URANTIA FOUNDATION'S NEWS ONLINE



URANTIA FOUNDATION'S YEAR-END FUNDRAISING MATCH

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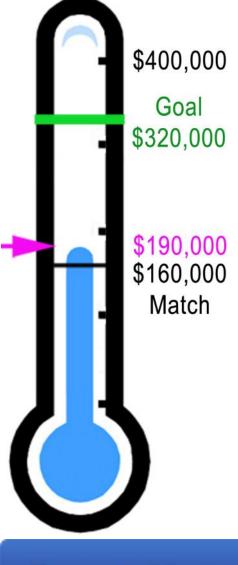


Distributing *The Urantia Book* in Colombia, South America, is one tough job. We sell the books to distributors for less than \$10 a book, but by the time someone can actually purchase one, it costs between \$40 and \$80. It is heartbreaking to know that a person with one fifth of the average income of a US citizen either pays three to six times more per book or cannot buy one at all.

In enters Wilson León and the Colombian Association of Urantia Association International who, in cooperation with Urantia Foundation, took matters into their own hands. They raised money, jumped through governmental hoops to obtain an import license, ordered several hundred libros de Urantia, attended a book fair, and have been distributing the book at dramatically lower prices. An almost identical story is playing out in Ukraine, thanks to Anton Miroshnichenko and the Association of Ukraine. People around the world are so inspired by this life-changing book that they use their limited time and resources to spread its teachings. Urantia Foundation is there to assist them.

We are reaching out to you because we know that you too are inspired by the teachings of *The Urantia Book.* We know that you understand the potential of this revelation to transform the spiritual culture of our planet. With 16 translations requiring distribution in more than 37 countries, we have a great opportunity to catalyze this spiritual transformation by making these teachings available to future generations. **Help Urantia Foundation be there to assist them.**

If the Foundation can raise \$160,000 between now and December 31, 2014, a group of anonymous donors will match it. Your dollars will go twice as far. Please help us reach this goal and keep global book distribution going.



Donate Now

We are *ever* mindful of your contributions to, and support of, Urantia Foundation. Without you, the Foundation's efforts would not be possible. Whether it is making the books more affordable in South America, increasing distribution in Russia, expanding book availability in Africa, or simply filling orders with Amazon, Urantia Foundation needs your help.

We thank you in advance for your ongoing commitment to the Urantia Book project and your financial support of Urantia Foundation!

Upward and inward,

Gard Jameson, Richard Keeler, Marilynn Kulieke, Georges Michelson-Dupont, Henk Mylanus, Mo Siegel, Judy Van Cleave

Trustees of Urantia Foundation



Mo Siegel, Marilynn Kulieke, Judy Van Cleave, Richard Keeler, Gard Jameson, Henk Mylanus, Georges Michelson-Dupont

NOTEWORTHY DECISIONS FROM THE OCTOBER 2014 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING



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

Information and Decisions

1. Book Matters

a. Good news. Book sales in Q3 2014 were up 22% compared with the same period in 2013. Year-to-date, worldwide book sales were up 4% with sizable growth in Latin America.

b. The Colombian Association of Urantia Association has done wonders for book distribution in their country. They have organized the importation and distribution of books, while significantly reducing the price to make them more affordable to readers.

Concurrently, the Association in Ukraine has done the same. They have imported books, are distributing them, and the Russian translation is now available at an affordable price.

The success of alternate channels of distribution in

Colombia and Ukraine makes us ask the question whether reader groups in other countries could improve distribution while reducing the cost of books to local readers. We welcome ideas from Urantia Association International, the Urantia Book Fellowship, and independent reader groups who have suggestions as to how to improve distribution outside the United States. Send your proposed ideas to Tamara Strumfeld at tamara@urantia.org.

c. The book-printing schedule for 2015 and 2016 is under review. German, English, Spanish, and Portuguese books will be printed in the next 18 months. These print runs will cost upwards of \$250,000. d. Based on the recommendation of our Brazilian book distributor, we lowered the price of the Portuguese translation of *The Urantia Book* sold in the Americas by \$10 per book. The suggested retail price for hardcovers was \$34.95, and now it is \$24.95. Paperbacks were \$29.95 and are now \$19.95. Based on these new lower retail prices, the board hopes to increase the readership in Brazil.

