh-hans. We are all thrilled that the Chinese-speaking people of the world will finally be able to read the fifth epochal revelation in simplified Chinese characters. The translation with traditional Chinese characters is in progress, and the finished papers will be made available online in the coming months.

I am very grateful to the trustees of Urantia Foundation and to all the warmhearted international readers who have supported the Chinese translation work for many years for all your contributions to this challenging project. The high standards for the publication of the Chinese-language translations established by the Foundation will benefit all readers of this book in the long term.

I also wish to pay tribute to all the people who have contributed their efforts and wisdom to the Chinese translation work. These include Chinese scholars, truth seekers, and spiritual teachers and students. Special appreciation is due to my main translation collaborator, Vicki Yang, a spiritual leader who has spent more than eight years of her retirement time helping me with the traditional Chinese translation work and recruiting many of her...
students for our translation team.

Now that the first phase of Chinese translation work has come to a conclusion, the next step is to receive feedback and comments from Chinese readers. Once that is complete, further revision will be undertaken. Meanwhile, I will continue my own journey with The Urantia Book, focusing on the teaching and revision work coming up in the near future.

All Chinese truth seekers are welcome to join me on this adventure. I look forward to sharing my understanding of The Urantia Book—which some call the Truth Book or the fifth epochal revelation—with all of you!

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

Operations Overview

Books

Book sales in 2023 appear to reflect the book market’s return to pre-pandemic levels. When sales are compared to the five years preceding 2020, they are the strongest with the exception of 2016. There are various factors for the decline in industry book sales, not the least of which is a 66% return to the workplace for employees, resulting in less online activity. On the positive side, 13,207 Urantia Books in all forms were distributed, bringing the total to 77,257 for the year. Urantia Foundation remains dedicated to achieving its 2024 goals as well as to ensuring the availability of The Urantia Book to truth seekers worldwide.

Education

Joanne Strobel reported that the September trimester of the Urantia Book International School (UBIS), which offered 22 courses, led by 25 volunteer teacher-facilitators from seven language branches, concluded on November 26. The January trimester was announced on November 27, and registration opened on January 8. The monthly Spotlight Series continues in English, French, and Spanish, and recorded sessions are available on the Foundation’s YouTube channel.

The online Marriage and Family Symposium will be held on June 14 and 15. The Education Committee has often discussed the need for courses about marriage and family life. This symposium will hopefully be a catalyst for future workshops, seminars, and classes. The goal is to offer inspiration and guidance for individuals and families who are navigating the complexities of human relationships. For information, contact joanne@urantia.org.

Tamara Strumfeld reported on the fourth-quarter activities of the Urania Study Group Directory, noting the following:

- She enjoys working on the directory with such quality, capable, and cooperative team members;
- Bill Beasley is the chair and always keeps them on track;
- Scott Brooks is the website administrator and handles the updates, the annual cleanup project, and the general site maintenance;
- Jackie Koury represents the Fellowship. She keeps records of the meetings and responds to many email inquiries;
- Phillip Marriott represents Urantia Association, recently replacing Rick Lyon. Rick
responded to the majority of reader inquiries and retrieved website stats. The team thanks Rick for his years of service, and welcomes Phillip.

- The database cleanup is now complete, ensuring that the directory is the most up-to-date directory for study groups of The Urantia Book; and
- The directory team is an excellent example of organizational cooperation done well! There are now 544 study groups spanning 62 countries and 19 languages.

**Visiting Guest**

Elisabeth Callahan of Urantia University Institute (UUI) joined the meeting to talk about their new Teacher Education Program (TEP) for which UUI was awarded a $20,000 grant in 2023 from the Foundation's Mustard Seed Grant Program (MSGP). She shared that they have successfully launched a beta test with 11 people from various Urantia Book organizations who believe in creating an education institution for the long term. They are supported by an administrative team fielded by Alice Wood and Ariana Horn. The first 10-week trimester has been completed. Elisabeth noted that she is impressed by the high energy and level of instruction.

**Fundraising and Finances**

- Q4 unrestricted donations were 4% above Q4 of 2022 and 80% above Q4 budget.
- Restricted donations were 49% below Q4 of 2022 and 46% under Q4 budget.
- Q4 estate gifts totaled $238,776.
- Total income decreased by 8% compared to Q4 of 2022, and was 5% below the projected budget.
- Administrative expenses increased by 2% for Q4, due to the hiring of a new executive assistant. Administrative expenses for the year were 2% below 2022 and 5% under budget.
- Total expenses decreased by 17% from Q4 of last year, and are 14% under budget.

