



Tidings

from Associations around Urantia

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

Nº 67 ■ JULY—AUG 2014



Merindi and Rita reading — photo

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President's message

Dear members and friends,

ALL AROUND US IS GROWTH! Three years ago I moved to Wisconsin in the northern United States, and the first thing I noticed was that every plant in the garden seemed to grow from seed to flower in the space of a few days. We persevere through a long winter only to have the seasons for sowing, cultivating, and harvesting all thrust upon us at once.

In 2014 this sense of growth has filled the Urantia Association, and we are only half way through the year. We could accomplish twice as much before the year is out.

In June the Association hosted the Study Group Symposium, dedicated to the in-depth examination of the role of study groups in our community. For the first time this symposium was broadcast live on the Internet, connecting students from across the globe. One evening we hosted an open discussion on "Technology and Study Groups" and the next evening was an open discussion on "Families and Study Groups." During both discussions, my cell phone was vibrating with questions being sent from online viewers who wanted to participate.

Our commitment to study groups does not end with the symposium. The lessons learned will be translated and disseminated throughout the world beginning with a Latin American, Spanish speaking Study Group Symposium Tour being organized by the Colombian Association.

As you may know, in January two students of *The Urantia Book* from the Philippines with support from the Association and Urantia Foundation traveled and placed copies of *The Urantia Book* in libraries and universities



throughout their country. This was the largest operation this year of a dedicated book placement effort, which included book placements in Cameroon, India, Nepal, and Dubai.

In May the International Association assisted the Colombian Association in acquiring a pallet of books. The Colombians have devised a plan to legally import books as a book distributor, with the hope of lowering the overall cost of books in stores in their country. If they are successful, it could be a model for other Associations to follow to help the spread of the revelation. (By the way the Colombians have been incredibly successful and have already sold half of their books.)

Not to be outdone, the Ukrainian Association also imported a pallet of books to help make the revelation available in their part of the world. In this case, the Urantia Foundation and Urantia Association worked together in covering the cost, while the Association paid the shipping and import fees. In both Colombia and Ukraine, it was the hard work and tireless dedication of the local students and leaders that led to their success. No central power could possibly have affected as much progress across the globe. We need motivated and empowered national and local leaders who are willing to take on the burdens of disseminating *The Urantia Book*.

The wisdom and foresight of the founders of the Urantia Association is coming to fruit one generation later. Do we dare to take up a cause knowing that success might not be achieved for 20, 30, perhaps 50? Please, join us in this work! What can you do to uplift

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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<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.



your community? What can you do to support those striving to spread the Urantia teachings across the globe?

Take a look around your worldwide Urantia community: you will find places to sow, places to cultivate, and places to harvest. All around us is growth!

In service,

Chris Wood, President, Urantia Association International

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Thoughts from an Attendee of the Association Study Group Symposium



JEFF WATTLES
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The road leads on—www.wallfc.com—image

FROM THE OUTSTANDING URANTIA Association Study Group Symposium, I'll mention the highlights that will most affect my teaching and practice. First, I realized in a new way a creative tension between (1) the goal of creating thousands of study groups as set forth in the Publication Mandate and (2) revealed teachings relevant to the method of working toward that goal. If we honor Jesus' mandate about not showing people the beauties of the temple until we first see that they are in the temple [Paper 141:6.4, page1592.6]!; and if we honor Jesus' ideal of truth-coordinated living [Paper 155:1, page 1726], which leads others to inquire from us, then it may seem harder to get to the goal of thousands of study groups. But I predict that this creative tension will vanish: in liaison with God nothing is impossible. We will find a beautiful complementarity between the goal presented in the Publication Mandate and the constraints on method presented in *The Urantia Book*.

My decision: I cherish the goal, wholeheartedly obey the teachings about method, and trust that in God's time the goal will be radiantly accomplished.

The next important thing I got from the conference was a great handout on facilitating. Among many other helpful ideas, the handout emphasized the need for leadership and balanced participation. Another thing (among many) I liked in the handout for facilitators was that it highlighted and described the design/planning phase before the meeting as well as the follow up phase after the meeting.