2. The Staff at 533, Volunteers, and Consultants

The team at 533 has been in a good rhythm. Tamara Strumfeld continues to juggle many balls, and thank goodness for her excellent work. She goes from working



Connie Gutierrez

on book sales, participating in committee meetings, and working on the index and newsletters to solving many day-to-day logistical problems.

Joanne Strobel has been terrific at managing the building, assisting the education committee with UBIS and seminars, simplifying internal office processes, meeting and greeting visitors, and keeping many organizational details in fine order and moving forward.

Connie Gutierrez has been faithfully tending to all the details that keep the business functioning. She pays the bills, wires funds, maintains Quick Books, ships book orders, answers the phone, communicates with the Spanish-speaking readership, and helps everyone when needed.

Beyond the day-to-day duties, our small, hardworking staff has pushed forward on the vital initiatives that directly further the mission of seeding *The Urantia Book* and its teachings globally.

The Board of Trustees is continuing to analyze the staffing needs at 533 W. Diversey Parkway. We have



Joanne Strobel

engaged an outside consulting group to assess our needs, especially in the areas of fundraising, disseminating *The Urantia Book* globally, and the organizational resources and staffing needed to fund mission-driven programs. For 2015 we will continue to operate without hiring an executive director.

Special thanks go to the volunteers and outside consultants who help keep the Foundation moving forward. To name a few, special thanks to Rogério Silva (translator website). Michael Zehr (UBIS webmaster), the teacherfacilitators at UBIS, the 19 board and staff members of UBIS, Jim Zigarelli (website), Tim Kenny (accounting), Larry Watkins (IT and index) Cece Forrester (index), Mike Wood (social media), Jennifer Siegel (chef and hospitality), MaryJo Garascia (Thoughts to Ponder), the Finnish office team, the dozens of translators and revisors, and all other volunteers who keep progress moving. We also thank the associate trustees and the members of the board committees.



Tamara Strumfeld

3. 533 W. Diversey Parkway Building Policy

From October 1-November 16, six separate, multiday events are taking place at 533. We are pleased that organizations and groups are having workshops, seminars, and meetings at the historic and beautiful birthplace of the revelation. Because of the increased use of the building, we have simplified our building policy. To learn more about the new policy or for booking the facility, please contact Joanne Strobel at joanne@urantia.org.

4. Finance Committee Report and Actions

a. The board approved the finance committee's recommendation to move the Foundation's investment account to Bernstein Global Wealth Management effective January 1, 2015.

b. The board passed the 2015 budget. The income needed for 2015 is up 3% while the expenses are up 1% compared with the past threeyear average. Program expenses (book distribution, translations, revisions, outreach, website, education, and more) are up significantly while administrative



Angie Thurston

expenses are down in order to use more of the donor's gifts to pay for the missiondriven programs.

c. The end-of-the-year match fundraiser was launched at the October meeting. A small group of donors have given \$160,000 to Urantia Foundation if an equal amount of money can be raised to match their gift. This program is a wonderful way for donors to double their gift to Urantia Foundation. For every dollar you give, up to \$160,000, a dollar will be matched. Please help us reach the "match" by sending Urantia Foundation a donation before the end of the year.

5. New Associate Trustee Elected

Angie Thurston was elected as a new associate trustee. Angie is currently working on a Masters of Divinity degree at Harvard. We welcome Angie to our team and look forward to her active participation. She is the first of the millennial generation to serve on the board, and we foresee her helping with our efforts to pass on these spiritually fragrant teachings to future generations.

A small group of donors have given \$160,000 to Urantia Foundation if an equal amount of money can be raised to match their gift.