**Outreach—Mustard Seed Grants Program (MSGP)**

Geri Johnson reported on the success of the first year of the MSGP and expressed gratitude for the committee's tireless efforts and the support provided by bookkeeper Marie White. Together they contributed to what was a seamless second round in 2023. The call for proposals for Round 1, 2024, opened on February 7. If you have a project, be sure to apply by March 20.

**Cultural Advisory Council (CAC)**

December 2023 saw the close of the CAC’s first two-year cycle and the formation of the second. After nominations were received from board members and former advisors, the selection of these four new members was finalized: Felipe Arrigorriaga of Chile, Khatukhira “Khat” Bernard of Uganda, Jisoo Han of South Korea, and Samrawit Muluneh of Ethiopia. All have agreed to serve on the 2024–25 council.

Khat gave a presentation to the expanded board on Uganda, its cultural and religious heritage, and the present status of the efforts to disseminate the teachings of The Urantia Book there. Khat’s report is featured in this issue.

**Translations**

Georges Michelson-Dupont reported that all is well with translations, and that he plans to schedule a meeting with the Polish translators regarding their upcoming revision.

He introduced guest Richard Zhu who spoke to the board about the history of his work translating The Urantia Book into Simplified Chinese. The book has been completed and received high marks from a professional assessment.

Board members shared their abiding gratitude for

Samrawit Muluneh  
Khatukhira “Khat” Bernard  
Jisoo Han  
Felipe Arrigorriaga
Richard’s dedicated work and their excitement for what a translation will mean to the Chinese people. Richard expressed his appreciation for the support of both Tamara Strumfeld and Georges, for the opportunity to do this work, and for the blessing it will be to the Chinese people when published online. He looks forward to remaining involved and helping the Chinese people understand the teachings through online presentations and UBIS courses.

**The Untold Story of Jesus—Coming Soon in Paperback!**

**By Jim English, California, United States**

**Editor’s Note:** The paperback version of The Untold Story of Jesus would not exist without the tireless expertise of Jim English, a longtime reader and volunteer who donated countless hours of editing and book formatting to this project. Our collective thanks to Jim for his commitment to seeing this project through, with stellar results.

The first edition of The Untold Story of Jesus was published in 2019 by Urantia Press, the imprint label of Urantia Foundation. This professionally designed coffee-table book became a best-selling secondary work, thanks to the exquisite and often-original artwork, sidebar elements, and captivating narrative of the Jesus we all know and love. In 2020 a second printing included improved maps and additional paintings.

As time passed, the team paused to consider an important lesson in the world of book publishing—new often equates to higher sales. But what could possibly be “new and improved” in such a beautiful book? The cover was redesigned as well, and it looks lovely with a laminated gloss gatefold. Slimmer, lighter, yet never compromising on the artistic beauty of the original hardback, this new version will fit into your backpack, handbag, mailbox, and bookshelves. It will also be better suited for placement in neighborhood “little libraries,” hospitals, hospices, libraries, hotels, cruise ships, youth hostels—or to give as a personal gift to someone you love.

Preorder your copy now!

https://www.amazon.com/Untold-Story-Jesus-Biography-Urantia/dp/0997404922/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=

It is not your standard paperback. We designed it to be large enough to fit all the content (a bit over 7” x 9½” x ¾” at 400 pages) and it features high-quality art paper, so the paintings still shine. The redesign allowed us to add some additional paintings. Most importantly, we were able to include some of the Master’s well-loved stories and teachings that just wouldn’t fit before.

By Jim English

The Cultural Advisory Council Welcomes Uganda

By Khatukhira “Khat” Bernard, Kampala, Uganda

(Writer's Note: Khat lives and works in Uganda as an architect and financial analyst. He discovered The Urantia Book in 1997, has been a teacher-facilitator with Urantia Book International School (UBIS) since 2015, and has attended and presented in many Urantia conferences. This work inspired him to initiate a study group called Cosmic Citizens in Uganda. Khat believes that service is one of the greatest gifts we can give to our fellow sojourners.)

For many years I enjoyed a virtual relationship with Urantia Foundation while taking and facilitating UBIS courses. That relationship became more personal, reciprocal, and enduring in April 2019 when I was invited to participate in their Global Cultural Symposium. Participants were asked to make a presentation about their home country, and I spent many months researching aspects of life in Uganda—its culture, traditions, institutional religion, politics, personal attitudes, and even reading levels. If you would like to watch a video of my presentation, click here: Global Cultural Symposium, Uganda (youtube.com)

In 2024 I have the privilege of representing Uganda on the Foundation’s Cultural Advisory Council. I was invited to give a talk during the January quarterly meeting of the Expanded Board of Trustees.

