



URANTIA FOUNDATION'S NEWS ONLINE



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MAXIMIZING OUTREACH WITH AN ANDROID APP



By Ashley Parratore, Urantia Foundation staff, North Carolina, United States

When it comes to electronics, many people say it's an Apple world. That may be true in the United States and other industrialized nations, but the fact is, 72% of the world's population use an Android. That is a lot of phones and tablets!

There has been a successful Urantia Book app for Apple users since 2009, thanks to Dandelion Applications. Offering 13 languages of the book, it has averaged nearly 32,000 downloads per year over the past decade. We now have an opportunity to reach the other 72%.

Urantia Foundation has been developing an app that will give immediate access to a

copy of *The Urantia Book* on the Android device of choice. The app will offer the option of selecting any or all of the 19 languages currently available, which in turn allows the user control over the amount of space the app uses on a device.

With permission from Dandelion, we used the Apple app for inspiration regarding functionality.

Key features include:

- **Simplicity:** an easy-to-use navigation system for seamless movement through the parts, papers, and sections of the book.
- **Search engine:** operates on- or offline to search the book in its entirety or specific parts.
- **Language comparison:** allows for viewing two language texts simultaneously.
- **Bookmarking:** preserves favorite passages, even in language comparison mode.
- **History option:** tracks your reading progress. Great for study and cross-referencing.

- **Copy and paste function:** transfers text to email, Word docs, or text messages.

It's not surprising that many people are using electronic devices to read and study *The Urantia Book*. Cell phones and tablets are convenient, portable, and the way of the future. We already know that French-speaking UBIS students in Africa are successfully taking courses on their phones. Despite the lack of consistent internet, they have good cellular service.

The Pew Research Center reports that Android devices are preferred by almost every age group. They are also the most affordable. Over the past year, the prices of printing and shipping have soared, making book distribution even more cost prohibitive in many countries and most of continental Africa. While we always strive to place physical books in the hands of those who want one, this app will give them immediate access to the revelation.

The app will be launching by year-end, and we are confident that it will become the most successful book distribution program in a decade!

UPDATES FROM THE JULY 2021 TRUSTEE MEETING



By Judy Van Cleave, secretary,
Urantia Foundation, Idaho,
United States

Operations Overview

Highlights of second-quarter operations include: 1) securing printing bids and paper supply (paper shortage due to COVID-19) to print 30,000 English, French, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish books, and preparing text files for this printing; 2) finishing the 2020 audit and annual report; 3) fine-tuning the new Android app that will be available this fall; 4) customizing our internal donor management system; 5) concluding a successful April trimester at UBIS; 6) starting a board study on the interface of evolution and revelation; 7) growing social media on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn; and 8) continuing the necessary steps for launching the fifth revision of the Russian translation.

Books

Sales and downloads: Total Urantia Book sales for the first six months of 2021 (YTD) were 12,534, up 29%. Total sales—including Urantia Press titles—YTD were 13,153, up 24%.

Year to date, English sales are up 15%, Spanish sales up 93%, Portuguese sales up 51%, French sales up 69%, e-books up 6%, and downloads were down 16%.

Perpetual Printing Fund

policy: During the 1970s, Urantia Foundation established a Perpetual Printing Fund (PPF). This fund continues to ensure that there will be adequate money to print the English edition of *The Urantia Book* in perpetuity. Because we lose money on book sales, it is necessary to provide for the future. Subsequently, in 2004, the policy was revised to include the cost of the Spanish and Portuguese printings.

Urantia Book sales and inflation have steadily increased since the policy revision. The board raised the minimum in the PPF from \$800,000, set in 2004, to \$1,200,000. Additionally, the board voted to include French, German, and Polish printings in the fund.

Finances

The Mustard Seed Fund—a new fund: The Jameson Foundation initiated, with a sizable 10-year gift, a new fund at Urantia Foundation. The purpose of this fund is to “seed” the revelation around the globe through grant funding. The terms of approving grants will be developed over the next 12 months and administered by the staff and trustees. The grants will fund projects that spread the fifth epochal revelation globally. Thank you, Gard and Florence Jameson, for your generosity.

We invite you to join the Jameson family in supporting this education and outreach fund.

