

A Tribute to UBIS Founder Dorothy Elder



By Georges Michelson-Dupont, UBIS Director, shown with Dorothy Elder

I met Dorothy for the first time at an event in Los Angeles in 1997. We had dinner at the same table and shared our vision for the future of the Urantia movement and the various possibilities for service that we could render individually and also collectively to the community of readers of *The Urantia Book*. I was really impressed by the depth of her thinking, her vision of the future, her desire to serve, and the experience she had gained throughout her lifetime of social involvement. Her unequivocal support for Urantia Foundation left

me with a feeling of great loyalty. As we parted, I thought that this woman had a charisma, for in her person there was a natural authority.

We met again in 1998 during an international conference in Helsinki. I was attracted by the charm and kindness of her personality. I knew Dorothy wanted to be socially involved, so I opened up to her about my plan to create a school using this new technology called the Internet. It would allow isolated readers around the world to study and share the teachings of *The Urantia Book* with others. This is where we came up with the format and pedagogy of the school and the name Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS). I could not imagine how much she would enjoy this adventure!

A few months later the project became a reality. Dorothy had recruited several of her friends, and the first course was launched in January 1999 in an Internet discussion group format. Dorothy had set up the school's structure with different departments, as well as a training program for facilitators.

Dorothy and Jay Peregrine, executive director of Urantia Foundation, started with an email list which ran on the Foundation's website. They added some static pages onto the website where students could go for basic information, then used the email

list for communications, including class discussions. Written responses to questions were submitted directly to Dorothy, who then compiled them by hand, posting them to the email list when the time was right.

A lot of time was spent in those early days "getting it right." Dorothy was insistent that proper pedagogical procedures were followed at all times. Everyone knows that the most difficult part of any project is the startup, and she succeeded beyond all expectations. A few years later, thanks to a generous donor, Dorothy had the opportunity to design a specific website for the school. With the help of a paid professional, UBIS became a real online school.

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Urantia Book Internet School

ubis.urantia.org

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A lot of time was spent in those early days "getting it right." ~ Georges Michelson-Dupont

Dorothy and the other team members have maintained the development of the school. But without Dorothy's vision and commitment, this idea would have remained at the intention stage. She actualized a potential, and thousands of students around the world are grateful to her because of the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the teachings of a revelation in a fraternal setting, free of charge. Dorothy dedicated twelve years of daily commitment before retiring, and her tenacity and determination have borne much fruit of the spirit.

Today, UBIS reaches five continents with courses given in English, Spanish, French, and Portuguese.

On behalf of the Trustees and Associate Trustees of Urantia Foundation I thank her from the bottom of my heart for all she has done for the dissemination of the teachings of *The Urantia Book* around the world.



*Judy Cosky,
UBIS board
member and
facilitator*

Certainly without Dorothy's strong devotion to education, her love for the Urantia Revelation, and her fierce loyalty to our pedagogy, we would not have the extraordinary UBIS that continues to progressively evolve today. Thank you, Dorothy, for the visionary gift that you shared not only with me personally, but also with each one of us who participates in these phenomenal courses that continue to radiate truth, beauty,

and goodness to so many thirsty souls all over the globe! One bright candle can light up an entire universe!



*Dave Elders,
UBIS board
member and
facilitator*

Every once in a while a person appears on our reality stage with an idea and an unwavering will to implement that idea. Of course there is help from others, some perhaps equally committed. But the motivating, creative force arises from within a single personality who has seen something others have missed. The idea exists at first in potential only. Its conversion to actuality requires the decisions and actions of personality choosing. Dorothy Elder is just such a personality whose choices helped actualize a new reality pathway. UBIS is the resulting road that now others may travel.

Through the many travails that challenge us during our life here on this world, Dorothy persisted in her commitment to our revelation. UBIS is the fruit of that persistence and a gift to those who seek the truths delivered to us by the revelators. New revelation is often a surprise to us because it confronts us with the challenge to experience and perceive new truths that our past experience with truth could no longer illuminate. Epochal revelation, a planned element of the Father's design for the realization of unity perfection, is required. UBIS, with its pedagogy of the self-discovery of such new and revealed truth, packaged in a methodology that supports such a pedagogy, was Dorothy's inspiration. Evolved over time, UBIS is the legacy

Dorothy has gifted to Urantia Book truth seekers worldwide.

We thank her for her inspiration, her will, her persistence, and her determination. True, she couldn't have done it alone. But those who helped could not have done it without her either.



