

A History of the Contact Commission and Forum

CAROLYN KENDALL
USA

THE STORY BEGINS ON OCTOBER 1, 1922, Chicago's traditional moving day. The weather was seventy degrees and fair. After 25 years of moving from one apartment to another, a middle-aged physician couple and their teenage son finally settled into a permanent house at 533 Diversey Parkway. The new house would also serve as their office.

They had to find a secretary to work on the *other* project, the one that kept them up at night. They were informed that the workload would increase exponentially. "We need superior secretarial skills," Dr. William Sadler said. Dr. Lena Sadler chimed in: "We can't take shorthand, and we don't type." The couple was assured that a secretary would be found.

Not long afterward, Dr. Lena was treating a 32-year-old woman at Columbus Hospital who was the victim of an automobile accident. The tall, no-nonsense woman had recently moved to Chicago from Minnesota. Physician and patient quickly bonded. The patient confided to Dr. Lena that her mind had begun playing some unusual tricks on her. Was it perhaps related to the accident? Dr. Lena's ears perked up. "Let me get my husband in here," she said. "He's a psychiatrist."

The woman, it turned out, was a skilled secretary and manager at the Federal Reserve Bank in Chicago. Her job was to dispatch hundreds of bank examiners throughout the Midwest. Such a person would be a sure safeguard against fraud. Her name was Emma Louise

"We need superior secretarial skills," Dr. William Sadler said.



Receiving a revelation illustration

Christensen, also known as Christy. It soon became evident that Christy was the secretary the physician couple had been looking for. Christy eventually came to live with Drs. William and Lena at 533 Diversey Parkway. The Sadlers described to Christy a psychiatric case ▶

Continued on page 3

IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 **A History of the Contact Commission and Forum**
CAROLYN KENDALL, USA
- 2 **Editorial**
SUZANNE KELLY, USA
- 6 **Leadership, God and Me**
LINE ST-PIERRE, CANADA
- 8 **Finding and Fostering the Next Generation of Spiritual Leaders**
ARNIE ONDIS, USA
- 11 **The Art of Self-Mastery**
SHEILA KEENE-LUND, USA
- 13 **Patterns in Epochal Revelations and Principles for Leaders**
JEFFREY WATTLES, USA
- 17 **Welcome to leadership, the sanctity of service**
RICK LYON, USA

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Greetings fellow *UAI Journal* readers

IN THIS ISSUE OF THE *UAI Journal* we will be highlighting the presentations from the Leadership Symposium that was held in Chicago in July. It was an exceptional Symposium where over 20 countries were represented. The speakers were dynamic, enlightening and inspiring. They included Carolyn Kendall, Gaetan Charland, Mo Siegel, Barbara Newsom, Linda Buselli, Jeff Wattles, Phil Taylor, James Woodward, Sheila Keen-Lund, Pato Banton, Robert Ezri, Line St. Pierre, Charles Laurence Olivea, Tonia Baney, Caio Donega, Kathy Wanemacher, Normand Laperle, Arnie Ondis, Betty Lou Wallace and Bill & Share Beasley.

As we do not have room for all of the presentations I have selected some of them for this issue and will share the others in the December Journal. Our first contributor is Carolyn Kendall with a presentation on *"A History of the Contact Commission and Forum"*. *Along with the video timeline she used during her presentation we were carried back through time and forward again. "The real purpose of the Forum emerged that day. Dr. Lena was out of town, and Dr. William spilled the beans. The group was informed that they were being invited to participate in the inauguration of a new Revelation. Their task was to write down all the questions that had ever perplexed them and mankind—questions about God, the cosmos, life after death, anything"*. The video Carolyn used is available to purchase through the Foundation.

Our next contributor is Line St. Pierre's "Leadership, God and Me" Line answers a very important question in her presentation when she states, *"We learn in the family, at school, at work, everywhere. But how can we learn about God, his nature and how to do his will? The answer is simple but not magical, it requires efforts to organize our being and make a plan for our spiritual growth. Walking hand in hand with God."*

The third presentation from Arnie Ondis, "Passing the Torch" is an essential read. Arnie has found the key to evolve the revelation when he states; *"It is time to pass the torch to a new generation of leaders and to establish a pattern of sustainability for continual regeneration... To provide an integrated network of mentors and study groups that continually strives to meet the spiritual needs of the next generation by bringing the Urantia Revelation to them, by sustaining them in their spiritual development, and by developing their leadership potential."*

Next is the inspiring talk by Sheila Keen-Lund "The Art of Self Mastery" Shelia sums up her presentation with these words of wisdom; *"As each of us makes the effort that it will take to ensure that our beliefs are truly aligned with the truths in The Urantia Book and that we are growing in our appreciation of revelation as the truly harmonizing influence in our lives, we will go about our business of disseminating The Revelation, teaching the truths, and fostering study groups. We will also inspire others to elevate their own religion. This is what being a leader is about."*

Our fourth article by Jeff Wattles, "Patterns in epochal revelations and principles for leaders" is a superb directive for us all, *"the leadership recipe calls for three ingredients: great study of The Urantia Book, great contact with evolutionary knowledge, and supreme dedication to divine methods in the pursuit of high goals. I believe that, under the leadership of our unseen friends, we will eventually succeed with The Urantia Book."*

Our last article by Rick Lyon was the opening talk for the Leadership Symposium; I'm putting it last to reintroduce you to the event and to the energy of the speakers as they shared their vision of leadership and understanding of the teachings of *The Urantia Book*. UAI's mission is to foster study groups and promote in-depth study of *The Urantia Book*. "Our

goals are to produce teachers and leaders for the Fifth Epochal Revelation and to share these teachings with our brothers and sisters of Urantia. ... We often talk about "our mission" but Mark Kurtz reminded me that this is not "our" mission. This is the mission of Christ Michael for he authorized The Urantia Book project, and all of us are participating in "his" plan in accordance with our Fathers will. Could there be anything more important than this? Could there be any greater opportunity on this planet than to serve as a leader of this revelation?" I have my answer do you?"

Our final issue of this year will continue to highlight the presentations from the Leadership Symposium.

Happy and Enlightened Reading!
Suzanne Kelly ■

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A History of the Contact Commission and Forum cont. from page 1

of a patient they had been observing for almost 20 years. It seemed that invisible celestial beings spoke through this patient, a gentleman who would remain unnamed. Would Christy serve as secretary during the night sessions to record and transcribe the words of the celestials? Christy readily agreed.

Fifty-five years later, Christy recalled: “I was curious, but I didn’t appreciate what I was getting myself into.” When asked what would have happened if she could no longer write or type, she replied, “I guess they would have looked for somebody else.”

Two others in the Sadler household were in on the secret patient: Lena’s sister, Anna Kellogg, a registered nurse, and her husband, Wilfred Kellogg, the doctors’ business manager. The Sadler-Kellogg quartet and Christy were the only people who heard the celestial visitors speak. They, along with Christy, were the original Contact Commissioners. The Sadlers began introducing Christy to friends as their foster daughter, though she was never legally adopted. The Sadlers’ surviving son, William Jr., was 16 years old. The Kelloggs had a 9-year-old daughter, who was profoundly deaf.

