



URANTIA FOUNDATION'S NEWS ONLINE



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THE INDONESIAN TRANSLATION: A JOURNEY WITH *THE URANTIA BOOK*



By Nugroho Widi, Jakarta, Indonesia

Editor's Note: The Indonesian translation of The Urantia Book was published on the Foundation website in April 2020. Widi, the head of the translation team, shares with us his story of this project.

The Indonesian translation has finally been completed and was published here:

urantia.org/id/buku-urantia. I see this as only the first milestone in my story—there is more to come. But right now, I will share with you the first part.

My name is Nugroho Widi. You can call me Widi, which many people find easier to pronounce. (Like many Indonesians, I don't use a family name.) I was born in Indonesia and have lived here my entire life. I am currently retired, and most recently I have been a web administrator, developer, programmer, and consultant.

I had a great start in life with great prospects. My primary and secondary education were excellent, so I went to university. I got a bachelor's degree in agricultural technology, but that kind of work didn't make me happy, so I got a master's degree in management. I was not as successful in business as I had expected to be. So I got a master's degree in

theology, studying Christianity and Islam. However, I was not interested in becoming a pastor.

So there I was, in limbo, not successful and not rich. I felt capable, but somehow unable to attain the high levels where I felt I belonged. I failed to achieve excellence in anything, and feelings of mediocrity haunted me. Later years brought me mundane and common work, and I experienced many failures.

Meanwhile, around 1997, driven by curiosity about the supernatural, I found *The Urantia Book* on a paranormal website which no longer exists. I downloaded the English papers from urantia.org, and one year later bought the printed book from Amazon. I finished reading it by 1999.

As a truth seeker, I experienced a good vibe within my heart from this book, so I quickly



accepted it. For me, its truth is coherent to both the brain and heart. The text is also systematic and answers many questions. Having a scientific mind, I could only accept theological teachings that are consistent with simple facts such as evolution, geological ages, and astronomy.

Naturally, I wanted to share *The Urantia Book* in Indonesia. Islam is the majority religion with 80%, Christians are 15%, and the rest include Buddhists and Hindus. I faced negative reactions from evangelical Christians who believe the Bible is the infallible Word of God. I found that most Catholics, however, did not reject *The Urantia Book*.

The majority of Muslims I have connected with have shown no reaction so far. There are a small number of Muslims that tend toward the new age and metaphysics, and I met a few that were interested in reading it. They kept asking me to do a translation. When the project began, some even joined the team by reviewing my work.

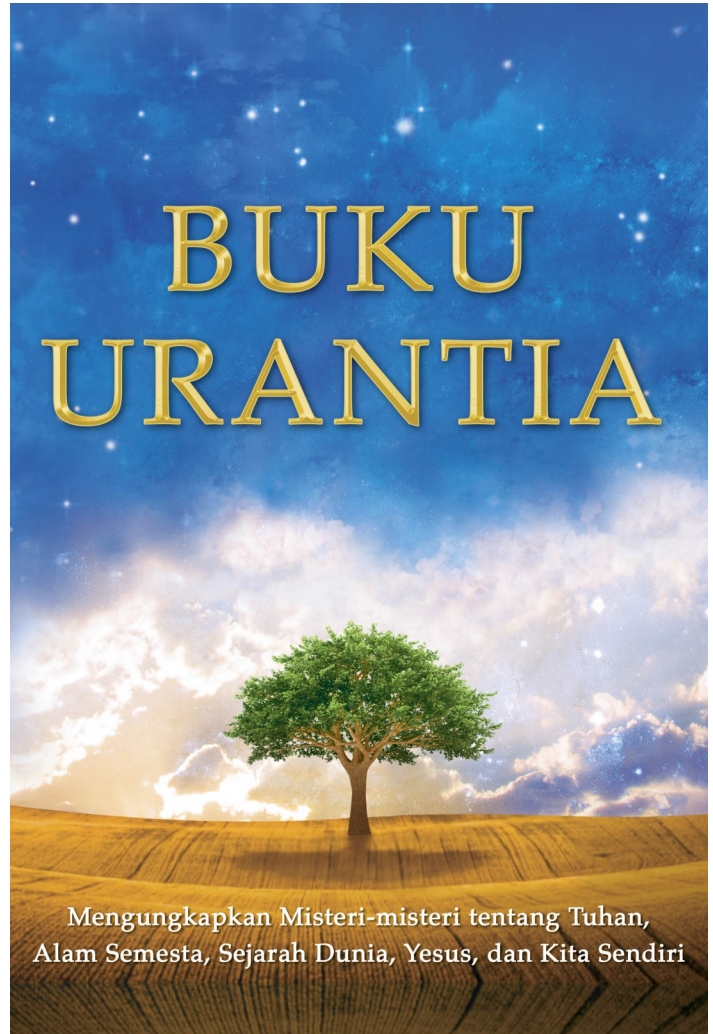
This journey was a clear calling, so I contacted Urantia Foundation. In 2000, I had an agreement with Seppo Kanerva, who was Urantia Foundation's manager of translations at the time, but I made very slow progress because of my inability to support the project by myself. This changed in 2013 when Georges Michelson-Dupont (who is the current manager of translations) visited my country and met our small group: me, Yusuf, Intan, and Rahman. We received a new contract, supervision, and enough support to continue the journey.