My decision: I am making changes to restrain my excessive participation in my study group and more effectively to incorporate design and follow-up dimensions of facilitating/leading.

The last thing I'll mention is what I took from the talk by Joyce Patterson, who spoke of "selling" *The Urantia Book*, not by exchanging books for cash, but in the sense of persuasion with conviction. I was able to interpret her message in a way that helped

me considerably by associating what she said with a memory and a realization.

The memory: I am leafletting on the Berkeley campus of the University of California, and a teammate in evangelism tells me that I need to believe that the other person really wants (maybe their soul wants) what I am offering. When I change to that positive attitude, I find a much greater percentage of people willing to accept what I hold forth to them.

The realization: I have acquired a tentative attitude when introducing *The Urantia Book* to others. Of course I introduce it in a positive way, but I also tend to see the book through the lens of the objections that the other person may have to it.

My decision: I have a new approach to introducing potential study group members to *The Urantia Book*. I introduce it in the fullness of conviction about the book's value to the new reader. □

The Master's Call

DAVID GLASS

From nativity nurturing and
 Among your growing family,
 Follow me: These I knew.

Finding Love and
 Making friends,
 Follow me: This did I.

Learning your lessons and
 Performing your labor,
 Follow me: I did these things.

Loving our Father and
 Serving my Family,

Follow me: This was my mission.
 Through the thin veil of death and
 Across the starry darks of space,
 Follow me: There have I sojourned.

Exploring morontia mansions and
 Starlit stopping places of the galaxy,
 Follow me: These I prepared for you.

To each of the Eternal Spheres and
 On to the Center-of-All,
 Follow me: Thence have I come.

Unto Eternal Love and
 Into Uncreated Light,

Follow me: I am His Son.

Rebounding into depths unknown and
 Amid realms yet-to-be-planned,
 Follow me: I am the Way.

Traversing Ultimate boundaries and
 Penetrating beyond the shores of
 concept,
 Follow me: I am the Truth.

Becoming never-beginning Love and
 Never-ending Light, FOLLOW ME, MY
 BROTHER—MY SISTER—MY FRIEND
 I AM THE LIFE ETERNAL. □

Visit to the USA: The Urantia Foundation & Study Group Symposium



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WHAT A WONDERFULLY HUMBLING experience it was to visit the headquarters of Urantia Foundation at 533 West Diversey Parkway, Chicago. I'm so glad that it is still there and standing as a testament to *The Urantia Book*, a truly grand foundation. I had the opportunity to visit and enjoy its ambience and history. The weather was warm and friendly. Chicago is such a large city it truly makes Sydney to be like a small town. The residences in this area are unique, old worldly. I notice the new constructions were faithful to this style of architecture.

While at 533 I got to see what happens there on a day-to-day basis—book distribution, meeting facilitation, visitors stopping by to immerse themselves in all things Urantia. I also got to see that helping out at the Foundation can mean you get dirty hands—cleaning, sweeping, gardening, and other odd jobs. This is what is most appreciated.

I met some lovely people from diverse backgrounds—all students of *The Urantia Book*. How lovely it was to hear how the book found them and the difference it had made to their lives. I have come to realize that each of us are very diverse in this respect and that any section of the book can be attractive to any personality.

I came to the USA to attend the Study Group Symposium. We were all reminded of the Publication Mandate where we were told that thousands of study groups must be formed. We participated in workshops to further our understanding of how to run, manage, and foster study groups. The ideas were diverse and the discussions were very practical. For me, although I have never started a study group, what I have taken away from the symposium is how important they are for revealing the Revelation and promoting the study of *The Urantia Book*. It also helped me know how I can play my role as a reader of *The Urantia Book* and as an active, attentive student of the Revelation. There was much fellowship to enjoy, and I was reminded that where three or more of us are gathered, the Spirit of the Truth is in our midst.

