



## URANTIA FOUNDATION'S NEWS ONLINE

# SEEDING *THE URANTIA BOOK* IN THE PHILIPPINES: TOUR NUMBER THREE

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By Belen Asidao, Skokie, Illinois, United States

*Editor's note: In 2017, Eugene and Belen Asidao made their third trip from Chicago to the Philippines to distribute 160 copies of The Urantia Book provided by Urantia Foundation. They also visited study groups there that have formed as a result of their previous trips.*

The Philippines is an archipelago consisting of more than 7,100 islands. So travel within that country is by land, sea, and air. In our trips there, we have traveled thousands of miles and traversed mountains, valleys, and plains to deliver the books of the fifth epochal revelation to our native land. Seeding *The Urantia Book* is our top priority in returning to the Philippines. For the last three years, we have been delivering donated books to college, university, and public libraries. We have also helped start study groups.

On February 1 of this year, we arrived at Manila International Airport, thirty-five hours after our departure from O'Hare. Cheap plane tickets mean long layovers. On this trip, we spent fifteen hours in Incheon, South Korea, before continuing on to Manila. Eugene's cousins picked us up at the airport and, after a short rest, we were treated to lunch. After that, we went to sleep again and woke up the next day.

Before embarking on our visits to universities and colleges, Eugene picked the top two hundred schools of northern and southern Luzon (the biggest of the three main islands of the Philippines, the most populous, and home to Manila, the national capital). Each book to be donated has an acknowledgment form to send or e-mail to Urantia organizations.

We were blessed to have the services of a driver who was familiar with the hundreds of miles of rugged terrain. We met him seemingly by accident. While we were visiting a friend who is an author and a lawyer, our driver had a family emergency, and we ended up outside the subdivision where he lives. An Uber driver saw us and asked us if we needed a ride. We drew up a plan with this new driver to take us to the northern and southern parts of the big island of Luzon. He is a

Mormon but did not mind helping us in our mission for *The Urantia Book*, and he offered us affordable rental and driver fees.

A normal day would see us on the road at five o'clock in the morning. Libraries open as early as seven. Starting early, before the weather heats up, is an advantage. The months of spring in the United States are summertime in the Philippines, when the weather can be downright hot. Some libraries are on the second, third, or fourth floor, with no elevator. With the temperature close to a hundred degrees Fahrenheit and nearly one hundred percent humidity, taking the stairs is like getting an automatic sauna bath. But the smiles of enthusiastic librarians with their warm welcome makes the experience pleasant. Some librarians called together their entire staff for picture taking; some offered us a snack, which we accepted graciously, though we had to move on to our next destination.

In some instances, such as at Bulacan State University in Malolos, Bulacan Province, in addition to the main library, there are sub-libraries for each academic department, which means more books are needed. Some librarians would request an additional book for their organization. For instance, the librarian at Kalayaan College in Quezon City asked for a book for the local Knights of Columbus council.



We met the librarian who is the head of the librarians' association for the entire Philippines, and who invited us to attend their national conference in June, which will take place in Isabela province and will be attended by over three hundred delegates. We shall attend the conference and shall give out books there. They welcome not only *The Urantia Book* but also all kinds of books—children's books, novels, etc.—to fill up the shelves.

In addition to the opportunity to donate books, our trip gave us the opportunity to visit some recently organized study groups in the Visayas (one of the Philippines' three main island groups) and Manila.

In Iloilo City, in the western Visayas, a Urantia Book reader had given a copy of the book to the town mayor. The mayor mentioned the book on his radio program, "Owa Mangunguma," on Aksyon Radyo—a question and answer program for farmers—saying that the book is what he has been looking for all his life. This triggered some callers wanting to know what the book is about. "The time is ripe for the enabling message of Michael," said one reader from the Iloilo group. Another reader, Dr. Dave, was contacted by some farmers after the program. Free downloading of the book was also encouraged.

The study group in Bacolod City, across the Guimaras Strait from Iloilo City, was invited by the local Theosophical Society to introduce *The Urantia Book* at their celebration of White Lotus Day, a worldwide event which commemorates the legacy of Madame Blavatsky. Two days later, some members of the Theosophical Society attended the study group, which was studying the papers on the seven mansion worlds, facilitated by Eugene Asidao.

The Bacolod and Iloilo study groups assist and visit each other, though the trip between the two cities involves a ferry ride of an hour or more.

The Manila study group has formally organized responsibilities among themselves. They have a coordinator, a translator, a secretary, a treasurer, an auditor, and a head of education. They are also in the process of forming a youth group.

We have observed that donations of even a few dollars can go a long way in peso currency to help pay for basic needs of study groups and readers—electric fans, blackboards, pens, paper, and transportation costs.

There are events coming up in the next few months that all study group attendees would like to participate in, if possible. In June, there will be the national convention of public librarians. In July, reggae artists Pato Banton and Antoinette Rootsdawtah from the United States will be in the Philippines for a performance, and they are interested in meeting with study groups while they are there. In September, there is the Manila International Book Fair, a five-day event being held in Pasay, a city in Metro Manila, and there are plans to introduce *The Urantia Book* in some way.

