



William Wentworth

President's Report

With last year's annual conference now well behind us, the next regular event will be the Annual Study Day scheduled for 28th May. Since this event was internationalised it has become quite popular, and further information about the paper to be studied

by all participating groups is included in this issue.

Plans are well underway for this year's 2016 annual conference in Tasmania which is being hosted by the Hobart study group. The theme will be "Equipped to be Teachers of the Religion of Jesus—Are you Willing? Are you Ready?" Further details and a registration form are included in this issue. I hope many of you can make it along.

You will find more of the presentations from last year's Sydney conference included in this issue.

Recently, Gaetan Charland, previous President of Urantia Association International and now Chair of the Study Group committee on the International Service Board, has begun the formation of his committee to foster study groups, and has asked for volunteers from ANZURA affiliated groups. ANZURA Vice President Neville Twist, New Zealand Representative Ian Campbell from the Auckland study group and ANZURA Secretary Phillip Marriott from

the Sydney group have agreed to serve. They will keep us informed of their activities. I hope more inter-study group contact may be stimulated by their work.

Gaetan also requested that all study groups check their registration details with the [Study Group Directory](http://urantiastudy-group.org) to make sure they are up to date. I updated the Canberra details, as we are now meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. If you run a Urantia Book study group please be sure to add the details of your group to this Directory so others may find you. It can be found at <http://urantiastudy-group.org>

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from the President cont.

Neville Twist and I are ex officio members of Urantia Association's Representative Council, and although it has been relatively quiet over the last couple of months, the result of a recent vote gave me a lesson in democratic procedure, courtesy of Alain Cyr from Canada. A motion had been moved by Alain and seconded by me about membership of committees, the vote was taken and the motion defeated. Alain analysed the voting record and discovered that the percentage of votes in favour was listed as 47.1%. As a minimum of 60% is required to carry the proposition, the vote was lost. Alain's analysis pointed out that the figure of 47.1% had been obtained by including abstentions of 17.6% in the base from which the proportion was

calculated. If the abstentions had not been included the proportion in favour would have been 57.14%, still a loss, but much closer than 47.1%. Upon enquiry about this procedure it was agreed that the base should be the votes cast, and that abstentions should be excluded. So a failed motion has cleared up some confusion in vote counting. Thanks Alain.

Congratulations to the editorial team for another outstanding issue. Enjoy your reading!

William Wentworth,
President, ANZURA ■

Equipped to be Teachers of the Religion of Jesus

Are you Willing? Are you Ready?

ANZURA Conference—Tasmania 2016



Maryknoll Retreat & Conference Centre

15 Home Ave
Blackmans Bay
Tasmania

(20 minute drive from Hobart airport)



Urantia is poised to experience a spiritual revolution, the likes of which has never been witnessed before on this planet:

Urantia is now quivering on the very brink of one of its most amazing and enthralling epochs of social readjustment, moral quickening, and spiritual enlightenment.

[Paper 195:9.2, page 2082:7]

It has now been more than seventy five years since a Mid-wayer Commission declared that message to our troubled world! Where and how do we, as readers and students of *The Urantia Book*, fit into this planetary scenario of social, moral, and spiritual reformation? Consider the following:

The religion of Jesus is the most powerful unifying influence the world has ever known.

[Paper 194:3.17, page 2065:5]

Could it be that this *religion of Jesus* is the fuse that ignites and the driving force behind this global renaissance? And if so, just how does this take place...who are the key players...and just what is the divine plan for this unprecedented spiritual renewal?

These intriguing questions and many more are to be considered and answered at ANZURA's forthcoming national conference, to be held in Hobart, Tasmania from the 16th to the 19th September 2016. It was almost six years ago that Hobart hosted its inaugural national conference and once again you are warmly invited to gather with us at the Maryknoll Retreat Centre overlooking the picturesque Blackmans Bay, just fifteen minutes south of the city centre.

Theme

Sooner or later another and greater John the Baptist is due to arise proclaiming "the kingdom of God is at hand"—meaning a return to the high spiritual concept of Jesus...There must come a revival of the actual teachings of Jesus...

Paper 170:5.19, page 1866:2]

Who are these "new teachers of Jesus' religion", who courageously proclaim his life-giving message to the world? What qualifies them to be such? What are these "spiritual weapons" that they are equipped with? How do they perform this critical role on behalf of their fellow mortals? These are pertinent questions to consider as we respond to the call to be teachers of the religion of Jesus. Are we willing to step up to the task? If not us....

then who?

Venue 15 Home Ave, Blackmans Bay, Tasmania

We will have exclusive use of the Maryknoll Retreat and Conference Centre; situated only a short walk from the beautiful waters of Blackmans Bay. Run by the Tasmanian Presentation Sisters since 1979, the Centre offers a chapel for worship, a large conference room, a kitchen, dining room, and several smaller rooms that could be used for study group discussions. Accommodation is all on-site and consists of three double rooms, five twin rooms, and twelve single rooms which all share communal bathrooms and toilets; in addition, there are three self-contained hermitages each suitable for a couple or

small family. We'll do our best to provide attendees with requested accommodation. Beds all have electric blankets and each bedroom has an electric heater. Bed linen and towels are supplied. Tasmania gets pretty cool this time of year so make sure you bring plenty of warm clothes to wear.

Catering The Centre provides a self-serve breakfast as well as lunch and dinner every day. In addition, tea, coffee and other refreshments will be available throughout the day.

Cost Full conference (Shared bathroom) \$390, (Hermitage, each with their own toilet and bathroom) \$420 – These costs cover 3 night's accommodation plus all meals from Friday dinner to Monday lunch. Alcoholic beverages will be available for an extra cost.

Daily Rate \$80 – includes both lunch and dinner plus tea and coffee throughout the day.

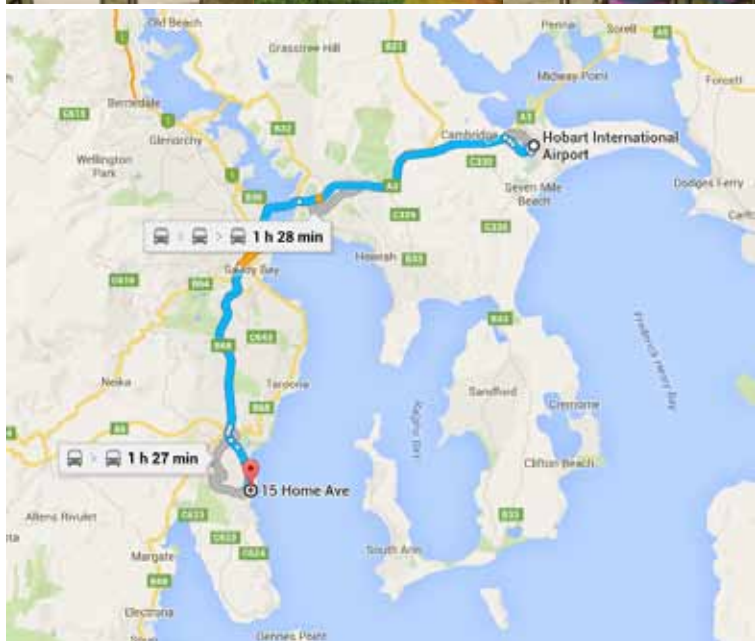
Daily Rate \$40 – includes only lunch plus tea and coffee throughout the day.

Directions from Hobart International Airport

[Link to map shown below](#)

Enquiries and registrations

For further information please contact: ANZURA Australia
 Mob: 0481 508 782 anzura@urantia-anzura.org
 Please send completed registration forms to:
 ANZURA, PO Box 1581, Warriewood, NSW 2102 Australia
We look forward to seeing you there!



Location map showing route from Hobart International Airport



View to Blackman's Bay from verandah of Maryknoll Retreat and Conference Centre



Sun Room at Maryknoll Conference Centre



Maryknoll Retreat and Conference Centre

Please complete and return by 10 August 2016 to: ANZURA, PO Box 1581, WARRIEWOOD, NSW 2102, AUSTRALIA

Conference 2016—Registration Form

		Full Conference	Day Rates	Special dietary Requirements please specify	Conference Fees
Names of people attending	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____
	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____
	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____
Contact address		Total Fees		(\$Aus)	
_____		_____		_____	
Postcode					

Phone	_____	Paying by (please tick) Credit Card <input type="checkbox"/> Cheque <input type="checkbox"/>			
email	_____	I hereby authorise you to charge my: Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/>			
Payment can be made by cheque or credit card. Please make cheques payable to ANZURA. (Cheques from overseas to Australia must be bank cheques in Australian dollars)		Credit Card Number <input type="text"/>			
		Expiry Date _____ Name on Card _____			
		Signature _____			
(\$Aus) Electronic Bank Transfer: Account Name: ANZURA BSB: 082 183 Account Number: 678 992 437					

Please detach and return the completed registration form. Thanks and see you there!

~ National Study Day • Weekend of 28th of May ~

Paper 170 – The Kingdom of Heaven

It's that time of year again for ANZURA's Study Day. Each year ANZURA arranges a National Study Day to provide an opportunity for readers to participate in a study group in their region and to read the same paper on the same day as other readers across multiple regions. This event is designed to assist students of *The Urantia Book* in their in depth study of the book and its teachings, as well as to give us an opportunity to meet and socialise with fellow readers in a relaxed atmosphere where we can enjoy sharing with one another those supernal spiritual teachings that are so dear to us.

