



URANTIA FOUNDATION'S NEWS ONLINE

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THE ROAD AHEAD



By Mo Siegel, President, Urantia Foundation, Colorado, USA

To us mere mortals, life on Urantia feels fast and fluid. The rate at which things are changing is enough to take your breath away. Everywhere you turn economic, environmental, and social readjustments abound. When *The Urantia Book* was published on October 12, 1955, only two billion people lived on Earth. Today the world's population exceeds six billion and is projected to exceed nine billion by 2040.

If one considers the rapid growth of world populations, juxtaposed with the economic expansion of China and India, life in the next 30 years will certainly be different from life in the previous thirty years. These are times of unprecedented change, but if you follow the trends of the last 500 years, life is better today than it has ever been. A hundred

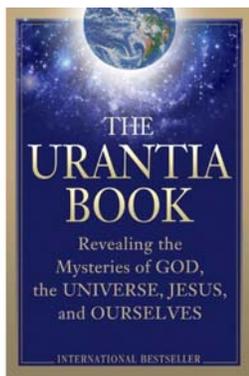
years from now people will likely look back and marvel at the progress made since 2009.

How does *The Urantia Book* fit into this rapidly changing and advancing world? Some believe that the Revelators started planning for *The Urantia Book's* appearance around 700 years ago. The book says that the text was put into the English language in 1934 and 1935. When they planned and commissioned the creation of *The Urantia Book*, be it 700 or 70 years ago, the Revelators operated with a long-term plan for our world. *The Urantia Book* was given to us so that society would be gradually leavened and the world turned right side up! Today's accelerating change probably comes as little surprise to them. They knew where this world had come from and could foresee the road ahead.

I've heard it humorously said that it's a shame the Urantia Revelation didn't come with a companion booklet titled "How to Run a Revelation." For the social groups, finding the path forward is more difficult than it is for Urantia Foundation. In the Religion Papers 99-103, Melchizedek promises that each and every individual can personally find and experience the heavenly Father for themselves. These Papers articulate the strengths and dangers of institutional religion.

After reading them, you're certain that religionists need to share with one another, but you're just not sure how that should happen. New forms of enlightened spiritual communities will emerge, but for now, our most successful social experiences occur at local study groups. Today more than 500 study groups meet around the world, and it's likely that within the next 30 years the number will increase to at least 1000. If that happens, real and significant social progress will have occurred for the Urantia Revelation. Today's active study groups germinate the seeds of a greater social and religious expression yet to emerge.

For Urantia Foundation, the work sitting on our desks seems very straight forward, and we invite you to join us in these tasks. We use the acronym PTPE to keep us on track. The first P stands for protecting *The Urantia Book*, the T stands for translating, the second P for publishing, and the E for education. Today we are distributing books, physically and digitally, in 12 (soon to be 15) languages. Each new translation brings challenges and opportunities for distribution in countries where the book has never appeared. Protection of the fifth epochal revelation also comes from this increased distribution. By



By putting more books in the world, the text finds safety in sheer numbers.

putting more books in the world, the text finds safety in sheer numbers.

Discussing the educational side of our work would make this article much longer. Suffice it to say that sharing the most dramatic intervention in human history in the past 2000 years requires educa-

tion, and Urantia Foundation is committed to this long-term educational challenge.

We are all blessed to be in a remarkable situation because the Fifth Epochal Revelation has been launched during our lifetime. These are the days to remember; these are the days to cherish. Like the early fol-

lowers of Jesus, we have a chance to serve this unstoppable power of good that will one day envelop this world. The Urantia Revelation is here to transform spiritually hungry men and women into faith children of our heavenly Father. It is here to sow the seeds of normalcy and, as a Divine Counselor from Orvonton

states on page 1 of the Foreword, "to expand cosmic consciousness and enhance spiritual perception."