I find that distributing *The Urantia Book* is very worthwhile and rewarding. The atmosphere of colleges and universities is very invigorating. We remember that the work, not the self, is what is important, and this infuses us with cosmic energy to carry on. "The act is ours, the consequences God's." 117:5.5 (1286.3)



Discussion on the Seven Mansion Worlds presented and facilitated by Eugene Asidao



# NOTEWORTHY DECISIONS FROM THE APRIL 2017 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING



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

## 1. Work at 533

Work at Urantia Foundation went along smoothly in Q1 2017. Lots of normal and needed day-to-day work was accomplished. In cooperation with volunteers, a part-time contract work team, the board, board committees, translators, revisers, teachers, and the book dissemination

team, our lean and caring staff moved a number of important projects forward. To mention a few: Urantia Foundation's new index is nearly finished; the annual report was published; seminars were hosted at the building; extensive background and trademark research was compiled for the board; 2000 Portuguese books were printed; the Russian revision was evaluated, and so much more. Special thanks go to Tamara and Joanne for all of their hard work.

## 2. Q1 2017 financial and book sales highlights

Q1 2017 was a steady state quarter. Donations were \$216,777 compared to \$32,159 in 2016 because of a large one-time estate gift. Book sales were slightly above 2016 while downloads were 21,000, up 18%. Overall expenses were \$168,410 in 2017 compared with \$168,925 in 2016.

Expenses were 15% below budget YTD.

The board reviewed our investment account results and discussed whether we would serve the revelation more effectively by moving from active financial management to passive index fund management.

## 3. Updated trademark policy approved

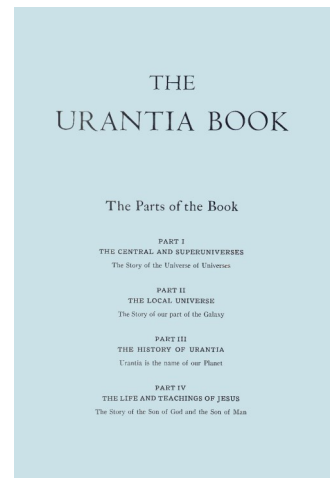
In light of the changing environment with social media and the increasing usage of the Internet, the board reviewed its Safe Harbor and Fair Use trademark policies and made some updates. The updates provide believers with more tools to share their faith while simultaneously providing Urantia Foundation with the power to protect the inviolate text and the trademarks. The new policy will be posted in the near future at [www.urantia.org](http://www.urantia.org).

## 4. A Tagalog (Filipino) translation approved

Thanks to a dedicated group of Filipino readers, the board approved creating a Tagalog translation of *The Urantia Book*. A translation of this complexity will likely take at least ten years to complete before publication. With a population of over 100 million people and 92% being Christian, few places in the world have such rich spiritual soil as the Philippines. While the number of Christians in a country isn't a guarantee the book will be accepted by early adapters, an active and seeking Christian population has been a key determiner of

Urantia Book acceptance so far.

## 5. Publishing a commemorative replica of the first printing of *The Urantia Book*



For historical purposes, the board voted to publish an exact replica of the 1955 first printing of *The Urantia Book*. The publication date has not been finalized, but the wheels are in motion.

## 6. Standard Reference Text (SRT) review

The SRT Committee presented a review of the methodology used in determining which typographical errors needed correcting since the first printing of the 1955 text. A small number of errors were made in the first edition, which have been subsequently discovered and corrected. Urantia Foundation and Uversa Press now print the SRT to assure readers that the most error free text of *The Urantia Book* is preserved inviolate, widely





distributed, and faithfully protected. To see which mistakes were corrected and why they were corrected, click on this link:

<http://bit.ly/2qTs2zL>.

#### 7. Chinese crowd sourcing fundraiser approved

Plans are being developed for the launch of a restricted fundraiser for the sole purpose of financing the final

phases of the Chinese translation. We estimate needing at least another \$135,000 to finish a world-class Chinese translation during the next five years. This translation has been extremely difficult because of the language differences between English and Mandarin Chinese. That said, we are about 50% finished. With over 1.3 billion people living in China and the rapid

rise of Christianity there, this is a vital translation for the spiritual transformation of Asia. When this crowd sourcing fundraiser is launched, please generously invest in the spiritual welfare of the Chinese people.

#### 8. The 2016 audit approved

Urantia Foundation's independent auditors submitted their 2016 audit results to the Finance Committee and the board. The board approved the audit. To read Urantia Foundation's 990, please click on this link: <http://www.urantia.org/urantia-a-foundation/form-990>.

#### 9. Line St-Pierre elected as associate trustee emeriti

With Line St-Pierre's associate trustee term expiring now, the board of trustees appointed her an associate trustee emeritus



Line St-Pierre

and invited her to continue conducting seminars for women at Urantia Foundation. Thank you, Line, for your five years of service on the Foundation's board.

