

URANTIA FOUNDATION'S NEWS ONLINE



THE URANTIA BOOK— INVEST IN A BRIGHTER FUTURE!

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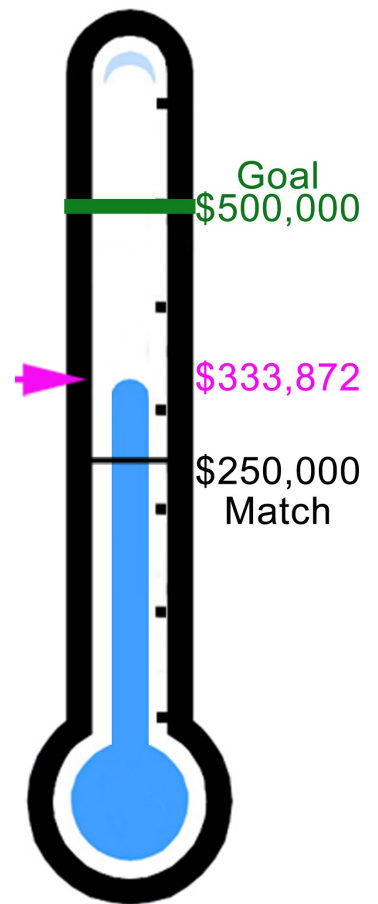


By Mo Siegel, president, Urantia Foundation, on behalf of the Board of Trustees

Our civilization stands at a pivotal crossroads, and your support of Urantia Foundation's work will create meaningful change. *The Urantia Book* presents a visionary path forward, offering profound spiritual insights and practical solutions to guide humanity toward an era of peace, unity, and enlightened progress. Your donation will spread this transformative message to a world hungry for hope and direction. Together, we can inspire a brighter future for all.

Your contribution matters now more than ever. With your support, we can spread these teachings and help guide a brighter future.

Double Your Impact: Thanks to five generous donors pledging \$250,000, every dollar you give will be matched! Please join us by December 31, 2024, to reach our goal. Your donation supports **translations, education, book distribution at affordable prices, and outreach**—an investment in a more enlightened world.



Thank you for your continued support. May the love of our heavenly Father bring peace to you and your family this season!

[Donate Now](#)

UPDATES FROM THE OCTOBER 2024 TRUSTEE MEETING



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

Operations Overview

The Expanded Board of Trustees convened at Urantia Foundation for the final quarterly meeting of 2024. What a pleasure it was to welcome the four new associates for their first board meeting: Joyce Anderson from New York, United States; Collins Lomo from Accra, Ghana; Tom Sadler from Illinois, United States; and Richard Zhu from London, United Kingdom.

Five-Year Planning

The expanded board spent an entire day strategically planning goals for the next five years. With creativity blended with practicality, we look forward to finalizing the goals and the course of action by April 2025.

Books

Urantia Foundation's book business showed strong growth for the third quarter and year to date



Joyce Anderson



Collins Lomo



Tom Sadler



Richard Zhu

(YTD). Total book distribution in Q3 was up 27% over Q2 2023, and YTD book distribution was up 15%. English sales performed exceptionally well, with a significant 28% increase in Q3 and a 16% increase YTD. French, Hungarian, and Spanish sales were also up notably.

Overall, 58,907 Urantia Books (downloads included) have been sent into the world this year, and the team will continue its work to increase distribution next quarter.

Education

The Urantia Book International School (UBIS) continues to harmonize the various language branches to help them function more uniformly. The first course in Chinese will be offered in the January trimester. Richard Zhu will be selecting students and plans to begin with a study of the Universal Father. This course will bring the number of languages in which courses are offered at UBIS to eight.

Gard Jameson reported that a copy editor has been retained to edit *A Narrative History of The Urantia Book*. He shared that it is a project passed on from Carolyn Kendall. Marilynn Kulieke added that it is an evolutionary project that grows and changes as we learn more.



Carolyn Kendall

Tamara Strumfeld reported on the activities of the Urantia Study Group Directory. The team continues to upgrade the site and recently moved to a larger hosting farm that can accommodate the growing needs of the directory. As a reminder, if you have not registered your study group, please do so at urantiastudygroup.org.

Fundraising and Finances

- Q3 unrestricted donations were 18% below Q3 of 2023 and 19% below Q3 budget.
- Restricted donations were 95% below Q3 of 2023 and 60% above Q3 budget.
- Q3 estate gifts totaled \$3,000.
- Total income decreased 37% compared to Q3 of 2023 and was 14% under budget.
- Administrative expenses increased by 19% compared to Q3 of last year but were 3% below budget.

