



URANTIA FOUNDATION'S NEWS ONLINE

SMART RELIGION

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For 44 years I've attempted to explain why I read *The Urantia Book* and why others would benefit from reading it.



By Mo Siegel, president, Urantia Foundation, Boulder, Colorado, United States

Today, August 21, 2013, I am sitting at my computer thinking about the Master's birthday. Ironically, 2.5 billion Christians celebrate Jesus' birthday in December while only a small group of Urantia Book readers celebrate it in August. Since Bible and Urantia Book readers believe in Jesus, do people really need *The Urantia Book* or is it just one more religious text among many? And if *The Urantia Book* is valuable, what sets it apart from all the other religious books?

By now many of you are having an allergic reaction to my categorizing *The Urantia Book* as a religious text. No offense intended, but to most people, a book that begins with God and ends with Jesus is a religious book. I agree. While the Urantia Revelation teaches philosophy, history, and science, many other books probe these subjects in much greater depth. But *The Urantia Book* presents the most dynamic, hands on, elevated,

complete, and *smartest* religious teachings in the world! *The Urantia Book*, like none other, leads your mind and soul directly to a loving, intelligent, and personal God. *The Urantia Book* is the most religious book in the world and is absolutely unique compared to all the other religious texts.

A few days ago I finished reading a book titled *Contagious—Why Things Catch On*, by Jonah Berger. This book challenged me to think about what makes *The Urantia Book* unique and different from all other books. If you had to lean across a fence and tell your neighbor why the Urantia Revelation is "one of a kind," relevant, and worth their reading, what would you say? If you're like me, you're never quite sure how to adequately describe the book in a compelling way that gets someone interested.

For 44 years I've attempted to explain why I read *The Urantia Book* and why others would benefit from reading it. It feels like I've tried at least 20 different approaches with none of them being particularly effective. At times I've gone off on bold and endless stories about seven trillion inhabitable worlds, a loving God, higher beings, dinosaurs, and Jesus. Other times I've tried simple narratives about the life of

Jesus, the Trinity, a personal God, or even the evolution of the species. Looking back, very few of my descriptions have been catchy, relevant, or inspirational to the listener.

After reading Jonah Berger's book, I'm trying a new tact to explain *The Urantia Book* to interested people. But first I had to answer what makes it *compellingly* different from all other religious books. To me, the answer is "smart religion." In truth and in fact, *The Urantia Book* contains the smartest religious teachings in the world. While many of the world's sacred texts promise salvation, life in the hereafter, peace on earth, Jesus, and contact with God, *The Urantia Book* gives the details. The book is filled with uncommonly smart religious teachings that provide answers found nowhere else. It promotes, in my opinion, a personal religion that needs to be felt and intelligently understood. It answers life's deepest questions in a thoughtful, rational, and spiritual way. This book is smart, really smart. And who doesn't want to feel smart?

Last week I started testing this new approach. A few months ago I spent an hour explaining *The Urantia Book* to my friend Steve. After our conversation I sent him a book, and we didn't see each other again until the other night. Steve thanked me for the book and said he was

interested but got lost after trying to read the Foreword. So I said something like this: "Steve, *The Urantia Book* is smart religion. You have to think your way through this book. It's not easy because it's so smart. People are going to be pondering these teachings for the next 1,000 years. Just plow ahead. If you

don't understand everything, keep reading. You'll get the big picture by the end. When you're finished reading, you'll never think the same way again, and you'll be glad about that." I gave Steve no apologies because parts of the book are written at a Ph.D. reading level. I challenged him to step up to smart religion.

Steve's response: "I like to think of myself as smart. I can read that book, and I'm going to. Thanks."

I'm not sure if this new approach works, but it sounds probable; so I'll give it a try. In the 20th century entire nations of people turned against God because

the religion they were brought up with didn't make sense in the modern world. Maybe they need a new, smart religion commensurate with their intellectual and cultural development.