## TRANSLATIONS AND UNITY



By Georges Michelson-Dupont, trustee, manager of translations, Recluses, France

When discussing translations, as is planned to take place at the Urantia Book Fellowship IC'17 conference, one ought to consider this important topic in its context of

desirable spiritual unity and long-term perspective of service to our communities of readers.

#### Some Historical Considerations

After a long revelatory process, the fifth epochal revelation came to Urantia as a book, in English, from higher beings, and through a human subject. In 1950, the revelators requested the creation of a formal organization charged with the responsibility of protecting the text, disseminating the teachings, and making translations—as stated in the Declaration of Trust (DOT) Article III.3—thus giving Urantia Foundation the legitimacy to act accordingly. Also, the responsibility of

translating *The Urantia Book* was granted to Urantia Foundation before the book was printed and reader organizations came into existence. There are many reasons for that, which I shall discuss in this article.

Another clarification is that Urantia Foundation does not own *The Urantia Book* but protects it for future generations—just as the rangers in Yosemite Park protect the wildlife and natural wonders of Yosemite. They prevent the park from human destruction.

Urantia Foundation's goal is to produce translations of the highest accuracy, consistency, readability, and beauty that are humanly possible and that will stand

as a reference for the benefit of the greatest number of people, from the largest number of countries, and for the longest possible time.

#### Prerequisite to Translations

The translation of *The Urantia Book* is one of the main projects of our unseen friends as a means to support the dissemination of the teachings worldwide. One might easily assume that hiring professional translators would be the easiest and quickest solution to produce faithful and easy-to-read translations of *The Urantia Book*. Unfortunately, experience has shown the contrary.

Due to the superhuman source and spiritual nature of

the text, the translation of *The Urantia Book* is a unique task requiring specific and personal prerequisites, all of which are indispensable. I would rank them in importance from the highest to the lowest as follows:

1. To have a living faith in God.
2. To be a truth seeker and receptive to the Spirit of Truth.
3. To experience a living connection with spiritual forces through prayer and worship.
4. To have a vibrant awareness of the importance of the task at hand.
5. To demonstrate a keen, loyal, and steadfast interest in the Urantia Revelation.
6. To understand the concepts and teachings of *The Urantia Book*.
7. To commit to respect the authors' ideas and translate with the least possible interpretation.
8. To have a team spirit and to work accordingly.
9. To master source and target languages.
10. To have experience in translation.

#### Choice of Translators

I venture to say that only our unseen friends can determine if those prerequisites are present or not. So how can we believe

that they do not intervene in the process of selecting candidates for the task of translating *The Urantia Book*? Indeed, there is much evidence that those humans possessing those qualifications attract their attention and receive their spiritual and material support.

#### Process to Ensure Accuracy, Consistency, Readability, and Beauty

It should be made clear that while the translation is the responsibility of the translator, Urantia Foundation takes responsibility for making sure the work is true to the original, consistent in terminology, and beautiful in language.

One must understand that most of the individuals who have translated *The Urantia Book* were not professionals. Therefore, based on Urantia Foundation's thirty years of experience, a complete procedure and consistent workflow have been designed to offer the translators a friendly and trustworthy framework and to ensure that the responsibility of Urantia Foundation is fulfilled.

This procedure includes a cycle of up to forty years, comprising three phases, which can be summarized as follows:

#### *The initial translation phase*

- Translation of a specific list of English terms into the target language for

consistency.

- A round of professional copyediting for fluency, readability, and beauty.
- Independent specialized third-party evaluations of the quality.
- A reader group for improvements (when possible).

In general, translating *The Urantia Book* requires seven to ten years of time.

#### *The incubation phase*

All translations are human works and therefore subject to improvement. It is simply impossible for a human being, however talented, to translate *The Urantia Book* free of error or mistranslation. After a translation is exposed to the readership of the targeted language, individuals who are educated in English soon begin to detect errors. This process of incubation can take anywhere from five to twenty-five years.

#### *The revision phase*

When the time is right, Urantia Foundation selects, based upon specific criteria, a team of two or three "revisers," including the translator (when possible), along with the selection of students (the "reader group") in charge of making relevant suggestions to the team of revisers. Again, when necessary, the revision is copyedited and evaluated by an independent specialized third party. This period might take from three

to seven years.

It should be noted that several revisions might be necessary to reach the goal.

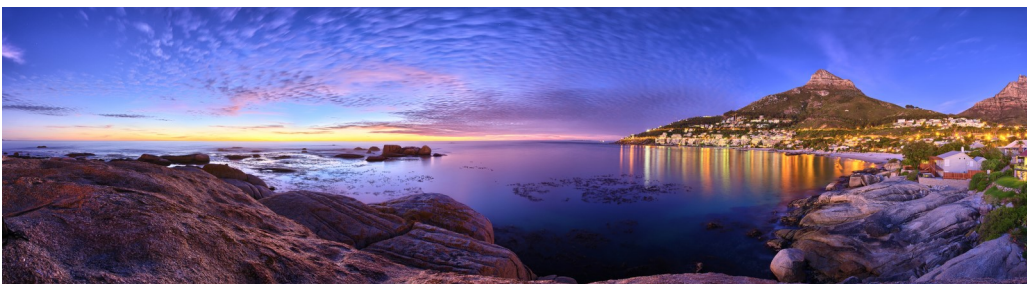
#### Are several translations of *The Urantia Book* in a given language desirable?

