



# Tidings

from Associations around Urantia

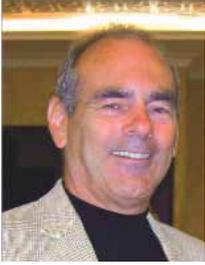
URANTIA ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL ■ [HTTP://URANTIA-UI.ORG](http://urantia-uai.org)

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Carina nebula photo



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## President's message

*Dear members and friends of UAI,*

**T**HE HOLIDAY SEASON IS UPON us, many good things can come to our mind, such as celebrating the holidays with our family members, rejoicing with old or new friends or maybe reminiscing on past holiday seasons. We should also not forget in our rejoicing all the ones who have suffered great loss during the past year and make prayers for them that they may have many blessings in the coming year.

During this time I always reflect on what was accomplished by UAI in the current year and what needs to be done in the coming year to further progress in our work. As we move forward in the accomplishment of our mission, many new projects need to be initiated, old ones need to be sustained or ended. New associations need to be chartered while we need to keep supporting the ones already in place. To do all of this requires substantial amounts of human resources and money. Nothing in this material world can be accomplished without the necessary funds to support our many projects. Even Jesus, while on earth, had to rely on the generosity of his followers, disciples and Apostles to accomplish his mission.

During the current year, great improvements to our financial sustainability have been accomplished. Our Chief Financial Officer, Mark Kurtz, has initiated a project that should provide UAI with much needed financial stability in the future. Mark, with the help of some outside collaborators, provided UAI with an endowment fund. This project came to fruition after many hours of research and work on the part of Mark and is an accomplishment of love and dedication to the Revelation and its mission. You can read more about this in this newsletter.

What is important to note about this project, it is the belief in the importance of our mission that motivated Mark in his task to help UAI to pursue its mission. Without that strong belief, I doubt Mark would have been



committed to do as much as he did and provide UAI with this very important gift, the "UAI Endowment Fund." The other great thing about this gift is that all of us can be part of it by contributing what we can so it grows to an appreciable amount. Our participation will depend in part on how strong our beliefs are about *The Urantia Book*, its teachings, its mission to the world and UAI as an organization to help in the accomplishment of that mission.

To support the mission of UAI, early this year, another new initiative to help our organization acquire the necessary funds for its projects was created. We called this initiative the UAI yearly "\$1000 plus Club." So far we have 15 donors who contribute \$1000 and more a year but that number is not enough. It needs to be increased to at least four times that number. Would you consider becoming a member of that Club? Think of it this way, part of that money could go to the endowment fund and bring revenues to UAI long after you would be gone on your way to higher spheres.

I know money is not a subject we like to talk about, especially when the only thing that mostly interest us has to do with the spiritual aspect of our engagement. On our world, one cannot go without the other. In order for our organization to manage itself decently, it would require at least \$100,000 a year and so far our budget provide for only half of that. So many worthwhile projects have been pending for years on account of lack of resources. Our organization is growing in areas where financial resources are practically non-existent. If we are to help the Revelation take a foothold in those poor regions, then the ones who have these resources need to share with the ones who are less fortunate.

Here are a few projects that need funding:

## 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/en/urantia-book/read>

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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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.**



Dissemination, the sending of books to poor countries in Africa or South America and soon to countries in Eastern Europe and Asia.

Acquirement of a new database for UAI, so associations with lack of resources can have a tool to help and support study groups and manage the readership in their country.

Ongoing upgrade and maintenance of the new UAI Website soon to be on line.

Sponsorship of readers to attend training sessions in Chicago or international conferences.

Printing of study aids and various guides, such as the one for study groups in different languages.

