



Tidings

from Associations around Urantia

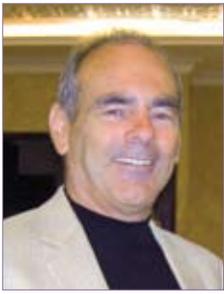
URANTIA ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL ■ [HTTP://URANTIA-UAI.ORG](http://URANTIA-UAI.ORG)

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"Australian Garden" Photo by Vern Varass

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President's message

Dear Friends of UAI,

SOME OF YOU HAVE PROBABLY received a letter for the fund raising activity of UAI. It comes at a time when the news about the economy is at its worst and this in itself could be a very good reason for you to pass on this opportunity for hard service. I am not going to lecture you on the moral implication of the choices facing you, for I very well know that Urantia Book readers, and especially members of UAI, are usually in possession of a great sense of responsibility toward their inner beliefs and generosity to the cause they support. I trust that in the face of great difficulty you will rise to the challenge of answering positively to the financial needs of UAI and help in the accomplishment of its mission.

There is another subject, which I would like to talk about, it is the responsibilities that new presidents take when they are either elected by their members or nominated by the ISB when a new association is chartered, or a young one is growing. Not many realized how important their roles are as first president to a new association. It is not only a matter to fill a two years term or find the first replacement that comes to mind, it is all about long term commitment and understanding the far reaching meaning of our mission which is stated on the first page of our Charter. It is also understanding the values of democracy and team work while they promote sound and respectable members who take seriously the criteria that makes them full members. It is also about being a good, dedicated leader.

UAI is not a social club; it is the burgeoning reality of the spiritual brotherhood of men, it is an association of like-minded people, dedicated to serve God. But to do so, UAI needs to be well organized in the simplest way possible and be guided by simple rules. Every year a small report should be made by board members of every association and sent to the central office, listing the activities that took part during the year in their part of the world. That report should include the number of full members, associate members and new members that joined in during the



last year. It should also include a report on the election of new board members. According to the Charter, elections of half the board members of local and national associations are due every year. For the International Service Board things are going well. Our new Executive Administrator, Rick Lyon, is full of stamina and projects. He has been working hard on many fronts and him and Mark Kurtz, CFO of UAI are responsible for the Fund Raising letter which was sent to all of you. Rick has also worked to produce a new membership form to be put on our website, he has also worked with Vern Verass, Chair of the Communication committee, to produce an UAI logo which has been introduced on our letterhead, envelopes, business cards and website. Vern has also produced a style guide on how to use the UAI logo in brochures, banners, websites, newsletters and anything we might think of to represent UAI

During the last teleconference meeting that the ISB had on the 15th of November, a few decisions were made. The ISB voted positively to participate in a joint meeting with the Fellowship Council at our next ISB meeting in Chicago. This meeting should happen on the last weekend of February or earlier. The final date will be set next month. The idea behind this initiative is to have open discussions between the Fellowship and UAI and see how we can resolve the issues that keep us apart. No promises are being made; no engagements are to be taken, only to keep communication open. We hope by this action that new ground may be explored so that one day we will all be pursuing the same mission

The members of ISB also voted positively on a resolution to create an Ad-Hoc committee on Interfaith. All the ISB members believe that UAI has a lot to learn in that area and this could be a very good place to work cooperatively with the Fellowship for they have been very active in this area for many years. Merindi Belarsky, our Vice-President volunteered to Chair that committee and will be assisted by James Woodward.

TIDINGS

From Associations
Around Urantia

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

The Urantia Book online:

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

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 2nd month.



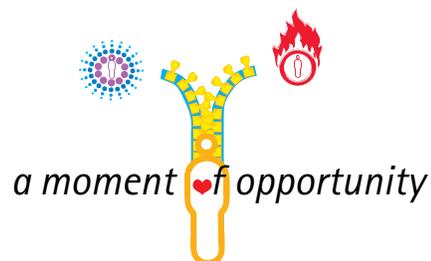
Regarding the Representative Council, things got a little confused when an amendment to a resolution was not well understood and members voted for the wrong thing, so the resolution had to be tabled until it could be presented differently. That was Item 63. Merindi Belarsky, the chair of the Representative Council, has just presented a new agenda to the RC for business that will be presented to them in the weeks to come. Those items are:

- 1) Ratification of ISB resolution 2008-5: UAI Charter 2.1.5 Proposed Amendment [note, this will finally resolve item 63] UAI Budget 2009
- 2) ISB Elections (Secretary, Dissemination Chair, and Study Group Chair)
- 3) Amotion regarding: National Association governing board elections

ANZURA 2008

Oct. 17-20

A Moment of Opportunity



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President's Message *continued from page 2*

- 4) ISB Elections (other Chairs due for re-election in March 2009) the election for three ISB positions.