To properly answer this question requires abandoning the egoistic and partial human point of view and considering the long-term development, the best interest of the readership, and the unity of our brotherhood of believers in the revelation; as we read in Paper 195, "a house divided in itself cannot stand." 195:10.11 (2085.3)

Frankly, I believe that our unseen friends are not supportive of having several translations in the same language for the following reason: Unlike the Bible, *The Urantia Book* is a single, original text that comes from divine sources in the English language; it is the basis for producing accurate and beautiful translations. Since the source is authentic, different translations in the same language are unnecessary. Rather than creating multiple translations with different terminology in one language, we can improve a single translation to the point that it is 99.99% accurate and beautiful and satisfying for all readers. You, who are able to read the original text in English—would you appreciate having multiple and different English texts of *The Urantia Book* with different terminology in your study group, causing great confusion?

Do we need to repeat the unfortunate story of the tower of Babel?

Having multiple and competing translations in one language brings no



benefit to the readership. Quite the contrary, it causes real and unnecessary short- and long-term difficulties such as:

- The translations of specific Urantia Book terms and proper names are different, causing misunderstanding. This is the case among the Korean readership, which has five translations, of which two are published.
- In study groups, students are confused by having different texts, spending their time in endless discussions, creating disagreements instead of studying and sharing.
- Multiple translations create unnecessary competition leading to the division of the readership.

### What is the solution?

We should always keep in mind that the success of the revelation and the interest of the readership comes before personal considerations of any kind. This requires a sense of responsibility and a long-term interest in the success of the revelation. Members of organizations, as well as individual translators, should have the courage, wisdom, and humility to recognize and agree in their hearts that the revelators' project goes far beyond the personal agenda of any one individual.

As explained earlier, Urantia Foundation has developed a procedure and a method to ensure accurate and beautiful translations. A *suggested first step to finding a solution to the*

*problem of multiple translations is to organize a gathering with interested translators in cooperation with Urantia Foundation in order to reach an agreement and define an orderly process to improve existing translations, instead of having translators working on different translations alone in their own backyards.*

We have a successful precedent with the Standard Reference Text Committee in an effort of two parties to cooperate in order to publish an identical text instead of competing with two slightly different versions. Why should we not come together and cooperate to produce a single, accurate, and beautiful translation for the benefit of the readership and for generations to come?

Throughout the earlier ages of any world, competition is essential to progressive civilization. As the evolution of man progresses, co-operation becomes increasingly effective. In advanced civilizations co-operation is more efficient than competition. Early man is stimulated by competition. Early evolution is characterized by the survival of the biologically fit, but later civilizations are better promoted by intelligent co-operation, understanding fraternity, and spiritual brotherhood. 71:5.3 (805.3)

# BOOK EXPO AMERICA 2017



By Tamara Strumfeld,  
Urantia Foundation,  
Chicago, Illinois, United States

Mo Siegel and I attended this year's BookExpo America at the Javits Center in New York City from May 31 to June 2. It is always enjoyable to attend this fair, learn the latest and greatest

news in the book trade, and see what the popular trends are.

The size of the Expo and the number of exhibitors have been shrinking over the past few years. The Expo used to be in many halls, and one could hardly navigate the walkways without bumping into someone. This year, everything fit into one large hall, and many familiar publishers were absent. Nevertheless, we learned a lot!

Physical book sales across the industry are up about half of one percent. We Urantia Book readers can celebrate the Foundation's book sales being up eleven percent for 2016 and three percent for the first quarter of 2017. E-book sales are down everywhere, and that

includes Urantia e-books in several languages.

Many of you may have noticed that Amazon has placed a quantity restriction on the English paperback. Amazon will only sell one paperback per customer per week. Mo and I did our best to figure out why the restriction is there and how to lift it. No one really knows why, but one person experienced with Amazon said that this has happened before with popular books that individuals buy in larger quantities. Amazon does not want to be treated like a wholesaler, and once the shipping algorithms are put in place, there is nothing anyone can do about it. Hopefully this will change in the future, but for the meantime, please purchase larger quantities of

paperbacks at [Barnes & Noble](#). The price of the book is discounted there as well.

On the Latin American front, let us express appreciation to the readers in Brazil. One local bookseller lamented that, due to economic hardship, book orders had come to a standstill for many months. One book, however, continued to be in demand—*O Livro de Urântia!*

Another Brazilian stopped by, told us how the book changed his life and strongly encouraged us to translate the Parables book into Portuguese.