The Early Forum Years

One Sunday afternoon at 533 Diversey Parkway, another important event occurred. A new social group came into existence. The group was called the Forum, and the meetings began on February 11, 1923. The ostensible purpose of inviting guests to their home was to keep in touch with former patients. We don’t know whether the Forum was the Sadlers’ idea or whether it was The Revelators who suggested that a group come together.

Salon-style gatherings in the 1920s were part of the culture, where a leader would present on a topic for one hour and guests asked questions during the second hour. Dr. William Sadler presented lectures on such topics as: “Primary Instincts and Emotions,” “Hereditry,” “Darwinism,” and “Eugenics.” In 1923 my father, Clarence Bowman, was introduced to the Forum by an old friend and former patient of Dr. Sadler’s.

The Real Purpose of the Forum

During a Forum gathering one Sunday in December 1924, Dr. William was regaling the Forum with a tale of how he had been part of an investigative trio who went after crooks posing as psychics who conjured up spirits of the dead. His associates in the adventure were Howard Thurston, the famous sleight-of-hand magician, and a Chicago police detective. A Forum member asked whether any so-called trance mediums were likely receiving messages from real spirit beings, such as angels.

The real purpose of the Forum emerged that day. Dr. Lena was out of town, and Dr. William spilled the beans. The group was informed that they were being invited to participate in the inauguration of a new Revelation. Their task was to write down all the *questions* that had ever perplexed them and mankind—questions about God, the cosmos, life after death, anything.

He made it clear that he was not personally convinced the phenomena he, Lena, and the Kelloggs witnessed were genuine. Dr. William had tried every means to get to the bottom of the case. The group was informed by an invisible personality named Machiventa Melchizedek that a wonderful new revelation was coming. The answers to the questions posed by the group, Dr. William hoped, would help uncover whether a hoax was being perpetrated. Dr. Lena and the Kelloggs had been impressed with the spiritual quality of the material received up to that time. Melchizedek’s visit occurred on February 11, 1924, exactly one year after the first Forum meeting.

In January 1925 answers to the Forum’s questions began arriving in the form of chapters, which were really complete papers. The first series of 57 papers was expanded in response to further questions. The first papers had come one or two at a time, all in response to questions. If there were no questions, there were no papers. In 1935 a complete section (Part IV) arrived all at once. Jesus’ birthday was celebrated for the first time on August 21, 1935. The Forum reviewed the entire collection of papers for ambiguities and anything that needed clarification. Final corrections were made by the celestial beings, now referred to as The Revelators.

When papers on the Twelve Apostles arrived, Dr. William was astounded. The authors had penetrated the minds of 12 unique human beings and told their stories consistently. “I threw in the towel,” Dr. William declared. “I’m a psychiatrist, and I know my business. I could not create such consistent portraits of 12 different men.” Dr. William’s doubts crumbled.

Altogether, 485 people participated in the Forum between 1923 and 1956. Before 1955 the Forum did not have copies of papers to read during meetings. They could not take papers out of the building, nor could they take notes. They were pledged to secrecy. Today, we would refer to the Forum as a focus group. They listened to the papers while the celestial personalities observed their reactions. The Revelators tweaked the papers to make them comprehensible to humans. Forum members never *heard* or saw the celestial visitors. Despite the uniqueness of the Forum, some members left because the material was too demanding, too difficult, or of no interest.

Their task was to write down all the questions that had ever perplexed them and mankind—questions about God, the cosmos, life after death, anything.

Forum members learned that February 11th was the anniversary of the bestowal of Jesus' Thought Adjuster. The fragment of the Universal Father loaned to this small boy growing up in Nazareth was just like the Thought Adjusters of all humans beings in the inhabited universes.

Bill Sadler's Contribution to the Papers

After returning from a stint with the Marine Corps in 1928, William S. Sadler Jr. (Bill) became fascinated with the papers. He devoted himself to study and wrote the questions that called forth the papers on the Supreme Being. Bill became a Contact Commissioner and was a brilliant Forum teacher during the 1940s and early 1950s. He was an intellectual, occasionally emotional, and often irreverent. He left for the mansion worlds on November 22, 1963.

All of the Contact Commissioners are now deceased. These Commissioners were those who possessed the identity of the "contact personality," the man through whom the revelation was transmitted. No one else in the Forum met the man, knew his name, his date of birth, or when he died.

Were it not for their dedication, loyalty, and steadfastness, even in the face of occasional doubt and unbelief, the revelation would not have come to fruition. None of them made any money from the papers. In fact, they sacrificed their modest personal wealth for the group that met in the Saddler home for 60 years.

Joining the Forum

On the recommendation of my Father, I joined the Forum in October 1951. I learned how mutual trust developed between the humans and the celestial personalities in the years preceding the birth of the papers. Six months after joining, I was hired as receptionist for Dr. William's medical and psychiatric practice. I heard the story of the Forum at least six more times while I worked there. My husband, Tom, and I knew Dr. Sadler for 18 years and Christy for 31 years.

Helping Patients Help Themselves

Dr. William devoted his entire professional life to helping people who were physically or mentally ill. Nevertheless, he only introduced a few patients to the revelation, those who were most able to believe in the idea of unseen spirit beings and who already believed in some concept of God. Dr. William did not want to be the leader of a cult of psychologically dependent followers. His method was to inspire patients to think independently, take responsibility for their own mental and emotional improvement, recognize their talents, and develop courage. Power over others was not part of his nature. Dr. William had acute disdain for those who

foisted fraud upon an unsuspecting public or who took advantage of gullible and weak-willed humans.

Experienced Teachers

Everyone has favorite parts of *The Urantia Book*. Dr. William's was the history of the Old Testament and the *Life and Teachings* of Jesus compared with the Bible. His classes in the original Brotherhood School were always filled. He confessed he hadn't studied Part II of the papers as much and had misunderstood some of the concepts. While leading a section on the physical universe, he came to a passage he didn't understand. He asked if anyone knew what they were talking about. "Why, that's Einstein's equation, Doctor: E equals MC squared," a science teacher in the audience said. "Oh, I didn't know," Dr. William marveled.

Everybody in First Urantia Society got a chance to lead a discussion of the papers. At the end of every meeting, Dr. Sadler would walk over to the first-time leader, shake hands, and say, "That was a fine job you did! You won't be as nervous the next time."

He did not micro-manage the activities of others nor did he interpret the teachings of *The Urantia Book* for others.

Training the Leaders of Tomorrow

After *The Urantia Book* was published, Forum members were tasked with introducing the revelation to their generation, and, they were informed, the world was not yet ready to receive it. Members pooled their ignorance and set out to spread *The Urantia Book* and its teachings.

Younger readers were the future of the Urantia community and received special attention from Dr. William and Christy. They entrusted a great deal of background information to the future leaders of Urantia organizations. Christy and Dr. Sadler were assigned by their celestial partners to write the complete history of the Urantia revelation, but they simply ran out of time and graduated to the mansion worlds without completing it. William Sadler died in 1969 at 94, and Christy in 1982 at 92. Christy outlived the other Contact Commissioners.

In many respects, I personally consider Christy to be the real human hero of the revelation. Christy was nearly forced to testify in court about the origin of *The Urantia Book*, the details of which she was pledged never to reveal, including the identity of the contact personality. At the age of 87, Christy was prepared to go to jail if necessary.

