



Tidings

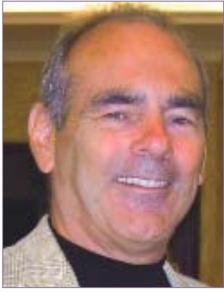
from Associations around Urantia

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

Nº 43 ■ JAN—FEB 2010



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President's message



Dear Friends of UAI,

HOPE YOU HAVE HAD A GOOD holiday season and have already embraced the New Year with spiritual zest and determination. Usually, determination follows engagement in some aspects of our lives; have you thought about which aspect of your life you would like to improve?

Many years ago, in 1987 in fact, I was at a crossroad in my life and needed to change some aspects of it I did not like. I embarked then, with determination, into a lifelong engagement to rehabilitate myself spiritually. I had read *The Urantia Book* at that time, but alone, I did not know what to do with all that knowledge and how to use it effectively to change myself. By change, I mean improving myself, becoming a better human being. I realized at the age of 38, that I was not where I had pictured myself to be when I was growing up and who I was at the time was far from ideal.

The only solution to my need that came to my mind at the time was to involve myself in a study group. I figured and believed that being with a group of people that shared the same beliefs would help me stay on course in my desire to rehabilitate myself. I was very fortunate to find a study group that did answer my needs and much, much more. For me, my first study group experience was as strong and as significant as finding and reading *The Urantia Book*. To this day, there are still changes that happen within me, which take their source in the spirit of that first study group.

Today, as a committed reader of *The Urantia Book* and an engaged member of UAI, I understand more fully the real and spiritual importance of study groups. When I read "The Publication Mandate" as found on the Michael's plan website and ponder on the value and meanings of the Revelator's admonition to create thousands of study groups, I cannot but imagine what would happen to this world if we would have ten or

hundred thousand study groups. Can you?

But not any kind of study groups, groups where people can share with each other their intellectual and spiritual understanding of the teachings. Groups where the host has a commitment to provide the environment that fosters respect, intellectual integrity and spiritual growth in the individual. Study groups that foster the emergence of teachers and leaders; study groups that have a significant impact on the individual, the family and society. To imagine and make real such kind of groups, we need to provide them with all the help they can get.

That is why UAI is organizing the 2011 UAI Leadership seminar that will take place in Chicago. This event will be totally dedicated to the leaders of this growing community of readers. What kind of leaders are these? Any board member of any association within UAI, past or present, any host of study groups whether you are a member of an organization or not, basically, any one with a strong desire to help in the mission of fostering and creating thousands of study groups. As we progress in our planning, you will be informed about how you can attend this very important event. Stay tuned!

The International Service Board is fully engaged in the organization of this event and many teleconference meetings have already taken place. One thing on the ISB agenda had to do with the Representative Council's newly approved Privacy Policy. We will shortly make it available on our website and on the front page of our database where members entering data will have to approve of the policy in order to gain access to the database. It will also be associated with the membership form so new members will know exactly how the information they provide us will be used.

This Privacy Policy is very important for the gathering of data so necessary to promote the creation of study groups and we very strongly hope that every associations affiliated with UAI will make use of the UAI database. We

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 *Education*, 1890, by Louis Comfort Tiffany and Tiffany Studios. You may submit images for possible use on the cover to:

[vern@designnd.com.au](http://www.vern@designnd.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.



have gone to great lengths to satisfy the legal needs of every association in every country concerning the gathering of data; we believe that as of now, there should be no objection on the part of any association for not using the UAI database to store the information of their members. Not doing so, would be incoherent with the spirit of our mission.

The International Service Board has also approved to meet with some members of the General Council of the Fellowship in the Fall. The meeting will take place in Chicago and the agenda will include items from both organizations. The goal of this meeting is to open our minds to opportunities of cooperation in some aspects of our mission and to promote unity of purpose between the two organizations. The task at hand of our mission is so huge, that we need to resolve some issues that are conflicting to its spirit if we are ever to succeed in our work.

I hope you enjoyed your reading

Gaétan G. Charland

President UAI

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UAI PRIVACY POLICY



JAMES WOODWARD
 Urantia Association
 International
ubstudygroups@urantia-uai.org

URANTIA ASSOCIATION International is no longer a small social group but rather a dynamic worldwide service organization. As UAI grows in membership, outreach, and activity, it becomes necessary to observe the laws and regulations in all the countries where we serve. In today's world, reputable organizations that collect personal information set clear guidelines – they openly disclose their policies so that people can make informed choices and feel secure about how their privacy will be protected.