*Marta Elders,
UBIS board
member and
facilitator*

My first experiential introduction to UBIS was via Dorothy when I had the pleasure and challenge of taking a course titled "A Study of Seraphim" which she offered in 2010. Of course it was stimulating and exciting: what isn't when one is seriously studying *The Urantia Book* and open to its teachings. But it was really the way in which Dorothy facilitated the course and inspired us students that was most gratifying and motivating. She was gentle and firm and always encouraged us to find our own truths in the teachings, articulate them in our own words, and share them with one another. She was ever respectful and curious, urging us to look deeper into what we had discovered, knowing that there was endlessly more to be found. I am ever grateful to her for this experience and eventual involvement. She is an inspiration and a mentor. She lives in the bones of UBIS.

Thank you so very much, Dorothy!



UBIS is the legacy Dorothy has gifted to Urantia Book truth seekers worldwide.

**Dorothy's name means "gift of God," and she surely was a gift to me.
~ Susan Flacks**

Pam Maunakea, UBIS board member and facilitator

When Dorothy went "fishing" for people to help with her mission to develop UBIS, I was fortunate to have been caught in her net. I wasn't sure why she selected me, but ever since then, she has been my lifeline to growth and understanding of myself and others. Dorothy will be the first person I will want to see when we all gather on the mansion worlds.



Susan Flacks, UBIS board member and facilitator

I discovered UBIS in 2002 and signed up for a course with Dorothy. That's where my connection with UBIS started, and that's when Dorothy took me under her wing. After I completed several courses, she invited me to a meeting at Urantia Foundation in Chicago. There I met many individuals dedicated to the development of the school, and most importantly, I met Dorothy. She explained to me that she was always "fishing" for people who wanted to contribute in some way to UBIS. And she smiled when she suggested that she had caught me.

Dorothy's name means "gift of God," and she surely was a gift to me. When I doubted that I had a part to play in the great mission of developing a school that could share *The Urantia Book* with the whole world, she assured me that I did. And she put me to work doing it. One step at a time she has kept UBIS on a path toward fulfilling its mission. I can only begin to imagine the obstacles she has encountered along the way. Her dedication to the truth revealed in *The Urantia Book*, and her determination to build and protect UBIS, have remained



*L to R, Front: Pam Maunakea, Dorothy, and Jane Ploetz
Back: Susan Flacks and Polly Friedman*

steadfast through all the years. She fearlessly tackled the part she was given. And she helped me believe that I had a part too. I will be forever grateful. Dorothy, you are a true pioneer!



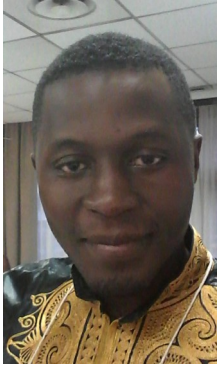
*Dennis Sword,
UBIS board member and facilitator*

I first met Dorothy Elder online as a

student in two of her many UBIS courses. I was inspired by her loving dedication to sharing the knowledge of *The Urantia Book* with groups of diverse readers in a way that was inclusive of different cultures and levels of understanding. I was blessed to be asked to participate in Dorothy's class for new facilitators and have enjoyed being a part of the UBIS organization since then. I am very grateful for Dorothy's influence in the effort of founding an internet school that has helped so many students find a greater understanding of the ministry and mercy of our Universal Father.

I now find my personal life flourishing as I go forward with courage toward my goals.
~ Guy Stéphane Nyasse

The UBIS Experience



By Guy Stéphane Nyasse, Douala, Cameroun

The Urantia Book was given to me in 2012, and I read it alone for three years. It was a personal choice; I did not want to be influenced by

anyone else. I wanted to develop my own point of view on these wonderful teachings. After being convinced within myself of the value of this revelation, I began to look for other readers. It is very curious that I had never been aware of the Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS), even though it had been promoted for several years on the Foundation's website. I discovered UBIS in 2015 when I read a physical book for the first time. On the publisher page there was mention of the internet link for UBIS.

I knew no one who was reading the book, and today I realize I really missed out on the benefits of participating in a group at the time. Yet, as much as I was reading alone, I could see that *The Urantia Book* represented a magnificent book of history, cosmology, psychology, philosophy, and religion. But I did not live my religion. How does one live it? I got a taste of the freedom it offered, for its wonderful teachings had freed me from the fear of ghosts, from rituals, and from prejudices about our salvation. Nevertheless, I was missing the fraternal religious connection.

