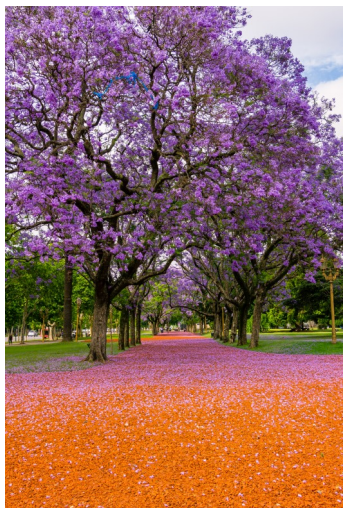


URANTIA FOUNDATION'S NEWS ONLINE



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2022 HERE WE COME!



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

What a thrill to be alive on this planet in 2022! As a result of the Urantia Revelation we have been given an awesome gift—the knowledge that we are headed toward the era of light and life. We have also been given an ‘awesomer’ gift, the indwelling presence of God, by which we may leave a legacy of helping the planet and its current and future inhabitants move toward that golden age of numinous spiritual attainment and deep moral insight.

There is only one “superfinite” choice possible to you and to me in this life: when we choose to find God and become like him. I invite you to dive deeply into the delightful well of divine presence in 2022, to develop a more joyous awareness of God’s presence in your life, and to manifest that presence in your self-selected, divinely inspired avenues of service, beginning with a smile for each and every person you meet.

I would like to share a story that occurred on my alma mater college campus. A young lady learned about the power of *mirror neurons* ([look them up](#))

to bless another person. In her dorm was a Goth young lady who always scowled and growled at her fellow students. She decided to smile at this young lady every time she saw her. And she did. After three weeks, the Goth young lady came up to her fellow student and said, “Thank you for seeing me.”

We know that Jesus changed lives, often with his fraternal and friendly smile. In spite of all the difficulties in our world, let each of us smile our way through 2022, gifting God’s presence to each person we meet. Let each of us be a beacon of “unfailing forgiveness, matchless good will, and abounding love.” 194:3.11 (2064.3)

After all, we have much to smile about. Our generous donors, supporters, and volunteers have secured a new year full of positive and prolific prospects. Through an extensive collection of quality translations and revisions, a growing international online school, and the new Android App, Urantia Foundation will continue seeding *The Urantia Book* and its teachings globally.

For these blessings, and for each of you traveling toward a future bright with the light of revealed truth and expanded cosmic consciousness, we are thankful. And may you be blessed as you mirror God’s love through your smiles!

UPDATES FROM THE OCTOBER 2021 TRUSTEE MEETING



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

Operations Overview

Highlights of third-quarter operations included: 1) conducting normal book activities such as translations, revisions, and global distribution; 2) securing printing bids and paper to print thirty thousand English, Spanish, Portuguese, and French Urantia Books, finalizing printer files, and printing books; 3) establishing the terms and setting up the Mustard Seed Fund for education and outreach purposes; 4) completing and approving the 2022 budget; 5) launching the third trimester of the Urantia Book Internet School; 6) completing 99% of the Android App, which when launched will have *The Urantia Book* in 20 languages; 7) bringing the revision of the Spanish translation to 99% completion; and 8) finalizing the Russian revision, which is currently being formatted for printing.

Books

Book printing: After nine months of high-volume Urantia Book sales, inventories of

specific books were depleted. Having planned ample lead time to print thirty thousand English, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, and French books, we had expected books to arrive before this happened.

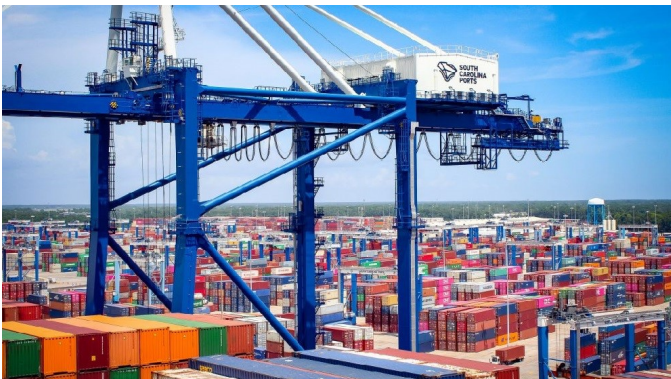
After securing printing bids in Europe, dealing with paper shortages and astronomical price increases, finalizing newly formatted printer files, and confirming a printing date, we finally saw the books printed and bound. Unfortunately, the shipping supply chain fell apart. After a scramble to secure shipping containers, the books finally arrived at a jammed port in Charleston, South Carolina.