2021 YTD financial

information: The objective for 2021 operating expenses is staying at or below our \$797,756 operating expense budget and \$150,000 capital budget (unless book sales increased beyond expectations, which they did). Year-to-date income was up 22% from a year ago. Expenses were 11% below budget at \$356,821 and 8% above a year ago. Net operating income was -\$41,776, 38% better than -\$67,453 in 2020.

Community Relations

Collaboration between Urantia Foundation, Urantia Association International, the Urantia Book Fellowship, and other organizations keeps increasing. Urantia Foundation sponsors conferences, Zoom telethons, and outreach programs.

Both the Association and the Fellowship have elected new presidents this year. Enrique Traver from Brazil was elected as president of the Association, and Sue Snider Secombe from Illinois was elected as president of the Fellowship. The three presidents continue to meet quarterly. Their first meeting was a meet-and-greet session filled with goodwill and discussion of each organization's goals and higher purposes.

Translations and Revisions

Spanish: An introduction to the Spanish revision occurred

at the 2021 Urantia Association International Peru Conference. The launch of the digital and printed book is expected to be complete this winter. The revision team, committed to the highest quality, is doing final editing and proofreading. After thousands of hours and 10 years of work, the team is at the 25¾-mile mark in a 26-mile marathon. The volunteer team who created this beautiful revision has given the Spanish-speaking believers a gift lasting far into the future.

Portuguese: This revision is undergoing a three-round process. In the first round, the team completed 187 papers. The second and third rounds continue with expectations of completion and publication in late 2024.

Chinese: The translation in Simplified text is complete through Paper 193, and the Traditional text is complete through Paper 11. The translation team is working to ensure that terms and meanings are consistent across both sets of characters.

Farsi: The translation is complete through Paper 159.

Tagalog/Filipino: The translation team is working on Paper 12.

Thank you, and congratulations to the translators, revisors, and donors for facilitating the spread of the revelation globally.

Education and Outreach

Urantia Foundation will sponsor its third Science

Symposium in June of 2022. The theme is "Science: The Interface of Evolution and Revelation." The symposium will be held at Urantia Foundation and will be broadcast live.

We will also host the second Global Cultural Symposium, in person and on Zoom, in 2023. People from diverse world cultures will be invited to participate. The objectives are social connections and a deeper understanding of how the revelation can grow in various regions of the world.

Cultural Advisory Council

Urantia Foundation plans to invite the first four members of this council in the next six months. Its purpose is to widen the pool of wisdom and cultural diversity so that Urantia Foundation operates with a deeper global perspective.

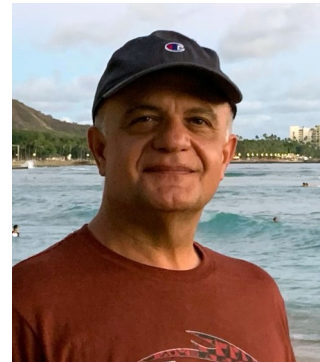
Official Interpretations of *The Urantia Book*

The Trustees reaffirmed the following policy: "Urantia Foundation gives no official interpretation of the book's

teachings. Interpretation of the text is left to the individual reader."

Invited Guest—Hamid Mazdeh

The translator of *The Urantia Book* into Farsi, Hamid Mazdeh, joined the meeting and enthusiastically updated the board on the mechanics and the challenges of the translation. He anticipates finishing by the end of 2024.



Hamid Mazdeh

A DECADE OF QUALITY AND DEDICATION—THE REVISION OF *EL LIBRO DE URANTIA*



By Gaétan Charland, associate trustee, Québec, Canada

Several years ago, I was invited to serve on a new committee tasked with organizing and managing the rollout of the new revision of *El libro de Urantia*. This service opportunity gave me the privilege of meeting the team of readers who dedicated 10 years of their lives to this revision project. It also gave me an inside look at, and appreciation of, the processes put in place by Urantia

Foundation that guarantee the highest-quality revision of a translation of *The Urantia Book*.

As an outsider looking in, I share my observations of what I have seen, witnessed, and appreciated. While I am not an expert on either translating or revising, I do have firsthand experience studying and managing study groups with readers who use the original French translation and its subsequent revisions. Hence my sympathy with Spanish-speaking readers for the difficulties they might anticipate or even experience with this new revision. But please be assured that great care, substantial resources, and unparalleled expertise have been invested in this project.