In my youth, I experienced religious

life in an organization, as I had belonged to a community, the Jehovah's Witnesses, which I felt was characterized by total control of my life. Later, at the dawn of my adulthood, I was involved with another organization, Sahaj Marg, whose members are totally uninterested in the life of their brothers. It was even recommended by the preceptor, who is somewhat like a priest, not to have a private, personal relationship with other members of the Ashram, for fear of creating a dependency between ourselves. So I was sufficiently curious as well as full of prejudices about what I might find in the Urantia Book Internet School. I was also really happy to move on to the next level of study of these unique teachings!

In April 2015 I enrolled in two unforgettable classes: "True Religion" taught by Guy Perron and "The Inescapable Command" taught by Georges Michelson-Dupont. I was curious and enthusiastic. From the first session, I flooded the class with my many questions. I received pleasant feedback from my sisters and brothers, from my fellow students.

The readers of *The Urantia Book* in my classes were full of benevolence. The fifth epochal revelation speaks truly when it tells us that our points of view are limited and narrow, and now I saw that had been the case with me.

It is overwhelming to discover, for the first time, people in a community that live its teachings. The sisters and brothers in my classes did not pull me down to a lower level. On the contrary, my youth (twenty-six years at the time) and my environment (Cameroun) seemed to give a lot of flavor to my answers, and my sisters and brothers from other continents were struck by this difference. I found a friendly environment where I could flourish. And I did flourish.

These courses coincided with a very difficult period of my life. I was wondering how religion could help me to solve these problems. And all these exchanges brought me consolation and comfort.

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UBIS Newsletter

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.

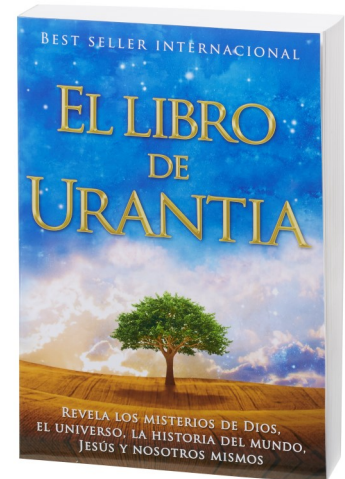
With the opportunity to serve comes great responsibility, which demands discipline. As a facilitator, you must commit to weeks of personal time. You must also conduct in-depth research to prepare reference and support materials for the better visualization and understanding of the subject being studied, 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.



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. ~ Erika Webster

Registration begins on Monday, September 11
Courses begin on Monday, September 25

September 2017 Trimester

Following are the courses for the September session. For the most current information, visit ubis.urantia.org.



1. True Religion—Nurturing Spiritual Growth

Level: New to Intermediate

Papers: 91, 100, 102, and 103

Description: This course will explore religion as it relates to spirituality in the human experience. We will explore how our own view of religion and prayer helps us to grow toward spiritual maturity. We will examine what fertile ground looks like for spiritual development, and we will share signposts in our lives that show we have an eternal destiny.



Facilitator:
Charlene Lutes

Charlene is retired from careers as a journalist and a communications instructor and program

director of a community college. An avid reader and writer, she and her husband have five adult children. She has been a reader of *The Urantia Book* since the 1970s, and her retirement has afforded her the opportunity for the last four years to study in greater depth.

2. The God and Human Connection—True Religion and the Faith of Jesus

Level: All Readers

Papers: 101, 110, 160, and 196

Course: Religion is a human experience ranging from primitive fear of a God of retribution to a conscious, evolutionary process of sonship with our loving Universal Father. We will explore the simultaneous distance from and closeness to God as we ascend towards him with the assistance of the Thought Adjuster, the Spirit of Truth, and increasing personal faith experience modeled on the faith Jesus himself experienced.



Facilitator: Jesus Rivera

Jesus Rivera lives in Miami, Florida. He is a college professor and has studied

The Urantia Book for several years. He has been teaching spirituality for over two decades, both personally and online, to encourage seekers' passion for God.



3. Divinely Designed Patterns of Evolution—Our Planetary Narrative

Course: All Readers

Papers: 49, 50, 51, and 52

Description: This course will broaden our perspective of Urantia's place and development in the local universe, a perspective very limited due to our current isolation status caused by the Lucifer rebellion and the default of Adam and Eve. These Papers reveal that Nebadon's evolving inhabited planets are grouped by physical types, different series of spiritual function, and various kindred cosmic relationships. We will gain a greater appreciation for the great diversity of intentional evolutionary design that "provides certain very desirable variations in mortal types and affords an otherwise unattainable expression of diverse human potentials." 51:4.4 (584.6)



Facilitator:
Bruce Johnson

Bruce was introduced to *The Urantia Book* in Colorado when he was twenty-

one years old. He is now retired from psychiatric nursing and lives in Ithaca, New York, where he enjoys a wonderful study group, and of course, learning from UBIS classes.