There are a long list of those projects —too long for this message, but think of our organization as international in nature and you will get some ideas of its scope and requirements. >>

## President's message cont.

Last month the International Service Board (ISB) met in Chicago. It has become a tradition to meet every year and enjoy the inspiring surroundings of the Foundation. The services that we are provided are exceptional, thanks to the staff of the Foundation, especially Mike Wood. This year we reviewed the Charter and By-laws and we were helped in our task by one of the original creators of those guiding documents, Travis Binion. He was a wonderful help in giving us the history of those documents and guiding us in our work of revision. Some small and significant changes have been proposed and a list of them will soon be submitted to the Representative Council (RC) and the membership for approval.

We also voted to have a Symposium for hosts of study groups in 2014 in Chicago. We had planned to have it in 2013 but the venue was not available for the dates we had chosen and the time was a bit tight to organize such an event. We also discussed the next election for ISB candidates and the ISB will submit a resolution to the RC to propose a change to one term of one candidate. As for the Website Ad-Hoc committee, a set of recommendations has been agreed on and the list was sent to RC and ISB for approval.

As for the RC, they have received the call for nomination to replace ISB candidates at the next election, which will take place in March 2013. The Council has also received the list of recommendations for the new UAI Website from the Ad-Hoc Committee and at this time the vote has been positive. The Council is also voting on the Budget and this also seems to be going well and has not generated any questions and should be adopted by the time you read this message.

On my part, on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December, I travelled to Haiti for a period of five days met some readers and gave them some training on how to organize study groups and disseminate books in their country. We do not have an association in this country yet, but I believe it is more important that they create many good study groups before they spend any energy and time on creating an association.

That is all for the year just passed. I hope you've enjoyed the holiday season and may the New Year bring peace to your heart and more spirit in your life.

In spirit of brotherhood

Gaetan G. Charland

UAI President

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## Endowment = Stability



MARK KURTZ  
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**E**ACH YEAR THE INTERNATIONAL Service Board struggles with preparing the Annual Fund budget. Each Board member is forced to make difficult choices due to lack of funds. This situation is typical for nonprofit volunteer organizations. Many other organizations realize their mission and existence could be threatened by inadequate funding. Annual donor support decreases during difficult economic situations and as people age, further threatening mission and organization existence. We believe it is time to begin setting aside a pool of invested funds necessary to supplement the annual contributions of supporters of UAI to more fully fund our activities.

While preparing the 2012 Annual Fund budget we had to cut \$19,000 in order to produce a balanced budget for the coming year based on our projected level of contributions. We were not seeing sufficient annual income *growth* to plan well for the future or fund needed projects. Ideas and suggestions for service projects and the readership needs could not be realized in this uncertain reality. We realized that we must begin work to establish permanent UAI endowment.

Endowment is permanent set aside funds from gifts of love from the heart that outlive visionary donors. Upon arriving on the Mansion Worlds, you will be pleased to remember that your gifts to UAI endowment are living on and continuing to serve. Each year your gifts pooled with many others will provide grants to UAI. The wise investment of these funds and the accumulating interest will augment long term UAI stability and growth. It will permanently support continuing service activities in mission. Grants will increase with additional donor gifts and with increasing investment interest over the long term.

Our research reveals the high importance of permanently protecting endowment from potential use for unintended purposes. This could be possible during difficult financial



Endowment contract signed with Chicago Community Foundation. Pictured seated L-R are Rick Lyon, UAI Executive Director, Gaétan Charland, UAI President, and Jamie Phillippe, V-P of Development and Donor Services at Chicago Community Foundation. Standing are Susan Owen, UAI Secretary and Mark Kurtz, UAI Chief Financial Officer.

situations or economic hardships. We decided to place endowment in trust with a reputable and well established community foundation; one with a strong historical record of service and integrity.

As UAI President Gaétan announced in his message, UAI signed a contract October 25, 2012 with Chicago Community Foundation (CCF) to receive your gifts and contributions to the new UAI endowment account. A check for \$25,000 was presented from previously accumulated donor gifts specified for endowment. This is a modest, but earnest amount that we hope will grow. We were very impressed with Chicago Community Foundation during our visit at their office building in downtown Chicago. We learned about the stable leadership, financial health, and community support for this nearly 100 year old company. CCF has the lowest service fees that we found in our research of community foundations.