Once the books clear United States customs, they will board a train, then a truck, and will finally be unloaded into the warehouse where sales orders await fulfillment. Shipping container prices have doubled, tripled, and quadrupled in the past six months, but there are no plans to increase book prices due to escalating costs.

Sales and downloads: At the end of nine months, book sales are up 7%, but downloads are 19% below 2020. Last year was an extraordinary year because people were working from home and spending more time on their computers. Although downloads will be below expectations by year end, book sales will be close to our projections.

Finances

2021 YTD financial information: The objective for 2021 operating expenses



Port of Charleston, South Carolina

was staying at or below our \$797,756 budget and \$150,000 capital budget. YTD expenses were up 6% from 2020 but 11% below budget. YTD unrestricted donations were \$391,484 compared to the budget of \$220,780. The office team and committee chairs are careful about spending our donors' money. Q4 is always the highest income quarter of the year and succeeding with the winter match fund ensures contributions will cover expenses.

Investment Funds: Urantia Foundation currently has five investment funds.

1. *The Hales Fund* is used for investments and cash management.
2. *The Perpetual Printing Fund* is used for printing books. When an English, Spanish, Portuguese, Polish, or Russian book sells, 110% of the cost of the book is returned to the fund to ensure there is always money for future printings.
3. *The Revelation Bridge Fund* is an investment fund for future generations. The policy is that the capital isn't touched until 2040, and then

only a percentage of the annual gains can be used, not the principal.

4. *The Reserve Fund* is a cash and cash equivalent fund to ensure Urantia Foundation has reserve funds to operate in dire times.

5. *The Mustard Seed Fund* is Urantia Foundation's newest fund. The Jameson Foundation initiated this fund with a sizeable 10-year gift. The purpose of this fund is to "seed" the Revelation around the globe through grant funding. The terms of approving grants are being developed over the next 12 months and will be administered by Urantia Foundation. The grants are expected to have a direct effect upon spreading the fifth epochal revelation globally. Approximately 50% of the initial annual donations will be available for qualifying grants, and 50% will be invested in this fund for long-term growth. We invite you to join the Jameson family in supporting this education and outreach fund.

The investment strategy for all of our funds is targeted towards moderate risk.

Translations and Revisions

Spanish Revision: The launch of the new revision of *El libro de Urantia* is now online at urantia.org/es/el-libro-de-urantia/leer. A printed book will follow in spring. A heartfelt thank-you goes to the revision team—Carmelo Martínez, Anibal Pacheco, Olga López, Víctor García-Bory, and Raúl Pujol. Their steadfastness in completing this 10-year project is a ringing endorsement for the power of the revelation and their teamwork. Congratulations to all!

Chinese Translation: The first draft of the Chinese translation of *The Urantia Book* in simplified characters is complete. Vicki Yang and Richard Zhu are now preparing the Chinese translation in traditional characters. This translation holds a special place on our board's priority list. *The Urantia Book* states that if the early preachers of Jesus' gospel had gone into Asia with his original teachings, they would have made "an immediate and effective appeal to the minds of the spiritually hungry Asiatic peoples." 130:2.3 (1430.1)

Community Relations

Collaboration between Urantia Foundation, Urantia Association International, and the Urantia Book Fellowship keeps improving. The organizations have diverse approaches to serving the

revelation. Notwithstanding, all three organizations are committed to leaving our children and grandchildren a house united in spirit purpose. That's what the Master asked of us!

As established years ago, the three presidents—now Enrique Traver, Sue Seccombe, and Mo Siegel—continue to meet quarterly on Zoom. Into the foreseeable future, they will meet every six weeks. There is more optimism than ever about a thriving and diverse Urantia community.

