



Tidings

from Associations around Urantia

URANTIA ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL ■ [HTTP://URANTIA-UAI.ORG](http://URANTIA-UAI.ORG)

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"Decorating the Christmas tree" illustration

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President's message



Dear Friends of UAI,

THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER WAS a very gratifying month for UAI as we have chartered two new local associations. Gary Rawlings, Membership Chair and I went on a trip to Africa to meet with readers in Malawi and Zambia. What a trip and what an experience. We were welcomed at the airport in Lilongwe, Malawi by no less than twenty six readers. The chartering ceremony was held two days after our arrival and was accompanied by African songs and spontaneous prayers from the participants. Never have I seen so much enthusiasm and joy on the part of so many readers on such occasion.

Grevet Moyo, the appointed president, his wife Linda Nyasulu, the treasurer, supported by Brian Mtambo, the vice-president, Bahart Teniso, the secretary and Kelvin Msukwa, the membership chair, were all very attentive to our recommendations and very enthusiastic about the service they can provide in their country. Our visit to Lilongwe culminated with a picnic at Lake Malawi, attended by all the readers, accompanied by their spouses and children. We also had the opportunity while we were there to visit a bookstore, meet the supplier and leave a Urantia Book for sales. Thanks to Gary Rawlings for his relentless efforts to make the book available everywhere he passes. We also attended one of their study groups at Grevet and Linda's home and had a wonderful gathering at Brian Mtambo, the vice-president's home, the same afternoon.

We left Malawi for Zambia where the second chartering was to happen. We were met at the airport in Ngola by the soon to be appointed president and vice-president, Joel Chongo Mvula and Chita Nonde. We were driven to our hotel in a taxi, chauffeured by a reader, where we went to bed early to recuperate from a long day traveling. The next day was spent on an excursion in a wild animal reserve and we had ample opportunity there to get more acquainted with the president and vice-president who were accompanying us. The chartering ceremony was held on the Saturday afternoon after we had met with all the board members in a two hours meeting.

The chartering agreement was attended by twelve regular members and was followed by a study group. While both associations are different in the nature of people composing them, we have no doubt that the leadership will

prove to be capable of fostering the dissemination of *The Urantia Book* and its teachings in this part of Africa. We have witnessed genuine interest in the mission of UAI and both groups have already manifested through their actions positive growth in readership. Both association, being part of poor countries in Africa, will need our support to have access to more books and literature. I have no doubt that many of you will want to contribute to the dissemination efforts in Africa by supporting UAI financially in order to provide these associations all the books they need.

Gary Rawlings and I came back from our trip very satisfied and filled by our experience among these new found brothers and sisters. There is a lot we can learn from those people, their openness, their warmth, their joy at expressing their faith in God and their spontaneity in engaging in prayers, these are only a few of the cultural traits that makes them unique and valuable to our organization. I believe there is a huge spiritual potential in Africa and *The Urantia Book* will surely help reveal its value if it is made readily available to its population. On our parting in London at the airport, Gary and I embraced each other and we recognize that we had grown in our understanding of each other, what a beautiful gift friendship is.

In the last month, the ISB voted on Resolution 2007 - 3: UAI Corporate Registered Agent Change. It was necessary to change our registered agent to a new person and James Woodward, our executive administrator, accepted the position. This position is necessary according to the laws of Illinois, it provides the state a person who is a resident and who is acquainted with our organization and supplies it with an annual report on the activity of our association.

On the part of the RC, the discussions on the strategic plan were finalized and a positive majority vote was reached among the voting members. There was on the part of some member's reticence to adopt the ISB strategic plan; I believe the objections raised were born from a difference of perception to our mission and from cultural differences. In the coming month, I will address the divisive issues and explain to some of the RC members the validity of our strategies that address themselves to the contentious issues of study groups and leaders and teachers. There is much that

TIDINGS

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Around Urantia

Tidings is a monthly publication of Urantia Association International, whose mission is to foster study of *The Urantia Book* and to disseminate its teachings.

