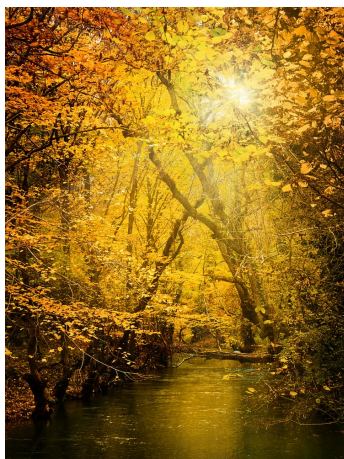




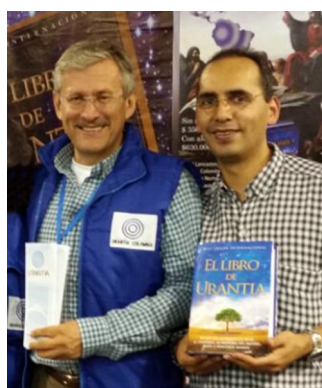
URANTIA FOUNDATION'S NEWS ONLINE

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A WAY TO SERVE AND TO SEED— URANTIA FOUNDATION SENDS 600 BOOKS TO LATIN AMERICA



By Wilson León and Andrés Ramírez, Bogotá, Colombia

Editor's Note: Members of Urantia Association Colombia approached the board of trustees in April with a request to send Spanish Urantia Books to various groups throughout Latin America. The Foundation is constantly working on building reliable distribution networks, and in some countries it works very well. But in others there is either no distribution or the books are too expensive. Our average selling price to distributors in Latin America is about nine dollars per book. But after distributors pay shipping and customs fees, many times that same book retails in shops for \$50 to \$70 dollars.

In order to distribute books to the places in need, Urantia Foundation partnered with this association in Colombia

and sent 600 Spanish Urantia Books to multiple countries. The cost for the books plus the shipping was \$12,000. Needing financial assistance, the readership was called upon, and the generosity was overwhelming! In three weeks, all the funds were raised, the books were sent, and the teachings are now in the hands of some very grateful truth seekers.

To everyone who contributed to this project, we send our thanks and our deep appreciation!

The 600 Spanish Urantia Books were shipped in small enough batches to avoid the very expensive customs regulations of each country. With the help of an international coordinator, the books were delivered to Urantia Associations and other leaders in the following places: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Peru, and Venezuela.

There are more groups in other countries waiting for books, so we have arranged for people to take a case of books with them when they travel to these places. The extra luggage fee is significantly less than shipping fees.

The books are being placed in libraries, universities, study groups, and with individuals in need. This seeding project will help many people to find *The Urantia Book*, and many souls will soon discover their place and destiny in the universe.

The outcome of this experience will serve as a learning experience to discover the best ways to bring books to each country in Latin America. Our hope is that this will provide a stable and proven way to ensure books reach their final destination.

We are very grateful for the support in this and other projects Urantia Foundation has provided to associations in Latin America over the years!



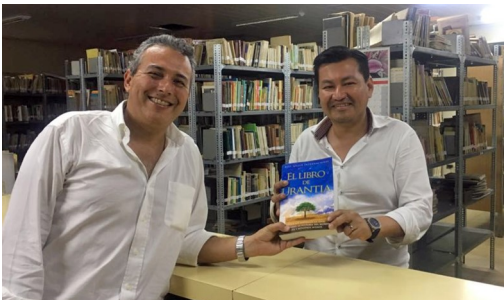
Library reading group, Barranquilla, Colombia



Ramon Franco donating books



Ramon Franco donating books



Raul Otero Reiche Library, Santa Cruz, Bolivia



Casanare Library, Colombia



Donation to Colombia study group

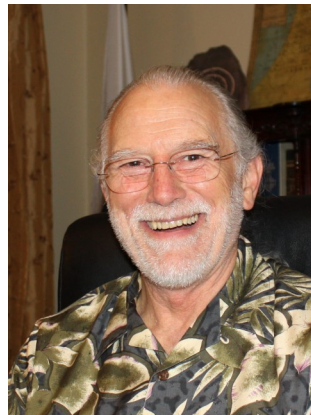
NOTEWORTHY DECISIONS FROM THE JULY 2018 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING



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

Community Relations

Congratulations to Dana Bredemeyer for becoming the new president of the Urantia Book Fellowship. We look forward to forming a productive relationship with Dana and will do all we can to work peacefully and productively with the Fellowship. The board of Urantia Foundation is committed to working with Urantia Association International and the Fellowship wherever possible.



Dana Bredemeyer

Virtual Tour of Urantia Foundation

Over the past several years, a few donors generously undertook a much-needed renovation of the building at 533 W. Diversey Parkway in Chicago. It is now complete, and we are all so thankful! In addition to restoring this historic landmark for future generations, we are now able to rent out the top floor and the coach house, which allows Urantia Foundation to live in the building for almost no cost.

We realize that many readers around the world are unable to visit the Foundation, so we produced a virtual tour. Please enjoy the video: www.urantia.org/urantia-book-video.

Book Sales

News for book sales so far this year is mixed. Sales are flat in units and down in dollars. The quick answer for the sluggish figures is that more inexpensive books are being sold in Latin America and fewer expensive books are being sold in Europe. The good news, however, is that English sales are up 14%, Spanish sales are up 28%, and Portuguese sales are up 19%. Last year we had robust sales in Germany, but this year sales have tapered, which accounts for our total numbers being down.

