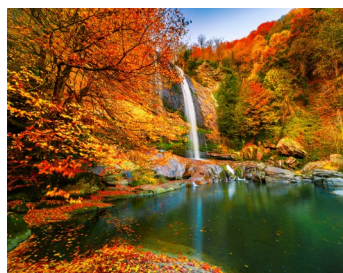




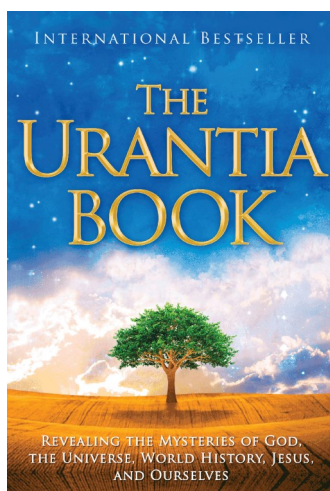
URANTIA FOUNDATION'S NEWS ONLINE



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URANTIA BOOKS ACROSS THE GLOBE



By Urantia Foundation staff,
Illinois, United States

We are often asked, “How many people are reading *The Urantia Book*?” Estimates abound, but it truly is impossible to know. Not everyone contacts publishers to inform them of their purchases and reading habits. Based on yearly sales, one can surmise that few actually do make contact. Plus, single individuals buy multiple books; organizations buy them in bulk; some books remain unopened on bookshelves. But one thing we can know for certain is how many books Urantia Foundation has printed and distributed.

Since 1955, with the first run

of 10,000 copies, the English edition has been printed 29 times for a total of 479,404 hardcover, paperback, leather, and LeatherSoft books. French was the first translation, *La Cosmogonie d’Urantia*, and was published in three volumes by Jacques Weiss in 1961. Urantia Foundation took over the publication in 1981 and renamed the book *Le Livre d’Urantia*. It is the third most printed book (Spanish is second), with 62,796 copies.

Spanish and Finnish translations followed in 1993. *El libro de Urantia* continues to be a bestseller throughout the Spanish-speaking world, and to date, we have printed 182,924 copies. In addition, the electronic Spanish translation is the most downloaded book with over 215,000 copies. The Finnish *Urantia-kirja* has served a much smaller demographic, and the initial run of 10,000 copies has lasted for almost 30 years.

As the following charts illustrate, 15 languages have been printed since the Urantia Book project began. This makes a total of 839,300 physical books in circulation throughout the world.

Since the earliest days of translating and printing, websites have become

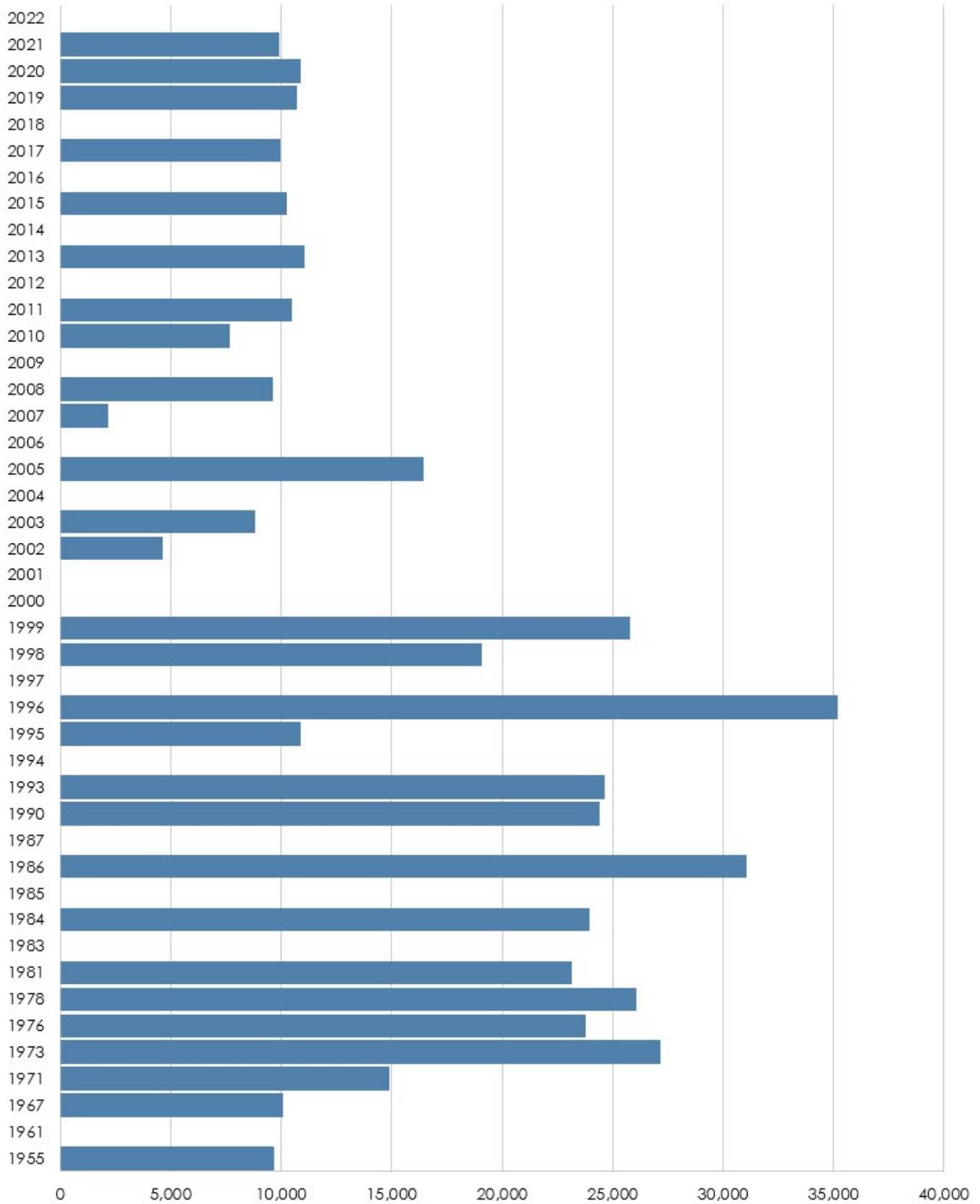
ubiquitous and easily accessible to most readers. The decision to print a physical book is not made lightly. There are factors to consider, such as the estimated number of readers in a certain language, the availability of book distributors, and the overall cost/benefit ratio of printing vs. e-books and downloads.

