



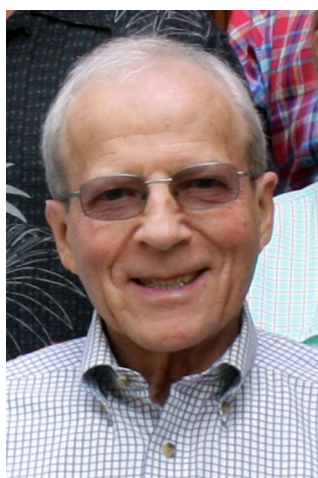
URANTIA FOUNDATION'S NEWS ONLINE

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STEWARDSHIP



By Ralph Zehr, New York, United States

Once again Urantia Foundation is nearing the end of its fiscal year. This year, more than most, offers ample opportunity for all who are so minded to participate in supporting its mission of seeding *The Urantia Book* and its teachings globally, translating the revelation into many languages, and maintaining the text inviolate, according to the directives given to us in the Declaration of Trust. Carrying out this trust requires resources on material, intellectual, and spiritual levels. All of us have been given assets in all three of these categories, assets that each of us is expected to manage in a responsible manner. Given the diversity that characterizes each individual, no two have received the exact same combinations of assets. No

one, therefore, can dictate how another's assets should be distributed, but we are expected to be good stewards of all that has been given us.

You and I have been entrusted with a set of basic assets. We each have received from our parents a massive genetic library containing the biochemical blueprint of the marvelous human body we each occupy. Additional material assets that may contribute to each of our lives are our families, educational opportunities, and possibility for material wealth. Our personality, entrusted to us "at the moment of birth," brings the gift of personal choice enabling us—within well-prescribed boundaries—to lead the life of our choosing. 37:3.7 (409.4) We all have the prospect of a lifetime filled with choices.

Superimposed on the material assets are the spiritual gifts, including a prepersonal Deity fragment from the Father; the Spirit of Truth, the actual spirit of Jesus shed abroad in our world waiting to lead us into the truth that makes us free; the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of our Local Universe Mother Spirit, who pervades our environment and embraces us with every imaginable spiritual sustenance; and the adjutant mind-spirits, an

additional gift from the Mother Spirit, which facilitates our abilities to think, recognize reality, be creative, truly worship, and achieve wisdom.

In addition to all of this, you and I have been privileged to be the recipients of the fifth epochal revelation to our planet, which paints for us a picture of Jesus' life and teachings. It serves as a beacon of light illuminating our every step along the pathway that he has lovingly cleared for us, leading to the Father at the center of everything.

Jesus pronounced a universe principle—that is, that expectations for returns on investments are proportional to our assets—when he said, "Remember, much has been given to you; therefore will much be required of you." 165:6.3 (1824.6) This principle provides a foundation upon which the concept of stewardship is based. It is widely practiced by beings throughout the universe, both low and high. Our midwayer cousins apprise us, "In the next world you will be asked to give an account of the endowments and stewardships of this world. Whether inherent talents are few or many, a just and merciful reckoning must be faced." 176:3.8 (1918.1) We are told that Adjusters "will give good account of their stewardship." 110:4.4 (1207.4) Adam and Eve's one hundred children "were all in commission as faithful stewards of universe trust." 74:1.5 (829.1)

When asked how best to manage wealth as a steward, Jesus responded, "If you honestly desire to regard your wealth as a trust, if you really wish to become a wise and efficient steward of your accumulated wealth, then would I counsel you . . ." 132:5.2 (1462.3) After Jesus had given instruction concerning the ten basic categories from which wealth may arise, he further advised, "And so, my friend, if you would be a faithful and just steward of your large fortune, before God and in service to men . . ." (a proposition which he fully embraced). 132:5.13 (1463.7) Jesus shone as an example of stewardship in service of God and men as he lived his earthly life on Urantia.

