



Tidings

from Associations around Urantia

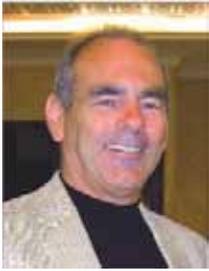
URANTIA ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL ■ [HTTP://URANTIA-UAI.ORG](http://urantia-uai.org)

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The good Samaritan painting

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President's message

Dear members and friends of UAI,

IT IS WITH A MIX OF SADNESS AND joy that I will soon be stepping down from my role as president of UAI and be replaced by a new one. The election for new ISB members will take place in March and already the call for the formation of the election committee has been made on the Representatives Council list. I could go on and write a lot about the past events of my terms, but doing so would probably only bore you. Wonderful people, dedicated readers and courageous servants, whom all became my friends, surrounded me during my terms as president.

I have traveled to many countries of the world, learned of their many cultures, made countless friends and gained valuable and extraordinary experience of service that would otherwise had been unavailable to me without this position. Teamwork has been a wonderful experience and one thing I can say that truly has inspired me with this opportunity for service. Without the help and support of my colleagues at the ISB, my service, as president during these past ten years, would have been impossible and not much would I have been able to accomplish.

My main task during all those years was to keep the focus on our mission and I am sure the next president will do as good a job of doing so. While I will be leaving my position as president, I will always make myself available to help the other presidents who will come after me so the passing of responsibilities can be more transparent and seamless. UAI will be facing great challenges in the coming years and your support will become extremely important if our organization is to meet all those challenges. There are still many things to do before UAI is ready and able to face the demands of greater services, if expansion of *The Urantia Book* in many different countries of the world is to happen.

If you would permit me a small critique, I would say that National and Local associations



need to let go of their inclination for sovereignty. *The Urantia Book* warns us about the dangers and constraints imposed by sovereignty and as believers in those teachings, should we not heed those by applying them in all areas of our life, more so in this organization? While each association can be sovereign and autonomous in some areas such as territory, members, dissemination projects or conferences, there are many areas of service that need to be shared and served at a worldwide level.

A very good example of this is the replication and duplication of services that we see emerging from many associations such as a membership database, the newsletters and study aids to name a few. A few years ago I asked one of our members in Colombia to build a universal web based database for UAI, the idea was to provide every association a tool to manage the membership and readership of their respective area while providing the higher levels of the organization access to the membership data in order to serve them better. By serving them, I mean sending them regular newsletters, the *UAI Journal*, invitations to conferences or other events, giving members the names of readers interested to participate in a study group and many other services useful for the administration of any association. It is also an indispensable tool to help the central administration and every association to assess the health and growth of the readership in their own area and everywhere UAI is present.

The UAI database has been in service for more than six years now and it has been a major and necessary tool to help UAI accomplish its mission; without it, we would have been almost blind and unable to assess the needs of UAI worldwide. Now, it is in need of a major overhaul, in fact it needs to be rebuilt from the ground up if it is agreeable to every association and meets the challenge

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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You may submit images for possible use on the cover to:

federicofolchi@gmail.com

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.



of our future growth. For the past four years in its yearly budget the ISB has been asking the RC for the necessary funds to rebuild the database, but so far no help has been provided.

The executive director, Rick Lyon, and I for the last two years have been researching softwares and companies that could provide UAI with a membership database that would respond to our needs and serve us well in the future. We found some very good solutions, but they are either very expensive or we do not have the know-how or resources to buy the software and build a new one. So in humbleness I am asking if some of you who have the skill could help us build a new Web based database? I know some associations have built their own database and they could certainly join us in a spirit of brotherhood by providing UAI the skill and resources to acquire a new database.

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President's message cont.

What would we gain? A very useful project to join and unite every association, to provide poor regions of the world access to a database without incurring the cost of a software and obsolescence, a tool to help them serve their readership and the study groups in their area. There are countless possibilities and benefits that a universal database offers to an organization such as ours. If you focus on our worldwide mission you will better grasp the real significance of such a tool. So let us stop duplicating the tools that we need and let's join together and build something useful for all of us and for the future of our organization. Contact Rick Lyon at Central Office UAI: uaicentraloffice@urantia-uai.org if you are interested in helping us.