To learn more about current trends, Mo and I walked the exhibition floor. At one point we came across an author speaking. She had drawn a very large crowd. Curious about her topic, we saw that

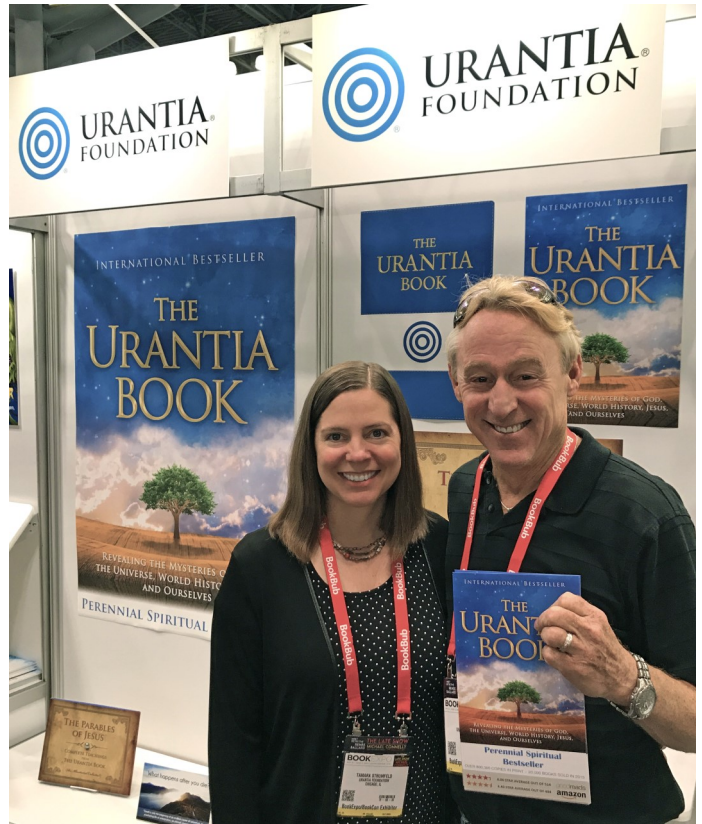
her book was about witches. Besides food and dating (other popular topics at this Expo), it turns out that interest in witches is really growing. Byron Belitsos, a longtime reader who is also in the publishing business, confirmed this when he visited our booth. He said he could not get a study group going in his area because *The Urantia Book* doesn't have witches. Imagine that! It brought to mind the first sentence of *The Urantia Book*, "In the minds of the mortals of Urantia—that being the name of your world—there exists great confusion respecting the meaning of such terms as God, divinity, and deity." 0:0.1 (1.1)

For us, the highlight of the fair was interacting with the visitors to our booth. Some were fans of the book and wanted to tell us their stories; others had put the book down years ago but felt it was time to pick it up again and devote themselves to it. One conversation about angels was

so intriguing that the exhibitor to our left confessed the next day to her eavesdropping. She wanted to get a copy of the book to learn more. She would have taken one but did not want to add four pounds to her luggage.

The entire experience enhanced my gratitude for having this book and its teachings in my life. It gives gifts, such as the peace that Jesus leaves with us, our ever-growing relation to the Father (faith), certainty about our sonship, and the desire to be of service to our fellows—gifts that the world desperately needs.

There remains much work to be done to seed *The Urantia Book* and its teachings globally. It takes constant effort for slow and steady progress. May we continue to pray daily for more laborers!



Tamara and Mo

# 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.

## UBIS, My First Study Group

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 (Cameroon) 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.

One of the questions we were given in a course asked us to share our difficulties, and one brother shared about his difficulty getting hot water for his bath because he lived on the top floor. I had trouble getting enough to eat, and after reading his sharing, I told him of this. From that point on, many in the class were able to put their difficulties in better perspective. One of them wrote me a message with this passage:



French UBIS Zoom meeting

"Personal, spiritual religious experience is an efficient solvent for most mortal difficulties; it is an effective sorter, evaluator, and adjuster of all human problems. Religion does not remove or destroy human troubles, but it does dissolve, absorb, illuminate, and transcend them." 196:3.1 (2093.6)

I do not claim to completely understand the meaning of that passage even today. But what I can tell you is that thanks to my brother's sharing, I looked at the situation I was living with a different perspective. I honestly positioned myself as a son of God and decided to bravely face these difficulties.

This same brother sent me an invitation on Skype, and we were then able to speak and see each other on video. We continued our exchanges, which allowed me to have repeated opportunities to deepen my understanding of other passages like this one:

"The uncertainties of life and the vicissitudes of existence do not in any manner contradict the

concept of the universal sovereignty of God. All evolutionary creature life is beset by certain *inevitable*s. Consider the following:

1. Is courage—strength of character—desirable? Then must man be reared in an environment which necessitates grappling with hardships and reacting to disappointments." 3:5.5 (51.4)

I now find my personal life flourishing as I go forward with courage toward my goals; I remain honest and sincere towards God and myself.