Jesus' most direct and comprehensive statement concerning the proper attitude toward personal wealth was given to an inquirer who asked, "Is it a sin to possess honest wealth?" And Jesus replied to this question: 'My friend, it is not a sin to have honorable wealth; but it is a sin if you convert the wealth of material possessions into *treasures* which may absorb your interests and divert your affections from devotion to the spiritual pursuits of the kingdom. There is no sin in having honest possessions on earth provided your *treasure* is in heaven, for where your treasure is there will your heart be also. There

is a great difference between wealth which leads to covetousness and selfishness and that which is held and dispensed in the spirit of stewardship by those who have an abundance of this world's goods, and who so bountifully contribute to the support of those who devote all their energies to the work of the kingdom.'" 165:4.5 (1821.5)

Each day you and I make choices concerning how we distribute the assets we possess. We make expenditures of our time, passion, intellectual gifts, spiritual concepts, and material assets. Someone has said that every day we add to the autobiographic

record of our true aspirations and desires as we authorize distribution of our financial assets. How completely have you overcome the temptation to consider wealth a *treasure*? How well are you managing the assets entrusted to you? Are the assets you wish to maintain secure? Are you taking full advantage of the risk-free investment environment? Our generation has been given so much by our Master. Is your cosmic investment strategy sound?

NOTEWORTHY DECISIONS FROM THE OCTOBER 2016 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING



By Judy Van Cleave, Trustee, Secretary, Urantia Foundation, Idaho, United States

1. Community Relations

Urantia Foundation opened up its Chicago headquarters to leaders from Urantia Association International and the Urantia Book Fellowship to discuss issues of organizational unity. While

Urantia Foundation has a policy not to interfere in the internal affairs of social groups, we are "all in" for social harmony and loving relationships between those working to advance the purposes of the Urantia Revelation.

A joint press release stated: "On October 3-5, 2016, representatives from the Association and the Fellowship met in Chicago to consider organizational unity. An atmosphere of goodwill prevailed throughout our time together. All of us wholeheartedly agreed that we desire unity. A unity proposal was drafted and will shortly be submitted to both organizations. Further information will be shared as available. We thank Urantia Foundation for hosting our unity meeting. As always, we

felt so welcome, well fed, and looked after in mind, body and spirit. And finally, our

heartfelt appreciation goes to all for your prayers and support."



Back row: Chris Wood, Michael Challis, Share Beasley, Steve Dreier
 Front row: Merindi Belarski, Geoff Theiss, John Hales, Susan Owen, Paula Thompson

2. Books

Book sales are up 15% for the year. Spanish and Portuguese book sales have been very strong, but English sales have been slightly down. We are hopeful that sales will be positive by year's end. Seeding the actual book, physically and digitally, into the world remains a top priority at Urantia Foundation.

The first publication from Urantia Foundation's imprint label, Urantia Press, is *The Parables of Jesus—Complete Teachings from The Urantia Book*. Sales of this book started off with excellent sales and should help reacquaint bookstores and readers with these beautiful stories from *The Urantia Book*. Nearly 500 books were sold in the first month. This book is a perfect gift to give others during the upcoming holiday season. Once you buy it, please write a review. While you are at it, if you haven't written one already, please write a positive review of *The Urantia Book* itself.

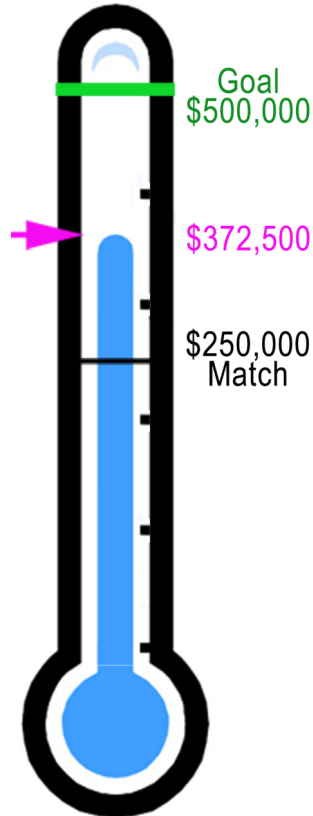
To write a review of the parable book visit: <http://amzn.to/2e9qwaa>.

To write a review of *The Urantia Book* visit: <http://amzn.to/2ewi8US>.

3. Finances

The 2016 fiscal year continues to be a difficult fundraising year. Last year there were extraordinary gifts of \$204,000. If these donations are deducted from last year's amount raised, \$58,000 will need to be made up. We have kept our expenses as low as possible, but donations are currently behind expenses.

A handful of generous donors will contribute \$250,000 if we can raise the same amount by December 31, 2016. This is a "must raise" because of this financially challenging year.