It is important to grow this fund with cash gifts from contributors today and also through bequests of various kinds. It is our hope to achieve a \$300,000 fund balance by June 15, 2013. This will give UAI about \$15,000 additional annual income for the 2014 fiscal year. Grant amounts are calculated on the fund balance at the end of June each year. The ISB will be looking at growth strategy and will set achievement goals. As time goes on we will be promoting endowment and materials will be developed for aiding gifts.

Endowment does not replace the Annual Fund, so therefore your strong annual support will always be needed. Your local and national associations need your support also.

Contact Rick Lyon in the UAI Central Office for additional information. Phone: 1-773-572-1180 or email at: [uaicentraloffice@urantia-uai.org](mailto:uaicentraloffice@urantia-uai.org) Mark Kurtz □

## UAAR New Board



FEDERICO FOLCHI  
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**T**HE URANTIA ASSOCIATION Argentina elected its new officers: President: Federico Folchi, Vice-President: Luis Miguel Morales, Secretary: Cristian Polastri, Treasurer: Carlos Rubinsky, Members Chair: Jorge Wilczyk.

The Association has a website ([www.urantiaargentina.org](http://www.urantiaargentina.org)) where there is information about the UAAR, the UAI, where to buy the book and a form where people can register to receive news about the Urantian movement. In one year 80 Argentinian readers got registered. This gives the new board the challenge to start a newsletter for Argentina and to establish new study groups around the country.

Go team!! ☐



Federico Folchi, Luis Miguel Morales, Cristian Polastri, Jorge Wilczyk, Carlos Rubinsky

## An Agenda for Innovation

**Editor's note:** *The Global Endeavor is an entirely independent initiative that may be attractive to readers who wish to promote the progressive growth and development of human society, while serving others in the spirit of the master seraphim. It is not sponsored by the UAI, nor by any other organization.*



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**S**OME STATEMENTS OF THE revelators may appear anomalous or paradoxical, at least at first glance. For example, a Melchizedek sagely informs us: *When ignorance is essential to success, it would be a colossal blunder for the creature to know the future* [a Melchizedek, Paper 39:5.9, page 438:2]. This particular Melchizedek thus appears to advocate ignorance, whereas the revelation as a whole promotes knowledge and wisdom!

To reach a clearer understanding of the Melchizedek's intent and implications, we should read his statement in context:

*In the more advanced planetary ages these seraphim [the Spirits of Trust] enhance man's appreciation of the truth that uncertainty is the secret of contented continuity. They help the mortal philosophers to realize that, when ignorance is essential to success, it would be a colossal blunder for the creature to know the future. They heighten man's taste for the sweetness of uncertainty, for the romance and charm of the indefinite and unknown future.* [a Melchizedek, Paper 39:5.9, page 438:2]

In effect, the Melchizedek's word "ignorance" amounts to a gloss on his final phrase, "the romance and charm of the indefinite and unknown future." During our current age on Urantia, that potential tag line for a sprawling Hollywood epic is closely associated with the need to overcome the lingering aftereffects of two disastrous blunders that deformed and distorted our planet's early history:

- (a) the devastating betrayal whereby Caligastia, the former Planetary Prince, aligned himself with the system rebellion that attested to Lucifer's inflated ego and impatience; and
- (b) the dispiriting default whereby Adam and Eve departed from the spiritual plan that would eventually have enabled

them to upgrade and reclaim humanity if they had been more patient. Yes, the work of Adam and Eve was certainly not a total loss, for their Adamite and Andite descendants embodied abilities, aptitudes, and inclinations that, over the ensuing thirty millennia, created a context of competition and creative relationships that enabled society and civilization to interweave incremental but substantial advances.