**And that's not all . . .**

I received another invitation from a brother who gave me personal advice, this time on Zoom, a videoconference platform. There was a weekly study group, and I was also able to see many of these brothers and sisters daily. UBIS has led me to sisters and brothers who live all over the world. And these groups on Zoom are a blessing to this day. Participation in this group, and personal meetings with these brothers and sisters

amounted to indirect training. I understood over time that I was learning valuable skills, and that my personal experience was giving me the qualifications to become a facilitator.

A facilitator! It is an important role for me, especially with my material situation being problematic. And yet my situation has provided me with the ability to do a good job. You cannot imagine how happy I was. After that, I received direct training on Zoom. And this training is still going on. I am benefiting from a brother's loving mentoring, even though he lives very far from me.

So in April 2016, just a year after my first courses, I took my first steps as a facilitator, and now my experience is on two levels. I am still involved in classes as a student, and now I also have the opportunity to facilitate a class; so I can benefit from a double perspective. This is really a pleasant responsibility. God blessed me with the *Urantia Revelation*, and through service, I allow my sisters and brothers to benefit from a benevolent environment which allows each of us to deepen our understanding of these



teachings as we all benefit from the different points of view emerging from the religious experience of our classmates.

#### And even more . . .

Later I met a long-time Cameroonian reader, one about my age. We have had exchanges from time to time.

Two young brothers from my local area have also been interested in the teachings of *The Urantia Book*. All my UBIS experience, the training, and especially the meeting of minds, have given me skills that have made me a full-time facilitator—I am now acting as a facilitator for a small study group of four Cameroonian readers.

UBIS is a magnificent place to share insights and to quest for wisdom. Even though it is virtual, it nevertheless creates a real environment for deep study, and it allows us to meet other sisters and brothers, which is especially important for isolated readers—it is a real foretaste of the universe broadcasts. I would like to express my thanks to the Adjusters that inspired the

founders of this school. The flexibility it offers, and, above all, the climate of friendship, gives readers of *The Urantia Book* from all over the world the opportunity to share their personal religious experience in a meeting of both minds and souls.

## THE INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR IN BOGOTÁ



By Andrés Ramirez, Bogotá, Colombia

The International Book Fair in Bogotá, Colombia, was held from April 25 to May 8, 2017, with a booth hosted by the Bogotá Urantia Association and with financial support from Urantia Foundation. More than forty volunteers participated. Guest volunteers from some Latin American countries were invited to learn from this

experienced group how to host a successful book fair booth. Volunteers from Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Cali, Colombia, accepted the invitation and gained valuable hands-on experience. The Bogotá Urantia Association helped in part with the airplane tickets for the visiting volunteers. Lodging was provided by a volunteer from Bogotá.

The booth was 17 square meters (183 square feet) in size and was decorated with various posters that helped volunteers to explain *The Urantia Book*. There were also two tables with chairs and some souvenirs. About 550,000 visitors attended the book fair. Some 23,000 flyers introducing *The Urantia Book* were distributed to visitors at the booth, eighty-five e-mail addresses were obtained, and sixty soft-cover books provided

by Urantia Foundation were sold. The Bogotá team also made contact with thirty-three schools, where they plan to hold conferences for students and teachers.

As a result of this experience, Efrain Vivanco hosted a booth at a book fair in Ecuador, on May 29 through June 2, and two volunteers from Colombia were there helping. The

unique opportunity to volunteer in other countries and at the same time provide the chance to meet with other readers and volunteers, creating strong bonds and friendship among leaders and members of Urantia Associations. The Bogotá Urantia Association is planning to continue having guests from other countries who are willing to learn from the experience of



president of the new Urantia Association in Costa Rica returned home from this book-fair experience, mobilized his team, and will host a booth at a book fair later this year. The two volunteers from Cali, Colombia, are making plans to host a booth at their local book fair in October.

Readers of *The Urantia Book* will have booths at book fairs in Bolivia in May–June, Guatemala in June, and Perú in July. Book fairs may be a

this kind of service project. Last month, the Latin American leaders held a two-hour virtual meeting to discuss how to organize a book fair.

As a follow-up to this event, the Bogotá Urantia Association hosted an online talk titled “Introduction to *The Urantia Book*,” broadcast via Zoom to Latin America.

# GOD IN MAN—THE SPANISH READERS GATHER



By Olga López, Barcelona, Spain

The sixteenth meeting of Spanish readers, sponsored by the Urantia Association of Spain, began on the afternoon of Friday, April 28, at the Hotel Tryp in Guadalajara, Spain (near the capital, Madrid). The conference was attended by almost fifty people, from the north, east, and south of Spain. The theme of this meeting was *God in Man*, which is the title of Section 6

in Paper 108, "Mission and Ministry of Thought Adjusters."

The main subject of discussion was the Thought Adjuster: What is it? What does it do? And what shall we become together? On this occasion, one of the main goals was to coordinate presentations, so that they could approach different aspects of the Thought Adjusters and our relationship to them without being redundant.