Ma



COUNCIL FOR A PARLIAMENT OF THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS

Parliament of the World's Religions

3-9 DECEMBER 2009 MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA



By Gard Jameson, Treasurer, Urantia Foundation, Nevada, USA

Urantia Foundation has been invited to provide a spiritual offering at the 2009 Parlia-

ment of the World's Religions in Melbourne, Australia from December 3-9, 2009.

Thanks to the good efforts of Kathleen Swadling and many others, there will be a large gathering of readers of *The Urantia Book* at this Parliament. We will have a booth and will provide the book to interested attendees. We are also producing a DVD to introduce the book.

The first Parliament of the World's Religions was held in Chicago in 1893. One hundred years later, in 1993, the second Parliament was held -- again in Chicago.

At this second Parliament, Peter Laurence gave a presentation about *The Urantia Book*, and thanks to Peter and a number of other readers, we are well recognized by the leadership of the Parliament and the leadership of the world interfaith community.

The Parliament of the World's Religions now takes place once every five years and is a unique gathering of kindred spirits from all over the planet. During prior Parliaments, we presented the book to a variety of souls, including Hans Kung (Catholic theologian) in Chicago in 1993, Nelson Mandela and the Dalai Lama in South Africa in 1999, and Jane Goodall and Wayne Teasdale in Barcelona in 2004.

I invite any of you who are interested to join us in Melbourne for this very special event, which is, in my opinion, contributing to the advent of Light and Life on this planet.

For more information, visit CPWR.org.



NOTEWORTHY DECISIONS FROM THE JULY 2009 BOARD MEETING

By Marilyn Kulieke, Secretary, Urantia Foundation, Illinois, USA

1. Urantia Foundation's Book Committee

The Board heard a review of book sales from Jay Peregrine, the Executive Director of Urantia Foundation. In spite of a struggling book industry during this recession, Urantia Book sales for the first six months were up 3%. While this may not seem like a notable increase, staying even with last year's sales is a big accomplishment, let alone having growth. It takes real work to keep the book industry excited about a 54 year-old book, especially during a major economic downturn. We heard inspiring stories about increasing book distribution throughout Europe. We are all beginning to realize that the European history of Urantia Book sales will probably be measured by the pre and post- "Henk and Claire Mylanus" era. These two people have worked wonders increasing book availability in Europe.



The Board approved a plan to preserve and convert the Foundation's audio book tapes into a format suited for the digital age. The new system protects the audio version while allowing us to cre-

ate dense compressed files for quick internet downloading with excellent sound resolution. You will hear much more about this exciting development in the coming months.

2. The Governance Committee

On the recommendation of the Governance Committee, the Board of Trustees of Urantia Foundation took the following actions concerning the Book, Finance, and Translation Committees:

- The Book Committee is a permanent standing committee with an approved charter.
- The charter of the Finance Committee was adopted.
- The Translation Committee is a permanent standing committee.



With activities blossoming across the globe, an increasing number of participating volunteers is required.

With activities blossoming across the globe, an increasing number of participating volunteers is required. We have reached critical mass and need more organizational predictability and processes. These structures will pave the way for the next generation of leadership.

The Board approved a plan and budget for the Foundation's new and improved website.

3. Website Update

The Board approved a plan and budget for the Foundation's new and improved website at www.urantia.org. We expect these improvements to start showing up by December with continued improvements during 2010. Knowing the number of monthly visitors to our site, we anticipate that these improvements will be critically important to the work of Urantia Foundation as we serve the mission of distributing the book and its teachings into the world.

budget needs for 2009 book printings, translations, website improvements, and building upkeep. The Board plans to launch another matching fund-raising campaign toward the end of 2009 along with a grass roots effort for people to donate a dollar a day to Urantia Foundation projects. We need you, we count on you, and we thank you for your generous contributions - no matter how small.

The Board reviewed and approved the financial statements and audits for 2007 and 2008.