This year study groups will meet on Saturday **28 May 2016** and will study **Paper 170 – The Kingdom of Heaven**.

Jesus desired to substitute for the idea of the kingdom, king, and subjects, the concept of the heavenly family, the heavenly Father, and the liberated sons of God engaged in joyful and voluntary service for their fellow men and in the sublime and intelligent worship of God the Father. [Paper 170:2.12, page 1860:7]

...Jesus never tired of telling them that the kingdom of heaven was their personal experience of realizing the higher qualities of spiritual living; that these realities of the spirit experience are progressively translated to new and higher levels of divine certainty and eternal grandeur. [Paper 170:2.16, page 1860:11]

...Concerning the kingdom, his last word always was, "The kingdom is within you." [Paper 170:1.13, page 1859:6]

Again we have invited the international readership to join us on this weekend to study the same paper from *The Urantia Book*. It's uplifting to know that such unifying connections are possible for us readers who are spread far and wide across Australia and New Zealand and even the entire globe.

You will find at the end of this newsletter the contact details of the Study Group Hosts. By contacting the one nearest to you, you will be able to find out how the day will be structured. If you are a solitary student with no other readers nearby, please consider joining us in spirit on the day and read this paper with the knowledge that we are united and motivated in the same Spirit. You may also wish to consider joining the online Study Day on Urantia Association's Forum at <http://urantia-association.org/forums>. In addition, some groups may hold virtual groups via Skype or some other video conferencing method. We will announce these via email so stay tuned for more details about that. We wish you an interesting, uplifting and enjoyable day.

Warm regards,

ANZURA Governing Board ■



Social Media as a Tool for the Urantia Revelation

Social Media Committee

The Social Media Committee of Urantia Association International is pleased to announce the launching of the Association's first Public Facebook Group. This differs from the existing Facebook Page of the Association in that it provides a platform for discussions and online study between Urantia Book students and anyone interested from the public at large. Posts can be viewed by the public, but if anyone wishes to join the discussions they will need to click on the "Join" tab and their request is vetted before they are accepted as a member of the group.

The Mission Statement for this Public Group states: *As Urantia Association International's mission is to foster the study of The Urantia Book and to disseminate its teachings, our purpose as faith sons of our Heavenly Father is to keep The Urantia Book on the top shelf of human thought by engaging in discussion on the uplifting truths contained in the book. The aim of this site is for participants to be exposed to the truths contained in The Urantia Book by providing an arena for the free expression of philosophic ideas concerning the Fifth Epochal Revelation to our planet. Discussions here are to be true to the spirit of Jesus as we share our highest truths in an effort to uplift and encourage one another in our study of the book.*

This Group may be viewed at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/UrantiaAssociationInternational>

Social media sites such as these can be especially helpful to the lone reader. Many an isolated reader, with no one to discuss this life-altering book, has found a wellspring of friendship and a library of information on social media's Urantia oriented pages. This new and rapidly growing opportunity for study and friendly connection unites students of the Papers and simultaneously reveals their private studies and reflections to a much larger audience than the study group would without social media. Even more, social media offers topical studies and an almost limitless array of images and artwork inspired by the teachings.

The various social media have already, in their relatively short existence, become a deep reservoir of Urantia related presentations, using text, graphics, photos, audio, documents, and videos that are easily created and widely broadcast. Social media is also a magnificent bulletin board for announcing conferences and links to teaching tools. It also offers a place to teach and learn outside the

reader realm. The ability to 'SHARE' on Facebook brings with it the potential for spreading the teachings limitlessly across time and distance—the "viral factor" applies. When Urantia Book students and teachers embed links in quotes and images, they lead revelatory pearl-seekers back to the book, and some will find their way to Urantia Association's and Urantia Foundation's webpages.

Urantia Association International's other Social Media and Internet sites:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/urantia.association/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/UrantiaAssoc>

Forum: <http://urantia-association.org/forums>

Website: <https://urantia-association.org>

Social Media Committee

Urantia Association International ■



Follow the Yellow Brick Road



Kathleen Swadling, Sydney

Presented at the Annual Conference, Sydney 2015

Introduction

We've done a lot of talking this weekend about the individual's journey with faith and about developing the character traits required to stay on that pathway that leads us all the way to Paradise and

beyond. I'd like to focus on what believers who've made the big decision to enter into the kingdom of heaven, do collectively to help an evolutionary world move along the pathway towards the era of Light & Life. I'm going to refer to this pathway as the "Yellow Brick Road."

Yes, I think you all know where I stole this term from. That famous children's movie: *The Wizard of Oz*. The idea to borrow this concept evolved in my mind as I was contemplating the experiences I had in the developing stages of becoming a believer in God. I've always thought of those special moments that occurred in my inner life that helped to bring me closer to having a faith in God, were like fine golden threads connecting my inner most

core with the source of truth. As more and more fine golden threads emerged they started to wind themselves into a thick golden rope. I started to feel like I had found a golden freeway. Everything that came before was like looking for the on ramp to the freeway; once I found that on ramp and entered the freeway I was on my way!

I know now that this was just an analogy for the development of a solid, rock-like unshakeable faith. This faith gave me the courage to put my foot on the accelerator and start hooning on down the road that was going to take me all the way to Paradise and beyond. Then, thinking about solid, rock like roads and golden freeways made me think of the Yellow Brick Road in the *Wizard of Oz* that led to the Emerald City. I revisited that movie and was intrigued by the characters and the whole story line; it's a kind of crude analogy of a spiritual quest. The characters in the story had so many funny little character traits that were so like those of the sincere truth seeker trying to find the answers to the big questions. You have Dorothy, the trusting, innocent, pure hearted child; Straw Man who had no brain, yet was the one who came up with all the good ideas and wise comments; Tin man who had no heart but was the most emotional of them all; and the Lion who had no courage but ended up saving the day through heroic deeds. As they bonded together in fellowship on their journey along the yellow brick road to find all the things missing in their lives, all the traits they thought were missing actually started emerging as they were confronted with difficult situations.

Conviction and Dedication of Will

Before I launch into our collective journey as kingdom believers I want to take a quick look at how we reach that point where we decide to devote ourselves to the service of building the Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God.

The journey of gaining faith in God can be wrought with doubt and indecision. As awareness of God dawns and as we grapple with our internal confusion and torment, we may start to feel afraid of where all this may lead. We may have to make some big decisions and change our lives. At this point we could be tempted to turn our backs on this path and talk ourselves into thinking we may be deluding ourselves.

Modern men and women of intelligence evade the religion of Jesus because of their fears of what it will do to them... And all such fears are well founded. The religion of Jesus does, indeed, dominate and transform its believers, demanding that men dedicate their lives to seeking for a knowledge of the will of the Father in heaven and requiring that the energies of living be consecrated to the unselfish service of the brotherhood of man. [Paper 195:9.6, page 2083.2] emphasis added

For those who end up becoming true believers, there inevitably comes a time in our spiritual journey where we reach a significant moment where we make a decision to dedicate ourselves wholeheartedly to the doing of the Father's will, where we say, "It's my will that your will be done."

Such a creature choice is not a surrender of will. It is a consecration of will, an expansion of will, a glorification of will, a perfecting of will... [Paper 111:5.5, page 1221.6]

This decision marks your entry into the Kingdom of Heaven—you've stepped onto the golden highway that leads all the way to Paradise and beyond. But beware! Look at what Jesus told some of his apostles and disciples during the Decapolis Tour when giving them advice on how to teach truth.

Believing the gospel will not prevent getting into trouble, but it will insure that you shall be unafraid when trouble does overtake you. If you dare to believe in me and wholeheartedly proceed to follow after me, you shall most certainly by so doing enter upon the sure pathway to trouble. I do not promise to deliver you from the waters of adversity, but I do promise to go with you through all of them. [Paper 159:3.13, page 1767:1] emphasis added

So if ever you feel you are being taunted by someone who likes to argue about religionists having "blind faith", read this passage again. We need to embark on this journey with our eyes wide open and with very much courage in our hearts. These enlightened spiritual teachings are not for the faint hearted. (I recommend you all read this paper again and again. It's loaded with Jesus' teachings—Paper 159, page 1762)

Once you're certain about your faith you inevitably allow your indwelling adjuster more scope in your heart and mind to lead you along the way. You learn to trust in those inner leadings and you become daring enough to make any adjustments necessary to stay the course.

For serious students of *The Urantia Book* we can't help but take note of the many calls to service. Over and over again the teachings of the book reveal to us that service to our fellows is indissolubly linked with spiritual progress. The true mark of spiritual progression is the increasing desire to do good to others. Love for the Father and a sincere desire to do his will inevitably begets love for ones fellow man and a desire to help bring our fellow men and women into the Family of God, or into the Kingdom of Heaven.