Urantia Foundation takes its translation and revision responsibilities seriously. Previous articles have outlined the challenges and

intricacies involved in a five-stage process that can take decades. You can learn more by reading here: <https://www.urantia.org/news/2019-06/creating-translations-out-love-urantia-foundations-quality-process>.

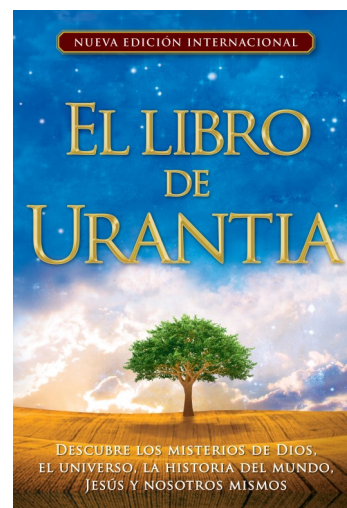
Numerous steps were involved in this revision, each of which necessitated an element of quality assurance. It began with the revision team whose members hailed from different Spanish-speaking countries. They all had proven comprehension of the English text as well as experience with the English language. They had also participated in study groups for many years.

The team was assisted by a professional copy editor, one with extensive experience revising translations from English into Spanish. This copy editor spent many years carefully analyzing the revised Spanish text and recommending changes that would ensure the highest

quality standards for the revision.

A group of Spanish-speaking Urantia Book readers were invited to read and evaluate papers, then make suggestions about words or concepts they felt needed modifying. Their contributions became a critical part of the process.

The next step in this long process called for a professional



quality evaluation. This was performed by not one but three different evaluators who specialize in translation into Spanish. All were given papers from different parts of the book, and all reported high marks with only minor changes suggested.

The standards established for this project became the

cornerstone upon which the revision was created: Truth in the conveyance of concepts; Beauty in the expression of language; and Goodness transforming perceptions to new levels of sublime understanding.

During my many years of service in the Urantia community, I have never seen

such dedication, cooperation, and true fraternity from a group of readers hailing from different cultures and backgrounds. I have been truly edified by their loyalty to one another and to the project.

I can tell you firsthand that this undertaking was a tremendous journey in teamwork and trust. With the new revision,

Spanish-speaking people across the globe will be able to enjoy *El libro de Urantia* in a way that's analogous to how readers of the original text experience it.

THE EFFECT OF SUPPLY CHAINS ON BOOK PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION



By Henk Mylanus, Trustee Emeritus and European Sales Manager, Bretagne (Brittany), France

Editor's Note: The term "supply chain" is familiar to many in the business world, though prior to the pandemic it did not mean much to the rest of us. It describes processes we tend to take for granted: the smooth, timely flow of materials and components and finished products, part of the unsung efforts and widespread cooperation that bring goods we need into our hands when we expect them. During the past year and a half, many of us have wondered about shortages of various items, which can be caused by disruption of a supply chain at a single point.

And it turns out that even The Urantia Book has been affected by this type of problem. In this article, Henk Mylanus gives examples of supply chain breakdowns, and tells us about how he has dealt with those affecting book printing and distribution in Europe.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit Europe, it quickly became apparent that large manufacturing companies depending on fast supplies from Asia would have difficulties satisfying their needs for components. On an international scale, the most obvious example was the breakdown of the supply chain for microprocessors being used in large quantities in the automobile industry. The various lockdowns in Asia, for example in Singapore and Taiwan, created a production shortfall of 22% to 30%. As a result, United States automotive plants like General Motors and Ford had to shut down production due to the lack of supplies. Europeans watched as Volkswagen and Peugeot did the same.

In the middle of 2020, I began noticing that the cost of shipping loaded containers from the Far East to the East Coast of the United States was rapidly increasing. In July 2020, the price to ship a 20-

foot container from Singapore to the East Coast was \$1,250. One year later, the price more than doubled to \$2,800–2,900 per container!

Then the largest container ship in the world blocked the Suez Canal, which stopped all traffic. Once again came an abrupt breakdown in supply chains, affecting shipments to both Europe and the Americas.

