



# URANTIA FOUNDATION'S NEWS ONLINE

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## THE REVELATION BRIDGE ENDOWMENT FUND—SECURING THE FUTURE FOR *THE URANTIA BOOK* AND ITS TEACHINGS



By Tamara Strumfeld,  
executive director, Urantia  
Foundation, Illinois, United  
States

The teachings of *The Urantia Book* have been instrumental in transforming the lives of many of its readers. Having

received this gift, what could we consider more important than safeguarding the fifth epochal revelation into the future?

In 2014, an idea was conceived to combine and secure the offerings of all individuals who leave a planned gift to Urantia Foundation. We named it the Revelation Bridge because it will serve as the financial crosspiece from the present generation to future generations.

The exciting news is that the Revelation Bridge Endowment Fund was finally born in 2017, with approximately \$1.3 million provided by four generous donors. For this, we are most grateful!

The bridge is vital since demographic studies show that the millennial and generation Z groups have little money saved and almost no discretionary income. Therefore it rests upon the silent generation and baby boomer generation to build this financial bridge until younger people become fiscally sustainable.

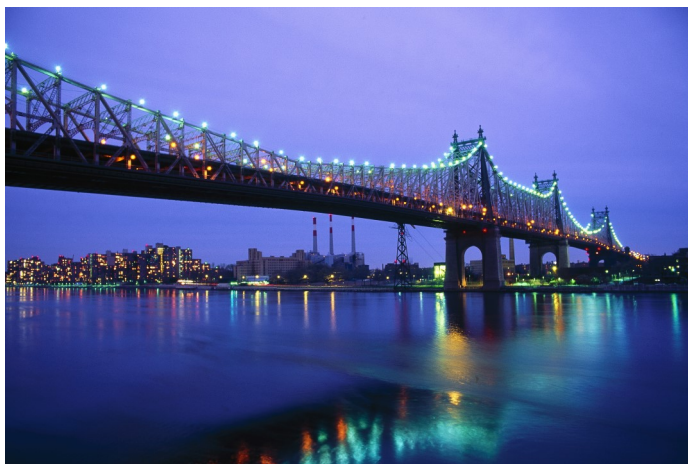
Harvard University has an endowment fund of \$36.4 billion. If this university can

acquire that level of endowment, what does the first epochal revelation in two thousand years deserve? The goal is to reach at least \$25 million.

The intent for the Revelation Bridge is to ensure that *The Urantia Book* and its teachings continue to be distributed and disseminated to all the peoples of the world. This is the commitment made by Urantia Foundation in keeping with its trust. It is also a team effort that every individual who has benefited from these teachings can participate in.

"The security of civilization itself still rests on the growing willingness of one generation to invest in the welfare of the next and future generations." 84:7.27 (941.8)

Please join us and consider leaving a planned gift for the Revelation Bridge Endowment Fund. For more information visit [urantia.plannedgiving.org](http://urantia.plannedgiving.org) or contact Urantia Foundation at [tamara@urantia.org](mailto:tamara@urantia.org) or 773-525-3319. We would be glad to speak with you about the next steps in helping secure the future of the fifth epochal revelation.



# NOTEWORTHY DECISIONS FROM THE JANUARY 2018 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING



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

The year 2017 was a good one. Progress was made on many fronts.

## Highlights

- Tamara Strumfeld became the executive director of Urantia Foundation.
- Nearly twenty thousand physical books were sold, ninety-five thousand books were downloaded at [urantia.org](http://urantia.org) and thirty-five thousand more were downloaded through the Apple app. Combined, these downloads took place in 134

countries. The top ten were:

- Brazil 27,634
- The United States 16,789
- Mexico 15,793
- Colombia 6,126
- Spain 5,776
- Germany 4,651
- Poland 4,587
- France 4,513
- Hungary 3,620
- Russia 2,909

- The new Revelation Bridge Fund was launched with approximately \$1.3 million. The fund is earmarked for the future to ensure that a financially rock-solid Foundation is inherited by generations to come and that Urantia Foundation continues to do spiritual good for centuries.

- Forty-one courses in English, French, Spanish, and Portuguese were given by the Urantia Book Internet School.

- An index, started in the 1960s by Urantia Foundation employees, was finally completed and [published at urantia.org](http://urantia.org). This index will become widely available in 2018.

- The new Cambridge LeatherSoft™ book made its debut.

- 679,184 unique visitors attended 1,190,389 sessions at [urantia.org](http://urantia.org).

- Urantia Foundation intensified its commitment to work with other organizations and individuals who have dedicated their efforts to seeding *The Urantia Book* and its teachings globally.

- Financially, we lived within our means as annual donations and other income exceeded annual expenses. We put every penny we could into programs that advanced our mission while we diligently kept administrative expenses to a minimum.

## Urantia Foundation Goals for 2018

- Seed *The Urantia Book* and its teachings throughout the world by 1) increasing book sales and downloads by at least 7 percent over 2017, and 2) publishing new products like an enhanced e-book, an index, and secondary works.

- Raise \$700,000 in unrestricted donations, \$25,000 in restricted donations, and \$250,000 earmarked for the Revelation Bridge Endowment Fund.