There are currently 11 translations only available online. When the readership reaches the tipping point in these languages, it will be easier to justify investing the many thousands of dollars it requires to print, ship, and distribute physical books.

The Chinese and Filipino teams are working diligently on their translations to bring *The Urantia Book* to their language groups. These two translations alone have the potential to reach more than two billion people.

Urantia Foundation’s book printing and translation programs are 100% funded by generous donations from the readership. On behalf of the entire team, we thank you for your continued support in furthering the mission of seeding *The Urantia Book* and its teachings globally.

The Number of English Urantia Books Printed between 1955 and 2022



UPDATES FROM THE JULY 2022 TRUSTEE MEETING



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

Operations Overview

Books

- Urantia Book sales for Q2 and year-to-date (YTD) are down 2%. Total sales, including *The Parables of Jesus* and *The Untold Story of Jesus*, were down 5% in Q2, and down 2% for the year.
- Downloads were down 24% in Q2, and down 25% for the year.
- The Audio Enablement Project is advancing. We anticipate launching audiobooks in 20 languages in mid-2023.

Moving forward in Q3, the focus will be on:

- Resolving the remaining issues on the Android app and promoting its launch in the Google Play Store.
- Completing the printing project of 10,000 Hungarian, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish Urantia Books.
- Streamlining our internet ad campaigns.

Education

- Urantia Book International School (UBIS)—A significant reorganization occurred in Q2. Joanne Strobel continues as executive director, Tim Duffy as the newly appointed academic director, and Georges Michelson-Dupont as trustee liaison and chair of the UBIS Advisory Council. Trial study groups have continued, and collaborative work with other educational centers is being encouraged and planned. UBIS is launching courses in Hungarian, German, and Polish for the September 2022 trimester.

- Study Group Directory—There have been 14 new groups registered, 11 of them outside the United States.

- Science Symposium III—Urantia Foundation's Education Committee sponsored its third science symposium in June. Over 250 people attended via Zoom Events. The sessions are posted on the Foundation's YouTube channel, and the research papers can be found here: urantia.org/study/seminar-presentations.

Fundraising and Finances

- Donations—YTD unrestricted donations were \$251,233, above budget, and above 2021. Restricted donations were \$235,164, also above budget and 2021. A \$200,000 restricted gift was given exclusively to support new initiatives for UBIS. Restricted donations to Urantia Foundation can be specified for projects such as translations, education, website, social media, and outreach.

- Estate gifts—Q2 estate gifts were \$600,172 compared to \$813,213 in 2021. We are so grateful for the estate gifts. Almost all these gifts are transferred into the Revelation Bridge, a fund that was designed to secure our trust, *The Urantia Book* and its translations, well into the future. Please consider an estate gift to Urantia Foundation. It is a bridge to the next generations.

- Expenses—2022 program expenses are up 11% from 2021 but remain 18% below budget. Total expenses are up 10% from last year but are 11% below budget.