Selling a book in 2018 that was first published in 1955 is

not an easy task! People are not beating a path to our door to buy the most important book in the history of the world. But we keep moving forward, spreading the revelation across the globe.

Translations and Revisions

Our process for translating and revising continues to ensure that we have the highest quality translations possible. As a result of our new policy, we are placing new translations, which are at the beginning of our quality review process, on our website. We are looking for readers in these languages who are interested in helping us make them the best possible. Teams are working hard on the Spanish and Portuguese revisions; and work on the Chinese translation also continues.

Donations

Unrestricted contributions YTD are up 37% because we received a large donation earlier than usual. Timing adjusted, unrestricted donations are about the same as last year. Restricted 2018 donations are \$17,060 compared to \$4,426 in 2017. Restricted estate donations were only \$19,194 compared to \$175,000 last year. That change is because of a single generous bequest in 2017. At this point, donations seem to be on target. As always, most of our donations come during the winter fundraiser. We have \$525,000 to raise between now and the end of the year.

Operating Expenses

Operating expenses were \$355,396 in 2018, down 5% from 2017 and 5% below budget. We have many big expenses coming in Q3, but

we expect to stay within budget for the year. Tamara and Joanne keep a tight hand on donors' hard earned contributions!

Operating Income and Cash Flow

Operating income YTD was better than 2017 and almost flat with the 2018 budget. Expenses were below budget, but revenue was below expectations resulting in being immaterially off plan.

Our cash flow was sufficient to carry us through the lean months of July, August, and September.

Investments

Our investment gains in 2018 have varied with the stock market performance. At this moment they are up and hopefully will stay that way.

UPDATE: OUTREACH IN THE PHILIPPINES



By Cece Forrester, *Urantia Foundation, Illinois, United States*

Editor's Note: Urantia Foundation has been supporting the Asidaos' in their outreach efforts in the Philippines for several years. The results of their efforts are bearing fruits, and we are pleased to share their progress with you.

On behalf of the entire board and staff at Urantia Foundation, we give our deepest thanks and appreciation to Eugene and Belen efforts to seed The Urantia Book and its teachings in the Philippines!

In the June 2017 edition of the Foundation's *News Online*, an article was published by Belen Asidaos, in which she detailed the third visit she and her husband, Eugene, made to the Philippines to seed *The Urantia Book* in their native land.

This year, the Asidaos visited the Philippines again. They recently returned to the United States and have shared with us some of the highlights of their trip, which emphasized outreach and training leadership of study

groups of *The Urantia Book* to the next level.

Contacts with Groups and Readers

Much of the Asidaos' time was spent in Metro Manila, but they began making visits to other provinces and cities from June to July, before returning to their home base in Pasig City. They visited readers in Bacolod City and Sagay City, both in the province of Negros Occidental, and in Cebu City, Cebu Province.

They helped the Sagay City leader work on consolidating his group by having regular study meetings and by relating to other Christian communities in the city.

There is a group in Iloilo City, Iloilo Province, that is also

having regular study group meetings, and the Asidaos are trying to encourage this group to meet weekly for intensive study.

The Cebu City group is a meditation group that has been meeting for more than 12 years, and some members of the group are also readers of *The Urantia Book*. Because of the efforts of the Asidaos, that group is now interested in establishing ties with other groups of *Urantia Book* readers and asked one of the readers to lead regular study of *The Urantia Book* during their meetings.

They also are in touch with a group in Bulakan Province, which is primarily a meditation group that studies *The Urantia Book* from time to time.



Belen and Eugene Asidao

A Urantia Book reader in Palawan Province was contacted via Facebook by a reader in Metro Manila. When this reader went to Manila for a law review, he attended a meeting of the Metro Manila study group. He was given eight copies of *The Urantia Book* for his friends and other interested individuals, and hopes to form a study group.

Intensive Study

One of Belen and Eugene's primary purposes this trip was to establish a weekly intensive study group in Metro Manila. Besides taking a key step toward their goal of establishing a more formal organization of readers in the Philippines, this has proven to be the most interesting experience of their trip.

This intensive study group meets every week for a full day. Says Eugene, "It benefits

not only the Metro Manila study group, but also us as individuals. It forces us to study more, which is very different from just attending a study group for two hours or individually reading *The Urantia Book*. The process of developing questions, doing research, being innovative in leading, and encouraging others to lead the study of a chosen paper, is a quantum leap from any study experience we had before."

Eugene and Belen find it takes a week just to prepare a good presentation of each paper. The study is both intensive and extensive, but it also develops camaraderie, as there is time to enjoy humor and get to know one another over breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snacks. During the last hour, they discuss organizational business matters and further develop personal relationships.

Plans to Organize

The remainder of the Asidaos' stay included ongoing encouragement for Metro Manila readers to visit families of Urantia Book readers, inactive readers, and friends who are potential readers. They hope the Metro Manila group will start organizing more study groups

in their area, also known as the National Capital Region, consisting of 17 adjacent cities.