Nonetheless, a Mighty Messenger informs us: *Your world is a full dispensation and more behind the average planetary schedule* [a Mighty Messenger, Paper 52:3.6, page 593:5]. Further, a Melchizedek calls attention to a wide range of sweeping adjustments that appear to be urgent:

*Mechanical inventions and the dissemination of knowledge are modifying civilization; certain economic adjustments and social changes are imperative if cultural disaster is to be avoided. This new and oncoming social order will not settle down complacently for a millennium. The human race must become reconciled to a procession of changes, adjustments, and readjustments. Mankind is on the march toward a new and unrevealed planetary destiny.* [a Melchizedek, Paper 99:1.1, page 1086:4]

The Global Endeavor will be one of the key spiritual resources that will help the people of Urantia face up to these challenges and triumph over them. In a very practical sense, the endeavor will enable readers of *The Urantia Book* to promote and encourage the process of imagination, innovation, and creativity that will be a pervasive and enduring theme throughout the next thousand years. Just as the master seraphim do not seek public renown or play prominent outward roles in human society, (See the Chief of Seraphim's explanation of how the master >>

## An Agenda for Innovation cont.

seraphim operate, as presented in section 6 of Paper 114, pages 1254-1256 ) readers who take part in the work of the Global Endeavor will likewise remain in the background. From this quiet and modest perspective, they will provide information, assistance, counsel, and support for imaginative and innovative paths that may lead humanity toward the crucial advances that will eventually enable the spiritual government of the sons for the Father to restore Urantia to the regular roll call of loyal inhabited planets.

It is also reasonable for us to believe that some people in society at large who benefit from the service and assistance that they receive from a particular working group of the Global Endeavor will eventually take an interest in the teachings of the fifth epochal revelation. This potential interest of theirs will be an indirect advantage, the outcome of personal cooperation and natural curiosity.

At present, however, I must stipulate that the Global Endeavor is just a concept and a plan, not a living and breathing reality. The fundamental task of the Committee for the Global Endeavor is to stimulate sufficiently strong interest among a large enough number of readers of *The Urantia Book* that it will become possible to bring the endeavor to life. To complicate matters, we have to do our best to ensure that this level of interest is broadly based and widely dispersed — not just concentrated among readers of *The Urantia Book* who happen to live in the United States.

Taken together, the documents of the committee add up to more than 200 pages, including a very detailed description of the Global Endeavor and how it will operate (i.e., the full text of the draft plan, which consists of seven chapters and 70 pages). Since the committee's translators and reviewers are all volunteers, translating the committee's documents is a slow and arduous process. The French translation of the committee's documents was completed in 2011, but we estimate that it will take another twelve to eighteen months to complete the Spanish translation.

Why is that important? Because there are many readers of *El Libro de Urantia*, considerably more readers of the fifth epochal revelation in Latin America and Spain than in any other region outside of North America. Therefore the committee hopes and believes that we will eventually be able to achieve our goal of reasonable pluralism and diversity by stimulating strong interest in the Global Endeavor in several locations where Spanish is spoken.

Completing the Spanish translation will be the gateway to a more intensive phase of the committee's efforts to promote interest in the Global Endeavor. This is because the committee will then be able to proceed in the environments where three different languages are spoken (English, French, and Spanish). Therefore the committee will need to devise ways to promote the project actively in Mexico, elsewhere in Latin America, and in Spain. In addition, the committee will seek to intensify its efforts in countries where readers of the fifth epochal revelation speak English or French.

One of the tactical challenges that the committee will then confront will be how to nurture balanced, sensible, and patient interest among readers who live in the United States, so that they will be "first among equals" but neither dominant nor domineering in relation to readers who live in other countries. After all, the Global Endeavor must be as international as possible, and that must be true at the outset as well as at all later stages of growth and development.

Given what I have already explained, you have undoubtedly concluded that the Global Endeavor has a very long timeline and certainly will not feature "instant gratification." Nonetheless, we believe that this is the right time for you to augment your own awareness by taking an active interest, partly by reading and reflecting on the documents that are available on the committee's modest website (i.e., <http://www.globalendeavor.net>).