- Mustard Seed Grants Program—The application form for grant requests is almost complete, and a process for reviewing proposals and recommending grant funding has been developed. We expect this program to be operational in the first quarter of 2023.

Translations and Revisions

- Translations manager Georges Michelson-Dupont and executive director Tamara Strumfeld gave a summary of the process the translators are following in preparing and refining the Chinese translation in both simplified and traditional characters.
- Updates were provided on the Esperanto, Farsi, and Filipino translations, and the Portuguese revision.

Cultural Advisory Council

Jaime Rey Albornoz provided a PowerPoint presentation on the history, culture, and religions of Colombia, and their impressive presence in Latin America. During the Q&A, he stated that for those who are helping to disseminate the teachings in Colombia, the emphasis is on the inner life constituting true religion. He believes that this approach will help readers of *The Urantia Book* achieve spiritual transformation.

Invited guests—Paul and Gosia Jaworski

Paul and Gosia Jaworski gave an update on their work with the Polish translation and the current revision they have almost completed. This will be their third revision! The Jaworskis narrated their life story, including their discovery of *The Urantia Book*. Since 2009, 7,000 copies of the Polish translation have been sold. In terms of sales, for several years now the Polish book has been the most popular translation in all of Europe!



Paul and Gosia Jaworski

QUALITY TRANSLATIONS— A 40-YEAR PROCESS!



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

Editor's Note: Marilyn's article is based upon a presentation made by Urantia Foundation's Translation Committee. Members include Minoo Claire, Víctor García-Bory, Georges Michelson-Dupont, Marilyn Kulieke, Henk Mylanus, Jay Peregrine, and Tamara Strumfeld.

On the very first page of *The Urantia Book*, the Foreword begins with a statement about the conceptual poverty caused by inadequate meaning of terms on our world. The original translation of the Urantia Papers from cosmic



languages into English depended on the use of many of these confusing terms to present enlarged concepts and advanced truth to "expand cosmic consciousness and enhance spiritual perception." O:0.2 (1.2) The Divine Counselor makes it clear that language is key to communicating these many new ideas and concepts.

Now try to imagine the challenge of those same word symbols being translated by humans into another language of the realm. How could any person or groups of people create a translation that could be readable and faithful to the original, using consistent terminology throughout? Could there be a more difficult task?

In 1950, the trustees of Urantia Foundation were asked to do just that. First, they were asked to protect the English text of *The Urantia Book* from harm, and then to maintain custody of ensuing translations. Since that time individuals throughout the world have shared 23 translations with Urantia Foundation, collectively containing approximately 25 million words—words that are poised to inspire the minds and hearts of people all over the planet.

Over the decades, we have learned much about translating *The Urantia Book*. In 2013, Urantia Foundation developed a quality control process based on reliable translation standards to help our translator and reviser teams to create ever more faithful and beautiful

translations. The following steps illustrate our journey to bring the Urantia teachings to the world.

Growing a Translation out of Love for the Urantia Revelation

Phase 1: Preparing for Translating (1 to 10 Years)

As the English text of *The Urantia Book* finds its way around the world, its teachings inspire readers to translate it into their own mother tongue. By the end of this phase, a seed is planted, and the conditions become ripe for growth.

Phase 2: Appraising the Readiness for a Specific Translation (6 Months to 1 Year)

During this period the conditions needed to create a quality translation are assessed. They are:

- A chief translator/team which is qualified
- Adequate resources to support the translation
- An agreement between a translator and Urantia Foundation

Consider the translation challenges the revelators explain that they themselves face:

It is exceedingly difficult to present enlarged concepts and advanced truth, in our endeavor to expand cosmic consciousness and enhance spiritual perception, when we are restricted to the use of a circumscribed language

of the realm. But our mandate admonishes us to make every effort to convey our meanings by using the word symbols of the English tongue. We have been instructed to introduce new terms only when the concept to be portrayed finds no terminology in English



which can be employed to convey such a new concept partially or even with more or less distortion of meaning. O:0.2 (1.2)

A translator/team must overcome many obstacles to create a translation that is:

- Readable in the target language
- Faithful to the original text
- Uniform in the use of terminology
- Free of register shifting

By the end of this phase, it is determined that the seed is strong, the soil is rich, and the conditions right for growth. All

is ready for the transformation of individuals and cultures that begins once the spirit inspires.

Phase 3: Translating (9 to 10 Years)

During this phase the translator/team partners with Urantia Foundation to support the creation of a high-quality translation and prepare it to be published. By the end of this phase, the rich soil has allowed the roots to grow deep and leaves to flourish. The transformation of individuals and cultures is on its way.

