



URANTIA FOUNDATION'S NEWS ONLINE

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REFLECTIONS ON 2009 AND A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE

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

Dear co-workers and friends of Urantia Foundation and the Urantia Revelation,

Would you have ever imagined in your wildest dreams that you would find yourself participating in the dissemination of the most liberating spiritual truths since Jesus walked on earth? While our work, as readers of *The Urantia Book*, may be quiet and lacking of public attention, our job resembles the Master's activities preceding his public ministry as he prepared the way for the future reception of truth. If it takes 1,000 years for the Urantia Revelation to unfold, then we have just completed the first seven percent of the journey. These are the days for preparing the soil and planting seeds for future generations who will reap the harvest of this new spiritual awaking destined to transform our world.

The following report will inform you of Urantia Foundation's accomplishments in 2009 and will give you a look into what is anticipated in the future. Your feedback is always welcome.

Highlights of 2009

1. Book Publishing and Translations

- Urantia Book sales totaled more than 14,000 books, a five percent increase from 2008. (This number does not include the thousands of books downloaded via the internet.) English Urantia Book sales exceeded 6,500 books, and the Spanish and Portuguese translations followed as the second and third best sellers.

- Standardized Text and Referencing System

The Trustees approved a Standard Reference Text and a referencing system, which together will have a significant impact on protecting the text while providing extensive educational capabilities.

Digital texts in English and Spanish were created, proof read, and made ready for print and digital publication using the Standard Referencing System. All translations will be converted to this new system within the next few years.

- A Text Identification Numbering System was conceived, approved, and adopted. This system will provide easy identification of all English editions and translations thereof, be they on the web, in revision, or in printed books.

- The Portuguese Translation Revision

Luiz Carlos Dolabela Chagas, the translator of the Portuguese translation, completed a revision with approximately 15,000 changes that will be included in the next printing. Kudos to Luiz!

- *El libro de Urantia* edición europea

The European edition of the Spanish translation was printed and launched in Spain. This edition was printed for the European market, and the Board has restricted sales to Europe.

- Book Reprinting

The Lithuanian, Portuguese,

Continued on page 4...

"IF IT TAKES 1,000 YEARS FOR THE URANTIA REVELATION TO UNFOLD, THEN WE HAVE JUST COMPLETED THE FIRST SEVEN PERCENT OF THE JOURNEY."

SWEDEN AND *THE URANTIA BOOK*



By Jacob D, Stockholm, Sweden

Ask anyone who lives in Sweden, and they will agree with the statistic that Sweden is the most atheistic country on the planet. It is the secular capital of the world, and by "secular" I mean "life without the presence of God." God has been pushed out of everyday living. A number of Sweden's public figures even boast that religion is a dying aspect of humankind's superstitious age, that religion is nearly removed from this ideal humanistic society, and the daily drone of religion-bashing goes on in newspaper articles. In fact, the Swedish people have gone so long without religion as a topic of

honest discourse that the language has atrophied, and any discussion of faith cannot take place without using archaic words. Religion in Sweden is old-fashioned.

It is not, however, a hopeless picture, and the solution is simple: "*Thinking men and women want religion redefined.*" *The Urantia Book*, (1013.8) 92:7.13. This is where *The Urantia Book* and its readers come in. There are about thirty to forty known readers in Sweden. On occasion, long-time readers will make contact with us for the first time. The majority of us live in or near Stockholm, and a handful of us are regular study group attendees. Our study groups here have always been rather diverse, with Swedish, English, Finnish and Spanish speakers attending. Traditionally, we begin with a moment of silent prayer. Then we enjoy conversation with coffee. Then we read consecutively through the Jesus Papers.

Aside from socializing at study group, we have had several small get-togethers, such as Easter dinner and a weekend retreat in a cozy cabin in the

woods that one of the readers owns.

The majority of study group attendees are fairly new to *The Urantia Book*. Many of them were introduced to the book at the New Age and Healing Expos that take place twice a year in Stockholm. Each time the Expo is held, we have a booth at which we tell people about the book and where they can buy it. We hand out flyers about the book and information about our study group. It's a thrilling experience, and over the years we've managed to build up a good reputation.