5. Standard Reference Text

The Board received the final report from the Standard Reference Text Committee and offered a heart-felt thank you to committee members: Seppo Kanerva (Chairman), Merritt Horn, Marilyn Kulieke, Jay Peregrine, Marvin Gawryn, and Nancy Johnson. Special thanks also go out to all the people who double checked the work, challenged the assumptions, reviewed the recommendations, and modified the proposals. And especially, thanks to Carolyn Kendall for her contributions.

Further consideration of the proposed Standard Reference Text will take place in October of 2009.

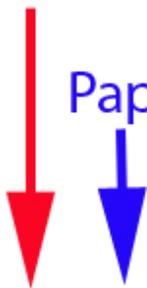
4. Financial Matters

At the end of six months, Urantia Foundation's spending reflects significant budget reductions due to the 2009 recession. While our day to day spending has dropped, there remains large capital

We need you, we count on you, and we thank you for your generous contributions - no matter how small.

Page.Paragraph

Paper:Section.Paragraph



(1258.5)^{114:7.13} (The cosmic reserve corps of universe-conscious citizens on Urantia citizenship far transcends the sphere of their terrestrial abode, but I am forbidden to re human beings.)

(1258.6)^{114:7.14} Urantia mortals should not allow the comparative spiritual isolation of feeling of cosmic desertion or planetary orphanage. There is operative on the planet a and human destinies.

6. Standard Referencing System

The Board adopted the referencing system recommended by the Standard Reference Text Committee for future electronic versions of *The Urantia Book* and its translations. This will allow for a universal methodology for the numbering of paragraphs that will remain consistent in all languages and digital formats such as the internet, digital books, and any other future electronic types of media.

There are three major benefits of a universal digital paragraph numbering system:

1. People can link directly to any specific paragraph in *The Urantia Book* from another website.
2. People can locate any paragraph in the book regardless of what language or edition they are using (for example, the new English iPod book would use the same paragraph referencing system as would the Finnish book which appears on the Foundation's web-

site).

3. All study aids gain referencing consistency and precision searching based on using a universal numbering system.

7. Translation Committee

Trustee Georges Michelson-Dupont, the Manager of Translations, reported on a web-enabled tool to assist teams translating the book and teams revising and correcting existing translations.

Inasmuch as the Swedish translation is nearing completion, Henk and Claire Mylanus will be visiting Sweden to make arrangements for its distribution and storage.

8. Urantia Book Clubs

The Trustees voted to recognize and sell books directly to "Urantia Book Clubs" as a means to introduce the book and distribute it in countries which do not have strong book distribution channels. These clubs will be able to buy books directly from Urantia Foundation in quantities of 10 or more at wholesale

prices.

There are some guidelines, however, in order to avoid undermining the distribution of books in the book market:

1. The club must agree not to sell books to bookstores or any other type of retailer.
2. Book club members have the right to sell books to their families, friends, and other members at whatever price they choose.
3. All orders from book clubs must be prepaid with freight included.
4. Clubs in countries with mature book markets, such as exist in the United States, do not qualify for book club discounts.

The Trustees extend their thanks to Associate Trustee Irmeli Ivalo-Sjölie for encouraging the Board to find a solution for distributing books within countries that do not have established channels of book distribution. Additional thanks go to Nemias Mol from Brazil who echoed the need for different distribution methods. Finally, thanks to Associate Trustee Jan Bernard for seeing this project through.

9. UBIS Website Update

Executive Director Jay Peregrine reported on the significant improvements being made to the website of the Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS). Changes in the website are slated for completion by January 1, 2010. Dorothy Elder, Chairwoman of UBIS, expects that the new software will create an ever increasing positive experience for both students and teachers. We thank the dedicated and generous individuals who anonymously donated the funds to improve the UBIS website.

On Behalf of the Expanded Board Trustees: Gard Jameson, Richard Keeler, Marilynn Kulieke, Georges Michelson-Dupont, Mo Siegel, and Judy Van Cleave.