Until now, UAI did not have a policy addressing the collection and use of personal information. The ISB recognized this need and decided that our organization should be in

compliance with established privacy standards, specifically the most stringent "Safe Harbor" protocols of Europe. Your Service Board acted to adopt such a policy and your Representative Council, the board of officers from all national associations, recently approved a Privacy Policy for UAI. Our goal in adopting internal guidelines that meet or exceed current standards has been met. We can now assure all associations that they may enter personal information into the database with confidence and security.

The UAI database is the most important service tool we have for achieving our mission – it's crucial to the work of dissemination and fostering study groups. It helps us maintain connections with our far-flung membership and to share the good news of *The Urantia Book's* teachings. Combined with other technology the database is not only useful in communication and outreach but also in determining the effectiveness of our outreach, our study group efforts, and UAI service projects.

This UAI Privacy Policy will respect the privacy of our members and friends who give us permission to add their contact details into our database. The policy states that their information shall be shared only for the purposes of study group support, communication of news and events, networking within the Urantia community, and with our service partner, Urantia Foundation. The database is normally accessed only by the President and Secretary of national and local associations with some exceptions for membership or study group committees, and ISB members.

If you are a President or Secretary of a UAI association and need help using the database, please contact the UAI Office for

training. We encourage all associations to move any personal information that you have on individual local databases into the UAI database for efficiency and security. This policy applies only to the UAI database and does not protect personal information stored outside the UAI database. Our database is currently located at www.urantia-uai.org/database. An improved database and new intranet are currently being developed with completion planned for later this year. Below is the new UAI Privacy Policy. If you have any questions about its conditions or terms, please contact the UAI Office or one of the ISB members. Further information will be sent to all associations.

This Privacy Policy will be displayed with our database and all persons accessing its content will be required to indicate their acceptance of its terms.

URANTIA ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL PRIVACY POLICY

Urantia Association International is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization registered in the state of Illinois in the United States of America. Visit www.urantia-uai.org for more information.

The Urantia Association International (UAI) collects personal information from individuals to assist readers of *The Urantia Book* in contacting other readers and forming study groups, thereby discovering and sharing its teachings, communicating UAI activities, and disseminating UAI publications. Personal information may be stored in the UAI databases or similar hardcopy files.

This Privacy Policy establishes the restriction for the collection, storage, transfer, and use of personal information for readers of *The Urantia Book* and is intended to be >>

About the Cover

Education (Chittenden Memorial Window) — From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



EDUKATION IS A STAINED-GLASS window commissioned from Louis Comfort Tiffany's Tiffany Glass Company during the building of Yale University's Chittenden Hall (now Linsley-Chittenden Hall, after being connected to a nearby building), funded by Simeon Baldwin Chittenden.

Personifications of Art, Science, Religion, and Music are represented in the work, as angels. Other angelic representations of related virtues, values, and ideas attend them, each

identified by words in their halos. The left section personifies Art, attended by personifications of Form, Color and Imagination. Personifications of Perception (seen next) and Analysis (obscured by a pillar) connect Art and Science. The center section depicts Science at the left, attended by personifications of Devotion, Labor, Truth, Research and Intuition; and Religion at the right, personified by Purity, Faith, Hope, Reverence and Inspiration; and presided over by the central personification of "Light-Love-Life". One of two angels connecting Music and Religion is

seen next; the other is obscured by a pillar. The right section personifies Music, attended by personifications of Rhythm, Melody, Harmony, Verse, and Voice.

Tiffany sought to elevate the industrial arts through constant pursuit of beauty and refinement, often basing designs on floral forms and inventing new glassmaking techniques and colors. Here he has succeeded in composing a magnificent visual sermon in keeping with the donor's values. □

UAI Privacy Policy *continued from page 3*

in compliance with the European Union Council Directive 95/46/EC of 24 October 1995 (“Safe Harbor”) and other international policies for the protection of personal information. Persons who identify themselves by providing name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, etc., are giving permission for UAI to use that information in accordance with this policy.