They also attended the International Book Fair, where they were able to join another group that allowed the Asidaos to display *The Urantia Book* in their booth (the cost of having their own booth was prohibitive). They also walked around the fair holding a sign promoting *The Urantia Book* and, when people expressed interest, directed them to the booth for more information.

Of equal value to forming strong core groups in reaching the goal of a national organization is linking different groups and individual readers in other provinces with one another. Eugene considers it important to step up morale on a national level. As a result of this trip, he says, "individual readers found out that they are not alone in reading and studying *The Urantia Book*. The synergy of a group is both exponential and magnetic."

Eugene adds that following up on a yearly basis will also help



Future Strategy

The strategy of developing "teachers and leaders" through intensive study, says Eugene, is "to provide a dedicated, knowledgeable, and organized core of people that will be the mainstay, the motivator, and initiator of a Urantia movement."

Eugene sees a need, as the movement grows in different provinces, to have a dedicated, mature reader and experienced organizer who can visit different study groups and help them in all aspects of study as well as growing and expanding. Says Eugene, "This is grassroots spiritual organizing as we learn from the methodology used by Jesus himself and his apostles while in the flesh."

to make sure that the seeds they plant will mature. "If our labor of love is in line with the will of our unseen friends, with the sevenfold God, we are confident that it will bear much good fruit."

Looking at what they accomplished on their 2018 trip, and their ambitious goals for this year and the next, Eugene says, "At this juncture of time we feel that we have fulfilled our objectives, though sometimes we overestimated our individual capacities. On the other hand, we became more grounded, more innovative, and more realistic."



THE CHALLENGES OF TRANSLATING *THE URANTIA BOOK*



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

Why Do We Translate The *Urantia Book*?

The *Urantia Book* is a translation of enlarged concepts and advanced truth from supernal languages into the English tongue. In his preliminary statement in the Foreword, the Divine Counselor expresses how "exceedingly difficult" it is to convey ideas and concepts in English because of our "conceptual poverty" and "circumscribed language." We find similar statements from authors of other papers, including the phrase, "I almost despair."

And yet, the result is a magnificent collection of 196 papers, delivered in perfect English, reflecting a richness and accuracy of vocabulary, and an impeccable mastery of grammar and syntax making the text fluid and even poetic in places without ever appearing heavy or incomprehensible. What a piece of art!

Unfortunately, the revelators were content with using only the English language. What a

pity they did not produce the revelation in all of the major languages of Urantia. Instead, they charged the Trustees of Urantia Foundation with the responsibility to carry on with the job as it is stated in the Foundation's Declaration of Trust. Translations of *The Urantia Book* into the major tongues of Urantia are indispensable to the spreading of the revelation. In the distant future, Urantia will have a common language for all nations, but for the moment, we are far from this ideal. This is why Urantia Foundation publishes translations: To give every nation the opportunity to be exposed to the teachings of the revelation.

All translations must be faithful to the original, for the dissemination of unfaithful or falsified translations would be fatal to the integration of the teachings into the religious cultures of the peoples of Urantia.

The Art and Science of Translation

Translation is a science as well as an art. The difficulty lies in translating the authors' thinking, using a creative choice of terms and syntax without straying, to produce a text that is faithful and enjoyable to read. The revelatory nature of the text within *The Urantia Book* adds another layer of difficulty. Not only must the translator understand the concepts and ideas—this is the common intellectual process in translating—but he has to be a sincere truthseeker and believe in the revelatory content of the revelation in order to be sensitive to the Spirit of Truth and to the revelatory mechanism of the

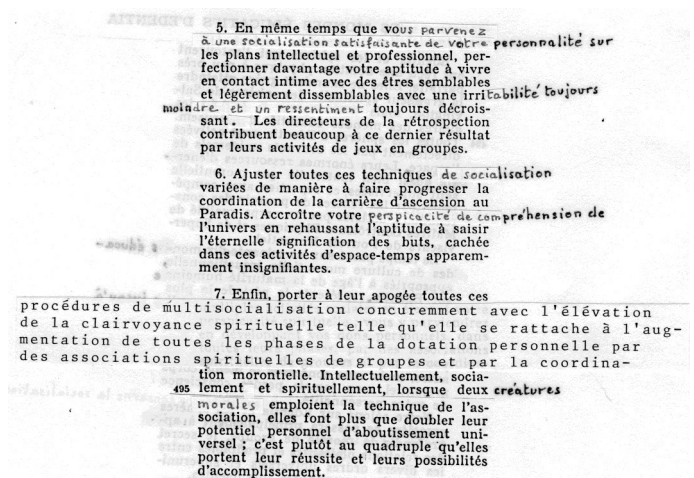
Thought Adjuster. Hence a professional translator can only be called upon if he or she is an ardent believer in the revelation.

Historical Context: The French Translation

In early 1956, a man named Jacques Weiss received *The Urantia Book* through Mrs. Caroline Brown, a member of the Forum, whom he had met in New York soon after the end of World War II. Weiss had already translated several books on spiritual subjects, such as *Life and Teaching of the Masters of the Far East* by Baird T. Spalding, *Esoteric Healing* by Alice A. Bailey, and others. (In one of his letters to Urantia Foundation he stated that translating spiritual content had prepared him for the task of his life: translating *The Urantia Book*.) After having read the book, he contacted the Foundation in December 1956, and obtained permission to translate it into French. The translation was published in 1960 and 1961, in three

volumes under the name *La Cosmogonie d'Urantia*. According to the great majority of French-speaking readers, not only was the quality of the French language fluid, beautiful, and pleasant to read, the translation was outstanding.