These documents afford a thorough explanation of our plans for the endeavor, while also providing access to a detailed study guide that will help you understand the unceasing but gentle and patient campaign of the master seraphim. In addition, the committee's documents include the most recent issue of our newsletter (November 12, 2012). In that issue, we described the two important thresholds that the committee crossed last summer: (a) the first public presentations by members other than the chairman (during the Fellowship's summer study session in Chicago and during a regional conference held in Ireland but sponsored by the UK branch of the UAI); and (b) the first presentation about the Global Endeavor in a language other than English (my own remarks to readers who assembled at the home of committee volunteers in Marseilles).

Neal Waldrop  
Chairman,  
The Committee for  
the Global Endeavor □

## Arequipa Book Fair



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IT'S WITH JOY THAT WE WANT TO share with you the days we spent at the Arequipa Book Fair (Arequipa, Peru). They were thirteen long days (10 hours per day) spent at a booth dedicated to introduce the book and its valuable teachings in our community. 104,000 people attended this book fair.

There were many students in the morning who felt impressed by the videos that we broadcasted during all those days, and which were about the Universe, the journey to Paradise, and the evolution of life. Their innocent questions and their amazed looks were food for our souls, along with the joy they felt when an Urantia brochure was given, with the concise and accurate synthesis which the Urantia Association International worked at, in order to disseminate the book in the Spanish language.

In the afternoon, attendees were college students, people surprised and interested in something whose existence they couldn't explain. There was much interest and enthusiasm in knowing about the Revelation. They asked immediately about the website to learn and find out more: is it possible that we can build a better world? If it's not about religion (as we know it), why is it about God? It was quite a challenge to convey that true religion is the union between God and the individual, and evolutionary religions, hierarchic and dogmatic, they're only intermediate steps for the real and personal encounter with the Thought Adjuster. Answers were followed by a great silence in reflection, and then the next question...

In the evening, attendees were adult people. The first days they read from afar the banners we had at the booth entrance. Little by little, they were getting closer with their concerns, their pursuit of answers concerning their life circumstances, of a better world. Contacting each one of them was a >>

## Arequipa Book Fair cont.



The place in the fair.

gift to all of us, there was so much longing... It was a surprise to us to find there were so many people having the book, even having a little family study group. Some people have already heard of it.

There must be about one hundred books spread in Arequipa in libraries, colleges, educational centers, seminaries, town halls, etc., so we are sure they will be food for many people searching for the Father.

On Saturday September 29<sup>th</sup>, we held a presentation about the book, and two



brothers came from Lima to give us support. With much love, they shared their life experiences with *The Urantia Book*. It was quite a success, about 60 people attended and, after listening attentively to the brothers' words, they actively participated with many questions which served for broadening the topics discussed and for sharing their concerns with them.

To us, a small group of four women, all the preparations and unfolding of this event was a revelation about what working with, and for, the Father is like. No obstacles, everything was in time, with unselfish and loving collaborators, all the doors were open to us. A presentation about the book was broadcasted on the TV channel of the National University of San Agustín. The book was sold through a prestigious local bookstore, whose owners are book readers, and they gave all their support to us. Our booth was located in front of the bookstore, seventeen books were sold at the fair, five among known people in our group and eight have been left in the bookstore, whose owners are also taking *The Urantia Book* to Ilo, a city with harbor in Southern Peru, near the Chilean border. We will keep you informed about how this event went.

We may be able to describe outer events, inner events maybe not, but we share with you the contentment of our souls, with gratefulness for having had the privilege to devote thirteen days to the encounter with our Father, in the encounters with each being we had the opportunity to contact and to serve.

Arequipa, September 27<sup>th</sup> 2012.

