



URANTIA FOUNDATION'S NEWS ONLINE

URANTIA FOUNDATION'S YEAR-END FUNDRAISING MATCH

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Uranta Foundation's Year-End Fundraising Match</i>	1
<i>Noteworthy Decisions from the October 2015 Board of Trustees Meeting</i>	2
<i>The Uranta Book at the Parliament of the World's Religions</i>	3
<i>Money Matters Matter</i>	5
<i>The Work of the Uranta Book Internet School (UBIS)</i>	8
<i>Living a Compassionate Life—A Uranta Foundation Workshop</i>	9
<i>Dancing with God: Weaving the Tapestry of the Supreme</i>	10
<i>A Uranta Book Youth Turns Forty</i>	12



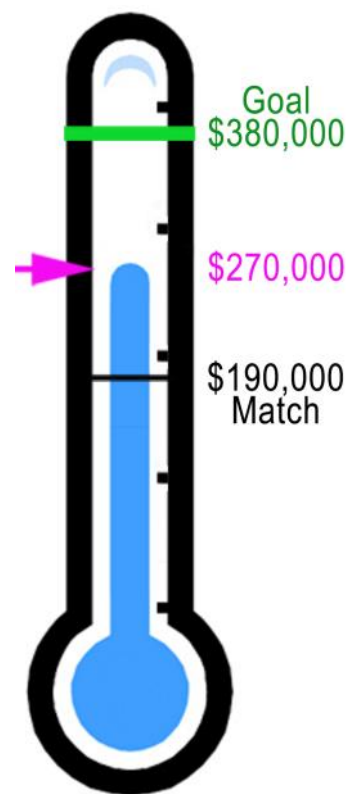
Donors have pledged to match your donations, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$190,000 until December 31, 2015. [Donate now](#) and help Uranta Foundation seed *The Uranta Book* and its teachings globally!

Right now, at this very moment, the vast majority of people throughout the world are living in the best material conditions in our million-year human existence. That sounds counter intuitive based on the nightly news, but the quality of life statistics over the last sixty years are overwhelmingly positive. Worldwide trends reveal an unprecedented improvement in education, technology, calories consumed, health care, life expectancy, disease eradication, literacy, communications, travel, leisure time, world trade, and national democratization. Growth in the gross domestic product of the world's largest economies has resulted in the biggest middle class in world history. Simultaneously death from starvation, childhood diseases, world wars, and devastating pandemics are at an all-time low. Humanity is beginning to disdain oppression, social irresponsibility, greed, war, and intolerance. "Uranta is now quivering on the very

brink of one of its most amazing and enthralling epochs of social readjustment, moral quickening, and spiritual enlightenment." 195:9.2 (2082.7)

Improvement in world conditions has set the stage for the most important advancement and greatest need of all, the teachings of *The Uranta Book*. The revelators understood that sustainable improvements in material conditions required an upgrade in our values and meanings to keep our world safe. They foresaw that lasting progress depended upon a new spiritual and cosmological vision commensurate with man's growing intellectual and cultural development. They knew materialism couldn't buy love and that only God can fill that empty space in our hearts. In response, they gave us a perfectly timed new book to spiritually guide and stabilize us over the next 1000 years.

We are writing to you during this holiday season asking for your financial help in seeding *The Uranta Book* and its teachings globally. If Uranta Foundation raises \$190,000 before December 31, 2015, a group of donors will match your contributions



Donate Now

dollar for dollar. For every dollar you give, these donors will give another dollar. Your donations directly pay for translations, translation revisions, book printing and distribution, website activities, outreach, and education.

Our world is being swept along in the forward march of progressive evolution within the Supreme. We are truly blessed to be alive today and privileged to give to this epochal revelation. As we progress in our universe careers, we will fondly remember our short time on earth and be thankful that we gave generously to the most important catalyst for moral quickening and spiritual enlightenment since Jesus walked on earth.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support. We send our best wishes for a joyous holiday!

Trustees: Gard Jameson, Richard Keeler, Marilyn Kulieke, Georges Michelson-Dupont, Henk Mylanus, Mo Siegel, Judy Van Cleave
Associate Trustees: Marta Elders, Víctor García-Bory, Richard Jernigan, Guy Perron, Line St-Pierre, Angie Thurston, Ralph Zehr
Staff: Joanne Strobel, Tamara Strumfeld

NOTEWORTHY DECISIONS FROM THE OCTOBER 2015 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING



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

Finance

It is time for the winter fundraising match. The goal is \$190,000. A small group of donors has pledged \$190,000 if we can raise another \$190,000 before the end of the year. For every dollar you give, these donors will give another dollar. Your donations directly pay for translations, translation revisions, book printing and distribution, website activities, outreach, and education. [Please support us!](#)

The Board approved a preliminary 2016 budget. The budget is below the five-year expense average. Said another way, the 2016 budget is less than the spending in any one year during 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014. Spending donor money as wisely as possible is a most

important priority. Once we hire an executive director, expenses will increase, but for 2016, we are able to keep our expenses down.

Community Relations

Urantia Foundation, Urantia Association International, and The Urantia Book Fellowship hosted a booth during the Parliament of World Religions in Salt Lake City, Utah, in October. Members of the three organizations staffed the booth, introduced many attendees to *The Urantia Book*, handed out materials, sold books, and facilitated several workshops and presentations. The success of this experience should increase our optimism about peace and goodwill becoming the standard of conduct between readers of, and organizations involved with *The Urantia Book*. Cooperation is improving and the future looks bright.

Associate Trustee Richard Jernigan produced a beautiful video about *The Urantia Book* that was debuted at Gard Jameson's presentation at the Parliament. Click here to see it: <http://www.urantia.org/urantia-book-video>.