- Total expenses increased by 4% from Q3 of 2023 and were 13% under budget.

2025 Budget

Tamara Strumfeld and Gard Jameson presented and reviewed the proposed 2025 budget in detail. For the benefit of the new associate trustees, Gard expounded upon the Foundation's guiding policy CAMP (Conservatism, Aspirational, Mission Driven, and Process) for budget development. The budget was approved, and all are anticipating good work next year to further the mission of seeding *The Urantia Book* and its teachings globally.

Mustard Seed Grants Program

The board approved the following five grants for the second round of 2024.



1. Urantia Book Teacher Education Program

- **Applicant:** Urantia University Institute
- **Country:** United States
- **Focus Area:** Education



2. Ireland Library Urantia Book Placement

- **Applicant:** Hawaii Urantia Local Association
- **Country:** Ireland
- **Focus Area:** Library Placement



3. Urantia Book Kitchen Table Education Series

- **Applicant:** The Urantia Book Fellowship
- **Country:** United States
- **Focus Area:** Education



4. Urantia Spiritual Songs

- **Applicant:** Marti Garlow Leib
- **Country:** United States
- **Focus Area:** Music, Art, Film



5. Experiential Study Group

- **Applicant:** Carmela Flores
- **Country:** The Philippines
- **Focus Area:** Education

Cultural Advisory Council

Ms. Samrawit Muluneh treated the board to a vibrant and colorful presentation on Ethiopia's rich and fascinating history. The last several minutes of the presentation were filled with inquiries from board members to which she most graciously responded. Read Samrawit's article [in this issue.](#)

Translations

Georges Michelson-Dupont presented his 104th translation report. He touched on Esperanto and applauded the completion of the Farsi translation. The team working on the Filipino translation just finished Paper 67. Jay Peregrine also reported on the work done to maintain text integrity in the

Foundation's translation software system. Lastly, the Chinese translation in simplified characters was discussed. There has been growth in the readership with study groups across platforms like Facebook, WeChat, YouTube, and a public channel in Singapore.

Website

Tamara Strumfeld reported that the biggest news for Q3 was the successful launch of the Foundation's new website in early July. With new sites, stats always drop due to content and URL changes. It takes time for the Google bot to re-index all of the content. It's estimated that the "spidering" of a new site could take 6-8 months. Meanwhile, improvements will be ongoing.

The biggest news for Q3 was the successful launch of the Foundation's new website in early July.



Awash National Park, Ethiopia

A FOND FAREWELL TO THE FINNISH BRANCH OFFICE

By Urantia Foundation Staff

Long before the age of the internet, Foundation staff relied on written and telephonic correspondence with contacts around the world. It wasn't until the early 1990s that most offices began taking advantage of the World Wide Web, which made accessing information and connecting online much more user friendly for the average person.

During this same time period, new translations of *The Urantia Book* were becoming available. International book distribution was tricky and best left to regional centers. In the early 1990s it made sense for Urantia Foundation to create branch offices for book sales and distribution. The Foundation saw its role as being that of a facilitator and coordinator, for "that state is best which coordinates most while governing least." 71:3.9 (803:9)

The first of five regional offices was established in Australia in 1992, managed by Trevor and Kathleen Swadling. The following year, an office was opened in England. Chris and Tina Moseley worked closely with bookstores to ensure a ready supply of Urantia Books to readers throughout the United Kingdom.

In 1993, the Finnish branch office was established in Helsinki to serve readers in Finland, Sweden, and Estonia, later adding

Norway and Denmark. It was managed by Seppo Kanerva and Seppo Niskanen.

The final two regional offices were opened in 1999 to serve the Canadian provinces. The Vancouver office was managed by Nathen and Kassandra Jansen, and the Quebec City office, managed by Richard Dore and Colette Peltier, handled business for French-speaking readers.

For various reasons, the regional offices closed down one by one, but the Finnish office remained open until now. Over the years management shifted to Kristina and Pekka Siikala, then Kalevi Eklöf and his wife Marja-Leena, and then Tapio Pulli. Their work extended to far more than book sales and distribution. It sounds glib to say it's the end of an era, but in the case of the Finnish regional office it is true.