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You may submit articles about *The Urantia Book*, news about your association, stories, photos and poems to the editor. All articles are subject to revision.

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Submissions limited to 700 words (one page) or 1400 words (1½ page) plus one or two photos. Deadline by the 15th of every month.



needs explaining and the discussion period on this resolution did not allow enough extensive exchanges on such important issues.

During the month of December the RC will be occupied in reviewing the 2008 budget, there has been a minor addition to our budget that reflects itself in the chartering of new associations. In 2007, four new associations were chartered and we forecast many more will come to the forefront in 2008. The financial charge to do this work cannot be left to rest exclusively on the shoulders of the Membership Chair. Everyone in good standing in UAI should participate in the ongoing effort to charter new associations. Provisions were made in the budget to address that issue and we hope that you will encourage your leaders in approving such provisions.

The month of December is already here with its many family reunions and celebrations; I wish you all to have a very joyful and spirit-filled holiday seasons.

May peace be in your heart.

Gaétan G. Charland ☐

President UAI

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Two New Associations in Africa !

GARY RAWLINGS
UAI Membership Chair



Chartering ceremonies, first in Lilongwe, Malawi, photo above and then in Ndola, Zambia, photo below

ON THE 18TH AND 24TH OF NOVEMBER 2007, Gary Rawlings Membership Chair of UAI and Gaétan G. Charland, president of UAI, chartered two new local associations in Africa. The first one was chartered in Lilongwe, Malawi and the second one in Ndola, Zambia. The Chartering ceremony in Malawi was attended by twenty nine persons five of which constituted the board member, they are as follows: Grevet Moyo, president, Brian Mtambo, vice president, Bahart Tenison, secretary, Linda Nyasulu, treasurer and Kelvin Msukwa, membership Chair.

The second chartering ceremony was held in Ngola and was attended by 14 readers, four of which were board members, they are as follows: Joel Chongo Mvula, president, Chita Nonde, vice president, Joseph Chanika, treasurer and Namukale Kaliwanda, secretary.

We are very confident that those new associations will be a valuable and positive asset in furthering the mission of *The Urantia Book* in Africa.

Gary Rawlings, Membership Chair □

First meeting for German speaking Urantia Book readers: A wonderful success!

Christian Ruch



Seppo Kanerva on left and Urs Ruchti on right, Werner Sutter and Irmeli Ivalo-Sjölie, bottom left and conference attendees shown below

HISTORIC – THAT WAS THE WORD sometimes heard during the weekend 9th/10th of November when over 30 people from Germany, Switzerland and Austria came together in Frankfurt-on-Main. And yes, perhaps historic it was, this first meeting of German speaking Urantia Book readers, a wonderful success it was anyway.

Only two years after the book has been published in German, a group of enthusiastic people of all ages and coming of all directions, from the North Sea to the Swiss Alps, found together for the first time in order to get in contact and to learn more about *the Urantia Book* and its history. That this could take place is the result of one man's impact: If Mr. Werner Sutter from Freiburg in Southern Germany didn't spend hours and hours of his private time to promote the book, to talk to people and to collect addresses, this meeting wouldn't have been possible. And it's also the result of his partner's help, because Mrs. Irmeli Ivalo-Sjölie (associate trustee of the Urantia Foundation) supports him with a huge energy. Thank you, Werner and Irmeli!

In the first part of the meeting, especially two men's speeches found the interest of the assembly: First, Mr. Seppo Kanerva, president of the Urantia Foundation, gave very interesting details about the (sometimes) enormous difficulties to come to good translations and to distribute the copies in the different countries. Second, Mr. Urs Ruchti who was the "main translator" for the German edition informed about his work which took 13 years. And the people who wanted to learn more how *the Urantia Book* was transmitted could buy the fresh printed German translation of Mark Kulieke's book "Birth of a Revelation".

In the second part of the meeting, the participants discussed some topics of *the Urantia Book*, like the morontial existence and the union between Michael and Jesus. And when it was time to say goodbye after two exciting days which passed by much too fast there was absolutely no doubt that there should be another meeting next year. And so we can say: See you again on the 8th and 9th of November 2008 in Frankfurt. Goethe's hometown has proved to be a good meeting-point for the German readers of *the Urantia Book*...