Associate Trustees: Jan Bernard, Marta Elders, Irmeli Ivalo-Sjölie, Olga Lopez, Claire Mylanus, and Henk Mylanus
Executive Director: Jay Peregrine

"Urantia Book Clubs" will be able to buy books directly from Urantia Foundation in quantities of 10 or more at wholesale prices.

THE HISTORY OF THE HUNGARIAN (MAGYAR) TRANSLATION



By Georges Michelson-Dupont, Trustee and Manager of Translations, Urantia Foundation, Recluse, France

The book must be translated into many tongues.

The Hungarian language is also known as the Magyar language because the Hungarian people were originally an

ethnic group known as the Magyars. The Magyars were one of the tribes of the Huns. Is this why they are called Hungarians?

Linguistically the Hungarian language is a distant relative of the Finnish and Estonian languages.

In December 1999, the translation team, members of which prefer to remain anonymous, attempted to translate the following, which sparked their impulse to translate the entire book: *"...learn to feast upon uncertainty, to fatten upon disappointment, to enthuse over apparent defeat, to invigorate in the presence of difficulties, to exhibit indomitable courage in the face of immensity, and to exercise unconquerable faith when confronted with the challenge of the inexplicable."* (Page 291 - §3) Almost seven years later, in October 2006,

the translation team completed its first draft of the Magyar translation.

In December 2006, a review team was formed and composed of Margo Sherwood, who was born and raised in Hungary, and who is married to long-time reader Will Sherwood; Elmer Teleki, who read about the translation in the *2006 Annual Report of Urantia Foundation*; and István Hargitai, who joined the team in April 2008.

In March 2008, the translation team, the review team, and the Board of Trustees of Urantia Foundation agreed to display the Hungarian translation in HTML format on the Foundation's website.

This year, in May of 2009, almost nine and a half years into the project, the review

team, in cooperation with the translation team, completed their work and made thousands of revisions and corrections. They had reviewed and corrected foreign words and proper names; they had corrected inconsistencies in formatting; they had identified, translated, and inserted missing sentences; and they had checked more than 59,000 occurrences of 511 special words, including units of measurement, proper names, and certain punctuation marks, and had made more than 1,300 special-word corrections.

Ferenc Bucholcz has volunteered to make an independent and final review of the translation. The Hungarian translation is available in HTML format on Urantia Foundation's website at <http://urantia.org/hungarian/>.

INTEREST IN THE CHINESE TRANSLATION



By Paul and Gosia Jaworski, Adelaide, Australia.

Editor's Note: In the last issue of News Online, (Volume 3, Issue 2, June 2009) we highlighted the need for support in translating The Urantia Book into Chinese. Paul and Gosia

Jaworski responded with a hopeful note.

Recently we updated our international website and found new links, in many languages, to informative sites and blogs that are related to *The Urantia Book*. We checked the information on a variety of websites using an automatic translator. The number of these websites is about threefold more than it was in 2004 when we first put our website on the internet. This is very uplifting! For example, in the Chinese section of our website, there was only one link to a related site for several years. Today

there are seven.

To our surprise, we found fragments of a Chinese translation of *The Urantia Book* together with a list of specific terminology of the book in English and Chinese. In the latest Urantia Foundation's News Online (June 2009), an appeal was made to find readers to review the Chinese translation. Maybe some of the people who created those blogs in Chinese will be able to help in this task. Since they translated those fragments of the book, they must speak Chinese and English. On those blogs/forums

some people are very interested in completing the Chinese translation. Unfortunately, we can not contact them because some blogs require registration and login before sending any message. Such registration necessitates at least a basic knowledge of Chinese, which in our case is limited to about ten words.



THE SECOND MILE IN RETROSPECT: THOUGHTS ON THE BOULDER EXPERIMENT



By Chris Wood, New York, USA

Editor's Note: In the last issue of News Online, (Volume 3, Issue 2, June 2009) Chris Wood, a Urantia Book reader from upstate New York wrote an article entitled "The Second Mile as a Community Experience." He organized a conference in Boulder, Colorado with long-time friends Shane C (Colorado, USA) and Michael MacIsaac (Nacka, Sweden).