As for the other areas of duplication, I see a lot of local newsletters being published by different local and national associations, a very good initiative but one that could go a step further by providing regularly some of those articles to the editor of *Tidings*, Federico Folchi at federicofolchi@gmail.com, so other associations elsewhere in the world might benefit and be motivated or learn from your projects. Sometimes, I think that many of us forget that we are part of a worldwide organization working to build the spiritual brotherhood of men. How will we achieve this if we only care about our own backyard, if we do not share our resources and skills? If we are to expand cosmic consciousness and enhance spiritual perception, no better place than in our own organization to start doing this.

We are also in urgent need of translators. We have associations who do not yet have *Tidings* or the *UAI Journal* in their own language. Our new website will also need to be translated in many other languages, the same goes for our future database. Are you willing to serve? There are 758 occurrences of the word "service" in *The Urantia Book*, so service must be a very important part of our life experience and our spiritual growth. Here is a quote that I love about service "(51.6) 3:5.7 2. Is altruism — service of one's fellows — desirable? Then must life experience provide for encountering situations of social inequality." I believe UAI provides us with many areas of social inequality.

As for the regular news, the International Service Board (ISB) still meets on a monthly basis on Webex, a Web conference software that can be used by every association. If you would like to use it, contact Rick Lyon. The ISB is still working on finalizing the new UAI

Website to go live soon. A Website content committee has been created to overlook and edit every document or statement that will be used on the new website. Once its work is completed recommendations will be made to the ISB for final approval.

The ISB was asked to provide the names of three persons who would participate in a media training session that would last two days and be held at the Foundation on the 8th of March. Chris Wood, James Woodward and I will be the participants to this training session and after this exercise, James Woodward will be available to train other members of UAI in this area of expertise.

There will also be a joint meeting with Urantia Foundation, the Fellowship and UAI the day preceding the media training session. This meeting will explore areas where the three organizations can cooperate more for the benefits of the Revelation. In the coming month, the ISB will provide two or three items to bring to this meeting. No decision will be made at this meeting and any recommendations will be forwarded to the RC for approval

Two more motions were submitted and approved during our session. They are:

ISB Motion 2013-4: Nomination of Study Group Committee Members

Bill Beasley nominated David Linthicum and James Woodward as Study Group Committee members for a term of one year.

ISB Motion 2013-5: Nomination of Education Committee Members

Sheila Keene Lund nominates Lourdes Pizarro, Jennifer Martin, and Susan Owen as members of the Education Committee.

On the RC level, the nominations for candidacy to ISB position were closed at the end of December and a few nominations were received, including one for the position of president. This important nomination resulted in the announcement of a resolution presented to the RC for the extension of the president's term. A call for the formation of members for the election committee has been made and three members volunteered for this service. Election should be held in March and you will be notified of its result as soon as the votes are compiled and confirmed.

I wish you a good reading and urge you to participate in the success of this newsletter.

In spirit of brotherhood

Gaetan G. Charland

UAI President

Gaetan.charland3721@videotron.ca □

Understanding the Nature of an Emergency Measure



VERNER VERASS
Communication Chair
vern@designnd.com.au

Please note this article has many authors

WHAT FOLLOWS IS A SNAPSHOT OF exchanges between members in response to topic thread originating on the UAI email list uai@urantia-uai.org with views from members resulting from news of an interview about *The Urantia Book* on Nooray's Coast To Coast Radio Program where speakers with knowledge of the book were invited to share what they knew. A general discussion followed on who was a qualified speaker from the Urantia community and did UAI have someone prepared to act as a media representative. The discussion developed into addressing the question of increased general awareness of *The Urantia Book* and addressed the question; "how long before media attention will swing to focus on the book and the associations aligned with it?" This then developed into the question of "pace-of-dissemination"—slow patient growth vs urgency of an emergency measure.

The opening article is by Benet Rutenberg who speaks of the need to develop balanced personalities, dependable, steadfast, loyal, sincere, to be of ready service to the ongoing planetary spiritual development program. Ultimately growth is a result of combined maturity of such individuals—as the family member, so the family.

Following Benet's, is an earlier message from Gaétan Charland, UAI President, on UAI and Foundation initiatives on training media representatives, then a response Pat Sonti made to Rick Warren and after that a post from Will Sherwood that initiated the topic stream, followed by a response from Rick Warren, then ending with reply from myself on this period of grace we are experiencing prior to media attention.