However, as early as 1964 to 1965, some bilingual French readers contacted Weiss and told him of translation errors. After many difficulties between Weiss and the Foundation, a team of three readers formed under the aegis of Henry Begemann, then field representative of the Brotherhood, and undertook a correction of the translation starting in 1978. Over twenty thousand changes were made, ranging from commas to omitted or mistranslated words to the rewriting of entire sentences. This correction was completed in 1994, and the first "revised and corrected" edition was published. It was formatted in a single column and had the same pagination as the original English text.



Sample of corrections in the 1978 French revision: showing forensic scrutinizing of each phrase in handwriting and typesetting

About twenty years later, in 2012, a second revision was initiated to correct misspellings and punctuation errors, and to make other minor changes. The second "revised and corrected" edition was published in 2014, again with the same pagination as the English text. Editing or revising a translation can take as long as making a new translation, and sometimes even longer. Back in 1978, it made sense to the original revision team to correct the existing French translation instead of producing a new one. This would avoid the inevitable confusion of having two different texts, which could lead to conflicts and division among the French readership. Wisdom must dictate our conduct—it is the price to pay for the long-term unity of our communities. This cycle to complete the French translation took approximately forty years, and it was necessary to attain the high quality and faithful French translation that is in print today.

Defining an Ideal Translation of *The Urantia Book*

The Urantia Book has two distinct elements: the content and the container. The content includes the authors' ideas, concepts, supernal teachings, and terminology. The container includes the authors' style, grammar, syntax, punctuation, and typography. An ancient proverb says *in vino veritas* (in wine, the truth). *The Urantia Book* is like a glass of wine. The wine (the content) is exceedingly tasty, and the glass (the container) is made of the finest crystal; together they make a piece of art.

An ideal translation must do two things: First, it must convey faithfully the content of the original text so that it is

technically accurate with consistent terminology. Second, its style must creatively and fluidly reflect the beauty of the original; this is, in part, subject to the personal talent of the translator and to the appreciation by the readers. The reality is that you can translate an English phrase in multiple ways in the target language, while still being entirely faithful to the original.

A translation being a human effort, the wine metaphor immediately raises the problem in a very concrete



way: How faithful is the translation of the content? How beautiful is the translation of the container? There are nine possible ways in which a translation can be categorized, combining three levels of each.

In the first of these nine combinations, the translation of the content is excellent, and the translation of the container is beautiful. In the last, the translation of the content is not good, and the translation of the container is ugly. In others, we see various combinations of excellent, mediocre, and unacceptable.

Of course this illustration serves only as a rough model

for understanding and evaluating the quality of a translation. While there is an infinity of nuances in each category that cannot be shown in the grid, using it gives us the advantage of understanding the quality of a translation. I believe that every reader would choose No. 1, and this is the goal of Urantia Foundation. But is it an attainable goal? How do we achieve excellence in translating *The Urantia Book*?

Urantia Foundation's Translation Process

achieve this high standard. There are five major phases in the translation cycle:

1. Preparation (1 to 10 years): As the English text of *The Urantia Book* finds its way around the world, its teachings will inspire a reader to translate it into their own mother tongue. An extraordinary process of self-discovery takes place in the mind of a truth seeker, and the desire to share this "pearl of great price" motivates him or her to translate, at first for themselves, then for their fellow countrymen. When this occurs, it signals the potential for a new translation to emerge.

2. Appraisal (6 months to 1 year): Most of the time (but not always) a potential translator contacts Urantia Foundation. Conversations begin and both assess the possibility of creating a translation together. The conditions needed to move forward are:

- A chief translator/team that is qualified to translate the book (the translator must satisfy Urantia Foundation's criteria) and who is committed to this lengthy process.

- The need for resources to support the translation (e.g., a secure translator website that provides specific tools, financial support if needed, support from a project manager, and access to a translator discussion list).

- A signed contract or agreement between a translator and Urantia Foundation that provides the rights and responsibilities of each in publishing a quality translation.

3. Translating (9 to 10 years): The translator partners with Urantia Foundation to create a high-quality translation and prepare it to be published.

The example of the French translation illustrates the empirical method, which has been improved and refined over the years to become the Foundation's methodology for producing and revising translations. Based on thirty years of experience, good and bad, Urantia Foundation has put into place a framework—which includes a methodology as well as a set of guidelines, procedures, and means for quality control—that guarantees, in the end, a quality translation.

I used the term "phase" in discussing the French translation because there are many steps that must be taken before a translation can

Most of the time (but not always) a potential translator contacts Urantia Foundation. Conversations begin and both assess the possibility of creating a translation together.

This phase includes:

- The translation of term lists and specific names included in *The Urantia Book* for consistency. Since 2016, Urantia Foundation has supported the translators (or revisers) with computer-assisted translation (CAT) software, which includes memory tools.

- The preparation of monthly reports by the translator for the translation manager.

- A process for correcting and polishing a translation or revision to make sure that its content and container are of a high quality. A third-party professional evaluation, from time to time, to ensure faithfulness and quality of language.