- Stay at or below our \$750,000 operating expense budget and \$45,000 book printing capital budget (unless book sales increase beyond expectations).

- Reorganize and staff internal job responsibilities to meet our growing organizational needs.

- Update our seventeen-language website and our social media platform.

- Partner with willing individual believers and believer organizations in outreach efforts such as the Parliament of the World's Religions, conferences, book shows, book placement programs, and the creation of secondary works.

- Focus on governance policies needed to modernize and improve the workings of the board and board committees.

- Finalize a plan to introduce the revision of *El libro de Urantia*.

## New Outreach Committee

The charter for a permanent outreach committee of Urantia Foundation was approved.

An index, started in the 1960s by Urantia Foundation employees, was finally completed and [published at urantia.org](http://urantia.org). This index will become widely available in 2018.

# SENDING *LE LIVRE D'URANTIA* TO CAMEROON



By Georges Michelson-Dupont, trustee, manager of translations, director of UBIS, Recloses, France

*Editor's Note: In addition to being a trustee, Georges is the director of the Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS) and a member of L'Association Francophone des Lecteurs du Livre D'Urantia (AFLLU), which means "French-Speaking Association of Readers of The Urantia Book," an affiliate of Urantia Association International. In this story, he describes how these groups came to be involved in placing books with readers and study groups in Africa.*

Since 2014, when its new Moodle platform was adopted, UBIS has been expanding in Africa. More and more English- and French-speaking Africans are opening an account at UBIS and enrolling in courses. Their personal experience with UBIS expands their frame of reference and deepens their understanding of the teachings of *The Urantia Book*.

This understanding of the transformational power of *The Urantia Book* has

inspired them to become teacher-facilitators, the training for which begins shortly after their third course as students. Under the sponsorship of their teacher-facilitators, students then may enroll in the UBIS Teacher Training Program to prepare, design, and offer their own courses.

To participate in a course as a UBIS student is a great way to deepen and share discoveries with other students, but to create a course demands quality of thinking, clarification, and organization of thoughts; it is always simpler to receive but more difficult to give. However, some of our students found themselves so inspired by preparing courses that they decided to create and facilitate study groups in their own areas using the UBIS pedagogy. To do this, they need books. However, it is not easy to send books to Africa due to poor infrastructure that makes it difficult to transport and route books to where they are needed.

To address this challenge, AFLLU contacted a shipping company that delivered over fifty copies of *Le Livre d'Urantia* from France to the central African country of Cameroon, which is located on the Gulf of Guinea on the west coast, just south of Nigeria. The books traveled from Paris, via

the French port of Le Havre, to Douala, which is the commercial capital and the largest port in Cameroon. These books were delivered to our friend and UBIS teacher-facilitators Guy Stéphane Nyasse, and will be offered under his leadership to study groups and other new readers.

Delivering these books is one of the means by which the Urantia Revelation is becoming available to the people of Africa. According to future trends in world population, by the end of the twenty-first century, this region of Africa will account

for a third of the world's population. This is why it is so important to begin seeding this region now.

Urantia Foundation generously paid for all the books and shipping costs, while AFLLU made the shipping arrangements. This enabled AFLLU to fully use its book donation program to help our African brothers and sisters receive the Urantia teachings. A big thank-you to the Foundation!





## URANTIA BOOK INTERNET SCHOOL— FELLOWSHIP ACROSS THE GLOBE



By Jackie Koury, Oregon,  
United States

Courses offered by the Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS) provide a format that's amazingly friendly, coupled with intellectually stimulating study of *The Urantia Book*. I found this to be the case last semester. Taking a UBIS course is a great solution for those who don't have a study group nearby and desire to learn with other Urantia Book students.

Participating in a study group has always been important to me. I attended one for more than forty years while living in Anchorage, Alaska, and I have missed it

since moving to central Oregon. So I looked into studying remotely.

In January the description of a course, The Agondonter's Quest—The Ascent from Individuality to Unity, intrigued me. This UBIS "quest" would take us along the Agondonter path, beginning with Paper 53, "The Lucifer Rebellion," and ending with Paper 56, "Universal Unity."

This UBIS course had an added significance to me because it is instructed by Mark Khoury, who has the same last name (family name) as mine—which I almost never see. Mark lives in Lebanon. My grandfather emigrated from Lebanon to Canada many years ago. *The ability of UBIS to bring the world together to study the revelation is an amazing happenstance.* Through UBIS I found a fellow Urantia Book reader, from a country with special meaning to me, who has much to offer our community in the way of in-depth study and inspiring fellowship.

What I had been missing in a study group was fulfilled in this UBIS course. From the beginning, the course felt like an awesome study group with twenty-one participants from many locations around the globe. The honest sharing helped me realize that this format for study can feel supportive and loving even from a distance. Many participants in the course had already taken UBIS courses together and had formed a rapport.