Cultural Advisory Council

Urantia Foundation is in the process of establishing a Cultural Advisory Council, and we are currently onboarding the first four members. The purpose of the council is to enhance the cultural wisdom and awareness of the Foundation's dissemination efforts while acquainting council members with the work of Urantia Foundation, so that both may better serve the readership within their cultures. Moreover, it provides the opportunity to facilitate relationship and mutual understanding among members of the council.

Invited Guest—Flor Robles

Flor, a devoted reader of the Spanish 1993 translation since 1996, joined the

meeting to showcase to the board the many Urantia activities that she is involved in. Flor spent most of her life living in Mexico City, Mexico; Santiago, Chile; and now Tucson, Arizona. When asked about her discovery of the revelation, Flor answered that she had many questions about God and Jesus as a child. Later, after reading a book that explained Jesus differently, and then books by JJ Benitez, she discovered *El libro de Urantia*.

As a longtime reader of the book, she has translated and produced many secondary works in Spanish. When asked about her avocation, she humbly acknowledged that she has been a professional singer. As you can see from the lovely smile on her face, Flor is an enthusiastic believer in the teachings of *The Urantia Book*.

Urantia Foundation in the Next Hundred Years

Georges Michelson-Dupont and Mo Siegel presented their visions of what Urantia Foundation might become by 2122 and beyond. Robust discussions followed, including the importance of adhering to the Declaration of Trust and seeding *The Urantia Book* and its teachings globally.

Both shared their long-term visions that Urantia Foundation would evolve into the largest Urantia Book teaching center in the world. They expressed their beliefs that the Foundation should not become a social group nor dictate how people express their individual and cultural adaptations of the revelation. The hope is that the future Urantia Foundation looks more like Harvard University than the Vatican. Continuing this conversation at multiple board meetings was heartily agreed upon by all.



Flor Robles



Enrique Traver



Sue Seccombe



Mo Siegel

The launch of the new revision of
El libro de Urantia
is now online at
urantia.org/es/el-libro-de-urantia/leer

THE CHINESE TRANSLATION: AN UPDATE



By Richard Zhu, chief translator, United Kingdom

A Chinese translation of *The Urantia Book* is a long-anticipated and high-priority project of Urantia Foundation. It has the potential to spiritually benefit over one billion Chinese-speaking people. I am grateful and honored to devote myself to this translation work. Recently, the simplified Chinese version was completed, and I am taking this opportunity to thank all of my supporters and share my experiences with this monumental translation project.

Before beginning this work, I was a professional urban planner with a master's degree in this field. I enjoyed reading and exploring the meaning of life in many ways. In early 2010 I experienced a spiritual awakening, and there arose a call within myself to search for a deeper truth. I explored online and read through various materials. Unbelievably, *The Urantia Book* was my final discovery at the end of this interconnected searching chain.

I downloaded the book from the Foundation's website, and it seemed like a treasure chest, which I opened to discover answers to all my questions regarding life's purpose and truth. And I soon came to the firm belief that this book is a genuine truth book which I strongly desired

to share with other Chinese-speaking people.

I then contacted Georges Michelson-Dupont, Manager of Translations, to inquire about a Chinese translation and offer my assistance. He told me that there was a translation nearly completed but it was not ready for publishing; the concepts were not properly translated, hence there were misrepresentations in the text.

My communications with Georges continued, and I learned more about the shortcomings of the existing Chinese draft. I read through *The Urantia Book*, searching for solutions. After nearly two years of preparation and discussions, I agreed to thoroughly revise the translation. Georges and I finally met in person and I signed a Translator's Agreement.

By early 2012, now fully committed to the Chinese translation work, I began to learn more about the earlier translation attempts, going back to the 1990s. The challenges were many. The first translator progressed slowly, and the first completed translation was deemed unsuitable for publication. However, I learned much from this earlier endeavor. In addition, the best practices developed through other translations provided me with much guidance on how to produce a Chinese translation that more accurately reflects the English text.

Even the best-laid plans present challenges, and from the start there were many. The first one was the extreme difficulty of translating English concepts into Chinese! Since the Chinese language system is based on characters rather than letters, simple transliteration, which doesn't

tell you the meaning of the words but only helps you pronounce them, was not a viable approach. Etymology had to be extensively used in the translation process.