Being responsible for the sales and distribution of *The Urantia Book* in Europe, I soon realized that if we needed to print books, we would have to do it in Europe because of the exponentially increasing costs of transatlantic shipping. I checked to see if the supply of Bible paper in Europe would be affected. Fortunately, that

would not be the case. Practically all of the paper is manufactured in Finland, which is basically a forest country, so the supply would not be in danger for the paper mills. I also looked at the availability of printing inks, and that also didn't present any problem.

But then, one day, I woke up to something I had never dreamed of. I received a call from the warehouse manager of our printer partner in the south of Germany. They had printed a large volume of books for a client in the United States and were unable to locate the standard block pallets required for transport. Alas, they couldn't find a single wooden pallet in the whole of Germany!



He asked if I could find 100 heat-treated and properly branded pallets suitable for the United States. I called the manager of our warehouse in the Netherlands and asked him to look around in some little villages south of the huge port of Rotterdam. Much to our surprise, it was impossible to even buy one brand-new pallet because the supply of wood had completely dried up!

Luckily enough, they found 100 so-called rotation or return pallets immediately. After one night of heat treatment and branding, those pallets were delivered the very next day. A few hours later, the printer's truck picked them up and delivered them to their printing plant. Sometimes it helps to know the right people.

In addition, I secured 100 more of the proper block pallets and tops from the same firm for Urantia

Foundation, just in case, and had them stored in our local warehouse. It turned out that my instincts were spot on. We recently contracted for a very large print run in Europe, and those books will be shipped to the United States. Thankfully, we will have the necessary pallets to do so.

One big question remains: When will the supply of containers going east and west be once again in equilibrium? That will lead to a decrease in the prices per container, which in turn will reduce the cost of book distribution. I hope and pray that this will happen by the end of 2021.

When we consider the impact of these challenges on our mission of seeding *The Urantia Book* globally, we are reminded of the importance of global commerce. As a Melchizedek tells us in the paper on human government, "The peace of



Urantia will be promoted far more by international trade organizations than by all the sentimental sophistry of visionary peace planning. Trade relations have been facilitated by development of language and by improved methods of communication as well as by better transportation." 70:3.4 (787.4)

Now, as you read that passage and think about communication and transportation, I invite you to visualize relatively small things such as phone calls and pallets—then think about how the work each of us is doing may be helping bring world peace ever closer.

THE ENDURING LEGACY OF TWO GREAT TEACHERS



By Claire Mylanus, associate trustee emeritus, Bretagne (Brittany), France

Editor's Note: Urantia Book translators often serve as exemplary study group hosts, and Henry "Henk" Begemann was no exception. Henk and his team worked for many

years translating The Urantia Book into Dutch. His daughter Nienke Begemann-Brugman took over as lead translator after her father passed away in 1990. Read more about the Begemanns and the Dutch translation here:

<https://www.urantia.org/news/1998-05/het-urantia-boek-dutch-translation>

What is a great teacher? *The Urantia Book* tells us that Jesus was "a wise, patient, understanding, and effective teacher." 124:5.6 (1373.6) This description of Jesus could apply to my teachers as well—Henk and Baukje Begemann.

They were Dutch, and we met in 1978. I studied with them both until 1987, and then continued with Baukje after

Henk passed away. This was a blessing that lasted more than 15 years.

I was living in the Netherlands in 1976 when I discovered *The Urantia Book*. I came across a book called *Life and Teaching of the Masters of the Far East* by Baird T. Spalding. It was in French, having been translated from the English by Jacques Weiss (as *La Vie des Maîtres*) under the pen name of Louis Colombelle. At the end of the book was a note mentioning *The Urantia Book*. It turned out that Jacques Weiss was the French translator of *The Urantia Book*, published as *Le Livre d'Urantia* in 1961.

I bought the French translation of *The Urantia Book* first, and then later the original English. After two

years, I began attending a study group hosted by Henk and Baukje. Their study group was great because it encompassed two different methods used by two very different personalities.

Henk was patient, sharp, and witty. He preferred to study the book in depth. He taught us to use our mind to understand the concepts of the book and develop insights. He had a profound respect for the universal hierarchy and would help us recognize and visualize the various levels in the universe. One of his favorite subjects was pattern in the universe at all levels.