During the 10 years that we have had a booth at these Expos, people have asked us, "When can we buy a Swedish translation?" These days, we meet quite a few people who say that they read the Swedish translation found on the Finnish website.

Recently, Urantia Association of Sweden launched its website, www.urantia.se, and through it, we have made contact with individuals interested in knowing more about the Swedish translation and study

groups. Two individuals, who learned of us through the website, have joined our study group.

Even as this short article was being written, the news broadcasted that Sweden was in fact the most secular country in the world. Notwithstanding this recent finding, coupled with the fact that there are few readers of *The Urantia Book* here, we believe that the teachings of the Fifth Epochal Revelation can turn the spiritual desert in Sweden into a Garden of Eden. We are a small group of wonderful people, and we are slowly and steadily growing in wisdom and number. The Swedish translation could not be coming at a better time to augment our efforts.



PARLIAMENT OF THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS



By Irmeli Sjölie, Associate Trustee, Helsinki, Finland

Editor's Note: Over seven nights and six days, from December 3 – 9, 2009, the Melbourne Parliament welcomed over 6,500 people representing over 200 religious and spiritual traditions from more than 80 countries. Attendees chose from over 550 programs, including daily observances, intra- and inter-

religious programs, symposia, expert panels, sacred performances, and art exhibits. The 2009 Parliament was an unforgettable exchange of all that makes the world beautifully diverse.

A few years ago, Werner Sutter and I attended the Urantia Association International (UAI) conference in Sydney, Australia. We met many nice Australians there and became friends with them. We have stayed in

contact ever since.

When they informed us that the next Parliament of the World's Religions would be in December 2009 in Melbourne, Australia, and that the UAI national organization, ANZURA (Australia New Zealand Urantia Association), would have a booth and needed volunteers, we immediately called Air Canada and booked a trip to Australia.

In 1893, the first Parliament of the World's Religions was held in Chicago and was hosted by Swedenborgians. Their theology and vision were inclusive enough to bring together the religions of the world - from East and West - to dialogue with each other for the first time in history. One hundred years later, the second Parliament of the World's Religions convened again in Chicago. Since then, there have been Parliaments held in various parts of the world every five years.

At the most recent Parliament in Melbourne, there were

ANZURA managed to secure the best location for *The Urantia Book* booth. It was located by the entrance to the exposition hall, so that when anyone entered, they walked right in front of it. Trevor and Kathleen Swadling set up the booth, and Vern Verass composed the panels. It was quite elegant!

Many attendees visited the booth, and some were very interested in the Urantia materials. A workshop was presented by the ANZURA group. Kathleen Swadling spoke first, followed by William Wentworth, president of ANZURA,



Trevor and Kathleen Swadling

“It was a ‘once-in-a-lifetime’ experience to see so many people from so many religions together in peace and harmony.”

thousands of participants. At least four or five lectures and workshops were going on simultaneously: A plenary session was held every evening with notable speakers, including the Dalai Lama and former President Jimmy Carter.

and Nigel Nunn, the astro-physicist. Their presentation was an introduction to *The Urantia Book* and was titled, “What’s Love Got To Do With It?” You can read the entire lecture in the latest Arena newsletter: <http://urantia-anzura.org/index.php?section=30&module=navigationmodule>.

Gard Jameson, Trustee of Urantia Foundation, and Paula Thompson of the Urantia Book Fellowship, conducted an instructional and experiential “Centering Prayer” meditation.



Vern Verass

It was a ‘once-in-a-lifetime’ experience to see so many people from so many religions together in peace and harmony. May it one day be the same for the whole world!



William Wentworth



Kathleen Swadling



Nigel Nunn

...continued from page 1

Russian, and Spanish translations were reprinted.

- New Book Distributors

Contracts were signed with new distributors in Spain, Portugal, Italy, France, and Quebec.