God is not only the determiner of destiny; he is man's eternal destination. All nonreligious human activities seek to bend the universe to the distorting service of self; the truly religious individual seeks to identify the self with the universe and then to dedicate the activities of this unified self to the service of the universe family of fellow beings, human and superhuman. [Paper 5:4.3, page 67.1]

Primitive man made little effort to put his religious convictions into words. His religion was danced out rather than thought out. Modern men have thought out many creeds and created many tests of religious faith. Future religionists must live out their religion, dedicate themselves to the wholehearted service of the brotherhood of man. [Paper 99:5.9, page 1091.8]

These kinds of teachings inevitably lead us to pose the sincere questions: HOW CAN I HELP? WHAT CAN I DO TO SERVE? Here is the time we can make some >>

momentous decisions about how we're going to conduct our lives from here on in. Of course, every individual will get different answers to these questions, we all have different "callings" if you like. I'd like to talk about one that is very near and dear to my heart and one that I know is near and dear to many of us here today. And that is how to help spread the teachings—the ideas and concepts—contained in this Fifth Epochal Revelation to our world—the teachings of *The Urantia Book*—not the teachings **about** *The Urantia Book*.

Serving Epochal Revelations

An individual can reach a state of light and life in one short life time, just like Jesus did. But for a planet it's not so easy. As we know from our study of *The Urantia Book* it takes us age upon age. And we need lots of help—lots of big help. Hence our glorious unseen friends send us periodic help in the form of Epochal Revelations. And, as we know they are claiming *The Urantia Book* to be the 5th one that has been given to our world.

We are told:

There have been many events of religious revelation but only five of epochal significance. These were as follows: (they then list 1. The Dalamatian teachings, 2. The Edenic teachings, 3. Melchizedek of Salem, 4. Jesus of Nazareth, then): 5. The Urantia Papers. The papers, of which this is one, constitute the most recent presentation of truth to the mortals of Urantia. [Paper 92:4.9, page 1008:2]

You can't get it clearer than that. Do we really appreciate just what we have here in *The Urantia Book*? Do we realise the significance of this claim by the revelators? Good heavens, this is in the same league as The Planetary Prince and his staff of 100, Adam and Eve, Machiventa Melchizedek, and Jesus. This is not a game tiddlywinks. This is serious stuff!

When I first became aware of this claim it was a turning point for me. I had to decide whether I was going to believe this claim or not. If I did, then I knew things would have to change for me. I couldn't sit on my laurels and do nothing about it. If I decided it was a hoax then I'd have to put the book aside and consider it one of the greatest frauds that ever hit the airways. Obviously I decided it was what it claimed to be and set about to rearrange my life so that I could devote myself to the mission of helping our unseen friends get it established into our society somehow.

They give us so many warnings in the book about the need for new truth on this world. We've outgrown the old set of ideas of God and if we don't get a new one—well, if we've read the papers on the modern problems of this world we know what can happen to society when it lacks sound religion that's commensurate with modern day thinking.

A lasting social system without a morality predicated on spiritual realities can no more be maintained than could the solar system without gravity. [Paper 195:5.9, page 2075:12]

Materialism denies God, secularism simply ignores him... Twentieth-century secularism tends to affirm that man does

not need God. But beware! this godless philosophy of human society will lead only to unrest, animosity, unhappiness, war, and world-wide disaster. [Paper 195:8.5, page 2081:5]

Then we get many many pleas and calls that twig our consciences. These calls are coming from the revelators themselves – the representatives of Christ Michael, the Supreme Being and the Paradise Trinity. They are calling out to modern-day devotees of the *Urantia* teachings to join them by becoming the material link in the chain for this epochal project. Have a look at these:

All Urantia is waiting for the proclamation of the ennobling message of Michael, unencumbered by the accumulated doctrines and dogmas of nineteen centuries of contact with the religions of evolutionary origin. The hour is striking for presenting to Buddhism, to Christianity, to Hinduism, even to the peoples of all faiths, not the gospel about Jesus, but the living, spiritual reality of the gospel of Jesus. [Paper 94:12.7, page 1041:5]

But paganized and socialized Christianity stands in need of new contact with the uncompromised teachings of Jesus; it languishes for lack of a new vision of the Master's life on earth. A new and fuller revelation of the religion of Jesus is destined to conquer an empire of materialistic secularism and to overthrow a world sway of mechanistic naturalism. Urantia is now quivering on the very brink of one of its most amazing and enthralling epochs of social readjustment, moral quickening, and spiritual enlightenment. [Paper 195:9.2, page 2082:7]

Urantia society can never hope to settle down as in past ages. The social ship has steamed out of the sheltered bays of established tradition and has begun its cruise upon the high seas of evolutionary destiny; and the soul of man, as never before in the world's history, needs carefully to scrutinize its charts of morality and painstakingly to observe the compass of religious guidance. The paramount mission of religion as a social influence is to stabilize the ideals of mankind during these dangerous times of transition from one phase of civilization to another, from one level of culture to another. [Paper 99:1.3, page 1086:6]

The religious challenge of this age is to those farseeing and forward-looking men and women of spiritual insight who will dare to construct a new and appealing philosophy of living out of the enlarged and exquisitely integrated modern concepts of cosmic truth, universe beauty, and divine goodness. [Paper 2:7.10, page 43:3] emphasis added

Religion does need new leaders, spiritual men and women who will dare to depend solely on Jesus and his incomparable teachings. If Christianity persists in neglecting its spiritual mission while it continues to busy itself with social and material problems, the spiritual renaissance must await the coming of these new teachers of Jesus' religion who will be exclusively devoted to the spiritual regeneration of men. And then will these spirit-born souls quickly supply the leadership and inspiration requisite for the social, moral, economic, and political reorganization of the world. [Paper 195:9.4, page 2082:9] emphasis added

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These are wake up calls! Just as I started to feel like I'd found the golden freeway for my own personal spiritual journey, I then started to see the emergence of a "Yellow Brick Road". This is the road that's been around on our world since the beginning of life of our planet. It's the road that past heroes and devotees of previous revelations have walked upon, it's the same road travelled by Andon and Fonta and the subsequent Andonic race; Van and Amadon and the loyalists who survived the planetary rebellion; Adam and Eve and the Adamic race that flourished and spread in the wake of the downfall of Eden, Melchizedek and Abraham and all the Salem missionaries who took the teachings of Faith in the one God to all four corners of the world, Jesus and the apostles and disciples who ended up overturning empires and somehow managed to keep enough of a flickering flame of Jesus' message alive to bring hope to untold millions of believers to this very day.

All the thousands of devoted leaders and followers that emerged through the pages of history, all those heroes of revelation, known and unknown, who have been instrumental in keeping the light of truth alive on our world, they've all walked upon this road that is leading Urantia to the era of Light and Life.

How can we who live in these exciting times and have accepted the Urantia revelation as the 5th epochal revelation in this long line of the planet's religious history; we who have been born again and stepped into the "Kingdom of Heaven"; we who can't help but hear the call to service from the Urantia teachings, not want to step onto that Yellow Brick Road and join hands together to embark on the greatest journey of this material life time of ours.

In my mind there can be no project on this planet, at this time, that is more important than helping others get the message in this book.

How can we read these passages and not feel drawn or inspired to jump on the band-wagon of helping Michael and our unseen friends who brought us this revelation, and share these new ideas and concepts with our fellow men and women?

Service Ministry for the Urantia Revelation

There are no hard and fast rules about what people should be doing in their service choices when it comes to sharing the teachings of *The Urantia Book*. We all need to decide that path for ourselves. The Urantia movement and Urantia groups are not a church and we have no hierarchy of priests so no one is going to tell anyone what to do. Most of us don't want this revelation to turn into "just another religion." The world has enough of them. Nor do I believe that was the intent of the revelators.

This new revelation is designed to broaden mankind's framework for thinking about deity and the cosmos, to reveal heightened concepts of religion and God that are in line with modern day thought, to set the record straight about our planet's history, and to reinstate the teachings

of Jesus so we have a better idea of what the 4th epochal revelation was supposed to be about. It's not here to point the finger at the myriad of religions and schools-of-thought and tell them they've got it wrong; that we have the correct answer, rather it is to embellish the truths in the existing religions and add to them—in a nutshell **this revelation has the power to establish a new philosophy of living that is presented in *The Urantia Book*.**

The big dilemma for many students of the book who want to serve is to know what they should do. There is a lot of scope for service at both the individual and organisational levels. Here are some suggestions:

- **Book distribution.** There's a lot of publicity in the various newsletters about the dissemination efforts of the material book—news about translation and book distribution efforts around the world. These are very tangible projects that require lots of resources both financially and volunteer wise. The history of *The Urantia Book* and Urantia organisations so far has many inspiring stories about the work of groups and individuals who have established, or are in the process of establishing ways and means to get the book translated and circulating in the various book channels. These projects have been laying the foundations for the revelation.
- **Fostering Study of *The Urantia Book*.** There is a lot of emphasis from revelators and Urantia organisations about fostering study of *The Urantia Book*. Advice was given to the early leaders of the Urantia movement around the time of the printing of the book to form thousands of study groups. One of the Concordant Objects in Urantia Foundation's Declaration of Trust is to "disseminate the principles, teachings, and doctrines of *The Urantia Book*." Urantia Association International's Mission Statement is to "foster study of *The Urantia Book* and to disseminate its teachings".

Why this emphasis on study? Well you don't really "get" the full impact of these teachings of *The Urantia Book* with superficial scanty readings. The book is designed to be studied. It's more like a text book or an encyclopaedia. It's not a novel; it's an information source, a handbook for living. It can be a lifelong companion and by studying it in its entirety - by reading it over and over, you get greater breadth and depth of understanding which can lead to greater opportunities for expanding your understanding of spiritual reality.