Here is a personal message from Tapio:

"I have been a reader of *The Urantia Book* since 1987. As a young man I participated in the process of starting the Finnish Urantia Association and served on its governing board, mostly as the treasurer. I well remember an earlier visit by a group of readers from the United States who promoted *The Urantia Book*. The most sympathetic and distinctive of them was Richard Keeler. In later years we would enjoy his banjo



Seppo Kanerva



Kalevi Eklöf



Seppo Niskanen



Marja-Leena Eklöf



Kristina Siikala



Tapio Pulli



Pekka Siikala



Richard Keeler

playing and singing. He even managed to get us timid Finnish readers to sing along with him. And that is a lot!

"For the last 10 years, I ran the Finnish branch office of Urantia Foundation by selling books, mostly the Finnish translation. Now

that the second edition has been printed, the book has a new distributor, Ultra-lehti.

"It has been a valuable experience for me to know the first Finnish readers who were reading the book since the middle of the 1960s. We humans usually

admire and appreciate pioneers, but I assume that based on future historic perspectives, we will all be considered pioneers. The message of the book is still taking its baby steps.

"Recently I have been thinking about the glad tidings in the gospel of

Jesus. We are all partners in the great plan that is to be as perfect as our Creator. Our task is to find higher values through our own experience. In this plan we even are potential co-creators. What a message of joy for us all to share!"

THE CULTURAL ADVISORY COUNCIL WELCOMES ETHIOPIA



By Samrawit Muluneh,
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Editor's Note: The Cultural Advisory Council was established to enhance the cultural wisdom and awareness of the Foundation's dissemination efforts while acquainting council members with the work of Urantia Foundation, so that both may better serve the readership within their cultures.

Samrawit lives in Ethiopia, and is a mathematics teacher. She discovered The Urantia Book in 2020 and has since sought to connect with fellow readers across Ethiopia and Africa. She has worked closely with various individuals like Pato Banton to ensure wider access to the book, distributing many copies to people across Ethiopia. In

addition to her passion for the revelation, Samrawit is a dedicated mindfulness meditation practitioner and trainer, having led a meditation session at the Ghana Urantia Africa Conference.

Samrawit joins Khatukhira Bernard of Uganda, Jisoo Han of South Korea and Felipe Arrigorriaga of Chile on the Cultural Advisory Council.

Ethiopia often conjures up images of Emperor Haile Selassie, reggae music, Arabica coffee, the *Australopithecus afarensis* skeleton named Lucy, and *Raiders of the Lost Ark*.

Ethiopian Christians have long claimed that the Ark of the Covenant rests in a chapel in the small town of Aksum, in the country's northern highlands. Tradition holds that the Queen of Sheba went to Israel to visit King Solomon and returned home pregnant. She gave birth to King Menelik I, who visited his father and brought the ark home to Ethiopia. You might know us as the land of Cush, which is mentioned in the Bible 38 times.

Ethiopia has a rich and interesting history that dates back thousands of years. It also has a rich religious landscape. The Ethiopian Orthodox Church plays a significant role in the culture and identity of many Ethiopians. It is known for its unique traditions, colorful festivals, and the practice of fasting.

Christianity entered Ethiopia in the fourth century AD, when, according to Acts 8, an angel told Philip to travel south from Jerusalem to Gaza. There he encountered a eunuch, a court official of the Queen of Ethiopia, who was seated in his chariot, reading the

Book of Isaiah. Philip told him that the scripture was about Jesus, the eunuch asked to be baptized, and the rest is history.

Islam has a long history in Ethiopia as well. When the prophet Muhammad sent the first Muslims, including his own daughter, King Ella Tsaham received them warmly and allowed them to exercise their religion freely. There are many traditional ethnic groups who maintain indigenous beliefs and practices that coexist peacefully with Christianity and Islam.

Located in the Horn of Africa, Ethiopia is a landlocked country



The Garima Gospels, the world's earliest surviving illuminated Christian manuscript, housed in Adwa, Ethiopia.

bordered by Eritrea, Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan, and Kenya. It features diverse landscapes, including the Highlands, often referred to as the "Roof of Africa," due to their rugged mountains and plateaus. We also have lowlands, such as Dallol, the lowest place in Ethiopia. The Rift Valley runs through the country, creating unique ecosystems and rich agricultural land. And then there is Lake Tana, the largest lake in the country, and the Blue Nile, which is a major tributary of the Nile River.

Ethiopia has the second-largest population in Africa after Nigeria. Home to over 80 distinct ethnic groups, it is one of the most ethnically

diverse countries in Africa. It has a unique calendar, as well as its own alphabets and numbers. The rock-hewn churches of Lalibela, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, are considered one of Ethiopia's greatest architectural achievements.

