



URANTIA FOUNDATION'S NEWS ONLINE



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INFINITE TREASURES ARE OURS

By the trustees and staff of
Urantia Foundation

As ascending pilgrims of time, we have all been challenged to “feast upon uncertainty..., to invigorate in the presence of difficulties..., and to exercise unconquerable faith when confronted with the challenge of the inexplicable.” 26:5.3 (291.3) And we do this not alone, but together as siblings.

The past year certainly brought challenges. But we have the assurances of a divine revelation, a glimpse into the very mind of God, where his plan embraces each one of us. “And this plan is an eternal purpose of boundless opportunity, unlimited progress, and endless life. And the infinite treasures of such a matchless career are yours for the striving!” 32:5.7 (365.3)

When you scroll through the articles in this issue, we hope you will draw inspiration from the heartfelt love, joyful service, and exciting programs

that readers across the world are eager to share with you.

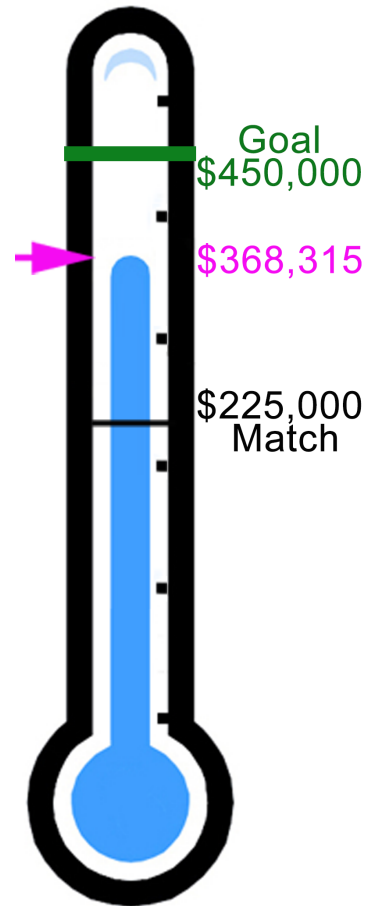
And as we celebrate the season of peace, goodwill toward men, faith, hope, and brotherhood, please remember to support the important work of Urantia Foundation in seeding *The Urantia Book* (now available in 24 languages!) across the globe.

If you have already given, we thank you. If not, please help us continue to spread the revelation by giving to the **2020 Winter Match**. Several donors have agreed to match up to \$225,000 if we can raise that amount by the end of the year. This generous offer expires on **December 31** so please help us reach this goal.

Every dollar counts... twice!

[Click here to donate.](#)

May you and your loved ones be blessed with abundant joy, peace, and good health.



THE STANDARD REFERENCE TEXT— HISTORICAL CONTEXT AND PURPOSE



By Marvin Gawryn, Project Manager, Standard Reference Text Committee, Nevada, United States

Editor's Note: The Standard Reference Text Committee was initially formed in 2007. The current members are Marilyn Kulieke and Merritt Horn, co-chairs; Marvin Gawryn, project manager; Ken Keyser; David Kulieke; Jay

Peregrine; and Tamara Strumfeld. The committee's job is to review all passages brought to their attention that might contain a possible error and to make a recommendation to adopt a correction or retain the original text.

The Standard Reference Text (SRT) had its origin during a significant transitional period in

the history of our young Urantia movement. For over 50 years, the Contact Commission, followed by the trustees of Urantia Foundation, shepherded the text of *The Urantia Book*, protecting its integrity as the sole publisher through more than a dozen printings. In 2005, a few years after the previously copyrighted text moved into the public domain and the Urantia Book Fellowship began

publication of the text, it became apparent to both publishers that a new approach was necessary to continue to fulfill the mandate to preserve the text "inviolable," unaltered in fact and in meaning.

It was in that context that the idea of a joint committee, comprised equally of representatives appointed by the Foundation and the Fellowship, was proposed. Details were worked out and in 2007 a six-member standing committee was formed. The committee was tasked with establishing and continuing to oversee a process whereby both publishers would agree to print the "Standard Reference Text" of *The Urantia Book*.

The task was substantial. According to historical documents, the revealed text of the Urantia Papers was predominantly received in handwritten or stenographic form and went through several typing and typesetting steps in preparation for the initial 1955 printing. Meticulous efforts to avoid spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and other typesetting errors in this first printing were largely successful. This was remarkable for a volume of more than one million words and 2,000 pages.

The publisher and dedicated readers continued to search for any remaining errors; by the time of the second printing (1967) fewer than 40 more were found and corrected. It

was well understood at that time that the finding and correcting of such minor errors would need to continue through subsequent printings and the occasional replacement of worn-out printing plates. The later transition to electronic editions of the text posed similar challenges.

At the time the SRT Committee was established, the Foundation was on its 16th printing and the Fellowship on its 3rd printing. The need to review the entire history of corrections made was the first task of the committee. After more than two years of intensive work the task was completed in 2009, resulting in the committee's substantial first report and recommendations to the publishers. This report was adopted by both organizations as the basis for the Standard Reference Text.

The SRT Committee has continued to meet to address its assigned task, submitting additional reports to the publishers in 2015 and 2018, and will next report in 2021. Well over 300 items have been considered to date, resulting in 175 copyediting corrections to the 1955 first printing. All of the committee's reports and recommendations have been adopted by both publishers, thus establishing the pervasive standard text adopted by all major online publishers and used universally in translation

projects. These reports, recommendations, and related information can be found at

urantia.org/study/adopted-corrections-1955-text.

It is well understood that the committee's working philosophy, its purpose and methodology, have been inherently conservative: to make only necessary and minor corrections to the "original" 1955 text, and to thereby vouchsafe the integrity of the printings published by the Foundation and the Fellowship. Readers can rest assured that any publication of *The Urantia Book* that uses the SRT is essentially identical to the text that was published in 1955, incorporating the necessary corrections to the spelling, punctuation, and related grammatical issues of the first printing.

A recent item of consideration relates to an issue that the Committee recognizes is relevant to its purpose. As the English language continues to evolve and usage changes, especially over the centuries-long lifespan of this revelation, the language of the text in many of its passages may become archaic, and perhaps even incomprehensible.