As a student I found myself highly interested, challenged, stretched, and delighted in the process. Mark Khoury is an excellent teacher-facilitator. He shared fitting quotes with stimulating feedback and follow-up questions to keep the course exceedingly satisfying. One could feel his sincerity and respect for each student as he led the class with a personal touch. Here is an excerpt that he wrote early on in the course:

But, what I really care about is sharing how

these words of the revelation touch and affect each one of you. By pooling in all our experiences, we can form a bigger and clearer picture of the truth contained. There are no guarantees that an opportunity like this one will repeat itself, so I encourage you all to seize the moment. *Carpe diem!*

My thinking has been enhanced after ten weeks of study. Answering insightful questions personalized the subject matter. I have gained new perceptions from my reading, writing, studying, and taking to heart my classmates' responses. We all learned much from our personal sharing and our time together in the space provided by UBIS.

"Knowledge is possessed only by sharing; it is safeguarded by wisdom and socialized by love." 48:7.28 (557.12)

## THE URANTIA BOOK IN FIJI



By David Linthicum, UAI  
Dissemination Committee

Chair, Oklahoma, United States

*Editor's Note: In another example of interorganizational collaboration, David, the chair of the Dissemination Committee of Urantia Association International (UAI), tells how Urantia Foundation and UAI partnered to get books to Fiji.*

Early last year I received a referral from a gentleman in

Fiji who was requesting information on becoming a distributor of *The Urantia Book* for Fiji and the surrounding Pacific islands. Over the course of the year Luke Ratuvuki and I established a good working relationship that resulted in a shipment of books to the isle. The books were shipped on February 21, 2017, and arrived on April 6.

International shipping comes with special challenges and is quite expensive. Luke had

originally requested one hundred books, but after consulting with Urantia Foundation's Tamara Strumfeld, it was decided to "test the waters" with a shipment of twenty books. The Foundation would supply the books, and UAI would pay for the shipping. Unfortunately, only one box containing ten books arrived in Fiji safely. Seven months later, the missing second box was returned to the Foundation damaged.

To my surprise, Luke reported back that he distributed the first ten books on the same day they were received. Four pastors, the CEO of a major corporation, a local college administrator, the Director of Ministry of Youth and Sports, as well as the Director of Tourism, were among the first recipients. Obviously, we had found fertile soil in Fiji and had identified a wonderful contact in the region.

Luke Ratuvuki is now retired, having served forty years in the government of Fiji. He is the former CEO of Agriculture, Fishery, and Forests and the former Fiji Ambassador to Beijing, China. Luke is sixty-eight and married with three grown children and two lovely

granddaughters. He lives in Momi Bay at Nadi Town.

According to Wikipedia, the Republic of Fiji is an island country in Melanesia in the South Pacific Ocean, about 1,100 nautical miles northeast of New Zealand's North Island. Fiji is an archipelago of more than 330 islands—of which 110 are permanently inhabited—and more than 500 islets, amounting to a total land area of 18,300 square kilometers. The two major islands, Viti Levu and Vanua Levu, comprise 87 percent of the total population of close to nine hundred thousand. Fiji is one of the most developed economies in the Pacific due to an abundance of forest, mineral, and fish resources;

