

URANTIA ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL - HTTP://URANTIA-UAI.ORG





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President's message

Dear Friends of UAI,

LREADY ANOTHER YEAR has gone by and the holiday season is upon us. For many, this period of the year is one of rejoicing and sharing with our loved ones the material, social and spiritual blessings of this world. It is also a time for taking notice and evaluating our material, social and spiritual progress. If I look at how UAI has done in 2009 and evaluate the progress in terms of growth and accomplishment of our organisation, we can rejoice and be thankful to our celestial friends for all the help they gave us in meeting the challenges of this year.

For the ISB, the year 2009 will be remembered for the election of 3 new members and the re-election of three others. It is the year that the first UAI annual report was published and made available on our website. The ISB also developed and published a color brochure on What is UAI? in three different languages. It was also the year in which our International conference took place, that the idea of a leadership seminar took form and that the initial step for its planning were started. The ISB also developed a Privacy Policy, which was in turn sent to the RC for ratification and approval.

Our membership worldwide has increased by a few hundred and our database is showing an increase of non-affiliated readers, which puts their recorded number to nearly two thousand. As each local and national association take full advantage of our universal database so are we able to serve better the growing interest of new readers for study groups. In fact, UAI is now working to develop a study group Internet accessible database to serve the mission of UAI in fostering study groups. This database will make it very easy for anyone looking to find a study group in their area or referring new readers to one. Our Privacy Policy was developed in order to satisfy the needs and requirements of every associations or readers worldwide so we can



put to good use the Internet tools that are made available to promote our mission.

At this time the ISB is hard at work in the organisation of the leadership seminar and we already had two face-to-face meetings this

year and one teleconference meeting to further plan this very important event. I, for one, will be travelling to South America next year to meet our many leaders over there and plan with them their attendance to this seminar. Actually, this event will last three full days and will focus on three different aspects; each of those will be explored for one full day. There will be emphasis put on the origin, history and destiny of *The Urantia Book* and the movement that promotes its teachings. Another aspect will cover the spiritual implications of our mission and finally the administrative aspect of how to achieve our destiny.

On another topic, we are still looking for an editor for *Tidings*. In the last issue of *Tidings*, Imentioned we had found such a volunteer but apparently I was too eager to communicate the good news before such volunteer made his final decision. If you feel you would like to serve UAI in such a way, we would be more than willing to help you in any way we can to assist you in this work.

On the RC level, the Privacy Policy has been approved and there will be a recess from work till the turn of the New Year.

I take this opportunity to thank any one of you who have contributed in many different ways to make our work and our mission more real in our present world. May peace be in your mind, heart and soul; I pray that the New Year will bring you many blessings and opportunities of growth and success in all aspects of your life.

Have a happy holiday season.
In spirit of brotherhood
Gaétan G. Charland
President UAI
gaetan.charland3721@videotron.ca

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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COVER: Photo *Agape Choir* from Steve Rohrbach photographer. You may submit images for possible use on the cover to: vern@designd.com.au

Tidings archives:

http://urantia-uai.org/tidings/

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.



Invitation to UAI Forum's OPAD Online Study Group

AI FORUM http://www.urantia-uai.org/forums/index.php? was created by Urantia Association International http://urantia-uai.org/ in 2005 as an international web-home for members to connect and study the book.

In 2006, when all was ready, the Forum opened to the public. Now guests may view any of thousands of posts on hundreds of Urantia Book related topics written by a diverse group of students and teachers. Guests can view all sub forums, members may post questions, comments, insights, and use the Forum's many features. If you are not close to a study group, or simply want to supplement your study, the OPAD (one-page-a-day) online study session is open 24/7/365. OPAD is but one of the many subforums designed for study and dissemination of the revelation. Readers, students and teachers from around the world meet at UAI Forum daily to grow in understanding, to make or connect with new and old friends in the global reader community. Visit us! — http:// www.urantia-uai.org/forums/index.php?

World Parliament of Religions

MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA—DEC 3 — 9, 2009



VERNER VERASS Canberra, Australia vern@designd.com.au

T WAS VERY EXCITING TO PARTICIPATE in this international meeting as the religions of the world strove to understand each other, in a step towards world peace. The Parliament described as:

"... the world's largest global interreligious event, held once every 5 years in a different city. The Melbourne Parliament will bring together more than 8,000 people from around Australia and across the world including renowned spiritual, religious, civic, academic, and political leaders, along with grassroots participants."