In its most recent deliberations, the committee discussed the idea of "modernizing" such archaic language and unanimously agreed to recommend to the publishers the following

resolution, which was adopted by the Foundation's Board of Trustees:

SRT Committee Resolution Regarding Archaic Language

The SRT Committee recommends adopting the following guidelines in considering possible instances of "archaic" language in the text of *The Urantia Book*:

1. Archaic words and phrases are those which were once used regularly in a language, but which are now rarely encountered. They have characteristics of the language of the past and are retained for special purposes, such as for referring back to unique or unusual meanings associated with those forms, and for preserving the original text of a work even as the language evolves over time.

2. When reviewing possible instances of archaic language in *The Urantia Book*, where no other issues exist related to our copyediting mandate, the SRT Committee's preference will be to retain the language in its original 1955 form. The committee will include such instances in its compilation of considered items, along with any clarifying commentary from its deliberations.

Urantia Foundation remains dedicated to protecting and publishing the 1955 text free from errors. The SRT Committee will always be an integral part of this process, and we are grateful for their competence, oversight, commitment, and service to the revelation.

All of the committee's reports and recommendations have been adopted by both publishers, thus establishing the pervasive standard text adopted by all major online publishers and used universally in translation projects.

The Urantia Book



UPDATES FROM THE OCTOBER 2020 TRUSTEE MEETING



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



Marcel Peereboom



Vicki Yang

Appointment of Associate Trustees

The board appointed Marcel Peereboom from Holland and Vicki Yang from Taiwan and California as new associate trustees for a three-year term. Sherry Cathcart Chavis, Mark Hutchings, and Mino Claire were reappointed as associate trustees for the coming year.

The 2020 Winter Match

Five generous donors have pledged to donate \$225,000 if the community matches this amount before January 1. It is always gratifying to see the number of gifts that arrive in the last two months of the year, and we hope to have your support once again to reach this goal.

Your funds fuel the advancement of the Urantia Revelation. With your financial support, the work of Urantia Foundation can be relied upon, even during times of great uncertainty.

Please consider a donation to Urantia Foundation at urantia.org/donate/newDonate

Financials

The trustees and staff of Urantia Foundation are committed to keeping expenses aligned with our most important priorities. Year-to-date (YTD) our expenses were down 11% from 2019 and below our revised budget by 8%. We are so thankful to our generous donors who have helped us carry out our work over the past year!

The board approved the 2021 budget which projects a break-even year. The income line projects gross revenue of \$785,300 with total expenses of \$785,160. Our conservative approach to spending focuses on funding the most important projects.

Jesus' Travels Gift Booklet

Jim English designed a 12-page pamphlet with maps of Jesus' travels, important event locations, resurrection appearances, Palestine back then, and a timeline of the Master's life. Donors received this gift as thanks for their ongoing support.

Planned Giving

Planned giving is a way to support future generations of readers. Joanne Strobel has updated this section of our website (urantia.plannedgiving.org). It provides specific guidance on different types of gifts and suggestions on how to leave a gift to Urantia Foundation. We continue to build a safety net for the revelation in the future.

Book Sales

The third quarter and YTD sales are excellent, indicating a resurgence in reading during the coronavirus shutdown. Here are the 2020 numbers compared to the same time last year.

- Total Urantia Book sales are 17,403, up 27% from 2019.
- English sales are 7,819, up 8%.
- Spanish sales are stable at 2,628.
- Portuguese sales are 1,756, up 7%.

- French sales are 903, up 86%.
- E-books are 3,349, up 45%.
- Downloads are 85,021, up 26%.

It is cause for celebrating when we need to print more Urantia Books in English because that means they're selling. We just printed 10,000 more. *The Untold Story of Jesus* from Urantia Press is entering its second printing with improved maps and additional paintings.

Urantia Foundation Website

Brad Garner recently joined executive director Tamara Strumfeld, Ashley Parratore, and Joanne Strobel on the Foundation's website team. With the addition of Brad's project management background, and his creative thinking and programming skills, you can look forward to a more robust and attractive website as we upgrade in 2021.

Educational Programs

Gard Jameson, Education Committee chair, submitted a written report that included the following updates:

- The Urantia Education Center proceeds with steady progress. The team members are Gard Jameson, David and Marilynn Kulieke, Elisabeth Callahan, Chris Wood, Geri Johnson, and Rob Mastroianni.
- A notable Urantia history written by Gard

Jameson and Marilyn Kulieke becomes available for review in early 2021.

- *Dancing with God: Living in Love in Trying Times*, a virtual spiritual retreat for women, will be held on Sunday, December 13.

- A Zoom seminar on "Loving Service" is scheduled for February.

- A Race Seminar is scheduled for next November.

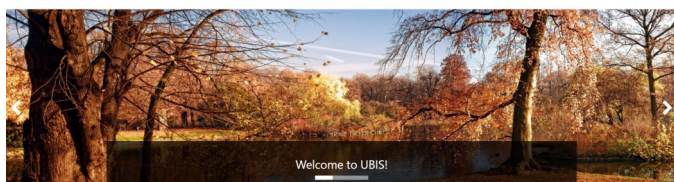
For additional information on these education programs, contact Joanne at joanne@urantia.org.

Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS)

The school experienced a significant increase of new students taking their first course across all linguistic branches (English, French, Spanish, and Portuguese) during 2019–2020. A total of 472 students completed studies at UBIS this year. Congratulations to the board, administrators, teacher-facilitators, and students for making this educational institution the most successful since the revelation first appeared.

The UBIS board elected Tim Duffy as the co-director, along with the school's founder, Georges Michelson-Dupont. Congratulations, Tim!

Michael Zehr became the English branch director, and



UBIS

Geraldo Queiroz was named director of the Portuguese branch. Olga López Molina continues as the Spanish branch director, and Georges is the French branch's provisional director. Joanne Strobel continues as UBIS executive director.