He would bring to our attention how the papers were written, the choice of words, and how the paragraphs were set up by the true teachers, the revelators. The text was

consistently well thought through and woven together in a certain way and in a certain context.

Baukje was his counterpart. She would always ask, "And now, what do you do with this in your daily life?" She would bring us back to the fact that you had to apply what you learned into your material life. For example, she advised me to bring BEAUTY into my life in every way I could: to choose, whenever possible, a beautiful environment. Baukje did this herself. She always took good care of herself and was impeccably groomed. She would decorate the study table with fresh flowers. She served



coffee in porcelain cups along with her famous oatmeal cookies which she baked for every meeting. Her efforts imparted feelings of beauty and harmony, which in turn led to serenity.

These two teachers were complementary. Their study group had both structure and quality, which is what you might expect in a group facilitated by translators of *The Urantia Book*. I think of them as the best teachers a person could have. In fact, the Begemanns impacted my life in many ways. Baukje became my spiritual mother, giving me advice when I was in the middle of a divorce. I endeavored to follow their teaching approach in my personal study groups, developing my own technique. And it was at this very study group with Baukje that I met my future husband, my own Henk, in 1996.

It also helped me to study *The Urantia Book* in its original language. This



Henk and Baukje Begemann

became an advantage when, years later, I became a member of the French revision team for the most recent revision of the French translation.

After Henk Mylanus and I married, we moved to the island of Malta, where Henk had already started a study group. We put everything that we learned from the

Begemanns into practice as a teaching couple, and we consecrated our time to the Maltese study group for a few years. And we continue to do so even now, back in France.

It was a godsend that circumstances of life and the angels put them on my path. I can never thank them enough!

A QUADRIMILLENNIAL APPRECIATION OF MACHIVENTA MELCHIZEDEK



By Krystyna Wardega-Piasecka, Sandnes, Norway

Have you ever wondered, dear readers of *The Urantia Book*,

why Machiventa Melchizedek is called "one of the most unique of all characters ever to become connected with the history of Urantia"? 93:10.11 (1026.1) If not, that moment may have just arrived. For this year, we mark the fourth millennium since his incarnation in the flesh on our planet.

Melchizedeks are the highest class of local universe sons created by Michael, the Creative Mother Spirit, and the Father Melchizedek. The Melchizedeks are the highest sons who can approach living beings. Because of the range of practical tasks and capabilities they possess, I

would call this autonomous class of impartial observers "the right hand" of the administration of the universe.

It is not the usual course of things for Melchizedeks to bestow themselves upon inhabited planets in the form of a material body. For there is an established order in which God's sons are bestowed on normally developing planets. Therefore, Machiventa's appearance was unique. It was the seventh such emergency case in Nebadon. It resulted from the spiritual chaos on Urantia due to Caligastia's rebellion and Adam and Eve's default. His

mission was to revive the lost idea of one God and to keep the light of spiritual truth from being extinguished.

Melchizedek was a teacher. He introduced himself as the priest of El Elyon, and *The Urantia Book* says he was known in those days as the "sage of Salem." It was he who made the covenant with Abraham, the agreement between divinity and humanity stating that faith alone is sufficient for salvation. It was this covenant that became the foundation of the Salem faith, and it was mainly this teaching of faith in one loving God that successive generations of Salem missionaries carried into the world.

The fact that monotheism appeared in the religions of the world comes directly or indirectly from his teachings preached by the missionaries. Ganid, the youth tutored by Jesus, highlighted this in his manuscript of religious doctrines concerning the Deities. Cynicism, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Zoroastrianism, Suduanism (Jainism), Shinto, Taoism, Confucianism—all contain teachings on the Paradise Father.

Melchizedek, through his mission, not only spiritually prepared earthly minds for the appearance and acceptance of the teachings of Jesus, but also provided an opportunity for a unique experience for his assigned Thought Adjuster—the experience of accompanying a supernatural being during his life in a material body. His Thought Adjuster made perfect use of this experience in fulfilling his duties during the bestowal of Michael.

Summarizing Melchizedek's actions, we learn that he began the work of putting things in order on our planet. He limited the wicked activities of Caligastia and certain mischievous midwayers. He also began the promulgation of a plan for the far-reaching welfare of Urantia that affects not just each individual, but the entire planet.