This translation path was a long, rough, and winding road. Asian languages have a different structure than English. The Indonesian language came from Arabic and Sanskrit. Verbs are derived from syllables and expanded using prefixes and suffixes. There are no past and present tenses, and the grammar structure is different. *The Urantia Book* uses so many complex sentences, one can imagine the difficulties in translating it!

With 2000+ pages to translate, my daily work rate could be very slow. Understanding one sentence's true meaning could be a big challenge. Some were simply too much for my mind, and I would spend days on one page. The most challenging parts to translate were the Foreword because of new words and definitions, and papers about the Supreme because of their many complex sentences.

In total, the translation took four laptops plus 20 years of countless hours every day including weekends and holidays. Georges maintained steady communication and assisted me in many ways including much patience and meaningful insights. Thankfully, my secular career always allowed enough idle time to sit down and translate.

Looking back, I believe our Master arranged everything and took full advantage of my strengths, weaknesses, failures, and mediocrities. My hunger for high achievement



motivated me to continue, day by day, on what appeared an endless road. My wasted career ambition came to life at the prospects of translating the fifth epochal revelation. Had I been successful in the same way as my friends, I would not have become a translator. And through it all, God provided for me and my family.

Now that the Indonesian translation is finished, the work of spreading its supernal teachings begins. I hope the

translation will be improved over time, and that it will be an uplifting reference for bettering the current religions of our time. Ultimately, they will unite in the religion of Jesus.

When the project was completed, I inhaled deeply. I recently retired and am now self-employed and learning to live again. I cannot rest for a long time though. Soon I must check my engine, fill my fuel tank, and prepare for new challenges ahead. This translation was only the first milestone, the first phase of the original calling of the Master!

I must continue serving even with my worn-out engine, until it is broken. But I know that the Master will give me a better engine on the mansion worlds.



Jakarta, Indonesia

UPDATES FROM THE APRIL 2020 BOARD MEETING



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

Books

The new English enhanced e-book was coded and is in the last series of testing before going live. It will launch in the next six months. The e-book includes *The Urantia Book*, an interactive [index](#), a [pronunciation guide](#), a [term list](#), and a [list of any corrections made to the original 1955 text](#).

Urantia Foundation has almost completed a new Android app containing *The Urantia Book* in eight languages. Considering that more than 85% of all smartphones in the world operate on the Android platform, this new app will significantly increase the availability of *The Urantia Book*.

Book sales slowed in March while downloads increased. We're not sure why the decrease but could speculate that book distributors in North and South America lowered inventories due to COVID-19. *The Untold Story of Jesus* and the *Parables* book, published by Urantia Press, continued to sell well.

Translations

A dedicated team of Filipino readers partnered with Urantia Foundation and initiated the

Filipino translation. With a population of 104 million, 85% of which are Christian, the board is confident that the time has come for this translation.