Christian Ruch □

South Africa Special Report (Part Two)

A Mission To Die For



**Mark Philip
Bloomfield**



HMM....TRICKY;" YOUR LAD OF ALL chores thought to himself as he gave calm, clinical consideration to his increasingly precarious situation.

A hundred large hardcover Urantia Books plus personal luggage deposited by the big Afrikaans bus driver on to the pavement of downtown Kimberley on a bright Sunday morning after two back to back sleepless overnight bus trips from Cape Town via Port Elizabeth and Bloemfontain. Left shoulder still out of action, unarmed with all his cash on him as always with the local street life already around him and not believing their luck.

To the complete astonishment of the biggest, baddest looking thug amongst them I walked straight up to him, looked him straight in the eye and pointing to the boxes, told him to watch my luggage and make sure no one takes anything before I headed off up the road without even waiting for his response or bothering to look back.

Not far along the road I came to a petrol station where a young black guy was pumping gas. Putting a twenty Rand note (about \$3) into his empty hand I asked him to call me a cab and pointing to where I had left the books, started back for them, again not waiting for a response.

Ten minutes later, both the taxi driver and the gas station guy who had followed me back after a few minutes had loaded all the books into the taxi whilst my reformed hoodlum friend faithfully kept watch with the same look of bewilderment on his face and I was on my way to my next set of four walls and a bed, staring out of the vehicle's window indifferently and wondering what to do about lunch.

A good week or so ensued during which time, in addition to the usual mix of hand-seeded academic and religious institutions

together with the block seeding of the public library system by trying to say the right things to the right people, my recently invented adrenaline sport of black township transiting was further indulged in. Trudging through such squalid, broken down slums to get to where I needed to be as a lone white man loaded down with books always seems to make the heart race and the mouth so dry you can't swallow, but to emerge unscathed again is to feel blissfully alive.

Another cramped overnight bus journey put me back in Port Elizabeth and that same old run down boarding house under the stairwell of which the revelation has been freely and safely stored all this time; a humble little Victorian townhouse that has over the months taken on something of a shrine to the spirit of it all.

Monica, the kindly old landlady of Irish ancestry who lives there is one of this world's true characters. Doomed to a life of incessant turmoil, upheaval and family tragedy, her staunch Catholic faith always holds her as, dotting over me like a mother hen, she gleans me at every opportunity for all my experiences with Mother Teresa back in the nineties. Her husband Rayhart, as kindly as her but an Alzheimers sufferer forgets me if I'm even away for a few hours and must upon my return be re-convinced he knows me.

Vulnerability....humanity. That is the story the human response to this revelation will have to tell on High and across a vast universe. At first glance somewhat pitiful and pathetic but with a subtle undertone of gentle grace and dignity just beneath the surface that no modern day Herod or Caiaphas could ever sensitize to. Just plain ordinary folk like Monica and Rayhart together with all those good people on the homefront that support

this mission faithfully playing their roles in helping a divine revelation on it's way.

And so before dawn the next morning, fond hugs of farewell and on with the last 26 of the first shipment of 480 Urantia Books to dower, cosmetically challenged East London four hours up the coast. A few good seeding days culminating in a wonderful visit with the lady pastor of the city's Presbyterian Church after her sermon and that was the end of the first shipment.

Another overnight bus this time to Johannesburg where thanks to Tamara at the Foundation, 200 more books are soon due to arrive by air from New Delhi where they were printed some time ago. This batch should keep me busy until a further 300 arrive some weeks from now by sea to Durban putting the running total for Southern Africa at just under the thousand.

That ought to be enough to give the whole of Southern Africa including sick puppy Zimbabwe a light dusting of first phase fifth epochal seed.

So vital, so critically important to the spiritual economy of this planet is it that the potential and actual leaders and teachers of all nations, races and religions discover the very highest revelatory truths out there to be found that no price, personal or financial can be too high a one to pay to ensure the success of the fifth epochal World Seeding Mission.