Let's take as an example the word "morontia." This concept would be meaningless if it were simply transliterated into Chinese. I had to imitate the revelators' method. Half of the meaning came from the Chinese concept of spirit, the other half from the concept of material. This formed a new Chinese concept representing the vast level intervening between the material and the spiritual.

The second challenge was to form a good translation team. Over the years I contacted dozens of people, several of whom participated for just a short period. After years of working alone, I began collaborating with Vicki Yang, a professional translator with considerable experience translating English into traditional Chinese. She brought with her a retinue of other members.

My third challenge came from references in *The Urantia Book* to texts such as the *Tao Te Ching* (The Way) by Lao Tzu, and the Bible. I spent countless hours scouring these

books to find the original, or even translated Chinese texts to compare with my own work, so that Chinese readers from different backgrounds would recognize the familiar concepts and quotes from these ancient books.

Now that the simplified version has been completed, we are working on a version of the same translation using the more complex "traditional" characters. By ensuring that the simplified and traditional characters are consistent in meaning, we will provide for readers of both texts the ability to read the same translation in either set of characters, avoiding confusion or debates.

It is crucial to any translation or revision process to attract volunteers to read and give feedback on the text. Fortunately, under the leadership of Vicki Yang, about 20 readers versed in both simplified and traditional Chinese writing have been invited to help with this phase.

The translation team is passionate about providing a high-quality translation of the fifth epochal revelation, which will serve the billions of Chinese-speaking people of mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and the diaspora for decades to come.



Taipei, Taiwan

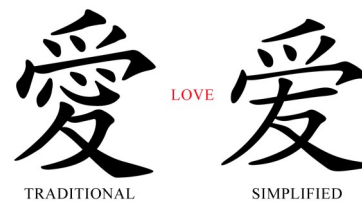
WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TRADITIONAL AND SIMPLIFIED CHINESE CHARACTERS?

Mandarin and Cantonese are the two most common verbal Chinese dialects. But when it comes to writing, you need to distinguish between simplified and traditional Chinese characters.

Traditional Chinese was originally the standard in all Chinese-speaking regions. Some say that characters were simplified in writing throughout history. Simpler forms of characters have also been said to exist in documents dating back as far as the Qin dynasty (from 221 to 207 BCE). However, most of the simplified characters used today were developed in the 1950s and 1960s by the government of the People's Republic of China. The government implemented an official system of simplified Chinese, with hopes that it would help improve China's literacy rates by making the characters easier to read and write.

Simplified Chinese is officially used in mainland China and Singapore, and is often also used by the Chinese community in Malaysia. Traditional Chinese is used in Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Macau.

Location	Written	Spoken
China	Simplified	Mandarin
Hong Kong	Traditional	Cantonese
Taiwan	Traditional	Mandarin



Besides simplifying individual characters, simplified Chinese also uses fewer characters in total. Simplified Chinese often uses a single character to represent words that have different meanings but the same pronunciation. In traditional Chinese, each word has its own separate character.

The long history and culture attached to traditional Chinese make it aesthetically pleasing and meaningful. One example is the character for "love." In traditional Chinese, the character is 愛 and part of what makes up this character is 心(heart). In simplified Chinese, the character for love is 爱—it omits the "heart" component. Some feel that because of changes like this, traditional characters better represent the meaning of words. ~ Adapted from online sources.



CIRCLING THE GLOBE WITH UBIS



By Joanne Strobel, UBIS executive director, Georgia, United States

The mission of Urantia Foundation is to seed *The Urantia Book* and its teachings globally.

For more than 20 years, Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS) has been offering courses to students, courses which were developed and offered by fellow students of *The Urantia Book*. What began as a program for English speakers has evolved into a truly international school. Courses are currently offered in English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish. But more languages are coming soon!

Co-director Georges Michelson-Dupont, who is also the Urantia Foundation manager of translations, maintains a close and personal relationship with our translators and revisors. He has been encouraging several of them to take courses in English, which

they all speak and write fluently, and then become trained in the art of facilitating our unique "UBIS Experience."