Ethiopia is the only country in Africa that was never colonized! Our national language is Amharic, but many other languages, such as Oromo, Tigrinya, and Somali, are widely spoken.

English is taught in schools, but only 10% of the population can read and understand it. As a rule, Ethiopians are not big readers. Nevertheless, I bring *The Urantia Book* with



Solomon receives the Queen of Sheba by Robert Leinweber

me whenever I travel, and I continue to share it with others.

I am pleased to serve on the Foundation's Cultural Advisory Council. Ethiopia's rich tapestry of history, culture, and natural beauty

make it a fascinating country with a unique identity in Africa and the world. While I would not be qualified to do this work myself, I hope that someday *The Urantia Book* will be translated into Amharic.

MUSTARD SEED GRANT PROJECT— URANTIA BOOK OUTREACH IN NIGERIA



By Karo Akamune,
Maryland, United States

Editor's Note: Karo, the global lead coordinator of the Christ Michael Center, was a recipient of the first round of Mustard Seed Grant awards in 2024. He shares his completed project of outreach in Africa.

The Christ Michael Center was founded in 2014 and has been in operation for 10 years. Our highest purpose is to learn and understand the undiluted gospel of Jesus, and to bring his message of love to the ends of the earth. Once we have wholeheartedly embraced the Master's teachings, loving social service projects become a natural, organic outcome. Our goal is to bring the gospel of love, grace, and truth to every single country on the planet!

Over time we have built a community of faith-liberated souls eager to touch lives. We currently have over 20 groups across seven countries: Ghana, Jamaica, Nigeria, South

Africa, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States. Groups are run by coordinators who meet on WhatsApp, Google Meet, or sometimes face-to-face.

Cell groups cultivate a vision to perform loving service—any valuable project that will be a blessing to the general community. Visions include a Urantia Book Training Center (a one-year intensive training), drug rehabilitation center, marriage counseling center, healthcare clinic, and an orphanage. We also rely heavily on social media to spread the teachings of *The Urantia Book* to over 100 countries around the world.

The Urantia Book Café in Eku, Nigeria, is an example of a successful vision. The café has a library which includes several copies of *The Urantia Book*, a reading room, and a hall equipped with desktop computers for lessons in information technology. We provide free internet and training for web development, coding, and programming. Occasionally we distribute



laptops and tablets to empower our trainees to start their own small businesses.

The café has been a huge draw. People come in to make use of the library and acquire computer skills and then get exposed to the fifth epochal revelation. Not only are we attracting new readers, the Urantia Book Café has had an impact on the lives of hundreds of people since its inception in 2022.

The book tells us in Paper 56 that “Love is the desire to do good to others.” 56:10.21 (648.4) Thanks to the Mustard Seed Grant, we received 50 paperback Urantia Books from Urantia Foundation. We already have twelve brothers and sisters eager to receive their own copy. We are confident that these books will someday enhance the spiritual lives of 50 Nigerian sons and daughters of God!



MUSTARD SEED GRANT— 2024 NIGERIAN URANTIA CONFERENCE



By Emeka Anazodo, Oke Eletu, Nigeria

Editor's Note: Emeka, on behalf of the Urantia Peace Initiative, was a recipient of the first round of Mustard Seed Grant awards in 2024. The following article is excerpted from his report on the 2024 Nigerian Urantia Conference. The theme was "Ubuntu—The Brotherhood of Man."

Awareness of *The Urantia Book* has been growing in Nigeria. In 2022 the Urantia Peace Initiative hosted its first Urantia conference in Lagos, Nigeria, with the theme "Religion of the Spirit," where we gave out 60 copies of *The Urantia Book*. Thanks to a Mustard Seed Grant from Urantia Foundation, we were able to host a second conference in Lagos last year, with the theme "Contagious Love," which brought Urantia Book readers and leaders together from across Nigeria. A documentary on *The Spirit of Ubuntu*, compiled by Pato Banton

and Antoinette Rootsdawtah, was screened in Lagos in April of this year. These events have contributed immensely to a remarkable surge of interest in *The Urantia Book* among truth seekers in Nigeria.

The theme of this year's conference and presentation topics was carefully chosen, incorporating a rich tapestry of Nigerian religions and philosophies. The objective was to further the aims and consolidate the gains of last year's event. To this extent the program was very successful. It provided fertile ground for many curious and spiritually inclined individuals to relish in the unique perspectives presented by *The Urantia Book*.

