

UBIS Newsletter

ubis.urantia.org/moodle

Volume 4 > Issue 1

2014 > 1st Quarter

Questioning and Sharing - The Teaching Method of UBIS

In the introduction of Paper 106, a Nebadon Melchizedeck writes: “Man’s terrestrial orientation, his cosmic insight, and his spiritual directionization are all enhanced by a better

comprehension of universe realities and their techniques of interassociation, integration, and unification.”
(1162.1) 106:0.1

The objective of the revelators is clearly to invite the study of *The Urantia Book* in order to “...expand cosmic consciousness

and enhance spiritual perception...of every mortal who may peruse these papers.”
(1.2-3) 0:0.2-3

The cosmology of *The Urantia Book* is intended to help us find our place in the universe and to help us progress spiritually as truly enlightened children of God.

It is not appropriate for UBIS to interfere with man’s personal spiritual experience or to deliver an official interpretation of the teachings and doctrines of *The Urantia Book*. At the same time, how can the UBIS Teacher-Facilitators (T-F) assist readers in the study of *The Urantia Book* without involvement with a student’s religion?

This is the challenge UBIS faces in preparing an environment for the students to live a first-hand experience with the Urantia Papers.

The UBIS approach is to enhance the spiritual perception of the students by providing 1) a tool (the UBIS website), 2) study materials (papers of *The Urantia Book*), 3) support and guidance (T-F, mentors), and 4) a pedagogy.

The UBIS pedagogy is Jesusonian in that



The Banjo Lesson by Henry Ossawa Tanner

it is based on questioning and sharing in a non-invasive, non-coercive, and non-interpretive manner.

(continued on page 2, see “Teaching Method”)

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Dear Urantia Book Readers and Students...

**Urantia Book Internet School
(UBIS)**

urantia@urantia.org

<http://ubis.urantia.org/moodle>

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*See page 5
for basic
information
about using
the new
Moodle site.*



UBIS Newsletter

Teaching Method *(continued from page 1)*

The pedagogy encourages personal study, research, and exploration. It is respectful of people's free will. The T-F offers a topic for study, and he or she asks questions. The T-F also suggests the reading of appropriate paragraphs of *The Urantia Book*, paragraphs or sections that relate to the question.

Reading those selected paragraphs potentially empowers the student to comprehend by and for himself or herself the revelatory teachings of the authors.

The T-F allows the words of the revelators to speak for themselves.

The Dynamics of Questioning and Sharing

In the typical university classroom, the teacher lectures, and the students take notes and regurgitate the contents of the notes on the tests. Such education leads students to passive listening and to memorization. But if students are allowed to ask questions, the



The Artists' Luncheon by Peter Severin Krøyer

students become active participants in the educational process. And when this active participation is supplemented by reading and discussing selected paragraphs from *The Urantia Book*, the student can experience new truths. Furthermore, sharing the experience of new truths with other truth seekers benefits the students as individuals and as a group.

The Value of UBIS

UBIS uses e-learning, that is, electronic media and information-and-communication technologies (ICT), as the school's means to teach *The Urantia Book*.

UBIS online classes eliminate time and distances and enable readers, especially isolated readers, from all over the world to enjoy the study and sharing of *The Urantia Book*. An indication of the school's

value is the enthusiastic feedback and the expressions of gratitude that we receive from students.

Because there is no face-to-face interaction between UBIS teachers and students, one might think that "electronic" classes (e-classes) are impersonal, and that the flavor of brotherhood and spirituality are missing. But remember that the personality-gravity circuit of the Father operates far beyond the physical level of sight and voice. A Divine Counselor states: "Any person, human or divine, may be known and comprehended quite apart from the external reactions or the material presence of that person. (30.3) 1:6.4

As a matter of fact, experience demonstrates that we do not need to see the authors of *The Urantia Book* or the participants of an online class in order to



Photos courtesy of shutterstock.com



UBIS 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.

enjoy intellectual intimacy, communion of spirit, and cosmic fellowship with them.

