

UBIS Newsletter

www.urantiabookschool.org

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UBIS: A Convergence of Education, Internet, and Revealed Truth!

“You who today enjoy the advantages of the art of printing little understand how difficult it was to perpetuate truth during these earlier times;

how easy it was to lose sight of a new doctrine from one generation to another. There was always a tendency for the new doctrine to become absorbed into the older body of religious teaching and

magical practice. A new revelation is always contaminated by the older evolutionary beliefs.” (1022.2) 93:7.4. (Written by a Melchizedek.)

Not only does this observation seem to underscore the value of gifting a new epochal revelation in book form, specifically *The Urantia Book*, it also alerts us to the difficulty of perpetuating truth across generations given the likelihood that older evolutionary beliefs will contaminate new revelatory teachings. Indeed, this dynamic suggests the importance of resisting the temptation of projecting, onto newly revealed truths, existing beliefs and religious teachings.

The awareness of this risk of contamination has been built into the pedagogic approach developed by UBIS and used by the Teachers/Facilitators (T/Fs) who give the online courses offered by UBIS during each of the trimesters annually. The UBIS T/Fs develop their courses in such a manner as to stimulate each student to explore and experience the revealed truths of *The Urantia Book* for themselves. Through in-depth



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reading of selected papers/sections in the book, stimulated by questions designed to challenge fact, meaning, and value

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“...stimulated by questions designed to challenge fact, meaning, and value understanding”

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(UBIS)**

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UBIS Newsletter

Ever heard of Moodle?

Should be ready for the January 2014 trimester.

New UBIS Platform Facilitates Growth

by Ralph and Betty Zehr

The Urantia Book Internet School [UBIS] continues to grow. Because of this growth, and in particular because it has now become a multilingual school, it has outgrown its present website. Following our search for a new website platform that would accommodate a multilingual online educational program, the UBIS Board selected Moodle.



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Michael Zehr, a computer software architect who is providing the technical assistance during transfer to the new website, has described Moodle as follows: "Moodle is an open-source application, which means that it is manufactured by a community of volunteer developers. Moodle is designed specifically to support online classes and education. There are more than 80,000 registered sites using Moodle in over 200 countries with more than 1 million teachers and 70 million students. Its widespread use helps to ensure that it will remain compatible with future browsers and computer versions, but the primary reason for choosing Moodle is its built-in support for many languages including English, Spanish, French, and German."

Because Moodle is an open source program with a built-in multilingual capability, it will be much more economical to add additional languages than with the current website that would require building a new program for each language from the ground up.

"built-in support for many languages..."

Thus far we are finding that with a few modifications, Moodle will accommodate the unique aspects of the UBIS program. In some cases previously developed workaround programs could be inserted; in others, new code has to be written. It is also apparent that the new platform

The Urantia Book Internet School was created and exists as a means to help students from all over the world study *The Urantia Book* together free from the constraints of distance, timetables, and physical presence.

has extensive additional educational capabilities that will allow us to provide new educational services.

We have completed alpha testing and will be proceeding with beta testing within the next few weeks. We anticipate a group of approximately 20 participants in the beta test, consisting mainly of teacher facilitators. This will consist of two one-week sessions allowing time between to make necessary adjustments. The beta test will not only enable us to detect functional defects and any user unfriendliness but will also provide an orientation to the site for teacher facilitators. We plan that the new platform will be available for the January 2014 trimester.



Convergence (continued from page 1)

understanding, and then in discussion with other students in the course, each student is urged to experience and perceive the truths offered by the revelators. Mota 16 states: "You cannot perceive spiritual truth until you feelingly experience it..." (557.2) 48:7.18.

T/Fs are charged not to interpret or give answers to the questions posed, but rather to let the readings as explored and focused by the questions do the teaching. Said another way, the T/F lets the words of the revelators that convey truth speak for themselves. Each student's response to questions serve as their contribution to the group conversation that follows wherein understanding is further sharpened and refined by the insights of fellow students. That process often leads, as it should, to further questions which in turn serves the purpose of encouraging the class to "expand cosmic consciousness and enhance spiritual perception" which the Divine Counselor states early in the Foreword as one of the purposes of *The Urantia Book* revelation.

UBIS does not as yet offer the opportunity for face-to-face conversation and cannot provide the benefits of the personal, physical presence of T/F and students. However, consideration should be given

"Said another way, the T/F lets the words of the revelators that convey truth speak for themselves."

to the fact that as we read *The Urantia Book* we are not in the direct physical presence of its authors either. Yet, we are assured by the Divine Counselor that with the aid of the fragment of God within and the Spirit of Truth sojourning with our soul that these spirits "...are able to assist man in the spiritual appropriation of all truth contributory to the enhancement of the ever-progressing reality of personal religious experience--God-consciousness." (17.2) 0:12.13. Thus, we have every confidence that UBIS offers an extraordinary educational opportunity for comprehending revealed truths in *The Urantia Book* that will be every bit as good as the dedication brought to the process by students and teachers alike.

David Elders



We are not a church or an organized religion...

The Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS) is part of Urantia Foundation, a non-profit, educational association. We are not a church or an organized religion, nor is that our intent.

UBIS does not express opinions or take positions on political, social or economic issues. We welcome people of all faiths, races, and nationalities seeking spiritual fellowship. We view true religion as the personal spiritual experience of each individual. This internet-based school is a group endeavor of people inspired by the teachings of *The Urantia Book*. We wish to cooperate with all religionists to pursue the spiritual, social, and moral advancement of our world.



Photo courtesy of shutterstock.com.

While people's beliefs may differ, our faith and destiny are the same, for we are all children of God. Our quest transcends mere religious uniformity, we strive for *spiritual unity*.