Dear All,

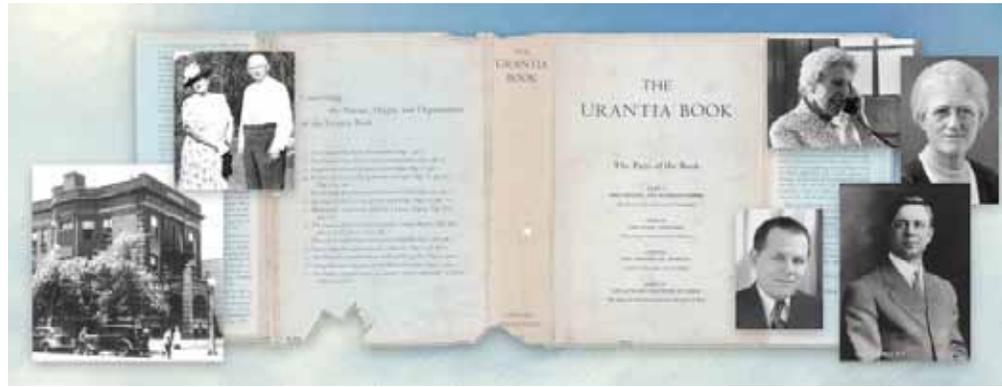
There are some indications (though arguable) that this revelation is part of an emergency mission to the people of our world. While I have heard a few estimates of how long the Revelators >>

Understanding Emergency Measure cont.

were planning the book, if we use a round 600 years, perhaps just before the renaissance, this challenges our sense of emergency. Why? It is written from the mandate and consciousness of beings who have been around for longer than most of us can think. Yet these blessings are here now and are becoming more and more a part of our lives, our consciousness, our cultures and eventually our world. The wise ones are continuing to learn from it and are putting what registers in their hearts, minds and souls to work in the best ways they are able. Though few people by number, this revelation is working its way into many societies and many echelons of those societies including governments and educational bodies. It is working its way online in more dramatic fashion and more so with younger folks which, if one were not directly a part of the phenomenon, one would not be especially conscious of such events. That goes for us older folks too! While we converse over what we think may not be happening that, fortunately, does not keep it from happening. Tunnel vision is generally useful and pleasurable only when one is coming out of the proverbial tunnel.

The book's real messages teach people the origin, history and destiny of us as individuals and as a world. True vision on status of the world, as a whole, is mind boggling, partial, partisan and guaranteed to leave one feeling uneasy. At least this is true without the insight of the revelation. Imagining all the parts we can't see is daunting but well worth the effort. We need to read alone, in study groups and attend group education and discussion as often as we can. As people truly learn these lessons and incorporate them into the several paths each life follows, there is a true evolutionary process that is, in time, taking place on all levels of life and across a broad field of play not often visible to a cursory glance or even to one of considerable vision. All too often it is our belief in our own impotence that fools us. It's the lessons learned through the active relationship with our Father that brings the Presence of God into our real world experience and upon whose platform the brotherhood of man gathers.

Are we going to confront problems along the path that need to be talked about? Yes. Are there going to be problems as a band of not always merry women and men, greatly outnumbered, go out to share what is in their hearts, minds and souls? Yes. But we all know this and still get caught in a Chinese finger trap. Feeling trapped or overwhelmed the answer is: the same as the one we look for but already have. Anxiety, panic, fear and loathing are useless. Pulling apart keeps us stayed in the trap. We are asked to love, share and feel secure in the unity of Knowing God, while we learn to appreciate, comprehend and respect what is different about us. That may be something as immutable as our loveable personalities are, or, it may be something much more malleable and changeable as are all the



Dust jacket of the 1st printing of *The Urantia Book* with historic photos, left to right, Dr William Sadler's home, 533 Diversey Parkway, Dr William and Lena Sadler, Bill Sadler junior, Emma Christensen 'Christy', Dr William Sadler, Dr Lena Sadler.

problems of the world. One man may change his mind/outlook/belief and we say, "no big deal, it can't change the world." Except that is exactly how the world changes. It just doesn't change now. It doesn't change because we want it to. It changes as each one of us decides on a better way, in each instance. In the meantime we have each other to enjoy the ride.

