

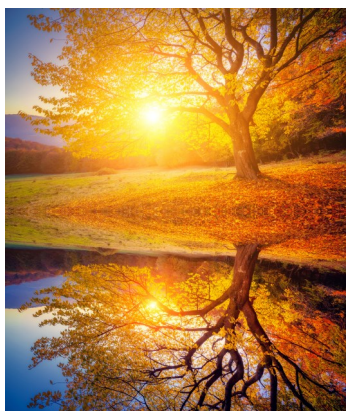


URANTIA FOUNDATION'S NEWS ONLINE



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>The Philippines—Energized by the Spirit of Revelation</i>	1
<i>Updates from the July 2023 Trustee Meeting</i>	3
<i>Contagious Love—A Mustard Seed Grows in Nigeria</i>	5
<i>The Parliament of the World's Religions</i>	6
<i>Remembering Nancy Johnson</i>	7
<i>What The Urantia Book Means to Me</i>	8
<i>Announcements</i>	8



THE PHILIPPINES— ENERGIZED BY THE SPIRIT OF REVELATION



By Belen Asidao, Illinois, United States

Editor's Note: Eugene and Belen Asidao began their personal outreach program in their native country of the Philippines in 2014. Urantia Foundation has supported their efforts through the donation of hundreds of Urantia Books. Thanks to Eugene and Belen's generous and selfless service, the local readership has grown steadily, and the Filipino translation team continues to make steady progress.

It is with pleasure that I report on several exciting activities that have taken place this year.

The early months of 2023 found us in the less traveled roads of the southern Philippines to donate books from Urantia Foundation. Wider roads with four lanes are uncommon, but the streets of Davao City are quite impressive. Our spirited Urantia Book reader host was happy to meet us, as we had not seen one another for a long time.

With three other readers,

we first went to a public library, where the librarian welcomed us. Next was the city hall, where one of their friends, a local official, happily accepted the donated copy of *The Urantia Book*. One of the bigger universities around the area, the University of Mindanao-Digos, also now enjoys some of the donated books.

All of the recipients asked questions and listened attentively to what we shared from this amazing book.

We are pleased to report that we have launched five study groups in different parts of the country and related activities



Bacolod City, Philippines

for children. While kids have always accompanied the adults to their study group meetings, be it in person or via Zoom, suddenly they wanted their own study group! Their first activity was on April 9, Easter Sunday. They meet weekly to study *The Untold Story of Jesus* to begin with. This book is drawn from Part IV of *The Urantia Book*. In time, their facilitator will introduce the papers from Parts I, II, and III.

share some pictures collected from Bicol (a region in the Philippines encompassing the southern part of Luzon Island and nearby island provinces), Palawan (an archipelagic province located in the region of Mimaropa, and the largest in terms of total area), Digos (the capital of the province of Davao del Sur), and Bacolod (the capital of the province of Negros Occidental).

Five groups of Urantia Book readers gathered on August 21 to celebrate the birthday of Jesus of Nazareth over two thousand years ago. Talks were given on how the tradition of Christmas on December 25 came about, and how the fifth epochal revelation exquisitely shows us how celestial beings prepared for the arrival of Christ Michael on Urantia. Celebrations included prayers before the communal meal, as well as children's songs and dances. The combination of traditional Christmas decor with that of "the new Christmas" brought a soft shift in consciousness.

Our service adventure continues this fall. Eugene and I recently returned to the Philippines to continue supporting study groups and the readership at large. And thanks to Urantia Foundation, 200 more Urantia Books just arrived for us to place in libraries.

Above all, Urantia Book readers in the Philippines are energized by the spirit of giving and sharing. A palpable sense of brotherhood and sisterhood under the fatherhood of God pervades the air!

Our various Urantia Book study groups would love to



University of Mindanao—Digos



Jesus' Birthday, Digos City



200 Urantia Books



University of Mindanao—Digos



Jesus' Birthday

UPDATES FROM THE JULY 2023 TRUSTEE MEETING



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

Operations Overview

Books

Sales of *The Urantia Book* this year have experienced a slowdown. While there was a surge in sales during the COVID period, they have since dropped to the pre-COVID level. We are hopeful that this six-month decrease does not indicate a long-term trend. For the first two quarters of 2023, we have distributed 11,717 Urantia Books. This includes physical books, digital books, and outreach books. Despite

the challenges mentioned above, our team remains committed to enhancing distribution efforts.