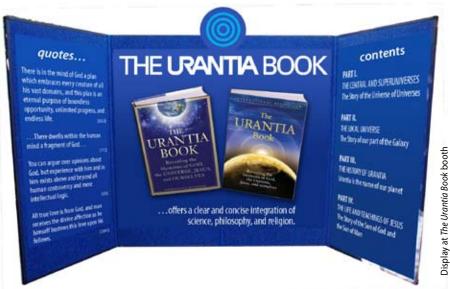
Parliament of the World's Religions program overview

Urantia Book readers have attended the last three parliaments — in Chicago, Barcelona (Spain) and Cape Town (South Africa). Anecdotal feedback from these participants is very positive and inspiring. There is little doubt that the Parliament represents a unique opportunity to share the teachings of The Urantia Book with truth seekers and other religionists.

The Parliament is organised by the Global Interfaith movement—encouraging:

"cooperative and positive interaction between people of different religious traditions (i.e., "faiths") and spiritual or humanistic beliefs, at both the individual and institutional level with the aim of deriving a common ground in belief through a concentration on similarities between faiths, understanding of values, and commitment to the world." (source: Wikipedia, "Interfaith")

The theme of the 2009 Parliament was: *Make a World of Difference:* Hearing each other, Healing the earth We were happy to be involved in this gathering of religionists — saw this as an



amazing opportunity to disseminate the teachings of The Urantia Book, and meet and socialise with other truth-seekers. We shared this experience with a large group of international readers of The Urantia Book — mainly from the USA - who travelled down under for the Parliament. We readers in Australia, played host to these visitors in our country, and were delighted at the opportunity to share this Parliament experience with them.

What had been organised?

But from where comes this desire to love

one another? It appears naturally among family and friends; it builds betw

who work together; and it begins between strangers once trust is won. And why is Love so powerful, so efficient at resolving the knots in

our relationships? To understand this we need to know more about what and who we are.

The Urantia Book offers new answers to these

old questions. As well as providing a larger frame in which to think—one that may satisfy

scientists, philosophers and religionists alikethe Urantia Papers reveal a fresh perspective on Personality. They trace for us the rise and role

of Love, from the eternal core of the Absolute

directly into the human heart.

An exhibition booth was booked and erected for the entire Parliament, which displayed and sold The Urantia Book to interested Parliament attendees. Over 150 books were either sold or given to new truth seekers. We had volunteers manning the booth throughout the Parliament.

A pre-conference social dinner, was organised for Wednesday 2nd December at Steve Shanahan's house (local reader) in Hawthorn, a Melbourne suburb. This was a great opportunity for Australian and International readers to gather together and meet before the Parliament began.

We presented a workshop on: The Urantia Papers - What's Love got to do with it? Speakers were: Nigel Nunn and William Wentworth. Katheleen Swadling gave a short introduction covering the scope and significance of the content.

We treated this as if it were a once in a lifetime opportunity to share the teachings of The Urantia Book with truth seekers >>



our planet. The central message is that all human beings are one family, the soon and daughters of one Cod, the Universal Differs. The authors instruct us on the origin, history, and destity of manifed and on our relationship with Cod. They also present a unique and compelling portugal of the life and teachings of sucus, open new votas of time and teachings of sucus, open new votas of time and teachings of the centerny, and recent level concepts of Marka new centerps, of Marka new concepts of Marka new scanding addression of finding the Universal Father in our friendly and carefully admentioned universe. and catering administered universe. The views of science, philosophy, and religion presente in The United Book are perhaps the clearest and most concise integration of these subjects scalable to contemporary man. Among the over 600,000 people his pruchased, read, and studied The United Book. It is no question that it can make a significant contribuil to the religious and philosophic thinking of all peoples truly has the potential to reshape world destiny.

nspiring them and stimulating them piritual growth and enlightened livir

The authors of The Urantia Book do not describe o we can realise social brotherhood on our planet and ve lasting peace and good will through the spiritua How do we get to that place where we become truly interested in each other? How does this interest become friendship, and ripen into Love? If we can answer this, we have found the key; for once we love someone, the we love someone, the desire wells up to help, to hear and to heal.

comes such a desire?

DO NOT PERMIT the magnitude of God, his infinity, either to obscure or eclipse his personality. "He who planned the ear, shall he not hear? He who formed the eye, shall he not see?"
The Universal Father is the acme of divine personality;

Our brochure at The Urantia Book booth



ANZURA members L to R, Neil Francey, Kathleen and Trevor Swadling and Verner Verass at *The Urantia Book* booth















1 Melbourne, continued from page 3 the host city, view toward the location

of the event

on the left

bank of the

Yarra River.

spoksperson

Joy Murphy

with the the

Dalai Lama.

of religious

youth at the

Youth Plenary

2 Aboriginal

Professor

Wandin (Aunty Joy)

3 The voice

session.