Book Sales

International book sales of *The Urantia Book* in 2015 are slightly higher than those in 2014. Sales in the United States are leading the way.

The world is rapidly transitioning toward a digital book marketplace. Even though most digital books are given away, it is still more cost effective to give digital books away than to sell physical books in stores. After counting pre-production costs, inventory, inventory carrying costs, warehousing, shipping, handling, bookkeeping, general administrative time, book show expenses, and distributor discounts, there is a financial loss on each physical book sold.

Even more remarkable is how rapid the movement has been towards mobile devices as the contact tools to the Internet and to Digital Medias. About 45% of our website visits now come from mobile devices. This trend has a huge impact on Urantia Foundation going forward. Our need to support distribution via the Internet and specifically via mobile devices will mean changes in our priorities. With younger people discovering and reading *The Urantia Book* on

their phones and tablets, we must make sure that we are serving their needs.

Executive Service Corps

Over the past six months a group of retired Chicago profit and non-profit executives have worked with Urantia Foundation to create a five-year plan. They interviewed 25 people from inside and outside the organization. They concluded that four strategic areas need focused planning for the future. They were 1) board succession and duties, 2) staffing, 3) finances, and 4) getting the book and its teachings into the world. During the October board meeting we spent half a day listening to their findings and discussing five-year goals and priorities. When finished, a detailed plan of action will be implemented which includes goals, priorities, action items, responsibilities, and due dates.

Translations and Revisions

Outside normal translation and revision activity, progress has been made in identifying new and affordable translation aid software to support our translators and revisers. Our objective is to have an excellent third party

software platform with research-based translation tools to help them create the most accurate and readable texts possible.

Education Committee

The Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS) is offering a course in Portuguese for the first time this fall trimester. The classes filled up within

48 hours of registration. UBIS now offers classes in English, Spanish, French, and Portuguese. The UBIS board met in early November at the Foundation office to tackle a rigorous agenda for the upcoming year. The UBIS volunteer team has done a magnificent job in bringing the teachings of the Urantia Revelation to interested students.

The Education Committee also reported on three educational seminars: "Dancing with God," "Living a Compassionate Life," and a "Science Symposium."

Imprint Label

In 2014 Urantia Foundation established an imprint label for publishing materials other than *The Urantia Book*. We

have trademarked the name Urantia Press to help us accomplish the needs expressed by our book distributors that more current works will refocus book buyers on a 1955 text. We hope to introduce new secondary works into the book market under the imprint label of Urantia Press sometime during 2016.

THE URANTIA BOOK AT THE PARLIAMENT OF THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS



James Woodward, Richard Jernigan, and Guy Perron in the booth at the Parliament

By Richard Jernigan, associate trustee, Texas, United States

Over nine thousand registered participants attended the Parliament of the World's Religions held October 15-19, 2015, in Salt Lake City, Utah.

This event, held approximately every five years, is an international gathering of religionists representing a multiplicity of faith traditions and belief systems.

At moments it was overwhelming. This is one place I could assume with certainty that everyone attending was consciously pursuing a spiritual path. It is an extraordinary sensation, sort of like waking up in the next life, and everyone is in a big melting pot of multiple spiritual and religious experiences, and they are sorting it all out and connecting.

The first Parliament was held in Chicago in 1893. The

second Parliament was held one hundred years later in Chicago in 1993. Since then, the Parliament has been held every five or six years in different countries. Urantia Book readers have attended and promoted the text at every Parliament since the one held in 1993 in Chicago.

For this Parliament, the three major organizations, Urantia Association International (UAI), The Urantia Book Fellowship, and Urantia Foundation, agreed to jointly share a booth to promote *The Urantia Book*.

Presenting this unified voice at the Parliament was sometimes difficult for the three organizations. Each group operates with slightly different philosophies, purposes, and sensibilities. At the forefront of this effort were Cristina Seaborn, representing the Fellowship, and James Woodward of UAI. Joanne Strobel and I alternated as representatives of the Foundation. Determining the banner and its messaging, agreeing on promotional materials, deciding which book versions to display, and multiple other issues were debated and

agreed upon over several months. In the end, every promotional item had the web addresses of the three organizations and the focus was unerringly on the book, not the organizations. An eight-foot-high banner featured the book's name in large letters, a simple image of a child's hand reaching up to grasp an adult hand, and the message, "Love Is the Greatest Relationship in the World." 143:6.4 (1615.5)

As the three organizations came together with one voice, three other booths fostered the book's teachings. The Fellowship-supported Youth and Young Adults (YaYAs) sponsored a Spiritual Unity booth to promote interfaith dialogue. Ben Bowler and Pato Banton presented the 1God.com booth, and Tom Choquette and Susan Cook sponsored their "I Will Love" booth. Each booth added richness to the presence of *The Urantia Book* at the Parliament, and hosts sent numerous interested individuals over to the Urantia Book booth to purchase the text or gather further information.

Our booth was a corner space

in a visible, high-traffic area. Practically anyone perusing the exhibitors' area passed by, and inquirers were continually at the booth. We sold or gave away nearly 120 books and hundreds of postcards and pamphlets. We had no shortage of hosts at the booth, as approximately 120 Urantia Book readers registered and attended the event.

It was our combined mission to listen to attendees' stories and backgrounds and initiate awareness of the book. This was not a proselytizing mission but an awareness campaign to let people know this text is available.