Urantia Book Study Group Directory (UBSGD)

Urantia Foundation partners with Urantia Association International (the Association) and the Urantia Book Fellowship (UBF) in maintaining the [study group directory](#). Special thanks for the excellent work go to Bill Beasley, chair; Scott Brooks, webmaster; Jackie Koury, UBF; Rick Lyon, the Association; and Tamara Strumfeld, Urantia Foundation.

This quarter, the UBSGD team finished its annual database cleanup, so all groups listed in the directory are current. Fortunately, the committee removed only a few groups after they failed to respond to repeated attempts to contact them.

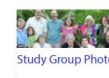
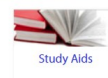
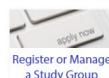
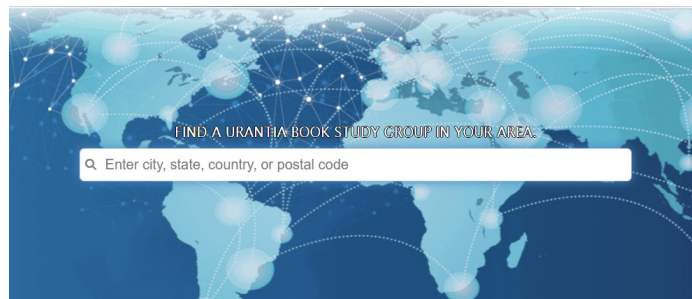
Study group statistics from the directory:

- 29 new study groups were added; 461 total groups with 187 being virtual; 356 in-person groups; 238 total groups in the United States with 80 being virtual; 223 groups outside the United States; and study groups in 61 countries.
- In numerical order, the top 10 countries



English

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with study groups are the United States, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Spain, France, Mexico, Venezuela, Australia, and South Korea.

- The top five languages are English with 290 groups, Spanish with 79 groups, Portuguese with 31 groups, French with 29 groups, and Korean with 8 groups.

Translations

During the last three months, progress with translations and revisions kept pace with our expectations. A special thanks to the Translation Committee consisting of Marilyn Kulieke, chair; Georges Michelson-Dupont, manager of translations; Víctor García-Bory; Henk Mylanus; Jay Peregrine; Tamara Strumfeld; and Mino Claire.

- Víctor García-Bory is engaged in our quality assurance process for the new Spanish revision. It will be available on urantia.org/es by May 2021. Printed books will be available by fall 2021.

- Gabriel Rymberg reported that the Hebrew translation's final proofing is at Paper 188 with completion scheduled for January 1, 2021.

- The Farsi translation is completed up to Paper 140.

- The Filipino translation, headed by Eugene and Belen Asidao, has launched.

- Jay Peregrine continued quality assurance processes with our Arabic, Chinese, Farsi, Filipino, Greek, and Romanian translations, and the Spanish and Portuguese revisions.

Thanks to Richard Zhu, the first draft of the Chinese translation is on Paper 170. The mainland Chinese people predominately read text using Simplified Chinese characters. The Chinese in Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, and foreign nationals living outside Asia, read Traditional Chinese characters. Currently, Richard Zhu is translating *The Urantia Book* into Chinese using Simplified characters. Vicki Yang offered to help Richard put the Chinese translation into Traditional characters as well. We are translating into both sets of characters because, in the foreseeable future, China's political conditions may not favor introducing *The Urantia Book*. Having the translation in Traditional characters allows for introducing *The Urantia Book* in Taiwan before entering China.

CHINESE CONFERENCE GENERATES ENTHUSIASM FOR *THE URANTIA BOOK*



By Vicki Heng Fan Yang,
Chinese Translation Team
Member, California, United
States

Editor's Note: The October issue of *News Online* featured Vicki's article about an online conference of Chinese students of *A Course in Light (ACIL)* who have become interested in learning more about *The Urantia Book*. Two days were filled with interesting presentations, prayer, and meditations. The third day featured follow-up questions about the revelation. To read the original article, [please click here](#).

As promised in my last article, I would like to share some of the gratifying comments that I received from the participants of our first Chinese conference of prospective readers of *The Urantia Book*. I hope this heartwarming feedback will give you a glimpse of the fertile soil that awaits the seeds of the revelation in Mainland China and Taiwan. The enthusiasm of my students fuels my own as I continue to work with Richard Zhu on the Chinese translation of *The Urantia Book* into both Simplified and Traditional characters. I am also looking forward to planning and hosting another Urantia conference for Chinese-

speaking readers in the near future.



Tina Liu

Tina's Observations

"Those three precious Saturdays were like a spiritual feast of inspiring topics. The speakers chose

to focus on topics that would appeal to those of us who had not yet read the entire *Urantia Book* but had been exposed to the teachings through weekly quotes sent by Vicki.

"Richard Zhu's talk about the ascending journey to Paradise clearly gave us a whole new picture of the Universal Father's plan and the huge and detailed organization. As students of ACIL, we have been taught that 'all is in perfect Divine order.' What we accepted by faith before, *The Urantia Book* now gives us in detailed and concrete revelations!

"Both Mei Fong and Richard gave talks that were rich in content and wisdom, using examples, such as synonyms or analogies, to compare key

concepts in *The Urantia Book* with familiar Chinese sayings from ancient books and classic scriptures. I appreciated their use of repeated, proven wisdom to help us increase understanding and build sincere faith. Universal truth rings true no matter at which time and in which culture.

"Last but not least, I would like to show my appreciation to Vicki, who has been sending us excerpts from *The Urantia Book* every Sunday for the past two years. Though difficult to follow in the beginning, they helped me to expand and upgrade my consciousness. The more I am involved, the more I love to read the book. And the more I read, the better I understand."



"While listening to the talks, I was inspired to paint a Mandala 'Flower of Life.' My theme was, 'We all come from the stars.' I was trying to express my love and sense of belonging to the universe. From universes, stars, planets, time and space worlds, humans, to the plants in nature, we are all creations from the Creator. We are family!" ~ Tina



Fun

Fun's Comments

"Having heard that Vicki Yang, the translator of *A Course in Light*, had suggested *The Urantia Book* as an advanced study course, I searched the Internet with curiosity. I did not find many Chinese references, so I stopped looking. Later, I joined a Urantia Book study group on WeChat. Though I slowly gained some degree of understanding, the giant book scared me. Without a Chinese translation, it would

be impossible for me to read it.