As you can see, nobody is picking cherry and the New Year might present us many challenges.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the Trustees on their last elections. It must have been a very hard choice to make with so many talented peoples being part of this team. To Mo Siegel, the new president of the Foundation, we wish you the best in your new responsibilities and may God bless you with abundant wisdom.

Good reading,
 Gaétan Charland
 President UAI
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IF HE WERE INCARNATE IN OUR SHOES... An opportunity we all share is to allow our Father to work through us, to allow that which we would do to be adjusted to become that which He would do, were He incarnate, and walking in our shoes.

“Surely not!” we cry from the dream-scape of the 3rd and 4th psychic circles. But what if we make it to the 1st? As implied by the Urantia papers and demonstrated by Jesus, maturing into ripe first-circlers is the intended outcome of human life. And once in the first circle, we are only a moment away from “at-one-ment” with our fragment of the Father. But this mysterious Monitor is as much of the absolute essence of the Father Infinite that can be squeezed into the sorts of shoes we wear. When we get our shoes into the first circle, the Father can really start to walk the walk we walk. We become for Him a unique window into this world.

Jesus showed us how to make the most of this opportunity. He became a personal and wilful reflection of his Adjuster's desire. He sought first the kingdom of God, and all else followed. Simply by following the lures of maturity raised up by the Monitor inside. The fifth epochal revelation helps us to amplify our response to the Adjuster within. Insight can help make our responses to our Father excellent as well as genuine. In our more lucid moments, surely we wonder about this most intimate experience, this unfolding phenomenon, this moment of opportunity. Can we help each other to ponder such things? We got-together in October to deepen our experience, brighten our insight, and awake our slumbering love to serve! We explored our Father's relationship with us, and our response to this opportunity to become one with Him.

The conference at Goolabrai Country Resort set in natural bushland just north of

the nation's capital provided quality service, good food and lodging away from urban stress. Birdsong in a garden setting greeted us every morning.

The conference kicked off with an exhilarating portrayal of the Fatherhood concept by father of 4, Verner Verass, as an interactive visual display on fathers from all walks of life qualified by relevant quotes from *The Urantia Book*.

Parental longing – the love of parents for their children.

“The love of the Father absolutely individualizes each personality as a unique child of the Universal Father, a child without duplicate in infinity, a will creature irreplaceable in all eternity.” [p.138:4]

Following this, Nigel Nunn amplified the theme with a brilliant and incisive discourse on the Thought Adjuster as our moment of opportunity for personality verification.

What then is this moment of opportunity we each have?

Can knowing what and why we are, change the way we dare to live? Can spiritual illumination enhance our capacity to serve? If we are the (slow-motion) Personalization of an Adjuster, and this Adjuster is “an absolute essence of an infinite being”, what capacity for unique service, for goodness, truth and beauty, lies within each of us?

An opportunity now arose for attendees to take part and 5 stepped forward to share significant passages that resonated with spiritual significance.

Begin the exploration of Thought Adjusters.

Some attendees each read a powerful paragraph – about our Father, the fragments of

Himself he gives to us, and the opportunity this implies – then described the meaning and value they saw in these mere words.

The topic was investigated as questions arose and attempts at answers were sought.

A moment of opportunity.

Exploration the nature of us, our Father, and our relationship with Him. Why did our Father need space and time to make us possible? Why did He need His Creator Sons to midwife our birth? When Jesus spoke of doing his Father's work, what did he mean? How can the Fifth Epochal Revelation help foster Michael's plan?

Attendees then launched into a break-out study group session of Paper 107

Study Group: Paper 107 – The Adjuster and the Soul

Discussion on the possibilities of group study of the Urantia Papers. Introduction of a technique to enhance the potential of group study allowing Adjuster participation to foster insight, respect, and mutual illumination.

We then read what this revelation reveals about our Soul mindful that our Soul can witness to it's own growth and our ear can attune to Truth expressed by our fellows who tread the same spiritual path.