In addition to the booths, six workshops featured Urantia Book readers. Presenters submitted applications nearly a year in advance; a Parliament committee approved or rejected applicants; and over six hundred workshops were chosen. Angie Thurston gave a talk on "Engaging the Religious Unaffiliated at Harvard Divinity School and Mobilizing Interfaith Leaders." Tom Choquette and Susan Cook presented "I Will Love: Tapping into the Power Within." Meredith and David Tenney offered "Exploring Divine Patterns of Male/Female Partnership." Stevie Shaefer discussed "Building

Interfaith and Interreligious Empathy." Gard Jameson led a panel on "Non-Traditional Jesus on War, Violence, and Injustice." Jeffrey Wattles presented "In Pursuit of World Peace: How Philosophy Mediates Between Religion and Politics."

The theme of the Parliament was "Reclaiming the Heart of Our Humanity." The event's tone was established by its focus on critical social issues: climate change and care for creation; income inequity and wasteful consumption; and war, violence, and hate speech.

Parliament attendees tended

to be individuals with a high tolerance for interacting with an intense cross-section of paths and belief systems—certainly a Urantia Book friendly event. But on a broader scale, the Parliament was not totally representative of the world's religions. Conservative faith traditions tended to stay away. Mainline Christianity seemed under-represented. Reformed and Conservative Jews were in attendance, but Orthodox Jews seemed to be missing. The exception to this was the significant presence of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS). Cities bid to host the Parliament, much as cities do to host the



Urantia Book readers at the Parliament of the World's Religions
Photo by Steve Rohrbach

Olympics. Being in Salt Lake City, the Mormons played a noticeable role throughout the five days.

Overall, there was a decidedly left-of-center thrust to the discourse, which meant that sometimes there was a certain “preaching to the choir” and lack of vigorous debate. For an event of this scope more wide-ranging points of view could have deepened intergroup dialogue and brought greater relevance to the Parliament’s purposes.

Many outstanding thinkers in the world of religion and social causes spoke at the event’s plenaries, including Dr. Karen Armstrong, Brian McLaren, Dr. Jane Goodall, Michael Beckwith, Marianne Williamson, and dozens more. The Dalai Lama was slated to appear but cancelled his attendance due to health concerns.

Personally, I found it a delight to have interactions with multiple spiritual paths. The Sikhs daily provided all attendees a gourmet-quality vegetarian lunch. Called Langar, it is a free service they provide daily in their respective countries to all people, regardless of their station in life. To demonstrate everyone’s spiritual equality at this meal, guests remove their shoes, cover their heads, and are seated on the floor community-style as attendants serve (and serve and serve—it is all-you-can eat). I attended the Friday morning women’s plenary which inspired me to attend workshops and meet Sikh social activist Valarie Kaur and Native American Grandmother Mary Lyons. I received a smudging from Native Americans tending a sacred fire outside the convention center and met and spoke with a female

ordained Catholic priest (yes, you read that right).

Months ago, at a meeting with members of the Urantia Association of the United States (UAUS) to discuss the Parliament, UAI president, Chris Wood, commented that “people do not attend the Parliament of World’s Religions to get a new religion.” His statement echoed in me throughout our preparations and while I attended the Parliament. People attend for multiple reasons, but one can assume that all attendees have defined their paths.

Our presence at the Parliament was an opportunity to be part of the dialogue, to make our presence known, and to be a supportive participant within the greater community of religionists.

An hour before I left to catch my flight home, a small group of folk musicians performed in one of the main foyers surrounded by a group of fifty participants moving in a slow circle dance around them. This seemed to be an impromptu happening following a concert. In the midst of this was one of the Mormon elders, in a suit and black tie, enthusiastically singing and participating with the group. He stood out, and this was the type of behavior I had hoped to observe at the Parliament: individual religionists, who rarely have an opportunity to interact and who would typically be at odds with one another interacting, reclaiming the heart of their humanity—if even for a moment.

MONEY MATTERS MATTER



By Ralph D. Zehr, MD, associate trustee, New York, United States

Averting a Major Catastrophe

The first situation in Jesus’ life when money matters mattered occurred when he was a year old. Fortunately, Zacharias had developed a number of confidants who

provided accurate intelligence, and that fact, combined with his available funds, enabled Jesus’ parents to make a last-minute escape just prior to the massacre of sixteen baby boys in Bethlehem. Once they reached Alexandria, well-to-do relatives of Joseph provided lodging while his skills, initially as a carpenter and later as a contractor, enabled him to support his wife and son during their two-year sojourn in Egypt.

Facing the Economic Realities of Supporting a Large Family

The next major crisis in Jesus’ life was the death of his father when Jesus was fourteen. This adolescent youth was suddenly brought face-to-face with the brutal reality of supporting his widowed mother, seven

brothers and sisters, and a sister yet to be born. He became the sole support and protector of his family.

Jesus early demonstrated the possession of keen business judgment and financial sagacity. He was liberal but frugal; he was saving but generous. He proved to be a wise and efficient administrator of his father’s estate. 126:2.7 (1389.2)

As the sole provider for the family during the next several years, he would observe his father’s estate gradually dissipate, eventually requiring that he sell the caravan shop in Nazareth. By working exclusively out of the home shop, he was nearer his