The symposium covered the mission of study groups, the role of the leader; practical application—forming, preparing, consistency, facilitating, formats, identifying leaders; spiritual aspects of the study group—cultivating and revealing the fruits of the spirit; participation in a study group; how organizations can help with study groups; what services are needed to become more effective; testimonials and stories from successful study group leaders recounting experiences; and carrying the spiritual mission forward at home. □

Good *Tidings* Conference Announcements

2014 ANZURA ANNUAL CONFERENCE—Auckland (NEW ZEALAND)

October 3–6, 2014, at Vaughan Park Anglican Retreat Centre, Long Bay, Auckland, New Zealand. The theme is “Celebrating God’s Gifts: An Exploration of Creative Living.” For more information, contact Marion Steward, joemarion@xtra.co.nz

UNITED KINGDOM Annual Summer Meeting

September 26–28, 2014, Seren Retreat, Gower Peninsula, South Wales, UK
The theme is “Evolution and Revelation: The Unfolding of the Religious Experience on Urantia.” For more information, contact Chris Moseley, chromos50@gmail.com

GOLDEN GATE CIRCLE SPIRITUAL RETREAT—San Francisco

September 26–28, 2014, St. Dorothy’s Rest, Camp Meeker, CA (north of San Francisco in the Redwoods of Sonoma County)
The theme is “The Assurance of the Divine Presence.” For more information, contact Delores Nice, dlnice@att.net

WOMEN’S RETREAT

October 24–26, 2014, Urantia Foundation, 533 Diversey Parkway, Chicago, USA

THE LOCAL UNIVERSE MOTHER SPIRIT

October 18, 2014, Presented by the Lone Star Urantia Association, San Antonio, Texas, USA For more information, contact Randall Wood at urantia.randall@yahoo.com or call 512.878.0501.

EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR ON “THE SOUL”

October 31–November 2, 2014
Urantia Foundation



Closing ceremony at the Study Group Symposium, Madison, Wisconsin.

Study Groups and UBIS Courses



GAETAN G. CHARLAND
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A FEW MONTHS AGO AS WE WERE preparing for the Study Group Symposium, I decided to experiment by using a Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS) course during our study group sessions. As host of the group, I made sure that everyone understood the reason and the motivation behind the idea and agreed to participate in the experiment. We are eight members, separated equally in gender but not in experience as readers; in fact, two of our members, a couple, are new readers and have not yet finished a first reading. The rest of the members of our group have been reading for more than 10 years and some of them have been part of this group for only a couple of years.

The idea behind this initiative was to see if the content of a UBIS course could be used effectively in the confines of a study group to provide the participants with a favorable experience by enhanced learning and integration of the teachings while promoting greater participation in the exchanges between them, heightening their interest in new methods of learning. We had a choice to use the material of two courses that were made available to us by a friend, who is a facilitator in UBIS. We chose a beginner's course, the subject of which was the Thought Adjuster.

Before we started, I inquired about the teaching method being used in UBIS and adapted that format to our study group course sessions. The material from a course comes in four modules and each of those modules covers a two-week period. I created an email group with the names of each participant; this group was used to send material and in turn allowed participants to submit their answers. This group was also a place for participants to read the answers and comments of the other participants while giving me as a host the means to harvest all the answers and place

them in a separate folder to be kept until the next study group session.

With each module, participants are given a paper to read and six questions to answer; they also have a choice to answer a minimum of any three of those questions or all of them. The week we started, I sent each participant the introduction of the course with the first module; when we met a week later, some had already answered some questions. But before we read them to the whole group, participants were invited to ask questions about the material studied and make comments about their experience with the study of the module they had received. At first, there was some adaptations that needed to take place, but as we progressed in our session, participants became more and more active, sharing and exchanging ideas about their experiences and how they appreciated this way of studying. The second week went even better as we finished the first module and after the session the second module was sent. It went like this until the course was completed.