Phase 4: Maturing (5 to 15 Years)

During this phase the translation is published and distributed. Feedback from different sources is shared, and the desire to create a translation of higher quality grows. As time passes more

individuals begin reading the translation. Enhanced understanding means change.

By the end of this phase, the conditions are ripe for change. The soil needs more nutrients and resources to accelerate its growth. Changes in individuals and cultures necessitate language which is more faithful, readable, consistent, and clear.

Phase 5: Revising (9 to 10 Years)

During this phase the translation is revised. Feedback has been received, and a team of dedicated readers has emerged. Terms are clarified, quality is improved, and the text is polished.

By the end of this phase the soil is replenished, and nutrients are sufficient.



Fertilizer accelerates its growth. Plans are made to reintegrate the enhanced translation into the thought stream of individuals and cultures.

And around 40 years later . . .

The spread of civilization must wait upon language. Live and growing

languages insure the expansion of civilized thinking and planning. During the early ages important advances were made in language. Today, there is great need for further linguistic development to facilitate the expression of evolving thought. 81:6.16 (908.5)

THE REVELATION FLOURISHES IN THE PHILIPPINES

By Urantia Foundation staff, Illinois, United States

Gardeners often repeat the "Sleep, Creep, Leap" adage that is used to simplify the typical phases a perennial plant will go through to reach its full mature size. At some point, when the "leap" becomes apparent, the patient gardener smiles and recognizes that the results were worth the wait.

Eugene and Belen Asidao of the Chicago area must surely be smiling as they reflect upon the fruits of their labors in the Philippines. Since 2013, they have been propagating the seeds of the fifth epochal revelation in their home country. Urantia Foundation has donated hundreds of

Urantia Books that have been disseminated to libraries, universities, and interested individuals. New readers and study groups have been encouraged and nurtured. Five are already registered in the online Study Group Directory. Marikina City, Bacolod, Iloilo City, Pasig City, and Quezon City study group leaders are eagerly waiting to welcome new readers.

Groups dedicated to youth and women have formed, and Jesus' Birthday is widely celebrated. Filipino readers even organized a conference in 2019!

[Click here to read about it.](#)

Reader organizations such as Urantia Association

International and the Urantia Book Fellowship have been cultivating the soil, and after several years of preparation, Urantia Foundation announced a Filipino translation in 2020. The team is close to completing Paper 31, and the translation of Part I will be finished!

Eugene and Belen recently set off on their fourth tour back home, continuing the work they began almost a decade ago. We are delighted to share some pictures.

Please remember Eugene and Belen, the many local readers, and the translation team in your prayers as they work to bring *The Urantia Book* to the Filipino-speaking people.





Photos provided by Eugene and Belen Asidao

SERVING AS TRUSTEES OF URANTIA FOUNDATION

Editor's Note: Four new individuals recently joined Urantia Foundation's Board of Trustees. We asked each of them to tell us why they accepted this responsibility and to share a favorite quote from the book.



Olga López Molina

Serving on the board of Urantia Foundation as a trustee is something I could not have imagined in a million years. Even though I have been getting more and more involved in activities and responsibilities related to the Urantia community, I never imagined that I would hold such a position, until I was given this incredible chance. After praying and asking our Heavenly Father for help, I understood very clearly that I could not say no.

For me it is a great honor, a great responsibility, and a great opportunity for service in which I hope to give my best to carry out the mission of Urantia Foundation, always keeping in mind that:

The weak indulge in resolutions, but the strong act. Life is but a day's work—do it well. The act is ours; the consequences God's. 48:7.13 (556.13)



Víctor García-Bory

Few things are as extraordinarily rewarding as serving next to exceptional individuals involved with the fifth epochal revelation. Serving as a Urantia Foundation trustee is an increased and unique opportunity to work for unity and progress among all peoples and cultures of the world and all groups of students of the revelation. It is an ongoing collaboration opportunity to bring to life the organization's vision and mission.

Becoming a trustee represents an increased level of responsibility and commitment to strive wholeheartedly and lovingly to follow Jesus' example, who consecrated and dedicated "his own will to the majestic service of doing the divine will." 196:0.10 (2088.5) Disseminating the teachings of the Urantia Papers and assisting in carrying the torch that others before us have faithfully carried and others after us will, is an honor and a challenge, for we know that "human evolution is still in progress, and the revelation of God to the world, in and through Jesus, shall not fail." 196:3.33 (2097.2)

I humbly thank the Father of Lights for the opportunity. Jesus lived a religion of service, and He is my inspiration.