We sincerely sought our Adjuster's love and the light of insight. Can we share these gifts? Can they help us to serve? Will shifting our "seat of identity" into our souls help us to bring love, light and life into this world?

An evening of fun, music and food provided a relaxing interlude before the activities of the next day which began with an Adjuster focused worship session that brought us all closer to one another as we shared in music and song. So energised, we went out in nature to the National Botanical Gardens to continue to commune. On return, we were ready to delve deeper with a "meet the panel" forum session. You know the kind you see on TV with a moderator and a panel of experts. The moderator cautioned us regarding, experts, with a homespun definition; "x, being an unknown quantity and a 'spurt' is a 'drip' under pressure." With full knowledge of personal limitations, five panel members, Bernie, Merindi, Julian, Adriana, Bevan, shared their experiences of the quest for Adjuster guidance in their lives. Men and women seeking GOD.

The Forum 1: Five personal views on Adjusters:

"Cutting Edge" Current Affairs TV style forum, launched by the response of five

presenters to the fundamental fifth-epochal question: What do these fragments of our Father mean to us, to the way we chose to live, and to our capacities to serve ?

The Forum session then progressed with the moderator, Vern, opening the session to comments and questions from the floor and the whole question of what exactly is Adjuster Guidance was addressed. Many stated they had never had an experience that would qualify as such while others were convinced they have, and on a regular basis. We attempted to compare what people were saying against what The Urantia Book tells us constitutes Adjuster Guidance. This caused us to look more closely at the unified function of personality in understanding the realms of mind and emotion, could they perceptively differentiated or were they so integrated as to defy rational description. In our small sample of attendees (34), women were more likely to say they had experienced Adjuster Guidance. This had the effect of intensifying the mystery of the experience for those listening, particularly the men. For each woman who spoke of such an experience did not have words sufficient to convey what was experienced, other than, it was a profound feeling filled with personal meaning. One of these ladies is very socially motivated and is actively involved in service projects for her community. In fact her next project is for FreeSchools, a UAI supported initiative to educate girls in third world countries such as India, Afghanistan, Sudan, Thailand, where their education is discouraged due to cultural attitudes.

What is the profound message from this? When God calls we should be ready to act, to sit and try to define the experience is secondary.

The Forum 2: moderated discussion continues

"The Adjuster is an absolute essence of an infinite being" [p.1176:6]

On the final day, we wrapped up with our gaze turned to the future, singularly as individuals and collectively as ANZURA.

Our next conference will be held in Melbourne to coincide with the international World Parliament of Religions Conference 3-9 Dec 2009. The 2009 Parliament will bring together over 8,000 people from Australia and around the world, including renowned spiritual, religious and political leaders. ANZURA will hold its conference in late November 2009 to allow attendees to take part in both events if they choose.

Nigel Nunn, ACT □

GLMUA Fall Study Session The Revelation Within Society



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THE SECOND ANNUAL GLMUA FALL Study Session was held in Chesterton, Indiana the weekend of September 19th, 2008. Our theme was: The Revelation in Society. We were pleased to have 18 persons in attendance. Friday night the arriving attendees partook of social time and dinner at a local restaurant. After dinner many of us gathered for discussion and preview of the coming program which commenced Saturday morning at 10:00am. Each morning meditation sessions were held prior to breakfast. Saturday featured a simple guided meditation while Sunday included Centering Prayer. On both days of the program, the first session was devoted to discussions of prayer, meditation, communion, social service and worship, along with the role these actions play in our lives. This Fall Study Session was designed to follow our first Fall Study's theme which was: The Revelation Within Us; and to presage the third session which will focus on: The Revelation of Jesus; Prior to the public life. It is hoped that we will be able to repeat this cycle while advancing in technique and content.

This year's program contained some hidden and unforeseen ramifications, as it turned out, due to the following two components: the events of our world society with relation to the current financial crisis and the fact that in planning this program the discussion of three or four lists along with several quotes within Urantia Book would create a volume of consideration worthy of one to two weeks of time rather than the two days allotted. These items were not without their controversy and emotion even though we had but one ground rule; Our task was to explore these issues from a decidedly spiritual, impersonal and objective point of view. It was too much to ask but still, the group held to it with little need for guidance. □

Argentina – ANZURA Connection



CARLOS RUBINSKY
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ROBERT COENRAADS, THE VICE president of ANZURA, together with his wife and two daughters, had the chance to visit with members of the Argentinean chapter of the UAI, while doing a stop over on his way from Sydney to Caracas, Venezuela, from where his wife is a native. This was a great opportunity to share a wonderful couple of days of socialization and friendship between UBook readers coming together from such far distances. From Sydney to Buenos Aires over the Southern Pole! Robert met Carlos almost 10 years ago when he came to South America to do a survey on Public Libraries and about the local Book Fair out of which a very useful report was given.