Christy was always specific about how the readership should grow. She said, "We were told by The Revelators to grow carefully, and build a solid foundation of believers so that we can withstand public criticism when it comes." In 1980 she said, "Very few readers know *The Urantia Book* well enough to

He did not micro-manage the activities of others nor did he interpret the teachings of *The Urantia Book* for others.

defend it publicly.” She repeated, “They told us to grow carefully!”

The Emergency Corps of Mortal Selectmen

In her presidential address to Urantia Brotherhood’s First Triennial Delegate Assembly in 1967, Christy ended her speech with an excerpt from The Revelators’ instructions:

“I have heretofore reminded you that the celestial supervisors of Urantia are mobilizing small groups of spirit-led men and women throughout the world—among all nations—and these truth battalions, these selectmen, are concerned today with scores of vital enterprises which have to do with the rehabilitation of the world following the ending of the present distressing conflicts.”

“And of all the emergency corps of mortal selectmen on Urantia, none is charged with a more solemn obligation than our group. We have been called to the great work of taking the first step of offering to mortal man a new light, a new revelation, of the love of God. The easy jog-trot religion of former days no longer suffices to meet the challenges of today. Following Jesus’ way of life calls for an act of complete commitment, a dedicated intention, a resolute purpose, a trumpet call to a life that will not compromise.” ■

The Sadlers’ Community Service

Most folks in the Forum didn’t realize it, but Dr. William had an impressive resume in community service:

- He was an ordained minister in the Seventh Day Adventist Church. He set up missions and edited Lifeboat Magazine.
- William worked as a Pinkerton detective to finance his and Dr. Lena’s medical education.
- Dr. William was a popular Circuit Chautauqua lecturer. He had a dozen lectures in his repertoire. He loved to preach.
- Dr. William questioned the teachings of Seventh-Day Adventist, Ellen G. White, on issues of plagiarism and consistency. The Sadlers left the church in 1913.
- Dr. William settled on psychiatry over surgery, he said, “because you can help people change their mental outlook on life.”
- For 25 years Dr. William served as professor of pastoral psychology at McCormick Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Chicago.
- Dr. Sadler wrote textbooks, magazine articles, and self-help books for the general public (42 in all).
- His life purpose was to bring health and medical knowledge to the public. To medical colleagues, he was seen as giving away professional secrets to the unwashed.

Dr. Lena was as service-minded as her husband:

- Dr. Lena was a mighty advocate for healthcare for women and children living in poverty. She promoted birth control, eugenics, maternal hygiene, and the licensing of midwives.
- She volunteered at the Jane Addams Hull House. Dr. Lena was a small woman with an endless supply of energy, and she was a dynamic public speaker.
- She served as president of every women’s medical association in the Midwest, as well as president of the Medical Women’s National Association. She was a warm and effusive personality. In 1939 she died of cancer at the age of 64.

Leadership, God and Me

LINE ST -PIERRE
Canada

WHAT UNITES US IS THE LOVE WE HAVE for God and our willingness to learn to become better leaders of the spiritual truths as presented in *The Urantia Book*. This requires self-mastery, which is required in order to attain new levels of being. It requires a lot of self-discipline. There is a quality that is inherent in our personalities, and this is “the evolution of self-mastery.” *The Urantia Book* states:

The purpose of cosmic evolution is to achieve unity of personality through increasing spirit dominance, volitional response to the teaching and leading of the Thought Adjuster Personality, both human and superhuman, is characterized by an inherent cosmic quality which may be called ‘the evolution of dominance,’ the expansion of the control of both itself and its environment. [Paper 112:2; page 1229:2]

The answer is simple but not magical; it requires effort to organize ourselves and make decisions...

We come into life ignorant, needing to learn everything about plants, trees, animals, human beings, the cosmos, and beyond. We learn in the family, at school, at work, everywhere. But how can we learn about God, his nature, and how to do his will? The answer is simple but not magical; it requires effort to organize ourselves and make decisions about our spiritual growth. We must learn how to walk hand in hand with God. We are taught that

Spiritual development depends, first, on the maintenance of a living spiritual connection with true spiritual forces and, second, on the continuous bearing of spiritual fruit: yielding the ministry to one’s fellows of that which has been received from one’s spiritual benefactors. [Paper 100:2; page 100:2]



Moved by the spirit image

I learned that the more I love God and want to do his will, the more God reveals himself to me. Prayer, worship, and service are a three-way technique to experience God, and this is consistent throughout the cosmos. It is a circular and continuous movement. From now until I reach Paradise—and beyond—I will continue to learn, grow, progress, and perfect myself. As I do my part, God will do His.

We read in *The Urantia Book*:

The experience of dynamic religious living transforms the mediocre individual into a personality of idealistic power. [Paper 100:0.2, page 1094]

The day I turned 30 years old, a strange thing happened to me. I suddenly realized that I had everything possible to be happy, yet I felt empty inside and thought life was not worth living anymore. This made me begin the search for who I was. I read spiritual books and attended classes and workshops to discover what was making me miserable.

When I remarried, *The Urantia Book* was not my thing, though I knew my husband’s first love was for God and I was his second love. So in 1999 when he asked me if we could host a study group in our home, I agreed. He told me that it was a long-term contract—every Monday for a lifetime. In 2000 the IUA held an international conference in New York. I accompanied my husband but told him I would probably not attend all the presentations; his response was that I could do whatever I wanted during that time. Surprisingly I attended all the morning presentations and even the workshops. It was a real treat for me, getting to know people from around the world who were sharing the same interest in the teachings of *The Urantia Book*.

At this time, I met my dear friend and brother, Moussa Ndiaye from Sénégal, with whom all the French-speaking people there were participating in a workshop on prayer. A year later, our association in Québec invited Moussa to speak at our conference, "Living Our Faith." He stayed in our home, and one morning while my husband was at work, I told Moussa how much I loved my husband and how much I would like to help him in his spiritual work, but I did not know how. If only I could have as much of the love he had for God. After listening, Moussa said that great things would happen for me. I really thought he was just saying that to comfort me. But six months later while I was in Sénégal with Gaétan and a friend for a spiritual seminar, on the second day of our studying, I felt the presence of God within me. When I was able to overcome my emotions, I said to Moussa, "With what you are saying now and what I understand, never again can I shut my mouth because I feel this great responsibility to share God like you." I could not believe what I had just said!

That moment changed my life forever and gave meaning to it and a sense of a mission! Never after did I question my husband when he was working late and spending so many hours on projects for others and for the revelation. I understood fully his love and dedication for God.

People have asked me how my spiritual life transforms me and brings me to serve my fellowmen. The answer is simple. There are two cosmic laws: the first is that I receive God through the fruits of the spirit and the second is that I share God with others through those same fruits. And while I am in partnership with God in the activities I am involved in, I let Him transform me. He knows exactly what are my needs to evolve spiritually and to serve others. In God's plan, every experience I have is a great opportunity to actualize my potentials.

I became involved socially with people suffering from anxiety and panic attacks. In my local association, I learned teamwork by accepting different assignments over the years. My assignments included serving as Secretary, as a Membership Chair, Communication Chair, Editor of our monthly newsletter, and Translator for the international newsletter. I organized and coordinated spiritual training workshops for 10 years so that readers in Québec could experience the teachings that I received in Sénégal. Lately I have created a Woman's Committee in our local association.