It is through the work of individuals in sharing the teachings, on many differing levels, that make worry over techniques and who may use them a bit too much like things that clog our spiritual arteries and veins. As long as we live in a time/space environment we need to get to like the idea of good and bad blood in our systems. To the one sided individual who is unenlightened, the blood in our veins is bad and useless while the arteries are good. Or is it? They carry the waste that gets recycled into good blood that brings oxygen and nutrition. The best part is none of it works if it doesn't all work together. If we intend to do it right then we need to realize that we may work alone, in pairs and small groups, in work teams, in large groups, and societies and cultures. There may be fights. Is there a good and useful outcome or was it bad and useless? Being like God is, means; that we see ever larger wholes and the small parts in context and purpose of the system they work in. In order to do this each one must find and feel the truths that are inclusive, useful and liberating while bringing God to man and man to God.

The religion about Jesus is going to be supplanted by the religion Jesus lived and taught. Each one of us is doing more than we think because in most of what we do, we are not sensitive enough or skilled enough to perceive and comprehend its effect. God asked for consequences of our actions. So we get distracted sometimes when we talk about what we did or did not do—we get distracted looking for results. And we often project that disenchantment onto our larger bodies, such as associations, because we are let down by some or many individuals who are a part of that or this association without regard for whether a given association is even purposed to do what we have assumed or expected. In relation to this thread, an association is defined by its stated purposes as created, improved and chosen

through a representative franchise of free agents. An association can be said to be doing well when it is living up to its stated objectives.

This is quite apart from individuals who may agree or disagree. Do what you do as well as you can do it and then do it better next time. If the group is doing it then do it with the group. If the group is not doing it, it's up to you and those of kindred spirit. Not knowing which is which brings something other than peace. Jesus leaves his peace with us. Each person must decide whether to bury that peace in a hole or to let it further saturate their already love saturated soul, to be used in the intended purposes. Bestowing oneself upon one's fellows begets love within and without. Feeling doubt over a few bent nails or rusty rivets in a large building is hysterically humorous because, in a spiritual building one can access and fix anything at any time. One can always ask for help. One who does not trust may not be trustworthy. How can one be wholehearted in their efforts and wind up not trusting themselves?

Religious living is devoted living, and devoted living is creative living, original and spontaneous. New religious insights arise out of conflicts which initiate the choosing of new and better reaction habits in the place of older and inferior reaction patterns. New meanings only emerge amid conflict; and conflict persists only in the face of refusal to espouse the higher values connoted in superior meanings. [Paper 100:4.1, page 1097:5]

Respectfully, Benet

Hello friends of UAI,

Great discussion about public appearance on the subject of *The Urantia Book*. Just to inform you that the Foundation is organizing a media training program where three or more representatives from the three organizations will be trained by a professional media team. These persons I believe will become the public spokespersons for each organizations in cases such as the one you are now talking about. The training will happen in the following months in Chicago and will last a whole weekend. When I know more about it, I or the Foundation will let you know.

In spirit of brotherhood, Gaetan G. Charland >>

Understanding Emergency Measure cont.

Greetings from Pat Sonti, While I agree with the positions presented, be aware also that *The Urantia Book*, since the loss of the copyright, has entered the currents and the flow in the river of evolutionary human experience. It's very prudent to have a Public Relations (PR) guy as does every organization that's out there. Keep in mind, however, that there are other organization(s) that compete for the status of being "official" groups who represent the FER. The public and the media simply have no way of knowing who or what the group really is!

Isn't that what happened with Byron Belitsos, a long time channeler, and reader of *The Urantia Book*? This is like Alex Jones confused as the spokesman for the rights of all gun owners in America!

Be wise as serpents!
Pat Sonti

Hi Pat,

I wish you wouldn't disparage the word dissemination. To my mind, it includes both book and "benign virus of love" distribution simultaneously, just as you are doing. Why do you continue to insist it means only book spread? We have to do both at the same time, and in proportions dictated by the circumstances we become involved in, according to our best interpretation of Father's wisdom and will at that moment, no?