This time he was on a holiday trip, but anyway we had the chance to visit with a few other concerned readers and share a great dinner of pizza and empanadas and have a very positive talk regarding the Urantia movement. Horacio Rico, the Vice president of the Urantia Association of Argentina expressed his satisfaction in learning what is going on in that part of the world, and was very happy to have met Robert and his family. Similar opinions were expressed by Jorge Wilczyk who stressed the importance of sharing our particular experiences in the effort of disseminating the Revelation. While Luis Miguel Morales was very impressed to learn about the Free Schools project that Robert is helping to develop together with Mark Bloomfield in India; he was moved to see how we, as Urantia Book readers

can find ways in society to apply the Gospel of Jesus in very simple and basic ways...

While what is not so simple, seems to be how to find effective ways to better disseminate the Urantia Book. We realize that in our countries we keep looking after the same concerns, and we still haven't found the best answers... Anyway we keep trying by doing what we can... - Robert told how their Association's members in Australia have placed books in the Libraries and jails, and we told him about our recent experience in the Buenos Aires Book Fair, and he told us about his desire to do presentations about the different religions in different institutions, and we told him our ideas of participating in more bookfairs and expos that take place all the time all around, and also give public presentations in conference rooms, etc ... so... it was a great opportunity to exchange experiences and ideas knowing that we all have the same ideals... and so we can keep building bridges across the world between concerned readers.

This is a highly recommended experience! Don't miss the opportunity to meet other book readers along your way. Think that there are Social Angels that are working for the personalities to meet... What for? - Later we'll know ...

In brotherhood
 CR ☐



Carlos Rubinsky (2nd Left) with the Coenrads family from the ANZURA Study Group



How *THE URANTIA BOOK* found me



CARL BEERT
France

MY SPIRITUAL AND PERSONAL QUEST started approximately two years after the birth of my daughter.

She started suffering from eczema on her legs and arms and her cries would keep us awake for night after night. We searched desperately for medical help from doctors to specialists trying different methods and medication without real improvement. During those four years, our quest for her relief led us from traditional medicine to specialists, homeopathic treatments and varied quacks. This endless pursuit was creating a lot of stress.

My wife couldn't bear to feel so helpless towards our daughter's health and looked for escape in different activities, conferences and courses that aimed at personal well being along with a spiritual undertone. I thought I was leading a pretty normal life: going to work, having a drink or two afterwards with colleagues, surfing the Net at night and on week-ends or watching movies to get my mind off things. While in my twenties, I had done some research about paranormal and metaphysical activities but failed to grasp most of it and just gave up. At thirteen I stopped going to church and that was the end of Catholic activities for me. The Catholic priests I met through school all seemed a bit «strange» and uninteresting. Finally, my wife through one of her conferences met a radiesthetist and we decided to consult with him.

The results were miraculous: after sending him only a picture of our daughter, this man «saw» that the problem was eczema and asthma and suggested plant supplements, homeopathic treatments and lots of water. After three months, almost all her symptoms disappeared and we finally all got relief. But now, my mathematical mind and my logic couldn't figure out why all the specialists we had consulted could not do what this man had

done. This question haunted me and to test his knowledge, my wife, then me, consulted him. This man found and cured our problems. How did he do that? My curiosity got the better of me and I finally called him. He answered very gently and invited me to his next conference. I, then, started to attend all sorts of conferences and started practicing radiesthesia myself but something was missing, I didn't have the spiritual vision needed to be efficient. He suggested that I read the book: *Conversations with God* by Neale Donald Walsh. The book brought a revolution of thoughts in my mind and my outlook on life; I also discovered the *New Paradigm* book stating that the people living on Urantia were manipulated by some powerful elite.