Trustees Mo Siegel, Richard Keeler, and Marilynn Kulieke attended the conference.

The conference in Boulder was a community experiment. Could a guy from New York, a guy from Sweden, and a guy from Boulder get together and orchestrate a conference with

little but gumption as a replacement for our lack of experience? We were steered by the credo of all well-meaning ignoramuses: If we could do it, then anyone could do it. We organizers had quite a list of expectations, the top of which was to foster an intangible, experiential atmosphere that would soak into, and linger in, the memories of the attendees for lifetimes to come. We were aiming for survival value. Our conference preparation was guided by three philosophies, the wisdom of which, in retrospect, warrants a brief evaluation for anyone out there who wishes to do likewise .

First, there are many good reasons to host a conference. A conference can be

used to launch an initiative, to attract the necessary players to a meeting, or even to help gel a local community which is otherwise scattered. Our membership organizations have conference schedules which provide regular opportunities for readers to get together. But our proposal was for a conference for its own sake. We were not an organization, we had no initiative, and we had no grand meeting; we just like conferences, and we wanted more of them.

Although there were a few skeptics who would squint their eyes and ask, "Who are you, and why are you really doing this?" by and large people were very supportive and turned out for the event. Of the 120 attendees, I estimate at least 60 of them

would not have attended a conference this summer had Boulder not been offered. It was a mixture of the right location on the right weekend. The attendance lent support to the idea that during off years, when not playing host to an international conference, the North American Urantia Community will support multiple regional conferences.

Second, I cannot say if the audience noticed or not, but we decided that the Boulder Conference would be a place for experimentation with the standard conference structure. Some plenary speeches were 10 minutes, others 20, and others 30. We planned a time slot for Sunday morning worship, but specifically did not fill that time until Saturday afternoon, after the con-





ference was in full swing and a "conference identity" had been created. Our workshop list included nature walks, study groups, and a session on the final afternoon reserved for "repeated by popular demand" workshops. The stand-outs for many people were the small discussion groups on Friday afternoon, which made personal a program that too often can seem inaccessible. In general, a regional conference like Boulder was the perfect place for these variations. We had our fair share of successes and flops, a healthy mixture of unexpected joys and panics, but regional conferences are the very place for these experiments.



Third, you may never go broke underestimating people, but you will grow rich depending upon the Urantia Community. A year ago I helped out with the Kansas City Conference, and there we decided that we



would prepare our own breakfasts and lunches. Our plan depended upon people showing up and helping out, and lo and behold, with very little prodding, people stepped up to wash fruit, cut vegetables, and serve eggs. In Boulder we catered the meals but kept the faith that Urantia Book readers would step up and make the conference better. When our music plan fell through, people brought out their banjos and guitars. When our Friday night social location proved difficult, a local couple volunteered their home. If given the opportunity to make a conference better, Urantia Book readers will step right in, and that hands-on involvement actually makes the conference experience better. If given the opportunity, 100 Urantia Book readers will make their own fun as long as you do not stand in their way.



gan as a single idea, but with every idea comes responsibility. In a community of our size, good intentions get lost if not followed by good action. We had a good idea: We love conferences. It had therefore to follow that we were charged, for one summer at least, with adding to the conference schedule. One thing about Jesus' life is that even Jesus sometimes made mistakes, but he spiritualized all of his slip-ups. His entire life had survival value. Any honest evaluation of my average week would reveal so much that is wasted – perhaps not wasted in the material realm but wasted in the realm of the Supreme. But for a few days in the hills of Boulder, our experiences had a much greater universe value. So, I suppose, in that sense, it was a successful conference.