NOTEWORTHY DECISIONS FROM THE JULY 2013 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING



By Marilynn Kulieke, vice president, Urantia Foundation, Lincolnshire, Illinois, United States

Urantia Books

- Urantia Book sales for the first six months of 2013 were flat compared to sales in the first six months of 2012. To reach the board's goal of an annual growth rate of seven percent, the board appointed Associate Trustee Share Beasley to serve as North American sales manager. With Share and her husband, Bill, working to sell books, we feel confident about future book sales.

- The editing of an index to *The Urantia Book* should be completed by the end of December. Electronic and physical publication plans are underway.

- With the Russian translation reprinted after the fire in St. Petersburg, and with the translation stored in a warehouse in Rotterdam, Georges Michelson-Dupont and Jay Peregrine will attend the book fair in Frankfurt, Germany this October with aspirations to find a new distributor in Russia.

Translations and Revisions

- The Czech Translation: Vaclav and Helen Kadrnka have translated all of *The Urantia Book* into the Czech language except for the last three papers. After completing this first draft, they will commence revising, correcting, and polishing the translation, which will require at least two more years.

- The Farsi Translation: The Farsi translation is a translation of *The Urantia Book* into a language spoken by a people who are predominantly Muslims. The work on this translation started many years ago. You may read the inspiring story at www.urantia.org/news/2013-06/translating-urantia-book-farsi-inspiring-story-how-project-began. The translation is now more than fifty percent complete.

- The Hebrew Translation: The Hebrew translation team,

comprised of chief translator, Gabriel Rymberg, and revision editor, Avi Dogim, has completed around twenty-eight papers.

- The Indonesian Translation: Work on this translation "officially" started a few months ago in April under the leadership of chief translator Nugroho Widi. "Unofficially" this translation started several years ago, for Widi has already translated 60 papers.

- The Japanese Translation: Congratulations, Hagiko Wattle, for completing the first draft of the Japanese translation. What a meaningful, valuable, and wonderful gift Hagiko is making to the Japanese people!

- The Spanish Revision: The team revising the Spanish translation consists of Carmelo Martínez (chief revisor from Spain), Olga López (from Spain), Raúl Pujol (from Puerto Rico), and Anibal Pacheco (from Chile). They hope to finish this complex revision by 2018. Most of their work is done via the translators' website and Skype; so you can imagine how much they are looking forward to an upcoming face-to-face meeting. Special thanks go to Víctor García-Bory for his steadfast



leadership as the managing director of the team.

- The Portuguese Revision: Susana Huttner leads a team of five long-term readers who are now on Paper 38. Thanks to Susana's selfless commitment, we feel confident that the revision team will complete their work in five years or so.

- The Chinese Revision: The Chinese translation of *The Urantia Book* has been translated and revised once. It is now undergoing a second revision. At the end of June, Richard Zhu had revised 25 papers plus the Foreword.

- The French Revision: The revision of the French translation is slated for completion in early 2014, and plans to print it are being

made. Special thanks to the French revision team: Georges Michelson-Dupont, Claire Mylanus, Richard Lachance, and Jean Royer.

● **Translations and Revisions Policy:** Another team consisting of Marilynn Kulieke, George Michelson-Dupont, Henk Mylanus, and Jay Peregrine is developing a long-range plan for translations and revisions. This plan will include a 10-year financial forecast, a 10-year work plan, and policies and procedures for the accomplishment of translations and revisions.

Renovation of the Third Floor and Carriage House at 533 W. Diversey Parkway

The Board approved the renovation of the third floor and carriage house of the historic birthplace of the Urantia Revelation. This renovation includes making the building as energy efficient as is reasonably possible. Urantia Foundation will borrow as much as \$200,000 to complete this next phase of the building renovation. After its completion, the third floor will be rented until there is need to occupy the third floor.

Urantia Foundation's Statement of Values

The Board passed the following resolution: Resolved, That the Trustees of Urantia Foundation approve the acronym "TRUST" to express the Foundation's statement of values. TRUST is an acronym for:

Teamwork – Respect – Unity – Service – Transparency

Education

By the end of 2013, the Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS) will start using a new educational software platform called Moodle. The new software will improve the conducting and taking of classes

because it is multilingual, easy to use, and very reliable. Moodle will be a *significant* upgrade to the UBIS educational experience. We thank Ralph, Betty, and Michael Zehr for their tireless efforts to research, evaluate, propose, customize, and install Moodle for UBIS.