URANTIA, NEBADON, AND THE MASTER UNIVERSE: A NEW FILM ON PERSPECTIVE



By Richard Jernigan, associate trustee, Urantia Foundation, Texas, United States

3,840,101. If you recognize that as the number of inhabited planets in our local universe—you are right. It is a rather foreboding number and quite humbling when you ponder that our Creator Son chose our planet out of those millions for his world of human incarnation.

This project started when I wanted simply to make a visual of our local universe and our local system and where our world Urantia sits within all that.

I decided on the simplest approach and just turned it all into data representing each inhabited planet in our local universe with a blue square. Originally I played around in Photoshop, making a chart with 3,840,101 pixels divided among 10,000 rods representing local systems. Next, I envisioned making a long print two feet tall and forty feet long in which Urantia would be a tiny, one millimeter square. I would still like to do that. Instead, I turned this into a video

exploring beyond the local universe level to depict Urantia within the whole master universe.

Urantia, Nebadon, and the

Master Universe is primarily for readers of *The Urantia Book* who have read the descriptions of the universe and have a concept of the book's cosmology. I imagine that non-readers will be bewildered, and readers will be captivated.

For me, putting something like this together provided a number of insights:

• Local universes are the primary building blocks of the seven superuniverses. Each is a unified personal creation.

• Our local system is well developed. The average-sized local system has 384 inhabited planets. The smallest system, I conjecture, has about 200 inhabited planets, and the largest system has about 700 planets.

• When I was quite far into building these graphics, I



learned about a cluster of 1,000 stars that is about 500 light-years away and is about one-half billion years old (young). The Beehive Cluster could well be in our local universe, and it is likely to have no inhabited planets. If that is the case, then our local universe is more developed than I originally suspected.

• If you place a golf ball in the center of the United States, that is another way of thinking about the size of the grand universe (the seven superuniverses plus the central universe) compared with the farthest outer-space level.

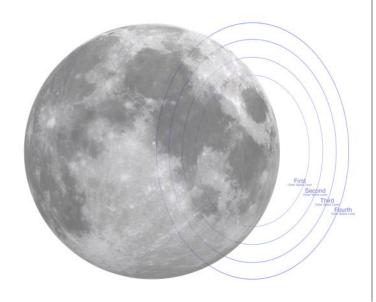
• Two cups of salt minus two

tablespoons yields 3.8 million grains of salt. Pour that on a table to get a sense of how many planets are in our local universe.

• 3,840,101 periods typed single-space on your word processor in a 12-point font will yield 592 pages of periods. One of those periods is Urantia.

• This immense feeling of smallness makes my personal problems seem very, very insignificant. How liberating!

Click here to see the movie: https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=loEnwEdRT_g



AN UPDATE FROM THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE



By Gard Jameson, trustee, Urantia Foundation, Nevada, United States

The Education Committee has been busy focusing on two outreach strategies. The first is the Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS), and the second is educational seminars to be held at Urantia Foundation in Chicago.

UBIS, founded by Dorothy Elder and directed by Georges Michelson-Dupont, had more than 420 students participating in 2014. Today classes are being offered in English, Spanish, and French. We encourage you to visit the school at <u>ubis.urantia.org</u> and consider taking a class. The next trimester will begin in January. Who knows? You may be so inspired that after taking a class, you might want to become a teacher.

With the renovation of the Foundation's headquarters building located at 533 W. Diversey Parkway in Chicago, educational seminars are becoming more popular. In the last quarter of 2014, two seminars were well attended: A women's retreat was hosted by Line St-Pierre from Québec, Canada, and a workshop on the soul was hosted by Marta Elders from Connecticut, United States.

In 2015, at least three seminars are planned. Line St-Pierre will host another retreat for women, and Marvin Gawryn will host a seminar on the socialization of religion. In November, there will be a scientific seminar focused on the study of facts from a number of different scientific disciplines that support the existence of God. Students of *The Urantia Book* with a passion and background in science are invited to this science seminar. It will be limited to twelve persons.