Jesus and Ganid at the Great Lighthouse by Slawa Radziszewska

"It should be made plain in this record that all these teachings portraying monotheism were largely derived, directly or indirectly, from the preachments of the missionaries of Machiventa Melchizedek."

131:0.1 (1442.1)

In mentioning this plan and the fact that during the writing of the Urantia Papers, Machiventa served as the governor general and was latterly proclaimed vicegerent Planetary Prince. It is worth noting that celestial beings anticipate Machiventa's reappearance on earth.

Is Melchizedek's future the role of Planetary Prince at the

end of the present system of justice, after the final judgment of Lucifer's rebellion? A Mighty Messenger has informed us that he will occupy the position of planetary ruler in the age of light and life. Will his arrival take place in his natural form with an earthly staff just as Caligastia did before? Or with the materialized son and daughter of Adam and Eve?

I associate the sage of Salem with the symbol of three concentric circles that he wore on his chest. This symbol of the Paradise Trinity has been forgotten in subsequent generations, and the revelations of *The Urantia Book* have brought it back to us. The three circles represent "the infinity, eternity, and universality of the Paradise Trinity of divine maintenance and direction."
93:3.3 (1016.5)

The teachings about the Trinity are to be found in some of the world's religions, a legacy of the Salem teachings.

It seems that in modern times this symbol helps the readers of *The Urantia Book* find other seekers of truth, both on real and virtual paths. For me, it is a symbol of brotherhood, a symbol of faith in the Universal Father, a symbol of the religion of personal spiritual experience.

I feel honored to write about such an amazing being at a time as special as the four thousandth anniversary of his incarnation on Earth. And even more so because this is my first English-language article related to *The Urantia Book*, a language that is the third of those I speak. A language in which I do not feel as comfortable as in my native language, Polish. In an uncanny twist of events, I also have the distinction of facilitating my first course at Urantia Book Internet School this September. My course will explore Melchizedek and his legacy as seen in today's religions.

I hope this article will encourage you to devote some time to reflect on Machiventa Melchizedek in his anniversary year. Perhaps this will lead you to conduct your own research, a more in-depth investigation than the one presented here.



THREE CONCENTRIC CIRCLES—OUR MICHAEL SON'S BANNER



By Gard Jameson, treasurer,
Urantia Foundation, Nevada,
United States

In 1973, while living in Berkeley, California, I visited the library at the Pacific School of Religion and observed a display case with archaic pottery from Israel with three concentric circles. There were several pieces with the same design. I was impressed.

In 1985, I took my new wife to Israel for our honeymoon. While there, we befriended a Catholic monk, a Palestinian

art dealer, and the curator of the Israeli Museum, Raffi Brown. They were friends with one another—a Christian, a Muslim, and a Jew. As an advocate of interfaith relations, I found it delightful to be friends with these wonderful people. Raffi invited us one evening to his home for dinner, where we saw in his dining room about 10 pieces of ancient pottery, from very small to very large. Each piece had a clear design of three concentric circles. My jaw dropped for two reasons—to take the next bite of a delicious meal and to be astounded by what I saw. In visiting the Palestinian art dealer, I discovered a beautiful example of this pottery with three concentric circles and began a collection.

Since those days I have been on the lookout for similar pieces of pottery. And now we have many more such pieces at Urantia Foundation. Importantly, we have in our collection three pieces found



Pottery with three concentric circles at Urantia Foundation

in the locations of epochal revelations: Cyprus (the second epochal revelation), Hebron (the third epochal revelation), and Bethlehem (the birthplace of the fourth epochal revelation).

As archaeologists would attest, pottery is one of our prime ways of understanding the culture of the civilization that it is associated with. Knowing what we know from the fifth epochal revelation, we understand how the three

concentric circles are significant, and we may even regard this pottery as a profound message from these ancient cultures. I invite you—when it is safe again—to come to 533 Diversey and view the collection. It's located in what we have named the Life Carrier Hallway, and if you visit, you'll see how it relates to the Life Carriers. This hallway adjoins the Melchizedek Library (but that's a longer story for another time).

SHARING *THE URANTIA BOOK*



By Geri Johnson, associate
trustee, Hawaii, United
States

As students of *The Urantia Book*, we know it is our great privilege to share truth, to further the understanding of God to this confused world, and to live the message of God's love for all his children. It is not a question of **do** we spread the fifth epochal revelation. It is only a matter of **how** we do it.