Reading this book is by no means a "quick fix" or an instant ticket to spiritual enlightenment. Individuals only become enlightened by reading the book to the extent they embrace and internalise the teachings and emanate their spiritual growth in their everyday lives through their "fruits of the spirit."

- **Social interaction with other students.** It's my firm belief that in these early years of the revelation, in these years in this day and age when so >>

many people don't seem to be interested in things to do with God or religion, that current students of the book who take the time to study it in-depth are inadvertently being groomed to become teachers of these teachings. Through constant personal study and frequent socialisation with other students, you gain practice in talking about the teachings. Social interaction with other readers can be like finding a family of people who all speak the same language. You can talk the "jargon" of The Urantia Book with one another and you can learn a lot by engaging and sharing ideas and interpretations. It's a very benign, safe and sure way to get a good grounding in the teachings of the book.

- **Organisation of Study Events.** And of course, to make it possible for these study and socialisation opportunities to occur you need to have people who are prepared to organise such events. There are untold opportunities to serve in this way e.g. hosting or attending study groups and conferences. The main goal of this kind of service activity is to assist people in becoming knowledgeable and articulate – and eventually confident – in being able to share the teachings in their everyday lives in whatever manner we feel moved.
- **Talking about the teachings in *The Urantia Book*.** The goal of becoming groomed as a bon- a-fide Urantia Book reader, or as an advanced student, or even a "scholar" of the book, apart from the benefit to an individual's spiritual progression, is so that you can become better at sharing the teachings, ideas and concepts in the book. You don't even necessarily need to mention the book. Personally I feel this is one of the most important results of being involved in study groups and being involved in the socialisation with other readers. It's not just about personal development; it can lead to service to the wider community in the ways the revelators are calling us to do. And it isn't necessarily to tell people about The Urantia Book – in fact in many cases that can be a bad idea. How many of us have tried to tell people about The Urantia Book and have lost friends, or find themselves talking to an unresponsive audience where the eyes glaze over, or you get the "you're weird" kind of look. It's very hard to talk about The Urantia Book without sounding crazy. We need to discover techniques for sharing the teachings of this book, and it doesn't happen overnight. I love this quote:

As the days pass, every true believer becomes more skillful in alluring his fellows into the love of eternal truth. Are you more resourceful in revealing goodness to humanity today than you were yesterday? Are you a better righteousness recommender this year than you were last year? Are you becoming increasingly artistic in your technique of leading hungry souls into the spiritual kingdom? [Paper 156:5.15, page 1740:2]

If you're going to talk about the book, I've found it's better to talk about what it can do for one's soul. Better to give people a testimonial of your own experience, or if they press you to know what it's "about" give them a broad philosophical overview or a dumbed down version of the core concepts and values, a bit like you would when explaining something advanced to a child. You need to find ways to



Which is the right way?

relate to each individual using terms they are familiar with, which means you need to take an interest in them and find out what they think and believe before you attempt to bamboozle them with a whole bunch of weird stories and foreign terminologies. If they keep pressing you for more information "about" the book, I like to encourage them to take a look for themselves—encourage them to have a firsthand experience with it. And it's very important to be mindful of what Jesus told Ganid about not trying to tell people "about" the kingdom if they're not yet in there. This quote touches on this point.

When Ganid asked his teacher why he evinced so little interest in this pagan, Jesus answered: "Ganid, the man was not hungry for truth. He was not dissatisfied with himself. He was not ready to ask for help... You cannot reveal God to those who do not seek for him; you cannot lead unwilling souls into the joys of salvation. Man must become hungry for truth as a result of the experiences of living, ... If we know God, our real business on earth is so to live as to permit the Father to reveal himself in our lives..." [Paper 132:7.2, page 1466:2]

- **How outsiders view us.** If anyone on the outside of our Urantia movement is critical of the way we like to put a lot of emphasis on study groups, or how we come together at social and study events like we are now; if they think we are self-serving, cultish, or not doing enough to reach out to the world at large and help the millions of suffering and deprived people, my answer to that is that they do not understand what we are attempting to achieve. The whole overarching point of what Urantia organisations are trying to achieve by promoting these kinds of events is to help the world at large. **The whole point of this exercise is to grow a group of individuals who can become teachers and leaders of the new revelation;** people who can take these teachings to the world in such a way that people can grasp them.

A big part of our study of the book shows us how Jesus went about teaching his gospel and how he taught his apostles to deal with their fellow man. He admonished them against doing all kinds of detrimental things. His technique was to befriend people – to take an interest in them, to find out how they thought and what they believed before he >>

attempted to help them with his saving message. He always adapted his message to a level at which the listener could relate. We would do well to learn from Jesus' techniques. These quotes illustrate this point:

To "follow Jesus" means to personally share his religious faith and to enter into the spirit of the Master's life of unselfish service for man. One of the most important things in human living is to find out what Jesus believed, to discover his ideals, and to strive for the achievement of his exalted life purpose. Of all human knowledge, that which is of greatest value is to know the religious life of Jesus and how he lived it. [Paper 196:1.3, page 2094:4]

(While in Rome Jesus selected a group of religious leaders from the Cynics, Stoics, and Mithraics)

And this was his method of instruction: Never once did he attack their errors or even mention the flaws in their teachings. In each case he would select the truth in what they taught and then proceed so to embellish and illuminate this truth in their minds that in a very short time this enhancement of the truth effectively crowded out the associated error; and thus were these Jesus-taught men and women prepared for the subsequent recognition of additional and similar truths in the teachings of the early Christian missionaries. [Paper 132:0.4, page 1455:4]

Even though you are effectively armed to meet the difficult situations of life, you can hardly expect success unless you are equipped with that wisdom of mind and charm of personality which enable you to win the hearty support and co-operation of your fellows. You cannot hope for a large measure of success in either secular or religious work unless you can learn how to persuade your fellows, to prevail with men. You simply must have tact and tolerance. [Paper 160:1.9, page 1774:1]

Conclusion

So like the characters in the Wizard of Oz, we innocently embark upon our journey in search of answers to the big questions and stumble upon the most incredible adventure of our lives. We confront the hurdles and difficulties on our journey and make courageous decisions that are aligned to the will of the heavenly Father; we accumulate golden morontia threads that connect our hearts and minds to the source of all truth; we develop the courage and wisdom needed to keep us on that solid foundation rock of faith that will carry us forever onwards.

And when we band together on this journey in service to our fellow man, we become a little bit like our fellowship of friends: Dorothy, Straw Man, Tin Man, and Lion who helped each other to be strong and courageous and to stay the course upon that "Yellow Brick Road".

Faith most willingly carries reason along as far as reason can go and then goes on with wisdom to the full philosophic limit; and then it dares to launch out upon the limitless and never-ending universe journey in the sole company of TRUTH. [Paper 103:9.7, page 1141.5] ■



Urantia information booth

Urantia Book Promotion at Markets



Philip Marriott , Sydney

Editor's note. Philip Marriott has taken it upon himself to develop a market stall specifically for displaying The Urantia Book at local markets. For the past two years he has been attending an organic market once a month in his own suburb. At the Sydney conference last year Philip erected his stall and gave a presentation on what he does. He shared his experiences with us. Following are some of his tips for setting up a stall.

Some important points to consider:

Needs

- Marquee with weights (for wind gusts)
- Display table with table cloth (White)
- Books & Brochures
- Signage, banners, MUM (Master Universe Map)
- Patience.....!)



Where?

Any sort of a people rich environment, e.g. organic food markets

Compliance

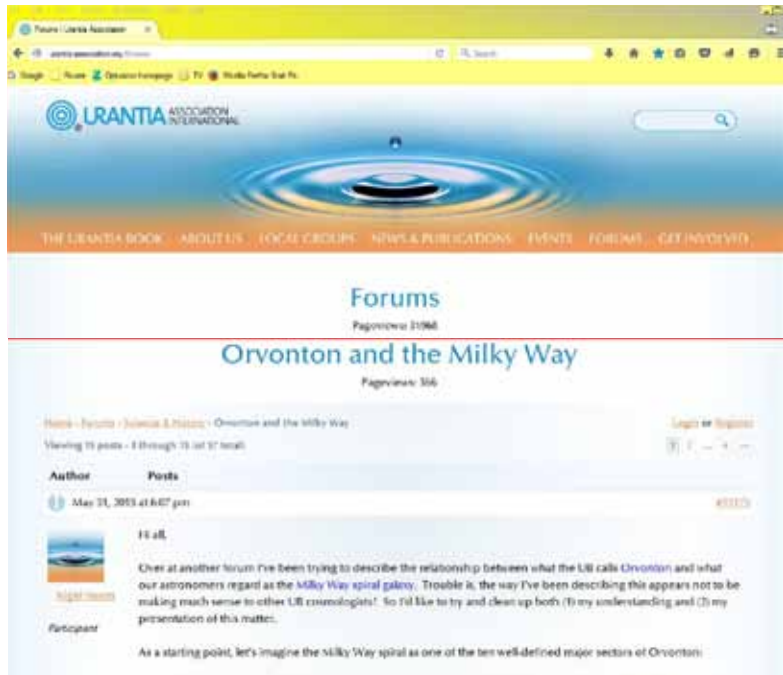
Check the Market's rules; you will need to have Public Liability insurance. Book ahead and do it regularly. To make this a success you'll need at least one dedicated person who is prepared to manage and coordinate things. Invite others to help and to have an opportunity to serve. A good knowledge of *The Urantia Book* is preferred as you will be answering tricky questions.



