

Urantia Book Internet School Expands to Four Languages

Dear Friends of UBIS,

During our November 2015 UBIS board meeting, we unanimously decided to publish only one newsletter at the beginning of each academic year, and replace the January and April issues with two email announcements to be sent just prior to the registration period. We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter.

In order to increase our visibility within the Urantia Book community, we have designed a three-page pamphlet to be handed out in study groups, seminars, and conferences.

You may also download a copy in **English, Spanish, French,** and **Portuguese** at urantia.org.

As the coming academic year approaches, you might be interested in the progress of the school in terms of worldwide attendance and the number of courses offered. As you know, courses are given in four languages— English, Spanish, French and Portuguese. We are also pleased to report that there are four TFs from Africa, one for English courses and three for French.

During the last academic year, 542 students from 43 countries took a total of 33 courses. Of these, 353 students completed their courses. We consider this a very successful completion rate!

It is almost registration time for the September trimester. Please choose one of the courses that are listed in this issue and enjoy studying *The Urantia Book* in good company.

Georges Michelson-Dupont
UBIS Director

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Urantia Book Internet School
ubis.urantia.org

Questions? 773.525.3319 x 219
or joanne@urantia.org



UBIS Board of Directors

Back row: Dennis Sword, Judy Cosky, Pam Maunakea, David Elders, Olga Lopez, Betty Zehr, Georges Michelson-Dupont, Ralph Zehr, Guy Perron

Front row: Susan Flacks, Joanne Strobel

On computer screen: Marta Elders, and Moodle Webmaster Michael Zehr

Are you making progress in your understanding of the teachings of *The Urantia Book*?
If your answer is “yes,” then UBIS might be for you!

Here are some statistics:

STATISTICS PER LANGUAGE					
	Courses	Students Registered	Courses Completed	%	Countries
English	18	253	174	68%	16
Spanish	7	148	86	58%	15
French	6	98	84	85%	9
Portuguese	2	43	9	21%	3
TOTAL	33	542	353	65%	43

The Zoom Experience—An Expansion of the Classroom and of Our Souls



By Guy Perron,
Teacher-
Facilitator

During the last few years, I have had the privilege of participating in several international study groups

online. At first we used Skype, but now we use Zoom—a cloud-based internet program that allows participants to see and talk to one another through their computer screens via a webcam and a built-in microphone. Best of all, it is free to the end users.

Last September, while facilitating a French UBIS course, Notre Quête de la Conscience, it occurred to me that the students might enjoy the opportunity to expand their sharing by interacting face to face. Many students in the class joined the Zoom meeting; people from Africa, America, Europe, and French Polynesia.

Wow, what an experience! It was a true microcosmic experience of the

macrocosm of our planet! Words fail to express the joy experienced by each and every participant when we greeted each other in real time.

In April of 2016, I then invited the students from an English class, The Inner Life, to a Zoom meeting. We had a similar experience, and all those present felt the same joy upon seeing and greeting each other.

Most of us who have participated in an online course, whether through UBIS or Urantia University, have observed firsthand how the use of technology can amplify the association of personalities which Jesus addressed in his speech on science:

133:5.6 (1477.1) Mathematics asserts that, if one person stands for a certain unit of intellectual and moral value, ten persons would stand for ten times this value. But in dealing with human personality it would be nearer the truth to say that such a personality association is a sum equal to the square of the number of personalities concerned in the equation rather than the simple arithmetical sum. A social group of human beings in coordinated working harmony stands

for a force far greater than the simple sum of its parts. (emphasis mine)

This enhanced group effect, working together in coordinated harmony, becomes a reality during our sharing opportunities within these virtual classrooms. It is not just the topics and assigned readings, but the involvement of individual students and the individual and *collective* willingness to contribute and progress, which accentuates this soulful union between us. After all, progress is the watchword of the universe.

After participating in many UBIS courses, both as a student and as a teacher-facilitator, I have observed that, although there is no direct physical contact between students, the personal contact generated by the union of souls as Rodan described in his presentation on The Art of Living can become a real experience.

160:2.7 (1776.1) Every human being sooner or later acquires a certain concept of this world and a certain vision of the next. Now it is possible, through personality association, to unite these views of temporal existence and eternal prospects. Thus

Do you want to make new friends and share the book's teachings with other readers?
If your answer is "yes," then UBIS might be for you!

does the mind of one augment its spiritual values by gaining much of the insight of the other. In this way men enrich the soul by pooling their respective spiritual possessions.