Presentations included "What is *The Urantia Book*?" by eighteen-year-old Maya Anazodo. Emmanuel Ajewole spoke on "The Goal of Human Civilization." "My Experience with Practicing the Teachings of *The Urantia Book*" was presented by Shola Agagu, a visually impaired Urantia leader and music instructor who often speaks at local Urantia events.

Tosin Oyewole delivered a talk on "Ubuntu and the Spiritual Fruits" in which she explored the interconnectedness of Ubuntu philosophy and the cultivation of spiritual

virtues in individual and communal life.

My own presentations included "Ubuntu—The Brotherhood of Man," "The Need for Peace Initiatives in Today's World," and "The Art of Manifestation" which explored energy, mind, and matter as taught by *The Urantia Book*. We were also inspired and entertained by songs, poetry, and recitations by young readers.

The high point of the conference may have been a musical presentation of *Afro Blues* by saxophonist Chike Martins, who weaves the teachings of *The Urantia Book* into his beautiful blend of western and African jazz.

Attendance and enthusiasm were higher than last year. We registered 82 persons despite the fact that Nigeria was at that time at the peak of a transportation crisis fueled by an all-time hike in the pump price of petrol. Members of a study group created last year as an offshoot of the conference attended and made some presentations. Additional group leaders emerged, and vibrant new Urantia-based WhatsApp groups have been created.

Urantia Peace Initiative is grateful for the funding it received from Urantia Foundation's Mustard Seed Grants Program.



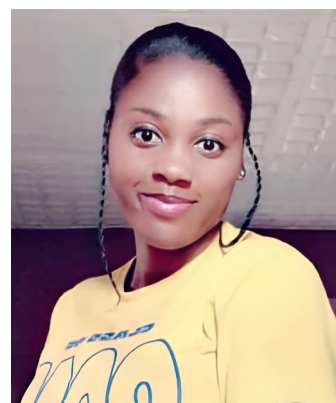
Maya Anazodo



Emmanuel Ajewole



Shola Agagu



Tosin Oyewole

Awareness of *The Urantia Book* has been growing in Nigeria.



Chike Martins



THE URANTIA BOOK FEATURED AT AWAKEN WELLNESS FAIR



By Charles Lehner, New York, United States

The Urantia Book tells us in Paper 145 that physical healing was considered incidental to Jesus' revelatory mission: "The healing wonders which every now and then attended Jesus' mission on earth were not a part of his plan of proclaiming the kingdom." 145:3.15 (1633.6) In fact, it tended to create the wrong kind of publicity. Nonetheless, his apostles found that the gospel had salutary effects. They discovered that "the good news of the kingdom was very comforting to the sick; that their message carried healing for the afflicted." 141:8.2 (1595.3) While we did not lay on hands or give a Reiki treatment, we did our best to present the fifth epochal revelation to the attendees of a recent green health fair.

The Awaken Wellness Fair, a New Age fair termed a "body mind spirit green

expo" by the organizers, was the third of four such fairs in the New York metropolitan area to have a Urantia Book presence this year. It took place on November 24 in Tarrytown, Westchester County. The list of vendors and exhibitors included nutritionists, water experts, authors, jewelers, healers, and psychics.

We are grateful to Urantia Foundation for sponsoring this event for the Urantia Society of Greater New York. Our table was well placed and gave us good exposure to attendees. A hardcover book was on the table as a reference. We

sold or gave away about 10 softcover books which had been donated for this purpose. We also encouraged people to access the free online text and audio.

We offered handouts and secondary works, including some kid-friendly materials from UrantiaLifeLessons.com. However, one young person picked up a copy of *The Urantia Book* and exclaimed, "Wow, this has answers to all the questions I've been asking!"

We reconnected with a few vendors and attendees who had been at the NewLife

Expo in Manhattan. One person came to the Awaken Wellness Fair to see us in particular! Through these continued contacts and quality interactions, we made friends and learned to better serve one another.

We showed up early and volunteered to help other exhibitors. Some vendors thanked us, and the organizer asked, "Is being helpful part of your philosophy?" The answer is yes! I encourage all Urantia Book readers to exemplify selfless service, as we share the Universal Father's love in the service of the human brotherhood.



WHAT *THE URANTIA BOOK* MEANS TO ME



By Collins Lomo, associate trustee, *Urantia Foundation*, Accra, Ghana

“What were you searching for when you discovered *The Urantia Book* on the internet?” Whenever I am asked this, I am reminded how easily I could have missed my opportunity to find this awesome revelation. I really don’t remember what I was searching for, but whatever it was, it must have been something special. I could have taken a brief glance at the website before moving on to other things, or perhaps read a few passages and dismissed it as just one of those flaky, oddball isms and cults. But thankfully, curiosity got the best of me on that fateful day!