For me the time now is to have face to face promotion of *The Urantia Book*. People may stop and chat, take a brochure or enquire about the book. They will ask, "What is it all about?", "Who is the author?" We do the best we can in sparking their interest and many will take a brochure, some will even buy a book. In the end, "the acts are ours, the consequences Gods...!"

Also there could be variations on this theme. You could have smaller promotions at local shops or campuses, etc.

If you are considering having a stall like this, or have an idea for a larger or smaller event to promote *The Urantia Book*, ANZURA can supply books and brochures. Let us know so we can assist you with suitable materials. Email: anzura@urantia-anzura.org



This is a screen shot of how it looks on the website:

Orvonton and the Milky Way

Below is a small extract from a discussion on the Forum of Urantia Association International's Website. It is as an example of the kinds of discussions that can be held on this discussion group. This particular thread may appeal to the science and cosmology buffs.

June 2, 2015 at 3:13 am#15189



Mara
Participant

Nigel Nunn wrote: . . . "or not made clear!"

I guess I asked a dumb question about the Milky Way being Orvonton. I had to figure this out before I could profit from your remarks, Nigel. I found what I was looking for on a framed map hanging on my own wall! It's a map of The Universe put out by National Geographic Magazine. [The Universe](#) The Milky Way is a tiny speck at an outer region of a bunch of globs. For people like me who have less knowledge of astronomy, a graphic of where Orvonton is located relative to the geography of the other physical organizations would be helpful in order to get a perspective on the grandness of the universe.

Thanks for the link to the ZOA.

Nigel Nunn wrote: "So assuming that Uversa really is at the physical centre of Orvonton. . ."

They tell us, ". . . physical center of the superuniverse of Orvonton [is], far, far away in the dense diameter of the Milky Way." How can the astronomic center of the 7th superuniverse be. . . in the dense diameter of the Milky Way? It says in the dense diameter, not beyond the dense diameter. So which is it: in or beyond the dense diameter of the Milky Way?

June 2, 2015 at 6:32 am#15192



Nigel Nunn
Participant

Hi Mara,

“So which is it: in or beyond the dense diameter of the Milky Way?”

Good question! Current telescopes easily identify a rotational center 26,000 light years away “in the dense diameter of the Milky Way”. This is the famous [Sagittarius A*](#). So, if Uversa is 200,000 light years in that same direction, it must be beyond (“the dense diameter of the Milky Way”). When astronomers say something is “in Sagittarius”, they mean “in the direction of...”

Nigel

June 2, 2015 at 6:51 am#15193



Vern
Participant

Hi Nigel

In ancient times the human viewpoint placed our planet at the centre of creation and the stars revolved about us. Now we know we are on the outer periphery of our local universe Nebadon, thanks to *The Urantia Book*.

Though our astronomers no longer adhere to the earth-centric viewpoint, they are, we are, still earthbound as we look out at the cosmos. We look out through that slit of visibility termed the “line of avoidance.” How are our astronomers going to locate those 3, 840,101 inhabited planets in our local “friendly” universe?

Good to see your inquisitive mind at work my friend.

June 2, 2015 at 1:28 pm #15199



George Park
Participant

Hi Nigel,

I think you must be right in your idea that the Milky Way is one of ten major sectors in Orvonton. The authors give us three facts about Orvonton which support this.

1. Uversa is between 200,000 and 250,000 light-years distant.

“From Jerusem, the headquarters of Satania, it is over two hundred thousand light-years to the physical center of the superuniverse of Orvonton.... From the outermost system of inhabited worlds to the center of the superuniverse is a trifle less than two hundred and fifty thousand light-years.”
[Paper 32:2.11, page 359:8]

2. The galaxies of Orvonton are in gravitational revolution about Uversa at its center of rotation.

“The Sagittarius sector and all other sectors and divisions of Orvonton are in rotation around Uversa.” [Paper15:3.7, page 168:3]

“The whirl of the ten major sectors, the so-called star drifts, about the Uversa headquarters of Orvonton.” [Paper 15:3.13, page 168:9]

3. There are 10 trillion suns in Orvonton.

“The superuniverse of Orvonton is illuminated and warmed by more than ten trillion blazing suns. These suns are the stars of your observable astronomic system. More than two trillion are too distant and too small ever to be seen from Urantia.” [Paper 15:6.10, page 172:13]

These facts describe a planar structure of roughly 10 trillion solar masses in gravitational revolution about a center roughly 225,000 light-years distant. The only astronomic structure consistent with these facts is the Local Group of galaxies, first identified in 1936 by Edwin Hubble in his *The Realm of the Nebulae*.

The Local Group is a relatively isolated structure that is bound together by gravity. This is demonstrated by the fact that space does not expand within the Local Group. Gravity holds its parts together with enough force to prevent space from expanding within its borders, which are about 4 million light-years away from us. Hubble guessed as much, and this lack of space expansion has now been confirmed. Beyond this distance the universal expansion of space is measureable. The revolution of Orvonton’s galaxies about Uversa is caused by gravity, and the Local Group is the only gravitationally bound cosmic structure which could potentially be in revolution about this location.

Over the last decade there have been at least 8 scientific papers containing estimates of the mass of the Local Group. The average estimate from these independent studies is approximately 5 trillion solar masses. This is comparable in scale with the statement that Orvonton contains 8 trillion observable suns.

These fairly straightforward and unambiguous facts clearly identify the superuniverse of Orvonton as the Local Group. This conclusion is supported by something the Universal Censor says:

“Of the ten major divisions of Orvonton, eight have been roughly identified by Urantian astronomers. The other two are difficult of separate recognition because you are obliged to view these phenomena from the inside.” [Paper 15:3.4, page 167:21]

This 1934 statement appears to refer to Hubble’s work. In 1936 Hubble published his identification of the Local Group, which included the Milky Way and seven extragalactic nebulae as members.

George

June 2, 2015 at 3:22 pm #15200



Mara
Participant

Nigel Nunn wrote: “Current telescopes easily identify a rotational center 26,000 light years away “in the dense diameter of the Milky Way”. This is the famous Sagittarius A*.”

Another question Nigel. The authors first mention the dense star cloud of Sagittarius in connection with the rotational center of our minor sector. (Later, they >>

talk about the confusion of Urantian star observers [c. 1934] arising out of the illusions and relative distortions produced by the multiple revolutionary movements of the numerous sectors and systems.)

The rotational center of your minor sector is situated far away in the enormous and dense star cloud of Sagittarius, around which your local universe and its associated creations all move, and from opposite sides of the vast Sagittarius subgalactic system you may observe two great streams of star clouds emerging in stupendous stellar coils. [Paper 15:3:5, page 168:1]

Why do the authors name the dense star cloud Sagittarius? Could it be they use this word designation to help us locate a direction for observation in the night sky, as we look up, and hoping to imagine were to find Ensa?

[Paper15:14:7, page 182:6]

(To view the entire fascinating and educational conversation go to <http://urantia-association.org/forums/topic/orvonton-and-the-milky-way/>. Currently it's running at 4 pages worth of postings so be sure to click to the next page.)

If you are one of the hidden cosmologists and just lap up all these Astronomic stipulations - Nigel now invites your feed back , specially on the content of these two entries:

<http://urantia-association.org/forums/topic/orvonton-and-the-milky-way/page/4/#post-15974>

<http://urantia-association.org/forums/topic/orvonton-and-the-milky-way/page/4/#post-18783> ■



New Zealand Corner

Ian Campbell, Auckland New Zealand

Since the last issue of NZ Corner the Urantia-NZ Facebook page has been kept ticking along nicely by Matthew Hall and others, and the Auckland study group has had two monthly meetings after our traditional December break. In January the group adopted the following format for our 2016 meetings.



Planning

1. At any time anyone can suggest a paper to be read or topic that they would like to be developed by adding a card to the suggestions list in Trello. (Trello, pictured below, is a web-based collaboration product discussed in the last NZ Corner).
2. At any time anyone can volunteer to develop a topic on the suggestions list by dragging the topic's card to the "Topics being developed" list and placing his/her icon on the card. Others can add their icon to the card if they wish to assist.
3. Once a topic has been developed it is dragged back to the suggestions list.
4. When a facilitator wishes to include a paper or topic in the next meeting it is dragged from the suggestions list to the "Next meeting" list.
5. After the meeting topics are dragged to the "Completed" list or back to the suggestions list for further study.