As a result, Polish, Hungarian, German, and Chinese-speaking students of the revelation are preparing to launch courses in their native languages. It is a very exciting and expansive time for UBIS. The challenges of training, collaborating, and mentoring across languages and cultures (not to mention time zones) are monumental. But thanks to our dedicated team of volunteers, and the bedrock of support that is Urantia Foundation, the vision of worldwide education is becoming a reality.

Many changes are coming in 2022, including plans to

create UBIS study groups that accommodate newer readers. After an initial test phase, we hope to encourage all language branches to offer similar six-, eight-, or ten-week topical study groups. We are also developing a course intended for emerging leaders within the Urantia community and reader organizations.

If you have never taken a course with UBIS, we invite you to do so! Registration for classes during the January trimester is open now. For more information, or to open a student account: new.ubis.urantia.org/moodle/.



MY BENELUX ESPERANTO CONFERENCE EXPERIENCE



By Jean Annet, Namur, Belgium

Editor's Note: Esperanto is a constructed language, created in the nineteenth century by L. L. Zamenhof, an eye doctor in Poland, then part of the Russian Empire. He decided to create an international language that would be used

as a neutral language between all nations on Earth. In the early 2000s, a Frenchman, JeanMarie Chaise, completed a draft translation of The Urantia Book into Esperanto. In 2020, Urantia Foundation accepted a proposal from an international team to improve the text and ready it for publication.

From September 30 to October 3, 2021, the Beneluxsa Kongreso took place in Charleroi, Belgium. It was a gathering of about 60 Esperantists, mainly Belgians because of travel restrictions. There were of course Flemish and Walloons, which in Belgium makes it an "international" meeting!

It was my privilege to give a lecture presenting *The Urantia Book* to about 20

participants. As I am not yet an expert in Esperanto (I understand it very well, but I don't speak it yet like my mother tongue, French) I used a PowerPoint presentation developed with a language specialist. Prior to giving my lecture, I was able to talk with several people about the

book, which helped enrich my Esperanto vocabulary specific to the themes of the book.

The advantage of presenting *The Urantia Book* to Esperantists is that they already have an ideal of justice and brotherhood. They are learning



the language to give each other the opportunity to communicate in an equal way, without anyone having an advantage because of their native language. Moreover, the creator of the language "Esperanto," Ludovic Zamenhof, not only wanted to find a bridge between all languages through Esperanto, but also one between all religions. I was able to find a quote from him that said: "My plan is to create a religious union that would peacefully embrace all existing religions." For this he referred to the Jewish rabbi Hillel. "Hillelism is a teaching which, without tearing man from his homeland, language or religion, gives him the possibility of communicating with people of all languages and religions on a neutral human basis, on the principles of mutual brotherhood, equality and justice."

Not all Esperantists have this ideal in relation to religions, but some do. And they are very receptive to the fundamental message of *The Urantia Book*: the brotherhood of men under the fatherhood of God.

Several people were interested enough, in any case, to want to start a group to read the book.

One of them, Alex, had a rather amusing anecdote. Thirty years ago, he bought a copy of *El libro de Urantia*. (He was living in Catalonia, Spain at the time.) As soon as he began reading, he decided that it was too complicated, so he returned it to the bookstore. Meanwhile, he continued his spiritual quest and recently read online that someone was accusing an author of plagiarizing *The Urantia Book*. Hence, one month before the conference, he bought the book again, this time in French! He was obviously very surprised to see that the conference program listed a presentation on the book. We even changed the time of the presentation so that he could attend.

After the conference, we started our first reading group of *The Urantia Book* in Esperanto. Currently there are four of us. We are not yet international, except for Alex, who is Catalan-Flemish and lives in Wallonia (the French-speaking area of Belgium), but it is already planned that I will give another lecture in Germany at the end of the year. If the borders reopen, I will be able to give more



lectures at European Esperantist meetings. This will allow us to really constitute an international group in Esperanto.

The Esperanto translation of *The Urantia Book* continues, and thanks to this new reading group, we have been able to improve the translation quality. New readers will confirm that the true meaning of the text is conveyed. After all, some words may seem to have an

obvious meaning, but with deeper study, we find that they carry an altogether different interpretation.