As a host, I wanted this course to have practical values in the lives of the participants, so I used questions during our study group sessions to focus them on what they had learned and how it influenced their daily life. It was very surprising to listen to all those comments as the course moved from one module to the next. One difficulty I encountered had to do with the new readers—they had a hard time at first following the discussion and answering the questions. In a gesture of goodwill, I asked this couple if they would be interested in participating in a series of sessions for two hours every week that I would facilitate at their home to explore each module; they agreed and this made a huge difference for them. Soon they were answering all six questions.

The course took two months to complete and everyone was really satisfied with the experience and made numerous comments about their own progress in understanding the teachings in comparison to the regular methods we were using in our group before or by their own experience in reading *The Urantia Book* alone for many years. As a host, I really learned much from this method and how it could help train teachers/facilitators while giving the participants a better way to learn, explore, and integrate the teachings. We all agreed that the material of a UBIS course that we used in our study group was making study more productive and a really enjoyable learning experience.

I believe study groups would benefit immensely if all the courses that were given in the UBIS format were made available to hosts of study groups through the Foundation Website or the study group directory. Courses could be separated by categories and level of complexities. I also believe that courses should be developed by UBIS to train hosts of study groups in the art of facilitating study groups by using the method UBIS facilitators use to teach their courses. Many things could be done to improve the efficacy of study groups in training leaders and teachers. This experimentation could be a very good one to do so.

I invite every host who is serious about training teachers in their study group or promoting better learning experiences to try this method. More information can be gained by contacting Gaétan Charland, gaetan.g.charland@gmail.com

In spirit of brotherhood □



Responding to spirit image—www.ubim.org

At the Capernaum synagogue he found many new books in the library chests, and he spent at least five evenings a week at intense study. [Paper 129:1.9, page1420:6]

Happy Birthday, Jesus!

August 21, 7 B.C.



URANTIA BOOK INTERNET SCHOOL

September 2014 Trimester

THE UBIS OFFERS COURSES THREE times a year: January, April, and September. Courses begin on Monday, September 15th. Registration opens on September 1st and runs through September 14th: <http://ubis.urantia.org/moodle/login/index.php>

Course Title: The Origin and Evolution of Life on Urantia

In this course we shall study how life was initiated on our planet and shall follow its progression from a pre-life stage to a stage where life evolved into a creature capable of making free-will decisions. We shall gain a perspective on both the biological and geological progression of our planet's history.

Teacher-Facilitator: Larry Leskovic **Level:** All Readers, Paper 36 (section 5), Paper 57 (section 8), and Papers 58, 59, 60, 61, and 62.

Course Title: Time and Space

This course discusses the following: 1) two different types of space, 2) space respiration, 3) curved space paths, 4) Paradise gravity, 5) the four absolute-gravity circuits, 6) motion in space, 7) some limitations of time-space creatures, 8) some concepts involved in transcending time and space, 9) how the

time-space viewpoint differs from the eternity viewpoint, and 9) why Jesus was never in a hurry.

Teacher-Facilitator: Stacey Jackson **Level:** All Readers, Papers 11, 12, 118, 106, and 130 (section 7).

Course Title: The Evolution and Administration of the Local Universe

Evolution and administration are constantly working together and growing the local universes. These essential, dynamic forces are active at the spiritual, mindal, and material levels. We shall explore the divine purpose of these forces as well as the creative plan that began at the dawn of our local universe—the creative plan of our Creator Son in liaison with the local universe Mother Spirit and several orders of divine Sons. Even our own destiny includes some form of administration in the universe.

Teacher-Facilitator: Bruce Johnson **Level:** All Readers, Papers 32, 33, 34, 35, and 36.

Course Title: Living a Religious Philosophy

Wisdom is essential to become and to be a good thinker in order to use our mind properly

to develop our soul in our inner life. Higher thinking is essential to living religiously and to living our lives in relation to God and to his divine presence within each of us. This course explores the great challenge of integrating philosophy and religion in our life. In this way we can truly experience God and attain the higher realms of unexplored ideas and undiscovered ideals by transforming our basic human urges and desires into higher spiritual longings.