For those of you who do not know Moodle, it is the global leader in Open Source Course Management Systems, also known as a Learning Management System or a Virtual Learning Environment. It has become a very popular tool among educators around the world for creating online dynamic websites for their students. As of this writing, Moodle is used on 86,305 registered sites in 237 countries. It is serving 7,786,448 courses with 1,297,384 teachers and 72,910,837 students.

Besides Moodle, other upgrades are coming to UBIS because Dorothy Elder and her team developed a new basic course for its curriculum. This is an important course because it provides a comprehensive, step-by-step study of *The Urantia Book*.

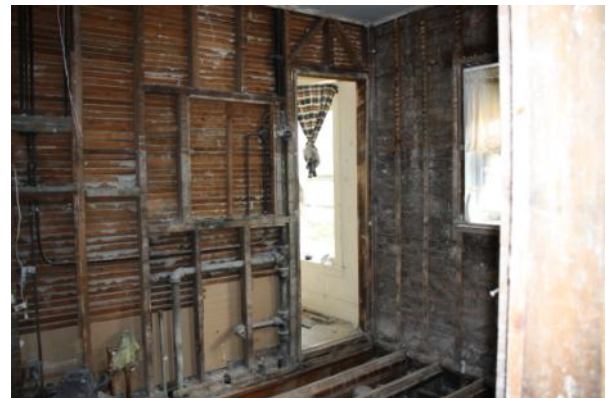
The courses presented each trimester will fit into these four categories:

- Course one. A core curriculum course.
- Course two. A course from Part IV.
- Course three. A theme or topical course—a popular or oft-requested topic.
- Course four. A course designed for new readers.

To learn more please visit: <http://www.urantiabookschool.org/>

Seminar on Identifying Scientific Facts and Concepts that Indicate Intelligent Planning of the Universe

In the continuing educational



Teamwork – Respect – Unity – Service – Transparency

seminars series hosted at 533 W. Diversey Parkway in Chicago, Ralph Zehr will be facilitating a symposium to identify scientific facts that show the universe is a planned, not accidental, creation. The symposium is based on the statement, "The *Urantia* midwayers have assembled over fifty thousand facts of physics and chemistry which they deem to be incompatible with the laws of accidental chance, and which

they contend unmistakably demonstrate the presence of intelligent purpose in the material creation." (665: 6) 58: 2.3

Attending this symposium is by invitation only; so if you would like to be part of the symposium, please contact Joanne Strobel at joanne@urantia.org.

Outreach

The Board reaffirmed its commitment to global-book-placement programs, such as book fairs or events where *The Urantia Book* can be introduced to potential readers. The Foundation now offers special prices for books used at such venues. To order books or learn more,

please contact Tamara Strumfeld at tamara@urantia.org.

Associate Trustee Elected for another Term

The Board of Trustees elected Ms. Sandra Burga-Cisneros Pizarro to serve her second of a possible five annual terms as an associate trustee.

WHAT THE WOMEN ARE PLANNING

By Line St-Pierre, associate trustee, *Urantia Foundation, Ste-Sophie, Québec, Canada*

After becoming an associate trustee of Urantia Foundation, I was invited to join the Education Committee and was asked what ideas I had for potential seminars. I shared with the committee chair, Gard Jameson, that I had been leading in Québec a women's group focussed on the unique value of women. Gard asked me to explore these ideas with some women at the Foundation and to plan a retreat for 2014.

On August 8-10 in Chicago, five women met in friendship, and they shared ideas and explored concepts on the feminine aspect of the divine within us. What specifically has God given to women? What is God's will for women? What does it mean to be a daughter of God?

"Woman...has always been the moral standard-bearer and the spiritual leader of mankind. The hand that rocks the cradle still fraternizes with destiny." (938.8) 84:6.4 How can we help mothers become aware of the important influence they have on their children?

We are all encouraged by the revelators to "construct a new and appealing philosophy of living" that integrates truth, beauty, and goodness as we grow more spiritual. Seeds of creativity and originality take root within us as we become "human reflections of the Divine." We may shine the truth. God is the flame, and we are the torch.