In addition, there are what are called false friends—ordinary words like personality, realization, and many others—which must be translated into Esperanto in a more nuanced way. It is by reading and rereading the text with new and experienced readers that we progress towards the most accurate translation possible.



Attendees of the Benelux Esperanto Conference

REMEMBERING IRMELI IVALO-SJÖLIE



By Jay Peregrine, Translation Committee, Michigan, United States

Editor's Note: Irmeli served as an associate trustee of Urantia Foundation from 2007 to 2012. What a dynamo! Not only was she an energetic and motivated member of the board, she was also our resident ambassador-at-large. Irmeli loved to jet set the world and promote The Urantia Book

and its teachings everywhere she went.

Irmeli Ivalo-Sjölie (pronounced "Shirley") was born on May 3, 1929, in Helsinki, Finland. She graduated there on November 28, 2021, at the age of 92. As a diplomat's daughter, Irmeli lived in many countries, giving her the prestige of completing her high school and college studies in six different languages.

After studying homeopathy in Norway, she brought the practice to Finland where she shared her knowledge through lectures at the Finnish Institute for Alternative Medicine.

Irmeli lived for many years in Brazil. She was married to an



Werner Sutter and Irmeli Ivalo-Sjölie

engineer, with whom she had three children. She earned a degree in chemistry from São Paulo State University and worked at Astra do Brasil. In later years she lived in Norway, where she had another daughter with her second husband. There she was in charge of clinical trials at a hospital in Oslo, Norway.

Irmeli was also a 25-year member of the board of the Viktor Frankl Institute, where she was known as "the godmother of Logotherapy." To quote Dr. Alexander Batthyány, "She was the epitome of European elegance, education, style and individuality which is becoming increasingly rare these days. And wit!"

Irmeli found *The Urantia Book* in the early 1980s through longtime reader Nigel Hornby. She became a devoted student and was instrumental in promoting the book in Brazil, Finland, Norway, Hungary, and Germany.

She met Werner Sutter at a study group in Finland, and

they dated until his passing in 2012. They bought a house in Freiburg, Germany, where she and Werner held a study group. When *Das Urantia Buch* was published, they found the Foundation's book distributor, which we still use to this day! They traveled extensively around Europe promoting the book and attending book fairs. They even started a pan-European group for younger people called the "Blue Group."

Irmeli had a personal interest in the Hungarian translation of *The Urantia Book* because the Hungarian-born woman who provided the financial resources for the first printing of *Az Urantia Könyv* was a good friend of hers. She helped promote it by participating in various book fairs in Budapest.

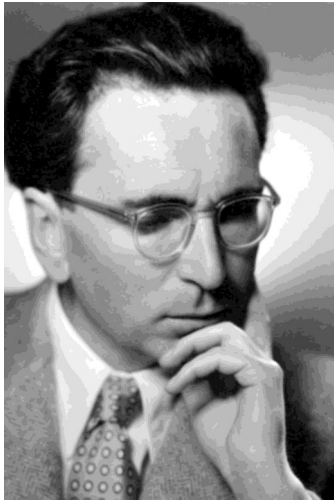
For the Brazilians, Irmeli played an important role in encouraging the printing of the Portuguese translation, and later promoted it in bookstores there. When visiting Brazil, she always participated in local study groups. She also sponsored several national Urantia meetings in Gonçalves,



Minas Gerais, where her family owns a fazenda resort property.

Irmeli loved to dance. In fact, she once told me that she latched onto Werner because he was a good dancer. One of my fondest memories of Irmeli is the night a group of us enjoyed an evening of dancing at a nightclub situated on the

top of a high-rise in Sao Paulo, Brazil, with views of the city stretched out before us. Another time a group of us spent an evening at a country dance hall in Dallas, Texas. It was quite something to watch a group of Finnish Urantia Book readers dancing cowboy style with Irmeli!



Viktor Frankl

What Is Logotherapy?

Logotherapy is a therapeutic approach that is based on the premise that the primary motivational force of an individual is to find a meaning in life. It's a form of psychotherapy that is focused on the future and on our ability to endure hardship and suffering through a search for purpose.