We need the winter fundraising match to come in strong and move forward to greater service in 2017. This is an opportunity to double your donation, dollar for dollar, and to support one of the most important projects on earth.

Although we have reached significant milestones over the past years, much remains to be done. The text of *The Urantia Book* has been preserved inviolate, and its teachings have spread across diverse geographies and cultures. There are fourteen translations in print, sixteen at www.urantia.org, and more on the way. You can find Urantia Books and study groups around the globe. But today's resources are insufficient to meet the needs of an expanding international readership.

Please act now. Helping to seed the Urantia Revelation is one of the greatest gifts

you can make to uplift our world. Please click here to donate: <http://www.urantia.org/donate/online-donations>. Thank you!

4. Sherry Layton Joins As a New Associate Trustee

The Board of Trustees appointed Sherry Layton as an associate trustee to serve the first of two possible three-year terms. Sherry has a long history of service to the movement and an outstanding career in non-profit organizations.



Sherry Layton

5. Board Goals and Strategies

The board reviewed goals and strategies suggested as priorities over the next five years. Discussion will continue to ensure that the proposed goals and strategies to accomplish them are aligned with our vision, mission, and values.

6. The 2017 Budget

The board passed an operating expense budget for 2017 that shows a 9.5% increase above 2016 but only 3.2% above 2014. For the last few years we have held our expenses basically flat while simultaneously increasing program activities. In 2017 we want to increase

translation work, outreach, book programs, website improvement, and education. Realizing the difficulty in fundraising, we will watch the income very closely to make sure it covers operating expenses. While there are a number of important programs that need funding in 2017 we will remain fiscally careful as the year progresses to make sure we do not outspend our income.

7. Improvement of urantia.org in 2017

During the last few years, traffic patterns across the internet and to Urantia Foundation's website have changed. There has been—especially among young people—a dramatic switch from visiting websites via computers to visiting sites from mobile devices. Mobile visits are now nearly 50% of all traffic to urantia.org. While the Foundation's site is somewhat mobile friendly, it is a long way from being very mobile friendly. The challenges to transform the site to accommodate the increasing mobile traffic are twofold: first, the Foundation's site is translated into 16 languages, and second, the combination of cost and digital-video expertise stretches the Foundation's capabilities. Nevertheless, this must happen. Urantia.org is the most visited Urantia website in the world and needs to stay current. Money was allocated in the 2017 budget to improve the site.

The board adopted a resolution to form an ad hoc committee to redesign the website that includes Richard Jernigan, Víctor García-Bory, Tamara Strumfeld, Lu Schanfarber, and Angie Thurston.

A NEW LIBRARY OF HUMAN SOURCE BOOKS



By Steve Dreier, New Jersey, United States

Editor's Note: Urantia Foundation was the fortunate recipient of a collection of books and materials containing concepts and text similar to those found in The Urantia Book. This is the first contribution to a research library created by Urantia Foundation over the past year. Many thanks to Jen Siegel for creating the physical space; to Steve Dreier, Gard Jameson, and Joanne Strobel for establishing the library; and to our anonymous donor.

Students of *The Urantia Book* know that the revelators made extensive use of human concepts in constructing the Urantia Revelation.

In the Foreword, an Orvonton Divine Counselor states: "Accordingly, in making these presentations about God and his universe associates, we have selected as the basis of these papers more than one thousand human concepts representing the highest and most advanced planetary knowledge of spiritual values and universe meanings." 0:12.12 (17.1)

Again, in the acknowledgment to Part IV, a secondary midwayer states: "As far as possible I have derived my information from purely human sources." 121:8.12 (1343.1)

Urantia Foundation has received a donation of an extensive library of "human source" books and other related material. This collection is housed in a newly constructed library in the basement of 533 W. Diversey Parkway in Chicago. The library is a unique education and research facility for students of *The Urantia Book*. Visitors to 533 can now examine for themselves the exact nature of the relationship of the "human sources" to the content of *The Urantia Book*.

The identification of texts related to the content of *The Urantia Book* is almost entirely a result of the work of Matthew Block. Few other Urantia book students have undertaken a serious study of this topic. The collective understanding of *The Urantia Book* would benefit significantly if more readers would put in the time and effort to explore these relationships. Some who have done this have found that the careful study of these texts has greatly deepened their understanding and appreciation of *The Urantia Book*. It is hoped that the addition of this new library will encourage others to look into this most interesting matter.