Audio Book Enablement Project

Under the guidance of associate trustee Marcel Peereboom, whose hands-on management was instrumental, we've made significant strides in the Audio Enablement Project.

In Q2, Marcel gathered feedback from over a dozen volunteers who listened to synthesized voices in six languages. The objective was to identify accent-neutral and enjoyable voices for the audiobooks. Furthermore, the quality of our English audiobook was enhanced. This involved remastering human-spoken audio to improve its fidelity and ensure it plays at the correct speed.

In January 2024, new and updated audiobooks in English, French, Portuguese, Estonian,

Hungarian, Spanish, Polish, German, and Dutch will be available. These audio recordings will be free downloads at Urantia.org.

Thanks to everyone involved for their dedication and hard work.

Book Printings

In Q2, 3,000 English hardcovers and 2,000 English paperbacks were printed. In the coming quarter we will be printing more English, French, Polish, and Spanish books.



Education

- The April trimester of Urantia Book International School (UBIS) ended on July 2. A total of 17 online classes were offered to 215 enrolled students. Courses in seven languages were facilitated by 20 volunteer teacher-facilitators. In

addition to the regular online courses, UBIS continued the new Spotlight Series. A total of 18 sessions (6 each) have been offered by the English, French, and Spanish branches. They will resume in October.



- The Education Committee announced plans for a Marriage and Family Symposium on Friday, June 14, and Saturday, June 15, 2024. The event will be held live on Zoom Events, and presentations will be developed by a planning team. Bill and Share Beasley will serve as emcees. For information, contact joanne@urantia.org.



- Members of the Urantia Study Group Directory committee excitedly entered its new era of database cleanup! The process has been automated, relieving the team of time-consuming manual labor. As always, the team expressed appreciation of its three sponsoring organizations: The Urantia Book Fellowship, represented



by Jackie Koury; Urantia Association International, represented by Rick Lyon; and Urantia Foundation, represented by Tamara Strumfeld. Bill Beasley serves as committee chair, and Scott Brooks manages the website.

Fundraising and Finances

- Donations—Q2 unrestricted donations were 47% below Q2 of 2022 and were 48% below budget.
- Restricted donations were 55% below Q2 of 2022 but significantly above budget.
- Estate gifts—Q2 estate gifts totaled \$176,000.
- Total income decreased by 50% compared to Q2 of 2022, but came in 9% above the projected budget.
- Administrative expenses declined by 3% compared to Q2 of last year and were 2% below budget.
- Total expenses decreased by 2% from Q2 of last year and were 8% under budget.



Mustard Seed Grants Program

Mustard Seed Grants Program (MSGP)

The second and final round of the 2023 Mustard Seed Grants Program (MSGP) was initiated on Monday, July 10. MSGP plans to fund projects totaling \$44,000 for this round, bringing the combined total for rounds 1 and 2 to

\$100,000. Individual applicants are eligible to request up to \$7,500. The application window closed on August 21, with award announcements scheduled for October 24, 2023. For more information, visit <https://www.urantia.org/urantia-foundation/mustard-seed-grants-program>

The board extends its heartfelt gratitude:

- To the Jameson Foundation for their generous funding of the MSGP.
- To Sherry Cathcart Chavis for her outstanding leadership.
- To Geri Johnson, Share Beasley, and Minoo Claire for their administrative support during our monthly meetings. A special nod to Minoo for the logo design.
- To Marie White and Tamara Strumfeld for overseeing the Round 2 online processes and financial aspects.
- And to our project officers who provide unwavering support to awardees as their projects take shape.

Translations

Georges Michelson-Dupont submitted his 99th translation report in July! It included reports by the Chinese, Esperanto, Farsi, and Filipino translations and teams, as well as the Portuguese revision team.



Marilynn Kulieke added that she is truly impressed by the spirit of cooperation shown by the many translators and revisors who share our mission to bring *The Urantia Book* to all peoples of the world.

New! A Library of Translations and Revisions of *The Urantia Book*

The Board of Trustees is excited to announce the establishment of a digital Library of Translations and Revisions of *The Urantia Book*. This decision

followed months of thoughtful deliberation.

The new library will be a one-stop hub featuring prior Urantia Foundation translations and revisions and non-Urantia Foundation translations provided by the copyright holders. We firmly believe it's in our trust to consolidate and digitally present these translations in a single, accessible location. We anticipate the library being constructed and operational by later next year.