Uganda is a country of many traditions and beliefs, primarily Islam and Christianity, but indigenous religions as well. There has been a gradual shift from communal or societal worship and beliefs to individual quests for truth, which bodes well for the dissemination of The Urantia Book and its teachings.

Nevertheless, challenges remain. Government agencies and related authorities must be informed about what The Urantia Book and Urantia Foundation are. Since traditional religious traditions and belief systems remain strong, many Ugandans are reluctant to venture outside the norm and adopt new knowledge. They fear society’s perception, and they fear losing the faith and beliefs they have always believed to be true. Youth are not well nurtured into adopting new ideas and knowledge.

From a practical standpoint, Ugandans have a very poor reading culture. The internet is not consistently accessible or available, and digital devices are very expensive.

Educating the public about the teachings of The Urantia Book will not come easy to a population that is accustomed to having beliefs imposed upon them. Nevertheless, many of us are optimistic that The Urantia Book and its teachings can uplift Ugandan culture. There are educational and spiritual benefits, of course, but what I find most exciting is the prospect of illuminating the truth about God, science, and our place in the universe, while clarifying the roles of superstitions and long-held traditions in human social evolution.

What can we do to seed The Urantia Book in Uganda? We must demonstrate the legitimacy of Urantia Foundation, cultivating an awareness of its purpose, functions, and objectives. Public seminars, conferences, and workshops will help establish credibility. Copies

Kisoro, Uganda
of The Urantia Book and related reading materials will be needed. Local study groups like Cosmic Citizens in Uganda must be formed, and regular correspondence among them encouraged. These groups will need mentors. Community-based projects could be championed and managed by fellow readers from around the world. And, of course, current projects like Urantia Book dissemination must continue.

In August of 2022, Urantia Foundation, the Association, and the Fellowship co-sponsored a conference in Jinja City, at the source of the White Nile (one of the two main tributaries of the Nile River) near the north shore of Lake Victoria. This is just the beginning. Someday soon The Urantia Book will be a familiar text in Uganda!

Remembering Dorothy Elder

Dorothy Elder and Georges Michelson-Dupont

Compiled by Urantia Foundation Staff

Editor’s Note: This article is a loving tribute to Dorothy Elder, co-founder of Urantia Book International School (UBIS) and dear friend of many, who departed for the mansion worlds on January 24. Several people who knew and worked with Dorothy shared their memories with us.

Georges Michelson-Dupont, international vice president and manager of translations, Urantia Foundation, Recloses, France

Dorothy and I first met in a Los Angeles restaurant during a visit to meet with California readers in the spring of 1998. She was seated at my table, and I was immediately impressed by Dorothy’s charming smile and intellectual acuity. She had a clear vision of the situation surrounding the Urantia movement in the United States at the time, and displayed an upright and unwavering commitment to Urantia Foundation. She spoke softly but firmly, articulating her point of view with a certain passion that commanded respect. I was charmed by this lady, who was 20 years my senior.

Several months later, we met again in Helsinki at a conference organized by the Finnish Urantia Association. Naturally we exchanged our points of view on the future of the revelation. She explained her life’s journey in a few words; having retired from education, she wanted to be useful.

I told her about my project to use the newest tool, the internet, to create an online school, adopting a non-interpretative pedagogy. It would be implemented as part of the Foundation’s mission and would be based on readings, questions, answers, and sharing. To my delight, the idea appealed to her, and we immediately came up with a name for it: Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS). The school was born through the convergence of an idea and an expertise.

Dorothy built the foundations of the school, its organization, and its curriculum. She recruited the first teachers, trained them in the skills of non-interpretation, and taught them how to design a course. Jay Peregrine assisted with the technical side. The first English courses were offered via email in September 1999.

In September 2010, after 11 years of effort and perseverance, and with additional courses in Spanish and French, Dorothy passed the torch to me. This year we celebrate our 25th anniversary, with seven languages and more to come.

Dorothy, you will remain in my heart as an example of courage, tenacity, and dedication to the Urantia Revelation. Thanks to you, truth seekers on five continents have access to free online courses, scores of trained facilitators, and fellow students with whom to share The Urantia Book!

Jane Ploetz

Dorothy was indefatigable, brilliant, and devoted to spreading the teachings of The Urantia Book. She always kept a carton of
URANTIA FOUNDATION’S NEWS ONLINE

books in the trunk of her car, just in case someone she’d been talking to about it wanted one right then. [Those who knew Dorothy will remember her signature use of italics and underlining; she wrote like she spoke, with emphasis and passion.—Ed.]

I admired Dorothy for being such a competent teacher of teachers. She not only had a deep understanding of all the pieces of this two-thousand-page revelation, she knew how the pieces fit together.