Please join us!



Things to Know*

*All dates and times are subject to change. Please check our website for the latest: [Registration Information](#)

Click Here

for more information
about UBIS.

September 2013

2-15 September trimester registration.

16 September 10-week trimester begins and continues until November 24.



Following are the courses and Teacher/Facilitators for the September session. Please check urantia.org for the most recent information:

1. Course Title: Religion in Human Experience

Course Level: New Reader

Course Description: This course defines and explores true religion, details the transformative power of dynamic religious living, and inspires the student to embrace “a harmonious co-ordination of knowledge, wisdom, faith, truth and love.” (1112.4) 101:6.8.

Papers: 100, 101, 102, and 103

Teacher/Facilitator: Mary Steigerwald Mary lives in the mountains of northern New Mexico. She is an artist and mother of three grown daughters. Mary has been studying *The Urantia Book* for 20 years.

2. Course Title: The Paradise Trinity and its Pattern of Service to All of Creation

Course Level: Intermediate

Course Description: Our course will study the Paradise Trinity and its very first

orders of created beings. We will focus on the common thread of service inherent within their wide-ranging functions. We will use a coordinated approach by exploring origins, history, and destiny through our study, and we will learn from the Divine Counselor and Universal Censor who authored the four Papers we will be studying.

Papers: 19 sections 0-4, 10, 16, 18 and 19 sections 5-7

Teacher/Facilitator: Bruce Johnson Bruce was introduced to *The Urantia Book* while visiting Colorado in 1969. He left Colorado 35 years later, and after a career in psychiatric nursing, is now retired in Ithaca, New York. He is still learning from a favorite pastime: studying *The Urantia Book*.



3. Course Title: Discovering Faith, Hope and Love—from Jesus’ Resurrection to Ascension

Course Level: Intermediate/Advanced

Papers: 190, 191, 192, and 193

Course Description: This course takes an introspective approach into the events following Jesus’ resurrection and up to the time of his ascension. We will examine the fears, doubts, and reflections of the apostles and other believing leaders through the “eyes and mind” of the midwayers present on Urantia during these times.

Teacher/Facilitator: Pam Maunakea Originally from Honolulu, Hawaii, Pam moved to Southern California to attend college in 1973. She has two adult children, a son and a daughter, and has been a reader since 1970. Pam works as a department business manager at a college near her home.

4. Course Title: Our Quest for Consciousness

Course Level: Advanced

Course Description: This course will guide us to a better understanding of what is involved in the great challenge to modern man—achieving better communication with the Divine Presence within—and man’s greatest adventure in the flesh—self-consciousness to God-consciousness through soul-consciousness.

Papers: This course will explore carefully selected readings from 15 different Papers taken from all four parts of *The Urantia Book*.

Things to Know*

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Teacher/Facilitator: Guy Perron
Originally from Montreal, Canada, Guy is now living in Las Vegas for the major part of the year and travels extensively in doing God's work. He is the father of three young women, ages 23, 24, and 25. He has been a devoted student of *The Urantia Book* since 2000. Guy is a spiritual therapist who teaches spiritual philosophy and spiritual psychology.

5. Course Title: Time and Space

Course Level: Advanced

Course Description: This course discusses different types of space, space respiration, Paradise gravity, curved space paths, the four absolute-gravity circuits, motions in space, limitations of time-space creatures, transcending time and space, how the time-space viewpoint differs from the eternity viewpoint, why the creative imagination is comparatively time-free, why Jesus was never in a hurry, and more.

Papers: 11, 12, 118 and 106 section 7

Teacher/Facilitator: Stacey Jackson
Stacey completed a Bachelor of Science degree in space studies in 2013, as well as a Master of Ministry in Christian Counseling in 1999. She first read *The Urantia Book* cover to cover in 1999. She attends a Urantia Book study group every week in Cookeville, Tennessee.

6. Course Title: Personality— A Unique Gift from God

Course Level: Advanced

Course Description: An in-depth study of what personality is by defining its attributes and how it functions, where it originates, and its destiny; a fascinating probe into the realities of eternal individuality. Participation requires a devotion to and perseverance with newly revealed concepts. A good knowledge of *The Urantia Book* is helpful.

Papers: 1, 12, 16, 56, 112, and sections from the Foreword.

Teacher/Facilitator: Ray Gardini
Formerly a small business entrepreneur, Ray is retired and lives in Akron, Ohio. He attended Borromeo Seminary, graduated from John Carroll University, studied at L'Université de Montpellier. Ray is a Viet Nam veteran, and a reader of *The Urantia Book* since 1986.



Teacher/Facilitator Training

The annual 2013 Teacher Training Class will be held September 9 through October 12. Future dates to be determined. If you are interested, please contact UBIS.



UBIS Needs TEACHERS!

UBIS needs experienced *readers* to serve as Teacher/Facilitators (T/Fs).

Enrich your life and the lives of fellow truth seekers worldwide by facilitating a broader and deeper understanding of the teachings of *The Urantia Book*.

Those interested must first complete two or more courses as a student, read the entire Urantia Book in its entirety, and be recommended by their T/Fs. Potential T/Fs must then successfully complete the teacher training program of approximately five weeks duration.

You can do it! For more information, please call or write: 773.525.3319
urantia@urantia.org

If you cannot teach at this time but would like to help in some other way...

UBIS needs loyal readers to serve in many other capacities. Please let us know how you might be willing to help.

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What Students Write...

From Australia:

"I particularly enjoyed the informal 'feel' and was impressed by the fact that students from all corners of the planet connected with each other."

From a new student:

"I find that the class participation pushes me into deeper study of *The Urantia Book* content."