Psychiatrist and psychotherapist Viktor Frankl developed logotherapy after surviving Nazi concentration camps in the 1940s. His experience and theories are detailed in his book, *Man's Search for Meaning*.

Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms—to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way.

~ Viktor Frankl, MD, PhD

SHARING *THE URANTIA BOOK*



By Mark H. Hutchings,
associate trustee, Nevada,
United States

When asked to write a favorite story about sharing *The Urantia Book*, I humorously thought about the many

failures I've had. The fact is, I've failed time and again when trying to share with those around me what I consider to be the most important book ever written. They usually say they don't like to read—at least not enough to dive into a two-thousand-page tome that elucidates a master philosophy, religion, and cosmology. More than once I have heard "the book is just daunting—it is so big and densely written and I can't understand the terms." Yet I find these same people always eager to hear and receive the golden kernels of truth within *The Urantia Book*, always appreciative of the profound insights it contains.

My next thought was that I have many stories—but they are of sharing its precious contents through lived experience, not necessarily of sharing the book itself. The following one is about Lee (not his real name), a personable guy with noticeable intelligence and a great personality. He is good looking, funny, tall, and well built. He is also a convicted felon. Lee was a car thief and a burglar. He spent more than 10 years of his life in prison. I met him 13 years ago while volunteering with a program that assists men in halfway houses to reacclimatize to regular society upon release.

When I met Lee, he was like many con men, convicts, and

criminals that I have known—a charmer, a good talker, and a manipulator. We started talking about his life. At first, he painted a rosy picture about how he had it all figured out. I said, "That's fantastic, but if you're anything like me, nothing will change unless you have God's help." I shared with him that I had failures despite my earnest attempts to live successfully.

He must have felt comfortable because he revealed his failures as a father, as a son, and as a member of society. He told me about his father, whom he admired greatly, and how crushed he was when his father died while he was in prison. He told me about his sweet daughter, how she was living with his aunt and uncle and

their kids, and how she wept because both of her parents were in prison. He told me of his inability to control his impulses and his desperate attempts to escape his pain through alcohol abuse.

I asked Lee if he believed in God and if he believed he could receive spiritual power from within. He said he did and that he had experienced receiving insight, strength, and guidance from spiritual sources that he believed originated from within.

Lee and I met regularly and often for about five years to discuss the funny and oftentimes tragic thoughts, attitudes, and actions that blocked us from living a full life. We made commitments both spiritual and practical. We lived life prayerfully and often with fingers crossed because we knew we were not able to do it alone, that we needed God's help.

As Lee and I watched our outer lives transform, we noticed that this was merely the outgrowth of an inner transformation that had occurred. *The Urantia Book* describes many of these inner transformations, and Lee and I openly discussed many of the concepts in the book that harmonized with our experience.

We learned that: "unreasoned fear is a master intellectual fraud practiced upon the evolving mortal soul," 48:7.4 (556.4); that "the act is ours; the consequences God's," 48:7.13 (556.13); that "the disappointments hardest to bear are those which never come," 48:7.21 (557.5); that "difficulties may challenge mediocrity and defeat the fearful, but they only stimulate the true children of the Most Highs,"



48:7.7 (556.7); and that "the greatest affliction of the cosmos is never to have been afflicted. Mortals only learn wisdom by experiencing tribulation." 48:7.14 (556.14)

Today, Lee is a proud father of five beautiful children. He is a successful business owner,

husband, and friend. I watched God transform Lee from a smooth-talking convicted felon into an honorable, hardworking, principled man dedicated to his business, his community, and his family. I don't believe I've ever seen anything more remarkable.

WHAT *THE URANTIA BOOK* MEANS TO ME



By Andrés Rodríguez, Bogotá, Colombia

It is a curious thing that I found *The Urantia Book* in 1994, the same year I got married. A truly special year featuring the immense joy of having found

and committed to the two dearest travel companions of my life's journey!

The book caught my attention just with the Contents of the Book. At that time, I already perceived that I was encountering something stupendous, judging by the orderly cosmology that it revealed, and by the magnitude and diversity of the topics covered. Many of them have been objects of search and study throughout my life, ever since I read *The Divine Comedy* by Dante Alighieri at the age of 11.