In June of 2016, source authors of *The Urantia Book* will be the topic of a seminar.

If you are interested in any of the above seminars, please write to Joanne Strobel at joanne@urantia.org.

You might be interested to know that the Foundation's basement might be converted to an educational center, including archives pertaining to *The Urantia Book*. If you have materials related to the history and content of *The Urantia Book*, please consider donating them to Urantia Foundation.

A BEACH RETREAT: WHAT PRAYER WAS TO JESUS

By Share Beasley, associate trustee, Florida, United States

Prayer is the most potent spiritual-growth stimulus.

If "of all human knowledge, that which is of greatest value is to know the religious life of Jesus and how he lived it," then surely the study of, and reflection upon, what prayer was to Jesus is highly important to all students of *The Urantia Book*. You might ponder, as we did, the contents of Paper 196 for inspiration and insights concerning Jesus' prayer life.

More than a dozen participants chose one of the following elements of Jesus' prayer life as the focus to make a short presentation: "a sincere expression of spiritual attitude, a recital of personal devotion, an expression of thanksgiving, an avoidance of emotional tension, an exaltation of intellection, an

enrichment of thought, an

invigoration of higher inclinations, a declaration of faith, a transcendental surrender of will, a sublime assertion of confidence, a confession of supreme devotion, a technique for the adjustment of difficulties, and the mighty mobilization of the combined soul powers to withstand all human tendencies toward selfishness, evil, and sin." (2088.5) 196:0.10

We learned from each person and every presentation, which was followed by lively and enlightening discussion.

After immersing ourselves for two days in the study of Jesus' prayer life, we recognized in a personal and private way that "the secret of Jesus' unparalleled religious life was his consciousness of the presence of God; and he attained it by intelligent prayer and sincere worship." (2088.5) 196:0.10 The doing of the will of God is nothing more or less than an exhibition of creature willingness to share the inner life with God. (1221.2) 111:5.1

God consciousness is ours for the taking; it is like water at the faucet, waiting there to be turned on. An added joy to intimate gatherings, such as our beach retreat, is an expanded lovelist. As siblings who have created meaningful memories together, we now look forward to our next beach retreat.

A special thank you to our gracious hosts-on-the-coast and our musical worship directors!



Top: Kirt, Lara, Dan, Share, Scott, Shirley, Ernie *Middle:* Bill, Susan *Bottom:* Dawn, Isabelle, Joan, Joycee, Polly, Bernie, Sheryl

REFLECTIONS FROM THE WOMEN'S RETREAT

Editor's Note: In October, 2014, a women's retreat was held at Urantia Foundation. The planning of the retreat began well over a year in advance. Women traveled from near and far to share the weekend and following are reflections from some of the attendees.



~Alice Wood, Wisconsin, United States

After signing up to participate in the weekend women's retreat, my husband joked several times that I was on my way to a knitting circle. When he asked me what it was really about, I could only answer that it was about women, and that it would be wonderful. Even after the first day of the retreat, I had difficulty wrapping my head around a good description of the retreat. I wrote a note in my journal that read, "We are not talking about The Urantia Book. We are not talking about the Mother Spirit. We are sharing ourselves. We are countering the intellectual emphasis that is often so dominant among readers of The Urantia Book."

Of course, we did talk about The Urantia Book and about the Mother Spirit as well as the female strengths of emotions, intuition, and morality. But that was not the focus. The focus was on how these things work within our lives. We all took away something different. I took away a greater trust in the value of my emotions and intuition. Too often I have felt that these traits need to be suppressed, but increasingly I see that they add to a more balanced and healthy environment.

Please do not tell my husband this, but it turns out that all along he was right; it was a knitting circle. Through sharing themselves, the women at the retreat knit themselves together to form a stronger fabric in the community of Urantia Book readers.