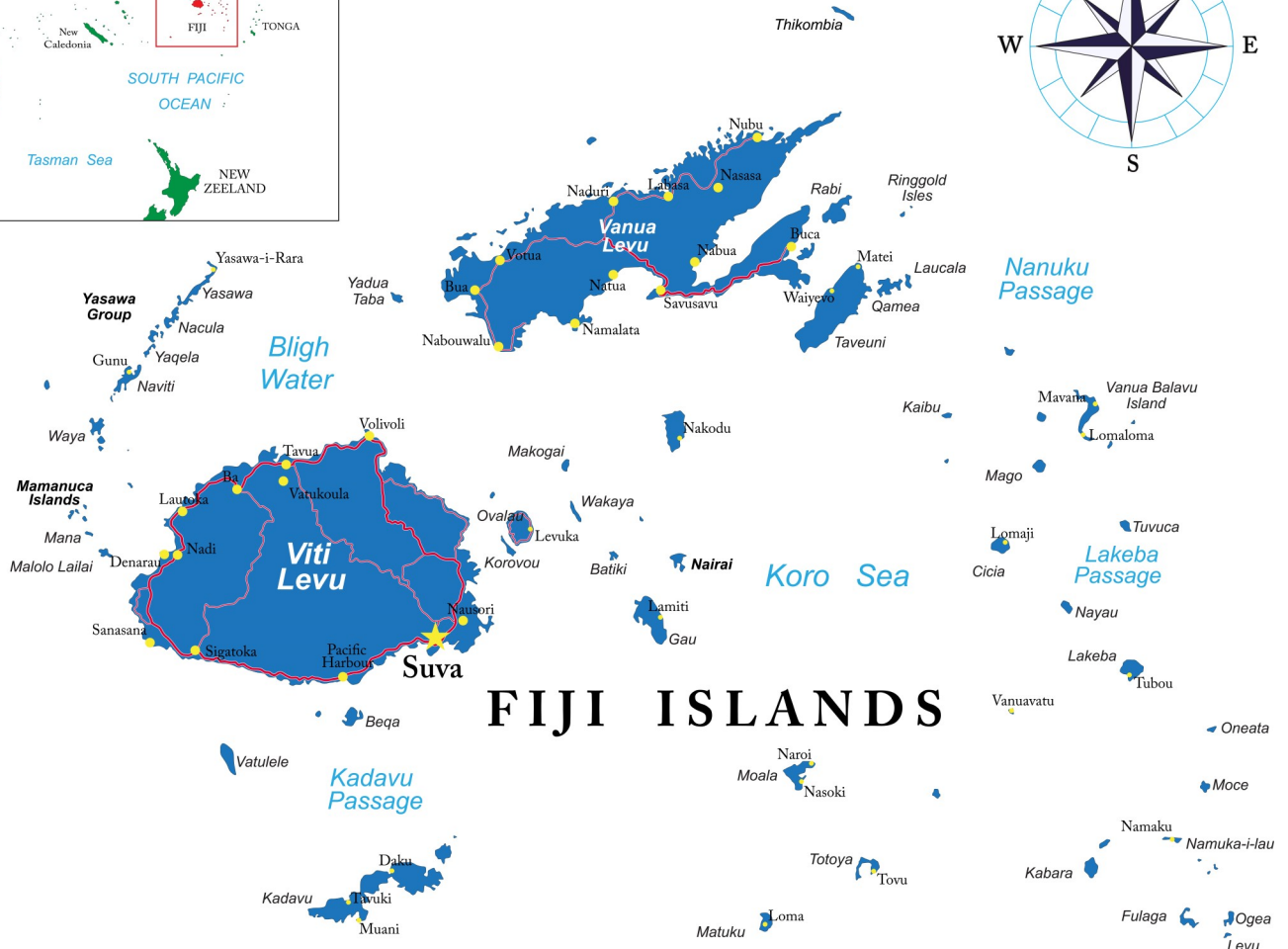
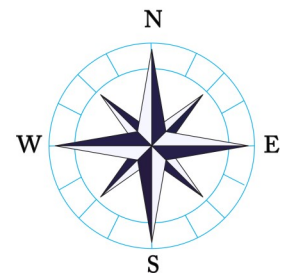
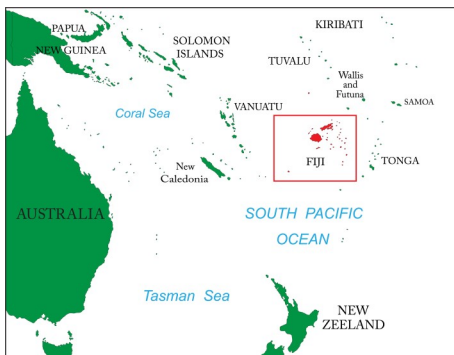
their chief export is sugar. Fiji is 70 percent Christian.

Due to the success of our first shipment of books, it was decided to send another fifty books to Fiji, using a different carrier this time around. Thankfully, that shipment was a complete success—all books arrived safely and in good condition.

There were some minor paperwork challenges with getting the books through Fiji's customs, but fortunately, Luke was able to work with the customs personnel to smooth things over. As a result, two of the customs workers Luke had been working with decided they wanted a copy of the book for themselves, and they

ended up being the first to receive a book from the second shipment. The books arrived just before Christmas on December 20, 2017.

It is very gratifying to see the enthusiasm of people from all over the globe who desire to have a personal copy of *The Urantia Book*. It is even more comforting to find people "in country" who are willing to do the necessary field work to get books to hungry souls in their country. We look forward to a long and lasting relationship with our newfound friend in Fiji.



# FIJI ISLANDS

# URANTIA ASSOCIATION AND URANTIA FOUNDATION MEET AT 533 IN CHICAGO



By Chris Wood, president, Urantia Association, Wisconsin, United States

*Editor's Note: Urantia Foundation is pledged to work with individuals and reader groups who want to spread The Urantia Book and its teachings in the world. To that end, Urantia Association invited us to participate in a planning session between several of their leaders and the trustees the day before our January board meeting. The meeting left us feeling inspired about working together to serve the revelation. The trustees thank the Association for instigating the day-long meeting and for their leadership on a global scale. We are committed to developing the same kind of cooperative working relationships with organizations committed to spreading the teachings. A house united can change the world. "A city set upon a hill*

*cannot be hidden. Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and be led to glorify your Father who is in heaven." 140:3.13 (1570.14)*

Urantia Association and Urantia Foundation have enjoyed a close relationship for more than twenty years. We co-sponsor programs across the globe from conferences to book placements, but since the majority of operations, projects, and goals of each organization are operated independently, it is important from time to time for our leaders to gather to update each other on the progress each has experienced. One such meeting occurred in January, hosted by Urantia Foundation at its headquarters, 533 W. Diversey Parkway in Chicago.

We, the Association, delighted in hearing about the ongoing progress and challenges of the Foundation. Trustee Marilyn Kulieke provided a presentation on the life cycle of any given translation and the never-ending decades of work and effort each translation demands. Indeed, it is heartening to hear the Foundation is planning for many years down the road for these translation projects and other programs to be passed to the next generation.