The Boulder Conference be-



REFLECTIONS ON 533 DIVERSEY



By Bert Cobb, Idaho, USA

Around the turn of the century, circa 1900, in Chicago, Illinois, an empty lot sat on the corner of Diversey Parkway and Hampden Court. It was owned by an investor named Augusta Lehmann. On March 19, 1907, Dr. Sylvan Kunz and his wife Myna purchased the lot from Mr. Lehmann with the understanding that they must improve it by building a two- or three-story flat.

Construction began that year, and sometime before the end of 1908, a large greystone

structure had been erected in the style referred to as "Viennese Art Nouveau." The balconies of this stately new residence commanded a view overlooking Diversey Parkway.

Today, 101 years later, the elegant three-story edifice is much the same as it was then. It has a full basement, and each floor measures 2,600 square feet. The freight elevator serves each level and runs from the basement to the roof.

The quality of the detail work



is seen in the hardwood mantles, the wainscoting and banisters, and the stylish light-

fixtures and chandeliers of that era. The structure was ahead of its time, using steel beams as the supporting center walls, with rustic, rough-cut 3" x 12" floor joists.

On October 23, 1919, Annie and Charles Richter purchased the property from the Kunz family. The couple owned it for three years. On May 25, 1922, Dr. William S. Sadler and his wife, Dr. Lena K. Sadler, bought the building, in which they lived, and out of which they operated the Chicago Institute of Research and Diagnosis.

However, the true historical significance of this handsome and fashionable building is what transpired beneath its flat roof and behind its greystone walls. In the following years, God's love swirled around in these spaces, harmonizing with the minds of mortals.

For more than thirty years, angels and midwayers were coming and going as an ep-

ochal revelation was being born.

It was a time of spiritual wonder, and there is still a presence in this old building of all those who labored there through the years. We can only imagine the dedication and focus of the Forum and the Seventy as they struggled with the Urantia Papers to render them as "the word made book" that we know and that benefits us today. 533 Diversey Parkway is a great address of spiritual significance on the planet for this and all future generations.

On December 3, 1970, a probate court transferred the ownership of 533 Diversey Parkway from Dr. William S. Sadler to Urantia Foundation.



EL LIBRO DE URANTIA – EUROPEAN EDITION



By Xavier Francisco, Barcelona, Spain.

I have been reading *The Urantia Book* for nine years. I can still remember the first thoughts that came into my mind after reading the Foreword and the first two or three Papers: "Wow, this is big!" I loved the way the Foreword was written! After I read the first 10 or 15 Papers, I felt that the language in *El libro de Urantia* was less natural to me. As was noted in the cover

page, the translation was being revised and corrected; so I decided to read the English edition.

I started over from the beginning. Again, I loved the Foreword. As I kept reading, I felt that the language was natural - as if someone wanted to make things easy. I must say that English is not my first language; so it was a difficult task for me to read a book of such magnitude in a foreign language, but I noticed that it

was easy. So I kept reading the book in English - until now.

A few days ago I received a copy of *El libro de Urantia: Edición Europea*. For me, reading it was easy; the flow of the text was natural. The names of the different personalities were clear. The grammatical structure of the text was beautiful. I hope that this book will reach more and more people in Spain.

QUEBEC OFFICE CLOSED

By Jay Peregrine, Executive Director, Urantia Foundation, Illinois, USA

On August 20, 2009, Urantia Foundation's branch office in Québec, Canada, was closed after ten years of operations. It was a sad day for the office's co-managers, Richard Doré and Colette Pelletier, but they can look back with pride on a decade of hard work and unselfish service to the promotion of *The Urantia Book* and its teachings in Québec. Most of the work that Richard and Colette did was for the benefit of the French-speaking community in Canada.

Besides managing sales and distribution in francophone Canada, they put on talks and seminars, hosted many gatherings, and attended numerous book fairs. They produced promotional items such as calendars to help boost sales and found and maintained distribution channels for the book.