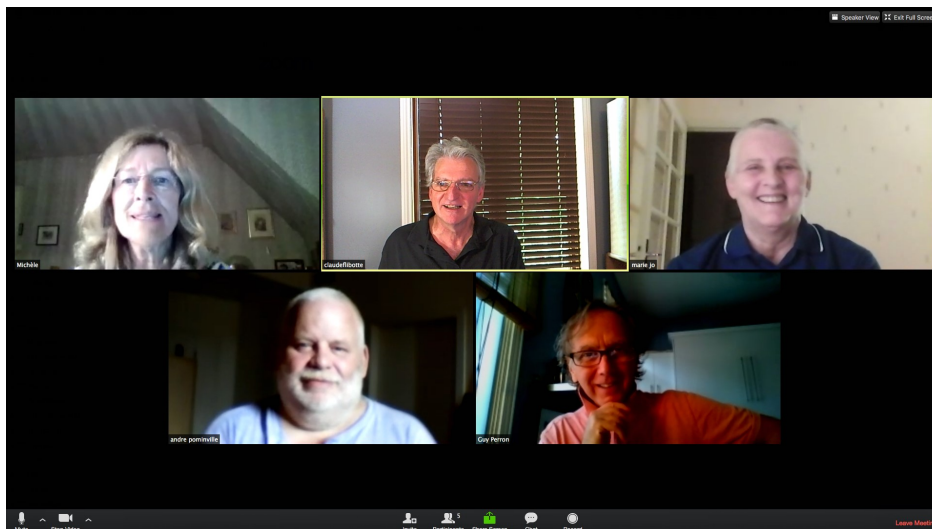
Following are some reflections from students sharing what they have experienced.

Zoom "interspiritual" provides me with an immense inner joy and contagious love ... the will to transmit the teachings of *The Urantia Book* is enhanced tenfold.
~ Christelle, France

A foretaste of the restoration of broadcasts with the Nebadon system! What technological progress the internet has brought to our planet. What a beautiful and convenient way to increase the brotherhood between us.
~ André, Quebec

Personally meeting the course participants, in order to put a real face and witness the human personality behind what is shared in writings, greatly increases my motivation to share and remain involved in the class. ~ Jade, Quebec

Zoom is magic! This experience allows us to manifest these beautiful and good fruits of the spirit among us. I could perceive the personal



A Zoom Session

traits of each of my sisters and brothers from thousands of kilometers away.

~ Guy Stéphan, Cameroon

Ah, imagine if you had been able to design a device that measures joy. My first experience on Zoom aroused in me an indescribable joy, an enticing satisfaction, and a curiosity to repeat the experience because I am looking forward to see and be with you all again to live these wonderful moments. ~ Arnaud, Burkina Faso

A Universal Censor states the following, and in my mind, it brings to life our experiences of coming together with the common purpose of

growing spiritually.

16:6.3 (191.6) The fact of the cosmic mind explains the kinship of various types of human and superhuman minds. Not only are kindred spirits attracted to each other, but kindred minds are also very fraternal and inclined towards co-operation the one with the other. Human minds are sometimes observed to be running in channels of astonishing similarity and inexplicable agreement.

God is good, eternally good, and He indwells each of us. Could it be any better?

UBIS—A Student's Perspective



By Michael Barrett,
California,
United States

Before I took my first class with the Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS) in

2013, I remember being very nervous and unsure of what to expect. For one, I was not (and am still not) very computer-savvy. For two, I hadn't been to any type of school in over twenty years. And for three, I did not know how much time the class would really take. Besides, I simply never felt a need, had a desire, nor thought of myself as one who would go back to school.

When I took my first class on the resurrection of Jesus, I was pleasantly surprised by the inspiring support of the staff and the comfort of finally finding fellow truth seekers to be students with. The time constraints I had worried about were all but nonexistent. All students partake and proceed at their own pace, and ample time is allotted for all weekly requirements. The insights

Would you like to gain experience and become a teacher or study group leader? If your answer is “yes,” then UBIS might be for you!

and pure wisdom that get thrown around a virtual classroom are simply mesmerizing!

During this course, I learned so much that I took another, and then another, and then another. Now, in between semesters, I find myself greatly anticipating the next classes to be offered. One can hardly imagine just how much soul expansion and spirit attunement takes place in one ten-week period. I would have never thought a single online class could teach and inspire us so much, not to mention align us with eternal truth and bring more meaning and fulfillment into our lives. I was spiritually “blown away,” and I thank the Good Lord still to this day for the experiences during my first class.

One thing I have learned along the way is that *continual spiritual growth* truly leads to the peace that surpasses all understanding. The classes with UBIS have helped me

tremendously to achieve this lasting inner peace and experience a much greater understanding of this incredible book of truth. The teacher-facilitators are not intimidating and inspire much more than instruct. The wonderful people I have met from all over the world have truly broadened my personal perspective and brightened my spiritual horizons.

If there is anything I could do for anyone who is serious about learning of the spiritual realities revealed in *The Urantia Book*, it would be to encourage that person to take a UBIS class and experience the power of the Spirit that guides us all and somehow permeates these virtual classrooms. If learning how to experience God's peace, joy, and love for you is of interest at all, UBIS provides a platform for people from all parts of this planet to do just that.