After ten years of spiritual research, while browsing on the net I found this reference: ...link to the Urantia cosmogony – a colossal and controversial but very interesting book. Through radiesthesia, I decided to «test» this new information and to my amazement the link to the Book of Urantia showed not only 100% (perfect score) but 120%!!! This hardly ever happens! I went immediately to www.urantia.org and started reading the first paper. It all seemed very religious and made me want to stop, thinking my test may not have been accurate. So I did the test again with the same results... Later that night, while getting ready for bed, I told myself «OK, I'll read that book» and this amazing sensation took hold of me: a profound joy and a feeling that I was being watched by a multitude of people. It took me almost a year to complete my reading and again there was a revolution in my life and my way of thinking of our Father.

Finally I could put a name on those beings helping me receive the radiesthetist informations I was getting. I was no longer in the dark, the spiritual world was organized and well structured. It was a great leap forward in

my practice to know that I was communicating directly with my Thought Adjuster and through him, to God himself. It feels like I am using and thinking in a completely new language. It took another two years before I met other readers of the UB such as Jean Annet, the president of ABFU.

Meanwhile, all these years of spiritual research led to my creating my own website: <http://www.systemesdecroyances.net> where I share these experiences because sharing is the password and the bottom line in all spiritual pursuits. Finally, my daughter is now fifteen years old and doesn't suffer from eczema anymore, only mild allergies, uncomfortable at times but easily manageable. I also have joined a study group to further and better my understanding of the teachings in the Urantia Book.

Carl Beert □

Father Rob and The Columbus Ohio Study Group



SCOTT BROOKS
[Columbus, Ohio](#)

ONE DAY, IN 1976, FR. ROB SCHUER was browsing in a bookstore, looking for writings by Edgar Cayce. As he prepared to leave, a strong thought came to him to look at all the books again, to be sure he hadn't missed anything. His persistence paid off when he found a Urantia Book -- out of the box -- lying on a shelf. He opened it to the Table of Contents and was intrigued by what he saw: "The Universal Father," "The Paradise Trinity" and "The Life and Teachings of Jesus." This was a book he wanted to investigate and, as it turned out, he had \$24 in his pocket -- the exact price of the book at that time.

He bought the book and took it home and read it, cover-to-cover, in six weeks. Fr. Rob then decided he should take his new finding to his Bishop. After a short question and answer session, the Bishop said, "This makes sense. We'll have to look into it, won't we Robert?" Fr. Rob then called the Urantia Foundation to find if there were any other readers he could meet with. They gave him the name of Ted Blaney in Cincinnati. Ted suggested that Fr. Rob contact Susan and Carlton Haney, who were reading the book in Columbus. It was then, in 1976, that the Columbus, Ohio study group was formed. It has met continuously since then.

The group has weathered the "storms" of schism, TM and apathy and you might even say we have "invigorated in the presence of difficulties" over the years. Currently, about 6 to 8 readers show up weekly and our active group of readers includes 15 to 20. Our email list reaches about 30 folks. We have alumni and visitors spread around the country and we encourage any traveling Urantia Book readers to schedule a stop in Ohio on Tuesday evening so you can join our family.