5 William

4 Nigel Nunn

delivers his

Wentworth

presentation.

from around the globe. It was genuine adventure of discovery as each of us learnt more about the faiths of our brothers and sisters. Many new friendships were made

All in all, a most significant event, a real call to action as we discovered anew the underlying truth that we are indeed one human family bonded by love.

Program submission

Unless we desire to make a difference, to help, to hear and to heal, we won't. But from where comes such a desire? How does one move beyond old attitudes and narrow motivations? How do we get to that place where we become truly interested in each other? How does this interest become friendship, and ripen into love? If we can answer this, we have found the key; for once we love someone, the desire wells up to help, to hear and to heal.

But from where comes this desire to love one another? It appears naturally among family and friends; it builds between neighbours who work together; and it begins between strangers once trust is won. And why is love so powerful, so efficient at resolving the knots in our relationships? To understand this we need to know more about what and who we are.

The Urantia Papers, which we introduced 7 The audience. to our brothers and sisters from diverse faith

streams offer new answers to these old questions. As well as providing a larger frame in which to think—one to satisfy scientists, philosophers and religionists alike—we now have a fresh perspective on personality. Our Australian presenters Kathleen Swadling, William Wentworth and Nigel Nunn spoke of the rise and role of love, in each person's journey as love emanates from the eternal core of the Absolute and resonates directly in the human mind/heart of the individual.



Always Give Thanks!

God has provided eternity and Infinity for us to enjoy in the

Vastness of the illimitable universe

Ever stretches out before us with

The promise of a never-ending adventure—we

aving ever more and more to explore And discover. The mind of God has

No limits as does the finite intellect,

Knowing no boundary. Only in and as that

paceless-timeless Reality can he be said to exist.

And the wonder of wonders is that this unending

Love-created cosmos is to be our playground—our

Working arena—wherein we may

Always-valuable-and-meaningful service, ever-

Young in pursuit of an ever-receding goal of God-

Satiation, God-finding creating Godhunger.

David Glass, November, 2009 Dallas, Texas

points out all religions stem from the same sorce. 6 Sheila Keene Lund presenting

Heaven is not the last Stop.

How I shared THE URANTIA BOOK



RICK LYON

UAI Executive Administrator

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E ALWAYS ENJOY READING the articles about "How I found *The Urantia Book*". On the other side of that, we often hear of fascinating and unique ways that people share The Urantia Book with unsuspecting mortals. I would like to suggest a new concept for Tidings articles called, "How I shared The Urantia Book". These could be stories about unique and interesting ways that you shared the book itself or some concept of the teachings from the book. I will post my story in this issue and our next issue will have an experience that Susan Grzeskowiak had with sharing the book. Perhaps these will help you to discover unique and unusual ways of planting the seeds of revelation with those you meet in your life — and then send us the juicy details of how you did it. Here is my experience:

In the spring of 2009, I attended a two-day fund raising class in Indianapolis. The students in the class were employees and volunteers wanting to learn how to increase funding for their organizations and the work they do. During the breaks and at lunchtime everyone chatted about their organization and experiences and exchanged business cards and contact information. I handed out several of my UAI business cards. My cards have a description of the book and two quotes that I think are appealing to anyone who reads them. I also had copies of the "What is UAI?" brochure that we were working on at that time and gave a few of them out as well. Almost every one I handed out brought the question, "What is U-ran-tee-uh?" Several people heard the word for the first time that day and walked away with a couple of quotes from the book, a website address, and hopefully a bit of curiosity about "Urantia".

On the last day, the instructor gave us a role-playing exercise in which one person was the fundraiser, another person was their support, and the third person was the potential financial contributor. The fundraiser explained the need for financial support while the support person shared their passion for the purpose and goals of the project needing funded. The objective of our exercise was to get the contributor to support our organizations activities with their money. I was assigned the role of fundraiser. (I think my TA had a hand in that.) The catch to this story is that we had to use our real life fund raising project. So, of course, for me that is Urantia Association International.