Collectively we hold a treasury of valuable lessons in how to share *The Urantia Book*, which we will offer as a new series in the newsletter. Many of us learned how to talk to others about this revelation by first learning what not to do. The good news is that we benefit from experience—our own and that of others. Our worst experiences may have been our best teacher. Today I would like to tell you about my worst and best experiences in sharing *The Urantia Book*.

The Worst—My Sister

Before you read these next paragraphs, let me say in my defense that I was in my early 20s, well intended, thoroughly inspired by the teachings of *The Urantia Book*, and totally inept.

In trying to impart to my sister what I had discovered in this remarkable book, I committed several grave errors, such as offering too much too soon and not being perceptive of the listener's reactions and needs. I

had that “crusader zeal” to share the book. Having recently accepted the teachings within *The Urantia Book*, I could not stop talking about it and unfortunately, I did so in an authoritarian manner.

In a gush of words (stories, concepts, ideas), my sister heard about our planet being one tiny world in a vast organized cosmos, about all the spirit helpers, about where we go when we die, and our journey to Paradise. I continued with the history of Urantia, particularly the events surrounding the first two epochal revelations. I utterly failed to notice that her politeness in listening did not mean real interest. As I spoke of Adam and Eve her skepticism initially eluded me, though it later became obvious that she was not believing me. As she started to get that overwhelmed glaze over the eyes, did I stop? No! I changed topics and began telling her about Jesus’ life and that he was really our Creator Son.

By now she was probably thinking two things: “When will she stop talking?” and “She’s out of her mind!” It did not help that I constantly quoted “*The Urantia Book* says . . .” In my blind enthusiasm I could not imagine anyone, especially someone as close to me as my sister, not loving this book. To my sister’s credit she continued to love me, though she **never** spoke to me about God or *The Urantia Book* ever again.

The Best—a Friend

Fast-forward a good 35 years.

A friend and I enjoyed Sunday morning walks along a coastal path and then rewarded ourselves with coffee and pastry. This friend had a Christian background, though she continued to explore other religions and new age concepts. She was open and searching. As she expressed her thoughts, I would search for and reinforce the truth contained, expand upon her thought, or bridge to a related idea. By this time in my ministry, I had assimilated Jesus’ admonition to not take something out of a person, only to add to their thinking.

In such manner, I might say something like “I share that belief too, and here are some things I think about.” Alternatively, I might offer an open-ended question of “Have you thought about . . . ?” or “Do you think it is possible that . . . ?”

During one of our walks, my friend began talking about Jesus and I asked, “What do you think he did during the early years of his life?” and later “Do you think Jesus always knew he was the Son of God, or did he have to grow into that knowledge?”

We once talked about the continuity of life, as she assessed the merits of reincarnation vs. the



Christian heaven and hell. And then she asked me what I thought. Given a direct question, I shared my belief. Trying to keep it simple, I explained that after we leave this world, we awaken in a new form, taking with us what we learned of truth, beauty, and goodness that resides in our soul and personality. This is our new starting point. United with our indwelling spirit, we progress, sphere by sphere, to Paradise. Our goal is to know God and to be like him.

“How did you get that idea?” she asked. And I replied, “I read a lot.”

The next week, she started the conversation with “What is the name of the book or books you read?” We spent the next two hours talking about *The Urantia Book*. The next day I handed her a book and a week later, with a third friend, we began a study group that lasted for five years and ended only when we both moved to different cities.

One More—the Third Friend

Having recently moved to a new city, I was open to making new friendships. Seemingly having much in common, a colleague and I made social plans for dinner. While I do not remember the original conversation or how it got to this point, I asked “What do you think happens after we die?” My colleague began to explain the mansion worlds to me. She did not use those terms as she talked about the progression of our soul and personality, our experiences and growth in the universe as we learn to become one with God, and then our eternal life of service. I could feel the smile on my face getting bigger and bigger. When she finished, I told her I believed everything she had just said and added that I read *The Urantia Book*. I only got that far in my statement when she smiled and said, “I do too.” This is the third friend mentioned above. While our study group saw other members come and go, the three of us remained the consistent corps. Of course, now we have an eternal bond despite our now living in different locations.