4. Maturing (5 to 15 years):

The translation is distributed to solicit feedback from different sources with the future goal of improving the translation. In the case of the French translation, it took eighteen years before this phase was complete.

5. Revising (5 to 6 years):

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 forensically scrutinized and polished.

This phase includes:

- Creation of a team of longtime readers, working with the translator (when possible), who revise the text using specific criteria provided by Urantia Foundation.

- Creation of a reader group to comment on the revised papers.

- Evaluation by third-party professional translators, from time to time, to ensure faithfulness and quality of language.

- Final review of the fluidity, syntax, grammar, punctuation, and typography, which is usually conducted by the chief translator who is working with a professional copyeditor.

- Evaluation of the final product by two or three professional translators to obtain a more objective evaluation.

This phase ends as plans are made to reintegrate the enhanced translation into the thought stream of individuals and cultures.

The Problem of Having Several Translations in One Language

The English-speaking readership benefits from reading *The Urantia Book* in their native language, avoiding the need to choose from several texts translated from the same supernal source. There are no other "English translations." Imagine what would have happened if the Urantia midwayers were not united and instead had published two different versions of Part IV? How would the planetary government react?

We are told to create thousands of study groups: How confusing would it be for participants to read from two or three English texts using different terminology and different proper names. It would provoke endless discussions, great confusion, and division instead of focusing on the content. This situation would be seriously detrimental to the unity and brotherhood of the readership. Or, let's suppose the revelation had been originally given in French and translated into two or three different English translations by competing French organizations. How would one react?

What is the Result of Multiple Translations in One Language?

We can already see negative results of having several

translations in one language. There is division in the readership. It discourages new readers who do not know which group to join. It jeopardizes the spreading of, and harms the reputation of, the revelation itself. Would you join a community who supposedly promotes love and tolerance but whose members are constantly quarreling and fighting? The problems posed by this situation could apply to any reader community found with multiple translations:

- How can readers come together with different translations in study groups and study efficiently?

- How can readers cooperate and be united in spreading the teachings when they are so divided?

- How can groups of readers become attractive and welcome new people?

- What negative image of the revelation does this offer to the world when a community of readers is so divided?

The Importance of the Process

Translating *The Urantia Book* is far from a common endeavor, with its goal to convey the revelation faithfully and ultimately advance the intellectual and spiritual level on Urantia. The purpose of the revelators' work is nothing less than to expand our cosmic consciousness and enhance our spiritual perception. That is why the top priority of a translation must be absolute fidelity to the content and the spirit of the teachings presented by the revelators.

The work of the original translator is therefore essential in the sense that he or she becomes a bridge to the revelation. In most cases, the first translation must be considered an approximation, which will be improved as longtime readers forensically scrutinize the meanings of words, study how it conveys

the concepts, and make suggestions for changes. Since it is a team effort, the ultimate rendering will be objectively more exact and closer to the original, without becoming a literal word-for-word translation. In addition, using the services of a copyeditor to verify the quality of grammar, syntax, and style will ensure that readers are in possession of a high-quality text.

Urantia Foundation is wholeheartedly committed to producing and publishing translations of the highest possible true-to-the-original quality because of its mandate and responsibility. Our methodology, which is based on experience, is designed to bring each translation to a higher level of accuracy and readability. The trustees hope that those interested in helping to improve translations or to translate the book into languages for which there is no other translation will consider partnering with the Foundation in a spirit of cooperation.

"One of the most important lessons to be learned during your mortal career is teamwork. The spheres of perfection are manned by those who have mastered this art of working with other beings. Few are the duties in the universe for the lone servant." 28:5.14 (312:1)

Urantia Foundation is wholeheartedly committed to producing and publishing translations of the highest possible true-to-the-original quality because of its mandate and responsibility.

THE URANTIA BOOK STUDY GROUP DIRECTORY LAUNCHED A NEW WEBSITE



By Scott Brooks, Ohio, United States

In July, The Urantia Book Study Group Directory launched its new website at [urantiastudygroup.org](https://www.urantiastudygroup.org). The development of the site was an undertaking that took more than a year. The directory now has a fresh look and includes many new features to make it easier to use.

One such feature is the new format that gives every study group host the flexibility to manage the listing without having to go through the administrative team. The chosen representative of each group can add the listing, change meeting dates and times, and can even delete the listing. There is also a place to describe and modify the format or topic of study currently being used. The only caveat is that the administrative team will scrutinize any group that is disregarding the criteria required for listing a study group and will determine if action needs to be taken.

More than 50 percent of the 1,000 monthly visitors use mobile devices or tablets to access the site. So it was important to make it completely mobile responsive. Visitors can also specify a country, postal code, and the name of the host or coordinator or the city. They will also be presented with a list of study groups, including a map that matches the search criteria.

More than 400 study groups representing 42 countries in 17 languages are listed in the directory. Wow! Of these, nearly 100 are virtual study groups. About a year and a half ago, there were only four virtual groups. Such growth is phenomenal; people anywhere in the world with Internet access can now participate in a study group.

For those unfamiliar with a virtual study group, it is a study group that is available via the Internet. You can see, hear, and speak to others by using

your computer's built-in camera and microphone. You just need to install the computer application necessary to attend the meeting. Some of the more popular applications used are Zoom and Skype.