"Fortunately, I discovered the conference, and signed up without hesitation. I was overjoyed with the three-day series, and many of my questions were answered. The timing of this conference was fortuitous. If it had been held two years earlier, I might not have understood it at all. There were high-quality speakers who helped bring me into this expanded belief system step by step. I was especially moved by Vicki's and Richard Zhu's devotion and contributions.

"Though most Chinese people may not be quite ready to read this book, I believe that in a few years more will be inspired by it. I believe a single spark can start a wildfire. So, I have set up a public account on

social media, sharing some information. Although there are not yet many followers, with such a large Chinese population, it is inevitable and necessary that we will advance spiritually."



ChuLi

Reactions from ChuLi

"I benefited a lot from the

conference. It's like I was instantly expanded, and I heard the inner voice from deep within. I understood the meaning of my life. I gratefully decided that I will not only study *The Urantia Book* carefully, but I will also do my part to help share the wisdom of the revelators. We are looking forward to the Chinese version."



Jane Luán

Reflections from Jane Luán

"What is my life purpose? Where did I come from? For these questions, I have visited the top psychologists in Beijing. I have a good job, a happy family, a healthy body, and lovely children. Though I have worked hard to improve myself and contribute to society, I am not completely satisfied.

"In *The Urantia Book*, I discovered hope in the answers to questions that have plagued me since childhood. I know I can go home. This conference has changed my life, and I thank all of the presenters. From now on I will live on Earth/Urantia with passion."

REMEMBERING CAROLYN KENDALL



By Marilyn Kulieke, vice president, Urantia Foundation, Illinois, United States

I met Carolyn Kendall almost 40 years ago at my very first Urantia Book study session at 533 Diversey in Chicago. She walked over and greeted me and my soon-to-be husband, David, whom she had known since he was a child. Remembering back to this encounter, I would never have guessed that this confident

and self-assured woman would become a mentor, teacher, and most importantly, my lifelong friend.

Carolyn was one of the most remarkable women that I have ever known. She began her involvement at 533 in 1951 as a receptionist to Dr. William Sadler, who had left his surgical practice to heal the more pressing problems of the mind. As a member of the Forum, and later the First and Orvonton Urantia Societies, Carolyn was known as an ardent student of the Urantia Papers. For over 50 years, she led a life of extraordinary service to both Urantia Brotherhood and Urantia Foundation, many of those years working alongside her husband Tom. And all the while she raised their five children, Scott, Jeff, Neal, Bryn, and Laura, in a nearby suburb of Chicago. Only a 20-mile drive to 533!



2017: Carolyn Kendall

Carolyn dedicated her life to the Urantia Revelation. She served on the General Council of Urantia Brotherhood for almost 18 years during the '60s and '70s. Her dear friend and fellow historian Gard Jameson appreciated her consistent advocacy of deep study into *The Urantia Book* and her support for interfaith activities. With her husband, Tom, a trustee and former

president of Urantia Foundation, she traveled to Europe where she met some of the first Urantia Book readers outside the United States. Georges Michelson-Dupont described their visits to Paris with his family as occasions with memorable dinners amidst laughter, good wine, and jokes. Carolyn's collection of photos witnessed the many events that she



1968: Jacques Dupont, Martin Myers, Carolyn Kendall, Tom Kendall, Alain Le Corvec, Emma "Christy" Christensen

You were called to the great work of taking the first step of offering to mortal man a new light, a new revelation of the love of God. The easy jog-trot religion of former days no longer suffices to meet the challenges of today. Following Jesus' way of life calls for an act of complete commitment, a dedicated intention, a resolute purpose, and a trumpet call to a life that will not compromise.

God has provided the vision and the call. And throughout your life you have answered this call.

You have met this challenge by cultivating the power to envision your share in bettering the world and by fulfilling the vision that God has given you, using your many talents as a willing partner in service of the Urantia Revelation.

You have lived your life as a soldier of the circles, wholeheartedly enlisted in the solid ranks of those mortals who have gone forth in the battle for truth against error under the unfaltering leadership of the mighty seraphim of progress. And as your service on Urantia ends, you are being called to a new and higher form of service. We will miss you on Urantia, but they wait for you on high.

It was later that day that Carolyn passed, with her family at her side. I have no idea if Christy's words may have eased her passing. But I am certain that upon her arrival she will be greeted as a "soldier of the circles" hailing from the planet of the Cross.

captured of her old and new friends around the world.

As international activities and responsibilities surrounding the revelation expanded, the trustees of Urantia Foundation made the historic decision to expand their wisdom pool by inviting several individuals to serve as associate trustees. Carolyn was one of the first three associates to join the board in 2003, along with Nancy Shaffer and Kathleen Swadling. Her historic perspective, wise counsel, and years of experience made a significant contribution at board meetings and helped further the dissemination of the revelation into the world.

Few people I've met have shown a better understanding

of *The Urantia Book* than Carolyn. In the many study groups we attended together I marveled at her ability to find a cross reference or answer a question that someone raised. She oftentimes presented at conferences and First Society study groups. She could speak about some of the more difficult concepts in the book, yet she could spend hours talking with a new reader who had questions. Her last two caregivers, Jackie and Carol, both had such high respect for Carolyn that they began coming to study groups with her!

Perhaps Carolyn's greatest legacy to future generations is her observations of the early history of the Urantia Papers. She was not a newcomer to the early years of the Urantia Papers as her father Clarence Bowman was a member of the Forum during the early 1920s. It was after she became the receptionist for Dr. Sadler's medical practice in 1951 that she began asking questions, taking notes, and often asking others to corroborate her findings. She

searched for historical documentation that helped her weave together a story about how a revelation came to our planet.

I had the opportunity to be with Carolyn on the Saturday that she passed. Her daughter Laura asked that I come on Friday night to be with her, which I did, but her fatigue was great. On Saturday Laura asked that I return, which I did. I will never forget Carolyn's beautiful blue eyes looking straight at me. With her daughter Bryn and her beloved caretaker Carol looking on, I spoke words adapted from a speech that her friend Emma "Christy" Christensen gave a long time ago.