Students of *The Urantia Book* know that the revelators made extensive use of human concepts in constructing the Urantia Revelation.

THE FIRST CONFERENCE FOR READERS OF *THE URANTIA BOOK* IN RUSSIA



By Tamila Ragimova,
Medellin, Colombia

To understand the importance of the first conference for readers of *The Urantia Book* in Russia, one should understand the history of the Urantia movement in Russia.

The Russian translation of *The Urantia Book* was first printed in 1997 and was printed in France. The chief translator was Michael Hanian, and he was assisted by his brother Andrey Reznikov. The next four printings were printed in Saint Petersburg and were supervised by Vitaly Kondratiev. Vitaly wrote many wonderful articles about *The Urantia Book* and made many contributions to the Urantia movement in Russia. He died in 2014, and we thank him for his outstanding service to the Urantia Revelation.

Currently, in Russia and other Russian-speaking countries, there are many readers of *The Urantia Book*. Some of these readers have been studying the book individually, while others have met regularly via Skype.

For all this time, there has been no national organization of readers in Russia to organize a conference. So I decided to do it even though I have lived in Colombia, South America, for the last thirty years. I felt it was my responsibility because I was born in the former Soviet Union in Baku, Azerbaijan, and I spent ten years in Moscow doing a PhD in physics. I have been studying *The Urantia Book* for twenty years in Colombia and have visited study groups on my trips to Moscow. I have also met several Russian readers on the internet.

Preparing for the conference was a challenge and took about eight months to plan. My first task was making a list of all Russian-speaking readers in Russia and other countries. Then, with the help of a person who is not a reader, I found a site: the Hotel Novahoff Geo Spa near Moscow. Later, I had the help of a reader, Ekaterina Aleksandrova, who lives in Moscow.

From Colombia, I talked to every person on the list and encouraged them to attend the conference. There were four successive announcements about the conference, giving additional

details and updates about the event.

We chose "Spirituality" as the theme of the conference. Presentations were discussed with some of the presenters via Skype. The logo for the conference and the program of presentations and workshops were prepared in Colombia.

The conference took place from September 9 to 11, 2016, in the Hotel Novahoff Geo Spa. Twenty-five persons attended from a variety of cities in Russia, as well as from Ukraine, Finland, and the United States. Russia is a big country, where the distances between cities can be enormous. One reader, Sergey Chupin, traveled eight hours from Vladivostok to Moscow.

The presentations and discussions at the conference brought a high level of educational quality to the study of the book. Workshop guidelines were given to each coordinator, with suggested themes. Coordinators were asked to guide the discussion to a high intellectual level and allow equal time to all participants without imposing views on one another.

Mornings were dedicated to presentations and afternoons to workshops in groups of five to seven persons. Presentation topics included "The Cosmology of *The Urantia Book*," "Science and Spirituality," and "The Life of Jesus: an Example for Humanity." Workshop topic suggestions ranged from "Definitions: Truth, Beauty, Goodness," to "The World, Society, and Civilization," and "John the Baptist."

The announcement of the conference stated that its purpose was "To meet, befriend, and love each other." Participants were happy for an opportunity to come together, and they felt a spirit of unity and camaraderie. Social gatherings included informal sessions of storytelling, reciting poetry, playing music, and Saturday evening dancing and dining.

Following the success of the conference, a committee of readers was formed to plan the second Russian Urantia conference to take place in September of 2017. In addition, they are planning to design a new website and to start a Russian Association of Urantia Association International.



2016 EUROPEAN URANTIA CONFERENCE IN BUDAPEST—WHO IS JESUS?



By Ina Terra, the Netherlands

The 2016 European Urantia Conference was held in Budapest, Hungary, from September 15 to 18. This conference was organized by the “Blue Club” of European readers of *The Urantia Book* and sponsored by Urantia Association International (UAI) and Urantia Foundation. The beautiful city of Budapest, with its rich history, beautiful buildings, and friendly people, was an inspiring place to be. Budapest was chosen to unite people from the east and the west of Europe. The Conference Committee, known as the Blue Club, among European readers, made a great effort to create a conference that would involve young adults, and as a young adult, I felt blessed to meet so many new friends.