On Friday evening, I gave a presentation about the history of the fifth epochal revelation because there are many readers who are confused about the people and the circumstances involved in the delivery of the Urantia Revelation. This is part of a series of presentations to inform the Spanish readers about the historic and organizational background of *The Urantia Book*.

On Saturday morning, the first presentation was given by Carmelo Martínez, whose title was simply "God in Man," and its purpose was to set the tone for the succeeding presentations.

We also had a presentation from Mariano Pérez, titled "The Action of the Thought Adjuster in Man." In his presentation, Mariano focused on the material support for the Thought Adjuster—our brain and our glands, mainly the pineal gland—related to spiritual activity.

In the afternoon, we enjoyed some socializing time, taking a walk in Guadalajara and seeing some of its most famous architecture. We even had the chance to taste Guadalajara's famous "borrachos" which are a local dessert consisting of

little sponge cakes dipped in sweet syrup.

After the city tour, we celebrated the marriage of two attendees. Their wedding took place two weeks prior to the conference, and they brought their family to share this joy with us. We were all deeply moved. We Spanish readers are a big and loving family!

Sunday morning we had two very innovative presentations, given by two talented women. One of the two women was Paula Requejo, who made an inspiring presentation titled "The Persistence of True Values," using a PowerPoint presentation with evocative images and a main character called "Urantina," a little girl who discovers what these true values are in her daily life.

The second of the two women, María José Sánchez Santamaría, took us on a trip



to Paradise and beyond with our Thought Adjusters long after fusion. In her presentation, titled "The Adjuster and the Soul," she used little moments of meditation, music, and words to help us fly away in the company of our Thought Adjusters. It was really amazing!

For the first time, the presentations were broadcast and recorded via Zoom, so they can be uploaded to the YouTube channel of the Association in

the near future. Some readers showed up via Zoom to attend the presentations in this virtual room. With proper microphones and technology, this may prove to be the solution for people who want to listen to the presentations but can't attend the meeting.

Sunday afternoon was the time for workshops. Each attendee was assigned to a workshop randomly, so that groups were as heterogeneous as possible. Each workshop was about a topic related to the Thought Adjuster:

- The Nature of Thought Adjusters
- The Psychic Circles
- Adjusters on Urantia
- Erroneous Concepts of Adjuster Guidance
- The Human Paradox

After this small-group-workshop activity, we had some sharing time with the larger group and ended with a lively discussion.

And let us not forget the evenings! As usual, we kept up our long-time tradition of engaging in spontaneous discussions until our eyes grew heavy.

On Sunday, we had a meeting of the Urantia Association of Spain, in which the board reported on the Association's activities in 2016. After lunch, it was time to say our goodbyes. But we attendees are already looking forward to next year's meeting.

# WHAT CAN THE EMERGING PHILOSOPHY OF LIVING DO?



By Jeff Wattles, Ohio, United States

*Editor's Note: Jeff Wattles will be co-hosting "Teacher Training for Experiential Education in Truth, Beauty, and Goodness" with Gard Jameson, chairman of the Urantia Foundation Education Committee. This seminar will be held in Chicago from Thursday evening, November 9, to Sunday afternoon, November 12, 2017. Jeff*

*and Gard are seeking participants who are interested in philosophy, personal growth, education, or wisdom in working with The Urantia Book. If you are interested in attending, please contact Jeff directly at [jwattles@kent.edu](mailto:jwattles@kent.edu).*

What sublime goals are to be accomplished by *promoting a religion, a philosophy, and a cosmology commensurate with man's intellectual and cultural development?* For an astonishing answer, see [Urantia Foundation's Declaration of Trust, Article II.](#)

These three intellectual and cultural stimuli will bless the peoples of our world with the most high-leverage teachings of *The Urantia Book*—presented with evolutionary wisdom and in accordance with their capacity of receptivity.

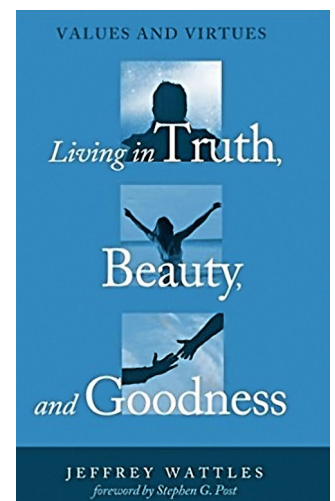
Why is philosophy included along with religion and cosmology? Philosophy synthesizes religion and

cosmology. Philosophy guides the interpretation of meanings and the development of concepts. The new and emerging philosophy features concepts of truth, beauty, and goodness as outlined at the end of Paper 2, so it will cultivate our thinking, feeling, and doing; guide us in unifying energy systems, idea systems, and spirit systems; enhance our health, sanity, and happiness; and help us become like God.

Thus the new philosophy is not only for personal growth. It contains a *cosmic paradigm for education*. Real education keeps us active on our growth frontier: "character acquired by enlightened experience." 37:6.3 (412.3)

During the seminar, Gard and I will conduct a gathering of persons who will read and discuss my book, *Living in Truth, Beauty, and Goodness*, probe selected teachings in *The Urantia Book* that underlie that book, and dare to venture into project-

centered experiential education, following a method that has been tested with thousands of Kent State University students. For a summary of my book, go to <https://sites.google.com/site/ubquestionsandstudies/>.