Another promising topic of our January meeting was the

current focus of the Association's International Service Board on the African continent. Our attention is on serving new and developing Urantia communities in Africa. As a decentralized global organization, Urantia Association is more familiar with the social growth of the Urantia teachings, and we were able to provide the Foundation with some boots-on-the-ground perspective. The seven committee chairs of our International Service Board hail from seven different countries on five continents and collectively speak seven languages. They were each able to provide reports and perspectives on how the number of organized Urantia communities has ballooned across the world with multiple new National Associations joining the International Representative Council each year. This growth has led to the formation of continental working groups, with Latin America and Europe rapidly evolving into educational and cultural centers of influence for Urantia Association. Hence, these groups have allowed our attention to turn to developing Urantia communities with current focus on the African continent.

Also in the January meeting, the Association formally invited the Foundation to attend numerous international events. Foundation staff and board members are always

encouraged to attend Association conferences. In the past this might have meant one conference every two or three years, but with our growth, so too the number of conferences to serve Urantia believers has been growing. That said, we used this meeting to extend formal invitations to the Foundation to attend our upcoming events including the International Conference in April 2018 in Amsterdam, and continental conferences in Africa (Accra, Ghana, April 2018), Latin America (Sao Paulo, Brazil, November 2018), North America (Nashville, United States, 2019), and Europe (Tallinn, Estonia, 2019). We were also able to provide sneak peeks at exciting events in 2020 and 2021, which will be publicly announced in the coming months.

Finally, the meeting brought focus to the future and its demands. The Association requires a constant flow of dedicated volunteers at the local, national, continental, and international levels. Both organizations have faith that, with focused effort and outreach, the growing Urantia community will provide wise and big-hearted leadership for generations. And those leaders will ensure that our two organizations grow and evolve to serve this revelation.

Indeed, it is heartening to hear the Foundation is planning for many years down the road for these translation projects and other programs to be passed to the next generation.



# REMEMBERING LARRY WATKINS— TREASURED SERVER OF THE URANTIA REVELATION



By MaryJo Garascia, Colorado, United States, and Tamara Strumfeld, Illinois, United States

Larry Watkins was born May 1, 1942, many years after the births of his two older sisters. When Larry was a fairly young man living in Los Gatos, California, his father suggested that he look into a job at IBM, which was just then opening up many positions in its assembly plant in San Jose. He was hired, and he soon married. During his nearly three decades with IBM, he advanced into the cutting-edge IBM business applications and became an accomplished programmer. His work servicing business contracts with major accounts took him to Vermont, where he found *The Urantia Book* in 1975.

He was drawn to the book largely because he wanted to know more about Jesus, and he never looked back. Larry eventually moved to Sacramento, California, and was very involved with the

Golden Gate Circle Society for most of the 1990s before heading to Colorado, where he was one of the originators of Truthbook.com and a volunteer for the Urantia Book Fellowship.

In 2009, Larry put his scrupulous IBM coding skills to work for Urantia Foundation. It was Larry's job to standardize the formatting of *The Urantia Book* and all sixteen translations so that the underlying code for all editions was identical. Without this effort, the website versions would not look as immaculate as they do now; neither would the e-book versions exist.

When Larry joined the Urantia Foundation team, he had to convert old Quark, InDesign, Word, and WordPerfect files into HTML. Then he had to add the referencing system—Paper:section.paragraph (Page number.paragraph)—to every paragraph in *The Urantia Book*. There are over sixteen thousand paragraphs in *The Urantia Book*!

If this were not enough of a task, he had to code to the rigorous standards needed to create e-books for Amazon and Apple platforms. He did all of this after he had already had three heart attacks.

Larry was also one of the newer members of the Standard Reference Text (SRT)

Committee. Originally working in conjunction with the SRT 2009 Committee to coordinate the documentation to be added to Urantia Foundation's website, Larry was appointed as a full committee member for the SRT 2015 team. Larry's knowledge of computer technology and his attention to detail were vital to the finalization of the committee's 2015 project.

He was also instrumental in the recent completion of the Index project that had begun prior to the time of the first publication of *The Urantia Book*. The HTML coding and programming he did was voluntary. Larry was always available, quick with his turnarounds, and never minded the incessant emails full of never-ending corrections.

Outside of all the work that Larry accomplished with and for *The Urantia Book*, he was a well-loved personality. He worked behind the scenes with great efficiency and great humility. Many sought his opinions, and his ideas were always well-reasoned, adding clarification to any discussion.



His dry but loving sense of humor was one of his greatest assets, and made communication with Larry a treat.

We were all very sorry to lose our friend and co-worker on February 15, 2018; at the same time, we are thrilled for him that he has embarked on the Great Adventure of all great adventures. At the end, Larry was peaceful, happy, content, and fearless. He was an inspiration to the hospital workers who attended his final days, and he maintained that loving presence of mind—along with his sense of humor—until the final goodbyes were said.

About you, it certainly will be said: "Well done, good and faithful servant." You will be missed, friend. Godspeed, Larry!

During his nearly three decades with IBM, he advanced into the cutting-edge IBM business applications and became an accomplished programmer.