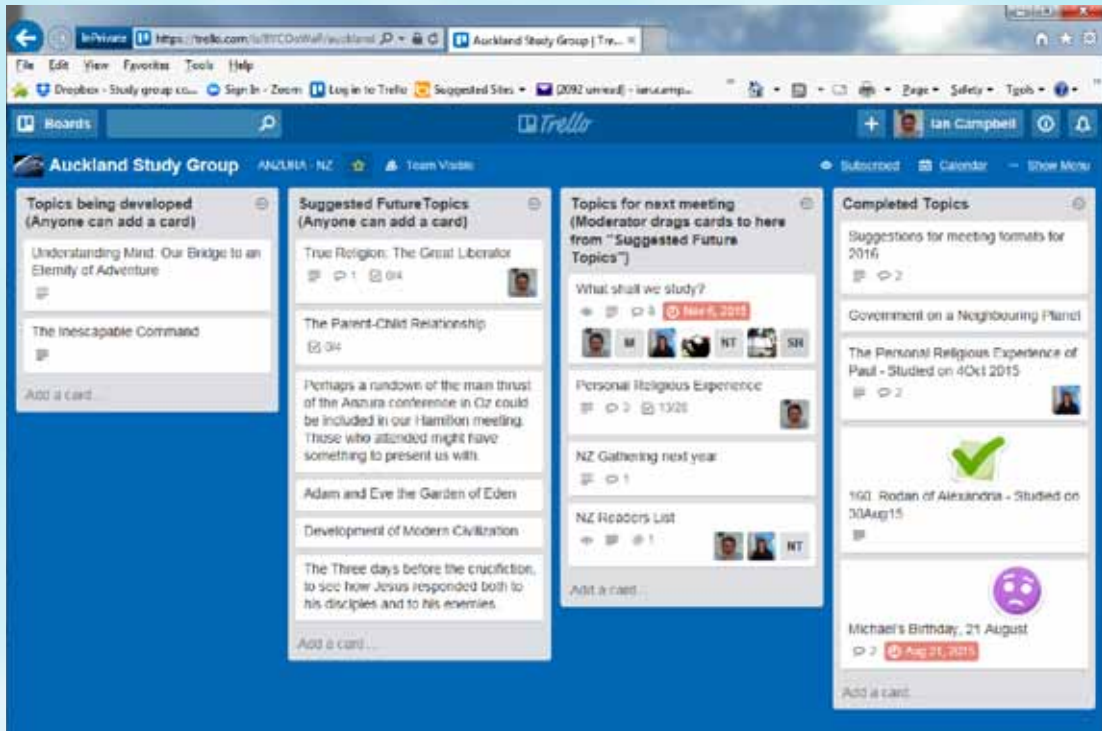
Meetings

1. We take turns at hosting. (Opting out occasionally or permanently is OK).
2. We take turns at facilitating. The host is automatically the facilitator unless he/she declines.
3. The facilitator should choose a paper or developed topic(s) to study and communicate this to the group at least a week before the meeting so that those who wish to can prepare in advance.
4. While we all love to socialise we should try to study The Urantia Book for 2 hours. (Generally, arrive at 9:30am for coffee and studying from 10:00 to 12:00).
5. Each member reads to the end of the next section or page (whichever is shorter).
6. Interrupt the reading (for comments and questions) at the end of a paragraph only.
7. Devices can be used only for researching the topic currently being discussed.
8. Increase the frequency of meetings from monthly to fortnightly.

Our study group has four core members who have been in the group since it was formed more than 30 years ago. We also have two current members who have participated in other study groups for the same length of time or longer. As such, our group doesn't fit a leader/student model very well. Most of our members prefer to share the hosting and are keen to practise and improve their individual leadership skills. The above format helps us do this and also allows us to cater for new members as they arrive.

Urantia Association International (UAI) Study Group Committee

Three ANZURA members: Phillip Marriott (Sydney), Neville Twist (Auckland) and myself (Auckland) recently attended our first meeting of the UAI Study Group Committee, chaired by Gaetan Charland (Montreal). The other members of the committee, also at the meeting, were: Andres Rodriguez (Bogota) and Bill Beasley (Florida). This meeting was conducted as an online video conference, across three timezones, using a web-based product called **Zoom**. The quality of the communications was excellent with facilities for scheduling meetings, screen sharing, white boarding, session recording and more.



Last year we trialled a similar online video conference for a few NZ readers using **Skype** but the communications were a little disappointing. Neville and I are proposing to trial **Zoom** for a couple of Auckland study group meetings with a view to extending this to other NZ readers if successful. The remoteness of many of our readers is often a barrier to attending meetings in person but virtual meetings could help to overcome the tyranny of distance; bandwidth and data caps permitting.

Join a virtual study group: http://www.urantiastudygroup.org/virtual_studygroups.php

Try Zoom: <http://www.zoom.us/>

Try Trello: <https://trello.com>

Email me: ian.campbell@xtra.co.nz

Ian Campbell (New Zealand Representative for ANZURA) ■



Urantia Book Online

Here is a stand-alone, fully searchable Urantia Book website available for all.

URANTIA BOOK ONLINE website <http://ubook4u.com/> is very fast, supports full screen monitors and has an excellent search engine, which displays the time in fractions of a second for any search. Searches can be based on instances of any words, phrases, or associations of words in *The Urantia Book*. ■



~ MINING THE ARCHIVES ~

From the Six:0:Six Newsletter March/April 1989

Editor's note. This is a talk given by Chris Moseley at the South Pacific conference in Robertson, NSW in October 1988. It was first published in the autumn edition of The Urantia Book Study Group Newsletter 'The Ascender' of which Chris was the editor.

Chris Moseley, Caversham, UK

Prospects of a World Religion

I am unqualified to pass judgment on the prospect for the development of evolutionary religion in individual countries, and I am reluctant to generalize on the subject. I would prefer to draw my conclusions from the Book itself. But we need only look around us to see that a world religion is a long way off. In fact *The Urantia Book* says in 'The Character of Statehood' in the Paper on 'Development of the State' that the evolution of a world religion is the 12th and last stage in the evolution of statehood:

12. The world-wide vogue of the pursuit of wisdom – the exaltation of philosophy. The evolution of a world religion, which will presage the entrance of the planet upon the earlier phases of settlement in light and life..

[Paper 71:8.14, page 807.10]

But elsewhere the Book hints at something more imminent, the seeds of which are at least being sown in our own lifetimes. In fact in the Paper "After Pentecost", in 'Christianities Problem' it says:

The modern age will refuse to accept a religion which is inconsistent with facts and out of harmony with its highest conceptions of truth, beauty, and goodness. The hour is striking for a rediscovery of the true and original foundations of present-day distorted and compromised Christianity – the real life and teachings of Jesus. .[Paper 195:9.5, page 2083.1]

Many of we Urantia Book readers are refugees from a Christianity that lowered its standards to conform to the worldly demands of the society it found itself in. And of course this doesn't apply to Christianity alone; many of us must have felt a combination of apprehension and perhaps snaking envy at the way Islam acts as a guide for social and even national moral behaviour. But the danger of a religion that is anchored in the present human environment is that it will fossilize, no longer motivated to evolve by the adjutants of worship and wisdom and the Holy Spirit.

[Paper 92: the later Evolution of Religion] *The co-ordinate functioning of these three divine ministrations is quite sufficient to initiate and prosecute the growth of evolutionary religion.* [Paper 92:0.5, page 1003.5]

Purely human stimuli to religion, fear and superstition, are falling away as the world shrinks with the development of scientific knowledge.

But the effects of neither science nor revelation have penetrated the whole population of the world, There

are great inequalities in the extent to which they have reached various parts of it. And I'm sure we have all wondered at various times about how a highly developed spirituality can express itself when it appears among a primitive and ignorant society. Actually, though, our Book suggests to us that Adjusters can work less effectively with their subjects when they are indwelling primitive human beings. By implication, then, spiritual growth is more attainable in a better developed society, at least in one where the pursuit of knowledge has enough social prestige as to be organised, so that superstition and bigotry are on the way to being overcome. Of course that doesn't mean that the most spiritually advanced aware people are to be found in the most scientifically advanced societies. Not at all: it is possible for human institutions to develop beyond a point where the exercise of religious impulses is safeguarded, to one where it is threatened by a materialistic self-satisfaction and complacency. Our Book does warn us of these things: they are very prevalent and obvious in Twentieth-Century Western Societies. But the very fact that our teachings were indited in the United States, the world's leading technological power, should reassure us that this complacency will only be a passing phenomenon. Our Book warns us of the dangers to family life, our basic human institution, of self-gratification in modern western societies. From the Paper of Marriage and Family Life—'Dangers of self-gratification':

....The hunger of the soul cannot be satisfied with physical pleasures; the love of home and children is not augmented by the unwise pursuit of pleasure. Though you exhaust the resources of art, color, sound, rhythm, music, and adornment of person, you cannot hope thereby to elevate the soul or to nourish the spirit. Vanity and fashion cannot minister to home building and child culture; pride and rivalry are powerless to enhance the survival qualities of succeeding generations. [Paper 84:8.14, page 942.5]

What does this have to do with the prospects for a world religion? Well, I don't have the wisdom of a prophet, but as the world shrinks through computer networks and telecommunications, it seems almost inevitable that the countries we now regard as backward will have to pass through the phase we're now witnessing in the materially advanced ones, if the communications media continue to create artificial needs and demands. Now I realise that if we condemn these artificial modern wants and desires we are in danger of being accused of longing for some unreal arcadian utopia; however, we must remember that this world must after all pass through many stages on its way to settlement in light and life. And we can only begin on that path when the leading nations of the world have achieved those 'earmarks of statehood' I referred to earlier from the Paper on the Development of the State. If we read through them again we can get a rough idea what stage most of the nations of the world are at now in the evolution (page 807). In fact we could probably even draw a graph to demonstrate where the majority are in the late twentieth century. If we did, we might find that quite a few nations have achieved stages >>

5 and 6, a fair number stage 7, the more enlightened ones 8 and 9, but beyond that our graph could not register anything—because while stages 1 to 9 can be achieved at different rates by individual nations, we find at stage 10 that nothing more can be achieved without some overall administrative body to preside over the achievements of the higher stages. This might not come in the form of any world government, but it could be envisaged as being supervised by a world body like the United Nations, if the vested interests of the great power blocs release their grip on it enough to allow it to act more freely. I'm optimistic enough to believe that we can see the seeds of these being sown already.