After having tasted the waters of different springs of wisdom—varied sources like

Christianity, Hinduism, esotericism, Rosicrucianism, Theosophy, and the sciences—I found that arriving at *The Urantia Book* was like discovering the treasure map, the *Michelin Guide to Eternity*, the instruction manual for how to put together the puzzle of history, science, philosophy, theology, religion, and spirituality.

Today, I have no doubt that *The Urantia Book* is a transcendental and authentic revelation and, as some have suggested, perhaps based on a statement by a Mighty Messenger in Paper 30, that it will be the guiding book for humanity for the next thousand years.

Having an engineering background, I was dazzled by the scientific parts. The text mostly dates to the mid-1930s, yet it depicted the organization of the universe into clusters and superclusters, while it took scientists until the 1970s to detect galactic movements different from the Hubble flow. The authors state the speed of light with greater precision than that known in the 1930s; that one of Jupiter's moons will be obliterated by the planet's tidal gravity; that our moon will be held back by the gravity of Urantia, and at that time, Earth's day will last 47 times longer than now. One could talk for hours about the scientific predictions in *The Urantia Book*, even some statements that might shed light on the popular



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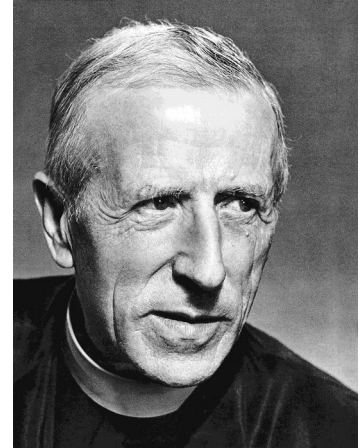
issue of current climate
change.

Despite my training in
science, I also appreciate the
book's revelations in the field
of history, such as the true
date of the incarnation of our
beloved sovereign; the true
mission of Jesus; the siblings
of Jesus (a forbidden subject
for Catholics); the Lucifer
Rebellion; the story of the
two gardens; the wanderings
of the Andite descendants;
the story of the ancestry of
Moses; and the supervised
evolution of life on our planet
and the human species.

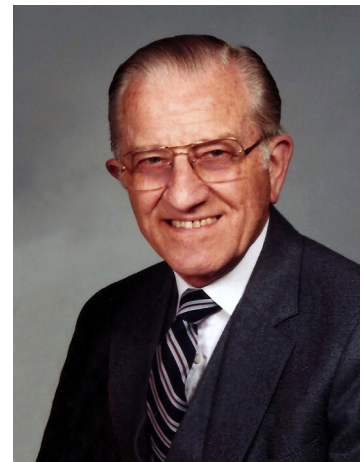
While not well read in the
field of cosmology, I had the
opportunity to read Teilhard
de Chardin, which is the most
elaborate cosmology I am
aware of, at least within
Catholicism. But, as Dr.
Meredith Sprunger
suggested in an essay
entitled "Universe
Christology: A Transplanetary
Theory," what is needed is a
spiritual cosmology that
matches the vastness of the
universe revealed by
astronomy. To my mind, this

Urantia cosmology is more
exquisite and more elaborate
than those of Teilhard de
Chardin, Alfred North
Whitehead, or Swedenborg.
And it even includes an aspect
of the heavenly Father's plan
that we can understand right
where we are now, with the
universe being run by
manifold hierarchies of
authorities and their myriad
assistants.

Finally, every time I reread the
book, I find new truths, new
expressions that we live in a
universe of things and beings
created and governed with
love and wisdom. The
universe allows us, the
ascending mortals of time and
space—along with many other
orders of creatures—to harbor
the hope and dream that one
day, far away, we will be in the
presence of the Universal
Father. Even after that
indescribable goal becomes
our reality, new adventures
and missions will await us in
the expanses of outer space.
And they will involve much
more than playing the harp
with a cherubim on some
cloud for all eternity!



Teilhard de Chardin



Dr. Meredith Sprunger



God's doings are all purposeful, intelligent, wise, kind, and eternally considerate of the best good.
~ *The Urantia Book*, 3:2:8 (47.6)