Most respectfully, Rick Warren

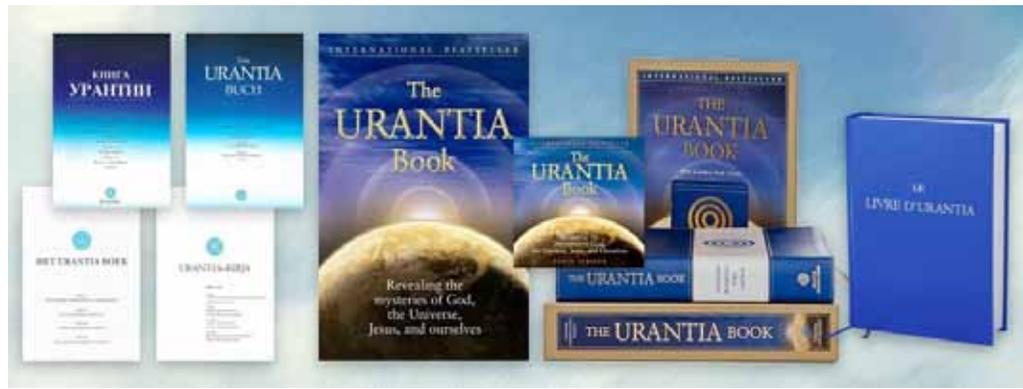
Hi Rick,

Thank you for expressing your point of view about dissemination.

I agree that both efforts (spreading of Jesus' gospel and giving away Urantia Books) have value, but in my mind, they are hardly the same. But, you might argue, will not one find the Gospel of the Fatherhood of God and Brotherhood of man thru his or her reading? Actually, no. Acceptance of the Book, understanding its role in the current stream of planetary evolution, how the Parts come together, and other big-cosmic picture questions are secondary and have little to no importance in finding God, or expanding a view of God, and getting to know man as a brother. Its very naive to assume that they are one and the same.

An evangelical Christian, Catholic, or a devout Muslim will have huge psychological problems accepting *The Urantia Book*, but he or she will have no problem understanding or grasping the teaching of Jesus that God in fact lives within us, and that all mankind are one big family. In this scenario, *The Urantia Book* might cause huge psychic disruptions, and I don't believe *The Urantia Book* was gifted to us in order to replace the Bible or the Qur'an.

I disagree with you, respectfully, that "we have to do both at the same time." I have successfully introduced 28 people to a solid readership experience with *The Urantia Book*, but I have introduced "kingdom of God" concepts



Composite of *The Urantia Book*, also showing some translated versions, Russian, German, Dutch, Finnish, Spanish.

to at least double that number, if not more. I leave it up to the individual and his own internal superhuman ministry provided him by his Thought Adjuster. Examples abound in Part 4 wherein Jesus ministered to hungry soul as He passed by, and in accordance with their needs. I resist the human urge to push a book when a simple (or sophisticated) rendering of the gospel ideas (very rich) suffices. The individuals who are now students of *The Urantia Book* because of my interaction were not deliberately targeted by me, but came forth as a result of close personal association (in theaters of war), heartfelt discussions, robust manly debate, and the back-and-forth that naturally occurs in elite military units (brotherhoods). They would not be readers today if they had not already gained a solid understanding of the gospel and kingdom ideas.

Sorry for the length of the message, but I am a bit passionate about the subject.

Thank you!
VR/-, Pat Sonti

Greetings from Will Sherwood, At the Vancouver Conference some years back, Richard Omura and a lady who specializes in media relations gave a talk on preparing for the media. No doubt we have people who are experts in this area and currently members who could help us prepare ourselves...

Will

On Jan 9, 2013, the following message was posted by Rick Warren:

Hey Guys, This seems to be evolving into a realization of a real need for a media interface team. No doubt the ISB and RC would want to sanction, codify, and regulate such a committee. And we would want to include Urantia Foundation in any decisions of this magnitude, of course.

Thanks all, it's always a pleasure working with you. Maybe my role could be one of many to alert the committee (should it be formed) of upcoming media exposure, for their wise choosing.

Rick W

Hello Will, Pat, Rick, Carlos, everyone, I love the way this list comes to life when an issue of possible future significance is raised.