In the amazing adventure throughout eternity, our knowledge of God and our God-consciousness will be progressive, and as we progress, we become increasingly "self-conscious of God-knowing, God-revealing, God-seeking, and God-finding." (536.4) 47:6.3

The women's weekend was filled with joy, with mutual respect, and with appreciation of the sanctity of personality. We concluded our weekend by writing the following mission and vision statement concerning who we are and what direction we want this project to take.

Mission: To enhance the status of being a woman for her spiritual growth, intellectual advancement, and moral progress.

Vision: To touch women's hearts by exploring the dignity of being daughters of God, by



Share Beasley, Katharina Becker, Carrie Prentice, Line St-Pierre, Doreen Heyne

honoring their value and importance, and by co-operating with the divine

spirit within to bring forth the bountiful fruits of the spirit.

THE URANTIA BOOK STUDY GROUP DIRECTORY



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

Editor's Note: Since the time of this meeting, much progress has been made concerning the governance of the study group directory. The next issue of Urantia Foundation's News Online will have an article detailing such progress. If any of you have a study group or attend one that is not yet listed in the directory, please consider doing so at www.urantiastudygroup.org.

During the Urantia Book Fellowship's Summer Study Session at Techny Towers

this July, there was a meeting of presidents: Chris Wood of Urantia Association International, Lila Dogim of the Urantia Book Fellowship, and Mo Siegel of Urantia Foundation. The primary topic of conversation was the Urantia Book Study Group Directory by which current students and would-be students of the book find their way to a study group.

At present there are a variety of ways in which a person can obtain information about study groups. The three presidents

agreed to have one study group directory by which individuals could find a study group. There are details to be worked out in the development of such a unified directory, and they are being worked on by a team of individuals representing all three organizations: Bill Beasley, Scott Brooks, Barry Clark, Jackie Koury, and Tamara Strumfeld.

ONE STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE ON UBIS



By Kathy Hatter, Old Town,
Florida, United States

The Urantia Book was an answer to my prayers.

In 1972 I was searching for truth that would inspire me more than my traditional religious upbringing. A

magazine ad about *The Urantia Book* caught my attention, and I felt compelled to buy the book, which I did. As I started reading it, I knew it was special and would satisfy the thirst I had for truth. Unfortunately, my understanding was limited. So I put the book in a drawer and waited until I thought I was ready to read and understand it, which was twenty years later

Technology now makes it easier for information to be at our fingertips. How helpful it is to have numerous Urantia websites. Thanks to Truthbook.com, I was able to obtain answers to a lot of my questions, and I discovered that Urantia Foundation

offered free courses through the Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS).

Each trimester UBIS offers courses designed for beginning readers as well as advanced readers. I did not exactly know how an internet school worked, but I found the course description to be quite enticing, and I liked the questions-and-answers Socratic approach. Once I had enrolled in a course, I did not feel overwhelmed with too much reading or with the questions; we were given six questions and asked to answer three of our choice. I liked that the course commenced with each student introducing him- or herself. And after a few weeks we were starting

to become kindred spirits and were growing in respect and affection for one another.

When choosing the three questions out of the six, I would consider what answers I could give that would best express how I comprehended those particular subjects. Then I would engage in prayer and ask for help to answer the question. It always worked for me, and the three questions I did not answer were always answered by other students. The teacher-facilitators always gave their input, and that was helpful.

After reading each student's answers to their three questions, each student had

With free will we choose to accept his plan in whole or in part.

the opportunity to respond to the answers of his or her fellow students. Sometimes the response was another question. We all learned from one another. My wisdom definitely grew from this interaction.

At the tenth week meeting of the class, each student asked and answered a question of his or her choice, after which each student responded to the questions and the answers. By this time, I think that we all felt as though we had much to contribute.

My first course, "A Revelation of the Divine Father and His Divine Plans," was the perfect first

choice for me as I learned that the Universal Father has a perfect plan for each of us individually and collectively, and that there can be no short cuts for his children. With free will we choose to accept his plan in whole or in part. Adversity is part of the learning process on Urantia, but through positive and negative experiences, we grow in many ways as God's plan unfolds and we trust that God's plan is perfect for us and our world.