The new updated website was launched just in time for the annual database survey. All groups listed will be contacted in order to validate current information and ensure that the group is still meeting. Unresponsive groups will be culled from the directory.

your password, just let us know, and we will send directions describing how to access your account.

If you have a study group but are not listed in the directory, please take 10 minutes and register now at <https://www.urantiastudygroup.org/register>.

The directory is provided as a free and open service to students of *The Urantia Book* to facilitate inspiring personal connections and ongoing study of the book. It is a joint project

Visitors can also specify a country, postal code, and the name of the host or coordinator or the city.

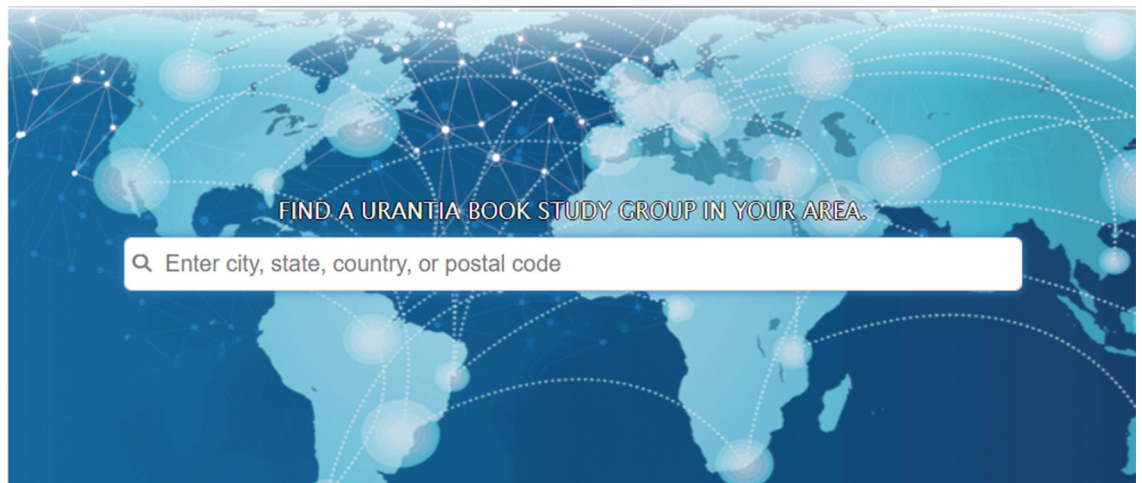
Making sure that all listed study groups verify their information has proven to be one of the biggest challenges facing the team. So, if your study group is listed, expect an email from us soon, and please respond in a timely manner. If you have forgotten

supported by Urantia Association International, the Urantia Book Fellowship, and Urantia Foundation.

The current team members are Bill Beasley, Scott Brooks, Jackie Koury, Rick Lyon, and Tamara Strumfeld.



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REFLECTIONS OF THE 2018 SUMMER STUDY SESSION



By Gary Deinstadt, associate trustee, Connecticut, United States, and David Kulieke, Education Committee Chair of the Urantia Book Fellowship, Illinois, United States

Reflections from Gary Deinstadt

I have been a plenary speaker and have conducted workshops for the Summer Study Sessions in the past, which all required a lot of effort, but I have never had to work as hard as I did to be emcee for the most recent Summer Study Session at Techny Towers near Chicago this past July. Throughout my preparations, I kept returning

to this year's theme, *It's A Friendly Universe: Serving with Our Celestial Family*, in order to keep things light and fun. It was all tongue in cheek, and people seemed to enjoy it.

I put videos together for each day's track with hopes of amusing people. For example, to amplify the "Serving with Our Celestial Family" aspect, I made a video of awkward and terrible family photos that I found online. When it came to "It's a Friendly Universe," I tapped into the *Blazing Saddles* theme using a picture where the whole cast is fighting at the end.

A group of us also performed a very funny skit with our interpretation and reenactment of the Last Supper, a peculiar episode in history, involving musical chairs with apostles vying for seats at the table. One of the last two apostles remaining picked up his chair and ran away with it, then Jesus showed up and reluctantly gave prizes to the last two remaining apostles. It was a

sad and hilarious demonstration of what's possible in human nature. Maybe you had to be there, but if laughter in the room was any indication, the audience found it to be the perfect amount of comedic relief!

I think that everyone can relate to the humor in things, even if they are profound topics. If you can make something that is tense more light with humor, it can help allow you to meet people where they are.

The profound part of my being emcee was the joy brought to the attendees. Many came up to me and told me they couldn't remember the last time they had such a good laugh. I was happy I could make it positive and joyous for them. It's what I try to do in everything and goes to my mantra: "Creating the atmosphere where God can do his job."

This was just a small part of the atmospheric fun that came with the conference theme. Other parts included a pre-conference spiritual retreat led by Gard Jameson and friends, and pre-plenary and daily worship themes developed by Bobbie Dreier and her team. We had an inspiring group of plenary speakers including Chuck Thurston, Chris Wood, Derek Samaras, and Diane Labrecque.

It was also interesting to hear about the latest developments from the multiple Urantia organizations. A description of the

Foundation's efforts on the years and phases involved in creating quality translations was informative. It was great to hear of the collaborative efforts made by Urantia Association International and the Urantia Book Fellowship on their upcoming conference in Vancouver 2020. Overall, there was an apparent desire and commitment to work more effectively together for the advancement of the Urantia Revelation.