One thing I can tell you is that I am a curious person. From a young age I’ve questioned things and bombarded my parents with uncomfortable inquiries. In short, I was a constant question mark, even to adulthood. Perhaps this propensity to search for the unusual, the not-so-

comfortable—you might even say the weird stuff in life—is what brought me to *The Urantia Book*. Even now, where most people don’t want to look, that is exactly where I want to look. What seems different is what gets my attention. To follow the normal path, to walk the broad way and be at ease—those prospects never arouse my interest and participation.

So, a simple topic or title referencing Adam and Eve, or Melchizedek, or Jesus’ early childhood, or the big one—government on a neighboring planet—would have been all the words and topics I needed to see on my browser to find out what this book had to offer. And that’s where I remain, after 13 years of discovery. Each time I read and share the revelation, I am more and more intrigued by it.

If there is one bit of advice that I’d like to offer to anyone on this strife-torn, confused world—be it my own children, a friend, or a stranger whom I chance upon—it would be this: *Don’t settle!*

Be eager to know about more than just the causes and effects of commonplace events and phenomena.

Let your little piece of this life be an unforgettable one. Save nothing for another day. Leave nothing to chance. Become your own miracle. Live, and live *for* something. Live the planetary mortal life with

Be eager to know about more than just the causes and effects of commonplace events and phenomena.

the mind and perspective of the next.

Peace in this life, survival in death, perfection in the next life, service in eternity—all these are achieved (in spirit) *now* when the creature personality consents—chooses—to subject the creature will to the Father’s will. And already has the Father chosen to make a fragment of himself subject to the will of the creature personality.
111:5.4 (1221.5)

I live this short material life in such a way that when I

eventually awoken on the mansion worlds and I’m afforded the chance to look back at what my sojourn on earth was all about, I’ll be proud knowing I left nothing to chance, that I lived my full potential in the faith and discovery of the grandeur of eternal life in every moment.

This perception is what drives my passion and energy to share the fifth epochal revelation on this planet and to be dedicated to its service until I receive a new form and enlarged perception on the worlds ahead to resume the quest of fostering the fatherhood of God and brotherhood of man.



Sirigu, Ghana

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Urantia Foundation's New Library for Translations and Revisions

This library was created to preserve the best thinking of individuals or groups who have translated *The Urantia Book* into their native language. This archive will evolve into a centralized repository that contains all past and future efforts to create quality translations and revisions. While most translations have been published by Urantia Foundation, this library also contains some brought to life by committed organizations and individuals. We anticipate that this collection will grow and be utilized by scholars, translators, and revisers.

[Visit the Library](#)



Summer Study Session 2025

Save the date!

The Urantia Book Fellowship Returns to Unity Village

Wednesday, July 30–Saturday, August 2, 2025



Unity Village, Missouri. unityvillage.org

The Fellowship's Education Committee is pleased to announce that in 2025 the Summer Study Session will return to Unity Village, Kansas City, Missouri.

The theme is "Partnership with God: Day by Day." The four-day gathering will allow for more unstructured time with a focus on humor. It's where you'll also find spiritual stimulation, group worship, and true fellowship.



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www.urantia.org

Urantia Association Presents The Fourth European Conference, Paris, France Theme: The Distributivity of God: Man as God's Heir

June 6—9, 2025

It is good to tell people, “You are formidable and unique, and both the world and the Universe need you!” But can you really explain why? *The Urantia Book* offers us a new cosmology of the universe, one in which the Universal Father is the Architect-Designer-Creator. To this end:

It would seem that the Father, back in eternity, inaugurated a policy of profound self-distribution. There is inherent in the selfless, loving, and lovable nature of the Universal Father something which causes him to reserve to himself the exercise of only those powers and that authority which he apparently finds it impossible to delegate or to bestow.
10:1.1 (108.4)

Don't miss this opportunity to study the fifth epochal revelation in the City of Lights! The Hotel CIS Paris Ravel is located in the heart of Paris amidst a verdant setting. The planning team is doing everything possible to make this conference well organized and affordable.

The number of participants is limited to 80 people, so reserve your spot soon!

For details, visit <https://europe2025.urantia.fr/> or contact the planning team directly at evenement_2025@urantia.fr