After a decade of work, the revision of the Spanish translation will be completed by the end of 2020. It will be initially published on the website and is expected to be printed before the summer of 2021. Over the years, independent Spanish-language experts evaluated the work. Their appraisals were gratifying because the revision consistently received higher marks than the current translations.

Words can hardly express our gratitude for the revision team—who took on this 10-year project and is seeing it through to completion while adhering to the high-quality standards expected of Urantia Foundation. To read more about the team, [click here](#).

Search Engine at Urantia.org

In March, 12 additional translations were added to the new and improved search engine at urantia.org, bringing the total to 16 languages. The team is working on adding Czech, Danish, Farsi, Greek, Hebrew, Indonesian, Japanese, and Korean, which will be a total of 24 translations.

Finance

Responding to the economic challenges of the COVID-19 crisis, the board and staff felt it necessary to reduce spending in 2020. With careful analysis of every expense in the budget, line by line, a total of \$114,500 was cut—without eliminating mission-critical programs or cutting staff.

As of the beginning of May, the Foundation's market investments had decreased \$549,302 since January 1, 2020. However, the portfolio's profile is moderate to low risk, which provides some protection during volatile market swings. With donor financial support, we will work our way through 2020 despite the uncertainty in the economy and market.

Independent auditors completed the 2019 audit. You can see the annual report on our website at urantia.org/sites/default/files/docs/annual-report-2019.pdf.

Building

Urantia Foundation rents the coach house and the top floor apartment of 533 Diversey Parkway, the historic home of the Urantia Revelation. These rentals provide enough income to subsidize the use of three floors by the Foundation. When the leases recently terminated, the board had concerns that few people would be interested in moving during the coronavirus crisis. Thankfully, both units rented without a loss of income.

Five-Year Goals

The board spent Friday afternoon and Saturday morning presenting, reviewing, and discussing "who does what, by when, and for how much cost" to accomplish the goals and strategies in the 2020-2025 plan. This plan is detailed and will be completed by July.

Here's a high-level look at the prioritized five-year goals.

- **Books:** Increase global book sales and distribution by 7% every year.

- **Fundraising:** Increase Revelation Bridge, Hales Fund, and Perpetual Printing Fund to \$12,000,000.

- **Global Initiative:** Foster a more culturally diverse and culturally sensitive Urantia Foundation that will impact the way we disseminate the book and its teachings globally.

- **Translation:** Initiate and/or complete new quality translations and revisions. Use and fine-tune our translation process.

- **Education:** Focus on inner education—prayer, worship, and soul work. Focus on outer education—create opportunities to foster knowledge, enhance appreciation, and promote global understanding of *The Urantia Book*.

- **Succession:** Implement a five-year succession plan for the Board of Trustees. Increase the number of trustees by 2025 and transition to a more global organization.

- **Digital Outreach Goal:** Triple Urantia Foundation's digital presence in the world.



The coach house

STEVE DREIER: A TRIBUTE



Steve Dreier, Gard Jameson

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

Editor's Note: Steve Dreier was a longtime reader of The Urantia Book who brokered a priceless donation to Urantia Foundation in 2016. Through Steve's efforts, the Foundation received 103 boxes of books from the private collection of an anonymous donor. The collection included source books, other volumes by source authors, and publications by William and Lena Sadler. This gift prompted a major renovation of the basement, which now houses the Melchizedek Library and the exquisite Hall of the Life Carriers.

Steve lived in New Jersey with his wife, Bobbie. He graduated on April 5 after being hospitalized with the coronavirus. Bobbie is enhancing Steve's legacy with the gift of his own personal collection of books to the library.

Steve Dreier has been a friend for 45 years and continues to be a friend, though he has recently ascended to the mansion worlds. Since I first saw him audaciously move from behind the lectern to grab a chair and have a conversation with those attending the conference in 1975 at Kendall College, I have been inspired by this son of God. His wit and wisdom have earned him a

place of honor within our community. Similar to Jesus, he would often pose questions more than giving answers, suggesting that truth is more about an ongoing dialogue than a specific conclusion.