Now I'm not actually trying to argue by this that a world government is a prerequisite for a world religion. I think it is worthwhile to stop and consider here what our Book says about the idea of world government, before we pass on to consider a planetary religion. Our Book tells us that even Adam made a heroic effort to establish a world government. On Page 833.5 we read that he tried to federate the peoples of Eden into the Edenic League, but that his administrative plans were frustrated outside the Garden by Calligastia and Daligastia.

Our Book also tells us that Urantia is better prepared for a world government than the neighbouring planet whose government is described in Paper 72 and which in so many ways seems ahead of ours. But perhaps the most illuminating passage of all is Jesus' teaching on the subject, given in Paper 'The Transition Years' on pages 1487-1491. It is also a very absorbing passage because it seems like actual prophecy.

Urantia will not enjoy lasting peace until the so-called sovereign nations intelligently and fully surrender their sovereign powers into the hands of the brotherhood of men—mankind government. Internationalism—Leagues of Nations—can never bring permanent peace to mankind...[Paper 134:5.10, page 1489.1]

And again:

Urantia nations have not possessed real sovereignty; they never have had a sovereignty which could protect them from the ravages and devastations of world wars... [Paper 134:6.8, page 1491.2]

These are part of Jesus' teachings at Urmia, and the Midwayer Commission took the unusual step in this Paper of adding a note of their own:

[When we, the midwayers, first prepared the summary of Jesus' teachings at Urmia, there arose a disagreement between the seraphim of the churches and the seraphim of progress as to the wisdom of including these teachings in the Urantia Revelation. Conditions of the twentieth century, prevailing in both religion and human governments, are so different from those prevailing in Jesus' day that it was indeed difficult to adapt the Master's teachings at Urmia to the problems of the kingdom of God and the kingdoms of men as these world functions are existent in the twentieth century. We were never able to formulate a statement of the

Master's teachings which was acceptable to both groups of these seraphim of planetary government. Finally, the Melchizedek chairman of the revelatory commission appointed a commission of three of our number to prepare our view of the Master's Urmia teachings as adapted to twentieth-century religious and political conditions on Urantia. Accordingly, we three secondary midwayers completed such an adaptation of Jesus' teachings, restating his pronouncements as we would apply them to present-day world conditions, and we now present these statements as they stand after having been edited by the Melchizedek chairman of the revelatory commission.] [Paper 134:3.8, page 1486.3]

Now I would like to consider the actual possibility of a world religion as we see it from the perspective of today. There are two main factors interacting here to promote or hinder this possibility among the vast majority of mankind who follow either evolutionary religions or atheistic doctrines (and I might add that all the anti-religious national doctrines seem to be state-imposed ones.) These two factors are the socio-political system and the evolutionary religions. The existence of only two or three great powers in the world, at any rate only two great military alliances, also implies that there are only two socio-political systems, which we call capitalism and communism. But both of these systems are nowadays pretty broad churches. I think until recently they were not so, though, even ten years ago it would have been possible to say that religion, like matters of individual conscience generally, was one of the main causes of confrontation between these two systems. This is no longer true, and I would like to think it is because more enlightened leaders of the two main communist powers, the USSR and China, have finally come to terms, or are finally coming to terms, with the fact that the State ultimately has no power over the individual soul. Of course there are exceptions, in Eastern Europe, like Czechoslovakia and Romania, for example, but these governments too, will eventually have to admit that obvious truth. Evolutionary religions, the various branches of Christianity, have much deeper roots in these countries, roots that cut right through the social structure. For us who are familiar with The Urantia Book's teachings, I think it's particularly poignant to witness the situation in Poland where a highly conservative branch of evolutionary Christianity is taking a moral lead over a floundering and bankrupt government and providing hope and comfort for the people. Something rather similar has been happening in Burma recently, with the Buddhist monks taking an uncharacteristically active part in political developments.

Before we go on to take a closer look at the individual evolutionary religions, let us just remember one important precondition for the development of religion that our Book insist on very clearly: the separation of church and state. Union of church and state is one of the things that the Paper 'Evolution of Human Government' concludes by warning us against. In the nominally communist countries we can see at the present moment the importance of this separation: in the Soviet Union, where church is >>

separated from the State in the constitution institutional religion is enjoying a resurgence and a relative freedom, whereas in Czechoslovakia, where the State presumes authority over the institutional church, priests are persecuted and believers are harassed, despite enormous public protests. And the danger to real religion is great even in countries where the unified Church and State are on friendly terms: in this case the danger is of religious ministry turning into soulless bureaucracy.

So much for socioeconomic systems. Now to consider the principal religions in the world today and what they could contribute to a future world religion. Our Book lists eleven prevailing religions on Urantia in the Twentieth Century, on page 1011, not counting the primitive unorganised animistic beliefs of a small minority of the world's population. Many of these religions have not transcended the local or national level. The two extreme examples are Shinto, which is closely identified with the Japanese State and Emperor, and Sikhism, closely associated with a Punjabi State which is being fought for.

Two other religions are localised to India: Hinduism and Jainism, though they have to some extent spread beyond its borders. But these two religions exist independent of any state or nation and their teachings could have universal application. Hinduism especially has proved very pliable, with influences of the Melchizedek teachings, Buddhism, Jainism Islam and Christianity. Hinduism is tolerant enough to accept the notion of an Infinite One, a Trinity, and secondary gods as well. But in failing to acknowledge a Universal Father and sonship with Him and in being so closely identified with the mortal life of a particular society, Hinduism hasn't proved to have much appeal beyond that society, so that to foreign eyes it almost appears to be a philosophy, or a best a cosmology, rather than a religion.

Taoism and Confucianism, which remain largely confined to China, are the inheritance of ancient philosophers who possessed great wisdom and spiritual insight. Although present day China might not seem fertile ground for theistic beliefs to survive, and although, as our Book tells us in the Paper on Melchizedek Teachings in the Orient, their present forms are pitiful shadows of the original teachings, these two important religions have survived, no doubt also helped by two other important factors: the relative homogeneity of the Chinese race and nation and an ancient and dependable ideographic writing system. But the fact that especially Confucianism has promoted ancestor worship in China, has led to an inevitable sense of exclusiveness and self-containment.

Zoroastrianism is a special case among the religions of Urantia. Although it has been very much overshadowed by zealous Islam in its homeland Iran, it contains a strong strain of the ancient teachings of Dalamatia and Eden, at least about the Seven Master

Spirits, the only religion to do so, though it didn't evolve a Trinity concept. And during the times when the Persians dominated the Hebrews, Zoroastrianism came to have an influence over another important national and social religion, Judaism. And though Judaism is a religion associated with no nation or race, it is a monotheistic religion and the soil from which Christianity sprang.

Our Book describes the Twentieth Century religions under the heading 'the Composite Religions' because they have interbred and influenced each other. The most composite religions one might say are the remaining three: the three great religions which can truly be said to be multinational, namely Buddhism, Islam and Christianity. None of the three is unified: all are split into sects, Christianity most of all, both reflecting and affecting the moral and social climate of the times and places where they split and differentiated. Crusades and missions have made certain branches of them take root in different parts of the world, so could they possibly be unified? Could we even try to unify them, in the spirit of Theosophy say, taking the best elements of each and rejecting those elements which seem to apply only to a particular nation at a particular time? After all, our Book does say:

...there is not a Urantia religion that could not profitably study and assimilate the best of the truths contained in every other faith, for all contain truth. ...

[Paper 92:7.3, page 1012.4]

We hear on the news every day don't we, of the terrible results of religious intolerance somewhere in the world, so we can appreciate how wise that statement is. In fact that reminds me that one of the most recent religions on this planet, the Baha'i faith is also one of the most ruthlessly persecuted - in Iran - from where it sprang! Yet the Baha'i believers themselves are among the most tolerant religionists, believing as they do that each successive great religious teacher was the herald of a larger truth, leading through Jesus to Mohammed to Baha'u'llah.

But a synthesis of the evolved religions alone doesn't seem possible. Now we recipients of this fifth epochal revelation are of course very tempted, in the first flush of our enthusiasm for these supernal teachings, to shout about them from the rooftops, as the religion to unite all religionists and replace all evolved religions, But we know also that the religions of the present-day world must run their natural course and learn to live together first. Let me read a very pertinent paragraph here from the Paper on 'the Later Evolution of Religion'

The future of Urantia will doubtless be characterized by the appearance of teachers of religious truth—the Fatherhood of God and the fraternity of all creatures. But it is to be hoped that the ardent and sincere efforts of these future prophets will be directed less toward the strengthening of interreligious barriers and more toward the augmentation of the religious brotherhood >>

of spiritual worship among the many followers of the differing intellectual theologies which so characterize Urantia of Satania. [Paper 92:5.16, page 1010.4]

Remember how Jesus admonished his apostles not to take any of a person's religion away from them, but to add new truth to it in such a way as eventually to leave no room for untruth. We can take that advice too, in our daily dealings with people who hold different beliefs to us.