This was the first Urantia conference that my father—Jaap Terra, president of the Netherlands Urantia Association (Stichting Urantia Nederlandstalig or UAISUN)—and I attended. In the Netherlands, the community of Urantia Book

readers is expanding, with more study groups being formed and more activities being organized. At this moment, the UAISUN is preparing to host the international conference in 2018. It is a big challenge and a wonderful opportunity for us to develop a stronger community in the Netherlands and Europe. We are hoping to become part of the community of readers worldwide.

Our goal for attending the conference in Budapest was to meet people, to experience the program, and, most important of all, to get inspired—not only by the plenaries and workshops on the theme “Who is Jesus?”—but also by the other attendees.

Because it is impossible to include all the workshops and plenaries, I have chosen some highlights from the conference to write about. At the opening on Thursday night, Chris Wood spoke about the future of Urantia Europe, the future of the global Urantia community, and how the Internet gives us the opportunity to make worldwide contacts.

Karmo Kalda from Estonia gave a plenary with the title

“Jesus—the First Marketing Manager.” It was a great exposition of the mission, vision, and goals of Jesus. Karmo used a modern marketing strategy in a very creative way to show how Jesus could be seen in that role.

I attended Jeffrey Wattles’s workshop “Effectively Revealing the Master to All Men.” In small groups, we talked about our personal religion and relationship with Jesus, and how to start a conversation about religion with other people. Jeffrey created an atmosphere where the attendees were invited to talk to each other on a personal level.

Mike Maclsaac gave a very beautiful plenary about Jesus’ social aggressiveness and sincere interest in all kinds of people. He talked about the way Jesus approached people, loved people, and made real contact with his brothers and sisters. Mike called it the “love virus,” and he made us think about how to spread this virus in daily life.

I joined Carrie Prentice, Doreen Heyne, Katharina Becker, and Line St-Pierre at their workshop titled “As She Passes By: Bringing Jesus’

Teachings to Life.” This workshop made a big impression on me. In a short period of time these women made it possible for all of us to share our deepest fears, our dreams for the future, and our personal relationship with Jesus. There is so much to learn from the life experiences of the people around us. This workshop made us feel connected to each other on a deeper level. These women are especially interested in uniting female Urantia Book readers all over the world. This made my heart sing because I truly feel that women will have a great influence on making Urantia a world of “light and life.”

Between workshops, there was plenty of time to socialize and see the city. The hotel was wonderful, and we took a great boat trip on the Danube on Friday night. I feel blessed to have had the opportunity to meet Urantia Book readers of all ages and from all over the world. I had memorable conversations, made new friends, and I’m already looking forward to my next international conference. I thank the members of the Blue Club and all the others who made this conference possible.



THE LATIN AMERICAN CONFERENCE— THE TEACHER AND THE STUDENT



By Olga López, Vilanova i la Geltrú, Barcelona, Spain

A Latin American Conference for readers of *The Urantia Book* was held from October 14 to 17, 2016, in the Hotel Lancaster House in Bogota, Colombia. Over 110 readers from the Americas and Europe came to participate in this conference, which was jointly sponsored by Urantia Association International, the Urantia Book Fellowship, and Urantia Foundation. This event was well organized by the Urantia Association of Colombia. My heartfelt thank-you goes out to all those who worked so diligently to make this event a great success!

The theme of this conference was “The Teacher and the Student,” Jesus being the teacher and the conference attendees being the students. There were more than fifteen presentations offered at the conference. A few of the titles were as follows: “The Development of Jesus’ Leadership in his Personal Ministry,” “The Life of Jesus Is an Example for Humanity,” “Jesus the Man,” “The Spirit of Truth,” “The Urmia Lectures,” “From Student to Teacher and Then to Student,” and quite a few more.

Canada, Costa Rica, the Netherlands, Spain, and others.

At the conference, there were also opportunities for many Latin American leaders to meet and discuss how to work together in order to spread the Urantia Revelation in the region. Many insights emerged, and I am sure they will bear much fruit.