I began the exercise by telling the "passion" support person about UAI and The Urantia Book while the contributor waited outside. After the support person developed a passion for our organization and what we do, the contributor was invited to join us. As I made my pitch to the contributor, the passion person had to express why the work of UAI bringing the teachings of The Urantia Book to the world and fostering in-depth study of the book — is so important and worthy of financial support from the contributor. So, this person, who had never heard of The Urantia Book, had to express a passion for the book and reasoning for why UAI is worthy of a substantial financial contribution. The support person and I explained what The Urantia Book is and what UAI does and we were successful in getting a contribution from the person playing the role of contributor.

Next, the fundraiser (me) from each group had to switch roles and switch groups. The two remaining people became the fundraiser and the support person and had to keep the same organization for the fundraising exercise. This is where it got really interesting because the two people from my

group now had to tell another person all about UAI and *The Urantia Book*. In my new group I was the contributor and we were told to say "No" and let the people react to that. I had a hard time playing my new role with my new group because I was listening to these three people, who were totally unaware of the book before that day, discussing the teachings of *The Urantia Book* and trying to convince their "contributor" to support our efforts. What seeds got planted that day I may never know but I almost guarantee that at least two people checked out our website that evening. God does indeed work in mysterious — but sometimes fun and entertaining — ways!



UAI Slogan Project Results



RICK LYON

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ave you ever noticed that sometimes projects don't go quite the way we planned but good things still come from it? That describes our project for selecting a slogan for UAI.

In February of 2009, the ISB approved a project to develop a slogan that would quickly and clearly convey who we are and what we do as an organization. Often when we meet someone, we only get a few seconds to do this or we struggle for the right words. A slogan will help us communicate to others who we are and what we do in a positive and low-key manner. As we grow and the revelation becomes more recognized in the world's religious communities, getting our message across quickly and clearly is very important.

We put out a call among our members asking for suggestions for a UAI slogan. We were thrilled to receive 129 different responses. If we ever go into the bumper sticker business we are set! A couple of suggestions were meant to be funny; a couple of them expressed some complaint but for the most part all of your contributions were excellent suggestions that took this project seriously. Because of the quality of your efforts, the ISB struggled to reduce the 129 suggestions down to a top ten. After finally producing a top ten list, we then sent the list out to all members with a valid email address in our database. We sent this out in the form of an online survey that worked very well.

Over 300 votes were cast but the slogan that received the most votes only received 41 votes. The voting on the top ten slogans was so spread out that there is no real clear-cut choice by our members. This is the part of this project that didn't turn out quite like we planned.

The discussions on the UAI list about our slogan generated more communication and sharing of thoughts than any other topic

that I can remember. Many times when a topic does generate a lot of discussion on the list it is because it produces some amount of controversy and heated discussion – but not this time. The interaction of our members on the UAI list and the thought that you all put into this issue was a really gratifying thing to watch. We are growing as an organization but more importantly as individuals and it shows in how we interact with each other.

Another benefit of this project was the contemplation and discovery concerning our mission. From the quality of the suggestions, we know that you put real thought and effort into this project. Many of you took the time to actually stop and think about our mission, what we do, and what we are about. If nothing else comes from this exercise, that alone made it worthwhile.

The discussion, thought, and input about a potential slogan was a good thing even though it produced no overwhelming single favorite from our members. Perhaps this is a demonstration of the diversity of the people who are students of The Urantia Book. Perhaps our mission as stated in our Charter, "To foster study of *The Urantia Book* and to disseminate its teachings" means many things to many people. Perhaps there are as many ways to foster in-depth study of The Urantia Book as there are associations within UAI. Perhaps there are as many ways to disseminate the teachings as there people who follow them. If that is the case, how then can we say that our mission is this or our mission is that — other than to repeat what is written in the charter?

This has been a good exercise. A lot of people got involved with this discussion. A lot of people spoke up that we haven't heard from before. People became interested in what are doing with this slogan and other projects too. Several people wrote to say how much they appreciated the opportunity

Top 3 slogans

from English, French, Spanish speaking participants

Bringing a Personal Religion to Mankind

strengths	weaknesses
inclusive of all people	UAI is not a religion
Emphasises the personal	Could be seen as a
divine relationship	presumptuous statement

Loving God — Serving Man

strengths	weaknesses
UAI is a service based organisation Love is the fundamental personal relationship goal, service to all persons the consequence dual concept easily understood	Sounds like a cliché Mentioning God at this time, considering our present secular materialistic age, may be counterproductive An aspiration rather than a reality

Fostering Study of The Urantia Book

J	
strengths	weaknesses
Mission statement of the UAI	UAI is more than a book club
A prosaic fact	lacks originality because it is a word-for-word copy from the UAI Charter

to contribute to this decision. We got several nice emails from our members and a couple from members that objected to what we were doing but overall people understood the goal and the reason for it.