One of my favorite quotes comes to mind:

Service—purposeful service, not slavery—is productive of the highest satisfaction and is expressive of the divinest dignity. Service—more service, increased service, difficult service, adventurous service, and at last divine and perfect service—is the goal of time and the destination of space. 28:6:17 (316.4)



Sherry Cathcart Chavis

It is always a privilege to serve the Father in any way that he calls me to serve. And I respect and honor the Foundation's commitment to increasing global representation within the Urantia community so that eventually all of the peoples of the world may come to a greater understanding of their spiritual heritage as sons and daughters of the heavenly

Father and experience an enhanced appreciation of their eternal destiny, as magnificently displayed in *The Urantia Book*:

God-knowing creatures have only one supreme ambition, just one consuming desire, and that is to become, as they are in their spheres, like him as he is in his Paradise perfection. 1:0.3 (21.3)



Chris Wood

Because Urantia Foundation excels at several core tasks, many people will take it for granted that books will be printed, translations will be of the highest quality, global distribution will be achieved, and the text of the book will be preserved inviolate for the coming generations of Urantians. This means communities of Urantia Book students can focus their efforts on study, conferences, book fairs, outreach, dissemination, education, and living the teachings we all hold so dear. Because the Foundation excels at these key core tasks, the Urantia community grows and thrives.

Becoming a trustee means accepting this duty that I believe is paramount to the success of this revelation. I get to join a team of talented and dedicated servants to preserve the best of what has come before us, to help provide the stable bedrock upon which the current community can build their epochal projects, and to

prepare to pass all of this along to the coming wave of God-knowing men and women who will lead us in future generations. It is an honor and high privilege to join the Foundation's team.

But the great problem of religious living consists in the task of unifying

the soul powers of the personality by the dominance of LOVE. Health, mental efficiency, and happiness arise from the unification of physical systems, mind systems, and spirit systems. Of health and sanity man understands much, but of happiness he has truly

realized very little. The highest happiness is indissolubly linked with spiritual progress. Spiritual growth yields lasting joy, peace which passes all understanding.
100:4.3 (1097.7)

THE CULTURAL ADVISORY COUNCIL WELCOMES COLOMBIA



By Jaime Rey Albornoz,
Bogotá, Colombia

In July I had the pleasure of making a presentation to the expanded board of trustees, in which I reviewed the many cultural, economic, and religious aspects of Colombia, many of which are relevant to the future of *The Urantia Book* and its teachings in my country.

The Republic of Colombia is in the northwestern corner of South America, on the equatorial line. It is the fourth-largest country in South America, and has the privilege of being the connecting point between the northern and southern hemispheres, by way of Panama. It is the only country in South America with coastline on both the Pacific and Atlantic (through the Caribbean Sea) oceans.

Colombia's biodiversity and variety of climates make it a natural paradise. In fact, there are few countries with as much flora and fauna biodiversity. In

terms of species of animals and plants per hectare, Colombia ranks first in the world. Through an extensive system of national parks, nine million hectares are dedicated to the protection and development of natural life.

The country is divided into five natural regions. The Andean region, as you might expect, contains three major divisions of the Andes Mountains, a range shared with Ecuador and Venezuela. It is the most populated area of the country, and is distinguished by large cities and numerous tourist attractions.

The Amazon region is such a natural and cultural treasure that it is considered the lungs of the planet. While it is the least populated area of the country, ecological tourism is a major attraction there. The Caribbean region stretches from desert areas to humid jungles in the Gulf of Urabá. Beautiful beaches and river valleys constitute spectacular landscapes.

The Pacific region has varied climates that bring together a universe of exotic flora and fauna species. Visiting the Colombian Pacific is an indescribable adventure! The Orinoquia region has extensive plains. Its climate is warm, and cattle raising is the most favored economic activity. It is also a veritable

Eden of bird, insect, and reptile species.

Colombia is a multicultural country with a rich and noisy history. The country is teeming with fairs, festivals, and carnivals. Each celebration is unique to the region and features dances, exquisite gastronomy, and heartfelt hospitality that begs you to stay.

Catholicism was brought to the early Spanish colony by missionaries from Spain and was the official religion of the state from 1886 until 1991, when the Colombian constitution guaranteed freedom of religion and declared all religious faiths and churches equally free before the law. The Christian population in Colombia is estimated at 92.5%, of which 89% are Catholic, 10.8% are Protestant, and 0.2% are other denominations.

Colombia is one of the largest, per capita, Urantia Book-reading countries in the world. We have 41 confirmed Urantia Book study groups, both in-person and online, with 641 regularly attending members. Colombia also has four local affiliates of Urantia Association International (the Association).

In considering what Urantia Foundation could do for Colombia, I think it would be helpful if a representative would participate in a virtual meeting with Association president Enrique Traver, to explain what the Foundation is, what it does, and how readers can take advantage of the resources it offers. For instance, the Foundation has already donated a significant number of *El libro de Urantia* books which are being distributed to local readers by the Association. It would also be wise to approach and listen to the young people, who have ideas and technological proposals.