The Urantia Book is filled with revelations that inevitably touch many persons. The following quote has touched my soul for several months and continues to grow on me.

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. Such a new and righteous vision of morality will attract all that is good in the mind of man and challenge that which is best in the human soul. [Paper 2:7, page 43:3]

I wonder now how this will embody my future projects. I'll keep on praying for God to enlighten me.

I am grateful for the life I live and am blessed to work with my husband, share the same ideals, and help him in his spiritual work, evolving spiritually and serving our fellowmen. This prayer was answered 10 years ago.

There are two cosmic laws: the first is that I receive God through the fruits of the spirit and the second is that I share God with others through those same fruits.

When man goes in partnership with God, great things may, and do happen. [Paper 132:7, page 1467:9] ■

Finding and Fostering the Next Generation of Spiritual Leaders

ARNIE ONDIS
USA

TWO YEARS AGO I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF being the Master of Ceremonies at the annual conference of the Florida Students of *The Urantia Book*. By the end of the first day, I was aware of an uneasy feeling. I had been speaking to a sea of grey-haired, white-faced, late- to middle-aged people. I told them that we looked like a Sunday School class. I wondered about the lack of diversity and why young people were absent.

Who are these new teachers and where will they come from? Will they simply be mutations of the evolutionary process, however slow or sudden, or are we called to play a part in this unfolding of God's Plan?

So began my journey of finding a way to pass the torch, to find and foster the next generation of spiritual leaders. Because this article comes to you from my heart, I would ask that you receive it not only with your mind but also with your heart.

We are taught that:

...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, page 2082:4]

Who are these new teachers and where will they come from? Will they simply be mutations of the evolutionary process, however slow or sudden, or are we called to play a part in this unfolding of God's plan? I submit to you the latter. I believe that we are called to this.

The urgency is apparent. We need only to look around us to know that our world is changing. Paradigm shifts are occurring in all of our institutions: political, social, financial, and religious. These changes are happening at an ever-increasing rate. We must raise new leaders who will carry on after us, who are equipped to meet the challenges and opportunities that this new era presents. If not now, then when?



Passing the torch illustration

The Urantia Book was given to me when I was 20 years old, during my second year of college. That was the most important, seminal event of my life. It was given to me *by my spiritual mentor* shortly after she found the book. That I can deliver this message is a tribute to that wonderful teacher who turned my life around at a tender age and set my course Godward. She primed me to embrace the truth of this revelation, and this has subsequently informed and shaped my entire life. I am a living testimony to the critical importance of quality mentorship.

My experience is typical of the developmental stage of early adulthood. Young adults are searching for the structure and relationships that will define and give purpose to their existence. They are at once in the present and of the future. They *are* the future. The next generation of **spiritual leaders** is among this population, and a great number of earnest truth seekers are congregated at college campuses.

Consider the opportunity that is illustrated by the following statistic: 72% of people aged 18-29 [in the US] are unaffiliated with any religious group and consider themselves to be "more spiritual than religious." [Pew Research Center, May 2010]

Some of these young souls are searching for God among the "isms and cults of a frustrated philosophic era" and are unwittingly at the altar of an Unknown

God. Some are wandering the hallowed halls of secular humanism and need to be led from the kingdom of good to the Kingdom of God. Others are looking for love in all the wrong places. However, *all* of these young people are searching for meaning, and we must help them to find their greater purpose.

It has been said that doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results is the definition of insanity. That is to say that the traditional outreach approach is not enough. If we are to *raise* new leaders and teachers, we must build the means to sustain them in their development until they reach spiritual maturity, when they find their voices and are equipped to transform the world. If we intend to raise a *generation* of leaders, then we must build a cooperative structure to do so.

It is time to pass the torch to a new generation of leaders and to establish a *pattern of sustainability* for continual regeneration. The intent of this article is to propose an innovative approach to finding and fostering these young leaders and to spark the process that will bring life to this vision.

My vision is:

To provide an integrated network of mentors and study groups that continually strives to meet the spiritual needs of the next generation by bringing the Urantia Revelation to them, by sustaining them in their spiritual development, and by developing their leadership potential.

The multi-faceted vision is one in which each person involved benefits:

Guided by the divine, core values of Truth, Beauty and Goodness, we are a bearer of Light to the next generation. Having a special focus on young, college-age people, we develop and implement innovative approaches that gain access to their physical and virtual environments, and that appeal to them in the most personal, meaningful and relevant ways.

Once introduced to the Urantia Revelation, these new, young readers are sustained in their spiritual development through the nurturing of dedicated mentors and study groups.

We raise new leaders of the Urantia movement as we provide these young persons with opportunities to develop their leadership potential so that they may, in turn, become the standard bearers to the generation that follows them, thereby ensuring the sustainability of the Urantia movement.

Our study group members benefit and grow spiritually by expressing their personal uniqueness through participating in the generative service activities of their choice, through the quality of relationships experienced by serving in concert with others, and through the sublime satisfaction of achieving these meaningful objectives.

In the spirit of true fellowship, this innovative service model, along with our outreach developments and experiences, are shared with the entire Urantia community.

How do we get there from here? The answer is two-fold, the first of which is to build a cooperative

structure. A *Design Team* will form, whose purpose will be to develop and facilitate the services provided through this mission by focusing on:

- Best Practice development for outreach approaches, communication, tools, and resource pooling;
- Developing innovative communications, using electronic and social networking;
- Establishing sustainable funds for student book subsidies and special outreach events;
- Mentorship development;
- Venue development; and
- Study group development.

...provide an integrated network of mentors and study groups that continually strives to meet the spiritual needs of the next generation by bringing the Urantia Revelation to them...

Considering venue development, let us be mindful that Jesus said, ***and then will you go forth to become fishers of men.***

[Paper 138:7, page 1544:5] I know a little about fishing. I live on the beautiful central Gulf coast; I see shrimp boats every day and I know many deep sea charter boat captains.

The commercial fishing industry is vital to the local economy and I have learned the secret of their success. Their secret, simply, is this: *They go where the fish are!*

When I researched my home state of Florida, which has a significant number of universities and colleges, I was able to identify over 200 possible venues, including their satellite campuses. That's a lot of fish!

The idea of **taking the revelation** to college campuses may seem daunting, but it's really not that difficult. Some ideas for campus venue development that you may consider are:

- Enroll in a course and start a study group;
- If you are a college employee, or know a college employee who can, start a study group;
- Guest lecture in the philosophy or religious studies department;
- Find a campus club looking for program speakers;
- Sponsor a booth during student orientation; and
- Become a regular at campus hang-outs, where students gather and share ideas.

Forgive me for using myself as an example, but I think this illustrates a point. I contacted the nearest university that has my professional department, occupational therapy, and offered to be a guest lecturer in areas related to my fields of expertise. They jumped at the chance to add an element of practical experience to their program. I will start this fall by lecturing on management, professional ethics, and leadership. This is not *The Urantia Book*, but it *is* teaching truth and spiritual values, and it will deliver me to these young people. I am also completing the process to become an adjunct faculty member, and that will bring me into a

closer association with students and allow me to start a study group on campus.