My next course, "The Lucifer Rebellion—Tragedy and Triumph," gave me a whole new perspective on devil myths. I never thought much about this because I focused on good, not evil, but evil is all

around us. It saddens me to think that some people choose that path. Lucifer and his associates chose to go against God's plan and to have their own plan, a plan which dragged many vulnerable beings into their "web of deceit." The saying, "the devil made me do it" has no truth! These devils, since Michael's bestowal, have had absolutely no power over us, and even though our planet is isolated, we have a fragment of God within us. We have Jesus' Spirit of Truth to lead us, and we have unseen friends to help us along the way.

In conclusion, one does not have to feel overwhelmed by *The Urantia Book*. The isolation that we may have felt is no longer necessary because we

can now study together and increase our understanding of the teachings via UBIS. If one is willing to enroll and to participate in a UBIS course, the benefits will produce much fruit.

I look forward to taking many more courses. I am thankful that *The Urantia Book* and UBIS are in my life!

"God is my All,
I know No Fear,
Since God and Love
and Truth are here."

A TALE OF TWO CONFERENCES



By Mike Wood, Urantia Foundation, Chicago, Illinois, United States

July was a busy month at Urantia Foundation. Besides hosting the regular quarterly meeting of the Board of Trustees, we also hosted a meeting of the Urantia Book Internet School Board of Directors just prior to the trustees' meeting. But sandwiched around these two meetings were two conferences—one hosted by the Urantia Book Fellowship and the other by Urantia Association of the United

States (UAUS)—both of which gave me the opportunity to set up a display for selling discounted copies of *The Urantia Book* (including all of the translations) as well as a few study aids and workbooks, such as *A Study of The Master Universe*.

Summer Study Session, Northbrook, Illinois, USA

First up was a short trip to Northbrook, Illinois, where the Fellowship held their Summer Study Session at Techny Towers Spiritual Retreat Center, a beautiful facility run by the Divine Word Missionaries. The conference theme was "Our Gift to God the Father: Service to the Supreme," and it consisted of workshops during the day and plenary speeches in the evening. The outstanding group of workshop leaders are too numerous to mention but included presentations by Gard Jameson, Bobbie and Steve Drier, Barbara Newsom, David Kulieke, and Barry Clark.

Perhaps the highlight of this very well-run event was the evening plenaries. The Foundation's very own Tamara Strumfeld kicked off the first night with a wonderful and touching speech about practical living in ways that contribute to the Supreme. She included her thoughts about personal growth resulting from her experiences of being a mother for the last four years. After her talk, the running joke for the rest of the speakers was "how are you going to follow

that?" Next up was Seth Wood who, in acknowledging Tamara's speech, said that his main job was to lower the bar for Cristina Seaborn who was to follow him the next evening. Seth failed in that regard, as he delivered a wonderful talk in a speaking style somewhat reminiscent of Bill Sadler Jr. and Vern Grimsley. He wove inspiring quotes about loving one another,



Tamara with her two daughters



Gary Deinstadt

humorous stories of being a second generation reader, and anecdotes from his law practice into an inspiring speech that, if anything, raised the bar even higher. But Cristina was up to the task the following evening with her talk entitled "How I Serve the Supreme," in which she discussed how we should all use our talents to the best of our ability to reach for the Supreme. She called this experience a supreme moment. As a talented and accomplished concert violinist and budding public speaker, she certainly has shared more than a few supreme moments with her audiences.

On the last day, Gary Deinstadt continued the theme of the weekend when he mentioned that he met someone on the elevator who didn't know him and made the offhand remark that he pitied the poor fellow who had



Lee Armstrong



Richard Keeler, Tonia Baney, Bob Solone

to speak last. But Gary was up to the task with his informative and entertaining speech. Gary, an Emmy Award winning composer, is also an ordained interfaith minister with a Masters of Divinity. He gave a talk on "The Gift of Mastery" and was a fitting final speaker for the conference. All in all this year's event was another in a long line of outstanding Summer Study Sessions.