More than her knowledge, what I appreciated most were her classroom skills. She knew how to put together a group of questions that would create good discussions week after week, and would lead to undeniable conclusions and essential truths in those papers. Dorothy wanted students to have more than a list of facts. She truly believed that “a mind is not a vessel to be filled, but a fire to be ignited.”

What Dorothy did so artfully was graciously monitor the interaction of her students, so they all independently reached those conclusions themselves. She knew how to step in when needed, and would handle an argumentative or domineering student with grace and tact, all the while keeping the conversation moving in a positive direction, without anyone noticing what she had just done.

She did great work here during her time on this backward planet, and I feel privileged to have known and worked with her on this very meaningful project.

Rick Lyon

I truly loved and respected Dorothy. I met her on my first visit to the Foundation to attend a Urantia gathering in the early 1990s. I sat to her left and was immediately impressed with her knowledge and wisdom and how she treated this newbie as one of the family. I will never forget that.

I later came to know Dorothy through UBIS, first as my teacher, then as a mentor, and later a teammate. I got to spend a weekend at her home when UBIS converted from email to a website. She taught me a lot about UBIS, and I taught her a little bit about this “newfangled” internet thing. She left our planet knowing that UBIS is in very capable hands with a solid future.

Judy Cosky

I took my first UBIS course over 20 years ago and eventually joined the staff. The internet was fairly new, but that did not deter Dorothy from establishing and growing an online school before there were solid online educational platforms. We used a primitive platform that was constantly breaking down! But Dorothy persevered, and look where we are today. It is a lesson for all of us to recall and embrace on our journey to Paradise!

Ralph and Betty Zehr

Dorothy was an accomplished educator who seized upon the opportunity to apply her insights and experience to sharing the marvelous teachings of the fifth epochal revelation with spiritually hungry students around the world.

When invited to join UBIS nearly 15 years ago, little did we realize that working with Dorothy and her team would be such a meaningful retirement experience. It was a high privilege to work with such a committed group who served as teacher-facilitators for the school, which was led and inspired by a truly outstanding leader and administrator, our dear Dorothy.

Perhaps the most important contribution Dorothy has made to the educational outreach of the fifth epochal revelation is the wisdom that she and Georges displayed in laying the pedagogical foundation for UBIS—The Urantia Book itself.

The operation of the school is such that no one stands between the student and the source of truth. The true teachers are the Spirit of Truth and the indwelling Thought Adjusters which guide each student in their pursuit of discovering God and his love for his sons and daughters.
Revelation Outreach in Uganda

By Owen Atwebembire, Bwizibwera, Uganda

Editor’s Note: Paul and Monica Kemp of Canada were awarded a Mustard Seed Grant in 2023 to fund the Africa Urantia Revelation Zoom Conference project. Owen served as one of the local representatives and Zoom organizers. On behalf of Urantia Foundation, we thank them for their creative outreach efforts to spread the teachings of The Urantia Book in Uganda.

As we venture into the new year, it is an honor to share a glimpse into the recent online conference: “What The Urantia Book Inspires Me to Be and Do,” held on December 17, 2023.

Before getting into the details, I’d like to extend our deepest gratitude to the Foundation’s Mustard Seed Grant Program for their pivotal role in making this event possible. The goal of the project was to provide opportunities for students of The Urantia Book in Africa, and in particular Uganda, to attend Zoom conferences, and to practice what they are learning by doing presentations. The generous grant enabled many to participate, thus enriching our collective experience of spiritual brotherhood and sisterhood.

The conference showcased a kaleidoscope of thought-provoking presentations from a variety of speakers, all prerecorded by Paul Kemp in order to circumvent the technical difficulties which often plague overseas connections. In this way we were able to successfully include each one in the program.

We began with Pato Banton's Urantia Book testimony, which set the stage for welcoming newer readers into the online fellowship as he touched on some faith conflicts that individuals may encounter in their experience of organized religion and their personal search for truth.

We were pleased to feature six Ugandan presenters:

1. Derrick Asiimwe spoke on “Bringing the Little Children to God the Father of Love.”


3. Allan Bahati talked about “Spiritual Determination Towards God's Will.”

4. Andrew Cohen Gumpi gave an impassioned talk about teaching the revelation in his school and orphanage.

5. Simon Tumwijukye presented “Revelation Poetry in Motion,” a reading of poems written by Chicago Urantia Book reader and poet Paul D. Anderson.