I should also mention that other people have noticed a change in me for the better. I find, just from the

objectivity and assurance these classes have provided, that now more people are asking me about things they didn't ask me about before I started studying online. Friends and family frequently ask me about God, Jesus, life, and other topics/questions they have about spirituality in general. And (almost) always I can answer much better than I ever could have before I started taking classes with UBIS.

To those behind the scenes at UBIS who volunteer their time to make this superb school possible, thank you very much! You have compassionately developed and are magnificently maintaining a place to learn about the infinite love of God and the incredible life He offers His beloved children here on earth.

May the Father above hold us all in the palm of His hand and turn us around which way He will.

The Spanish UBIS—A Work in Progress



By Olga López,
Spanish UBIS
Director

UBIS first offered Spanish courses in 2012, and since then, it has come a long way. At first only one course per trimester was offered. Starting this year, however, three courses per trimester are offered. The Spanish UBIS began with one teacher-facilitator, and now there are sixteen. Our teachers hail from many different countries bringing diversity of “flavor” to the courses.

Now that three courses are offered each trimester, they must have varied themes and levels. Last September we had our first advanced course about the Supreme, and we hope to present at least one advanced course per year to serve the long-time Spanish-speaking students. This year's advanced course will be on God the Sevenfold.

The response of the Spanish readership has been great so far. The courses fill up before the end of the registration period. There are students from all the Spanish-speaking countries and from other countries

where Spanish-speaking readers live, such as the USA, Canada, Austria, and Italy. This is one of the great advantages of an online school: no matter where you are, you can take a course in your native language and be in touch with other readers.

The Spanish UBIS keeps growing step by step, and we plan to give four courses as soon as the circumstances and resources are appropriated.

If Spanish is your mother tongue, please consider taking a course with the Spanish UBIS!

Our teachers hail from many different countries, bringing a diversity of "flavor" to the courses.

Registration begins on Monday, September 5
Courses begin on Monday, September 19

September 2016 Trimester

Following are the courses and teacher-facilitators (TFs) for the September session. For the most current information, visit ubis.urantia.org



1. Discovering One's True Religion

Course Level: New Readers
Papers: 100, 101, 102, and 103

Course Description: This course will explore the idea of "true religion" as an individual personal religious experience. We will examine our religious nature, consider meaningful ways of developing it further, and discuss ideas for living that will allow true religion to become our powerful, spiritual compass in this life and in eternity.



Teacher-Facilitator:
David Doolittle

David grew up in Los Angeles and currently resides in Barstow, California. Before retiring in 2011, he and his wife Teresa performed together for 25 years as professional musicians. David is an accomplished classical guitarist and has been a reader of *The Urantia Book* since 1993.

2. The Lucifer Rebellion—Adversity and the Triumph of Love and Mercy

Course Level: All Readers
Papers: 53, 54, 66, and 67

Course Description: The purpose of this course is to examine the origin and development of the Lucifer Rebellion, how it affected our planet, and how it has contributed to the adversity experienced on our world. *The Urantia Book* offers us an intimate description of the events of the rebellion, the problems that emerged, the individuals responsible, and, in the end, the resulting consequences impacting Urantia.



Teacher-Facilitator:
Charlene Lutes

Charlene A. Lutes, Ph.D., is a retired college director with additional careers as a journalist and communications specialist. An avid reader and writer, she and her husband have five children living in five different states. She has been a reader of *The Urantia Book* since the 1970's and most recently has been studying the book in greater depth.



3. The Impact of Faith and Religion Upon Man's Personal Relationship with God

Course Level: All Readers
Papers: 5, 7, 131, and 196

Course Description: Religion leads man to discover God through the development of a personal relationship with him. We will explore how faith and religion impact our closeness to God as we seek to become conscious of him through discovering his personality, through the ministry of the Eternal Son, through the diverse world religions, and through the superb faith of Jesus.



Teacher-Facilitator:
Jesus Rivera

Jesus lives in Miami, Florida. He is a college professor and has studied *The Urantia Book* for several years. He has been teaching spirituality for close to three decades, both personally and online, in an effort to encourage truth seekers to discover God in their lives.



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4. The Seventh Bestowal of Christ Michael—His Birth and Destiny on Urantia

Course Level: All Readers
Papers: 119, 120, 122, and selected sections from 124, 136, 158, 176, and 182

Course Description: Our creator son, Michael of Nebadon, completed his service of seven bestowals, his last being on our planet, Urantia. This course touches on Michael's seventh bestowal as the human Jesus and some of the extraordinary events that took place after his birth, around the time of his baptism, and before his crucifixion. These events demonstrate the faith and trust Jesus had in his Universal Father and his destiny.