We didn't get any one overwhelming favorite selection from the suggested slogans so there is no clear winner. Therefore, we feel that we cannot move forward with something so important without a clear consensus on the selection of our slogan. Therefore, the ISB decided to table this issue for now. May I suggest, "How to disseminate the teachings according to *The Urantia Book* and how to foster in-depth study of the book." as topics of discussion in your study group.

Thanks to everyone who submitted a slogan and to all who voted or contributed in some way to this project.

UAI SERVICE REPORT



RICK LYON

UAI Executive Administrator
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NE OF THE PROJECTS OVER THE past several months has been the UAI slogan. Which was addressed in the article on previous page (pg 6) of this issue of *Tidings*.

During the past month, we sent two cases of books to study groups in Nigeria and Ghana. Reader activity in Africa is growing and we are happy to support those readers in any way we can. We also sent books to readers in Arizona who are caregivers for one of our members. They have been reading the book to this person and wanted their own book. So, we provided that to them with our heartfelt thanks for all they do.

Our ISB Vice-President, Mernidi (Swadling) Belarski and Communications Committee Chairman Vern Verass, along with several members of ANZURA joined together with staff from Urantia Foundation and members of the Fellowship to host a booth at this event. Study Group Committee Chairman James Woodward traveled to Australia and met with several readers there during the Parliament of World Religions. Over the next few months, our CFO Mark Kurtz will be visiting study groups in the southeastern USA. He will also be talking about the Reader Support Team that his local association has created. President Gaetan Charland is planning an extensive trip to South America this coming year to visit many of our associations there. These personal visits mean a lot to those readers we visit and it gives us the opportunity to learn what is being accomplished, to share our experience and lend guidance when needed. It helps us to find out what we can do to serve the readers and study groups in those areas.

Many members of the ISB traveled to Chicago to meet for our second planning session for the 2011 Leadership Seminar. UAI Conference Committee Chairman Phil Taylor is leading the planning for this 2011 leadership event. More information about this will appear

in a separate article by Phil. We want to remind you that this event intends to bring leaders of the Urantia revelation to Chicago in 2011. Some of them will be coming from Africa, Asia, Europe, Australia, and South America. We need your help to fund this event so we can keep the cost to those attending as low as possible. We are anticipating at least100 attendees and for some, the trip alone will cost \$2000-3000. We feel that this expense is justified in order to train these teachers and leaders in face-to-face personal workshops. It is important that they get to know other leaders from around the world so they understand that they are part of something very important that is for all people of this planet. They will take this training back to their communities and put what they learn to good use. Please help us to bring as many people to Chicago in 2011 as we can. We need your prayers, encouragement, and financial support to do that. This event will not be a social conference but will be an actual teaching and training event intended for those who have stepped into leadership positions in and out of UAI.

Most of you should have received our annual fund raising letter. Many people give a lot of time and energy to this revelation. We hope that our activities and accomplishments will be supported by your financial contribution too. Please contact the UAI office if you have any questions about how to contribute to the success of our mission. Phone 773-572-1180 in the USA or uaicentraloffice@urantia-uai.org.

We sent out over 1300 fund raising letters and so far 174 of them have been returned due to bad mailing addresses. If you have moved in the last year or so, please contact the secretary of your local association with your new address. This helps us to stay in touch and keep you informed. Don't forget to keep your email address up to date as well.

Scott Brooks continues to develop our new intranet and website. I have seen them both and I think you will be very pleased with them. The intranet will provide new tools for our national and local associations to share their information and materials. The intranet is progressing nicely and we have a prototype that we are testing. No firm date has been set as to when it will be implemented but it isn't far off.

We are looking for a new editor for this newsletter. Several people have inquired about



this opportunity so we have the makings of an editorial team for Tidings much like we have for the UAI Journal. However, we are still looking for someone to lead this team as the editor. We supply a computer and the necessary software and provide professional support through our Communications Committee Chairman, Vern Verass. If you are interested, please contact Vern at vern@designd.com.au .