We anticipate the digital Library of Translations being constructed and operational by later next year.

One Revelation—Many Languages



CONTAGIOUS LOVE—A MUSTARD SEED GROWS IN NIGERIA



By Emeka Anazodo, Lagos State, Nigeria

Editor's Note: Emeka was a recipient of the first round of Mustard Seed Grant awards on behalf of the Urantia Peace Initiative. He proposed an annual conference in Lagos, Nigeria, with the goals of consolidating the reader base in Nigeria and fostering meetings between truth seekers and Urantia Book readers.

I am pleased to report on the recent Urantia conference held in Lagos, Nigeria, on September 1–2. The theme was “Contagious Love,” and the event attracted 63 participants in person and more than 10 viewers via live stream. While some of the logistics proved challenging, due partly to heavy rains, I think it was a very successful conference! We met our three major objectives, which were:

1. To bring together in one place longtime readers and

Urantia Book study group members who are scattered across Nigeria, to get to know one another, deliberate on the objectives of the revelators of *The Urantia Book*, and find common ground to work together in the dissemination of its teachings.

2. To bring together members of the public, especially youth, and introduce them to the teachings through the conference activities.

3. To provide free copies of *The Urantia Book* to leaders and new readers.

The Urantia Peace Initiative (UPI) is registered as a non-governmental organization with the aims and objectives of 1) fostering peace and unity among all people irrespective of culture, religion, tribe, or color and 2) introducing the teachings of *The Urantia Book* to all interested people.

This conference provided a forum for us to reunite and bond. Collins Lomo, Urantia Association International's Continental Coordinator for Africa, and Khatukhira Bernard of Urantia Foundation's Urantia Book International School (UBIS) traveled great distances from Ghana and Uganda respectively to be a part of our event. Collins served as emcee.

Other African presenters included Charity Charles, Shola Agagu, David Onche, Chike Martins, Daniels Hussaini, Samuel Benson, and Maya Anazodo. Together we deliberated on the following topics:

- Why are we disseminating *The Urantia Book*, and what are our different approaches?
- The value of personal experience and music in ministry.
- The Publication Mandate, and the need for study groups.
- The need for a central Urantia library in Nigeria.

UPI is grateful for the financial support it received from the Mustard Seed Grants Program of Urantia Foundation. We are also grateful to the Urantia Book Fellowship's International Committee for providing part of the matching funds that made this event possible. And last, but certainly not least, UPI wishes to wholeheartedly thank all participants of this event for making it informative as well as enjoyable!

“Love is only born of thoroughgoing understanding of your neighbor's motives and sentiments.”
100:4:6 (1098.3)



Shola Agagu



Collins Lomo



Daniels Hussaini

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS



By Carolyn "Carrie"
Prentice, Colorado, United States

Editor's Note: The first Parliament of the World's Religions was held during the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. It was hosted by Swedenborgians, whose theology and vision were inclusive enough to bring together the religions of the world—from East and West—to dialogue with each other for the first time in history.

Since that time, modern Parliament convenings have attracted participants from more than 200 diverse religious, indigenous, and secular beliefs and more than 80 nations to its international gatherings in Chicago (1993), Cape Town (1999), Barcelona (2004), Melbourne (2009), Salt Lake City (2015), Toronto (2018), and virtually (2021). The Parliament returned to its Chicago birthplace in August.

Longtime readers Carrie and Jerry Prentice traveled by train from their new

home in Colorado to attend the Parliament and worked with other volunteers at the Urantia Book booth.

Attending a Parliament of the World's Religions (PoWR) feels a bit like winning the Triple Crown. They are the world's oldest, largest, and most inclusive gatherings of the global interfaith movement. And you can partake of the convening on different scales—big, small, and individual.

It features many religious leaders from around the world offering encouragement and insights in a big venue hall with multiple screens so that everyone in the audience can see and hear the speakers.

On the smaller side, PoWR offers a multitude of shorter and more intimate breakout sessions where people can meet to discuss specific ideas and problems, take part in Dances of World Peace, or meditate together in different ways.

And when attendees want to get up and move around and engage in personal conversations, they can go to what I think of as a Trade Show of Religions, where rows of booths offer books, objects, and other

wares, as well as one-on-one interactions with people of different faiths.