# SPIRITUAL REBIRTH— HOW *THE URANTIA BOOK* TRANSFORMED ME



By MaryJo Holman-Garascia,  
Colorado, United States

When I found *The Urantia Book* in 1985, it was the beginning of the remaking of my character and a true spiritual awakening—a feast for a famished soul. I was thirty-eight years old and ripe for the experience. In the beginning of my experience with the revelation, I thought to myself, “If I keep reading this book, I am going to have to make some changes in my life.”

I plunged in, head over heels in love with this new concept of God, newly in love with Jesus, and with the promise that I might be reborn. I remember those times

vividly. The teachings of Jesus, especially, took me by surprise. Even though I had abandoned God along with the Catholic Church in my youth, I had never fully abandoned Jesus; seeing his life and teachings in the book brought tears of joy and gratitude to my eyes. I often read Part IV through a mist of tears in those days. The teachings of *The Urantia Book*—and of Jesus—fundamentally transformed the way I interfaced with the world and with the people in my life, and that remains true to this day, thirty-plus years later.

As the teachings about the cosmos spilled out before my astonished eyes, my inner cosmos began undergoing a transformation, too. It was not all sweet, as anyone who has dismantled a shaky foundation to make way for a new and finer edifice can attest. There were a lot of emotional scrapes, bruises, and an uncomfortable face-to-face with my flawed nature. But I was determined—and thrilled beyond words.

My rebirth of the Spirit was a “stormy” one. As I began processing the wealth of

spiritual information in *The Urantia Book*, I experienced the “fringe of conflict” that besets all who transition to a life in the Spirit. Even though I made better decisions about where I wanted to be and was feeling far more right on the inside, it took a while before my outer life completely caught up. But over time, evidence began accruing. Things got progressively better, even though there were those times of two steps forward and one step back. Those times were hard, but now God was my companion. Even the rough patches of life were not so bad. I still had my share of clouds, but now, all of my clouds had silver linings.

It was as a direct result of my embracing *The Urantia Book* and the matchless ministry of Jesus and his Spirit of Truth that I was able to come to terms with my rocky past and the people who were part of it. I learned the value of forgiveness and the humility of its reciprocal nature. I learned to tame my rebellious temperament and surrender myself to divine guidance. This was a revelation in itself: I did not have to be in control

of everything, and I could trust God to show the way.

Appropriately enough, after nine months, I completed a read-through of the book, at which time I truly could feel the newness of life in the spirit, which these teachings had wrought. As my spirit expanded, my mind expanded, too; my capacity for understanding took quantum leaps, and renewal became the order of the day.

*The Urantia Book* came into my life at a time when I was most in need of it; its sane, reasonable, and loving instruction has helped me to live a better life, a happier life, a life that has true meaning to me. I have happily dedicated my whole being to something far greater than me and yet something so intimately a part of me: the Kingdom of Heaven—that place of peace and joy that Jesus promised was within, and that, with his grace, I found.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### IC'17

There is still time to register for the Urantia Book Fellowship's International Conference being held in Denver, Colorado, from July 19 to 23.

[Click here for details and information on the pre-conference retreats.](#)



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# ANNOUNCEMENT

## "DANCING WITH GOD: EMERGING IN SACREDNESS"

### *A DAUGHTERS OF GOD RETREAT*

Announcing the latest in our continuing series of women's retreats at Urantia Foundation, the Daughters of God facilitator team (Katharina Becker, Doreen Heyne, Carolyn Prentice, and Line St-Pierre) invites you to an intimate, experiential, and fun weekend.

In our next retreat, "Dancing with God: Emerging in Sacredness," four Daughters of God have designed a program where we will cocreate a milieu of trust within a spiritual circle, so that we can explore together such questions as:

- What does it mean to you that "Jesus never failed to exalt the sacredness of the individual"? 170:3.10 (1862.7)
- "Angels do not invade the sanctity of the human mind." How do you relate to this? 113:5.1 (1245.7)
- How do you become aware of the sacred in the drudgery of everyday life?

**The Daughters of God Mission:** To enhance the status of being a woman dedicated to spiritual growth, intellectual advancement, and moral progress.

**The Daughters of God Vision:** To touch women's hearts by exploring the dignity of being Daughters of God by honoring their value and importance, and by cooperating with the divine spirit to bring forth the beautiful harvest of the fruits of the spirit.

The cost for the three days is **\$240.00** and includes all meals and shared overnight accommodations on a first-come basis. The retreat begins with dinner on Thursday evening and ends after lunch on Sunday.

If you would like to be a part of this event at Urantia Foundation headquarters, 533 W. Diversey Parkway in Chicago, contact Joanne Strobel at [joanne@urantia.org](mailto:joanne@urantia.org).