- New Book Distribution System in Europe

A centralized storing, shipping and billing system was established for the European Union.

- French Audio Version

A team of French Canadians produced an audio version of *The Urantia Book* in French, which is now available to readers.

- English Audio Tapes

The audio tapes of *The Urantia Book* were converted to a new digital format and made ready for multiple purposes. This new format will greatly reduce storage space and download time.

- Formatting of Four New Translations

The formatting for the upcoming printings of Estonian, Hungarian, Polish, and Swedish translations was almost completed.

- A Translator's Meeting was held in Paris, France in August, 2009.

2. Fund Raising and Frugality

Urantia Foundation relies on the support of generous readers. Annual profits from

book sales provide about five percent of the operating budgets. Ninety-five percent comes from donations. Knowing that many readers suffered financially in 2009, the Trustees launched a year-end matching fund drive with some uncertainty. The target was \$210,000, and donors generously contributed \$215,000. Donors, thank you for your support!

Expenses were managed tightly in 2009, and this same conservative spending will continue in 2010. The Board and team at 533 operate frugally and spend money only on necessities.

3. New Website at www.urantia.org

In December 2009, Urantia Foundation launched its new and improved website. While there are numerous improvements yet to come, the up and running site is very user friendly. The robust software system used to build the site provides for multiple languages. Operational use in 14 languages is expected within the next few years.

4. Education

- Two hundred students participated in 11 courses offered by the Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS).

- Readers residing in 17 countries participated.

- Nine students completed the UBIS Teacher Training class. (UBIS currently has a core staff of 13 teachers.)

- UBIS upgraded its software to improve the quality of the classes.

- An Educational Forum was held in Chicago at Urantia Foundation.

- Foundation members participated in the Parliament of the World's Religions in Australia.

5. Organizational Activities

- Four Board meetings were held, including one in Malaga, Spain.

- A community-based Information Technology (IT) Roundtable was held in October at Urantia Foundation. 16 readers who are involved with IT gathered to discuss IT needs, problems, and solutions that will benefit the Urantia Book community.

- Urantia Foundation emailed four newsletters and an annual report.

6. The Building at 533 Diversey Parkway

For many, the Foundation's building is an important asset to the Urantia Community. Therefore, we need to maintain it.

In 2009, an office on the second floor was converted into a bedroom. All the outside windows were either repaired or replaced. The building requires a great deal of upkeep and renovation, and \$150,000 could easily be spent on needed improvements.

The building is now available for use by readers desiring a place to meet. The second floor has five bedrooms, a kitchen, a dining room, and two meeting rooms. Please take advantage of this opportunity to use the second floor. It is a community treasure that we would like to share.

The accomplishments of 2009 happened because of team efforts made by the

staff at Diversey Parkway, the Board of Trustees, the committees of the Board, the donors to Urantia Foundation, the translators, the website development team, and the dedicated volunteers. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, heartfelt thanks go to everyone who worked for the Urantia Revelation by serving with Urantia Foundation in 2009.

Planning for 2010-2015

In preparation for the years ahead, the Expanded Board spent half of their January 2010 meeting planning for the future. Below you will read what we agreed upon. I must admit that I get tired just looking at this list, let alone working on it. But our team feels that the goals are achievable and, if accomplished, will make the world a better place. We welcome your thoughts regarding these plans for the future.

VISION STATEMENT

The Principal and Concordant Objects from the Declaration of Trust are our vision statement.

PRINCIPAL OBJECT: The object for which this Foundation is created is the promotion, improvement, and expansion among the peoples of the world of the comprehension and understanding of Cosmology and the relation of the planet on which we live to the Universe, of the genesis and destiny of Man and his relation to God, and of the true teachings of Jesus Christ; and for the inculcation and encouragement of the realization and appreciation of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man—in order to increase and enhance the comfort, happiness, and well being of Man, as an individual and as a member of society, through the fostering of a religion, a philosophy, and a

cosmology which are commensurate with Man's intellectual and cultural development.