And whatever final price any genuine fieldworker will end up paying to stay in this 'game of ghosts,' the continuing financial support from the homefront remains crucial to the mission's success.

We are a team of equal partners in this most essential service to humanity.

In search of the Father's will,
Mark Philip Bloomfield □

FROM WHENCE COMMETH ELAN?



SUZANNE KELLY
Lone Star Urantia
Association

I HAVE BEEN ASKED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS to explain how *Élan Vital* came to be the epic that it is today, so I will try and sum it up for those of you who are interested. Just like the epic itself it is a long story – but unlike the epic, I'll make it a little shorter so you might actually read it. The phrase 'epic poem' usually strikes fear and boredom in the hearts and minds of all who see or hear those words. All except me that is – well me, Alexander Pope and of course Homer and one or two others.

Way back in the last century when I was in high school I found the book "Essay on Criticism" by Alexander Pope ("to err is human, to forgive divine") and absolutely loved his style and wit and aspired from that moment to duplicate his delivery. Up until then I had written the usual poems, love, life, dreams, friendship, blah blah snore stuff, but Pope hit me on the head and sent me down the epic path of endless logical rhyme. Even though he was a master of rhyme one his most famous quotes only rhymes if you use an English brogue.

**To what base Ends, and by what abject
Ways, Are Mortals urg'd thro' Sacred Lust
of praise! Ah ne'er so dire a Thirst of Glory
boast, Nor in the Critick let the Man be lost!
Good-Nature and Good-Sense must ever
join; To err is Humane; to Forgive, Divine...**

I know you all tried it, wasn't it fun.... And I bet none of you ever knew the associated verse. Blimey... ok I digressed. *Élan* sprouted shortly after I read Pope and then read *Chariots of the Gods* by Erich von Däniken. Being an avid reader of history and the occult and anything that was new age I had collected a number of things that I thought were worth keeping and researching. Those things that rang true in my soul were beginning to form a story.

Philosophy is my passion and Henri Bergson had come closest to my personal



understanding of energy, mind and matter in his book *Time and Freewill*, (he coined the phrase *Élan Vital*) so I combined my picture of history with my personal philosophy and wrote the story down in the way I understood it the best, in rhyme, my obsession. I had 40 pages completed when a friend read it and exclaimed "oh you've read *The Urantia Book*" – having never heard of the UB I ran out and got it. Once I finally read the Urantia book *Élan* blew up to the 172 page epic that it is today

ÉLAN VITAL is the compilation of what I have personally discovered and deduced in my quest for Truth. As I have said in the preface, another person cannot duplicate my understanding, regardless of the proof I have

to offer. Much of my understanding has come from my personal experiences in and out of time via prophetic dreaming or out of the body experiences. I have come to understand that our life experience is but a variation of the manifesting continuum of all life that is witnessed; First witnessed individually as created self and finally as the self-created and creating whole.

Thoughts create energy; energy creates mass and mass creates reality.

At long last I have created a fleeting snapshot of reality and published it in this yaawwwnnnn epic poem, now if I could only get someone to read it in their reality... Maybe in the next century! from whence cameth Elan ☐

How *THE URANTIA BOOK* found me

COLETTE PELLETIER

Association Urantia du Québec, AUQ

THE *URANTIA BOOK* CAME INTO MY life in 1991 through a person who became afterwards, very important in my life and my daily routine. Actually, the man who introduced me *the Urantia Book* became my husband. Here, then, is my story.

It was the beginning of the '90s, and I found myself awaiting happiness. In a storm of separations, of losses, of death and sorrows, I shouted to the Heavens. Deceived by human love, I decided to love God, feeling certain that I would then not be deceived.

And it is with a double measure that God answered my plea. He sent me two gifts: a lover to share my earthly life and a book, a Revelation to guide me to Him and fill my spiritual life. God knows more than our own selves what we need. Therefore, does he always

send us fantastic gifts. But these gifts are always there and furthermore, they are free. We just have to ask.