Since our universe family have seen fit to present us with information of revelatory significance and have sufficient confidence in the stage civilisation has reached to trust mortals to run with it, it makes sense to have some kind plan in place. I've always maintained it's a blessing, this time of grace, that *The Urantia Book* is relatively unknown by the masses. Market forces have been put into action allowing time to distribute the book in the normal commercial environment that individuals can easily acquire it. With the advent of the internet the news-spread phenomenon has accelerated. At some time approaching fast, a critical mass effect will manifest, curiosity will be sufficiently aroused for mainstream media to start asking questions. Though there are very capable men and women, gifted speakers, who are shining examples of living the teachings, they only speak as individuals. No person or persons, have stepped forward yet to speak on behalf of Urantia Book readers as a community. Even so, UAI with a current membership of approximately 5,000, can ethically only represent them. Ever should the individual relationship between person and Adjuster be uppermost, what such individuals choose to do in cooperation with each other, is evolutionary social progress.

Much of what constitutes news in our time is reactive to circumstances resulting from unwise planetary management, climate change, financial crisis, international political unrest, to name a few. In planning the future unfolding of a Revelation, it makes sense to learn from mistakes of the past and have a plan in place.

The Urantia Book has been given freely for the benefit of every living mortal. That our universe family has such a degree of trust in human capabilities is a powerful endorsement indeed. We are on our own but not alone.

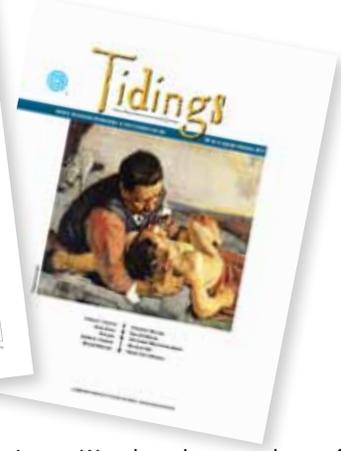
By-the-way Carlos, thanks for sharing your personal experience with the inquiry from National Geographic. Truth seeking must always be sincere, you wisely asked for more information. Just as Jesus was able to say for many years his time had not yet come, you were able to say, "the time to do a National Geographic interview had not yet come." Nevertheless, I understand it was a valuable experience for you.

Sincerely, Vern □

UAI Central Office Service Report



RICK LYON
Executive Director
ricklyon@tctc.com



RECENTLY SUSAN GRZESKOWIAK decided not to continue as the Administrative Assistant for Urantia Association International in order to pursue other Urantia related projects. Susan has dedicated her life to this revelation and to serving the readership. We appreciate her years of service and loyalty, especially the last few years as UAI Administrative Assistant. We are grateful for all she has done and all she will do.

So, we are now looking for an Administrative Assistant for UAI. The priority is the person - their personality and the skills and talents they have to offer. The person we are looking for will help with general office responsibilities, produce mailings—printing and stuffing envelopes, mailing out newsletters, helping with fund raising, and other tasks to assist the UAI Executive Director. Being comfortable with talking to people on the phone is very important. Our emphasis in the UAI office is communication with members and readers. It will be helpful to be able to articulate the mission of UAI, how the organization functions, and to be familiar with *The Urantia Book*. Social and organizational skills, leadership, and the desire to be a vital part of a dynamic leadership team, the International Service Board, are important to this position. Of course, we will be training this person to achieve all this. Potentially this person may develop into the next UAI Executive Director.

This position will require a commitment of up to 40 hours per month with expenses reimbursed and a small hourly wage. If you are interested in being considered for this position please send a brief resume with a description of your talents, abilities, and reasons for serving in this position. Send to:

Rick Lyon, Executive Director
Urantia Association International
559 W. Diversey Parkway #351
Chicago, IL 60614-7640

or email to: uaicentraloffice@urantia-uai.org with a subject line of "UAI Administrative Assistant."

In 2012 our database of members and friends of UAI grew to 5212. Our website had 26,076 unique visitors during the past year with downloads of *Tidings* at 73,261 and downloads of *UAI Journal* at 51,239. We thank our publications editing team Vern Verass, Suzanne Kelly, Federico Folchi, and all the translators for this. We added a new local association—Urantia Association of Los Angeles—which grew out of the SURF association membership.