UAUS National Conference, Leavenworth, Kansas, USA

Two weeks later, after the aforementioned meetings, I traveled to Leavenworth, Kansas, for the UAUS National Conference that was held at St. Mary's College. This beautiful, 150 year-old college is run by the Sisters of Charity. The seminal aspect of this conference was the fact that it was planned and executed by younger readers under the age of forty. These younger readers not only presented a wonderful



Painting of Roselyn Armstrong by Tonia Baney

conference, but they also gained valuable experience that will serve them and the Urantia community for many years to come. One highlight of the conference, which was perhaps a little different from previous conferences, was the focus on study. Of the five main sessions during the weekend, three of them were actual study groups focused on the conference theme, "Relationships, Human and Divine."

First up was a study of Paper 110, "Relation of Adjusters to Individual Mortals," followed the next day by a study of Paper 99, "The Social Problems of Religion." During the final day, the groups studied several sections pertaining to the family.

One other aspect of this conference that bears mentioning was the entertainment, especially the program on Saturday night that was held in the beautiful Walnut Room. The evening started out with David Glass reciting two original sonnets that were devotional in character and served as a sort of benediction or



Cristina Seaborn

invocation for the evening. Next up was Lee Armstrong who did a 20 minute reading from Robert Olen Butler's short story, *Every Man She Kisses Dies*. It was both humorous and dramatically delivered, as only a professional of Lee's stature and experience can. Lee then took us into the next part of the evening with a short talk about his wife, Roselyn, who died several years ago after a long battle with cancer. Lee then introduced Tonia Baney and explained that he had commissioned Tonia, a world-class portrait artist (and former executive director of Urantia Foundation) to paint a portrait of Roselyn. We then turned around to see the unveiling of the painting, which had been covered and placed directly behind the audience. It is a stunningly beautiful painting that is beyond my ability to describe.



Bob Solone

Following all of this, Bob Solone, an outstanding pianist and chanteur (and former Urantia Foundation manager of reader services), took a seat at the Steinway concert grand piano and played a wonderful selection of music that captured the ears and hearts of everyone

in attendance. He even played a couple of requests from the audience. So in one evening, the conference planners pretty well covered the arts with poetry, prose, painting, and music. And all of this entertainment was provided by long-time students of *The Urantia Book*, who also happen to be highly accomplished in their

respective fields. It was an evening that I shall long remember.

Notwithstanding that I am the book vendor at conferences, I do get to listen to great speakers, attend outstanding workshops, participate in high-quality study groups, and enjoy wonderful entertainment, often

with readers of *The Urantia Book* from around the world. Attending Urantia Book conferences, it seems to me, gives one a peek and a preview of what it must be like to live in the age of light and life.

URANTIA BOOK AMBASSADOR IRMELI IVALO-SJÖLIE VISITS FINLAND AND THE USA

Editor's Note: Irmeli continues to keep our global community informed about Urantia related business as she travels the world and meets with readers. Thank you, Irmeli!



Irmeli partners with Rod Holland of Dallas, Texas by placing Urantia Books in Half Price Books—a discount bookstore chain. Every time she visits Dallas, she and Rod check up on book sales. For more information visit <http://www.urantia.org/news/2013-03/half-price-books-opportunity-urantia-book-dissemination>.



Finland



Irmeli visits Era Nova, a bookstore in Helsinki, Finland. The Finnish translation, *Urantia-kirja*, is in its cardboard box but is quite visible on the shelf.



The Swedish translation, *Urantiaboken*, is in a place of honor on the table in the middle.



Kari Kippo and Irmeli

The Finnish Association of Urantia Association International hosts a booth at the book fair, Spirit and Knowledge, in Tampere, Finland.



Olga López of Barcelona, Spain, sent word to Irmeli that she found 30 copies of *El libro de Urantia* in a FNAC store. She has never seen so many Urantia Books in one store before.



Urantia Book readers in Finland gather for their annual summer meeting. In honor of Jesus' birthday, the theme of the meeting was Jesus' younger years.