~Doreen Heyne, Florida, United States

It came down to what matters in life, what is meaningful, what resonates within me. My hope was twofold: first, to give a voice to women who are searching for how to express their God-given talents by a greater understanding of the divine in themselves and second, to give a voice to those who are determined to empower others to experience the joys of being a woman and to master the art of loving.

As a group, something happened when we connected the material and the spiritual energies; the consciousness of the group changed. It enabled me to see the beautiful quality of the other attendees and to see them as unique daughters of God.

I enjoy people and revel in the sharing of the heights and depths of doing God's will. As women, we are very intuitive; we have a knowing of things unsaid.

It was truly an honor to be part of this weekend women's retreat. Everyone who attended left a fragrant part of themselves with each of us that will always be remembered.



~Carrie Prentice, South Dakota, United States

On Sunday, I led the group in examining what *The Urantia Book* explicitly says about the differences between men and women, in consideration of the Urantia Revelation being addressed to an early 20th century audience. For example, we considered the significance of this statement, "Woman, however, has always been the moral standard-bearer and the spiritual leader of mankind." (938.8) 84:6.4

The group also reviewed Jesus' establishment of the women's corps who accompanied the apostles on the third teaching tour. And finally the group considered how emotions, as discussed in The Urantia Book, are presented as desirable and useful, in that higher beings seem to experience more kinds of emotions, and celestial artisans design new emotions. The goal of this discussion was for the group to envision the unique perspective that 21st century women can bring to uplift other women around the world to value themselves and claim their spirituality by balancing heart and mind. I suggested that we coin this technique of balance with a new term, heartellect.



~Line St-Pierre, Québec, Canada

As the flower is responsible for providing its pollen to the wind and not watering the ground where it falls, experiencing with women this spiritual journey with an opening of heart enabled for better understanding of the self and enjoying every element that God constituted us with; the body, the consciousness, our personality, and the divine Spirit living within us.

Spiritual growth is a process of unlimited progress which takes time. We gave it a weekend to begin with. 6

COMMENTS FROM THE SOUL WORKSHOP



Front row: Gretchen Chandler

2nd row: Marta Elders, Guy Perron, Zophia Michniewicz *3rd row:* Joanne Strobel, Betsy Millard, Jan Michniewicz, Gard Jameson

4th row: David Neufer, Keith Avery, Kirk Graham

Editor's Note: At the end of October, 2014, Marta Elders facilitated a workshop on the soul. Participants came from Asia, Europe, and across North America. What a delight to have such an international group of readers of The Urantia Book. Several attendees wrote about their experience here, and we are happy to share them with you.

A Divine Counselor commented on the challenges that the Orvonton corps of truth revealers faced in their "endeavor to expand cosmic consciousness and enhance spiritual perception." (1.2) 0:0.2 It is a natural step to conclude that this purpose of expanding cosmic consciousness and also enhancing spiritual perception is a worthy goal for any seminar dedicated to deepening one's embracing of revelatory material in The

Urantia Book.

Over the weekend of October 31, twelve individuals gathered to share their insights and understandings in a seminar on the soul as revealed in The Urantia Book. This study was held at 533 W. Diversey Parkway, Chicago, and was sponsored by the **Education Committee of** Urantia Foundation. We considered the origin, nature, and destiny of the soul with each participant preparing a short paper (3-5 pages) and leading an experiential practice (meditations, worship, poetry, web insights, guided imagery, etc.). It was remarkable to experience the magic and mystery that evolved and unfolded when, together and separately, we wholeheartedly reached higher and deeper.

~Marta Elders, workshop facilitator, Connecticut, United States



The soul workshop was phenomenal. We shared knowledge, feelings, opinions, energy, admiration, and information.

We came together to learn and to collaborate concerning the soul: What is it? Where is it? How does it develop? And how does it relate to mind, spirit, and God.

We all left the workshop with much more understanding and appreciation for our souls and for the fact that we are all connected in mind, body, and spirit.