Teacher-Facilitator: Guy Perron **Level:** Intermediate–Advanced, Papers 160, 161, 196; and selected sections from Papers 39, 48, 101, 102, and 103.

Course Title: Personality: A Unique Gift from God

This course is an in-depth study of what personality is by defining its attributes, how it functions, where it originates, and its destiny. It is a fascinating probe into the realities of eternal individuality. Participation requires a devotion and perseverance towards newly revealed concepts. A good knowledge of *The Urantia Book* is helpful.

Teacher-Facilitator: Ray Gardini **Level:** Advanced, Papers 1, 56, 112, and sections from the Foreword and Papers 12 and 16. □

The Urantia Book Fellowship recently held their International Conference 2014 (IC14). Pictured here are snapshots of the 5-day conference, which was filled with workshops, worship programs and music, plays and a film, and many activities for the children. Photos by Charles McLafferty, Jr.



Mini-Study Guide

ALTHOUGH *THE URANTIA BOOK* DOES not offer any official interpretations of its teachings, your study group may benefit from using the following selected text and questions to foster an in-depth approach to your reading and study experience. These questions, then, are designed to stimulate thought in reference to a highlighted section from *The Urantia Book*.

This issue's selected section is from Paper 102, Section 3: **Knowledge, Wisdom and Insight**

Questions to Consider

1. What to you is the one central truth of this section? Are there other truths contained herein? If so, what are they?
2. What meanings/ideas do you extract from this passage?
3. If you were to describe the spiritual values/ideas of this passage, how would you?

Intellectual deficiency or educational poverty unavoidably handicaps higher religious attainment because such an impoverished environment of the spiritual nature robs religion of its chief channel of philosophic contact with the world of scientific knowledge. The intellectual factors of religion are important, but their overdevelopment is likewise sometimes very handicapping and embarrassing. Religion must continually labor under a paradoxical necessity: the necessity of making effective use of thought while at the same time discounting the spiritual serviceableness of all thinking. [Paper 102:3.1, page 1121:3]

Religious speculation is inevitable but always detrimental; speculation invariably falsifies its object. Speculation tends to translate religion into something material or humanistic, and thus, while directly interfering with the clarity of logical thought, it indirectly causes religion to appear as a function of the temporal world, the very world with which it should everlastingly stand in contrast. Therefore will religion always be characterized by paradoxes, the paradoxes resulting from the absence of the experiential connection between the material and the spiritual levels of the universe — morontia mota, the superphilosophic sensitivity for truth discernment and unity perception. [Paper 102:3.2, page 1121:4]

Material feelings, human emotions, lead directly to material actions, selfish acts. Religious insights, spiritual motivations, lead directly to religious actions, unselfish acts of social service and altruistic benevolence. [Paper 102:3.3, page 1121:5]

Religious desire is the hunger quest for divine reality. Religious experience is the realization of the consciousness of having found God. And when a human being does find God, there is experienced within the soul of that being such an indescribable restlessness of triumph in discovery that he is impelled to seek loving service-contact with his less illuminated fellows, not to disclose that he has found God, but rather to allow the overflow of the welling-up of eternal goodness within his own soul to refresh and ennoble his fellows. Real religion leads to increased social service. [Paper 102:3.4, page 1121:6]

Science, knowledge, leads to fact consciousness; religion, experience, leads to value consciousness; philosophy, wisdom, leads to co-ordinate consciousness; revelation (the substitute for morontia mota) leads to the consciousness of true reality; while the co-ordination of the consciousness of fact, value, and true reality constitutes awareness of personality reality, maximum of being, together with the belief in the possibility of the survival of that very personality. [Paper 102:3.5, page 1122:1]