We recently completed an audit of our UAI email list. This email list is for UAI members to discuss news and issues concerning UAI. Our English and Spanish Forums provide a place for online in-depth study of The Urantia Book. Of the 2335 UAI members eligible to be subscribers to the UAI list, 134 of them are on the list. Of the 180 governing board members listed in our database for all our associations, the ISB, and JC, 70 of them are subscribed to the UAI list. We would like to see that number increase so that every association has at least one person participating in the list in order to share the information posted there with all their local association members. I think part of the responsibility of a governing board member is to be informed about UAI and all our activities and then sharing that information with your members regularly and frequently. If you are a UAI member, and especially if you are a governing board member, we encourage you to subscribe to the UAI list. Communication is a great tool for building relationships. The more we communicate the more we feel part of something. The more we communicate, the more we know about each other and the more we know about each other the more we love each other and that, is a good thing. To subscribe to the UAI list, just send an email with the email list to be subscribed to uaicentraloffice@urantia-uai. org We also encourage you to join our UAI Forum for some enlightening study and sharing of the Urantia teachings.

Our Representative Council (RC) is currently considering a proposal for a privacy policy for UAI. This policy will establish guidelines for how personal information from our members and friends can be used. Our top priority is to respect the privacy of those who give us their information and to assure them that their information will only be used in the ways set forth in our privacy policy. Contact your national president or vice president, or the UAI office, if you wish to know more about the proposed privacy policy.



UR GROUP OF READERS STARTED IN 2005 with Guy Le Blanc, who wanted to form a group of readers of The Urantia book. This group of readers was formed on the south shore of Quebec City. Two years later, a couple, which was part of our group, moved to Quebec City and formed their own group of readers with new participants.

With it's 500 thousand inhabitants, Quebec City ranks 2nd in importance of population (after Montréal) in the province of Quebec (Canada). On the south shore of Quebec, the city of Levis ranks 8th with a population of 130 thousand. These two cities are separated by the St-Laurent River. The official language in the province is French and as such is seen as an island in North America.

Ifeel it impossible to talk about one group without talking of the other. There's a sense of brotherhood between us. We encourage ourselves in our difficulties and our personal researches. Occasionally, we meet locally between groups and read together, we do adoration activities, picnics, present exposes on specific themes and more. Many of those meetings are memorable. Our two official groups might soon double up: another one in Quebec City and another one on the south shore.

Each group is composed of 6 to 8 members which is ideal to give each person a chance to express him or herself during a meeting. We have about 30% new readers to The Urantia Book. The greatest one way travel distance by a participant is 80 km (50 miles). The oldest person is about 80 and we had young participants of 10 and 14 years of age which come and go on their own will. They read and express themselves in their own way just like each and every other participant.

We are a united gang. Together we discover the true meaning of brotherhood and love. We discover the way toward discernment and wisdom. We are building the basis of something which will eventually go beyond our imagination. It's not necessary to manifest impatience towards the dissemination of The Urantia Book, which moves forward on its own momentum.

Guy Le Blanc's small gesture took some weight in a very short time. It keeps moving on its own impetus. The speed of its progress is propagation exponential and apparently without end.

Peace, love and brotherhood to humanity.

Normand Laperle

The Sandal Maker

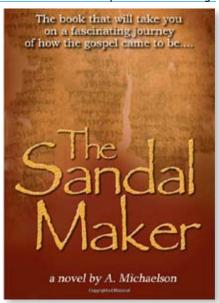
A Review by Cathy Jones

HROUGHOUT HIS NOVEL, A. Michaelson has brilliantly led the reader on a fascinating journey with his main characters, Caleb, an aging, skeptical Jew and his daughter, Miriam, his last surviving family member. Their trip from Cana to Jerusalem through the war torn countryside of Galilee holds the reader's keen interest from beginning to end. The setting of the story is Palestine in the year 70 AD, some forty years after the crucifixion of Jesus.

Caleb was a merchant, a sandal maker and a meticulous record-keeper. The thread of the story involves Caleb's desire to take his years of writings to Jerusalem, to a man named Isador, an associate of Matthew, an Apostle of Jesus.

As a young man, Caleb witnessed the miracle of water being transformed into wine at a wedding held at his family's home. This "miracle" was performed by a man known as Joshua, whose entourage of disciples proclaimed him the Deliver of the Jews. Caleb had personally filled the pots with water and was soon mystified to see wine being served from them. Wondering 'How could this be?' his curiosity led him to follow Jesus throughout his entire public ministry.







A. Michaelson

As a result of this event, Caleb was drawn to this man and determined to chronicle the things he saw and heard. He was able to sustain himself and his family with his earnings as a sandal maker.

A. Michaelson has beautifully woven fact and fiction in a remarkable and fascinating story of this (at first) doubting Jew. Heartwarming, enlightening and tragic, The Sandal Maker paints a portrait of one man's life and his involvement in how the gospel came to be.

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