CONCORDANT OBJECTS: The concordant objects for which the Foundation is created are to perpetually preserve inviolate the text of *The Urantia Book* and to disseminate the principles, teachings, and doctrines of *The Urantia Book*.

2010 GOALS

1. Book Sales and Distribution: Increase book sales and distribution by seven percent. Improvements include e-books, audio, bookstore sales, and web downloads. Special focus will be given to North America, Latin America, and Europe.

2. Printing: Print and distribute four new translations: Estonian, Hungarian, Polish, and Swedish.

3. Website: Make major advances in the new website by translating the English portion into Spanish, Finnish, French, Polish, and Portuguese.

4. Safeguard the Text: Display seven downloadable translations on www.urantia.org (Urantia Foundation's website) that comply with the Standard Referencing System and are free of typographical errors. Provide these clean and standardized html files to other websites that display Urantia Foundation's translations.

5. Community Relations: Increase goodwill and communications with readers and reader groups worldwide with a special focus on serving the needs of readers in Mexico and in Central and South America. Make improvements to the Social Trademark License to better serve the growing family of believers.

6. Translations: Advance the translations and revisions now in progress. Provide new and improved software to translators. Create a defined revision process for evaluating and implementing future revisions.

7. Education: Implement the new UBIS website software. Further the educational activities provided or coordinated by Urantia Foundation. Increase the focus and energy supporting Urantia Book study groups.

8. Organizational Development: Continue governance improvements at Urantia Foundation which include Board orientation, Board education, succession planning, and various other processes that improve Urantia Foundation's ability to serve the Urantia Revelation and the people of the world.

9. Finances: Stay within the approved 2010 Operating Budget and raise five percent more in donations than in the current budget.

5-YEAR GOALS

1. Book Sales and Distribution: Increase book sales at a compounded growth rate of seven percent from 2009. Improvements include e-books, audio, bookstore sales, and web downloads.

2. Website: Continue translating the Foundation's website into many languages and host the site in multiple countries so it can be found via national URL addresses. Provide texts that are standardized, safeguarded, and free of typographical errors for the English edition and all translations appearing on the site.

3. Education: Expand the number of classes and languages available through UBIS. Support the growth of study groups from over 500 today toward 1,000 in the future. Provide secondary

studies via the web and other venues that help people understand the teachings of *The Urantia Book*. Build infrastructure so that Urantia Foundation will become the leading educational institution for the Urantia Revelation.

4. Public Relations: Prepare and display, via the web and other venues, positive and proactive materials that present the Urantia Revelation in the best possible light. Prepare for both positive and negative inquiries from onlookers in the world.

5. Support: Expand the donor base from 693 donors in 2009 to 2,000 donors in 2015. Increase Urantia Foundation's endowment so that annual operating budgets can be funded by its interest and dividends. Develop a program for making grants to worthy Urantia Book projects that support our mission and goals.

6. Translations: Continue translating *The Urantia Book* into all viable languages so that by 2020, 80 percent of the world's people will have the text in their language. Continue revisions to provide the most accurate and inspiring translations.

7. Community Relations: Foster a worldwide, goodwill culture of Urantia Book readers who love and cooperate with one another based on the teachings of the Revelation.

8. Organizational Development: Continue building a safe, reliable, enduring, service-oriented, trustworthy, and well-governed Urantia Foundation. Whenever possible outsource work and utilize volunteers. Develop future leaders to ensure a seamless and orderly leadership succession plan for the Foundation.

10-YEAR GOALS

1. Book Sales and Distribution: Increase book sales and distribution by seven percent a year from 2009. With a seven percent annual growth rate, book sales and distribution will double by 2020. Improvements include e-books, audio, book store sales, and web downloads.

2. Translations: Complete enough translations so *The Urantia Book* can be read by 80 percent of the people on the planet if they so wish. This means that the Chinese and Japanese books will be completed by that time. Implement a revision process so that all translations are in a continually being improved. To date, the Russian, French, Finnish, Portuguese, and Spanish translations have been revised at least once.