Beatriz Arispe Valderrama □

## The study group experience



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**T**HE IDEA OF FORMING A STUDY GROUP sprouted in 1999 following a discussion with my husband. Since then, we gathered over thirty persons around our kitchen table to read, discover, explore and share our comprehension on the truths contained in *The Urantia Book*.

Every Monday evening since September 1999 we greet students of the revelation and we've almost completed our first reading, reaching paper 195 to be more precise. Of course, along the way we studied specific themes such as faith, personality, the Thought Adjuster, the life and teachings of Jesus. Together we prepared thematic days to present the fruits of our labor. We also took summer breaks in July and August as people on holidays enjoy making good profit of the lovely season.

Our group bears the name "Découverte" (French word for "Discovery") and every week some 4 to 9 persons meet, all equally interested in learning more and sharing intellectual and spiritual perspectives.

Every member benefits from the comprehension of the group as a whole, augmenting in each participant this divine quality of research and spiritual development; a better way to live ones human life while reaching for the higher values of human nature.

Here is some feedback from students in our meetings:

*"I feel privileged to take part in a study group and hear the questions and explanations of others because it allows me to introspect and improve my way of thinking. I also do some clean-up work in my beliefs. I learned to know God and His son, the trinity and, most of all, where we come from. This is what enables me to understand why we stand >>*

## The Study Group Experience cont.

*where we are and act as we do, for I was in deep questioning on human nature and our stupidities. I learned to make peace with this nature because I better understand it now. In fact, I'm not scared of death anymore because I know there is continuity, I'm convinced of that. I meet marvelous people who want to deepen their spirituality and I wish that every reader may live this experience."*

*"I am still a novice reader of The Urantia Book. I realize that catechism has not said it all and that our spider webs are hard to untangle. Reading the book increases my wisdom, my tolerance toward others; it teaches me that life exists elsewhere in the universe. It awes me, intrigues me, and interests me. Reading within a group allows me to exchange, comment and receive explanations for a better understanding."*

*"Studying with a group helped me on many subjects. It demystified old beliefs still present in my mind, which were deprived of the lovely truths contained in The Urantia Book. Now I feel that to grow I must be more involved in the group. I have a lot to learn from the teachings of The Urantia Book and I cannot do it alone. I think I missed the train somewhere and I thank God for putting my study group on the path. It's as if he had told me: Hey, wake up! We can help you."*

*"The progress I'm going through is partly due to my involvement for many years with the study group "Découverte". There, I comprehended higher concepts, discovered a greater sense for life, discovered lasting friendship and discovered fraternity. It's always a happy rendezvous to see each other week after week."*

What is wishful about participating in a study group? All these reasons and many more. The revelators exhort us to read the life of Jesus, to study it in depth and extract the ideal way of life, to be inspired by it so that in turn we become beings of noble character at the service of others.

The Thought Adjuster indwelling each human simply awaits their willingness so that he may take action and make his pupil progress. To study this divine panorama in group thus becomes a token of worship towards our celestial Father.

Line St-Pierre  
Ste-Sophie, Québec  
Canada ☐

# Theosophical Society Presentation of *The Urantia Book*



VERNER VERASS  
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**G**OOD EVENING MY NAME IS VERNER Verass and I thank you for coming along to this introduction to *The Urantia Book* which I've been reading since my early twenties, for over 35 years.

I have discovered the over one million words in this book are nothing less than an unprecedented attempt to establish an immense integration of three bodies of knowledge:

1. Scientific fact;
2. Spiritual realities; and
3. Philosophical truth.

Traditionally, these three great disciplines have been restricted to logic-tight compartments and dealt with separately. Science, religion, and philosophy contain essential, but inadequate, information about who we are, where we came from, and where we are going. *The Urantia Book* draws upon the highest human knowledge available up to the time of its writing to propose extraordinary new relationships between the key disciplines. *The Urantia Book* suggests fresh possibilities and augments ideas presented with original revelatory information. The result is an uplifting vision for humankind that is without parallel or precedent in literature.