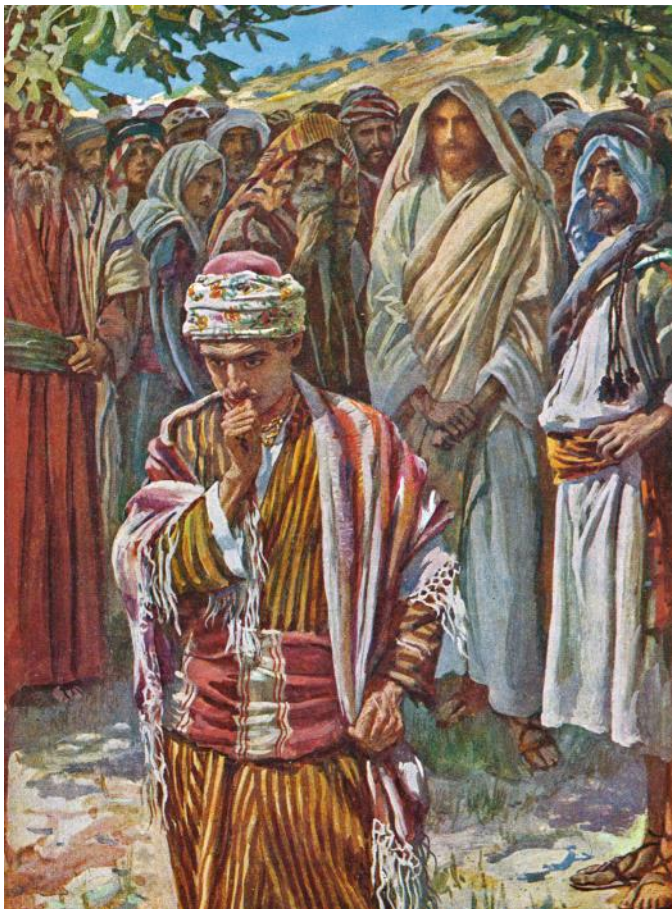
mother and could provide her greater support in managing the family. At the same time, the move isolated him from the center of activity in Nazareth. To compensate for this loss of access to international news, he arranged for his brother James to visit the caravan center and bring back news of the outside world.

The future did not look bright as matters now developed. But he did not falter; he was not discouraged. He lived on, day by day, doing well the present duty and faithfully discharging the *immediate* responsibilities of his station in life. Jesus’ life is the everlasting comfort of all disappointed idealists. 126:5.4 (1393.1)

He soon learned to make the tough decisions required to control basic expenditures for food and clothing, in order to maintain a balanced family budget. He was also brought face-to-face with the realities of greedy tax collectors and took the necessary steps proactively to avoid unfair taxation. He wisely donated his personal complete copy of the Greek scriptures to the Nazareth synagogue library, thus retaining access for personal study. Later, when Jude began his studies at the synagogue school, Jesus was forced to part with his most prized personal possession, his harp, which he sold in order to cover the costs. He had derived great enjoyment and satisfaction from playing the harp while growing up, but, at least now, it would not be confiscated by a tax collector.



Nazareth by David Roberts



The Rich Young Man by Harold Copping

Gradually Jesus and his family returned to the simple life of their earlier years. Their clothes and even their food became simpler. They had plenty of milk, butter, and cheese. In season they enjoyed the produce of their garden, but each passing month necessitated the practice of greater frugality. Their breakfasts were very plain; they saved their best food for the evening meal. 126:5.1 (1392.8)

Establishing a Solid Financial Foundation for the Public Ministry

One of Jesus' foremost concerns, when preparing to launch his public ministry, was to ensure that the financial foundation of the apostolic organization was solid.

Jesus now asked them how much money they

had among them; he also inquired as to what provision had been made for their families. When it developed that they had hardly sufficient funds to maintain themselves for two weeks, he said: "It is not the will of my Father that we begin our work in this way. We will remain here by the sea two weeks and fish or do whatever our hands find to do; and in the meantime, under the guidance of Andrew, the first chosen apostle, you shall so organize yourselves as to provide for everything needful in your future work, both for the present personal ministry and also when I shall subsequently ordain you to preach the gospel and instruct believers." 138:7.4 (1544.3)

Matthew was responsible for balancing the budget and replenishing the treasury. If funds were insufficient, he was authorized to order the

apostles back to their nets, until the treasury was replenished.

Jesus also provided for careful supervision of all expenditures. He directed that no alms be disbursed except upon his personal request or that of two apostles. "He made it clear that indiscriminate kindness may be blamed for many social evils." 140:8.13 (1580.8)

As a result of Jesus delaying the beginning of their ministry until they had properly organized themselves and provided for their financial needs, it was never necessary for Matthew to interrupt their ministering program due to lack of funds.

Teaching About Wealth

Jesus' most comprehensive discussion concerning the appropriate attitude toward wealth occurred following his encounter with Matadormus.

Matadormus was a wealthy young Pharisee, a member of the Sanhedrin, who had become a believer in the gospel of the kingdom. He came to Jesus requesting ordination into the corps of seventy evangelists.

Jesus responded by saying: "If you would be my messenger, go and sell all that you have and, when you have bestowed the proceeds upon the poor or upon your brethren, come and follow me, and you shall have treasure in the kingdom of heaven." 163:2.5 (1802.1)

But Matadormus was too emotionally attached to his wealth at this time. It was not the fact of ownership of wealth, but it was his love for what his wealth could do for him that stood in his way of becoming a wholehearted

follower of the Master. He believed that his wealth was a token of God's blessing and approval.