The leaders of Urantia Foundation, the Fellowship and UAI have had continuing discussions about ideas for an initiative to promote healing between the organizations. The ISB members agreed that any such initiative needs to have clear goals and expectations of results. Urantia Foundation is hosting a meeting of the presidents of the three organizations in March to discuss this and other issues and opportunities.

UAI representatives will be attending the Urantia Foundation media training on March 9 & 10, 2013 in Chicago. This is to prepare and train leaders on how to interact with the media and others seeking information about this revelation and our respective organizations. We were recently contacted by a major scientific publication that is planning an article about *The Urantia Book* so this training will be increasingly important.

Several improvements have been made to the developing UAI website that we hope to release at the end of March or sooner. This is going to be a big step in our web presence and a new direction for what our website offers to readers. Watch for more information and announcements soon.

Bill Beasley, UAI Study Group Committee Chairman, has added David Linthicum and

James Woodward as members of his committee. Sheila Keene Lund, UAI Education Committee Chairman, added Lourdes Pizarro, Jennifer Martin, and Susan Owen as members of her committee. UAI has provided books to readers in Africa and Haiti during the past few months. Gaetan traveled to Haiti to meet with readers there and discovered a strong leader and a very healthy readership community in that country. We recently assisted readers in the US Virgin Islands to find other readers in their area to form a study group. We have improved our response time to reader inquiries and contact requests reducing the response time significantly. These are just a few examples of the efforts of UAI to serve the readers of *The Urantia Book*.

Planning has begun for our next international conference in 2015 and a Study Group Symposium in 2014. Details will be announced very soon.

Elections to several ISB positions will take place in March. Nominations are now closed and the election committee is in place. The UAI Representative Council will be voting to elect new members to the ISB and re-elect others who are eligible and wish to continue serving. We encourage our local association to begin preparing your members for ISB positions available at the next ISB election in 2015.

Our contributions that support everything we do increased by almost 20% in 2012. Apparently our members and friends are pleased with what we are doing and how we are doing it. However, our current annual fund raising program for 2013 is still short of our goal. See the fund raising announcement in this issue of *Tidings* for details on how you can contribute to the success of UAI and all that we do. We have created a special program with benefits for those who contribute \$1000 per year or more.

My trip to Haiti



GAÉTAN CHARLAND
UAI President
Gaetan.charland3721@videotron.ca



UAI Central Office Service cont.

This revelation is growing. Just look at the numbers in the Urantia Foundation newsletter about downloads of the book on the internet, book sales, and at the UAI numbers for website visits and publication downloads. We need your help. What can you do? The most important thing you can do is to live these teachings to make yourself a better person and an example of God's love to those around you. After that share these teachings with your children and grandchildren—that is the real youth program of this revelation. Then, become an active member of your local UAI association to serve the readership in your area helping them to do these same things. The local association is where the real dissemination work is done—host an event, write an article for our publications, place a book in your local library, call other readers in your area, make new friends by sharing concepts from *The Urantia Book* with them, attend study group or better yet host one.

If we can be of service to you or the readers in your area or if you wish to serve in some way please call us at 1-773-572-1180 or email to: uaicentraloffice@urantia-uai.org

Rick Lyon
Executive Director ☐



DEAR FRIENDS, THIS TRIP WAS ONE of the most encouraging trip I did visiting different associations around the world. Truly good leadership is what is most important and the peoples and readers of Haiti are blessed to have a dedicated, hardworking leader in the person of Jean Thomas Nelson supported in his work of organization by another leader Jean Gary Julmé and three other readers who are actively promoting *The Urantia Book* and have a study group in different cities. All the readers I meet are well-educated peoples but what I noticed, not many have completed a first reading, in fact I meet approximately over 70 persons and only a few of those have completed a first reading.

One of the reason explaining this fact, is that most of them did not have their own book and could only read in groups, the other reason they gave is that they find the first part very hard to understand, focusing only on the part of the Life of Jesus and third, most meetings they were having were focus on presentations of the teachings made by Jean Thomas or Julmé instead of on reading together. Because of the earthquake, the organization has lost a lot of its momentum due in part by the destruction of their meeting place in Port-au-Prince and many readers fleeing the country and not returning.