It isn't possible I think to say yet with any certainty what form a future world religion will take. But our Book leaves us in no doubt that, providing our world survives at all, there will be one and that phase of our evolution will be the prelude to our world being settled in light and life. It's even impossible to say for certain whether Christianity Islam or Buddhism will spread any further than they have. Islam is so much a social and political system that it is difficult to imagine it winning further territory that has already been claimed by other socio-political systems. And Buddhism, the most effective religion without a God, is not likely to win more converts on a massive scale, although who knows, if it has achieved the concept of the Fatherhood of God and our sonship with Him, it might have swept the world. As for Christianity, I prefer to leave the last word to *The Urantia Book* itself. In Paper 195:

Christianity has indeed done a great service for this world, but what is now most needed is Jesus. The world needs to see Jesus living again on earth in the experience of spirit-born mortals who effectively reveal the Master to all men. It is futile to talk about a revival of primitive Christianity; you must go forward from where you find yourselves. Modern culture must become spiritually baptized with a new revelation of Jesus' life and illuminated with a new understanding of his gospel of eternal salvation. And when Jesus becomes thus lifted up, he will draw all men to himself. Jesus' disciples should be more than conquerors, even overflowing sources of inspiration and enhanced living to all men. Religion is only an exalted humanism until it is made divine by the discovery of the reality of the presence of God in personal experience.

The beauty and sublimity, the humanity and divinity, the simplicity and uniqueness, of Jesus' life on earth present such a striking and appealing picture of man-saving and God-revealing that the theologians and philosophers of all time should be effectively restrained from daring to form creeds or create theological systems of spiritual bondage out of such a transcendental bestowal of God in the form of man. In Jesus the universe produced a mortal man in whom the spirit of love triumphed over the material handicaps of time and overcame the fact of physical origin. [Paper 195:10.1,2, page 2084.1,2] ■

Great is Thy Faithfulness

This is a Hymn that was offered at the Worship service at last year's conference

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father

There is no shadow of turning with Thee

Thou changes not, Thy compassions they fail not

As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be

Chorus:

Great is Thy faithfulness

Great is Thy faithfulness

Morning by morning new mercies I see

All I have needed, Thy hands hath provided

Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest

Sun, moon and stars in their courses above

Join with all nature in manifold witness

To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth

Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide

Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow

Blessings all mine with ten thousands beside



Weekly Skype Study Group



Bernie Belarski, Wollongong

Do you have access to the Internet? Do you have difficulty attending a study group due to distance or other circumstances? Perhaps there are no other readers within a 100km radius to you. Have you considered joining a Skype

study group?

Merindi and I have been hosting a weekly study group, via Skype, for over a year now and it is a truly marvellous way to study the book, and stay in touch with other readers. We are in Wollongong and we have a reader join us from Sydney, one from Newcastle and another from Canberra. Using the Skype premium service, we can connect up to 12-people at a time.

We all know the value of regular reading with other people. So much more can be gained from listening to each other insights, and sharing your experience with the book. Having our Wednesday night studies, albeit in front of the computer, brings about the same sense of fellowship and sharing that you get face to face. And the same wonderful insights are gleaned from the group study.

So if you are keen to try something like this, get in touch. We 'meet' (virtually) around 8pm every Wednesday evening—normally reading for about an hour and a half. Our Skype address is bernie.belarski. Or you can contact us via email—belarski@bigpond.com, or by an old fashioned phone call p—0400 929 626. All are welcome!

Or start your own if Wednesdays don't suit.

Or join one of the International Skype study groups. You can find them by searching the Study Group Directory (<http://urantiastudygroup.org/find.php>) and click on 'find a virtual study group'. Antoinette and Pato's groups, hosted four times a week, are fantastic.

Why not get online and get studying! ■



Facebook allows us to share with others what you desire to share, ask public opinion, ask questions etc. You can share your pictures, videos and what you have been up to with your facebook friends. You can control how much information you want to share with whom and similarly, other people share their information with you.

ANZURA facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/415732735156958/> is a new and effective way of collaborating in discussions and this one is specific to readers in our region, one of hundreds of Urantia-based facebook groups already in place... **ANZURA DOES NOT NECESSARILY SUPPORT THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED ON FACEBOOK.** ■

ANZURA Conference—Tasmania 2016



Maryknoll Retreat & Conference Centre
 15 Home Ave
 Blackmans Bay
 Tasmania
 (20 minute drive from Hobart airport)



THE "UB ENDEAVOUR"

The *UB Endeavour* is a fundraising initiative for the purpose of raising funds for ANZURA. We ask if you would consider making a contribution to help us spread *The Urantia Book* and its teachings throughout Australia and New Zealand.

ANZURA has adopted much of the work of the former Australian office of Urantia Foundation which closed in 2012. It holds a small inventory of Urantia Books and other Urantia associated material such as study aids and secondary works that are available to readers for dissemination projects. As ANZURA's main objective is to *foster the in-depth study of The Urantia Book and to disseminate its teachings* there is continually work to be done in an effort to fulfill this mission.

ANZURA provides a reader referral service that helps readers find other readers and study groups in their towns or regions. Volunteer staff respond to enquiries about *The Urantia Book* and associated reader activities that come to us via the internet and telephone. We maintain a website that services readers and curious truth seekers alike with information, study aids, secondary works, and the entire text of *The Urantia Book* online with an efficient search engine. Each year ANZURA sponsors and organises two major study events: the National Study Day and the annual Urantia Book Readers' Conference. We sponsor a gift book program where books are donated to libraries and relevant learning centres as well as study groups and individuals who wish to assist in this seeding program. A four-part introduc-

tory DVD is being developed as a study aid which will be a useful tool to use when introducing people to *The Urantia Book*. And of course, none of this can happen without an administration centre that requires basic office equipment such as computers, printers, a telephone line and stationary.

All of the above require funds. Would you please consider helping us by making a contribution? For the average income earner we recommend regular small donations such as a dollar a day (or \$30 per month) automatically debited from bank accounts.

If you decide to assist us with the promotion and dissemination of *The Urantia Book* by contributing to the *UB Endeavour*, please either fill out the tear-off contribution form below and return it with your contribution to:

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For enquiries phone 0481 508 782 or email: anzura@urantia-anzura.org ■



ANZURA—The Australian & New Zealand Urantia Association, National Association of **URANTIA Association International (UAI)**
PO Box 1581, Warriewood, NSW 2102 Australia
Ph: 0481 508 782

anzura@urantia-anzura.org

14 Aspiring Ave, Manukau Heights, Auckland New Zealand, Ph/Fax: 09 263 5800

joemarion@xtra.co.nz

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The Australia and New Zealand Urantia Association (ANZURA) is a National Association of the greater Urantia Association International and is designed to serve readers of The Urantia Book throughout Australian & New Zealand.

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Autumn Thought Gem

God answers the soul's attitude, not the words.

(1002:04)

May 7

Contacts in

Australia and New Zealand

If you would like to be listed as a contact person, advise about your study Group or if your details have changed – please contact ANZURA.

ACT

William Wentworth
Holder
Canberra, ACT 2611
0450 035 866
wentworth@grapevine.com.au

Nigel Nunn
Bruce
Canberra, ACT 2617
0418 900 216
nnnunn@gmail.com

Verner Verass
Duffy
Canberra, ACT 2611
0408 851 827
vern@designnd.com.au

NSW

Trevor & Kathleen Swadling
Mona Vale 2103
Sydney, NSW
0417 706 692
swadling@bigpond.net.au

Pam & Dave Bradford
Towamba 2550
Southern NSW
02 6496 7186
lepney@skymesh.com.au

Rita Schaad
New Lambton 2305
Newcastle, NSW
02 4956 2272
maritah1@optusnet.com.au

Merindi & Bernie Belarski
Figtree
Wollongong, NSW 2525
02 4227 2859
belarski@bigpond.com

QLD

Graeme Chapman
East Brisbane QLD 4169
07 3391 2052
graemechapman@archart.com.au

SA

Stephen Carthew
Marino, SA 5049
0411 518 464
stephencarthew@optusnet.com.au

TAS

Julian McGarry
Hobart, TAS 7000
03 6295 0813
julianmcgarry@gmail.com

VIC

Regina Williamson
Boronia 3155
Melbourne VIC
0424 591 852
reginaeve@gmail.com

Bevan-Rhys James
Heidelberg 3084
Melbourne VIC
03 9458 3711
bevan@brjames.com.au

WA

Peter Webb
Butler, WA 6036
0420 360 697
webbph@bigpond.com

NZ

Marion Steward
Manukau City, Auckland, NZ
09 263 5800
joemarion@xtra.co.nz

Neville Twist
Epsom, Auckland, NZ
09 630 1415
mainrl@clear.net.nz

Colin Hemmingsen
Wellington, NZ
04 567 4868
colinhemmingsen@xtra.co.nz

Matty Hall
Masterton, NZ
(06) 377 3469 or 027 550 7055
mikesbruv@gmail.com

THE ARENA

PO Box 1581, Warriewood, NSW 2102, Australia

Email: anzura@urantia-anzura.org

Web: www.urantia-anzura.org

Phone: 0481 508 782

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