1967: Marion Barby, Carolyn Kendall, Frank Sgaraglino



1984: Carolyn Kendall, Nancy Grimsley, Gloriann Harris

URANTIA BOOK INTERNET SCHOOL—AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND BROTHERHOOD



By Georges Michelson-Dupont,
Trustee, Director of UBIS,
Recloses, France

Editor's Note: UBIS was founded in 1998 as a free educational program of Urantia Foundation. It is multilingual (English, Spanish, French, Portuguese), open to truth seekers from all over the world, and facilitated by more than 150 volunteers specially trained to create courses, develop thought-provoking questions, and animate the discussion weeks. Courses are offered in January, April, and September. We invite you to sign up for a course: <https://new.ubis.urantia.org/moodle/>

Few of us would argue that solitary study of *The Urantia Book* can be intellectually arduous and existentially lonely. This distracts many newer readers from experiencing the benefits the revelation could bring to them. Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS) is a program that

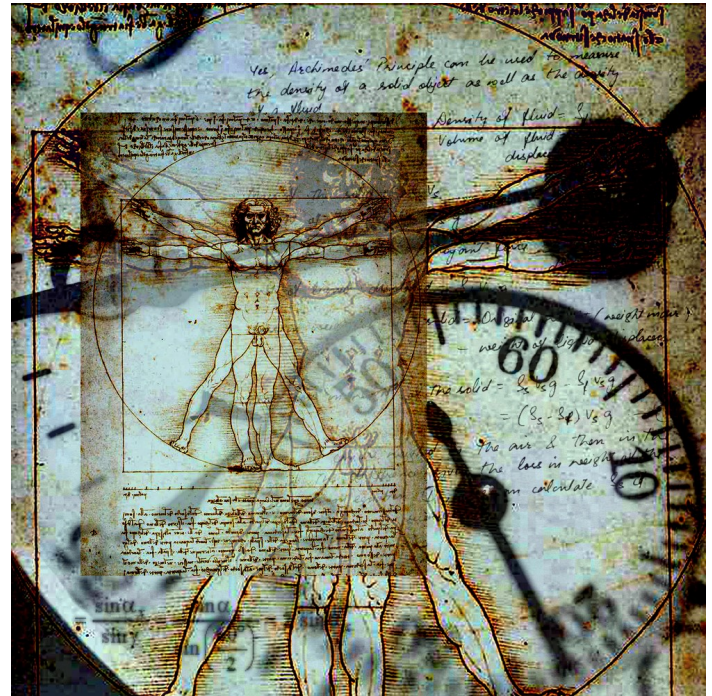
provides helpful solutions to readers both new and old.

Our school derives its inspiration from Jesus' approach to stimulate in every child of the Father the direct, personal experience of revealed truth in the soul. The Master did not simply tell his listeners the truths he wanted to reveal to them, he often asked questions designed to arouse in each soul the actual experience of such truth.

UBIS teacher-facilitators design thoughtful questions to provoke in students the personal encounter with revealed truths which, once experienced in their souls, leads to enhanced spiritual perception. Because of the transformative effect of the top-down revelation of new truth, and the intended growth process of revelation itself, the focus of UBIS is solely on *The Urantia Book* and does not include secondary (interpretive) works, or the evolutionary expressions of other seeker-authors musing about their views of truth or reality.

Revealed truth, personally discovered truth, is the supreme delight of the human soul; it is the joint creation of the material mind and the indwelling spirit. 132:3.4 (1459.9)

Our guiding principle was informed by the revelation



Science is the source of facts, and mind cannot operate without facts. 111:6.6 (1222.5)

itself, *from top to bottom* without intermediary—the *true teachers are the revelators, the Spirit of Truth, and the Thought Adjuster*. UBIS faculty members are called teacher-facilitators because they facilitate their students' encounter with new and living truth.

During a recent course discussion, two questions were brought to the table: *How can the intellectual study of the facts presented in the papers foster personal spiritual progress? And how can this same intellectual study help develop social brotherhood?* By brotherhood

we do not mean the kind inscribed on the pediments of French Republic monuments, Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité, but one that stems from active awareness of our sonship with the Father of all creatures living in the universe of universes.

A Solitary Messenger addresses the first question:

The expansion of material knowledge permits a greater intellectual appreciation of the meanings of ideas and the values of ideals. A human being can find truth in his inner experience, but he

The focus of UBIS is solely on *The Urantia Book* and does not include secondary (interpretive) works, or the evolutionary expressions of other seeker-authors musing about their views of truth or reality.

needs a clear knowledge of facts in order to apply his personal discovery of truth to the ruthlessly practical demands of everyday life. 111:6.7 (1222.6)

Science is the source of facts, and mind cannot operate without facts. They are the building blocks in the construction of wisdom which are cemented together by life experience. Man can find the love of God without facts, and man can discover the laws of God without love, but man can never begin to appreciate the infinite symmetry, the supernal harmony, the exquisite repleteness of the all-inclusive nature of the First Source and Center until he has found divine law and divine love and has experientially unified these in his own evolving cosmic philosophy. 111:6.6 (1222.5)

The second question is addressed by a Melchizedek:

Spiritual insight. The brotherhood of man is, after all, predicated on the recognition of the fatherhood of God. The quickest way to realize the brotherhood of man on Urantia is to effect the spiritual transformation of present-day humanity. The only technique for accelerating the natural trend of social evolution is that of applying spiritual pressure from above, thus augmenting moral insight while enhancing the soul capacity of every mortal to understand and love every other mortal. *Mutual understanding and fraternal love are transcendent civilizers and mighty factors in the world-wide realization of the brotherhood of man.* 52:6.7 (598.2) [Emphasis added]

Every ten-week (or shorter) UBIS course is organized into a series of two-week periods, each having a distinct purpose.