Regarding study group development, if study groups are to become places of sustenance and nurturing for these young people, then we must elevate the groups' quality from that of self-serving pursuit to the higher value of service. We will do this by providing leadership formation and by helping individual members who are not comfortable with speaking or going to campuses to find purpose in performing supportive functions. *If they don't want to fish, they can cut bait!*

Each of us has a unique role to play. If you feel a call to this mission, your starting point is to go within. You don't have to wait for the announcement of the grand opening to obtain direction or permission to act.

The second part of the question—how to get there—involves you. Each of us has a unique role to play. If you feel a call to this mission, your starting point is to go within. You don't have to wait for the announcement of the grand opening to obtain direction or permission to act. Go within and spend time with our Father. Ask to know your part in this mission. Then listen with expectancy. You will be given the answer and your path will unfold before you.

We hold in our hands a 2,000-page call to service. It is up to us to be the voice and the heart and the hands of the Supreme in this world. Do you remember the movie, *Field of Dreams*? A farmer built a baseball field in the middle of his corn crop because he was *spirit-led* to do so, and he *acted* without regard for personal consequences. What an example of living faith!

If we build it, they will come. ■



Receiving light, illustration

The Art of Self-Mastery

SHEILA KEENE-LUND
USA

We live in a society where there is gross indifference towards others and a lack of sensitivity. Why?

TRUE LEADERSHIP IS THE ART OF SELF-mastery. We all have some understanding of what self-mastery is. A broad definition is the process of mastering and developing the human and spiritual natures. It is a process that involves self-awareness, self-understanding, and self-control. We all engage in self-mastery for different reasons, some because they want a better relationship with their family, others because they want to sharpen their skills, and still others because they want a better relationship with God. For thousands of years religious and spiritual leaders worldwide have envisioned a better community and world as a result of individuals growing in self-mastery. Let's go back in time to discover some of the wisdom that these leaders shared.

Today we have over seven billion people in the world, and most of these are followers of one religious leader or another, all following the spiritual practices these leaders recommend. The question that keeps coming up for me is why we have not collectively progressed spiritually. Yes, we have progressed some; in my lifetime I have seen increased interest in spirituality and increased concern about the welfare of the planet, but our efforts have not had the spiritual power to truly reform individuals. In our society the family unit—the crowning glory of the evolutionary struggle—is disintegrating. This year has been the first since statistics have been collected where families with the original parents living with their children are in the minority. We live in a society where children are killing children because they have no role models to follow and where our leaders lack integrity and in some countries are even violent towards their people. We live in a society where there is gross indifference towards others and a lack of sensitivity. Why?



Mastering a skill illustration

When I consider that ethics is the external social mirror that faithfully reflects the inner unseen development of individuals, I wonder what we are missing in our understanding of self-development. For leaders of *The Urantia Book*, the answer is particularly important and I want to explore it.

I turn to the Publication Mandate for guidance: “An early publication of the book has been provided so that it may be in hand for the training of leaders and teachers.” *The Urantia Book* is here so that we may learn its truths, disseminate the teachings, and foster study groups. But considering the great vision of religious leaders, including Jesus, there is a new meaning to discover. What is it that the world needs most? The answer is found in *The Urantia Book*. **The seed of theoretical truth is dead, the highest moral concepts without effect...** [Paper 34:6, page 380:7]

In other words, our world is in philosophic chaos, and this does not support moral growth. The world also needs “first hand religion.” It needs **the experience of spirit-born mortals who effectively reveal the Master to all men.** [Paper 195:10, page 2084:1] The world needs more people like Jesus to inspire others to be the best that they can be. But when we consider that there is a relationship between philosophic chaos and our ability to live up to our highest ideals, it is no wonder that there is spiritual stagnation. As I discover new meanings of these relationships, I realize that *The Urantia Book* was published early to assist leaders and teachers in consolidating and stabilizing their religion; to break through the philosophic chaos and spiritual stagnation.

But what do we have to do differently from what others have done already? The Publication Mandate states: “[you] will do well to diligently study the order, plan, and methods of progression as they were enacted in the earth life of Michael.” Re-reading the Jesus

papers, I realize that Jesus, unlike other religious leaders, has a complete perspective of the universe. Jesus knows the Universal Father. He knows his personality; though he could not explain this adequately to people when he was here, he could reveal the love of the Father, which he did. Jesus knew the difference between soul and spirit; he knew about the heavens and the vast celestial hierarchy; he knew that the universe was gigantic and friendly, but he could not explain it to the minds of those days. It was this complete perspective that nourished the desire of Jesus to do the father's will—to dedicate himself to self-mastery so that he could be of maximum usefulness to the children of his creation.

We are often inflexible in our beliefs and over-confident in our understanding. To grow in spirit unity we must seek new meanings in our understanding of spiritual development and move beyond our comfort zones.

Jesus learned languages and instruments; he took every opportunity to learn and grow. It was this complete perspective that as a young man enabled him to appreciate the truth and recognize error as he perused the pages of the ancient Book of Enoch. It was this complete perspective that enabled him to be grounded among his critics and not be swayed by his disciples when they talked about reincarnation—a popular concept at the time. And it was because he exuded the harmony of truth in everything he said and did, that he continues to inspire people to be the best they can be, even though his gospel in Christianity is only a shadow of what it truly is.

And what does all of this have to do with leaders of the Fifth Epochal Revelation? We have in *The Urantia Book* the perspective that Jesus had over 2,000 years ago—a perspective that he could not share fully with the people of the time. We have that knowledge, but how many of us truly represent this revelation faithfully and accurately?

The Urantia Book tells us that revelation provides a technique for achieving unity in the comprehension of the reality and relationships of matter and spirit by the mediation of mind. [Paper 101:2, page 1106:1] It has the potential to unite the fragmented philosophies that exist in the world today. But are we truly leading the way? We are all readers of *The Urantia Book*, but do we share the same united philosophy? We may be seeing glimpses but we still have a long way to go. In our community there is fragmentation; there is misunderstanding between groups and people. Truth is harmony, and only when we attain unity in the intelligent comprehension of the universe will we begin to experience the spirit unity that leads to united leadership. This is important because without it we will continue being part of the fragmented society that cannot attain its spiritual goals.

An example of united leadership is found in the Navy Seal raid that took down Bin Laden. The team was made up of a group of people who had different functions to perform. They trusted each other because they

were united by their training and their purpose, and this unity of spirit was reflected in the perfect execution of their mission. We can achieve this united leadership, but we must be willing to challenge ourselves, to do our part to attain a united comprehension of the universe.

Are we adjusting our philosophy of the world to cosmic truths, or are we adjusting cosmic truth to our world philosophy? Do we use the book to validate our own beliefs or to adjust our beliefs to cosmic truth? There are certain habits we might consider breaking, like cherry-picking in order to remain comfortable. ***The religion of the spirit means effort, struggle, conflict, faith, determination, love, loyalty, and progress.*** [Paper 155:5, page 1729:6] We are often inflexible in our beliefs and over-confident in our understanding. To grow in spirit unity we must seek new meanings in our understanding of spiritual development and move beyond our comfort zones.