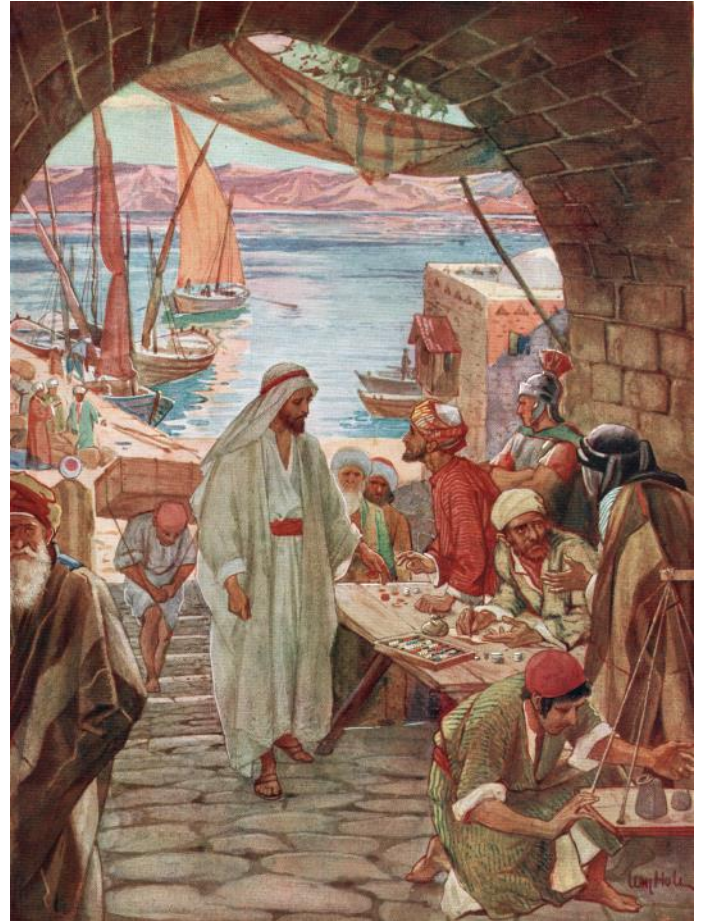
He did, however, decide to follow Jesus' advice several years later, but he had deprived himself of the greatest opportunity of his entire life, "that intimate and personal association with the Master" and sovereignty of the universe. 163:2.9 (1802.5)

Managing an Epochal Revelation

What parallels can we draw between Jesus' life and teachings concerning his management of financial matters and the issues we face in supporting and managing the publication, translations, and dissemination of the fifth epochal revelation?

Both are largely dependent on dedicated and loyal volunteers. In both cases there is dependence on the generosity of those who have embraced the teachings. Both must follow the highest ethical standards and exercise wise management of limited financial resources. In both, the major incentive for financial support is the privilege of being associated with, and being able to contribute to, the most important project on the planet. In each case it is motivated by the most powerful force in the universe, love. It was the apostles' love for the Master that caused them to follow him through the crucifixion, resurrection, and subsequently give their lives for the sake of the gospel. For us, it is our love for the Master as portrayed in these marvelous teachings.

Jesus' experience concerning financial matters was extensive. And surely we can



The Calling of Matthew by William Hole

seek his advice as we seek how best to manage our personal financial matters.

77:9.3 (866.2)

What greater privilege could one imagine than to be among the vanguard recipients of an epochal revelation, destined to enlighten all mankind during the next thousand years? Are there any other investment opportunities that will continue to yield returns for a millennium? Where can one participate in a project initiated and directed by thoroughly tested, loyal, determined, dedicated, and wise superhumans who reorganized themselves two thousand years ago and adopted the motto: "What the United Midwayers undertake, the United Midwayers do."

I am fully convinced that wholehearted participation and support of the fifth epochal revelation is the greatest opportunity of my lifetime. As in Matadormus's case, opportunities are frequently time sensitive. "In the mortal life, paths of differential conduct are continually opening and closing, and during the times when choice is possible, the human personality is constantly deciding between those many courses of action." 118:6.6 (1300.2)

If the Master is calling you, remember Matadormus, and how for him, money matters really mattered.

"What greater privilege could one imagine than to be among the vanguard recipients of an epochal revelation, destined to enlighten all mankind during the next thousand years?"

THE WORK OF THE URANTIA BOOK INTERNET SCHOOL (UBIS)

By Dave Elders, Connecticut, United States

The Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS) has developed an educational structure built on several principles derived from the study of the fifth epochal revelation, which the school seeks to make accessible to students across the face of our planet.

These guiding principles, which all fit together like a challenging, experiential mosaic, are informed by, and related to, the stated revelatory purpose “to expand cosmic consciousness and enhance spiritual perception.” 0:0.2 (1.2) Mota 16 states: “You cannot perceive spiritual truth until you feelingly experience it.” 48:7.18 (557.2) In consideration of the significance of this

perception, UBIS has adopted a pedagogy of non-interpretive facilitation of student self-discovery of the truths of *The Urantia Book* in every course offered. In addition, in an echo of the interactive approach that Jesus used to stimulate the internal reach for spiritual truth in each and every person he met, UBIS Teacher-Facilitators (TFs) carefully develop provocative questions to stimulate each student’s exploration of the assigned readings in *The Urantia Book*. These questions and those interjected by the TF during the discussion-sharing week following each of four reading-question response weeks, are designed by the TF to focus the students’ search for comprehension on the levels of fact, meaning, and value. The UBIS Teacher

Training Program (TTP), in which each TF participates, uses Bloom’s Taxonomy to better understand the development of an effective range of questions.

This UBIS educational approach, refined over the fifteen years that UBIS has been offering courses, provides a companion benefit to the students’ self-discovery of the truths revealed in *The Urantia Book*—an opportunity for the TFs to develop both teacher and leadership skills. Each TF must take at least two UBIS courses to qualify, with the recommendation of at least three experienced TFs, for the TTP. The TTP is designed to provide guidance in the design and development of his or her course, including course purpose, reading selections,

effective questions, and facilitation of the discussion-sharing period. This combination of teacher training in effective course design and experiential facilitation of the students’ self-discovery of the revealed truths in *The Urantia Book*, surely broadens and deepens the TF’s ability to act as an effective emissary of the revelation’s truths. Whether with family and friends, in a study group, in a conference setting, or when facilitating the exploration of Urantia Book truths with new truth seekers, becoming a TF supports personal growth.