This policy pertains to personal information of individuals collected by UAI through our website, www.urantiauai.org, by local or national associations, or at any event solely sponsored by UAI. This policy does not apply to any websites linked to or from our website or to any other individual, organization, or group that UAI may recommend or be associated with. National and local constituent associations and/or UAI members are required to adhere to this policy.

The information collected and stored by UAI is voluntarily provided by the individual and with full knowledge, understanding, and agreement with this Privacy Policy. Personal information collected by UAI shall be used only for the purpose intended and shall not be shared with any person outside of UAI or with any other organization without the express consent of the individual. Personal information may be removed or modified at the request of the individual by providing UAI with written notice thereof. Providing UAI with an e-mail address automatically gives UAI permission to periodically communicate via the Internet. It shall be the responsibility of the individual to notify UAI of changes to their personal information.

Personal information collected and stored by UAI shall only be shared for the purposes for which the information was collected. Unless otherwise specified by the individual, personal information may be shared with Urantia Foundation. The contact information of an individual who requests contact with other readers in their area will be sent to those readers via e-mail. It will be the responsibility of those readers to respond to the requester if they desire.

Credit card or payment information from contributors shall not be shared outside of UAI. UAI shall take reasonable measures to assure the reliability of the information collected, stored, transferred and used by UAI for the intended uses and take reasonable precautions to protect this information from loss, misuse, unauthorized access, disclosure, alteration, or destruction. All personal information may be disclosed in response to judicial or government warrants, subpoenas, or other governmental orders. UAI is not responsible for the use of such subpoenaed information after it is transferred.

All individuals for which UAI collects, stores, transfers, or uses personal information shall have access to their personal information by contacting the President or Secretary of the local or national association for their geographic area or the Executive Administrator of UAI. UAI will remove or modify the individual's personal information within 10 business days of receiving a written request from the individual. UAI reserves the right to verify the identity of persons submit-

ting such requests. UAI will maintain policies and procedures for assuring compliance with Safe Harbor principles. UAI will provide notification and training to all UAI members with access to personal information for its safeguarding and proper use. Individuals whose personal information is used in violation of this policy shall be notified immediately. UAI members who violate the provisions of this UAI Privacy Policy shall immediately be barred from access to the information and be subject to review by the UAI Judicial Commission.

All UAI members with access to personal information shall agree to comply with all UAI policies including this Privacy Policy. This policy may be amended from time to time, but the restricted use of previously collected information shall not change without written notification to each individual affected. An individual may, at any time, request that their personal information no longer be used by UAI.

POLICY FOR UAI FORUMS/ DISCUSSION BOARDS/CHAT ROOMS/ EMAIL LISTS

When a person agrees to participate in UAI discussion forums, discussion boards, chat rooms, email lists, etc., a minimum amount of personal information may be submitted voluntarily to establish their profile. This profile will be used only to establish the participant's identity for the forum for which it was obtained and shall not be shared with any other forum or purpose. The email address provided shall not be transferred, sold, given, or otherwise disclosed to any third party.

Participation in any of these groups implies the participant's agreement to the rules and methods of the group. In order to protect the privacy of other participants, all communications within the group shall not be shared with anyone outside of the group without the expressed permission of the original author of the communication. Violation of any rules of such groups will be cause for immediate action without notification in accordance with the rules of each group.

FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

Only those personal details needed to complete a donation, contribution, or sale transaction will be obtained either on-line, by telephone, postal mail or in person. Our site uses a securely encrypted contribution response form. Credit card numbers shall be used only via secure transaction processing and shall not be retained for other purposes.

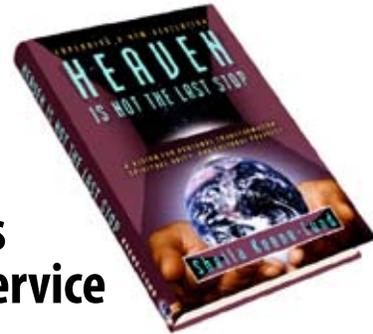
EVENT REGISTRATIONS

Information submitted in order to register for attendance at any event solely sponsored by UAI shall be only used for registration and may, with permission, be added to our database of Urantia Book readers. Credit card information will be maintained only for a period reasonably

necessary to ensure payment for the event has been received.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

By acknowledging this Privacy Policy, you expressly agree to the terms therein and acknowledge that you are at least 18 years of age. All UAI members with access to this information also agree to use this information only in the manner set forth within this policy even after such access is no longer available to them. □



New Book Advances Loving Service

MARK KURTZ

Urantia Association International
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SHEILA KEENE-LUND ADVANCES THE proposal that the most luminous—and practical—teachings for fostering cultural progress are discovered in the extraordinary convergence of the human and celestial realms. *Heaven Is Not the Last Stop* is an invitation to take another step as evolving global citizens by becoming conscious members of the greater cosmic family. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, the information contained in this book, alongside the teachings of *The Urantia Book*, will guide you forward into the coming age of cosmic citizenship and upward into the marvelous destiny that awaits us all.