Week 1: During the first week, students are assigned a reading to study carefully before responding to some thought-provoking questions. The questions are designed to provoke a deep reflection leading to the personal discovery of revealed truth. Having a full week to read and contemplate the selected papers gives students enough time for an in-depth consideration and maturation. The resulting examination of facts and their integration into a conceptual framework is a complex process which contributes to the acquisition of a truth-based personal culture, to the spiritualization of the material mind, and to the formation of righteousness. This is true intellectual training as practiced in the universal schools of the mansion worlds. One might say it is a *preparation for the next life.*

Week 2: The second week accommodates an increased desire in the human mind to share these new intellectual acquisitions with other believers. Like love, truth requires to be shared. Responses to the questions

are discussed under the benevolent animation of the teacher-facilitator. This sharing of personal discoveries with truth seekers from different backgrounds and cultures becomes a unique opportunity to establish new relationships based on the desire to know, then understand, and finally love one another: relationships that build the spiritual brotherhood of believers, the kingdom of heaven.

Spiritual growth is mutually stimulated by intimate association with other religionists. Love supplies the soil for religious growth—an objective lure in the place of subjective gratification—yet it yields the supreme subjective satisfaction. And religion ennobles the commonplace drudgery of daily living. 100:0.2 (1094.2)

Virtual classrooms do not inhibit the establishment of human relationships. On the contrary, the personality circuit works very well indeed!



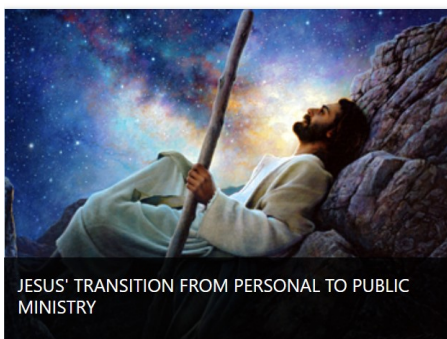
THE EVOLUTION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE LOCAL UNIVERSE



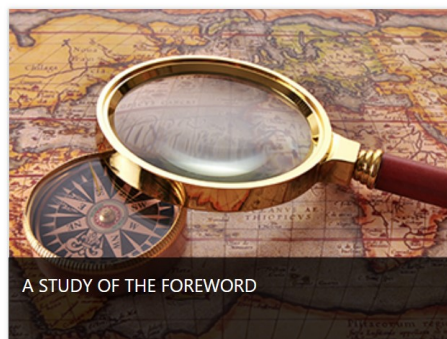
MINISTERING SPIRITS OF THE LOCAL UNIVERSE



JESUS AND JERUSALEM: "OH JERUSALEM, JERUSALEM"



JESUS' TRANSITION FROM PERSONAL TO PUBLIC MINISTRY



A STUDY OF THE FOREWORD



THE INFINITE ONE

URANTIA BOOK INTERNET SCHOOL— A BRAZILIAN EXPERIENCE



By Anna Azevedo, Salvador, Brazil

It gives me great pleasure to share some of my experiences with Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS). I was initially introduced to *The Urantia Book* through a friend, and it was the gift of a lifetime!

Like some new readers, I found the book to be dense and difficult to understand. Fortunately, my friend organized a study group, and once again fate smiled at me because this study group was led by one of my professors, Geraldo Queiroz. From that

moment my eyes were opened to a world that I did not know, and an ascension journey that I did not even imagine existed.

When Geraldo took a sabbatical to Chicago, Illinois, the group disbanded, and I did not study the book for quite a long time. It felt like an eternity! But then Geraldo returned and talked about UBIS. He told us that Urantia Foundation was interested in offering a Portuguese language course and he would be the group's facilitator!

I was thrilled with this news and participated in every Portuguese course that UBIS offered. The first course was "Knowing the Human Jesus and the Divine Jesus." That study changed the whole concept that I had about the life of Michael of Nebadon here on Urantia!

Through my UBIS studies I became a more assiduous

and active reader in the Urantia movement here in Brazil. I am currently part of the group of future facilitating teachers in the Portuguese branch, a beautiful and cutting-edge project that I believe will attract more Brazilian readers and seekers of truth.

Thanks to the UBIS courses, I have built bonds of friendship that will last a lifetime and my gratitude to my teacher-facilitator Geraldo Queiroz will last forever.

I also like to write worshipful poetry and am happy to share one of my poems with you:

Urantia

Lord, Lord
my way is nothing if You don't stay by my side
Lord, Lord
raise my soul
my being
my attitudes and my gestures
for when I have nothing to present to You
My personality will be all in Your unity
Lord, Lord
This way is full of curves and mishaps
Let my eyes never move away from Your Face
And may my tongue have eternal learning from Your Teachings
Lord, Lord
May I stumble on rocks but never on my words
Lord, Lord
I'm Your creation and let me at the end of this journey
Return to You!

WHAT *THE URANTIA BOOK* MEANS TO ME— THE DIMENSIONS OF GOD



By Saulo Q. Fraga, Pernambuco, Brazil

One of the wonderful things *The Urantia Book* has done for my perception of God has been to broaden my inner, or spiritual, view of the size of God. From my religious background as a child and adolescent, I was able to understand that God is great, but I had trouble with the teaching that His spirit can dwell in me. How could that be possible? Being so big, how could He dwell in me?

How could such a great and pure and holy Being dwell in such a small and flawed and sinful being?

From my father's side of the family, I had an introduction to Catholic doctrine, and my mother's side was evangelical. I learned good moral and ethical values, I had a glimpse of spiritual values, but there were some points that were not well explained, which made me go on a more detailed search.

When I asked for my name to be removed as an official member of the church, I tried to make my family understand that I was leaving the human institution, but I was not leaving God. The good concepts that I have today about God, I owe to the teachings of my parents, for which I am very grateful. But it is *The Urantia Book* that has helped me better understand both the *idea* and the *ideal* of God. For any mortal it is a huge undertaking to try to understand with our finite mind a Being of

infinite mind, but we are all free to want to know more about God.