GROWING A SCHOOL OUT OF LOVE FOR THE REVELATION



By Joanne Strobel, executive director of Urantia Book International School, Georgia, United States

Just as Urantia Foundation grows translations out of love for the revelation, trustee Georges Michelson-Dupont has spent the last 22 years cultivating an online education program. Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS) recently updated its name while retaining the familiar acronym. With courses now presented in seven languages, the program has earned the moniker of **Urantia Book International School!**

Our September trimester opened with three additional languages. Translator Cseh Gábor is presenting a Hungarian version of "Jesus the Master Teacher." Portuguese branch manager Geraldo Nunes de Queiroz passed the baton to Jorge Lauri Mörschbacher so he can focus on offering courses in German. His initial offering is "Der Universale Vater." Urantia Foundation's Cultural Advisory Council representative Krystyna Wardęga-Piasecka is facilitating a Polish version of her course, "Machiventa Melchizedek and the Notable Legacy of His Mission."

When reviewing the evolution of UBIS over the past two decades, I inevitably turn to the analogy of a growing tree because it describes the multifaceted process of many successful programs. A seed is planted, the soil is watered and nourished, and the emerging sapling is tended. Trees grow both downward, through the roots and shoots, and upward, through the stem, branches, and leaves. Feeder roots draw nourishing water and mineral salts from the earth. The sun provides energy which fuels the processes necessary for survival. It is an intricate and elaborate system, and each aspect is essential to growth.

There is also something about a tree that resonates with a powerful and reassuring combination of security and expansion. Across the globe, and throughout history, trees have been used to depict life and growth. They are often considered representative of

wisdom, power, and prosperity. People plant trees as living memorials of departed loved ones.

From the seed of an email correspondence school, the emerging web-based UBIS sapling kept steady pace with internet technology, tempered by readers' comfort and familiarity with it. Slow growth evolved the school into a maturing specimen with a sturdy trunk of English-language staff and students, three substantial branches of Spanish-, French-, and Portuguese-speaking students and staff, and three budding twigs of new languages. Its roots are firmly embedded, just as our work is grounded in the teachings of *The Urantia Book*.

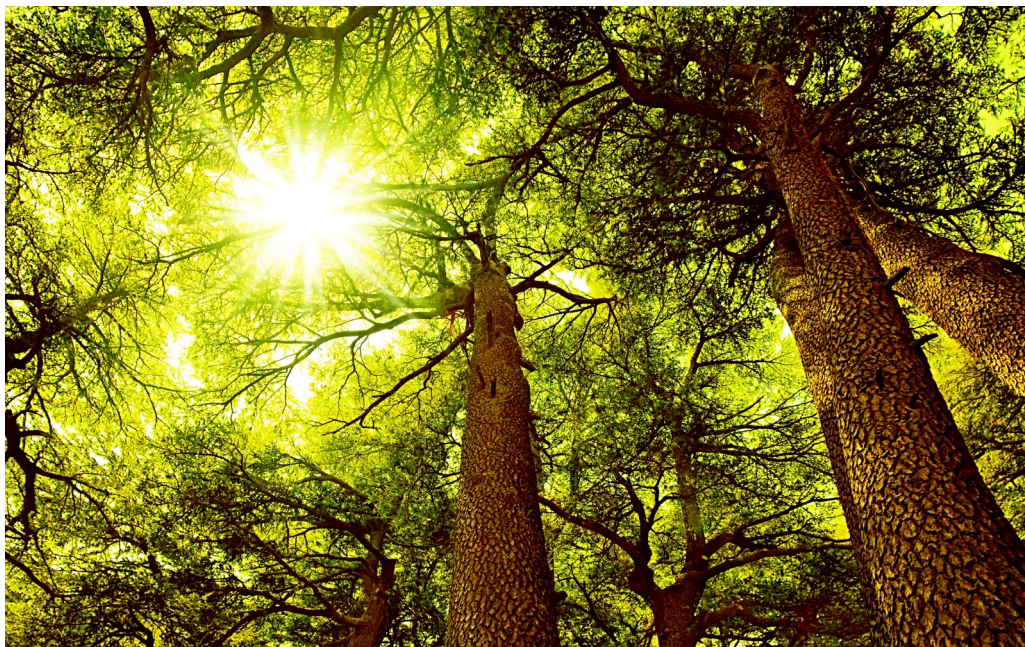
Our UBIS tree is also evergreen. Three times a year, every year, up to 18 free courses are offered by trained teacher-facilitators and staff. The fruits of their labors are manifested as enthusiastic

students from around the world step forward to be trained and mentored to create original courses and facilitate classes.