Launching from this platform, Keene-Lund extends over nearly 500 pages the horizons of current understanding about our place in the universe. She weaves a narrative from insights in philosophy, history, culture, science, and religion, reconciling this knowledge with the teachings of *The Urantia Book*. Thirty-three charts, graphs, and diagrams provide clarity toward spiritual growth. Emphasis is heavy on accepting epochal revelation as a new vision of hope.

Keene-Lund's book eases the load of understanding Urantia Book teachings and helps us increase our desire for a deeper understanding of its guiding principals.

If you need any more affirmation about the truths of faith, the soul, God's indwelling spirit, and eternal life, then this book is for you. She confirms the selfless attitude of loving service as the foundation for the brotherhood of mankind and nourishes a peaceful culture by promoting a unity of ideals among all people.

Heaven Is Not the Last Stop is found at www.heavenisnotthelaststop.com on the internet. □



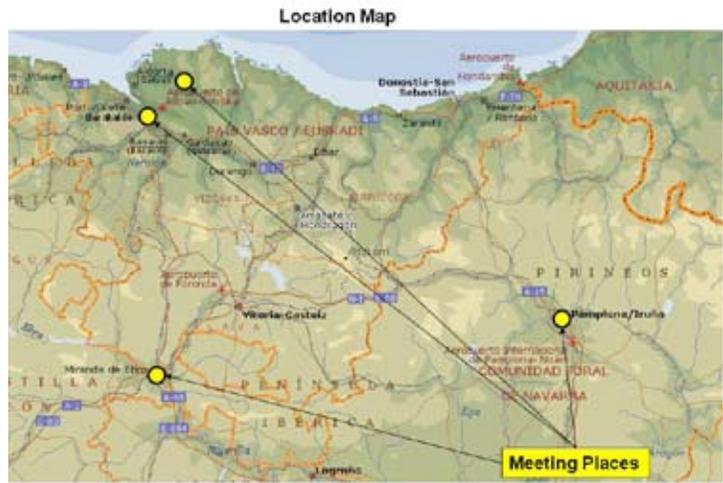
OUR HISTORY

We've got our Study Group

Study Group of the Northern Area of Spain



CARMELO MARTÍNEZ
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Study Group of Northern Area

FOR SEVERAL YEARS WE WERE solitary readers and, well, we all know what this means. And now that we have got our Study Group we realize the big difference; it is like a drive watching only a monotonous road or traveling and enjoying a landscape of spectacular beauty and brightness.

We have been slow in doing it but in the end we have started our Study Group of Northern Area of Spain. Everything began last Christmas. Until then, we, Mari, Eduardo, Andres, and Carmelo, have tried it from time to time but unsuccessfully. We lacked something but we didn't know what. We had a place to meet at, we had the interest in meeting, we projected to do so, but actually we didn't. Yes, we lacked something. We knew each other and, on and on and over and over, we would discuss some subjects from *The Urantia Book* but we were unable to systematically do it in an actual study group.

By the beginning of December 2008, Eduardo sent us an e-mail telling us that he had met a reader from Pamplona, a solitary reader who wanted to meet us and who wished to start a study group. We agreed to meet on Christmas day to get to know each other.

The meeting occurred and it turned out that this was the thing we were lacking: the presence of someone (Juanjo) outside of our group and unknown to us until then, boosting the initiative. At the time, we all agreed on the method we would follow:

- 1 – We would meet last Thursday of every month, since on weekends we have other obligations to fulfill.
- 2 – The study of *The Urantia Book* would be directed sequentially, beginning with Foreword.