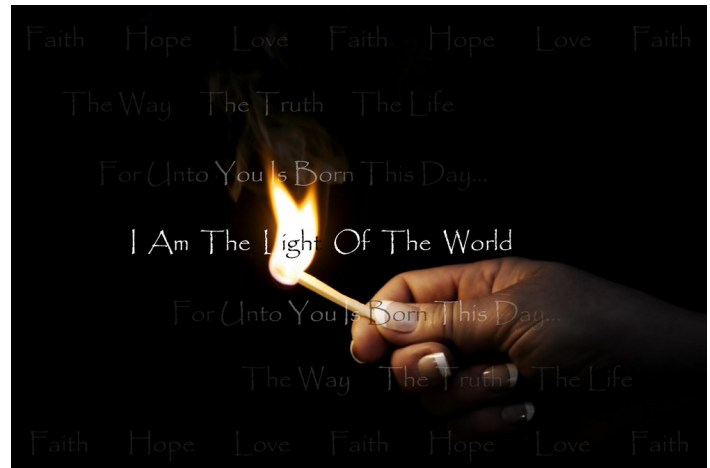
About eight years ago I came across *The Urantia Book* (*O Livro de Urântia* in Portuguese) which, despite its mysterious origin, fascinated me. The first time I studied the table of contents, I was able to see in this outline a harmony, a cohesion, and a higher order in the presentation of an eternal Being and His magnificent plans for the good of His creation.

As with all writings of supposedly divine origin, no matter what the religious denomination, whether it be a revelation through inspiration or an expanded revelation of cosmic truth, we must work as gold panners, always striving to find the gold. We must learn to separate the personal ritual (to which we are all entitled) from the sincere and direct search for the Great Source and Center of all things and beings, which takes place

through our personal and intimate religious experience with God. We do not need to accept with closed eyes everything that these writings present to us; we have the right to question God, our Father, and that is what I still do. I have continued to analyze *The Urantia Book*, and I always learn something new.

What I would like to highlight here is the greatness of God, and how I visualize Him. I found this was easier to do when I understood the difference between *quality* and *quantity*. What we learn about “who is God?” and “where is God?” is that there are many answers to those questions, showing us that there are many dimensions of God in the universe, and these dimensions help explain how we may contact Him.

At any time and place I can address my resident Adjuster, or Michael of



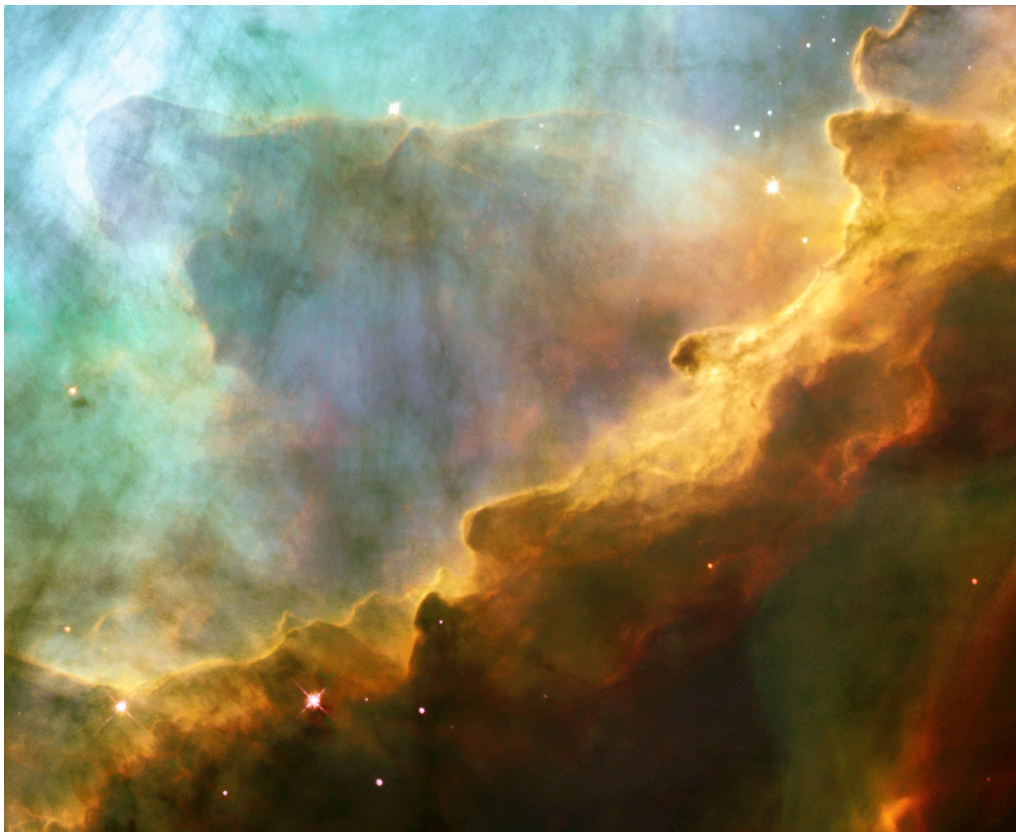
Salvington, or the Supreme God, or any of the three Paradise deities—the Infinite Spirit, the Eternal Son, or the Universal Father. All are **one** in different phases or manifestations. Qualitatively, if not quantitatively, all are equal. I may simply address “God,” and from there His inerrant circuits of spirit energy do the rest of the work, directing my petition or worship to the correct department, so to speak.

As the book clearly explains, our petitions and adoration come before the throne of the Father through the man-God, God-man, known to us as Joshua Ben Joseph and Michael of Salvington, who categorically stated that He alone is the Mediator between God and human beings:

After hearing Thomas, Jesus replied: “Thomas, I am the way, the truth and the life. No man goes to the Father **except through me**. All those who find the Father, first find me. If you know me, you know the way to the Father. And you do know me, for you lived with me and you now see me.” 180:3.7 (1947.6) [Bold added in quotes for emphasis.]