Florence and I had the privilege of having a one-on-one Zoom session with Steve and Bobbie on Paper 110, "Relation of Adjusters to Individual Mortals," over several recent months. We would take a few paragraphs at a time and really drill down in the material, to illuminate the text and inspire our souls. Steve was a consummate student of the revelation. In fact, he has been designated by some as our resident Rabbi! His smile and thoughtful engagement were infectious to those who knew him. Many are the times that I would seek his spiritual counsel on serious matters in my own spiritual journey. Always would I feel better after receiving his advisement.

Those that knew him know that he had a passion for the texts that were utilized by the revelatory commission in their presentation of the revelation. Not many have

taken up the mantle to investigate those texts and their authors, but it is an important field of inquiry for any serious student of *The Urantia Book*. He and I would spend a great deal of time discussing this material and the implications. The following sources—Ralph Tyler Flewelling, *Creative Personality*, (Papers 130, 132), Henry Nelson Wieman, *The Issues of Life*, (Paper 160), or Walter Bundy, ("The Faith of Jesus," Paper 196)—are monumental and deserve deep reflection, for they speak to the awesome nature of revelation itself.

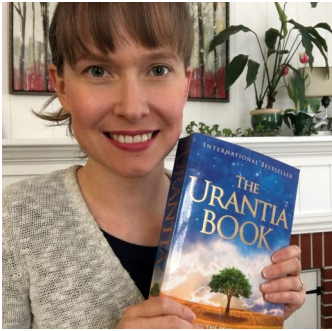
Mostly, I knew Steve as a friend. I was cheered by his presence and by his gracious manner. Watching and being with Steve and Bobbie was an inspiration for both my wife, Florence, and me. We got to spend some of the last days of his life with the two of them, reading the revelation, pondering the imponderables, and sharing humor and memories. Steve embodied what it means to be a son of God. For that I shall ever be thankful!

I look forward to seeing you again on high, brother Steve, in the eternal adventure!



Bobbie Dreier, Steve Dreier

URANTIA ASSOCIATION'S SECOND 24-HOUR ONLINE EVENT



By Alice Wood, UAI multimedia chair, Wisconsin, United States

Editor's Note: Urantia Foundation, Urantia Association, and the Urantia Book Fellowship have been collaborating to bring the readership co-sponsored online events. Many presenters for this 24-hour session were trustees and current or former associate trustees. It concluded with a question and answer period hosted by the presidents of the three organizations.

Urantia Book students from around the world were brought together remotely during Urantia Association's second worldwide 24-Hour Online Event. The first event of this type was held in March as a response to the social isolation experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic (and was aptly titled "A Reward of Isolation"). The second conference began on May 2 at midnight GMT (1:00 a.m. British Summer Time) and continued for 24 hours with a different presenter for each hour of the day.

This format has been celebrated by Urantia Association president, Chris Wood. "Participation in the wider Urantia community used to be limited to those who could afford to attend a conference—pay for the plane

ticket, hotel, and get the time off from work. Now it's opened up to anyone who has an internet connection, which still isn't everybody, but it's a lot more equitable."

Topics during the event ranged from presentations directly related to the teachings of *The Urantia Book* (with titles such as, "Evolutionary Timeline" and "Assertiveness 'Jesus Style'"), to group meditations, and a presentation on interfaith activities. They covered a wide panorama of subjects. As Geri Johnson, of Hawaii, put it when she transitioned from the previous presentation to her own, "We are going to go from the global to the personal."

Geri gave her presentation on establishing conversations about spirituality with people. She offered valuable "go-to" questions such as, "What is your faith background and how does that work for you?" People had an opportunity to discuss conversations that they have had with others, during which I learned that I am not the only person to take advantage of the captive audience of a masseuse.

Zooming in from her home in Israel, Sandra Burga-Cisneros shared a presentation on the chemistry of a brain that is under stress and the solution that is found in self-kindness, common humanity, and self-awareness—mindfulness.