THE URANTIA BOOK IN KOREA



By Jay Peregrine, executive director, Urantia Foundation, Chicago, Illinois, United States

In June I traveled to Seoul, South Korea to attend the 2013 Seoul International Book Fair, which was co-sponsored this year by

Urantia Foundation and the Urantia Book Fellowship. There were opportunities to meet with the Foundation's distributors, to interview prospective printers, to research the Korean book industry, and to meet and mingle with Korean Urantia Book readers.

Arrangements for the booth were made by Sy Chang, who has manned a booth at the fair for 13 years. The beautiful posters and handouts were designed by Jisoo Han. Buck Weimer and Barry Clark were the Urantia Book Fellowship's representatives at the fair, and they spent their days talking to passers-by about *The Urantia Book*.

Attendance at the fair was

reported to be about 110,000, down 10% from last year. The fair was crowded in the evenings and on the weekend. A lot of young people attended the fair because they could buy books at a discount.

Book sales in Korea dropped 25% in 2012. So the Korean book industry is being challenged similarly to the challenges the US book industry has faced in recent years.

I traveled to Anyang City, south-east of Seoul, to tour the printing presses of one of the largest printers in Korea. Having visited printing plants in the US, Canada, and Europe over the years, the Korean approach which combines low cost with high quality was very impressive.

Traveling by subway to attend a study group, I was able to answer questions about Urantia Foundation and some of the history of the book. After the fair was over, we all attended an introduction to *The Urantia Book* meeting at which Buck Weimer spoke, followed by questions and answers.



Jisoo Han at the meeting with Korean Urantia Book readers

After that meeting, the translators present talked about working cooperatively towards one excellent Korean translation. We have a lot of work to do to achieve that goal, and there is no guarantee of success. But the spirit of cooperation is evident, and we shall build on that.



Urantia Book booth at the 2013 Seoul International Book Fair



Gyeongbokgung(경복궁), a royal palace, northern Seoul, South Korea

A READER'S COMMENTS

What *The Urantia Book* Means to Me

By Mary Ann Leader, Berlin, Wisconsin, United States

The Urantia Book came into my life when I was in my early 40s, a time of intense turmoil in my personal life. I was seeking truth for a foundation on which to rebuild my emotional, intellectual, and spiritual life. When suggested that I might find *The Urantia Book* interesting, I flatly rejected it. I did not see *The Urantia Book* as a resource to help me with my turmoil. I turned my back on the gentleman who suggested the book to me and walked away.

Three years later the book was presented to me for a second time. This time a hardcover book was thrust into my hands, literally, by someone who was willing to give it away. He said he was not able to understand it, but it seemed that its contents included many subjects that we had discussed. He said that I would be able to understand *The Urantia Book* and would be able to explain it to him. I took the book, and while on a vacation, I opened it and started reading it.

I found a confirmation to one of the basic beliefs that I had evolved during the previous 20 years of my life. To say that I was "blown away" by what I read would be an understatement. I did not put the book down that whole week, and during my readings, I found confirmations to almost all the new inspirational beliefs that I had been developing during my previous 20 years.

During those 20 years, I did a private comparative-religions study. I exhausted the resources of my small town's library on many subjects, starting with astronomy and then anthropology, which led me into archeology and the various ancient religions and civilizations. I did a study on Native American Indian cultures—the ancient cultures of South America, Central America, and North America. During these 20 years my God concept and my personal religious understanding and experience were growing. I decided to no longer participate in organized religion, and I experienced a breaking apart of my personal life. I felt driven to know God personally.

Reflecting on these experiences, I think that I did not choose God. God chose me! This may seem to be an arrogant statement, but experientially, I know it to be true. God chose me. The experience of the truth of this statement began when I was eight years old and continues to this day. I had many difficult life experiences during my childhood. And as I have grown older, and if I find myself in a troublesome situation, I ask myself, "What is God trying to teach me now with this experience?" Many times these experiences have wounded my soul, but God has never left me, and I have come to know God as "my heavenly Father." God has become a *loving personality* to me, I see my heavenly Father leading me into a more personal and spiritual relationship with him.