I met twelve people that I would never have expected to feel so comfortable with in such a gathering. It was as if we had known each other from some other time and space and, in three days, became like family.

I feel inspired by, and grateful for, *The Urantia Book*, and appreciative of Marta Elders and Joanne Strobel who brought us together for such an enlightening experience.

~Keith Avery, Hawaii, United States

AND SOOD

It would have been easier to stay home, but none of us did. We all ended up at Urantia Foundation in Chicago for the workshop on the soul. At first glance, it seemed as though this would be for learning what the papers say about the nature of the soul. Although it was that, it became more than that. The gathering allowed us to be more aware of our own souls and the souls of others. We had fast-paced group discussions followed by quiet conversations. We

shared stories and jokes, and enjoyed tasty meals and silent meditation together.

I feel very grateful to the presenters and my fellow students for making the weekend much, much better than staying home.

~David Neufer, Pennsylvania, United States



Prior to my arrival at the workshop on the soul, Joanne said that the attendees were students of *The Urantia Book* for many years, and after hearing that, my wife and son both thought that I would be "blown out of the water" by their experience and knowledge. The group would look at me as the new recruit.

I was surprised that we all had similar backgrounds in our search for truth and with the book. As my new friend Jan from Poland said to me, "Without *The Urantia Book*, it is like the blind leading the blind."

We all stayed on the second floor, shared a roommate, and were treated like kings. Mike's food could not be beat!

Being a reader for two years now, I was very curious about the people and their stories about how they discovered *The Urantia Book* and especially their stories about life, love, and struggles.

Many attendees were cautious about giving their opinion, but I was not. I wanted to be told whether my opinion was right or wrong. Jan did not disappoint me. He gave me a shellacking, and it was just what I needed.

My favorite take-away from

the weekend was the time spent talking to my fellow pilgrims around the breakfast table prior to our early morning meditations.

~Kirk Graham, Iowa, United States

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Many subjects were covered and many questions were asked. What is the soul? What is the soul made of? Are we born with a soul? Is there such a thing as old or young souls? Is being born of the Spirit the same as the birth of the soul? What a blessing to have the teachings of the fifth epochal revelation in our hands to find the answers to these questions and to understand the soul better.

~Guy Perron, Québec, Canada

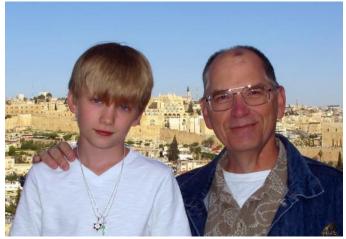
As a new reader of *The Urantia Book*, I am especially interested in hearing from long-time readers about their relationship with God, their Thought Adjusters, and their souls. The soul workshop seemed a perfect opportunity, so I went to Chicago to meet a most interesting group of readers. The papers we all wrote were read before going to Chicago, which gave us an advance introduction to each attendee.

Our time together was lively and rich as we shared experiences, questions, and struggles. Being together as a small group for three days created an intimate connection as we opened up to each other and the collective wisdom. Both Marta and Gard Jameson brought skills as facilitators and invaluable perspectives as long-time readers who have integrated the teachings of *The Urantia* Book into their broad and compassionate understanding. I felt as if my approach to *The Urantia* Book matured in a very brief span of time by participating in this workshop.

Mike Wood provided wonderful meals as he and Joanne made us feel so comfortable and at home. I hope to return to 533 W. Diversey Parkway for more!

~ Betsy Millard, New Mexico, United States

WHAT THE URANTIA BOOK MEANS TO ME



By Rick Lyon, Indiana, United States

What does *The Urantia Book* mean to me? Everything. But what does "everything" mean?

I discovered the book in the trash. I live in Crawfordsville, Indiana, where the book is printed. Part of my job at the steel mill, where I worked at the time, was to haul waste from our water treatment plant to the landfill each morning. The company that prints the book also brought their trash to the landfill, which included reject books from the printing presses. One morning, out of their trash, I picked up a big, thick book with no cover and read "The Life and Teachings of Jesus." At that moment my life was changed. I took the book home, duct taped it back together, and after several hours of reading it, I exclaimed to my wife, "This is what I have been looking for!"