In today's world the book industry is consolidating and emphasizing efficiency. In the past year the Foundation made the hard decision to centralize Canadian book distribution and to close our two Canadian offices (the Vancouver office was closed

in January). We are sure, however, that Richard and Colette will continue to serve the Urantia Revelation in the new ways that will certainly open up to them in the future. We

wish them well in their ongoing adventure.



Jay Peregrine, Richard Doré and Colette Pelletier

GOD CONSCIOUSNESS: A LIVING UNIVERSITY INSPIRES IN-DEPTH STUDY



By Barbara Newsom, Illinois, USA, and Charles Laurence Olivea, New Mexico, USA

Editors Note: The Education Committee of the Urantia Book Fellowship sponsored their 2009 Study Session at Dominican University in River Forest, Illinois, USA, entitled "God-Consciousness—A Living University. Trustees Gard Jameson, Marilyn Kulieke, and Mo Siegel attended this event.

Have you ever noticed that *The Urantia Book* places definitions of God-consciousness in the last sentence of the Foreword and in the first sentence of the last paragraph of the whole book? With these inspiring words, 116 participants from Canada, Germany, and the United States joined in a study and celebration of the teachings of the fifth epochal revelation.

The conference featured principal themes of God-

consciousness each day: God the Father, our Brothers and Sisters, and our Master Son, Michael. A site on campus served as a Temple of the Father's invisible presence, inspired by the example of the Garden of Eden, where participants gathered for morning and evening meditation.

Paula Thompson (Colorado, USA) coordinated the registration, Barbara Newsom (Illinois, USA) served as program chair, and Lila Dogim (New Jersey, USA) managed logistics. A huge book store was staffed by Mike Wood (Urantia Foundation), Mark Kulieke and Pat Hilger (Morning Star Foundation), and Paula Thompson (Urantia Book Fellowship).

A pre-conference day on Thursday included an Education Workshop on the nature of education and the future of education in our community; "Art in Chicago," a tour of some of Chicago's great art and archi-

tecture; and a Spiritual Retreat.

Friday through Sunday, participants met for a morning plenary session with music, worship and a presentation in the auditorium, followed by two-hour workshops in the morning and afternoon that explored the topics intensively. Twenty faculty members presented far-reaching programs on the daily focus, including such topics as God's Relation to the Individual; God-Consciousness and the "Inevitabilities"; Daily Living and the Purpose of *The Urantia Book*; God-Consciousness in Supremacy, Ultimacy, Absoluteness, and Infinity; God-Consciousness in Art, Architecture, and Literature; the Brotherhood of the Kingdom; Transforming Society; the Power of Unconditional Love; Loving our Enemies; and the Religious Life of Jesus.

"Evangels of Revelation" met

daily to develop their public speaking skills. During feedback sessions at the end of each day, students, not faculty, gave short talks on their respective workshops. Study materials from the conference are being added to the committee's website at www.urantia-education.org.

All workshop leaders expected participants to bring their Urantia Books to the sessions. Several workshop leaders conducted pre-conference study with their study groups and societies; they are also continuing the 2009 theme of study with post-conference study in their local areas. Some of the workshop leaders posted recommended readings prior to the conference. One workshop required pre-registration with

required reading assignments. All these features were well-received, as evidenced from written feedback and evaluations submitted by participants.

The Education Committee of the Urantia Book Fellowship is strongly committed to deepening and broadening the nature of study among students of *The Urantia Book*, having noted that voluntary study becomes a norm by the fifth mansion world for the majority of ascenders. Study of the revelation is a complement to unselfish service and spontaneous worship, also commonplace on the fifth mansion world. To what extent can we actualize these potentials now?

We hope that you will join us

next year to explore these themes and more at Techny Towers, a beautiful retreat center near Lake Michigan in the northern suburbs of Chicago, Illinois, USA, July 21-July 26, 2010. Tour this site

at www.technytowers.org and look for news about the 2010 study conference!



the care of his three children. There will be a memorial service at noon on October 3 at 330 Canyon Crest Drive, Twin Falls, Idaho.