The Colombian organizers offered the attendees many opportunities to socialize and to enjoy the Colombian

Personally, I would like to say that the organizers and attendees made me feel at home and among old friends. The good atmosphere is a constant feature of Urantia gatherings, but this time was special. Not only because the main language at the conference was Spanish—my mother tongue—but also because Latin American readers are especially open and loving people, with an enormous and contagious enthusiasm for the fifth epochal revelation. It is enriching indeed to see the

I am so thankful to have had the opportunity to be there and to have shared with all those beautiful souls!

All the speakers helped us to increase our understanding of the Master and his teachings. The presenters came from many different countries, including Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, the United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela. And there were more countries represented among the attendees including Bolivia,

culture, including popular dance and music, and a visit to an impressive salt mine in Zipaquirá (near Bogota) which has a cathedral inside it. These social events—and the conversations held before and after the conference activities—are what make Urantia gatherings so enjoyable and unforgettable.

different ways that readers of *The Urantia Book* from around the world share their living of the teachings.

I am so thankful to have had the opportunity to be there and to have shared with all those beautiful souls! I am looking forward to the next Latin American conference.



DANCING WITH GOD: EMBODYING THE LOVE OF GOD



By Line St-Pierre, Québec, Canada and the other attendees of the "Daughters of God" retreat

"The human personality is not merely a concomitant of time-and-space events; the human personality can also act as the cosmic cause of such events." 12:5.11 (135.10)

In the historic Forum Room at Urantia Foundation headquarters in Chicago, ten women gathered for a retreat on September 22 to 25, 2016, "Dancing with God: Embodying the Love of God." This was the second event of its kind, the first having been held a year ago.

This intimate milieu of trust fostered reflection on inner lives, honoring our true selves through periods of meditation and journaling time, as we delved into two questions: How do I feel and understand that God loves me? How do I embody God's love in my life?

Using the group method of the fishbowl experience, we shared intimate moments filled with joy, tears, laughter, respect, and acknowledgment of the uniqueness of each personality.

Golden moments of silence were filled with inspiration, leading us to unveil our true natures, to understand more of the nature of God, and to recognize our cosmic responsibility as women to go forth and bring the teachings of *The Urantia Book* to the world around us.

Here are comments from some of the participants at the September 2016 retreat:

- My experience with the teachings of *The Urantia Book* was one of symmetry, order, and structure, with the outburst of beautiful colors. But in my relationships with people it seemed that I was living in a cocoon; I was not reaching out.

These retreats are organic and flowing, shimmering with joy, emotion, and music. There is the ability to be in the moment and to appreciate relationships as unique.

- This has been an amazing experience in my life—both spiritually and socially. I enjoy the concept of "Dancing with God." I feel that, as a result, I have grown to the point of feeling the need to bring forth a message of love and acceptance.

- This was an amazing experience. I was so in need of sisterhood, and this was an answer to a prayer. I have fallen in love with each of you, the essence of each one of you, the real you. We have so much in common, yet we are different.

- It was an experience of connecting, of coming to know the gifts we were given to share, and how powerful

we are. It was an experience I can draw from. Learning to dance with God is so liberating. I am sorry to have it end, but I know that we can transform others this way.

- I was blessed with the rare experience of seeing the real you: a young girl, a real person. The essence of each of you is incredible, magnificent.

- Thank you for opening the door of the heart and giving from the deepest part of yourselves. The depth of sharing of experiences, the courage to reveal our conflicts, was profound and brought about what I experienced as an instantaneous change in my psyche. I am thankful for an enlightening and empowering experience.

- Freeing myself from my vulnerabilities helps me to heal, and doing it with women is so safe. If I can't

talk about something, then I haven't moved on—I am holding on to the past. But when I say it, it is liberating. Integration takes place slowly, but I will leave with something gained rather than something lost.

- I have always had a natural tendency to want to help the weak, but my problem is an abundance of emotion. I am always rushing around, becoming run down, and losing balance and confidence. This group is like my school, giving me grounding, teaching me to balance service with self, to be stronger and more confident when interacting with people.

I can now see that God is not too busy for me, and I accept his will, with the strength of this group of amazing women behind me. This is a banquet that I will digest little by little over time. I have no words to tell all of you how grateful I am.