My husband Jerry and I spent most of our time at the Urantia Book booth, talking with people who were drawn to the beautiful artwork of the booth's backdrop. Designed by Gary Tonge, it features pictures from the four parts of *The Urantia Book*. Many passersby commented on the beauty and appeal of our booth.

As in previous years, responsibility for the double booth was shared by four Urantia organizations—Truthbook, Urantia Association International, The Urantia Book Fellowship, and Urantia Foundation. Volunteers took turns working at the booth, where we all fielded questions, sold books at a reduced price, and handed out customized booklets, bookmarks, and an assortment of quote-based postcards.

The overall theme of the PoWR—A Call to Conscience: Defending Freedom & Human Rights—addressed many of the critical issues that the world faces today, including climate change and the environment, recognition of indigenous cultures, empowerment of women, the Divine Feminine, diversity, and unequal distribution of wealth and resources. Founded on the recognition of the whole human family, PoWR focused on inclusion and contemplation of the Divine.

As Jerry reflected after coming home, "The Parliament of the World's Religions is doing what *The Urantia Book* tells us we should be doing," which is communicating that the core truths in all religions are exactly the truth, beauty, and goodness that the revelators exhort us to value.



Urantia Book booth

REMEMBERING NANCY JOHNSON

By *Urantia Foundation staff*

Nancy was a woman who was so unique that it is hard to describe her. Strong-minded in her beliefs, a friend to many, a leader in the Dallas–Fort Worth Urantia community, and a scholar of *The Urantia Book*, she was dedicated to serving the Urantia Revelation.

Nancy was an original member of the Standard Reference Text (SRT) Committee, a group that was formed in 2007 with the purpose of working together to eliminate known typographical errors and to create a standard text which Urantia Foundation and the Urantia Book Fellowship could publish with the assurance that it was as close as possible to the text originally composed by its authors.

There were six charter members, three each from each organization. Nancy represented the Fellowship and worked with Merritt Horn to help document the corrections that were made after the first printing of *The Urantia Book*. Fellow committee member Marilynn Kulieke observed, “Nancy was amazing in her research for references that became the foundation for our committee’s work.”

Nancy’s time working on the SRT was limited due to her deteriorating eyesight. Eventually her sight was gone, yet her faith in the



Nancy Johnson

revelation of God and his universe remained steady and illuminated her path into darkness.

Jesus said to a blind man that he met on his way to Jerusalem, “You shall receive your sight; go your way; your faith has made you whole.” 171:5.3 (1873.3) Said Marilynn, “I believe that Nancy’s faith made her whole, and I will never forget the gifts she gave us in her perseverance, scholarship, and love of the revelation.”

Jay Peregrine, former executive director of Urantia Foundation, reminisced about working with Nancy on the SRT project. “She was always an even match for minds such as Merritt Horn’s and was a keen stickler for details even as she struggled with her sight issues.”

He continued, “At the time the SRT represented a healing process between the Urantia Book Fellowship and Urantia Foundation. Rather than fight about the ‘correct’ version of the

book, we decided to work together to create the best standard text that we could. Nancy wholeheartedly joined the collaborative effort and was a joy to work with. I will always recall her stimulating presence of mind and loving personality.”

Foundation staff member Cece Forrester recalls serving with Nancy on the Fellowship’s Publications Committee when Linda Buselli was chair. She has fond memories of wide-ranging discussions in lunch meetings at Techny Towers, of which Nancy’s witty remarks were a frequent highlight.

Cece also remembers Nancy as a welcoming hostess to readers visiting from out of town. “I once made the trip to Dallas by train for a General Council meeting,” recalls Cece. “Nancy kindly offered to meet me at the station. She recruited a friend to do the driving, and before delivering me to the meeting site, took us on a quick tour. She made a special stop at Dealey Plaza so I could see the historic site—I especially wanted to know what the grassy knoll looked like—with my own eyes.”

Click here to learn about the Standard Reference Text:

<https://www.urantia.org/urantia-book/what-is-the-standard-reference-text?term=SRT>

Nancy was amazing in her research for references that became the foundation for our committee’s work.

WHAT *THE URANTIA BOOK* MEANS TO ME



By Doug McKeever, Illinois, United States

Editor's Note: Readers who wish to receive "Thoughts to Ponder" may subscribe to the daily uplifting quote by visiting the Foundation homepage and selecting it from the email list options.