3. Community Relations: Foster a worldwide goodwill culture of Urantia Book readers who love and cooperate with one another based on the teachings of *The Urantia Book*.

4. Support: Go from 2,000 to 5,000 annual donors, and raise an endowment valued at \$20 million.

5. Education: Continue to support study groups across the globe with the goal of more than 1,000 groups by 2020. Continue building Urantia Foundation into an educational institution as well as a book publisher. Foster the expansion, capabilities, and outreach of UBIS and pursue a variety of new ideas that arise for website education.

6. Organizational Development: Continue building a safe, reliable, enduring, service-oriented, trustworthy, and well-governed Urantia

Foundation. Whenever possible, outsource work and utilize volunteers. Develop future leaders to ensure a seamless and orderly leadership succession plan for the Foundation. Build an organization that will grow and minister for centuries to come.

Your associates at Urantia Foundation need and appreciate your tireless efforts and your financial support for the Fifth Epochal Revelation and the work of Urantia Foundation.

We are truly blessed to have the opportunity to serve during these early days of the Revelation. I am convinced that, when we look back from the mansion worlds, we will be astounded at the unique service opportunity we had on this world

On Behalf of the Expanded Board and our team in Chicago:

Trustees: Gard Jameson,

Richard Keeler, Marilyn Kulieke, Georges Michelson-Dupont, Henk Mylanus, Mo Siegel, and Judy Van Cleave.

Associate Trustees: Jan Bernard, Marta Elders, Merritt Horn, Irmeli Ivalo-Sjölie, Olga Lopez, Claire Mylanus, and Ralph Zehr

Executive Director: Jay Peregrine

Staff: Connie Gutierrez, Tamara Strumfeld, Marcel Urayeneza, and Mike Wood



UNEXPECTED JOY



By James Woodward, Illinois, USA

Attending the Parliament of the World's Religions in Melbourne late last year had an unexpected impact on me in several ways. It was my first big interfaith adventure, though I had heard wonderful and inspiring reports from Urantia Book readers who attended previous Parliaments. Living in Chicago, the home base of the non-profit organization, gave me the opportunity to attend pre-Parliament events, which offered a foretaste but nothing like the reality of being at the big event, held every five years. For more information you can visit:

www.parliamentofreligions.org

To converse, study, worship, and pray for a full week with

thousands of other devoted religionists who all believe in a Supreme Being (or Essence) was an intense and joyful experience. What impressed me the most was the friendliness of the participants and their sincerity about interfaith harmony, the focus on *intrafaith* relations, the program's deep commitment to social justice issues, my personal synchronistic experiences, and the benefits of serving with other readers.

The interfaith component of a Parliament is a given. The organization is the most active proponent of a worldwide spiritual mission to foster greater understanding and compassion between all religions. But the number of programs dedicated to *intrafaith* matters surprised me. Among others, there were sessions where Muslims were discussing the Shiite and Sunni problems, the Hindus addressed the challenges of their many sects, and of course the Christians were talking to other Christians about their different interpretations of the life and teachings of Jesus. I found the fact and the openness of such dialogues very hopeful. And more so, it encouraged hope-

ful thinking about the possibility (indeed, the necessity) of progressive action toward improved relations within our own Urantia community.

Even though I was aware of this Parliament's theme, "Making a World of Difference: Hearing Each Other, Healing the Earth," I wasn't prepared for the quantity and depth of programs devoted to social and moral issues. The most prominent example of this theme, as might be expected, was the plight of the natives of Australia. But aboriginal peoples from all lands were well represented and their sacred beliefs and ceremonies were honored. There was a strong emphasis on discussing how the ideals of religion interact with the less-than-ideal realities of secular life. Topics addressed included environmental and climate issues, the rights of women, the treatment of children, and one that I attended titled, "Has Economics Triumphed Over Ethics?" This forum featured a panel of prominent bankers and the famous religious scholar Hans Küng and delved into the morality of our financial institutions and their practices. Not what I expected at a conference about religion but very timely and essential in this

era. It was encouraging to see religious leaders from all faiths confronting the challenges of a balanced approach to life just as Jesus did in his life.