I used to keep *The Urantia Book* on my bookshelf. Occasionally I would take it down and read it here and there, but I always returned it to the bookshelf. However, for the last five years, my *Urantia Book* sits beside my desk, and now I daily read it.

I have also taken courses offered by the *Urantia Book* Internet School, and I have learned the value of the book. Reading it is a life-time activity. Learning never stops! "The Godward urge is intense and inescapable." (155.1) 14:2.7

The Urantia Book has given me the experience of the loving heavenly Father; the knowledge of the Triune Personalities and our Creator Son, Christ Michael; and the wonder of the Thought Adjuster and the Infinite Spirit. It has also given me peace to know that death is a transition of the spiritual-life adventure. As I am in the "sunset years" of my life, I am grateful for Francis Thompson's poem, "The Hound of Heaven" which inspired me to become a reader of *The Urantia Book*, and to learn the truth and beauty it contains between its covers. "Through truth man attains beauty and by spiritual love ascends to goodness."

(1142.1) 103:9.10

HELP WANTED

HEBREW

Urantia Foundation and the translators of *The Urantia Book* into Hebrew need help with the following:

- Discussing the terminology, the theology, and the many concepts in *The Urantia Book*.
- Funding of the Hebrew translation.

If your mother tongue is Hebrew, and if you would like to read drafts of the Hebrew translation or participate in a study group or both, please contact Tamara at tamara@urantia.org or Georges Michelson-Dupont, manager of translations for Urantia Foundation, at georges.michelson-dupont@wanadoo.fr.

אם עברית היא שפת אימכם ואם תרצו לעיין בטיוטת התרגום, להשתתף בקבוצת לימוד או שניהם, נא צרו קשר עם תמרה ב tamara@urantia.org או עם אדם מיכלסון-דופונט, מנהל פרוייקטי התרגום של נאמנות אורנטיה ב georges.michelson-dupont@wanadoo.fr.



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On the web at
www.urantia.org

CHINESE

Urantia Foundation is also looking for students of the book who speak Standard Chinese who can assist with the revision of the Chinese translation. Tasks include reading the revision, comparing it to the original English, and making suggestions to the revisor.

Please contact Urantia Foundation at tamara@urantia.org.

Urantia基金会正在积极寻求数位Urantia Book的研读者，去协助中文版本的编译者，其母语应为大陆普通话（即掌握简体中文），主要负责阅读编译文本，与原来的英文文字相对照，并提供意见和建议。

请通过以下邮箱联系Urantia基金会：tamara@urantia.org

FARSI

Urantia Foundation is looking for students of *The Urantia Book* who are native speakers of Farsi to assist with the Farsi translation. Tasks include reading translated papers, comparing them with the original English, and making suggestions to the translator.

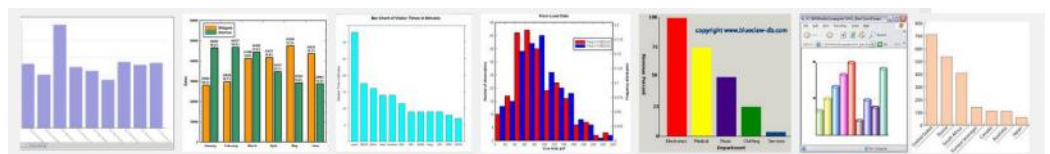
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بنیاد یورنشیا به گونه ای فعال به دنبال یک یا چند دانشجوی کتاب یورنشیا می گردد که زبان مادریشان فارسی باشد، تا مترجم فارسی کتاب یورنشیا را در امر ترجمه کتاب یورنشیا به فارسی یاری کنند. هدف این است که متون ترجمه شده با متن اصلی انگلیسی مقایسه شده و کم و کاستیهای آن برطرف گردد. اگر علاقمند به همکاری هستید لطفا با بنیاد یورنشیا

به آدرس زیر تماس حاصل فرمایید: tamara@urantia.org

Be sure to check out the Foundation's Annual Report!

http://www.urantia.org/sites/default/files/docs/annual_report_2012.pdf



Greater Love

The search for God is the unstinted bestowal of love attended by amazing discoveries of new and greater love to be bestowed.

The Urantia Book, (1289.2) 117:6.9