However, my gifts were accompanied of two requirements harbinger of happiness:

- 1 – The man of my life expected a total commitment on my part that had to be sealed by the bounds of marriage. This demand required a fair amount of inner reflection to arrive at a decision quite difficult to reach in these modern times of divorce and separation.
- 2 – In the course of deciding the fusion of our two destinies, the spiritual dimension became a subject of discussion. That man, who expected to become my husband, was living a spirituality emanating from the teachings of *the Urantia Book*. Convinced that spirituality was the best to seal our relationship, he presented me with this enormous and dreadful book which questioned my scepticism and tested my courage. He wanted me to share it with him. What a shock! As an ultimate show of love for him, he asked me to read that book and, from the beginning of the book at that, would you believe. Weird! Never had I met someone daring to demand such a thing. I was upset. But, his request required consideration and I seriously began to reflect on it and then decided to agree to his request.



Colette Pelletier, 2007

The beginning of the reading was difficult. The intellectual level of the text overwhelmed me. As a woman, my concept of spirituality was not fulfilled. I asked myself: What will it change to my daily life to know the duties of all these celestial personalities as well as of the colossal structure of the cosmos. I was losing my motivation and my reading was slowing down.

With the relentless support of my friend, I continued reading. Suddenly, my admiration for the teachings became a reality and the urge to know more gripped me for good. Then, there followed a second and a third reading. Since that time, the book is part of my life.

The < *Urantia Book* > changed my life completely.

- 1 – It gave me many answers to my questions on death. Because of my work in a reception centre for the aged and for many years, death had been part of my daily life.
- 2 – I found or rediscovered my faith. My soul & my religious spirit, which I had allowed to dull through a lack of interest, of stimulation or of knowledge, were resurrected through the discovery of the beauty, the grandeur of eternal life and my desire to be a part of it.
- 3 – The discovery that the salvation offered by Jesus resides in his life, in his teachings, not in his Passion, his blood and his death, was for me a revelation and a liberation. The requirements of salvation placed on the observation of dogmas and rituals fell and I finally understood the true meaning of the evangelical message of Jesus, the real meaning of < *Love one another, as I have loved you* >

- 4 – I finally found the meaning of life, of my life. I found the reason and the aim of my journey on this earth and of my social compartment. By becoming conscious that God watches over his children through his paternal ministry, I then gained a comforting and secure feeling.

- 5 – I lost the fear of the end of the world that religions, sects and even medias ingeniously feed to us poor mortals. Furthermore, this revelation reassured me on my own death, by revealing to me that it is my surviving personality which is protected by my guarding angel and my Thought Adjuster during my sleep preceding my resurrection. How comforting it is to know & understand that nothing is left haphazard; that each and everyone of us who accept Him as our Father is reborn and assured of survival.

Having been lucky enough to discover this Revelation, I can only wish for humans to discover it for themselves. I pray that the sceptics and the indifferent accept to be part of the large family of the children of God. I wish my faith to become so alive that my attitudes and my joy of living influence, for example, those who doubt so that they be enticed to follow the road which will lead them to God. ☐

Urantia Brotherhood Association of Arizona Holds December Meeting



CATHY JONES,
President
cthjon@aol.com



Nick Ferrante

UBAA HELD ITS DECEMBER MEETING ON Sunday December 2 at the home of Allen and Cathy Jones.

Nick Ferrante led an informative and inspiring discussion on "What *The Urantia Book* Says About the Human Mind."

After the meeting and study we enjoyed a delicious pot-luck dinner followed by an afternoon of fellowship on the patio. □



Toby Fox

Analee Patera and Cathy Jones

More news about the UAI 2009 International Conference

OLGA LOPEZ,
President, Urantia Association of Spain
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"Hands linked around the world" collage

Subthemes of the Conference

FOLLOWING THE DEVELOPMENT OF IDEAS about the theme for the Conference, the Conference Committee has proposed these subthemes or sections, to facilitate that volunteer speakers give their insights about each one of these aspects:

- I Bridging the gap between our fellow siblings: dissemination of the teachings.
- II Bridging the gap between different cultures and religions: the concept of sonship as a meeting point.
- III Jesus and his way of bridging the gaps.
- IV Bridging the gap toward a better future and a higher civilization: the Global Village from the point of view of *The Urantia Book*.
- V Bridging the gap between us and celestial beings.
- VI Bridging the gap between us and the Universal Father: self-realization or personal growth.