Teacher-Facilitator:
Kathy Hatter

Kathy lives in North Florida where she enjoys being retired, fostering animals for *The Humane Society*, spending time with her two grandsons, and enjoying her family. She was introduced to *The Urantia Book* in the seventies and knows that it has helped her grow spiritually.

5. The Infinite Spirit and the Master Spirits

Course Level: Intermediate-Advanced
Papers: 8, 9, 16, 17, and 24

Course Description: This course will seek to deepen our understanding and appreciation for the amazing actions and relationships of the Infinite Spirit. We will study the revelation of the higher classifications of ministering spirits, including the Seven Master Spirits, Reflective Spirits, the Creative Spirits of the Local Universes, and other high beings essential to the administration and evolution of the universes of time and space.



Teacher-Facilitator:
Bruce Johnson

Bruce was introduced to *The Urantia Book* in Colorado when he was 21 years old. He is now retired from psychiatric nursing and lives in Ithaca, New York, where he enjoys a wonderful study group, and of course, learning from UBIS classes.

6. Personality—A Unique Gift from God

Course Level: Advanced
Papers: 1, 56, 112, and selected sections from the Foreword and Papers 5, 12, and 16

Course Description: This course will study personality in-depth 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 book is helpful.



Teacher-Facilitator:
Ray Gardini

Formerly a small business entrepreneur, Ray is retired and lives in Akron, Ohio. He attended Borromeo Seminary, studied at the L'Universite de Montpellier, graduated from Jesuit–John Carroll University, is a Vietnam veteran, and has been a reader of *The Urantia Book* since 1986.

New Course Format!

Dear UBIS Students,

For over 17 years, UBIS has offered courses with the following ten-week format: an introductory first week, four two-week study periods, and a conclusion week that includes the writing of an essay and the filling out of the student evaluation questionnaire (SEQ).

After receiving some requests to shorten the length of the courses, the UBIS team designed a six-week course following the same model except that the study portion of the course will be two periods of two weeks instead of four. This course, in addition to the regular courses, will be offered during the next three trimesters as a test. Space is limited, so be sure to register early if you want to take this course.

Sincerely,
The UBIS Team

Don't Miss Out!

To receive email notifications about UBIS and other educational programs, please join the [Urantia Foundation mailing list](#).

7. The Thought Adjuster— Our Passport to Eternity

Course Level: All Readers
Papers: 107 and 108

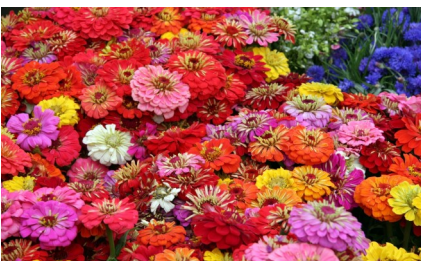
Course Description: One of the most profound revelations of *The Urantia Book* is what we are taught about the Thought Adjusters. This course is a study of the divine presence indwelling each of us. What is a Thought Adjuster? Where do they come from? What do they create in us? What is their ministry? What is their mission? How can we collaborate with them?



Teacher-Facilitator:
Guy Perron

Guy has been a devoted student of *The Urantia Book* since 2000 and has worked vigilantly and diligently ever since to put into practice and share its incomparable teachings in his daily living.

NOTE: This is a shorter duration course of six weeks.



UBIS Around the World

UBIS is recognized worldwide as a vector of knowledge and convergence. Many isolated readers appreciate being able to communicate and share the teachings of *The Urantia Book*. Students from the following countries have taken courses in these languages.

English: Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Colombia, Cyprus, France, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Italy, Lebanon, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, the Philippines, Romania, Russia, South Africa, Taiwan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and the United States.

French: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Cote d'Ivoire, France, French Polynesia, Haiti, New Caledonia, Senegal, Tahiti, and the United States.

Portuguese: Angola, Brazil, and Portugal.

Spanish: Argentina, Austria, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Italy, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Puerto Rico, Spain, the United States, and Venezuela.

Using the UBIS Website

ubis.urantia.org

To register for a course on the UBIS homepage for the first time, click "Create new account." Save your username and password for current and future trimesters. When registration opens, you may log in to request enrollment in the course of your choice. Please contact us about any questions at the following email address: joanne@urantia.org.

Moodle is an online, multilingual e-learning platform developed under an open-source license. More than 80,000 universities around the world are using it daily. Our UBIS team wishes you a pleasant and fruitful experience!



Spanish, French, and Portuguese Courses

To see the Spanish, French, and Portuguese courses available this trimester, please visit the Spanish, French, and Portuguese websites:

<http://www.urantia.org/es/>

<http://www.urantia.org/fr/>

<http://www.urantia.org/pt/>