"[Jesus Was a Working Man](#)" was set to music and recorded as a country song.

He sought to live by the profound wisdom and cosmic perspective gleaned from the teachings of *The Urantia Book*. He was a master electrician and volunteered his services at Urantia Foundation headquarters. His favorite pastime was packing his mules and horses into the beautiful high country of the Sawtooth National Forest, and two years ago, I was privileged to accompany him on such a trip. Bert was an ordained minister, a world traveler, a deer and elk hunter (who ate everything he killed), and a cowboy poet. His poem

A few weeks ago, a group of Urantia Book readers celebrated Jesus' birthday at Bert's homestead, which he called "A Place in Time and Space." At this gathering, during Bob Solone's musical performance, I recited a poem that I had composed for this occasion. Several of the attendees encouraged me to share it with all of you in this newsletter, and it is reproduced below.

A POEM FOR BERT COBB



Bert Cobb and Bob Solone

By Tamara Strumfeld, Urantia Foundation, Illinois, USA

Long-time Urantia Book reader Roland 'Bert' Cobb of Jerome, Idaho, is a dear

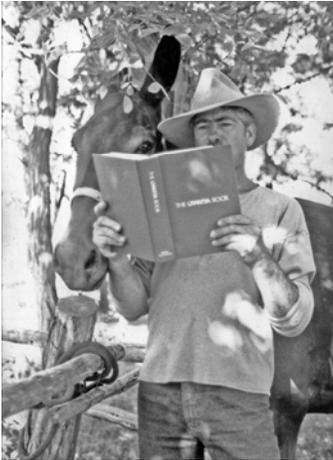
friend of mine and many of us. He graduated with grace and faith from this world during the early morning hours of September 12, 2009. Resting quietly in the house that he built, he spent his last days in

BERTITO BERT BERTIE

I remember the moment when I met Bert
It was summer 2004
We were hosting a conference for the then IUA
I was running *The Urantia Book* store

Well, I saw a man that I hadn't met yet
He had a particular charm
So I went over and told him my name
He just wrapped me in his big lovin' arms

You see, Bert and I had heard of each other
Through friends that we both hold dear
And ever since that opening hug
Our friendship has been most sincere



Bert Cobb, his mule, and *The Urantia Book*

It's only been five years since I've known him
 But we sure have had our fun
 Be it packing into the Little Wood
 Or walking in the Buenos Aires sun

And then there's the weeks we spent in Chicago
 Bert came the past two years
 We decked the halls at 533
 And spread lots of holiday cheer

There were plenty of visits to old Jerome
 The place in time and space
 Glorious walks in the Snake River Canyon
 Bertie always kept a good pace

Delicious meals, laughter, all our good jokes
 I could go on all day
 Cause when it comes to my Bertie
 There's just so much to say

But there were also times of silence
 That Bertie and I did share
 Times of loving worship
 Meditation and prayer

We both do love the Father
 At the center of all things
 And we thank him for the peace of mind
 That knowing him does bring

We also love this special time
 Of the present revelation
 It sure binds up the broken souls
 With its spiritual medication

It sheds great light on what's to come
 The plan of our Ascension
 And how God draws us to his breast
 Through spiritual tension

It also tells of worlds advanced
 That in death there is no grieving
 But I must honestly confess
 I'm sad that Bert is leaving

How I'll miss our conversations
 We had several times each week
 Sharing details of our daily lives
 And higher values that we seek

But there's also comfort in my heart
 And joy for the occasion
 Bertie's embarking upon an exciting trip
 With a glorious destination



We'll all be going there as well
 When our time arrives
 We're headed to the Mansion Worlds
 Ever beckoning on high

It's grand to think of you awakening
 And getting settled down up there
 Your soul housed in a morontia body
 Withstanding plenty of wear and tear

So until our next reunion
 The Master's peace be close to heart
 I wish you Godspeed, my friend
 I love you with all my heart



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