Back row: Marta Loftus, Lila Dogim, Margaret Slater Thompson
Front row: Susan Owen, Evette Twyford, Doreen Heyne, Line St-Pierre, Katharina Becker, Dolores Rubio, Carrie Prentice

The Daughters of God group, facilitated by Katharina Becker, Doreen Heyne, Carolyn Prentice, and Line St-Pierre, would love to share this model with other groups to help them encourage

more women to appreciate their value and calling. If you would like to experience this retreat, we would be happy to travel to your retreat site to meet with your group. If you plan a date, gather six to

eight women and reserve a venue, we will commit to meeting with your group. We look forward to empowering more women to follow their spiritual longings for sisterhood and outreach.

Please contact Line St-Pierre for more information at line.stpierre@gmail.com.

CATHY JONES ~ "OUR CATHY"

By Patricia Jordan Snyder,
California, United States

Editor's Note: This article celebrates the life of Cathy Jones, April 9, 1925–September 17, 2016, and her contributions to the community of readers of The Urantia Book.

Graciousness seemed to come naturally to "Our Cathy." She flowed with a calmness that held true, even in the dark, dark hours of physical testing that would have brought out the worst in most people. She maintained her strength of character, her humor, her faith, and her love.

At a wonderful Urantia conference in Seattle, Washington—my first—I met "Our Cathy." I immediately felt as if she and I had been friends my whole life. I was entering a building when she came over and said, "Let's go sit outside and talk." With "Our Cathy's" warm smile and beautiful countenance, it was like sitting in a sunny rose garden. "What a spiritually fragrant person," I remember thinking. How lucky we are to have a reader of *The Urantia Book* such as she.

I knew nothing of my new friend's accomplishments, and she never disclosed any of them to me. We spoke of the present and the future, of the lovely conference, and of the value of having more study groups. She laughed

lovingly at Bert Cobb's poem "Jesus Was a Working Man," and we both marveled at the success of the conference. We spoke of the classes offered and of the amazing attendees like Judy Van Cleave and her dear friend Jan Bernard. We spoke of Benet Rutenberg's identical twin; about Merindi Swadling from "Down Under"; about Will and Margo Sherwood's class; about Chris Halvorson's study group; about Ellen Gaynor's tireless work; about Patrick Yesh's art class, and about the fact that I live in Los Angeles, where "Our Cathy's" best friend, Dorothy Elder, founder of the Urantia Book Internet School, lives. Yet, "Our Cathy" never mentioned the enormous role that she had played in keeping the Urantia Association International (UAI) on a steady heading.

It was not until much later that I discovered from her loving friends Jane and John Ploetz how much time and energy "Our Cathy" had expended to see that the UAI not only survived but also thrived. And so it has.

Our Cathy's indefatigable efforts to revive unity were ever guided by the light of truth inspired by *The Urantia Book*.

"Our Cathy" selflessly dedicated much time and energy to the establishment of study groups all around the world. Through her

dissemination of *The Urantia Book* and its teachings, many individuals, cities, and countries have been exposed to the Urantia Revelation.

At a Urantia Book conference in Chicago, Gaetan Charland, past president of the UAI, introduced "Our Cathy" as UAI's "First Lady." And so she was.

"Our Cathy's" inspiring life of loving service quickens our response to brotherhood, love, and fellowship. May we continue her legacy in the family of man and the fatherhood of God.



Cathy Jones

This is not the end for "Our Cathy," but it is...the end of the beginning.

Bon Voyage, "Our Cathy"

(An anonymous poem dedicated to Cathy Jones)

Standing on the dock, I watch as a ship
spreads her white sails to the morning breeze
and sets sail for the ocean blue.

She's a vessel of beauty and strength,
and I sit and watch her, until she hangs
like a speck on the horizon.

Someone at my side says, "There—she's gone."

But gone where?

She's just as large in mast, hull, and spar
As she was when she left this dock.

And she's just as able to bear her cargo
to her destined port, as she was
when she was anchored here.

(Poem continues on next page.)



Her diminished size is in us, not in her.

“There—she’s gone,” we say.

But there are other eyes,
 who watch the far horizon for her sails.
 And there are other voices ready now
 to give the joyous shout: “There she is.
 Here she comes. Here she is—“Our Cathy.”