- 3 – One of the attendees would read, paragraph by paragraph, the text of the Paper and the other attendees could make, at will, comments on it.
- 4 – Meetings would last from 4 to 5 hours and a period of time would be reserved at the end for comments and questions on any subject from *The Urantia Book*.
- 5 – In view of the fact that homes of members of the group are scattered throughout central area of northern Spain, and in order to balance the traveling, it was agreed that meetings would be held on a successive and rotation basis in each member's home (Pamplona, Navarre, Miranda de Ebro, Burgos, Barakaldo, Biscay and Getxo, Biscay).

We have already held eight meetings and the method operates quite well. Reading and discussion in group allow us to put in contrast diverse attendee's views; views different according to the group member's character, interests and life experience. Such a variety of views is highly enriching and such ideas emerge that would otherwise hardly ever come to each individual's mind as a solitary reader. Not every paragraph we read is commented but when a comment arises, usually it's enlightening for everybody.

No doubt, the most difficult concepts of *The Urantia Book* are clarified and even embellished through group studying.

We have got it; at last we can exclaim with pleasure, **we have got our Study Group!** □



The members of the Northern Spain Study Group. From left to right: Carmelo Martínez, Juan José López, Eduardo Altuzarra, M. Carmen Jiménez and Andrés Pérez.

How *THE URANTIA BOOK* found me



LUIS COLL
Urantia Association of Spain
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CAN'T REMEMBER ANY STAGE IN MY life not believing in God. This has always been something natural in me. It can be said I already “knew” about *The Urantia Book*.

As most of us in Spain, I attended a Catholic school as a child but I was not convinced about the God they taught, the obligation of going to mass every morning and rosary every afternoon. This was very hard to me and eventually I got sick and tired about all related to God and the way it was imposed on us.

My nicest meetings with God happened in the nature, in the quietness of the mountains. I used to call “my friend” that personal God.

As most people in this world, I was a truth seeker and, as most young people, I was travelling and trying many things while looking for answers.

My first encounter with the book was about 1994 through a book written by J. J. Benitez (like most Spaniard readers). This book was “El testamento de san Juan” (Saint John's last will). Then something fantastic and enlightening began, something about God and his heavenly world, about the life and teachings of Jesus and the universe.

The most important thing I've got to say about how *The Urantia Book* found me is the

great clearing up of concepts and ideas about God, presenting in full a great and majestic God, a personal God, a God of love, free of religions and dogmas and all the false ideas that we were taught for so long. **To me, this is one of the most important characteristics of the book, the most appealing one.**

I like especially Part I, about the Universal Father and the great description of his heavenly world and all the descriptions of universes and human history in general. Part IV (Life and Teachings of Jesus) is especially appealing to me because it shows a living and dynamic Jesus, human as much as divine, walking in our shoes. This way his teachings are more understandable. In the book there is no place for that fussy, revengeful and furious God, made in human style, like false religions have been teaching us.

There is no doubt that *The Urantia Book* will help people to have a more clear, high and uplifting concept about God, the universe, life, human history and the wonderful teachings of Jesus.

To me, the most remarkable thing of *The Urantia Book* is this personal God and all the concepts representing a **God of Love (LOVE in capital letters)**

L.Coll □



URANTIA ASSOCIATION
INTERNATIONAL

UAI SERVICE REPORT



RICK LYON

UAI Executive Administrator
uaicentraloffice@urantia-uai.org

IN OUR MONTHLY ISB CONFERENCE CALLS some really great discussions take place. While discussing the 2011 Leadership Seminar, the question came up as to what the word “foster” means. We decided that to “foster” study groups means to encourage their creation and support their long term existence and activities. We are working on a project with Urantia Foundation investigating the possibility of creating a new database of study groups. The purpose of such a database is to “foster” more study groups by helping existing groups to grow and prosper. Bringing readers together is the essence of what UAI does whether it is to study *The Urantia Book* or attend a Urantia social event. UAI is committed to serving study groups for all readers of *The Urantia Book* as long as the group is not political, does not engage in channeling, and studies only *The Urantia Book*. There are no “UAI” study groups. We are here to serve all study groups and all readers.

What does the word “political” mean in our context? When we speak of being “political” we are usually referring to control or influence over a study group. UAI does not control study groups but we do “foster” study groups. We consider a study group to be “political” if they restrict attendance based on or use the meeting to promote membership in any type of organization or group whether Urantia related or not. For example, if a study group requires attendees to be UAI members, that would be a “political” group. If a group excluded readers just because they are UAI members, that would be a political group. Of course, this could also include political parties, faiths and religions, nationalities, and so on. Study group is for study of the book and everything else should be left outside the study group.