# APPRECIATING SUE TENNANT



By Share Beasley, loving friend, Florida, United States

*Editor's Note: Sue Tennant joined the expanded board of trustees in January 2006. She served for two years, and we are all grateful for her service and contributions. Sue was also featured in the Foundation's 2012 Annual Report. To read her story, [click here](#).*

Sunday morning, March 4, 2018, while in the country of Panama, Sue Tennant, a mortal heroine, met her destined rendezvous with our sweet Father in Heaven. While she slept, the physical heart attack gave no clue to the momentous rapture she surely felt.

How glorious this envisioned deluge of unconditional love coupled with expressions of pleased approval in her life's work, as she surrendered her adoring soul to the embrace of her Thought Adjuster!

Sue, being no stranger to heartache or disappointment, led a courageously devoted life. Her amazing diversity went from climbing Mount Aconcagua, to indulgently hosting Urantia retreats, to zealously founding FreeSchools World Literacy (which started with one school and expanded to forty-six in

impoverished pockets of several countries), and in between, endeavors too numerous to mention. Sue served tirelessly in every way her prayers led her, always with disregard for her own sake. She confided that one must be literate to read the fifth epochal revelation, *The Urantia Book*. Sue foresaw FreeSchools as being on par with the Red Cross a century or so from now.

At Urantia Foundation, Sue Tennant lent her talents as an associate trustee of the expanded board, a successful approach to gain wisdom and inclusiveness. Her loyalty to the Foundation never wavered, *The Urantia Book* always her compass to truth and spirituality.

Sue unequivocally loved her husband, Derek, ever mindful and respectful of his devotion to the planet in his own way. She treasured their dear family, steadfast in her love and devotion. To her precious friends she heightened inspiration, had deep empathy, and gave loving assurance. "Dearest St. Sue" was my email salutation to her, over which her protest had no sway. Sue is an eternal lover of all her siblings, fellow children of the Supreme.

Sue Tennant left her mark on Urantia for generations to come, an ordained interfaith minister in fact and in deed.

*Editor's Note: The following prayer was composed by Share during the first Urantia retreat Sue hosted at her Silver Springs Retreat facility in Ontario, Canada, in 2000. Share read it to the group at this gathering, "Adventures in Spiritual Living." In passing along this prayer for publication, Share adds, "The inspired work of spiritual*

*retreats continues to this day. How many of us have been and will be transformed by this unselfish work?"*

## Thanksgiving

Thank you, Father, for the beauty and symmetry in this universe of your making,

Where immortality awaits each treasured soul.

Here lonely souls are satiated with generous portions of your love, bathed and immersed until content.

Then embraced by swirls of angels, delighted to touch and behold one who has survived and overcome the pitfalls of rebellion.

The fulfillment of our deepest longings is your pleasure.

Our experience is your experience. We are interdependent.

The perfection in all the details of this wondrous life is yet to

unfold in our appreciative hearts.

Our faith empowers us to gather the breadth of courage and depth of perspective to wisely guide our intent to do Your Will.

We actively join you in Your Will for truth, beauty, and goodness, the only true substance of eternity.

This journey, the Master Plan of adventure and joy, *in and with you*, is exquisite.

Your superb bounty of love, infectious in its perfection, IS . . . as it's meant to be.

Eternal joy in fulfilling your faintest desire will one day be ours!

Thank you, Father, for your beauty and symmetry.





# THE PIPELINE OF LIGHT—SEEDING *THE URANTIA BOOK* WORLDWIDE



By Michelle Klimesh, Pipeline of Light, California reporter, United States, and Paula

students sharing just one Spanish *Urantia Book*. The cost of the book in many countries was prohibitive and so the idea of more affluent believers contributing to get books to those with fewer resources was an obvious solution.

It's called The Pipeline of Light because a pipeline can bring essential resources to those in need. The idea is to keep it full so that it can continuously flow and bless all who sincerely crave what it brings.

Books sent out this quarter include four hundred twenty-eight Spanish translations, and twenty-eight English books. There was an increased flow into Latin America due to a gathering of readers in Mérida, the colorful capital of the Mexican state of Yucatán.

The current efforts bring Pipeline all-time totals to 8,309 copies of *The Urantia Book* placed into ninety countries around the world. Many thanks to the wonderful volunteers who keep this flow of books moving into the world



Paula Thompson

for us and to Urantia Foundation for making translations readily affordable and available!

We deeply appreciate the contributions of our volunteers and our donors. If you would like to contribute to this work, please contact Paula Thompson at [fellowship@urantiabook.org](mailto:fellowship@urantiabook.org).

Thank you!



Thompson, director, Urantia Book Fellowship, Colorado, United States

The Pipeline of Light is an effort of the Urantia Book Fellowship to get *The Urantia Book* and all of its translations into the hands of people around the world who hunger for its life-giving teachings, especially those in developing countries.

The Pipeline was the Fellowship's response to a need that was presented in the early 1990s by people from Estonia, Mexico, and Chile. In one instance there were a hundred sincere revelation

In the first quarter of 2018, Pipeline of Light volunteers placed 456 copies of *The Urantia Book* into seven countries. With the stalwart assistance of Urantia Foundation, donations to the Pipeline helped deliver books to readers and study groups in Argentina, Mexico, Venezuela, the United States, Peru, Australia, and Colombia.