6. My topic was “Ethical Transformation—Insights from the Fifth Epochal Revelation.”

An insightful presentation on “Duty in the Revelation” was given by Barry Culligan of Ireland. Monica Kemp gave a fascinating recap of “The History of the Five Epochal Revelations.” Her husband Paul spoke about “The Instructions of God in the Papers—Promises of God in the Papers.”

Clint Stucky hosted a helpful tutorial on how to use the Urantia Book search engines.

Looking back on this event, we celebrate the diverse perspectives that helped enrich our community, and we thank everyone who contributed to the success of the conference. To the organizers, I extend my heartfelt appreciation for your tireless efforts in making the conference a resounding success. Your dedication and hard work have truly made a positive impact, bringing together people from around the world in a meaningful exchange. The enthusiasm and dedication are a testament to the strength of our collective spirit. May the knowledge shared during the conference inspire positive change!
Our journey with the revelation began in 2011, when friends from Houston, visiting Poland on their 50th wedding anniversary, gave us a copy of this amazing book, *The Urantia Book*. We met in architecture school in Poland in 1979, and married the following year. When martial law was imposed in Poland in December 1981, we emigrated to the United States, where we lived in Virginia, Oregon, Washington State, and Texas. As architects we first plan, design, and create complex structures in our mind, and then with our will we execute everything the best way possible. The experience, reason, logic, loyalty, and help from others combine to create a useful, beautiful, and enduring structure. Teamwork is the basic recipe for success. We have found it to be similar with our soul, that embryo of our future complex spiritual being.

In 2002, we returned to Poland and created our own corporation, working with other professionals to offer architectural services on a project-to-project basis. This allowed us to help Jan’s mother as she entered her 100th year and support ourselves while freeing up time to fly back and forth to Poland to care for our aging parents.

Despite her age and Catholic upbringing, Jan’s mother openly accepts information about the universe and is reading *The Urantia Book* herself, sometimes asking for clarification on the more complex topics. Her attitude toward life has changed and she is no longer afraid of death.

Our experiences with assisting our parents have helped us temper our own reactions, learn patience, and consider the views and needs of others. Humility and service have led us to appreciate the still, small voice that helps us reason with ourselves and build better ways of reacting to everyday experiences.

Our journey to find *The Urantia Book* has been like our shared career—complex, challenging, and ultimately rewarding. These are the mirrors in which our soul is reflected. With a strong soul base created in such extreme universe circumstances, we are the luckiest beings in creation!
ANNOUNCEMENTS

There is still time to register for two conferences!

Urantia Association’s International Conference

Nature and Nurture of the Soul

March 28–31, 2024

Nourish your soul with study, camaraderie, and worship. A special program is planned for children and teens, so bring the whole family. The event will conclude with an Easter Sunday group worship.

Stay longer for sightseeing and the famed Washington, D.C., cherry blossoms!

https://uaus.urantia-association.org/about-us/events/

IGNITING THE WORD

SUMMER STUDY SESSION

July 24–27, 2024

Unity Village, Missouri

The Fellowship’s Education Committee presents “Igniting the Word: Teaching the Truths of The Urantia Book” at Unity Village in Lee’s Summit—just outside Kansas City, Missouri.

Register now! https://www.urantiabook.org/sss24
Urantia Foundation Education Committee presents

The Marriage and Family Adventure!
An Online Symposium

Friday and Saturday, June 14–15, 2024

Join us as we examine the rich tapestry of marriage and family as viewed in *The Urantia Book*, academia, and personal experience. This enlightening and comprehensive series of presentations will explore the multifaceted aspects of relationships, unions, and familial dynamics.

Our goal is to offer inspiration and guidance for individuals and families seeking to navigate the complexities of human relationships, which are the most spiritual of adventures.

Our panel of presenters includes Chuck and Angie Thurston; Alice Wood and Vicki Arkens; Brad Garner and Ruthie Wilde; Marvin Gawryn; Guy Perron and Agnès Lazar; Stephanie “Stevie” Schaefer; and trustees Gard Jameson, Georges Michelson-Dupont, Olga López, and Chris Wood, who will be joined by his band of brothers.

Each live webinar session will be 30 minutes long, followed by an interactive panel discussion. Emcees Bill and Share Beasley will infuse the event with experiential wisdom and humor.

Mark your calendars now. Additional details will be emailed in early May.

If you received this newsletter, you should get future notifications. If you are not yet on our mailing list, go to [www.urantia.org](http://www.urantia.org) and look for Subscribe on the left-hand side of the page.

Mustard Seed Grants Program

Reminder!
The Mustard Seed Grants Program is accepting grant applications through March 20, 2024.

[https://www.urantia.org/urantia-foundation/mustard-seed-grants-program](https://www.urantia.org/urantia-foundation/mustard-seed-grants-program)