Registration begins on Monday, September 11

Courses begin on Monday, September 25



4. Jesus' Second Year of Public Ministry, A.D. 28

Level: All Readers

Papers: 146, 147, 148, and 149

Description: This course follows Jesus and his apostles throughout their second year of public ministry. We will explore together how Jesus' superb teaching methods provided unique instruction for his apostles while at the same time he engaged the spiritual interests of a wide spectrum of followers, ranging from legal scholars and learned Pharisees to the least educated common folk of his day. We will observe how he utilized teaching moments as he passed by, confounded and disarmed his enemies by his parables, and established a pattern for socializing the gospel at the Bethsaida Hospital, a new school of the prophets, and the seaside camp.



Facilitator: Jetta Rattigan

Jetta's academic background is in public administration, and her profession was in healthcare

administration. She is a mother and grandmother, roles that she loves and treasures deeply. She has been reading *The Urantia Book* for over twenty years and has taken multiple UBIS courses. She feels honored to be serving as your facilitator.

5. Power—Personality Synthesis Leading to Perfection in the Universe

Level: Advanced

Papers: Foreword, 104, 105, and sections from 115, 116, 117

Description: This study will guide us in an exciting exploration of the purpose of the I AM whose personal expression is "be you perfect as I am perfect." By heartfelt acceptance of this divine command, we shall see how the Creators and the creatures succeed, age after age, to actualize universal destinies through the power-personality synthesis.



Facilitator: Georges Michelson-Dupont

Georges is retired from the manufacturing industry. He and his wife, both long-time readers, live near Fontainebleau in the Paris area where they run study groups and organize seminars.

6. Personality—A Unique Gift from God

Level: Advanced

Papers: 1, 56, 112, and sections from Foreword, 5, 12, and 16

Description: This course involves an in-depth study of what personality is by defining its attributes, how it functions, where it originates, and its destiny; a fascinating probe into the realities of eternal individuality. Participation requires a devotion to and perseverance with newly revealed concepts. A good knowledge of *The Urantia Book* is helpful.



Facilitator: Ray Gardini

Formerly a small business entrepreneur, Ray is retired and lives in Akron, Ohio.

He attended

Borromeo Seminary, studied at the L'Universite de Montpellier, graduated from Jesuit-John Carroll University, is a Vietnam veteran, and has been a reader of *The Urantia Book* since 1986.



Don't Miss Out!

To receive email notifications about UBIS and other educational programs, please join the [Urantia Foundation mailing list](#).

7. The Thought Adjuster— Our Passport to Eternity

Short Course!

Level: All Readers

Papers: 107 and 108

Description: One of the most profound revelations of *The Urantia Book* is what we are taught about the Thought Adjusters. This course is a study of the Divine Presence indwelling each of us. What are Thought Adjusters? Where do they come from? What do they create in us? What is their ministry? What is their mission? How can we collaborate with them?



Facilitator:
Guy Perron

Guy has been a devoted student of *The Urantia Book* since 2000 and has worked

vigilantly and diligently ever since to put into practice and share its incomparable teachings in his daily living.



UBIS Around the World

UBIS is recognized worldwide as a vector of knowledge and convergence. Many isolated readers appreciate being able to communicate and share the teachings of *The Urantia Book*. Students from the following countries have taken courses in these languages.

English: Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Colombia, Cyprus, France, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Italy, Lebanon, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, the Philippines, Romania, Russia, South Africa, Taiwan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and the United States.

French: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Cote d'Ivoire, France, French Polynesia, Haiti, New Caledonia, Senegal, Tahiti, and the United States.

Portuguese: Angola, Brazil, and Portugal.

Spanish: Argentina, Austria, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Italy, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Puerto Rico, Spain, the United States, and Venezuela.

Using the UBIS Website

ubis.urantia.org

To register for a course on the UBIS homepage for the first time, click "Create new account." Save your username and password for current and future trimesters. When registration opens, you may log in to request enrollment in the course of your choice. Please contact us about any questions at the following email address: joanne@urantia.org.

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. Our UBIS team wishes you a pleasant and fruitful experience!



Spanish, French, and Portuguese Courses

To see the Spanish, French, and Portuguese courses available this trimester, please visit the Spanish, French, and Portuguese websites:

www.urantia.org/es

www.urantia.org/fr

www.urantia.org/pt