I have gathered over 40 fundamental concepts from *The Urantia Book*, each clarifying, expanding, or challenging contemporary philosophy. [These are available in English on my Website.] My challenge to the leaders of the Fifth Epochal Revelation is to go through each of these concepts with the intention to discover new meanings in each of them. For each concept, move through recognition, to realization, to appreciation, to love; explore rather than discard. As each of us makes the effort that it will take to ensure that our beliefs are truly aligned with the truths in *The Urantia Book* and that we are growing in our appreciation of revelation as the truly harmonizing influence in our lives, we will go about our business of disseminating the revelation, teaching the truths, and fostering study groups. We will also inspire others to elevate their own religion. This is what being a leader is about. ■

Patterns in Epochal Revelations and Principles for Leaders

JEFFREY WATTLES
USA

EACH OF YOU IS A DIVINELY CREATED, infinitely loved, spiritually indwelt, evolutionary, free-will son or daughter of God. If you are willing to be industrious as part of a full prayer process in seeking the will of God for your work with *The Urantia Book*, remember that Jesus made his great policy decisions only after a review of human history from the days of Andon and Fonta, down through Adam's default, and on to the ministry of the Melchizedek of Salem [Paper 136:4, page 1514:5]. Let us begin that review in quest of principles of epochal revelation management.

1. The Planetary Prince's staff had 300,000 years of success with evolutionary methods.

None of the Prince's staff would present revelation to complicate evolution; they presented revelation only as the climax of their exhaustion of the forces of evolution.

[Paper 66:5.14, page 747:4]

This policy is so challenging that the average reader would not take it seriously in forming policy for today. We want to get people to read *The Urantia Book*, and if we pay too much attention to this policy, who knows how long it might take? What could it mean "to *complicate* evolution" and to *exhaust* the forces of evolution? These ideas may seem too vague. Nevertheless, a practical example clarifies the interpretation. The Urantia Foundation's Declaration of Trust contains a mandate to foster "a religion, a philosophy, and a cosmology which are commensurate with man's intellectual and cultural development." Where is the emphasis here? Does it mean that we should present to religious, philosophical, and scientific communities what *The Urantia Book* has to say about their interests? Or does it mean that our religionists, philosophers, and scientists should learn to communicate with those communities in ways that meet their level of receptivity? When we take

time to think it over, the latter interpretation appears correct. Furthermore, this interpretation harmonizes well with the principle of epochal revelation management that brought success to the Planetary Prince's staff.

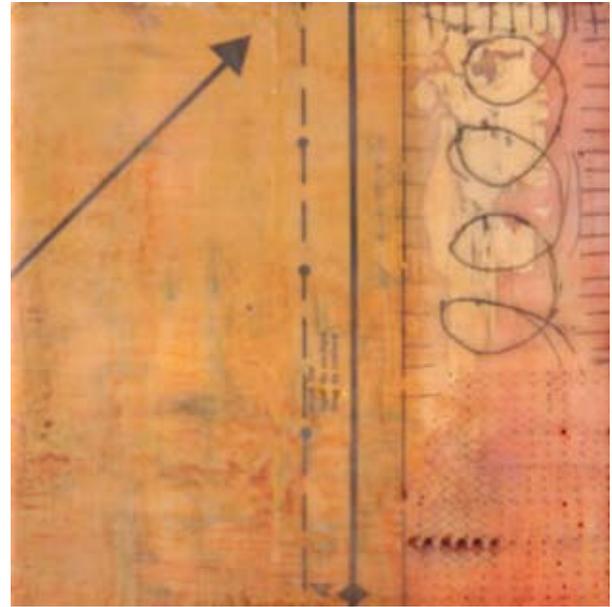
This principle resonates with other teachings, too. Epochal revelations show a pattern of getting the most out of one set of potentials before introducing a major upgrade. ***When mind status is propitious, sudden spiritual transformations may occur.*** [Paper 65:8.6, page 740:2] ***In effective praying, you must have honestly exhausted the human capacity for human adjustment.*** [Paper 91:9, page 1002:8] I know the embarrassment of introducing someone hastily to *The Urantia Book* and the satisfaction of following the way of evolutionary revelation. The first epochal principle of evolution is like the call to perfection, proclaimed in mercy, like the union of the love of God and the law of God, like the law of the Lord which the author of Psalm 19 (19:7-14) learned to love:

The law of the LORD is perfect,
refreshing the soul.

The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy,
making wise the simple.

The precepts of the LORD are right,
giving joy to the heart.

The success of the Prince's staff came from coordinating their insight into higher universe patterns with their knowledge of the facts of the world in which they were serving. There are two levels of input to deal with. Even the Ancients of Days deduce the Father's will by equating inputs from above and below. [Paper 28:4.1, page 308:0] Jesus called this principle *truth-coordination*, and this teaching points the way for our success today.



Onward and upward illustration

Let me emphatically state this eternal truth: If you, by truth-coordination, learn to exemplify in your lives this beautiful wholeness of righteousness, your fellow men will then seek after you that they may gain what you have so acquired. [Paper 155.1, page 1724:5]

Ouch! This standard is so high that we will never be able to get anywhere by devoting ourselves to it. Or is it? What would happen if we try it and find out whether the Master has indeed helped us by teaching this eternal truth?

2. The second epochal revelation taught us the importance of patience. Truth-coordination pursues planetary goals using wise methods.

Never, in all your ascent to Paradise, will you gain anything by impatiently attempting to circumvent the established and divine plan by short cuts, personal inventions, or other devices for improving on the way of perfection, to perfection, and for eternal perfection.

[Paper 75:8, page 846:4]

This stern warning gives a principle to help test policies and programs.

In their management training book *FYI—For Your Improvement*—Michael Lombardo and Robert Eichinger devote a five-page chapter to the topic of patience (pp. 229-33). They treat patience as a skill. They describe traits of unskilled persons, skilled persons, and persons who overuse the skill. They list causes of impatience, give an overview of the organizational importance of the virtue, and then list 10 remedies for impatience. Here are a few highlights. Impatient persons are “intolerant of the slow pace and cumbersome processes of others.” The skilled person “follows established process.” The excessively patient person “may let things fester without acting.” Here are some causes: unrealistic standards, action junkie, very intelligent, arrogant. The overview: “Many people pride themselves on . . . a results orientation. . . . In many situations, impatience is a cover for other problems and has serious long-term consequences.” The list of remedies includes these observations: “Impatient people want it now.” “Some people probably bring out your impatience more than others. Who are they? What is it about them that makes you more impatient? Pace? Language? Thought process? Accent? These people may include people you don’t like, who ramble, who whine and complain, or who are repetitive advocates for things you have already rejected. Mentally rehearse some calming tactics before meeting with people who trigger your impatience.” “People who have a towering strength or lots of success get less feedback and keep rolling along and over others” “Impatient people provide answers, conclusions, and solutions too early in

**The skilled person
“follows established
process.”**

the process.” They over-manage and depend too much on themselves.”

When I read this chapter I found that impatience was a problem for me, too, and I began to work on it. John was an “eager worker,” while Jesus was “a calm and happy laborer.” To be sure, not all of our errors are like the default, on the side of disobedient impatience. The Salem missionaries in Greece carried obedience to an extreme; and Abner’s intolerance compromised the effectiveness of his fine comprehension of Jesus’ teachings. I have made both of these mistakes, too.