The Urantia Book speaks clearly about this flexibility in our direction to God, in discussing the origin of Thought Adjusters, the divine fragments:

Though there are diverse opinions regarding the mode of the bestowal of Thought Adjusters, there exist no such differences concerning their origin; all are agreed that they proceed directly from the Universal Father, the First Source and Center. They are not created beings; they are fragmentized entities constituting the factual presence of the infinite God. Together with



Omega Nebula

their many unrevealed associates, Adjusters are undiluted and unmixed divinity, unqualified and unattenuated parts of Deity; they are from God, and as far as we are able to discern, **they are God**. 107:1.2 (1177.3)

In a section discussing worship, the book explains the role of the Michaels in worship and prayer:

The Creator or Sovereign Sons who preside over the destinies of the local universes stand in the place of both the Universal Father and the Eternal Son of Paradise. These Universe Sons receive, in the name of the Father, the adoration of worship and give ear to the pleas of their petitioning subjects throughout their respective creations. To the children of a local universe, **a Michael Son is**, to all practical intents and purposes, **God**. He is the local universe personification of the Universal Father and the Eternal Son. 5:3.6 (66.2)

In the paper on God the Supreme, we are told that He is the way the eternal God can be present in time:

The Supreme is God-in-Time; his is the secret of

creature growth in time; his also is the conquest of the incomplete present and the consummation of the perfecting future. And the final fruits of all finite growth are: power controlled through mind and spirit by virtue of the unifying and creative presence of personality. The culminating consequence of all this growth is the Supreme Being. 117:2.1 (1280.1)

Another dimension of the way in which other Persons represent God is discussed in the paper on the Infinite Spirit:

Ever remember that the Infinite Spirit is the *Conjoint Actor*; both the Father and the Son are functioning in and through him; **he is present not only as himself but also as the Father and as the Son and as the Father-Son**. In recognition of this and for many additional reasons, the spiritual presence of the Infinite Spirit is often referred to as "the spirit of God." 8:5.5 (96.1)

In the paper on the Eternal Son, we read that in a certain sense the Son is God, and—confirming what we read previously—that this extends

From eternity, God the Father sees us as perfect beings, even though, in time, we are being perfected.

to the Creator Sons:

The Eternal Son is the eternal Word of God. He is wholly like the Father; in fact, **the Eternal Son is God** the Father personally manifest to the universe of universes. And thus it was and is and forever will true of the Eternal Son and all the co-ordinate Creator Sons: "He who has the Son has seen the Father." 6:2.2 (74.7)

And finally, in the paper on Deity and Reality, we are told that God as controller and God as Father are equally true, and that this truth is fundamental to universe reality:

The Universal Controller. I AM cause of eternal Paradise. This is the primal impersonal relationship of actualities, the original nonspiritual association. **The Universal Father is God-as-love**; the Universal Controller is God-as-pattern. This relationship establishes the potential

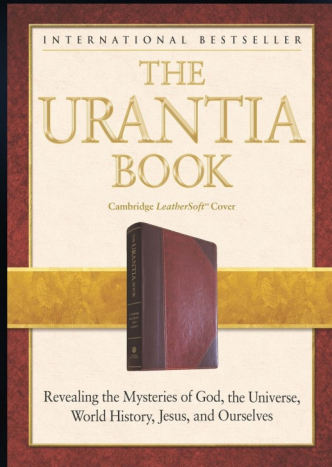
of form—configuration—and determines the master pattern of impersonal and nonspiritual relationship—the master pattern from which all copies are made. 105:2.6 (1154.5)

Putting it more simply, I have come to learn that the focus I should apply is not really on the quantitative aspect, the *size*, but on the *qualities* of God. It does not matter which phase or manifestation of Deity I am addressing. How comforting and exciting it is to be able to talk to our Father and *know*, not merely believe, that He hears us! From eternity, God the Father sees us as perfect beings, even though, in time, we are being perfected. In the heart of God we are already perfect. I don't need to convince Him to lead and guide me to the status of a perfect spirit. He is already doing it, with love, patience, and mercy. Knowing this, I'm inspired to remain "tuned" to Him with love, and therefore to love His sons and daughters as He loves us.



Iguazu falls, Foz do Iguazu, Brazil

ANNOUNCEMENTS



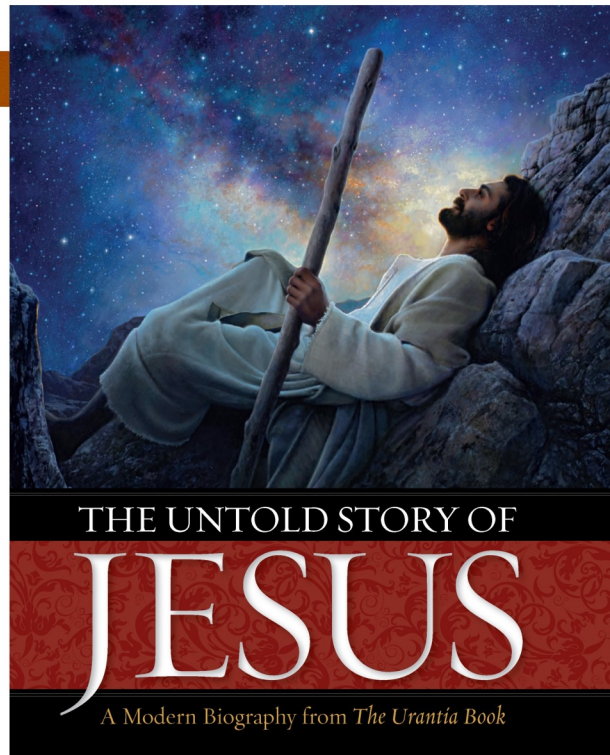
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Finnish added to Multi Language Urantia Book

Have you seen the Multi Language Book on Urantia Foundation's website? This feature allows you to view two languages side by side. It's fast and easy to navigate for a seamless viewing experience.

The Finnish translation was recently added, bringing the number of languages up to twenty.

You can find it here: <https://www.urantia.org/fi/MultiLanguageBook>.

Indonesian and Russian Facebook Pages

Urantia Foundation now has Facebook pages in Indonesian and Russian. Please visit and "Like" the pages. If you enjoy what you see, please share the posts with your friends.

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Thank you!



Truth, beauty, and holiness are powerful and effective aids
to true worship.

~ Jesus, *The Urantia Book* 167:6.6 (1840.5)