To assist the process by which each of us evaluates new information it is useful to remember we readily appreciate good music without prior knowledge of the composer. We also recognize the beauty of words in poetry, words which inspire us with their sublime imagery without qualifying authorship. Remember all those marvelous works by "anonymous." I suggest, this same innate capacity to assess merit on content alone, is the best approach when considering *The Urantia Book*.

Look at how the book begins on page one with this statement of authentication to establish its credentials, bear with me if some of the terms are new to you:

*IN THE MINDS of the mortals of Urantia—that being the name of your world—there exists great confusion respecting the meaning of such terms as God, divinity, and deity. Human beings are still more confused and uncertain about the relationships of the divine personalities designated by these numerous appellations. Because of this conceptual poverty associated with so much ideational confusion, I have been directed to formulate this introductory statement in explanation of the meanings which should be attached to certain word symbols as they may be hereinafter used in those papers which the Orvonton corps of truth revealers have been authorized to translate into the English language of Urantia. [Foreword 1:1, page 1:1]*

*We are fully cognizant of the difficulties of our assignment; we recognize the impossibility of fully translating the language of the concepts of divinity and eternity into the symbols of the language of the finite concepts of the mortal mind. But we know that there dwells within the human mind a fragment of God, and that there sojourns with the human soul the Spirit of Truth; and we further know that these spirit forces conspire to enable material man to grasp the reality of spiritual values and to comprehend the philosophy of universe meanings. But even more certainly we know that these spirits of the Divine Presence are able to assist man in the spiritual appropriation of all truth contributory to the enhancement of the ever-progressing reality of personal religious experience—God-consciousness.*

*[Indited by an Orvonton Divine Counselor, Chief of the Corps of Superuniverse Personalities assigned to portray on Urantia the truth concerning the Paradise Deities and the universe of universes.]*  
[Foreword—Acknowledgement 3, page 17:2]

As a very brief overview, which we are happy to expand upon after this presentation for those interested—this 2,097 page book was first published in 1955 in the United States city of Chicago by the Contact Commission headed by Dr William Sadler and his wife Lena. A remarkable achievement accomplished by the small group of people who had >>

## Theosophical Society motto

### Theosophical Society presentation cont.

somehow interfaced with unseen Revelators. By means of an arduous process that spanned five decades, they had cooperated with the efforts of our elder brothers who authored and materialized a manuscript unlike any that had ever existed on the planet before.

The book's authors and their relationship to us is described in detail in the book. In presenting themselves they reinforce the premise of a populated and friendly Universe. More than 19 have collaborated to produce the papers, Melchizedek, Perfector of Wisdom, Divine Counselor, to name a few. All are mentioned at the front of the book along with the titles of the papers they have composed. Now, a qualifying statement from a Divine Counselor which carries the kind of gravitas which impressed me on my first reading:

*I am commissioned to sponsor those papers portraying the nature and attributes of God because I represent the highest source of information available for such a purpose on any inhabited world. I have served as a Divine Counselor in all seven of the superuniverses and have long resided at the Paradise center of all things. Many times have I enjoyed the supreme pleasure of a sojourn in the immediate personal presence of the Universal Father. I portray the reality and truth of the Father's nature and attributes with unchallengeable authority; I know whereof I speak.* [Paper 1:7.9, page 32:2] emphasis added

The authors "know whereof" they speak because they have experienced what they describe. There are numerous similar attestations to be found throughout the book. As with all authors, each has a unique form of expression on the topic they choose to disclose. Words beautifully selected to best convey the intended meaning and register in the mind of the reader.