Dr. James Perry and Sherry Cathcart Chavis, both in the United States, presented "Brotherly and Fatherly Love During COVID-19." Participants had an opportunity to share the many ways that they continue to serve others while sheltering at home. Sherry made the observation, "This state of affairs has brought out

a level of love and concern and caring for others that should always be present. This can be my attitude every day of my life."

To begin his presentation titled "Self-Control: The Path to Divinity," Luis Morales, of Argentina, led a meditation with beautiful scenery on the screen and his own music to listen to, which he composes under the name Dipti Bhakti. Later in the presentation, participants were treated to a video of his four-month-old baby, who was giggling and kicking his legs, seemingly at random in the way that babies do, and this was used as metaphor for the ways in which we learn to control our own movements—we learn the self-control that is needed for Adjuster fusion.

The presentation that had me

laughing in my head (muted though I was) took place during the time slot attributed to Merritt Horn, though poor Merritt couldn't get a word in edgewise on his own topic. When one presents with such a controversial title as "Is *The Urantia Book* Scripture?," one can only expect to hear everyone give voice to their thoughts.

People have eagerly asked when the next 24-hour event will be, and the Association anticipates hosting them regularly. However, the March and May conferences were held in close succession due to the fact that so many people have been living in isolation; going forward, the Association hopes to schedule these events a few times per year. No events are scheduled yet, but I hope you will join in the next one.



WHAT *THE URANTIA BOOK* MEANS TO ME



By Brad Garner, Arizona,
United States

I am a second-generation, lifelong student of *The Urantia Book*, by way of my parents. Looking back over my life, I can see how the book's meanings have evolved for me. Below is a view into some of what I've figured out. I've divided my life into chapters. Each chapter presents a short quote from *The Urantia Book* that exemplifies that time in my life, and I describe a bit more about what was going on back then.

Primary School

"Your world, Urantia, is one of many similar inhabited planets which comprise the local universe of *Nebadon*." 0:0.5 (1.5) I can't remember a time when I ever believed we're alone in the universe. As a young boy I couldn't read very far into *The Urantia Book*, but I am sure I at least read through page 1 by my eighth year. And I'll bet my parents tried to explain *Nebadon* to me "with a sweep of [their] arm" 93:2.3 (1015.3) across the night sky. Becoming a Star Trek fan was a sure next step.

Secondary School

"Plants and animals survive in time by the technique of passing on from one generation to another identical particles of themselves. The human soul (personality) of man survives mortal death by identity association with this indwelling spark of divinity, which is immortal." 132:3.6 (1459.6) Although I couldn't yet apply philosophical principles to daily living, I was able to read *The Urantia Book* and apparently extract doctrinesque rules for salvation, immortal life, praying, etc. This particular quote is poignant because our family cat and my grandmother both died when I was 16. It was clear I would not see our cat again, but that I would see my grandmother again. For years I wept bitterly for my lost cat; I did not yet grasp any logical, holistic sense of why animals do not share the same destiny as humans.

Undergraduate

"What a travesty upon the infinite character of God! this teaching that his fatherly heart in all its austere coldness and hardness was so untouched by the misfortunes and sorrows of his creatures that his tender mercies were not forthcoming until he saw his blameless Son bleeding and dying upon the cross of Calvary!" 4:5.6 (60.5) My religious zeal kicked in at age 20. I spent hours arguing with Christian proselytizers on campus about the atonement doctrine. I ignored the possibility that the atonement doctrine was one of the compromises of "keen theologic traders," 195:1.4 (2071.4) made as a nod to the ghost cults of evolutionary religion, to gain adherents and establish a solid concept of redemption. Oh! how many

copies of *The Urantia Book* did I shove into uninterested people's hands? How certain am I that not a single one ever was read? I did not yet fully understand how unity among religionists may exist even in the absence of shared doctrines or texts.