I've been a reader of *The Urantia Book* since the mid-1970s and have become reliant on the "Thoughts to

Ponder" daily messages that arrive in the early morning hours. As a dedicated Urantia Book reader and supporter, I thank Urantia Foundation for this daily inspiration to wake up to.

My brother introduced me to the book around 1974 while we were growing up in Montana. When I moved to Chicago in 1987, one of the first things I did was walk to Urantia Foundation's headquarters on Diversey and purchase a copy of my very own, which I cherish to this day.

It is a common experience for readers to have read a passage many times over and yet find that each time something new will stand out and add to the power of the message. I've found that "Thoughts to Ponder" brings this experience to me on a daily basis as I incorporate it into my

reading—or rather, hearing.

I have formed the habit of listening to the audio version of *The Urantia Book*. I find that hearing spoken words heightens details and illustrations in a powerful way, not to mention allowing me to put on my headset and listen while I go about my daily routine. I take each day's thought as a new entry point to the book as I listen to the section or paper from which it is drawn.

There are special papers I return to over and over because they refresh and recalibrate me throughout ongoing spiritual resets—and always settle me according to what I need at the time. My baseline references are: Papers 91 to 103 on religion and prayer; Papers 107 to 112 on that voice deep within (the Thought Adjuster); a beautiful summary of a

philosophy of living in Paper 160; and cosmic answers to the question "Why is it so hard to become more advanced?" in Paper 106.

At this time, my freestyle reading of *The Urantia Book* has landed squarely on Part IV, "The Life and Teachings of Jesus," Reading Part IV helps me to live more fearlessly and to cope by viewing things with a long view. It is a road map to eternal life, the very same "how-tos" that Jesus taught the multitudes.

Waking up to "Thoughts to Ponder" equips me first thing as I progress little by little, a day at a time, one kind gesture leading to another. Fortunately, having the book front and center at the start of every single day has really made my life more wide-eyed, heartfelt, and honest—internally, spiritually, and personally.

Announcements



Are you tired of studying *The Urantia Book* by yourself?
Join a study group today! <https://www.urantiastudygroup.org/en>

Sponsored by Urantia Foundation, The Urantia Book Fellowship, and Urantia Association International



Urantia Foundation Education Committee
Presents

The Marriage and Family Adventure! An Online Symposium **Friday and Saturday, June 14-15, 2024**

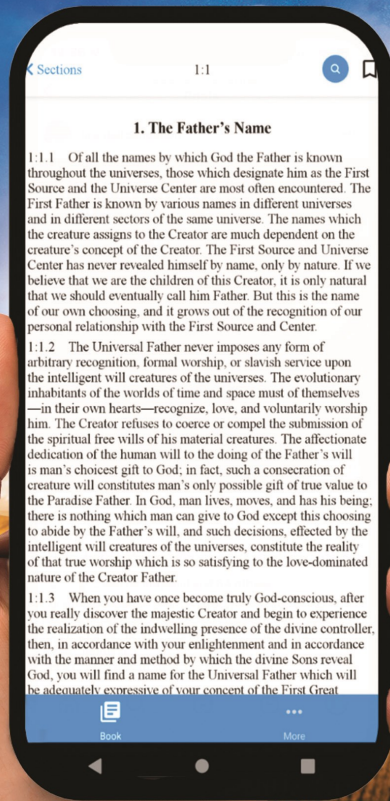
Join us as we examine the rich tapestry of marriage and family as viewed in *The Urantia Book*, academia, and personal experience. This enlightening and comprehensive series of presentations will explore the multifaceted aspects of relationships, unions, and familial dynamics.

Our goal is to offer inspiration and guidance for individuals and families seeking to navigate the complexities of human relationships. They are the most spiritual of adventures.

Each session will be 30 minutes long, followed by a 30-minute discussion period. For added flavor emcees Bill and Share Beasley will sprinkle bits of experiential wisdom and humor throughout the event.

If you are interested in presenting a session during this important symposium, please send your ideas and qualifications to joanne@urantia.org. Couples and co-presenters are encouraged!

URANTIA BOOK ANDROID APP



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20 languages



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Volume 17, Issue 3. October 2023

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NATURE AND NURTURE OF THE SOUL



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Make us ever and increasingly like yourself
And at our end receive us into the eternal Paradise embrace.

Even so, in the name of the bestowal Son
And for the honor and glory of the Supreme Father.

The Urantia Book, 144:5.104 (1624.7)