Most of the content of the conference was centered around the theme of family in a loving universe—which encompassed ways of fulfilling our natural tendency to serve others more effectively—with an emphasis on doing so in alignment with the patterns of service demonstrated by our celestial family and becoming part of a larger team. Overall, the conference contributed to an increased sense of family and service, that sense which continues to push us beyond our own limits, bringing us ever so lovingly, one small step closer to God.

Many thanks to conference chair: Jackie Koury, and to David Kulieke (Education chair), the Education Committee, workshop and worship facilitators, and so many others who created for us the perfect balance of study, worship, and joy in loving service. Special thanks to the apostles for their comedic performances: John Hales, Andrea Barnes, Susan Blackstock, Dan and Lara Amyx, Mary Higgins, Karen Allen, John Callahan, Dave Tenney, Claudia Ayers, Andre Radatus, and Tony Finstad.





Thoughts from David Kulleke

The Summer Study Sessions (SSS) have continually provided high quality study of *The Urantia Book* every two of

three summers since the late 1970s. My experience has become specialized since I was honored to be a steward of this tradition upon becoming the chair of the Fellowship's Education Committee in 2012. I chaired the SSS in 2013 and 2015.

This year Education Committee member Jackie Koury chaired the event for the first time, and her endeavors helped it to be an outstanding conference. She mentioned in her welcome how she felt the pride of a teacher when she looked at the group of presenters and speakers assembled at 2018.

When I see the quality of the program, the fine job Jackie did, and the many years of strong education our committee has provided to readers of *The Urantia Book*, without any sense of patronization, I also sense the kind of pride in others that Jackie felt.

The Urantia Book tells us that "Education is the business of living; it must continue throughout a lifetime so that mankind may gradually experience the ascending levels of mortal wisdom." 71:7.5 (806.5)

The Fellowship's Education Committee, in concert with all of the educational endeavors within the various Urantia organizations, will seek to contribute in our small ways to the spreading of the teachings of the Urantia Revelation as well as to the slow progress of humankind on our challenged but fascinating planet.

URANTIA FOUNDATION TO ATTEND THE 2018 PARLIAMENT OF THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS



By Lainey Doremus, *Urantia Foundation, Illinois, United States*

Urantia Foundation is excited to attend the 2018 Parliament of the World's Religions from November 1 to 7, in Toronto, Canada. The theme for this year is: "The Promise of Inclusion, the Power of Love: Pursuing Global Understanding, Reconciliation, and Change."

In partnership with Truthbook.com, Urantia Association International, and the Urantia Book Fellowship, we are hosting a booth and providing inviting outreach materials that will help seed truths of the book's teachings to interested attendees. There will certainly be plenty of volunteers to spend time in the booth—nearly 100 Urantia Book readers have signed up to attend.

Considered to be the oldest, most diverse, and inclusive global interfaith event, this year's theme draws from movements of goodwill and cross-cultural respect that are embodied in the spirit of the interfaith movement. The Parliament of the World's Religions mission is "to cultivate harmony among the world's religious and spiritual communities and foster their engagement with the world and its guiding institutions in order to achieve a just,

peaceful, and sustainable world." What a perfect way to seek to understand and be understood by other dedicated religionists who are committed to making our world a better place.

Readers of *The Urantia Book* will present the following workshops:

Saturday, November 3, from 3:15 to 4:15 p.m.

Love is the Greatest Thing in the World

Pato Banton Concert Room Festival Stage

Saturday, November 3, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

A Way of Life in the Family of God: The Global Vision of *The Urantia Book*

Marvin Gawryn Room 710



Tuesday, November 6, from 3:15 to 4:00 p.m.