Graduate School

I drifted from *The Urantia Book* for years, wandering in a wilderness of vague new-age mystico-secularism of my own imagination's fancy. By my mid-30s this wilderness had sapped the vitality from life. I felt the "frank pessimism" 97:8.2 (1070.5) of King Solomon when in Ecclesiastes he wrote, of life, "Mere smoke! Vanity of vanities! Utterly meaningless!"

Salaried Career Apex

"Even the *work* of this world, paramount though it is, is not nearly so important as the way in which you do this work." 39:4.13 (435.6) A renaissance of *The Urantia Book* in my life coincided with climbing high up the professional career ladder. I subtly incorporated the book into my writings and leadership style at work, to apparent positive effect and remuneration. It seemed a decent way to live. But something was gnawing at me even as I burned the candle at both ends: in retrospect I can see that some selfish part of me was trying to prove myself better than my peers and superiors. Ambition should have been a cautionary word, not an impulse word. "And how dangerous ambition can become when it is once wholly wedded to self-seeking and supremely motivated by sullen and long-suppressed vengeance!" 177:4.10 (1926.3)

Midlife

"Do not become discouraged by the discovery that you are human. . . . Lighten your burdens of soul by speedily acquiring a long-distance view of your destiny, a universe expansion of your career." 156:5.8 (1739.3) Soon after age 40 and the "age of discretion" 107:0.7 (1177.1), something changed. It was almost tangible in my mind. One day I awoke and found my career ambitions had evaporated. And then late that year my father died, leading to a better understanding of my own mortality. I built his eulogy around "in every dark hour, at every crossroad in the forward struggle, the Spirit of Truth will always speak, saying, 'This is the way.'" 34:7.8 (383.2) Less for the funeral audience, perhaps, these words certainly had meaning for me. My life was at a crossroad.

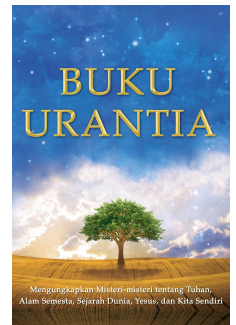
By my 41st birthday I had looked into a mirror darkly: the indolence and selfishness I once thought I saw in coworkers I now saw in myself. By my 42nd birthday I had quit that all-too-comfortable job. Now at age 43 I'm among the self-employed, looking for adventure and community. Perhaps someday I'll better know why a Solitary Messenger uses not one, but two exclamation marks to summarize our ascending careers: "What an adventure! What a romance!" 112:7.18 (1239.7)

Growing up with and (at times) wrestling with *The Urantia Book* has defined my life. I highly recommend such "effort, struggle, conflict, faith, determination, love, loyalty, and progress" 155:5.11 (1729.6) for any sincere student.

Announcements

INDONESIAN TRANSLATION NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

We are excited to announce that the Indonesian translation is now available online at urantia.org/id. Our Indonesian team would love to hear feedback on this work. Please help spread the word to any readers you know, encourage them to visit the site, and send feedback to Tamara Strumfeld at tamara@urantia.org. Thank you!



UPDATES FOR POLISH, FARSI, AND DANISH

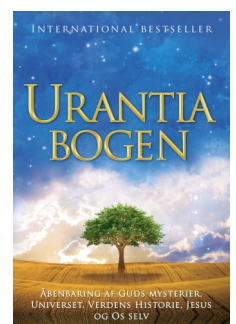
Polish: Thirty-three conversion corrections to scientific measurements were made. The new version is now available online for reading and downloading. [Please click here.](#)



Farsi: This translation is a work in progress. Three new papers have been added and slight revisions throughout the text have been made. The new version is now available online for reading and downloading. [Please click here.](#)



Danish: A missing paragraph was added, and several edits have been made. The new version is now available online for reading and downloading. [Please click here.](#)



GERMAN FACEBOOK PAGE AND THOUGHTS TO PONDER

Urantia Foundation now has a Facebook page in German. Please visit and “Like” the page. If you enjoy what you see, please share the posts with your friends.