3. In the third epochal revelation, Melchizedek made a covenant in which man agreed to *believe God’s promises and follow his instructions.* [Paper 93:6, page 1020:7] Now, the instructions for the Salem missionaries are not the same as our instructions, but two lessons for leaders are that we should have faith in the wisdom of our instructions and that leaders are not more than middle managers, with supervisors above us who seek our cooperation.

Are we in fact we eager to follow specific, revealed instructions given in *The Urantia Book*, the **Declaration of Trust**, and the Publication Mandate? The **Publication Mandate** instructs us to note the slow and natural unfolding of the Kingdom of Heaven, to possess our souls in patience, to avoid over rapid growth, and faithfully to prepare for the time of *The Urantia Book*’s world-wide mission when men are willing to seek truth and righteousness, when the chaos of the present confusion will have passed, and when the battle for man’s liberty will have finally been won. How would our practices differ if we were generally to abide by the spirit of these instructions?

4. The first three epochal revelations encourage us to pursue wise, evolutionary methods, to avoid short-cuts, and to follow instructions. These principles cultivate our attitude, but we need more specific guidance for today. Jesus made things much more definite. He repeatedly called *all* believers to proclaim the gospel. But how many shy away from that call and say that our work with *The Urantia Book* is our way of proclaiming the gospel? Has the book become our gospel, in practice if not in theory? Does it matter? Should we even care?

Jesus gave clear teaching about first winning souls for the family of God and then sharing higher truth as others ask. Truth-coordination integrates the drive to share truth with the evolutionary facts of the other person’s receptivity. The Master told Simon Zelotes,

...and when you have a man safely and securely within the kingdom, then is the time, when such a one shall come to you with inquiries, to impart instruction having

to do with the progressive advancement of the soul within the divine kingdom. [Paper 141:6, page 1592:4]

Jesus then amplified his point.

When you enter the kingdom, you are reborn. You cannot teach the deep things of the spirit to those who have been born only of the flesh; first see that men are born of the spirit before you seek to instruct them in the advanced ways of the spirit. Do not undertake to show men the beauties of the temple until you have first taken them into the temple. Introduce men to God and as the sons of God before you discourse on the doctrines of the fatherhood of God and the sonship of men. [Paper 141:6, page 1592:6]

Organizations explicitly connected with *The Urantia Book* have a handicap in entry-level gospel ministry, since they are so involved with the beauties of the temple. But these organizations can help equip persons for the basic work of interacting with the culture generally.

After reviewing the history of our world, Jesus' decisions focused on limiting his use of the powers at his command. Jesus chose "natural, ordinary, difficult, and trying" methods. This is because *he knew the way of love and the practice of spiritual brotherhood*, and he refused to upstage those eternal realities by mixing his basic gospel message with the sensational fact of a new epochal revelation. I am not proposing a simplistic policy for every situation, but I am proposing that we make policies and programs in the light of the Master's principle about seeing entry-level truth embraced before giving advanced truth. Are we willing to follow the Master? If so, do not the lessons of the first four epochal revelations rise up to tell us something about the place of *The Urantia Book* in our ministry?

- Suppose that we want to spread the knowledge of *The Urantia Book* and create thousands of study groups, but we also want to be wise about introducing it to others. What are some high-leverage projects that will help us achieve those goals? Here are five interconnected projects of power which the authors themselves highlight by the language they choose.

The top priority is spiritual growth:

God-knowing creatures have only one supreme ambition, just one consuming desire, and that is to become, as they are in their spheres, like him as he is in his Paradise perfection of personality and in his universal sphere of righteous supremacy. [Paper 1:1, page 21:3]

The great challenge to modern man is to achieve better communication with the divine Monitor that dwells within the human mind. [Paper 196:3, page 2097:2]

More is expected of leaders. Do we worship with the depth indicated in the Paper 5 section on True Worship? Do we pray with the thoroughness required by the rules for prevailing petitions? [Paper 91:8, page 1002:6] For example, are we industrious in studying *The Urantia Book*, so that we can fit our enthusiasms and our beliefs about our own personal revelations together with the principles of epochal revelation management?

A second project is this:

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, page 43:3]

(My university Website for courses in truth, beauty, and goodness is <https://sites.google.com/a/kent.edu/jwattles/>. If you would like to see unpublished philosophy of living chapters, just ask.)

A third project is to proclaim the gospel in thought, word, and deed:

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, page 1041:5]

The persistent preaching of this gospel of the kingdom will some day bring to all nations a new and unbelievable liberation, intellectual freedom, and religious liberty. [Paper 178:1, page 1930:6]

The gospel thought can be our attitude in any relationship. Our words of life become spontaneous when our thought of love is full and our readiness for deeds of service is genuine.

The Urantia Book is part of Urantia's postbestowal Son age, and in that context we find a fourth project: to achieve *spiritual brotherhood* immediately and *social brotherhood* gradually, by means of social fraternity, intellectual cross-fertilization, ethical awakening, political wisdom, and spiritual insight. [Paper 52:6, page 597:1]

A fifth project is ecumenical:

The great hope of Urantia lies in the possibility of a new revelation of Jesus with a new and enlarged presentation of his saving message which would spiritually unite in loving service the numerous families of his present-day professed followers. [Paper 195:10, page 2086:2]

...we find a fourth project: to achieve spiritual brotherhood immediately and social brotherhood gradually, by means of social fraternity, intellectual cross-fertilization, ethical awakening, political wisdom, and spiritual insight.

(See the materials on world religions in the Website for my courses.)

Readers of *The Urantia Book* find calls to do many things, and it cannot be the Father's will for every person to do every one of them. Many of us are already overcommitted, and we thereby risk losing our savor, our cosmic effectiveness. Nevertheless, paying adequate attention to these projects will balance us. The more we live so that Jesus lives again in us, cooperate on the new philosophy of living, work on social brotherhood, and

Many of us are already overcommitted, and we thereby risk losing our savor, our cosmic effectiveness. Nevertheless, paying adequate attention to these projects will balance us.

see that others are born of the spirit before we introduce their inquiring minds to *The Urantia Book*—the more we are likely to find wise, patient, evolutionary policies and programs in teamwork with our supervisors. There are ways to pursue these projects and train leaders and teachers in study groups; and we can ask how our organizations might creatively support individuals in taking up these projects.

I can offer help in the gospel school, by documents that I use to teach philosophy and religion classes (<https://sites.google.com/a/kent.edu/jwattles/>), and in a new Website for readers of *The Urantia Book* where you can find more detail supporting the position set forth in this talk: <https://sites.google.com/a/kent.edu/study-grow-construct-proclaim-share/>.

In sum, the leadership recipe calls for three ingredients: great study of *The Urantia Book*, great contact with evolutionary knowledge, and supreme dedication to divine *methods* in the pursuit of high *goals*. I believe that, under the leadership of our unseen friends, we will eventually succeed with *The Urantia Book*. My concern is this: To what extent are we getting off-track, neglecting the wisdom of the principles of eternal truth, the way of sure success, obedience to the instructions given to us, and the Master's clear teaching? I pray for divine wisdom for you as you review or arrive at your own great decisions regarding your work with *The Urantia Book*. And I will love you no matter what you conclude! ■

Welcome to Leadership and the Sanctity of Service

2011 Leadership Symposium Address

RICK LYON
USA

LET US THANK OUR HEAVENLY FATHER AND give credit to our indwelling spirits for leading us to be here tonight. We express our appreciation for the assistance of our unseen friends for we have seen their hand in the planning of this event. We also thank the International Service Board for recognizing the importance of leadership and the need to train and develop the leaders of today and tomorrow. The team of already busy people who served on the symposium committee went far beyond the second mile to make this event happen. Many people have given a lot of time and energy to put this event together and we appreciate everything they have done. May they be rewarded with spiritual satisfaction and wonderful memories of what we accomplish here this week.