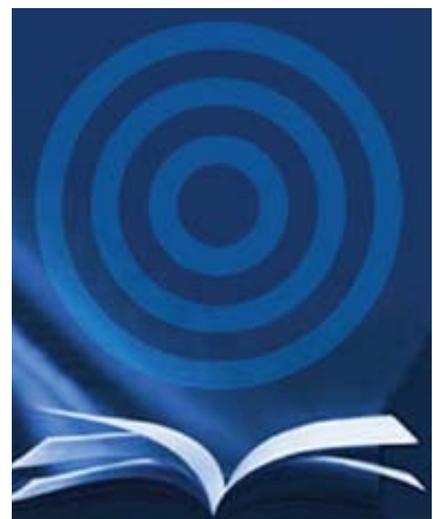
Knowledge leads to placing men, to originating social strata and castes. Religion leads to serving men, thus creating ethics and altruism. Wisdom leads to the higher and better fellowship of both ideas and one's fellows. Revelation liberates men and starts them out on the eternal adventure. [Paper 102:3.6, page 1122:2]

Science sorts men; religion loves men, even as yourself; wisdom does justice to differing men; but revelation glorifies man and discloses his capacity for partnership with God. [Paper 102:3.7, page 1122:3]

Science vainly strives to create the brotherhood of culture; religion brings into being the brotherhood of the spirit. Philosophy strives for the brotherhood of wisdom; revelation portrays the eternal brotherhood, the Paradise Corps of the Finality. [Paper 102:3.8, page 1122:4]

Knowledge yields pride in the fact of personality; wisdom is the consciousness of the meaning of personality; religion is the experience of cognizance of the value of personality; revelation is the assurance of personality survival. [Paper 102:3.9, page 1122:5]

(1122.6) 102:3.10 *Science seeks to identify, analyze, and classify the segmented parts of the limitless cosmos. Religion grasps the idea-of-the-whole, the entire cosmos. Philosophy attempts the identification of the material segments of science with the spiritual-insight concept of the whole. Wherein philosophy fails in this attempt, revelation succeeds, affirming that the cosmic circle is universal, eternal, absolute, and infinite. This cosmos of the Infinite I AM is therefore endless, limitless, and all-inclusive—timeless, spaceless, and unqualified. And we bear testimony that the Infinite I AM is also the Father of Michael of Nebadon and*



the God of human salvation. [Paper 102:3.10, page 1122:6]

*Science indicates Deity as a fact; philosophy presents the idea of an Absolute; religion envisions God as a loving spiritual personality. Revelation affirms the unity of the fact of Deity, the idea of the Absolute, and the spiritual personality of God and, further, presents this concept as our Father—the universal fact of existence, the eternal idea of mind, and the infinite spirit of life.** [Paper 102:3.11, page 1122:7]

The pursuit of knowledge constitutes science; the search for wisdom is philosophy; the love for God is religion; the hunger for truth is a revelation. But it is the indwelling Thought Adjuster that attaches the feeling of reality to man's spiritual insight into the cosmos. [Paper 102:3.12, page 1122:8]

In science, the idea precedes the expression of its realization; in religion, the experience of realization precedes the expression of the idea. There is a vast difference between the evolutionary will-to-believe and the product of enlightened reason, religious insight, and revelation—the will that believes. [Paper 102:3.13, page 1122:9]

In evolution, religion often leads to man's creating his concepts of God; revelation exhibits the phenomenon of God's evolving man himself, while in the earth life of Christ Michael we beheld the phenomenon of God's revealing himself to man. Evolution tends to make God manlike; revelation tends to make man Godlike. [Paper 102:3.14, page 1122:10]

Science is only satisfied with first causes, religion with supreme personality, and philosophy with unity. Revelation affirms that these three are one, and that all are good. The eternal real is the good of the universe and not the time illusions of space evil. In the spiritual experience of all personalities, always is it true that the real is the good and the good is the real. [Paper 102:3.15, page 1122:11] □