The contributions to the expansion of cosmic consciousness and enhanced spiritual perception of the truths of *The Urantia Book* are:

- 1) the mosaic dimensions of the UBIS educational experience,
- 2) the integration of a non-interpretive and self-discovering pedagogy,
- 3) the Jesusonian question approach to stimulate the personal inner reach for experiencing living truth followed by its perception in mind, and
- 4) the growing capability of the UBIS TFs to apply these educational principles with others.

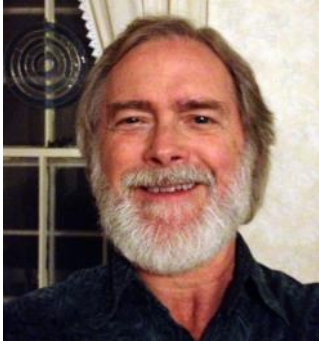


The UBIS board and staff during their annual meeting at Urantia Foundation, November 5–8, 2015
Left to right: Dennis Sword, Judy Cosky, Pam Maunakea, David Elders, Olga Lopez, Betty Zehr, Georges Michelson-Dupont, Ralph Zehr, and Guy Perron,
Flanking monitor: Susan Flacks and Joanne Strobel,
On the monitor: Marta Elders and Michael Zehr

Find out more about UBIS and the courses being offered in the January 2016 trimester by logging onto the UBIS website, ubis.urantia.org.

Log onto the UBIS website, ubis.urantia.org.

LIVING A COMPASSIONATE LIFE—A URANTIA FOUNDATION WORKSHOP



By David Tenney, New Hampshire, United States

It was like coming home again! I had not been to Urantia Foundation since 1974, and I felt enthused to be returning. Upon my arrival for a workshop titled “Living a Compassionate Life,” I was warmly welcomed by the presenters: Gard Jameson, Guy Perron, and Guy’s friend Jade Chabot, along with the Foundation’s workshop coordinator, Joanne Strobel. Gard took the participants on a brief tour of the building. A sense of the significance of all that had occurred at 533 remained with me throughout the workshop, especially as our meetings were held in the room where the Forum met.

We were a group of twelve, including the presenters, and the small size of the gathering allowed us to get to know one another and do some intimate sharing in ways that do not always occur at a larger conference. The workshop, held from November 12 to 15, 2015, was very well planned. We had a full and varied schedule of worshipful meditation, Urantia Book-based explorations into the nature of compassion, Urantia Book-informed teaching moments by the lead presenters on planting

and cultivating seeds of compassion within and with others, and many meaningful group discussions. The presenters also utilized many other sources of human wisdom, including exercises and practices that provided an experiential dimension that enlivened the overall Urantian flavor of the gathering. Speaking of flavor, throughout our stay we were served tasty and healthy gourmet-quality meals prepared by Jennifer Siegel.

Gard emphasized the importance of making and keeping daily “Divine Appointments” for silent worshipful communion. He also offered a variation of “Loving-Kindness Meditation,” which numerous research studies have shown to result in a host of benefits, including greater compassion towards oneself and others, decreased stress, and more positive emotional states. Gard’s version incorporated prayerful phrases, focusing on healing, blessing, and guidance for oneself and others. He also applied his wealth of wisdom—as a teacher of philosophy, as a leading voice for interreligious harmony, and as a well-versed reader of *The Urantia Book*—to both broaden and deepen our understanding of the nature of compassion and of ways to nurture it in our shared

journey with, in, and to God.

Guy led many sections of the workshop with a variety of material gleaned from both his great familiarity with the teachings of *The Urantia Book* and his extensive experience facilitating trainings on personal and spiritual growth. He blended spiritual and psychological perspectives, group exercises, and meaningful videos and slides in an engaging style that contributed greatly to the practical application of compassion in our everyday lives.

We were also blessed with several portions of the workshop being led by Jade, whose experience with healing and energy work

added a powerful personal dimension to the workshop that was often quite moving and meaningful. Jade’s caring and competent facilitation provided a healing touch that directly engaged our personal and collective compassion toward one another. Many of her group exercises also included brisk nature walks to the Windy City’s nearby Lincoln Park.

This workshop was not just about “Living a Compassionate Life” but a living experience of it. I think I speak for all the attendees at the workshop: We enjoyed our time together, found it personally meaningful, and learned many ways to live a more divinely inspired and compassionate life.



Back: Andrew Story, Paul Anderson, Brenda Van Gelder, Gard Jameson, Christian Potter

Middle: Leslie Wardman, Jessica Meyer, David Meyer, David Tenney

Front: Guy Perron, Jade Chabot, Jodi Niggemann

DANCING WITH GOD: WEAVING THE TAPESTRY OF THE SUPREME

By Line St-Pierre and the other attendees of the "Daughters of God" retreat held September 10-13

"The Daughters of God Retreat" was held at 533 W. Diversey Parkway, where ten women met together to share themselves and their spiritual journeys. The facilitators of the retreat, led by Line St-Pierre, developed and tested a new model for group sharing that worked very well.

These women spoke of their inner lives and of the meaning and calling of the Urantia Revelation for women. They explored how to help other women value themselves as daughters of God—equally loved and equally endowed in mind and spirit as men—daughters who desire to dance with God through service.

The following are excerpts and sentiments expressed by attendees of this retreat.

❖ We danced, embraced and emboldened by our spiritual beliefs.

We moved to the rhythm of a new dance, learning to be aware of our frame with just the right amount of tension instead of resistance from the cocoon of pain, tears, abuse, and confusion.

A luminous thread is spun, and we survive to thrive,
Embracing audacity of authenticity,
Choosing attunement over atonement,
Divine Mother-Son,
Holy Mother Spirit,
You are the cosmic blueprint,
Daughters of God,
We are the warp upon which the tapestry of the Supreme can be woven.

❖ I did not know what to expect when I signed up for this retreat. The outcome was beyond anything I could have imagined. The feelings of a spiritual awakening in my mind and body are overwhelming and almost indescribable.