Most of us come from some religious background that expected us to go to a big church on Sunday; so the idea of a small study group may seem less than serious spiritually. However, many churches are turning to “in-home” Bible study groups on Wednesday nights. Thousands of people in China participate in study groups in homes because of the government restrictions on religion and these groups now number in the thousands and are growing rapidly. So, creating thousands of study groups for *The Urantia Book* can be done and they can make a difference in this world. It has been done in the past by many of the world’s religions and we can do it too! A friend of mine who is a Baptist minister on Sunday has a small Bible study group in his home every Wednesday evening. They share a meal and study together. What would a community of thousands of Urantia study groups look like? Just take a look at what is happening in the world today outside the churches and you will see.

Since the last issue of *Tidings*, the ISB has accomplished several things and wrapped up our year-end books. Once again this year we have a record amount of contributions - up 17% from last year thanks to your support and participation in UAI. Of course, our expenses increase as we grow in our activities but we finished 2009 in the black. Ninety two percent of our financial contributions came from North America. Five percent came from Europe and three percent came from Australia. The contributions we receive go to fund activities at all levels of the organization and to maintain our legal non-profit status and the benefits that status brings. Contributions fund our efforts to support, enable, and encourage the activities of our national and local associations. Our funding also helps to serve the many readers in areas where a national or local association does not yet exist. Russia is becoming very active as is Africa and Indonesia. We just sent two cases of books to each; Indonesia, Nigeria, Ghana, and Russia. Our members in Australia did a wonderful job of presenting the Urantia teachings at the World Parliament of Religions. Great things are happening in South America and we acknowledge everything that our members and associations are doing there. This revelation is for our entire planet and not just one or a few countries. While our primary responsibility as individuals and local associations is our own community, all of us are responsible for the worldwide dissemination of the teachings. With all our associations working together we can bring this revelation to places all across the globe that have never heard the word “Urantia”.

Planning for our 2011 leadership seminar is progressing nicely. You will be hearing more about this very soon. The vision and scope of

the event is nearly set and we are seeking the input of UAI’s global leaders to help us with the planning. This is your event. Please help us to meet your needs.

Gaétan will be meeting with Asociación Urantia de Mexico members in Mexico City on February 20th and will meet with local Mexican readers on Sunday February 21st. We mailed out over 150 personal invitations to readers in Mexico, inviting them to attend this very important meeting. Gaétan will also be traveling to South America in April to meet with the UAI associations in Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Columbia and Peru. We are hoping that several of the ISB members will be able to participate in these visits to our brothers and sisters in South America. Your thoughts and prayers for this mission are greatly appreciated. Visits like these are important and while ISB members usually pay their own expenses for these visits, your contributions to UAI help us reimburse at least some of that expense and provide books and materials for these visits too.

We have begun working on our 2009 Annual Report that will be out in a few months. It is very important that our local and national associations report your activities to us so they can be included in this report too. This report tells our members and friends what we are doing, what we have accomplished, and what opportunities to serve are available to them.

We completed work on the new Privacy Policy for UAI. This is especially important in relationship to the UAI database. A separate article about the Privacy Policy appears in this issue of *Tidings*.

We just completed an agreement with Urantia Foundation to purchase 850 surplus copies of *The Urantia Book* that were printed in India a few years ago. These are new books (not the new style cover) that you can use for your dissemination projects. If you need books for your study group or local association projects, please contact the UAI office. The money to buy these books came from your contributions.

Our search for an Editor of “*Tidings*” continues. If you would like to be part of the “*Tidings*” team, please let us know.

The ISB has been testing online video conferencing systems for use in our monthly meetings and also the potential of providing this service to all national and local associations. This could also open the possibility of live online video study groups. The ISB will be using Webex for the next few months to test the viability of these ideas.

All this activity provides opportunities to serve. If you would like to serve on any of the ISB committees or help with the UAI Central Office, please contact me at uaicentraloffice@urantia-uai.org or call in the USA: 773-572-1180. □

UAI Leadership 2011

Chicago, July 13th–17th
next year



PHIL TAYLOR
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MORE THAN 50 YEARS AGO THERE was a glimmer of a vision that came from the Revelators at the time of the publication of *The Urantia Book*. It was a hint of what could become the foundation upon which this great revelation would grow and progress in the coming epoch. It was a vision of thousands of study groups.