The entire ascendant plan of mortal progression is characterized by the practice of giving out to other beings new truth and experience just as soon as acquired. You work your way through the long school of Paradise attainment by serving as teachers to those pupils just behind you in the scale of progression. 30:3.9 (339.6)

Urantia Foundation is deeply grateful to the UBIS team of volunteers, who unselfishly share gifts of time, enthusiasm, and brotherhood with their fellow readers. Without these "soldiers of the circles" there would be no school.

If you are interested in becoming involved with UBIS, please write to me at joanne@urantia.org.



SHARING *THE URANTIA BOOK*



By Sherry Cathcart Chavis,
North Carolina, United States

I have a great technique for sharing teachings from *The Urantia Book*. It is the very technique that was used with me when I was introduced to the revelation by my aunt Voyette Perkins Brown.

I was a young truth seeker who was delighted to meet my mother's sister for the first time at a Thanksgiving celebration when I was a senior in high school. Although they had been estranged from one another for many years, my mother invited my aunt to the festivities.

A newly minted Baptist minister from the South, she had been recently saved and converted. At around the same time, she was introduced to *The Urantia Book* by Dr. James Perry (though I didn't know about that at the time). Aunt Voyette was one of his patients. He treated her during a critical moment in her life. He had been reading the book then, and suggested she read it as well. She left his practice with a copy of the book in her hand. Thereafter, he invited her to study with him and a few others. (I eventually joined this same study group, which is where I met him and his wife

Marion. I've been studying with the Perrys ever since.)

But going back to that Thanksgiving, I remember my aunt entering our home. She came through the door with a peace and love enveloping her such that I will never tire of revisiting that moment in my memory. I was awestruck by this woman—she clearly loved the Lord. In fact, I believe she was madly in love with Him.

From that moment until several years into my college tenure, my aunt and I got to know one another. She utterly captivated my attention; so loving, so at peace was she that I eventually began to crave what she had. Whatever "it" was, wherever it came from, I wanted it.

Being raised Catholic, I had a third-party view of God and zero personal relationship with him through our brother Jesus, until I met my aunt. Our time together was spent discussing the love of the Father, who we were to him, and everything in between. I had so many questions, having a natural bent towards metaphysical matters and spirituality in general.

She was patient in responding to the stated and unstated spiritual and emotional needs I had at that time. But the real education of the truths taught in the revelation came through just one avenue: her love and devotion to me and my daughter, who came on the scene eventually.

My aunt's love was unconditional, it seemed, and I witnessed firsthand how devoted she was to

loving and serving her fellows. I had never seen such behaviors, attitudes, and commitments towards the heavenly life, and it stimulated my soul to crave to know the Father for myself.

Understand this: I didn't know the book existed until some years later, when I visited my aunt from college one semester and saw it lying on her coffee table. Being an avid and prolific reader, I was instantly drawn in. (I have not put the book down since then.)

As I read *The Urantia Book* for the first time, I'd call her and ask questions about what I was reading. And I remember remonstrating with her one day. Me: "Why didn't you tell me about this book before now?" She: "Girl, don't you realize I've been teaching you this book since day one?"

Indeed. She was so expert at understanding young people—really, people in general—that instead of handing me the book unasked for, or quoting from the book, she rather encapsulated the teachings by how she related to me. In other words, she loved me.

During those early years, I recall riding in the car with her and saying, "If God is anything like you, sign me up."

That's what unconditional love does—it brings us closer to the Father, and the Father closer to us. It makes divine love *real* and inescapable.

Later came the facts and figures, the concepts in the book that mesmerize me still. But experiencing the truth, beauty, and goodness of the Father's love for me is what stopped me in my tracks. As a friend said to me recently, "I

believe God has your full and undivided attention." Yes indeed.

So, how do I share the teachings? I attempt to love and serve the way I have witnessed those whom I admire love and serve—my aunt, Dr. Perry, so many others who instill in me a desire to become more like him. And I try to be consistent and allow myself to be human while I do so. Otherwise, how can I be trusted?

I have a girlfriend who is a moral, kind, and loving person. I have known her for 16 years. We've witnessed major events in each other's lives and loved each other through all of them.

But I don't believe I ever discussed the book with her. That is, until a recent weekend, when we took a beach trip together. As always, we ended up talking about the Father and all we're learning. We talked about our challenges. As we were leaving the beach, I shared with her how grateful I was to have been able to spend the weekend with her because I had learned so much about her in three days—more than I had in previous years. And that because I understood her better, I loved her more.

And then I quoted from the book:

If once you understand your neighbor, you will become tolerant, and this tolerance will grow into friendship and ripen into love.
100:4:4 (1098.1)

My friend: "Where did you learn that?"