If you are interested in giving a speech at the Conference related to some of these subthemes, please send your proposal to urantiaesp@gmail.com.

Logo of the Conference

After a long period of discussions and suggestions, it has been adopted the following logo to illustrate the theme for the International Conference:



Figures holding together the outer circle symbolize diversity (two groups of 7 people of different colours, which we can compare to first human races). Considering that the three concentric circles represent the Trinity Deities, the sphere of light in the centre, radiating in all directions, would represent Universal Unity. But that sphere of light has other meanings: it's the symbol of the future age of Light and Life, to which all races cooperate to achieve as a common goal, and it's a clear wink to the place where the conference will be held, placed at the "Costa del Sol" (Sun Coast). □

Fable

MEREDITH VAN WOERT
Southwest Urantia Readers Family



1.

Once there was a person dressed in the coat of a wolf. His coat was rough and ragged from all the fights he got into.

When he snarled, you could see where a tooth had broken off from chewing on and tearing up an opponent.

He could sniff out a fight from miles around and would lay in wait for the best time to jump in.

He never needed to manicure his toenails, because they were kept short from running on the wolf trails.

He hunted with other wolves and roamed alone.

But inside of him, there was a sheep.

2.

Once there was a person wearing the fleece of a sheep.

His fleece was soft and neatly trimmed around the edges, and always kept clean.

When he bleated, you could see two rows of perfect and very white teeth in front.

He could smell all the good things in life and stayed within his realm where he would be able to get them.

He paid great attention to his hooves to keep them polished and attractive to himself and to others of his kind.

He grazed with other sheep and drank from still waters.

But on the inside of him, there was a wolf.

3.

Once there was a person who was dressed as a person.

His clothing was the common clothing worn by persons of his time and culture.

When he smiled, you could see some white teeth, some silvered teeth, some golden teeth and some broken teeth.

He could sense the difference between truth and falsehood, right and wrong, good and bad, enough and too much.

His hands were clean most of the time, except when he was working, and he kept his nails at an average length.

He enjoyed his family and the company of other persons.

But on the inside of him, there was a wolf and a sheep.

4.

Once there was a person who growled and foamed at the mouth, like a wolf, sometimes, when he was angry and afraid.

He was always sorry later and bleated very sheepishly about it.

He traveled with the herd most of the time, fearing the same dangers as the rest of the people, worrying about the lambs, worrying about the weather, worrying about money, worrying about finding greener pastures.

He worked hard every day, though sometimes he was lazy and thought about how pleasant it would be to curl up in the sun

somewhere to chew on a piece of straw and dream of a better life.

As a wolf, he sometimes stalked his prey, even when he was not hungry.

As a sheep, he was startled easily and he feared everything, especially wolves and wolves in sheep's clothing.

5.

Once there was a Perfect Person with neither a sheep, nor a wolf inside of him.

He was sometimes known as The Good Shepherd.

He knew all about the wolves, the sheep, and the people with the wolves and sheep inside of them.

The people with the wolves and the sheep inside of them were not perfect.

The people with the wolves and sheep inside of them could hear the voice of the Perfect Person when he spoke.

And the Perfect Person spoke to them, saying,

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and I will help you; yes, I will uphold you with the right hand of my righteousness, for I am the Lord your God. And I will hold your right hand, saying to you, fear not, for I will help you."

And when the people with the wolves and sheep inside of them heard this voice, they rejoiced!

The End.



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS! From the Tidings Staff

SENDING LOVE AND SPECIAL GREETINGS TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES. MAY THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON REMAIN IN YOUR HEART THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

Cathy, Vern, Olga and Line.