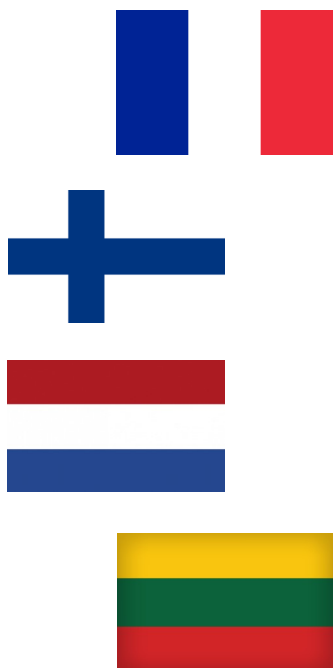
[facebook.com/DieUrantiaStiftung/](https://www.facebook.com/DieUrantiaStiftung/)

Daily Thoughts to Ponder are now available in German. You can sign up here:

<https://www.urantia.org/de/inset/unserer-mailing-liste-beitreten>



TRANSLATOR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



We are looking for volunteers to translate the daily Thoughts to Ponder into the following languages: French, Finnish, Dutch, Lithuanian, Korean, Italian, Polish, Hungarian, Swedish, and Estonian.

If you are interested, please contact Ashley at ashleyt@urantia.org.





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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, Marilyn Kulieke,
Tamara Strumfeld

Contributors: Nugroho Widi, Judy Van
Cleave, Gard Jameson, Alice Wood, Brad
Garner

Production: Urantia Foundation

Urantia Foundation Trustees


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On the web at
www.urantia.org

SPIRITUAL RETREAT

You are invited to join Gard Jameson and Elisabeth Callahan for an online community spiritual retreat on Saturday, July 11, from 11 am to 5:30 pm CDT.

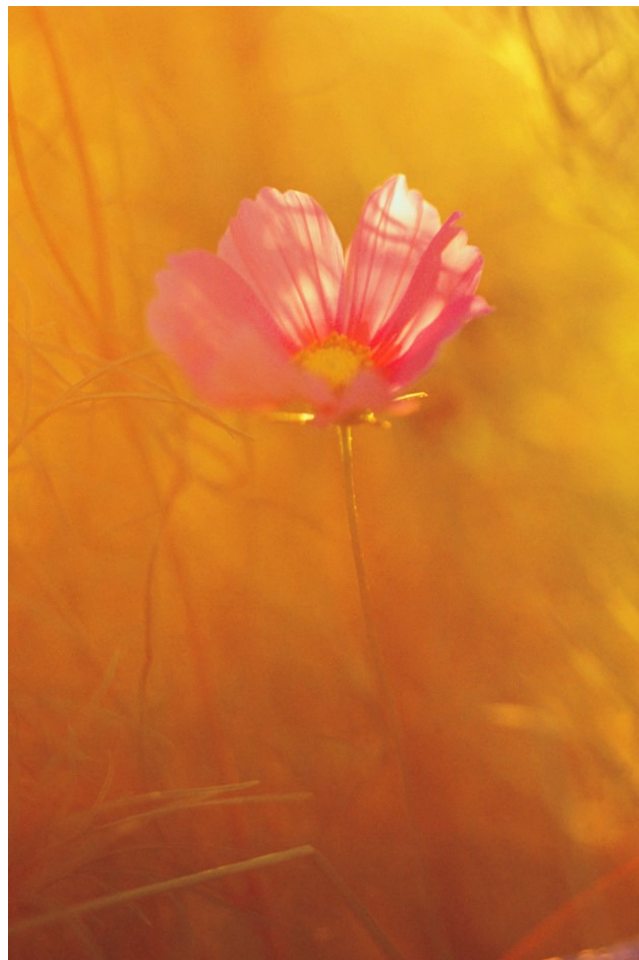
“In each session, we shall learn a contemplative practice that will enhance our spiritual journey.”

Join the Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4797008151>

Meeting ID: 479 700 8151

For more information, [click here](#).



In reality, every human being defines religion in the terms of his own experiential interpretation of the divine impulses emanating from the God spirit that indwells him, and therefore must such an interpretation be unique and wholly different from the religious philosophy of all other human beings.

The Urantia Book,
103:1:1 (1129.8)