Reading and sharing personal spiritual experiences with others is inspiring, and I am always moved by the desire of all UBIS students to understand God, to love God, and to seek his will. This pedagogy of questioning and sharing, I venture to say, promotes the efforts of the Thought Adjuster and the Spirit of Truth.

Questioning causes tension between the mind seeking for truth and the divine fragment revealing truth. This tension is resolved by the emergence of new perspectives and increased understanding of spiritual realities, which, in turn, enhances human life and renews the desire to live eternal values in a growing experience in and with spiritual realities.

Questioning has something in common with worship: It helps us seek a better understanding of the will of God. It is an experience combining four levels of reality: mindal, morontial (soul), spiritual (the Thought Adjuster), and personality. We should, however, keep in mind the following advice: "Ask and you shall receive."

Let us remember that we are creatures of time and space, works-in-progress; therefore must we constantly reckon with the time-space factor in the experience of our personal reception of the full answers to our manifold questions.

Conclusion

Like the revelators, we are aware of the difficulty of the task at hand, the task to share *The Urantia Book* and its teachings with our fellows, but we know "...that there dwells within the human mind a fragment of God, and that there sojourns with the human soul the Spirit of Truth; and we further know that these spirit forces conspire to enable material man

to grasp the reality of spiritual values and to comprehend the philosophy of universe meanings. But even more certainly we know that these spirits of the Divine Presence are able to assist man in the spiritual appropriation of all truth contributory to the enhancement of the ever-progressing reality of personal religious experience — God-consciousness." (17.2) 0:12.13

The Thought Adjuster comes from the very source of truth. Indeed, he is the truth in us.

It is comforting to know that he has a plan for our spiritual careers, a plan which he invites us with infinite love to discover: The law of the universe is: "Ask and it shall be

given you; seek and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened to you." (1838.3) 167:5.2

Do we truly comprehend the significance of these statements? I think not, not yet.

The Father removes our fears and illuminates our sufferings with renewed hope. "When man consecrates his will to the doing of the Father's will, when man gives God all that he has, then does God make that man more than he is." (1285:3) 117:4.14

Georges Michelson-Dupont
UBIS Director



Heavenly Hands by Greg Olsen



Things to Know*

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

[Click Here](#)
for more information
about UBIS.

January, 2014

6-19 January trimester registration.

20 January 10-week trimester begins (continues until March 30.)



Following are the courses and Teacher-Facilitators for the January session. For the most recent information, visit ubis.urantia.org/moodle

1. Course Title: Religion in Human Experience

Course Description: The evolution of religion from primitive to modern man is an integral part of man's ascension to Paradise. Each prior generation, individually and as a group, contributes to the next generation's climb on the upward spiritual ladder. In this course we shall better define and understand what constitutes religion, so as to help us now, in the present. We shall examine the advantages of the gift of revelation from the divine to quicken man's natural evolution toward perfection, to help his eternal journey toward Paradise, and to find the Eternal Father.

Papers: 100, 101, 102, and 103

Teacher-Facilitator: Susan Auyang
Susan has been a practicing chiropractor since 1985 in Marin County, California. She graduated from UCLA in 1971 with a bachelor's degree in psychology followed by one year of graduate school studying school psychology at San Francisco State University. She did not complete the graduate program but instead went into the chiropractic profession. In 1984, she

graduated from Palmer Chiropractic College. She has two adult-age children. *The Urantia Book* has been a part of her life since 1978.

2. Course Title: The Son of Man: A Focus on the Human Jesus (ages 14 through 29)

Course Level: New Reader

Course Description: When living on Urantia, Jesus was both human and divine, the Son of Man and Son of God. In this study we shall focus on Jesus, the Son of Man, from ages 14 through 29. We shall examine how Jesus spent his teenage years to the time just before his baptism, before he had achieved total union with his Thought Adjuster.

Papers: 126, 127, 128, 129

Teacher-Facilitator: Susan Flacks
A children's librarian living in Trenton, NJ, Susan is married and has one son. She discovered *The Urantia Book* in 1974 in a college library and has been reading it ever since.