We are told we are just as lovingly nurtured and looked after as if we were the only intelligent life in all creation:

*There is in the mind of God a plan which embraces every creature of all his vast domains, and this plan is an eternal purpose of boundless opportunity, unlimited progress, and endless life. And the infinite treasures of such a matchless career are yours for the striving! The goal of eternity is ahead! The adventure of divinity attainment lies before you!* [Paper 32:5.7, page 365:3]

Much of the content of the book is familiar for the authors have drawn from the highest levels of human philosophical thought as it has been expressed over thousands of years of history. Many of the ancient myths and legends that have been retained in the books of wisdom are explained in modern terminol-

ogy. We are given first-hand accounts of familiar stories, stories that have survived in fragmented form, such as the tale of Adam and Eve, the downfall of Lucifer. Why are we isolated from other inhabited worlds like ours?

The book chronicles **5 major events of planetary epochal significance** as mankind has evolved from the slime and the ooze of warm prehistoric oceans (yes, the book is consistent with current evolutionary science):

**Planetary Prince**—500,000 years ago when the "Gods" first came and established a cultural centre in Mesopotamia.

**Adam and Eve**—37,000 years ago, came to biologically uplift humanity

**Machiventa Melchizedek**—4,000 years ago, came on an emergency mission to revive truth. The role of Melchizedek who was here in the times of Abraham, is explained in detail and follows the saga which gave rise to the world's major religions.

**Christ Michael, Jesus of Nazareth**—2,000 years ago, came to gain the creature perspective and reveal God to man. The life and teachings of Jesus comprises part four of this four-part book. For Jesus is non-other than our Universe Creator who chose to live a mortal life, to become a creature of his own creation that he may truly experience what it is to be human and in so-doing, reveal God to man. The time has come to replace the religion about Jesus with the religion of Jesus.

**The Urantia Book**—58 years ago, first time information of revelatory significance is not associated with a person.

This Historical information is presented to us against a backdrop of an amazingly broadened view of the universe, of spiritual reality, social evolution, planetary progress and personal destiny all in response to the Universal Father's invitation; "Be you perfect, even as I am perfect."

Close to a million books are now in circulation since its first publication. It has been translated and published into 11 of the world's major languages with around 14 translations into other languages in progress. The entire text is on the internet even available as an Apple iPhone application you can download to your mobile, also in MP3 audio form, as a free download. Bookshops and libraries still the usual places of availability.

"There Is No Religion Higher Than Truth"

"**Truth** is a liberating revelation,  
but **Love** is the supreme relationship."

The Urantia Book, p.1608:1



Urantia Book  
statements

Building on Theosophical Society Truth motto to introduce the notion of the supremacy of Love

The book is a total endorsement of Love beginning with a series of papers on the nature of God:

*Notwithstanding the infinite unity of the divine nature, love is the dominant characteristic of all God's personal dealings with his creatures.* [Paper 2:5.12, page 40:4]

It is by the compelling power of a Father's love that God rules a whole Universe, from the eternal core of the Absolute directly into the human heart. The gulf between God and man has already been effectively bridged.

Our struggles do not go unnoticed life is a progressive journey toward the centre of all creation and we are participants in an exhilarating adventure full of promise:

*There is a great and glorious purpose in the march of the universes through space. All of your mortal struggling is not in vain. We are all part of an immense plan, a gigantic enterprise, and it is the vastness of the undertaking that renders it impossible to see very much of it at any one time and during any one life. We are all a part of an eternal project which the Gods are supervising and outworking. The whole marvelous and universal mechanism moves on majestically through space to the music of the meter of the infinite thought and the eternal purpose of the First Great Source and Center.*

[Paper 32:5.1, page 364:3]

That concludes my presentation and I'd now like to introduce you to my good friend William Wentworth from Towamba on the South coast of NSW, who will have some more interesting insights to share with you after which we invite any questions you may have as a result this sharing.

I repeat, to be receptive to the teachings of this book, it's advisable to be open minded to the assumption that the universe is teeming with highly intelligent life and that it's possible that from time to time some of these super mortal personalities find ways of revealing information to us that may assist us in our spiritual journey. This is what we believe happened with *The Urantia Book*.

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Canberra Study Group □