Beyond Prejudice, Bias & Bigotry, Toward the Golden Rule—Camp Anytown

Gard Jameson
Room 711

Tuesday, November 6, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

How to Transition from Fragmentation to Integration

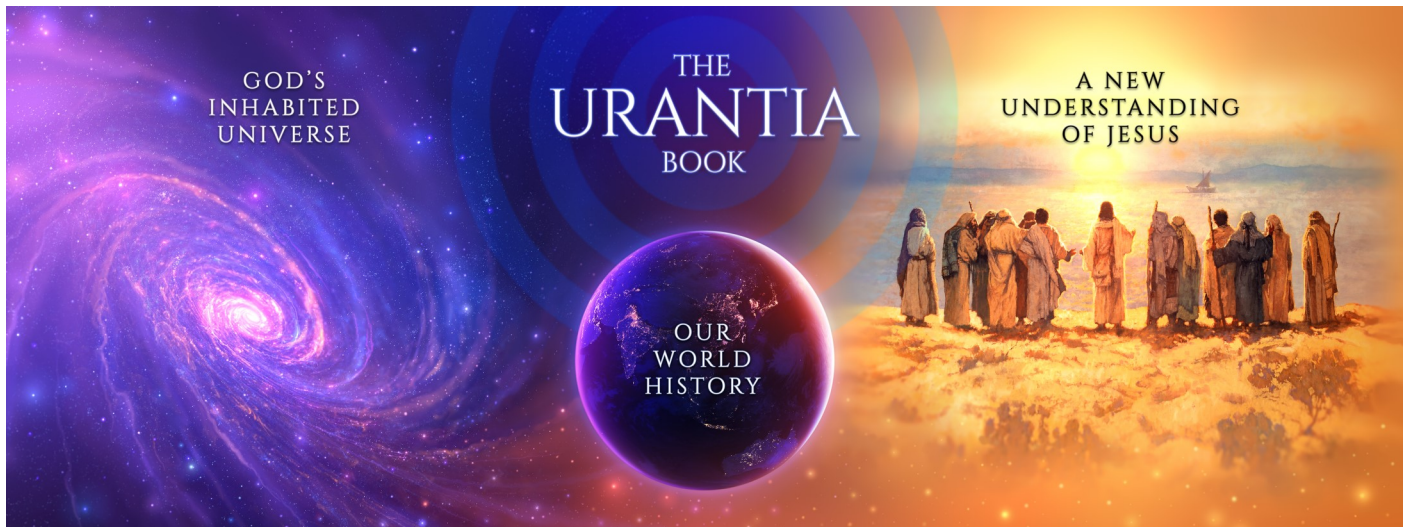
Sheila Keene-Lund
Room 603

The preparations to attend the Parliament are the result of a wonderful team effort by members from all organizations participating. Special thanks go to Cristina

Seaborn, Joanne Strobel, and Paula Thompson for their exceptional work in making this happen, as well as to Gary Tonge for designing the booth. Everyone has been actively involved to ensure that we give the Urantia Revelation the best first impression possible to Parliament participants. This has been a stellar example of

sharing common goals and group cooperation.

For more information, or to register, visit parliamentofreligions.org.



Urantia booth panel artwork by Gary Tonge

WHAT *THE URANTIA BOOK* MEANS TO ME



By Khatukhira Bernard,
Uganda

By the time I discovered *The Urantia Book* on my father's

bedside table in 1997, he had been a reader for 17 years. He told me that it was sent to him by a friend who discovered a booklet about it in Makerere University Library in 1980.

I started reading the book and became very interested in its message and teachings, which I thought were so informative, spiritually fulfilling, and nurturing. The book taught me a lot of things, both physical and spiritual.

The Urantia Book became personal to me as it helped me to learn and understand who I am, my purpose in this life, and my relationship with God and the entire universe. This revelation enabled me to be

increasingly spiritually free and enlightened. It motivated me to recognize and use my free will in my daily association with my fellow beings, and it gave me new meaning and an in-depth understanding of God and the cosmos.

The book continues to guide me in understanding the working of the supernatural world and celestial beings and how everything fits into God's master plan. With this knowledge and wisdom, I continue to acquire humility, kindness, self-awareness, love, and care for my fellows that guides me in my daily work. With such abundant providence from God, I have shared God's love, goodness,

and wisdom with my fellows at home, in my workplace, and with anyone I associate with. I found sharing the teachings of *The Urantia Book* so fulfilling and enlightening that I formed a study group where we periodically join in fellowship. Through this, and through the Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS), I have made many friends both here in Uganda and in the world at large.

With the knowledge of God ever evolving in me, I am now aware that I am not alone in the universe, that I am an ascending mortal with a destiny of perfection that is not even fully revealed—as described in Paper 31, section 3, "Glorified Mortals"—and that

I will traverse the mansion worlds as my next step on the way to this destiny. This awareness makes me endeavor every day to be perfect, even as the heavenly Father is perfect, and this gives me a sense of belonging, knowing that I serve and delight in a perfect, loving, and caring supreme being.

The Urantia Book has taught me about the struggles of man throughout the ages and how superhuman personalities work to give guidance and provide us with the necessities of life—both spiritual and physical. If it were not for the book, I would not have known, in such depth, this nature and ways of these beings.

In summary, *The Urantia Book* is my guide to understanding God and his ways. It is my information center that bridges me to the celestial world. Above all, it helps me interpret and answer most of the mysteries about the world, the universe, and the celestial beings and how they work in unison in order to implement

God's master plan. For this, I thank the writers and upholders/guardians of the book for its existence.

Announcements

DANISH TRANSLATION NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

We are excited to announce that the Danish translation is now available online at urantia.org/da. Our translator, Jean Ascher, would love to hear feedback on his work. Please help spread the word to any readers you know, encourage them to visit the site, and send feedback to either Tamara Strumfeld at tamara@urantia.org or Jean at yourantiaman@mail.dk. Thank you!

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Den danske oversættelse af Urantia Bogen er nu færdig. Oversætteren har dog arbejdet alene og ville nyde at modtage "input" fra en dansktalende læser af bogen. Hvis du er den der (eller hvis du kender nogen), bedes du kontakte Tamara Strumfeld på tamara@urantia.org og Jean Ascher på Yourantiaman@mail.dk.

Postlisteformular

Mange læsere af Urantia Bogen nyder kontakt med andre læsere og deltager i studiegrupper i deres lokalsamfund. Hvis dette også interesserer dig, bedes du udfylde denne formular. Dermed giver du din tilladelse til udgivelsen af dit navn, din e-mail-adresse og telefonnummer til studerende af bogen i dit område

Klik her for at abonnere.



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Thank you!



Effort does
not always
produce joy,
but there is no
happiness
without
intelligent
effort.

The Urantia Book,
48:7.10 (556.10)