"Jesus...is learning how to adjust his ideals of spiritual living to the practical demands of earthly existence."
The Urantia Book, (1405.4) 127:6.12

It seemed that every day during the Parliament I was bumping into someone from Chicago or found that the person I'd just met was familiar with *The Urantia Book*. This entertaining chain of synchronicities was almost surreal but kept me focused on higher realities due to the spiritual kick that each one delivered. Perhaps the best was the last. At the airport I struck up a conversation with the woman behind me in the security line. First, she was from the same California town where I had lived prior to moving to Chicago, and after sharing our reasons for attending the Parliament she said, "Oh, that's so cool. I just started reading *The Urantia Book* with a friend back home, and we're enjoying it, but there's stuff we don't understand. Would you be willing to answer our

questions?" Needless to say, we have become friends. She now has a personal Reader Services guy, and I'm helping her start a study group in the area where I hosted one ten years ago! She's a minister of Religious Science, and we discovered a lot of Urantia Book interest among the New Thought folks attending the Parliament.

A key reason for my traveling "Down Under" was to support Sheila Keene-Lund and her new book, *Heaven Is Not the Last Stop* (www.heavenisnotthelaststop.com.) The book is a reconciliation of human knowledge with the revelations of *The Urantia Book* and is finding a very receptive audience among readers. The target audience, however, is that larger group of progressive religionists who are seeking something beyond traditional beliefs, and *Heaven Is Not the Last Stop*



Sheila Keene-Lund

provides a very readable exposition of the Urantia Papers. Having worked with Sheila for the last four years on the project, we pre-published the book, in time to debut it at the Parliament, to coincide with her workshop presentation there, "Cultivating Universal Intelligence."

All of this elation, the education, the music and ceremony, the warm fellowship with di-

verse faithers, were touchingly underscored with the outstanding camaraderie of *The Urantia Book* team that gathered in Melbourne. From the local members of Urantia Association International, who did superb preparation work with logistics and the booth, to the readers from around the world who came in support, there was a generous feeling of a common sense of purpose. A special note of gratitude must go to Gard Jameson, our "interfaith Trustee." Gard has been active in this movement for many years, gently opening eyes and ears to the good news of the Revelation. He was also responsible for the "intrafaith" initiative that generated cooperation between



Gard Jameson

Urantia Foundation, UAI, and the Fellowship – dedicated servants to the Father's will working together on a meaningful outreach project. Those readers who were fortunate to attend this remarkable event, whether affiliated with a fraternal group or not, can testify to the progress that's made when we become resolved through faith to unity of purpose.



From top left: Cristina Seaborn, Paula Thompson, Buck Weimer, Will Wentworth, Kathleen Swadling, Trevor Swadling, Marvin Gawryn, Jeff Canton, Vern Verass, James Woodward, Verner Sutter, Irmeli Ivalo-Sjölie, Susan Wentworth, Arlene Weimer, Francyl Gawryn, Doug Childers, Meredith Tenney, Edward Harrigan, Larry Geis. (Not pictured were Gard Jameson and Sheila Keene-Lund)

A GATHERING IN MEXICO CITY

Readers of *The Urantia Book* who live in Mexico City recently received a visit from the President of Urantia Foundation, Mo Siegel, the Executive Director, Jay Peregrine, the President of Urantia Association International (UAI), Gaétan Charland, his wife, Lynn St Pierre, and the Education Chair of UAI, Sheila Keene-Lund.

During their visit, they met with numerous readers of *The Urantia Book*. At a gathering, Mo explained what Urantia Foundation does, and he answered questions about the printing, translation, and distribution of *The Urantia Book*. Jay spoke about the Foundation's daily operations. Sheila facilitated a workshop on "Cultivating Intelligence."