Not withstanding all those issues, I was able to meet three groups of old and new readers in three different cities and through my observations I have seen the great work that Jean Thomas has done for the Revelation in his country. I had the opportunity of giving

presentations to every group about the Revelation, the importance of study groups and some information about the difference between UAI and the Foundation. I was also able to give training to Jean Thomas and Julmé and a few others about how to elaborate a strategic plan, use the database to register all of the readers they knew in Haiti, how to create more study groups and support them, how to disseminate *The Urantia Book* and its teachings without making too much emphasis on the creation of an association for they need to encourage the readers to at least complete a first reading on their own.

I have established with Jean Thomas a regular and secure postal address so we can send them more books and study aids material. I have also told them that for the time being they will be under the watchcare of the Urantia Association of Quebec so they will be able to communicate in their own language and have the full support of the association just like the regular members do. I have left with him a lot of documentation on study groups, a laptop computer with all the necessary documents and Power Point presentations with a projector to present them.

I will keep in touch with Jean Thomas and make sure he attends the study group symposium in two years and come to the next International conference. He was very glad of my visit and believes it will be a strong boost to the readers in Haiti.

In spirit of brotherhood
Gaétan ☐

Kansas City Conference



MICHAEL MACISAAC
President, UAI Sweden
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The Indian Scout keeps watch over the downtown Kansas City skyline.

Every true relationship of mortal man with other persons—human or divine—is an end in itself. And such fellowship with the personality of Deity is the eternal goal of universe ascension. [Paper 112:2, page 1228:3]

AT THE HEART OF URANTIA BOOK teachings, one finds relationships—the relationship between the individual and his or her Thought Adjuster, between an angel and her charge, between the Father and the elementary mortal. Our relationships lead to our understanding of morality, of duty, and of service to each other and to the universe.

To that end, The UAUS is sponsoring a conference this summer, from Thursday July 25 through Sunday July 28, at The University of St. Mary in Kansas City. The theme will be relationships, both human and divine. The conference is designed for participants to examine relationships in *The Urantia Book* as well as to develop new ones with fellow conference attendees.

The three conference days, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, will each feature one aspect of human relationships: relationship with God, with society, and with family. The days will be structured so that attendees will engage with the topic in the context of *The Urantia Book* as well as in the context of their own lives. The hope is that by the end of the conference, participants will have a deeper, richer experience with these types of relationships.

Because the campus is providing access to a kitchen, participants will be cooking many of the meals. This will allow more flexibility, so morning hours can be filled with optional worship sessions, yoga, exercise, and friendships in addition to the prepared breakfast. Once morning activities come to

an end, the program will begin with a group plenary, and afterward conference goes will attend small study group sessions to explore a topical paper, relevant to the day's themes. They will have an opportunity to deepen their understanding of the topics in a small-group discussion, centered around the book. Following these study groups, there will be a whole-group session to share and discuss ideas brought up in the small study sessions. Attendees will have an opportunity to engage with the book in small, personal conversations as well as in large-group, reflective discussions.

In the afternoon, there will be a variety of workshop offerings, centering around the day's topic. The goal of these afternoon sessions is to examine the topic further, applying it to contexts both inside and outside the book. The planning committee is currently looking for readers interested in leading afternoon workshops that might help attendees explore their relationship with God, society, or family. If interested in one of these topics, please contact urantiakc@gmail.com.

For registration information, as well as more information about the facility, room options, and program please visit <http://www.regonline.com/urantiakansascity2013>. Early registration prices extend through April 30th. Scholarships may also be available. If interested in seeking a scholarship or contributing to the scholarship fund, please contact urantiakc@gmail.com.

Before the conference, there will be a gathering for younger-generation readers. Activities are still being organized, but they will also center around the theme of "Relationships" and will help these new readers prepare to lead discussions later during the conference program. Because conference goes will be able to cook so



Conference venue—The University of St. Mary.

many of the meals at the conference, the pre-conference attendees will likely be able to visit an organic farm and help harvest some of the food for the conference. To help fund these activities, donations for the pre-conference are appreciated as well. Young readers often live on student budgets, so even a small donation can be stretched to cover basic food and housing. For more information on the pre-conference please contact Michael Maclsaac at mmacisaac@gmail.com

We are eager to see you all this summer in Kansas City. The hope is for you to leave the conference with a strengthened understanding of these concepts in the book so that you can work to enrich the relationships in your life.

Michael □

CONTRIBUTE TO UAI

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

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