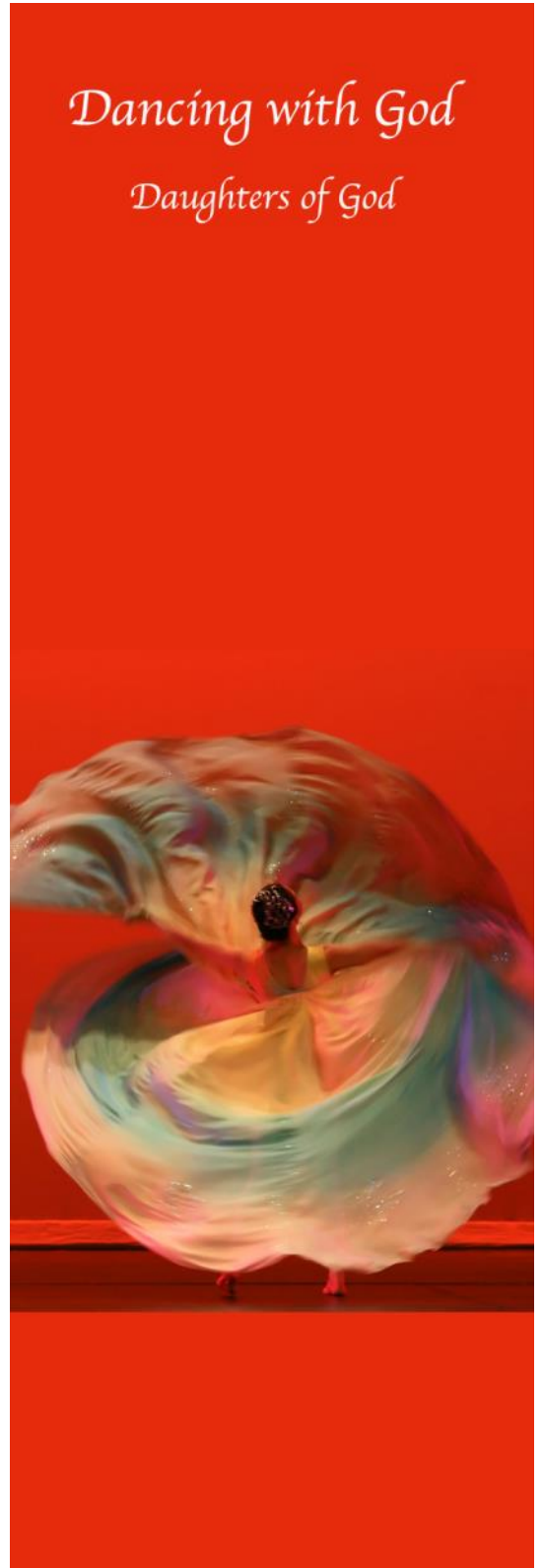
I more fully understand what it means to be a daughter of God. I have been searching a life-time for this spirituality and need it for my personal commitment to the family of God.

I feel as though I have the connection through witnessing the love, passion, spirituality, and knowledge of this group of women. I did not expect that. I have been learning through osmosis, and it is really only the beginning of everything.

❖ This memory of a safe and secure place helps me to feel safe in my soul and all the way to the center of my bones. By sharing our experiences of pain, fear, joy, and revelation we have learned, grown, appreciated, and enhanced our capacity to love.

Thank you for sharing your ways of how you care and inspire, of how you reach out and are enfolded by spiritual beings.

Explorers guided by our heart-lights,
Hand in hand we helped each other,
Through tunnels and places damp with tears,
Over boulders, around hairpin turns,
Opening into caverns dazzling with reflected God-light,
We danced around the warmth and brightness of the spirit burning within us.



❖ Everything about this place at 533 is perfect. I feel the perfection of our being together. Such gratitude! I am amazed at the cascade of events that brought us together. Such sisterly love, trust, and sharing of our sorrows, secrets, and dreams.

I am greatly enriched. I believe in my heart that our strong voices, individually and together, are changing the world. Using our voices to speak the Truth, to walk in Beauty, and to embrace Goodness is in service to our Universal Father and our Universal Mother.

❖ What I have seen and heard this weekend is the beauty in each one of you—the talents, the ability, the knowledge, the skills, and the joy—and I heard your voices—as a single voice can be beautiful—but when we sing together—how much more beautiful a song becomes. Together we have become a chorus of voices, and yet I could hear every individual voice—all the beauty, wisdom, and love each one of us carries forth—and that empowers me.

Threads and yarns of various fibers, colors, thickness, length,
 We toss them in together,
 Unwrapping them from the private places where we've spirited them away,
 Some we are eager to proffer,
 And others, hesitantly, reluctantly,
 Guiltily perhaps,
 We pull out from hidden caches,
 Rumpled and stained with sweat and tears,
 Blood and the soot of many places,
 As the pile grows, we take each strand and,
 Weave it into the warp already on the loom,
 The fiber framework provided long ago, long waiting for us,
 Calling us to weave and sing,
 To speak and dance together.

The Daughters of God group would love to share this retreat model with other groups to help them encourage more women to appreciate their value and calling. If you would like to experience this retreat, we would be happy to travel to you to meet with your group. If you specify a date, gather six to eight women, and reserve a venue, we will commit to meeting with your group. We look forward to empowering more women to follow their spiritual longings for sisterhood and outreach. For more information, contact Line St-Pierre at line.stpierre@gmail.com.