We were pleased that Mo and Jay had the opportunity to experience our culture, enjoy the city, and taste the local cuisine. They walked about and visited special sights, such as the *Zocalo*, the main square of Mexico City, which is the second largest square

in the world. They also visited the Basilica of the Virgin of Guadalupe, a main pilgrimage center of Mexico since ancient times and, one might say, the spiritual heart of Mexico. Mo surprised us all when he bought tacos at the corner stand and shared them with us, just like a local from *el barrio* (the neighborhood) would do.

One day, while escorting Mo and Jay around, we visited a main bookstore close to the National University. As usual, *El libro de Urantia* was piled high right next to the entrance. *El libro de Urantia* is, in fact, a top ten best-seller in Mexico. A major role in the promotion of *El libro de Urantia* in Spanish-speaking countries has been played by Urantia Book inspired novels authored by J.J. Benitez.

The fact that *El libro de Urantia* sells so well in Mexico increases the need for more study groups where new readers may find support. The study groups must function well to attract more readers,

who can, in turn, become leaders and hosts of new study groups.

Study groups must focus on the in-depth study of the book and its teachings. If they divert their focus to other interests and discussions, new readers may find this disorienting and stop attending.

Hosting a study group is a great service, and if we want to serve, we should give the best of ourselves at all times. The early generations of readers of *The Urantia Book* may be compared to the first Christians or the pioneers of any of the world's great religions. Our behavior has a significant impact on new readers and the course of the Urantia Revelation. And this is thrilling because it makes us grow, continuously, inward and upward.

In Mexico, we want to become acquainted with all the good things that are taking place in the Urantia community. We want to connect with our brothers and sisters from

other parts of the world, especially from our neighboring countries. We want to learn from the experience of those who have walked the path longer, and we want to come in contact with the people whose love, creativity, and wisdom are transforming study groups, producing study aids, and putting the teachings into practice.

In this context we were extremely happy that Trustee Gard Jameson came to Mexico to facilitate a Centering Prayer Workshop on March 20-21.

These gatherings allow us all, not only to grow in experience, comprehension, and insight, but also to make fraternal relations, to learn more about *The Urantia Book* and Urantia Foundation, and to enjoy our Urantia spiritual family.



Sheila Keene-Lund, Jay Peregrine, L.P., Jésus San Pablo, Gaétan Charland, Mo Siegel, Mary Tere Ortega, Alfredo Esquivel.

OUR TRIP TO MEXICO CITY



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

Mo Siegel and I traveled to Mexico City to meet and fellowship with Urantia Book

readers on the third weekend of February, 2010. We had a wonderful time talking informally with members of Mexico's association of the UAI.

Mo addressed the gathered group with an inspirational talk about Urantia Foundation's mission. I spoke of the Foundation's daily work, the ongoing projects, and the need for all the help and support we can get. We were both delighted by presentations given by Gaétan and Sheila. After the presentations, we answered questions from the attendees. A general feeling of camaraderie and brotherhood emerged.



Mo and I also met with L.P. and Alejandra Escudero Mass to discuss their revision of the 1993 Spanish translation. This professional revision has been on-going for several years. Our meeting helped us shape a timeline for incorporating their work into the published version of the 1993 text.

Mo and I plan to attend a conference in Mazatlan in

May, sponsored by Grupo Orvonton. Urantia Foundation wants to reach out to all sincere readers with information on the work we are doing now and plan on doing in the future.



ORLANDO FLORIDA: ANOTHER CHAPTER UNFOLDS



By Bill and Share Beasley, Florida, USA

All of Florida had been gripped by a deep freeze for two weeks. As the sun came out and the weather warmed on Thursday, January 14, the Trustees of Urantia Foundation began arriving and pre-

paring for their first quarter board meeting in 2010.

In the background at the Wyndham Hotel in Orlando, things were astir with preparations for a state-wide, one-day gathering for readers of *The Urantia Book*. The invitations were sent, all the RSVPs were

collected, and readers throughout the state and beyond were given the opportunity to meet face to face with each other and with the Trustees to hear about the Foundation's ongoing projects.