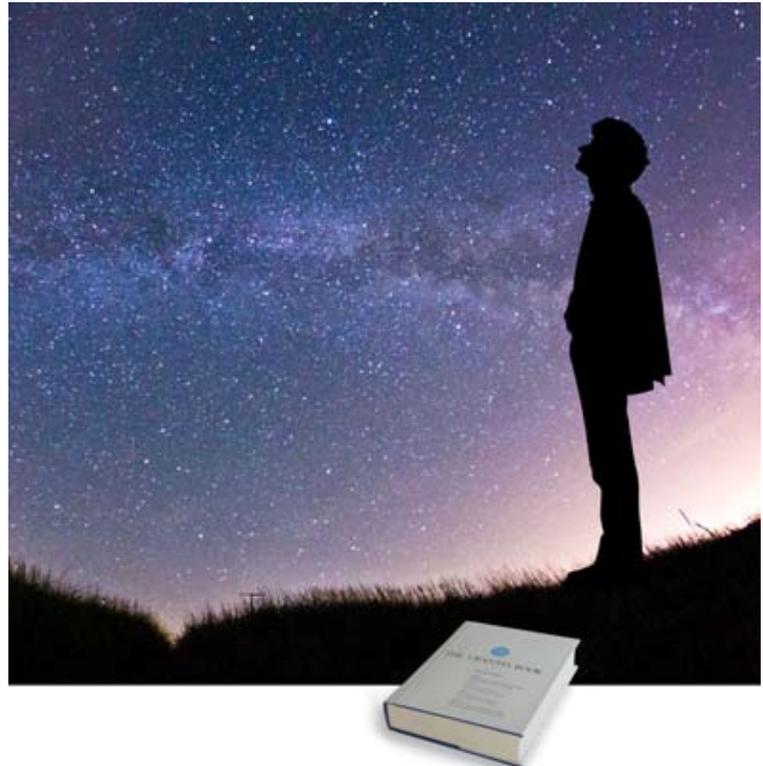
Progressing from Human to Divine: Revealing Ourselves to God

July 30–August 3,
2015

Bishop
University,
Lennoxville,
Quebec, Canada



LINE ST-PIERRE
line.stpierre@gmail.com



THE URANTIA ASSOCIATION OF Quebec under the umbrella of Urantia Association of Canada will be hosting this event. It will take place at the beautiful site of Bishop’s University in Lennoxville, province of Quebec, Canada, from July 30th to August 3rd.

We will develop three sub themes, one for each day of the conference. The first is on Family, the second about the Individual, and the third is on Society/Brotherhood.

The Heavenly Father has a mission for each of us. He welcomes us into the great family of God’s children and gives us the opportunity to develop our potentials to carry their full expression of divine values in

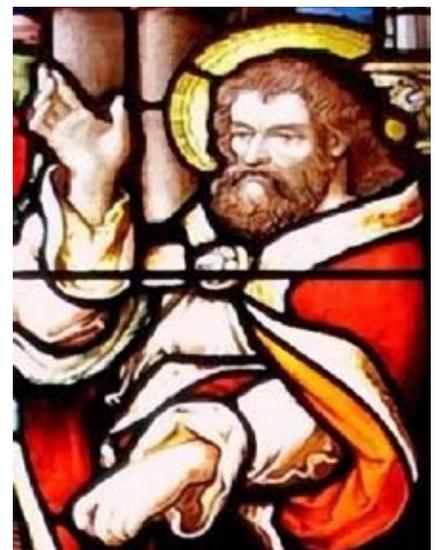
our material lives and beyond. Indeed, the Father has placed in our hands control over an infinitesimal fraction of the future of the Supreme. We have a good part of eternity to accomplish this mission and it starts now, here, on Urantia.

How do we carry out this major project, this grand and eternal adventure, this beautiful partnership between the human and the divine? By agreeing to become perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect. Growth and progress are the watchwords of the universe. By agreeing to grow, to progress from the human to the divine, we will be able to bring into fruition what God has placed in our hands. What are the winning conditions, the tools,

and healthy lifestyles that allow for better growth?

Plan your 2015 vacation now. Information on accommodations and registration will be available in October. We encourage parents and grandparents to bring their children and share this experience, as we will have young people providing childcare services during the conference. We will keep you informed as the program unfolds.

Contact Line St.-Pierre, at line.stpierre@gmail.com, for more information ☐



St. Mark the Evangelist, Bishop’s University Chapel—stained glass window