We are deeply grateful to the many financial contributors to the symposium sponsorship fund that helped people from far away places to be with us tonight. We rejoice at being able to share this week with our brothers and sisters from 24 different countries from around the world.

Let me also express our most heartfelt appreciation to all of you for taking time away from your family, your job, and your life to be here tonight. It is you and your active participation in this event that will make it a success.

God has brought you here this week for a reason. It's important for you to be here because what we are doing is important—I believe that this revelation is the single most important project on this planet today. While we do care that our brothers and sisters have enough to eat, good medical care, and proper education, our concern is for their eternal soul. God has given us this opportunity and this responsibility. You have made the choice to be a leader of the Fifth Epochal Revelation. There have been



Gathering of the faithful window detail

great spiritual leaders of Urantia in the past. There are great leaders here with us tonight. And this week we will train and develop great leaders for the future.

Trustees from Urantia Foundation, members of the UAI Representative Council, the International Service Board, national and local association leaders, leaders of Urantia Book Fellowship, study group hosts, and other leaders from all levels of this revelation are here at this symposium.

Tomorrow you will get to meet descendants of Forum and contact commission members. We also have a special guests: Carolyn Kendall, who was a member of the original Forum and Cathy Jones and Tonia Baney, who created IUA which today is UAI.

Take advantage of this week to talk with the leaders of this revelation, ask questions, and share your thoughts, concerns, and ideas. Build your social network within this worldwide community of Urantia Book Leaders. They will be your own personal support group that you can turn to when you need help or encouragement. You do not have to struggle with frustration or confusion when you personally know someone who is willing to share their hard-earned experience and wisdom with you. Being a leader does not have to be a lonely position.

One of my favorite speakers is a man named Doug Wead. He tells a story about when he was in college they staged protests against world hunger by refusing to eat lunch at school. If it was anything like the food at my school this was not much of a sacrifice. But, they said —“Look at us! We are not eating so that starving children can have food to eat.” But when he got older and out in the real world he learned that empty plates don't feed hungry people. You have to do something to feed hungry people. We need people to prepare the soil. We need people to

...this revelation is the single most important project on this planet today.

plant the seeds. We need people to bring in the harvest and bake the bread. We need you to do whatever God has led you to do. Leadership requires action.

I believe that we are here tonight because we want to feed hungry people. The food we offer is the bread of life—a new revelation of Jesus’ life and a new understanding of his gospel of eternal salvation. Many people are hungry for the food that *The Urantia Book* has to offer and you are the salt with a saving savor.

The apostles were organized into specific tasks and responsibilities. We, too, need to be organized and we need good leaders in order to do what needs to be done efficiently and affectively.

What this world needs most is to see Jesus living again on earth in the experience of spirit-born mortals who effectively reveal the Master to all men. We need teachers and leaders to proclaim this new revelation of Jesus and his message of salvation to a world full of hungry people. So, let us share the bread of life with our family and friends at every opportunity—because empty plates won’t feed hungry people.

The Urantia Book reveals the importance and value of leadership and organization. Everything from Paradise, through the Grand Universe, to planetary governments, down to the family unit benefit from organization and leadership. Adam and Eve spent their first six days on Urantia planning and organizing. The apostles were organized into specific tasks and responsibilities. We, too, need to be organized and we need good leaders in order to do what needs to be done efficiently and affectively.

UAI’s mission is to foster study groups and promote in-depth study of *The Urantia Book*. Our goals are to produce teachers and leaders for the Fifth Epochal Revelation and to share these teachings with our brothers and sisters of Urantia. By doing these things, we bring man closer to God, introduce God as the loving Father of all mortals and all mortals as the brotherhood of man. This is our spiritual mission.

We often talk about “our mission” but Mark Kurtz reminded me that this is not “our” mission. This is the mission of Christ Michael, for he authorized *The Urantia Book* project, and all of us are participating in “his” plan in accordance with our Father’s will. Could there be anything more important than this? Could there be any greater opportunity on this planet than to serve as a leader of this revelation?

One of the most important lessons to be learned during your mortal career is teamwork. The spheres of perfection are manned by those who have mastered this art of working with other beings. Few are the duties in the universe for the lone servant. [Paper 28:3, page 312:2]

It is impossible to learn teamwork without a team. Being part of an organization, association, or a group of people gives us the opportunity to become part of a team. As a member of a team we have greater opportunities to serve, increased resources to serve more people, and

a platform from which to shine our light farther and wider.

In civilization much, very much, depends on an enthusiastic and effective load-pulling spirit. Ten men are of little more value than one in lifting a great load unless they lift together—all at the same moment. And such teamwork—social co-operation—is dependent on leadership. [Paper 81:6, page 911:2]

A group needs leaders to coordinate their efforts, multiply their individual capabilities, and bring them together as a team. Those of us blessed to be part of the early days of this revelation have a big job to do—a great load to lift, “We need leaders to guide and encourage those who are inspired by this revelation to lift this planet up from the depths of darkness and into the light.

If we suddenly find ourselves alone on a dark city street, where do we go to feel safe? We go to where there is light. When there is a power outage and we try leave a dark room, who leads the way? The person with the light. When we struggle to find our way out of spiritual darkness, who shows us the way? The person with the light.

You are the light of the world. A city set upon a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and be led to glorify your Father who is in heaven. [Paper 140:3, page 1570:14]

As a leader of this revelation, you are the person with the light. Do not hide your light under a bushel but hold it up for all to see. People, like moths, are attracted to the light. So, let your light so shine that others may find their way out of darkness and glorify our Father—for you are the light of this world.

In Paper 163, Ordination of the Seventy at Magadan, when Jesus said farewell to the seventy after their ordination, he told them that the gospel of the kingdom must be proclaimed to all the world, to gentile as well as to Jew. He told them to teach that man’s whole duty is summed up in this one commandment: Love the Lord your God with all your mind and soul and your neighbor as yourself.

Simon Peter followed by telling them to have courage for they will face hostility and to have faith and trust that all they need will be provided to them. He told them to possess zeal and enthusiasm in attending to the Master’s business.

He told them to always pray for more laborers to be sent forth into the gospel harvest. He explained that, when one so prays, he will more likely say, “Here am I; send me.”

I believe that each of us is here tonight because we, too, have said, “Father, here am I; send me.”

And that my friends is what leadership really is. ■

A night sky filled with stars, with a range of snow-capped mountains in the foreground. The text is overlaid on the sky.

***The growth and
development of
people is the highest
calling of leadership.***



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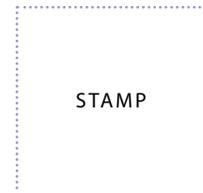
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