Back: Saskia Vanderploeg, Doreen Heyne, Barbara Newsom, Cecelia Lampley

Middle: Carrie Prentice, Katharine Becker

Front: Lucretia Schanfarber, Jennifer Siegel, Dolores Rubio, Wendy Citta,
 Line St. Pierre

A URANTIA BOOK YOUTH TURNS FORTY



Mike and his two daughters

By Michael Maclsaac,
Sweden

I was raised by readers who began reading *The Urantia Book* in the early 1970s. My parents had a Thought Adjuster party for me when I was little and often brought me to study groups when growing up. I began participating in the study groups and reading the book in my mid-teens. In 1996, when I was twenty years old, I attended my first conference. Meeting so many enthusiastic readers from all over the world inspired me to become active in the Urantia community. It was difficult to

find readers of my generation at that time, and I spent the next decade on a mission to find other young people with interest in *The Urantia Book*, and to foster friendships, study, and mutual support. Many years followed that were filled with amazing conferences and gatherings, book placement and outreach projects, and extensive group-travel adventures ("young reader tours").

I want to express my gratitude to the many mentors and hosts who were so encouraging and supportive of these efforts to connect and galvanize younger

readers. Throughout these decades, there has only been a trickle of younger-generation individuals becoming active in America and Europe (many of the most active young readers in the United States are, like me, second-generation readers). I continue to do what I can to help, and I am glad to see the efforts that are being made today to involve young readers and bring them together. It is exciting that the conference in Texas next summer will be sponsored by both The Urantia Book Fellowship and the Urantia Association of the United States. I hope to work with the organizations to help attract many more younger-generation conference attendees.

Both the teachings of *The Urantia Book* and the book's readership have inspired and enriched my life in many ways. One teaching that I have been striving to live up to, since I was in my teens, is to fully utilize my possibilities to learn to know, understand, and love my fellows. The teachings, such as a "true relationship" between personalities has spiritual value and is "an end in itself," have also been important in motivating me to prioritize investing in relationships and

to reach out to my fellows.

Through my travels and efforts among readers of *The Urantia Book*, I have been blessed to experience so many priceless relationships and friendships. With life being busy and the readership being so spread out in the world, we are limited in the extent to which we can stay connected and maintain active friendships. Also, I hope that the baby boomers and the silent generation will stay in good health so as to continue to enrich the community for decades to come. We miss the many members of our community, the valiant "soldiers of the circles," who have graduated from this world. I'm grateful for the exquisite, detailed description of the afterlife that is found in *The Urantia Book*, and I look forward to seeing the "graduates" at "Urantia conference" reunions on the mansion worlds and beyond.

I reside in Sweden, where I have lived most of my adult life. I keep busy raising my two young daughters and working as a teacher of English and comparative religions at Sweden's oldest high school. I have also been working on another project related to *The Urantia Book*.

"I have also been working on another project related to *The Urantia Book*. It is a book that provides an overview of the book's origin and contents as well as its readership and broader influence."



**Volume 9, Issue 4.
December 2015**

Urantia Foundation
533 W. Diversey Parkway
Chicago, IL 60614
USA

Telephone:
+1 (773) 525 3319

E-mail: urantia@urantia.org

Credits for News Online

Editors: Marilyn Kulieke, Tamara Strumfeld, Richard Keeler, and Cece Forrester

Writers: Judy Van Cleave, Richard Jernigan, Ralph D. Zehr, Dave Elders, David Teeney, Line St-Pierre, Michael MacIsaac

Production: Truthbook.com

Urantia Foundation Trustees


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

Associate Trustees

Marta Elders, Víctor García-Bory, Richard Jernigan, Guy Perron, Line St-Pierre, Angie Thurston, Ralph Zehr

Staff

Joanne Strobel, Tamara Strumfeld

“Urantia,” “Urantian,” and  are registered trademarks of Urantia Foundation.

This is a Urantian® publication.

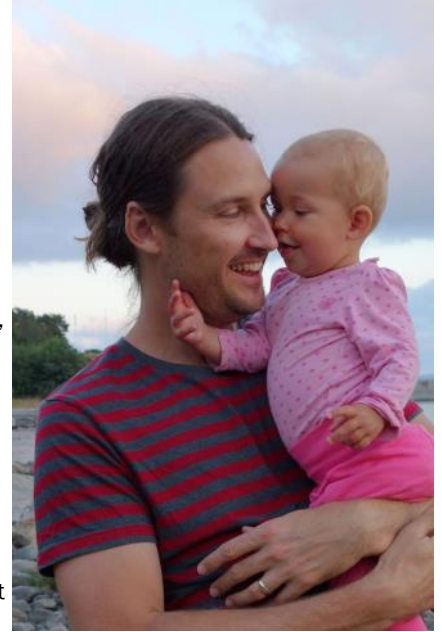
**On the web at
www.urantia.org**

It is a book that provides an overview of the book's origin and contents as well as its readership and broader influence.

I started writing this book about ten years ago when my supervisor at Stockholm University, a researcher of new religious movements, encouraged me to write my bachelor's and my master's thesis in comparative religions about *The Urantia Book* and movement. He was surprised that little academic research on the book and movement had been published and said it was needed. I dove deeply into the project and wrote a 220-page thesis with an immense reference list. The professors and department head who were at the essay's "ventilation" were impressed with it and insisted that I

must publish it and make it available to researchers and students.

Before publishing it, I want to complete the research that I began on famous and influential people who have been influenced by, or been readers of, the book. Little did I know that I would continue to find so much more information about scores of fascinating and talented individuals who have found inspiration in *The Urantia Book*, that regardless of how much research I do, the finish line seems to remain at the same distance. I may publish a preliminary version in the near future



since it seems the research could go on forever!



God answers man's prayer by giving him an increased revelation of truth, an enhanced appreciation of beauty, and an augmented concept of goodness.

The Urantia Book, 91:8.11 (1002.3)