Derek Samarus, Jo Ann Weidman

# A WAY TO BE OF SERVICE

The Goal: 1000 Positive Reviews on Amazon!

★★★★★ 737 customer reviews

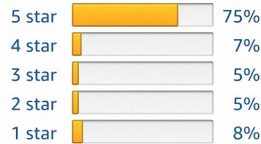
Here is a chance to express your gratitude and love for *The Urantia Book*. When individuals browse the Internet for products or services, nothing gets attention or boosts confidence more than lots of five-star ratings on the items being viewed. The higher the ratings, the more trust an individual will have.

Today *The Urantia Book* has 737 reviews on Amazon. The Foundation's goal is to hit 1000 reviews by December 31, 2018.

If you have not written a review, please take twenty minutes and express how this revelation has transformed your life. Even if Amazon requires you to buy a book in order to write a review, today's price is only \$15.79. This is a small price to pay for a book, and it's an opportunity to be of service and to give back to the revelation!

## Customer Reviews

★★★★★ 737  
4.4 out of 5 stars



Share your thoughts with other customers

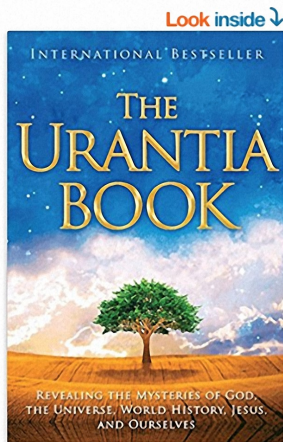
Write a customer review

See all 737 customer reviews

[Click here to get started.](#)

If you feel extra-inspired, you can leave your same review with Barnes and Noble at <http://bit.ly/2Ez7G8N> and Goodreads at [www.goodreads.com](http://www.goodreads.com).

Thank you!



## The Urantia Book: Revealing the Mysteries of God, the Universe, World History, Jesus, and Ourselves Paperback – June 1, 2008

by Multiple Authors (Editor)

★★★★★ 737 customer reviews

See all 31 formats and editions

Kindle \$3.00	Hardcover \$21.67 ✓prime	Paperback \$15.79 ✓prime	Audio CD —
Read with Our Free App	39 Used from \$12.90 29 New from \$17.77	44 Used from \$7.99 40 New from \$11.95	

You have just discovered the literary masterpiece that answers your questions about God, life in the inhabited universe, the history and future of this world, and the life of Jesus. *The Urantia Book* harmonizes history, science, and religion into a philosophy of living that brings new meaning and hope into your life. If you are searching for answers, read *The Urantia Book!*

# WHAT *THE URANTIA BOOK* MEANS TO ME



By Paul Anderson, Illinois, United States

When I look back at times before *The Urantia Book* came into my life, I see a boy kind of like the title character in Pete Townshend's rock opera *Tommy*, who was deaf, dumb, and blind. Deaf, dumb, and blind to spirit reality, that is. I have often wondered how spirit gravity had its way with me. Just like a meteor finally coming close enough to another heavenly body to alter

its course, spiritual realities pulled me in and changed my life.

I think I fit into a mold where, when one awakens to spirit reality because love has invaded his or her life, one is not ready for its power. A broken heart is sometimes necessary in order to grow in spirit understanding. I'm referring to the first time I was in love. I am reminded of the song "The First Cut Is the Deepest." I didn't have any

idea what love was or what it could do to someone. And, yes, of course, I got my heart broken. But if I could love someone else that much, how much does God love?

This growth seems to fit what *The Urantia Book* says: "Spiritual growth is first an awakening to needs, next a discernment of meanings, and then a discovery of values." 100:2.2 (1095:6)

Just like the meteor that gets



too close, I was in danger of burning and crashing. When one has his heart broken, I think there is always danger of reacting in some angry, self-destructive way. I was about twenty-three or twenty-four, but luckily for me *The Urantia Book* came along concomitantly with this spiritual experience.

The book had a gravity all its own that pulled me away and saved me. I was in California living with several other men. One of them had a father who was an English professor at Cal State Fullerton. He was using *The Urantia Book* in one of his classes. His son became exposed to *The Urantia Book* and told us all about it. This was about 1970. The book certainly cleared up my thinking and remotivated me in life to such an extent that I say it saved me from a crash-and-burn experience.

It does take some time not only to read *The Urantia Book*, but also to redirect a life that was somewhat wayward—too many drugs, no confidence, and to some extent an antisocial attitude. It took me probably at least a year to read the entire book. I started with Part IV, The Life and Teachings of Jesus, and then read the

whole book. It says, “The hungry soul of man refuses to be satisfied with anything less than the personal realization of the living God.” 102:1.6 (1119:5)

When I look back on this period of my life I can see how belief in the book started to affect me. As the book teaches, belief is different from faith. For me, belief came before faith. But even just belief helped me change direction in some ways. At work, I was pretty low on the totem pole, but eventually I became a boss and then decided to go back to school. I got educated to at least a fuller extent of my capabilities. (I should have been an engineer, but became a DO psychiatrist.) I settled down in a career which had the potential to be fulfilling, and I married, albeit perhaps not for the right reasons.