The present generations of Urantia Book readers still only have a faint perception of this vision. A religious movement still in its infancy, we are striving to understand the greater implications of a new revelation that will foster the spiritual evolution of our planet. We have not yet grasped the full vision of how the Fifth Epochal Revelation will become a catalyst for a new age of spiritual evolution.

But we can, through our questions and discerning minds, take hold of these clues given to us by the revelators and begin to see the wisdom and practicality of the revelatory instructions to foster thousands of study groups and prepare teachers and leaders.

If we ask the question, “What do thousands of study groups look like?” perhaps we’ll see a greater plan for the advancement and growth of revelation in a planetary culture balanced by an evolutionary pace and guided by the rule of the Most Highs. We can begin to see dedicated men and women who, in intelligent, spiritual study and in loving-service to one another seek to build a foundation upon which this revelation can take root and grow. But what does such a foundation look like?

Imagine in your minds thousands of study groups. This scenario means that in any populous area there would be several study groups in proximity to each other. What happens when study groups form in close proximity? A spiritual brotherhood begins to take shape. These study groups — friendships founded on spiritual and intellectual



discovery and focused on *The Urantia Book* revelation — emerge as a catalyst for small communities of readers.

Study groups are the building blocks of a brotherhood of readers, a community of spirit-led men and women who together, in their group socialization and service, act as leavening to the spiritual culture that rises from within this community.

As study groups grow in numbers, they give rise to an environment that fosters teachers. Individuals with natural teaching abilities begin to stand out through service opportunities, sharing knowledge, wisdom and insight. The opportunities for mini-conferences and seminars begin to develop and greater opportunities for study and education begin to occur.

Leaders have the opportunity to rise to the increased demand for organizational service — uniting readers to bring about the social and spiritual cooperation of their fellows in service to the Father’s will. The tasks of our dissemination and outreach projects call upon this leadership to spread the good news of *The Urantia Book* in measure and respect for receptivity to its advanced teachings. And all the while, this community, this brotherhood, serves as a powerful force for welcoming new readers as they emerge in response to the spiritual fragrance coming from a revelational culture.

These communities become the environment, the organization, the resources and the impetus for the full realization of our mission to foster the study and dissemination of *The Urantia Book*. They are the foundation of the mission’s fulfillment.

The fostering of spiritual communities is a pattern found in the evolutionary history of our planet. It is a wise and practical technique for laying a foundation upon which advanced truths can become manifest in spiritual living and dissemination to surrounding areas. From the days of Planetary Prince, to the emergence of the Garden of Eden, to the colony of Machiventa Melchizidek, we see a pattern of fostering communities for the purpose of integrating advanced teachings into the evolutionary streams of planetary culture.

And so it is with *The Urantia Book* revelation. We have before us the opportunity to lay

an eternal foundation upon which advanced religion can take root and grow into a future age of light and life. We have the opportunity to build not just one community, one center for advanced religious study, but thousands of local communities, communities in our neighborhoods, communities founded on spiritual brotherhood that are building a planetary foundation for future ages.

This community begins with just one study group, just one dedicated individual, just one man or woman willing to make the petition to be of service to God, our fellows and this revelation — just one leader. It takes only the power of one will to find the support of a host of heavenly helpers and an infinite Father to lay the corner stone of this foundation, upon which the revelation will rest. And UAI will be there with our support.

The UAI is a service organization dedicated to the fulfillment of this mission of study and dissemination. These communities, these study groups, these individual readers, need support. They need service. They need leadership. The UAI will serve all these communities dedicated to this mission and we will begin by developing the leadership abilities of UAI members, associations and all who strive to fulfill the mission. We will share our leadership.

In less than a year-and-a-half, on July 13–17th the UAI will conduct the first leadership seminar — **UAI Leadership 2011**. This seminar is being developed to bring clarity and vision to the mission of UAI; to foster an exploration of the spiritual components of leaders; and to develop the organizational and administrative techniques that our associations will need to advance this mission.

Join us on this journey. ☐

CONTRIBUTE TO UAI

To support the work of UAI please send your contribution to:

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