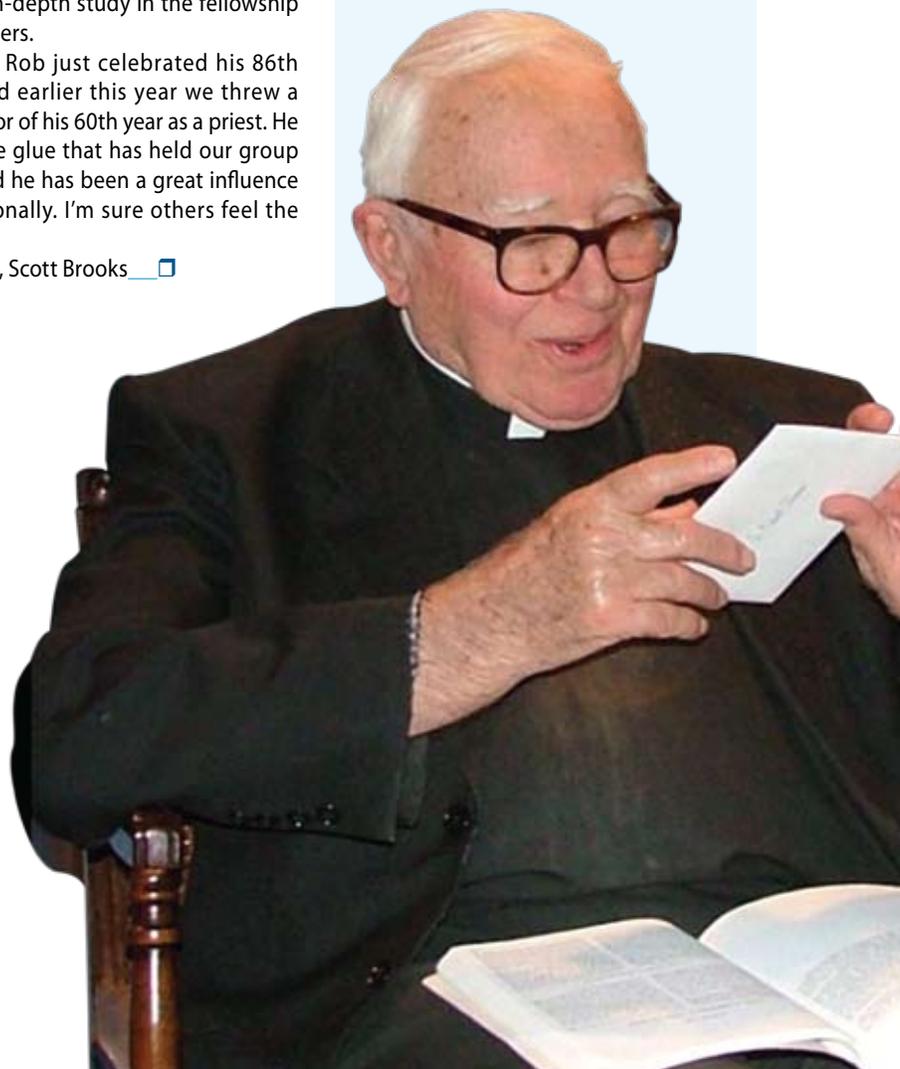
Most of the readers are long-time readers and we have read through the book

many times. This year, rather than reading the book serially we are reading from one of Dr. Sadler's workbooks where he condenses the Urantia Book by pulling key paragraphs from each paper. Every meeting is peppered with lively discussions as people get the chance to express themselves fully and openly.

To me, it is the ideal of what a study group should be. I only wish more people had the chance to experience this kind of long-term, in-depth study in the fellowship of other readers.

Father Rob just celebrated his 86th birthday and earlier this year we threw a party in honor of his 60th year as a priest. He has been the glue that has held our group together and he has been a great influence on me personally. I'm sure others feel the same way.

Cheers, Scott Brooks



Announcements

Merindi Swadling - Bernie Belarski

BERNIE BELARSKI, A LONG TIME reader of the Urantia Book from Eugene, Oregon, and Merindi Swadling, a second generation reader from Sydney, Australia recently tied the knot down under. They met at the UAUS conference in Seattle in July 2007 and have had a whirlwind romance ever since.

Bernie packed up his life in the US, got himself a passport for the first time, and followed Merindi home to Australia in November 2007. Unconventionally, Merindi asked Bernie to marry her on February 29th. They are planning a "proper" wedding for March 2009, however decided to go through the official process earlier to help secure Bernie's Australian visa. They married at the registry office in Sydney on a rainy August 22nd and enjoyed a lovely honeymoon in the Whitsundays. Their futures together as Urantia Book readers is an exciting one and is being lived in loving partnership with our Father.



Tamara Wood - Nathan Strumfeld

ELOPEMENT AT 533
BY BERT COBB



REMEMBER THAT GAL NAMED TAMARA WOOD?
She works at Urantia Foundation
She's the one that did é m so good
With her devotion to the fifth revelation.
She keeps business "humming" at 533
Always doing the best she can
And recently she's been walking on air
Since she found her perfect man.
Now Tamara searched high and low
While looking for a mate
And many a man was rejected
Even after the very first date.
But when she encountered Nathan Strumfeld
She had to take a second look
And sometimes they would just hang out
Reading The Urantia Book.
They were introduced by Nathan's kin
"Uncle Bob" as he is known
That famous Urantia pianist
We all know as Bob Solone.
It didn't take Tamara too many months
To know things were feeling right
Her friends began to notice how
She was hard to find at night.
Nathan is a graphic designer
With a major design for life
Which includes having some children
With a pretty, intelligent wife.
On the very last Thursday in October
They disappeared without any warning
And neither of them showed up for work
On the following Halloween morning.
Well, you know the rest of the story
So if you see them on the street
They're the young married couple
That are both so "cute & sweet."