Unfortunately for me, I continued to use drugs and live my life hedonistically. I was not happy. This finally caught up with me, and I seemingly lost everything I had achieved.

But God was teaching me. I have found that at every setback new opportunities come forth and lead to growth

and happiness that probably could not have been achieved in any other way. At least not for me! *The Urantia Book* has been instrumental in those growth experiences. It says that you “cannot reveal God to those who do not seek for him; you cannot lead unwilling souls into the joys of salvation. Man must become hungry for truth as a result of the experiences of living, or he must desire to know God as the result of contact with the lives of those who are acquainted with the divine Father.” 132:7.2 (1466:2)

I have made many poor decisions in my life, but because of them, I make better ones today. Not out of fear, but because **I know**; I have been shown wisdom. And when things go wrong now, I know that I am being shown a wiser path. I am now living more by faith than by belief. This is hard to explain. Yet it is true.

I have believed in *The Urantia Book* for many years but to live more by what it teaches, i.e., the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, is more than what I had been doing. I am certainly not perfect at it, but I believe I am doing a better job now than I did as a

young man: “That which the lad wanted most to do he was unconsciously actually doing.” 132:7.9 (1467.5)

I start my day writing a poetry prayer and post it to Facebook. I go to one study group every Tuesday night and to another study group in my area as many Sundays as it meets. I have a steady relationship. I have a happiness that I have not had before. I also have a personal relationship with my Father in Heaven that continually grows.

So what does *The Urantia Book* mean to me? In many ways *The Urantia Book* is like a father and has given me a family. The papers about the life of Jesus Christ have given me a Jesus that I can understand and believe in, and the rest of the book has given me an understanding of reality that I can have faith in and believe in. When this settles in one's soul, it's hard to find words to express the gratitude that results, but “worshipful” as used in *The Urantia Book* might come close to describing such an attitude—one more way the book has added meaning and understanding to my life.

## Announcements

# THE URANTIA BOOK FELLOWSHIP'S SUMMER STUDY SESSION 2018

*By Bobbie Dreier, New Jersey, United States*

The Urantia Book Fellowship's Summer Study Session 2018 will be held at Techny Towers in Northbrook, Illinois, again this year. It is an opportunity to join your Urantia Book family in study, worship, and fellowship.

As always, inspired speakers will share their thoughts, and creative students will provide engaging workshops.

In addition, there will be daily contemplative worship time. “Worship—contemplation of the spiritual—must alternate with service, contact with

material reality.” 143:7.3 (1616:5) We will take time to “contemplate the spiritual” so that we may *better worship* and serve along with our celestial family.

One of the great joys of attending a Urantia Book conference is greeting old

friends and meeting new ones. The smaller venue of the Summer Study Session allows for all the benefits of a larger conference but offers more opportunity for intimate sharing and extended conversations.





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

Telephone:  
+1 (773) 525 3319

Email: [urantia@urantia.org](mailto:urantia@urantia.org)

### Credits for News Online

*Editors:* Marilyn Kulieke, Tamara Strumfeld, Cece Forrester, and Peggy Brown

*Writers:* Tamara Strumfeld, Judy Van Cleave, Georges Michelson-Dupont, Jackie Koury, David Linthicum, Chris Wood, MaryJo Garascia, Share Beasley, Michelle Klimesh, Paula Thompson, Paul Anderson, Bobbie Dreier

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The Summer Study Session will be held from July 19 to 22, preceded by a two-day spiritual retreat, "A Circle of Trust: Faith, Trust, and Assurance" beginning on Tuesday evening, July 17.

If you have an idea for a workshop related to the theme, "It's a Friendly Universe: Serving with Our Celestial Family," contact Jackie Koury at [jacquelyn.koury@gmail.com](mailto:jacquelyn.koury@gmail.com) to request an application form.

You may register online at [www.regonline.com/UrantiaFellowship\\_SSS18](http://www.regonline.com/UrantiaFellowship_SSS18).

# "DANCING WITH GOD— COURAGEOUSLY LIVING HIS LOVE"

## A Daughters of God Retreat

Thursday evening, September 13,  
through Sunday, September 16,  
2018

Pack your bag. "What an adventure,  
what a romance!"  
112:7.18 (1239.7)

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

During our next retreat, "Dancing with God—Courageously Living His Love," we will cocreate a milieu of trust within a spiritual circle. Together we will explore and share our discovery and experience of courageously living God's love.

We will examine how missteps, obstacles, and adversity challenge us, while small successes, inner guidance, and our fellow sojourners encourage us.

Together we will discover how, while the map of our life unfolds, a spiritual driving force leads us from one beautiful discovery to another, here and hereafter.

The cost for the three days is \$250.00 and includes all meals and shared overnight accommodations on a first-come basis. The retreat begins with dinner on Thursday evening and ends after lunch on Sunday.

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

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

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