CIRCLES OF TRUST: AN EXPERIENCE IN SOUL SHARING



By Bobbie Dreier, New Jersey, United States

Editor's Note: This retreat has been conducted by Gard Jameson, Bobbie Dreier, Marta Elders, and Carol Schindler for many years. The goal is to enhance the spiritual growth of readers and to deepen their appreciation of loving service

“Happiness and joy take place in the inner life.” (111:4.7)

The preconference retreat for the Urantia Book Fellowship's “International Urantia Conference 2017” will provide a space where the shy soul feels safe, an experience which favors religious growth

by ...sharing one's spiritual life with one's fellows. 100:1.8 (1220.6) By listening to spiritually evocative stories and poetry, and through deep respectful listening, we will support one another in our personal spiritual journeys. Participants will enjoy extended periods of communion and a worshipful time leading to loving service. Circles of Trust are based on principles described in *A Hidden Wholeness* by Parker Palmer and *participants are required to read the book in preparation for the retreat.*

If you feel moved to learn how to “love by listening” in an experience designed to increase your soul consciousness, you are invited to join us for this summer's Circles of Trust.

The retreat begins on Monday, July 17, after dinner, meets all day and evening on Tuesday, and Wednesday until lunch. Participation will be limited to thirty attendees.

You may register for the retreat as well as the conference at www.IC17.org.





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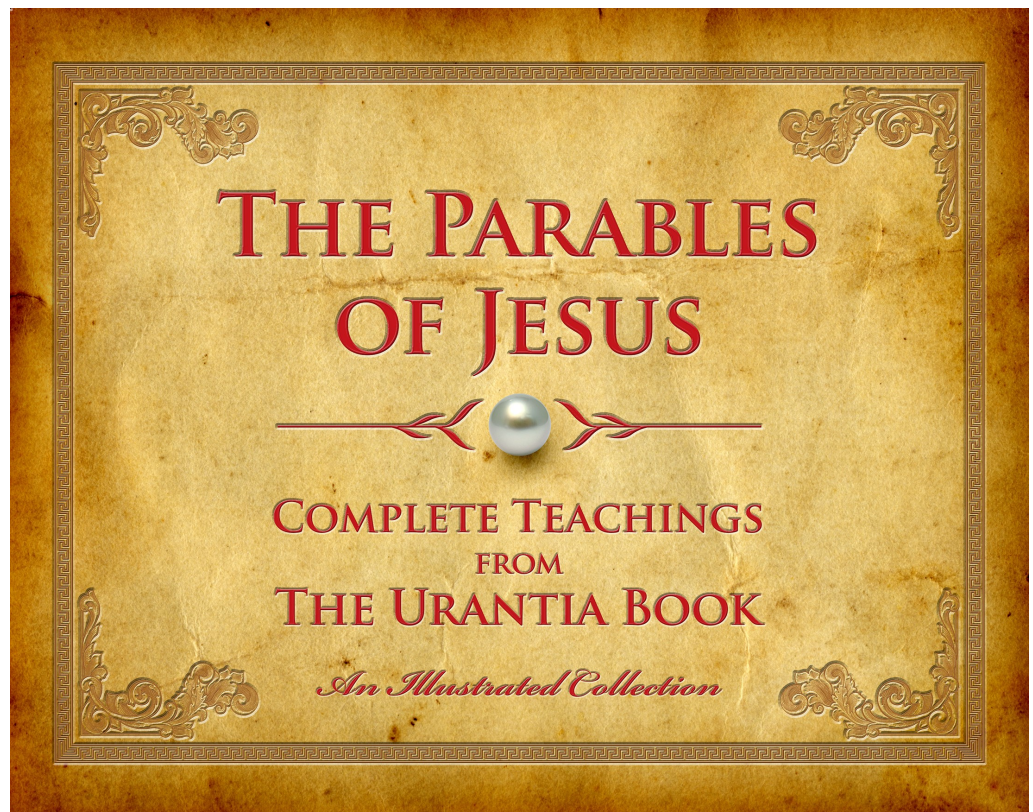
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ANNOUNCEMENT

The World's Best Stories

Editor's Note: The Parables of Jesus—Complete Teachings from The Urantia Book is the first publication of Urantia Foundation's imprint label, Urantia Press. The book contains the parables as Jesus told them, word for word, in Part IV of The Urantia Book. This book is beautifully illustrated, serves as an excellent study guide, and makes a perfect gift. We hope you enjoy this collection of the greatest stories ever told!



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