3. Course Title: The Lucifer Rebellion—Adversity and the Triumph of Love and Mercy

Course Description: The purpose of this course is to examine how the Lucifer rebellion has contributed to the adversity that is experienced on our planet. We can better understand this adversity by studying the origin and development of the Lucifer rebellion. *The Urantia Book* offers us intimate detailed description of the events of the rebellion, the problems that emerged, the individuals responsible, and in the end, the eventual triumph of love and mercy.

Papers: 66, 67, 53 and 54

Teacher-Facilitator: Charlene Lutes, Ph.D.

Charlene is a retired college director with careers as a journalist and communications specialist. She is an avid reader and writer. She and her husband have five children living in five different states. She has been a Urantia Book reader since the 1970s and has most recently studied *The Urantia Book* in greater depth.

4. Course Title: The Soul—Offspring of Divine Spirit and Material Mind

Course Description: One vital creative and divine process during our short journey on Urantia is the birth, evolution, and development of our souls. Jesus commented to an inquiring Greek scholar, "The soul is the self-reflective, truth-discerning, and spirit-perceiving part of man which forever elevates the human being above the level of the animal world. " We shall spend the next several weeks deepening our understanding of the experience of our own souls, as we consider their origin, nature, and destiny.

Papers: Foreword, Section V, and sections from Papers 133, 108, 34, 110, 103, 132, 111, 100, 101, 112, 160, 193 and 196

Teacher-Facilitator: Marta Elders
Marta has been a student of *The Urantia Book* since 1970. It informs and inspires every aspect of her life. She lives in Connecticut with her husband, Dave, where she is a wife, mother, grandmother, friend, seeker, and clinical psychologist.



Things to Know*

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5. Course Title: Our Quest for Consciousness

Level: Advanced

Course Description: This course will guide us to a better understanding of what is involved in the great challenge to modern man; to achieve better communication with the divine presence within, and to understand man's greatest adventure in the flesh, his adventure from self-consciousness to God-consciousness through soul-consciousness.

Papers: This course will explore carefully selected readings from 20 Papers located in all four parts of *The Urantia Book*. A specific reading list by period will be sent to each student before the course begins and at the start of each course period.

Teacher-Facilitator: Guy Perron
Originally from Montreal, Canada, Guy is now living in Las Vegas for the major part of the year. He is the father of three daughters ages 23, 24, and 25. He has been a devoted student of *The Urantia Book* since 2000. Guy is a spiritual therapist and teaches spiritual philosophy and spiritual psychology.



Teacher-Facilitator Training
The annual 2014 Teacher Training Class dates are yet to be determined. If you are interested, please contact UBIS.



What Students Write...

"[Our T-F] is a gifted teacher who was obviously well prepared and has had extraordinary experience with the subject matter....The class ran so smoothly that I could tell he spent many an hour working on its success."

Using the Moodle Site

Dear Urantia Book Readers and Students,

After a year of development and customization, our UBIS team has the great pleasure to inform you of our migration to a new UBIS website platform. Moodle is an online, multilingual e-learning platform developed under an open-source license. More than 80,000 universities around the world are using it daily. This user-friendly, modern based technology incorporates many new handy features that we may develop and offer in the future.

Concerning the unfolding of a UBIS course, the new site works basically like the former website except that it is much more reliable and runs on all operating systems. This January trimester is our first real test. We ask you to give your feedback using our end-of-course questionnaire. To register for a course on the new UBIS Moodle homepage, click "Create new account." Should you experience technical difficulties please let us know using the following email address: joanne@urantia.org

Our UBIS team wishes you a pleasant and fruitful experience.

URL of the UBIS Moodle website: <http://ubis.urantia.org/moodle/>

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 Urantia Book* in its entirety, and be recommended by their T-Fs.

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

If you cannot teach at this time but would like to help in some other way...

UBIS needs loyal readers to serve in many other capacities. Please let us know how you might be willing to help.

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