Me: "*The Urantia Book*."

My friend: "Do you have an extra copy? I'd like to read it."

"Do you have an extra copy? I'd like to read it."

WHAT *THE URANTIA BOOK* MEANS TO ME



By Constance "Konni" Wallach, California, United States

When asked to share my story, I jumped at the opportunity to look back and subtitled my thoughts on what *The Urantia Book* means to me. Being in the later years of my sojourn in the material realm of time and space, I realize that the book has given me a map to follow. The road leads to my cosmic destiny as a mortal finaliter on Paradise, a destiny I could not have dreamed possible earlier in my life.

My journey began with seeking answers to nagging questions from my early religious training. Sadly, my earlier years were scarred by the tactics used to make me believe that only a fear-based religion could render me worthy of God's approval. But as I read the book, especially the Jesus papers, my newly acquired spiritual values wiped out all fear.

Thanks to the leading of my Father fragment, with his steady and heartfelt love, I have accomplished some spiritual growth, albeit kindergarten level compared to that of an ascending

finaliter. This growth has been facilitated by reading and rereading *The Urantia Book*, combined with many years of online courses.

I find it interesting that so many readers claim that the book found them. This was true in my case. When my stepson was in college, he got involved with the "love and peace" movement, ended up on drugs, and was incarcerated. Fortunately, he was a brilliant student, so they put him to work in the library. It was there that a volunteer introduced *The Urantia Book* to all inmates who were interested. His letters home witnessed a new person emerging, which eventually saved his future spiritual life, and brought meaning to his mortal life.

Today, he is a scientist who believes wholeheartedly in the truth of *The Urantia Book*. With a doctorate in herpetology, my stepson is now a retired Harvard professor who writes books for children, teaching them to not be afraid of reptiles.

Having witnessed my stepson's changed set of spiritual values, I decided to read this extremely large book with very thin pages. As daunting as it was, something inside was telling me I must read this book. Fifty years later, I am still reading and studying every day. And in my many travels around the world, it has given me pleasure to share the teachings with my fellow man.

What a gift this book is to all who take up the challenge to read it! The book taught me that this material life is only a bridge to the next. As I slowly put the puzzle together, piece by piece, the purpose of my existence became clear. The book gave me direction for my soul, with answers about how to attain everlasting life. The concept of joyful service took root in my mind. I came to understand that soul growth comes not by leaving the book on a shelf, not even by reading it consistently, but by putting into action the spiritual values it teaches you.

I learned that the internet can be a conduit of sharing and helping my classmates from around the world. I am very grateful to Urantia Foundation for their free classes, run by volunteers. Together we experience the growth and expansion of spiritual meanings. And when others are struggling with a topic, I can share my previously acquired knowledge and possibly be of help to them. We move through this short mortal life together in love and service.



What a gift this book has been to read and act upon! It has expanded my soul and given me a vision of joyful service performed day by day, just as my creator-father Christ Michael showed us by his example during his life as a mortal. Thanks to this book, the leading of my Father fragment, and the Spirit of Truth, I move through these twilight years with the certainty of eternal life.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Telephone:
+1 (773) 525-3319

Email: urantia@urantia.org

Credits for News Online

Editors: Cece Forrester, Marilynn Kulieke,
Joanne Strobel, Tamara Strumfeld

Contributors: Judy Van Cleave, Marilynn
Kulieke, Jaime Rey Albornoz, Joanne
Strobel, Sherry Cathcart Chavis,
Constance "Konni" Wallach

Production: Urantia Foundation

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A CALL TO CONSCIENCE: Defending Freedom & Human Rights

AUGUST 14-18, 2023 | McCORMICK PLACE



The Parliament of the World's Religions

In August of 2023, the Parliament of the World's Religions will return to Chicago and the birthplace of the modern interfaith movement. The theme is "A Call to Conscience: Defending Freedom & Human Rights."

Four Urantia organizations—Truthbook, Urantia Association International, the Urantia Book Fellowship, and Urantia Foundation—are once again sharing the cost of a double booth.

More information will be available for members of the readership who wish to attend and volunteer time in the booth. If you want to go even further to ensure that the fifth epochal revelation is well represented at this event, consider making a presentation! Proposals are due by November 4, 2022.

<https://parliamentofreligions.org/2023-chicago-parliament-call-proposals>

A Legacy Gift that Endures for Future Generations

If you want to ensure that *The Urantia Book* and quality translations are available to your children's children and beyond, please consider a planned gift to Urantia Foundation.

<https://urantia.plannedgiving.org/>

Contact us today for more information about how you can make a gift that endures. We will ensure that your gift is used just as you wish.

Contact: tamara@urantia.org