So, the very first thing *The Urantia Book* was to me was a validation of my inner beliefs; a justification for my rejection of my parent's religion; and a feeling like the roof was opening on a domed football stadium, revealing a star-filled sky that I knew was there but had never seen before.

Through *The Urantia Book*, I discovered an intimacy with God—an intimacy that I was never told about, an intimate relationship based <u>not</u> on "the fear of God" but the love of God—God's personal love for me as an individual and my personal love for Him. Nothing within me or about me is hidden from God.

The Urantia Book has led me into a life of service. Much of it involves my work with Urantia Association International. The rest of it involves my personal service with individuals. I speak with others about who God is and what He is. I give books away. I study with others so we can share our evolving understanding of the teachings of the Urantia Papers and how we can apply them in our daily lives.

The Urantia Revelation has led me to do things I never thought I could do or would do. Because of the service opportunities this book brought to me, I have friends all over the world and have traveled to places I would only have read about otherwise.

Last spring I toured Israel with 38 students of *The Urantia Book*, including my grandson Ethan. While Ethan and I have always been close, those two weeks brought us even closer together. During this time we shared and explored our "intimate" religious beliefs. This experience with Ethan, thanks in part to *The Urantia Book*, brought me a joy inexpressible with words.

Because of my study of The Urantia Book, I know that other people are just like me; they are different from me, but we share a spiritual unity. We are all children of God, brothers and sisters of the same Father. We are just at different points on our journey. And what a magnificent journey it is, "an endless career of adventure. an everlasting life of anticipation, an eternal voyage of discovery." (159.6) 14:5.10



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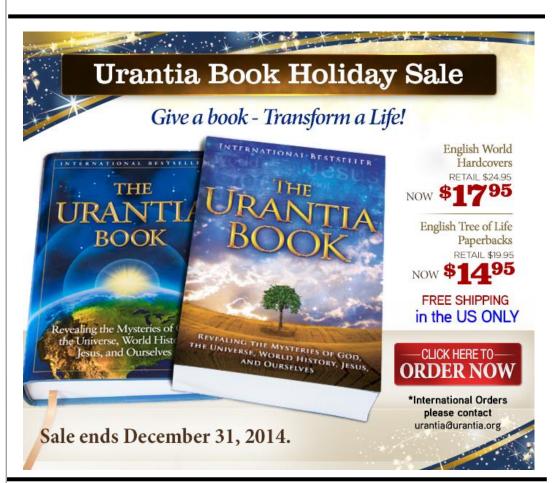
On the web at www.urantia.org The Urantia Book reveals the purpose, value, and meaning of tribulation and affliction, a purpose different from the ideas of punishment or retribution that I was taught in Sunday school. The Urantia Book even goes so far as to say that "the greatest affliction of the cosmos is never to have been afflicted. Mortals only learn wisdom by experiencing tribulation."

(556.14) 48:7.14

In 2010, I lost my son Brad. Brad was a very happy and loving person but autistic. The Urantia Book gave us believable answers to emotional questions that my family, and probably all families with handicapped members, ask themselves.

This collection of 196 Papers teaches us many important and helpful things. Some of the most important are that we are the light of this world; the salt with a saving savor. We can be a revelation of who God is to others, of what our relationship should be with others, and that we are so much more than what we see in the mirror. It is from the life and teachings of Jesus that I know what lies ahead for me, and I look forward to it and embrace it wholeheartedly. I no longer fear it. God truly loves me, and I love Him. I desire to be increasingly like Him and to serve him—forever.

What does *The Urantia Book* mean to me? Everything.



Love is the greatest of all spirit realities. Truth is a liberating revelation, but love is the supreme relationship.

The Urantia Book, (1608.1) 143:1.4