At noon on Saturday, attendees began arriving at the reception area. Hugs, introductions, and conversation ensued. Just like a family reunion, some people were known, and some were not, but all had something special in common. Goodwill and anticipation filled the air.

The room was set up with round tables. People seated themselves, and the program began with a welcome from Bill and Share Beasley. Afterwards, the attendees participated in an "Enthusiastic Teamwork" exercise. A worksheet was provided, and the teams enthusiastically brainstormed on the following questions:

- What are some ideas to perpetuate the teachings in *The Urantia Book*?
- What talents are needed for these ideas?
- What are the nuts and bolts of these ideas, and how do we make them happen?
- Do they require financial support? If so, where does it come from?
- Are you willing to participate in service of some kind?

It was heart-warming and inspiring to see the teams in action. Margaret Mead, the anthropologist, said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." We could see it happen-

“One of the most important lessons to be learned during your mortal career is teamwork.”

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www.urantia.org

ing. “One of the most important lessons to be learned during your mortal career is teamwork. The spheres of perfection are manned with those who have mastered the art of working with other beings.” *The Urantia Book*, (312.2) 28.5.14

The Trustees and Associate Trustees joined the group after finishing their meeting. Sitting at the front of the room as a panel, they gave updates concerning Urantia Foundation’s many on-going projects. Mo Siegel led off with an overview of the Foundation’s accomplishments in 2009 and the goals for 2010. Urantia Book sales are up, four new translations will be ready by fall, major advancements will be made in translating the website into several languages, support will be given for the growth of study groups, and increased goodwill and more communication will be made with reader groups worldwide.

Henk Mylanus gave an in-depth look at the formidable challenges that distribution of *The Urantia Book* in Europe faces. Gard Jameson spoke on the importance of being effective teachers and study group leaders and emphasized the importance of becoming partners with the Father in all areas of our lives. Richard Keeler brought the translation efforts alive and, as usual, treated us to his interactive banjo song and dance. Marilyn Kulieke apprised us that, after nearly three years of work and study, the Standard Reference Text was approved for all future printings of *The Urantia Book*. She detailed the laborious manner used for this accomplishment. Jay Peregrine finished the presentations by sharing strides forward, including Urantia Foundation’s new, more beautiful, and more inviting website.

The floor was opened to questions. Goodwill and information flowed freely.

The hour break between the program and dinner afforded ample opportunity for everyone to meet and get to know the Trustees and Associate Trustees. The lively discussions continued until the dinner bell rang. A board member sat at every table.

The evening’s grand finale was a heart-felt group worship topped off with Cindy Selph’s beautiful voice as she led us in singing “Pray Tell Me How,” written and composed by Rebecca Oswald and Michael Hanian.

As we said our goodbyes and returned to our rooms and homes, we knew that the powerful influence of the Spirit of Truth, our Thought Adjusters, and the angels had worked their magic. An excerpt from an email sent by an attendee gives insight into the power of this gathering:

I would like to formally express my gratitude to each of you for this weekend.

I first read the Urantia Papers about 25 years ago in Japan. My correspondence with Betty Lou and Bill and Share was my first contact since then. Despite that, as the Urantia Papers direct us, to learn and teach the true relig-

ion of Jesus, has been the guiding force in my life since that time.

Several years ago, after the death of our 9-year-old daughter, my wife and I transformed our grief into something new and established a non-profit foundation in Samantha’s memory. With a force of one hundred volunteers, we quietly impact the lives of hundreds of children and families in our county working with an orphanage, elementary schools, the homeless population, and correctional institutions. We have done all this without collecting a single penny, proof that propagating Jesus’ message is simple and often just about showing up.

Being a part of this weekend, I believe, is a monumental honor. I will not say more believing that you all understand. I left the meeting with a very clear sense of commission to continue and expand our work, and I will make this happen. Sometimes life’s efforts are measured by the effect they have on a single life. Each of your efforts has affected and will continue to affect many lives through this one.

In conclusion, we thank you for sharing another example of the exponential effects of the Fifth Epochal Revelation.