Join Us

We invite you to submit your favorite story of sharing *The Urantia Book*. You might include your best, worst, either, or both. It can be a paragraph or several. What you contribute may help others as we continually grow in our efforts to disseminate the fifth epochal revelation to humankind. You may send your stories to Tamara Strumfeld (tamara@urantia.org) or Geri Johnson (geri.johnson7@gmail.com).

WHAT *THE URANTIA BOOK* MEANS TO ME



By Michelle Heulot, Chinon, France

We are all pilgrims on the path of life and truth. My path was illuminated when I discovered *The Urantia Book*, or rather when it found me! I was then in the midst of a religious and spiritual upheaval, my scientific, archaeological, and historical research having shaken my convictions based on a literal interpretation of the Bible.

For decades, I had put blind trust in a religious institution, the sole holder of "the truth," but which in fact distorted the truth by adding rules and interpretative dogmas. These progressive discoveries provoked in me painful states of consciousness: bitterness, indignation, shame, sadness, discouragement, and even depression.

At the height of my confusion, when I prayed, the words of Christ in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life," kept coming back to touch my heart and challenge my soul. And it was these very words that energized me and gave me the courage and determination to begin a new search.

Among the spiritual sites I consulted, the *Urantia Book* International School (UBIS)

caught my attention with a course on true religion. My first UBIS experience, in September 2016, followed by many others, triggered a determined quest for research that gradually came to answer my questions with consistency and logic.

I understood that true religion is a personal spiritual experience not subject to human interpretations; that I had to free myself from this straitjacket in order to find God on my own, as Jesus recommended, and to know him in my own soul.

However, on this path of discovery, I advanced with prudence and discernment, bringing a critical and analytical spirit to bear on these new religious insights. The staff that supported my pilgrim's walk became more and more reassuring, powerfully energized by "the truth that the kingdom of heaven is the spiritual brotherhood of man founded on the eternal fact of the universal fatherhood of God." 163:7.4 (1808.6)

The plan of God that I was discovering exerted in my mind an extraordinary fascination: this universal, omnipotent, omnipresent, and omnificent Father delegating all his powers to coordinates and subordinates who put in place ways and means so that creators and created personalities can live and progress eternally. The more I penetrated the mysteries of God, the greater was my religious hunger.

By faithfully practicing worshipful meditation, I experienced an intimate and precious communication with the divine fragment within. This inspired me and vivified my faith. This living faith gave

me the courage and strength to overcome the fears that paralyze—fear of the unknown, fear of being ostracized, fear of losing my bearings, and fear of being rejected.

I gradually came to understand that *The Urantia Book* expands and clarifies many of the Bible's hard-to-understand teachings and concepts, and that the apparent conflicts between the Bible and the sciences stem from the various theological doctrines and interpretations. I became aware of the valuable contribution of the Bible to the gradual awakening of humanity to welcome and appreciate the revelations offered by spiritual personalities.

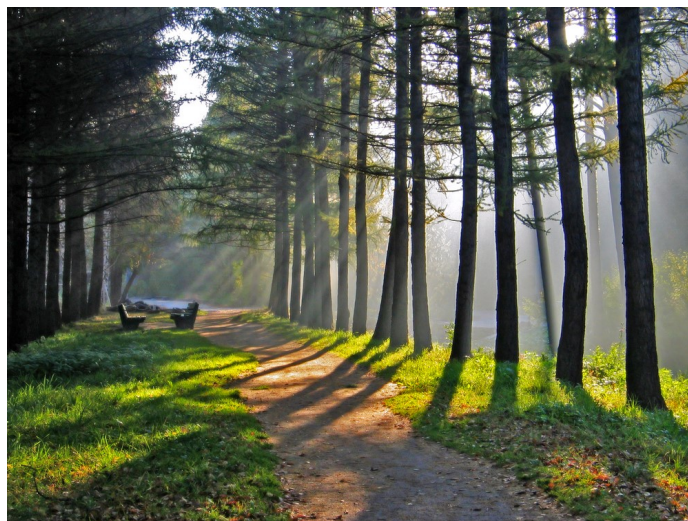
How happy I was to learn that the truths of the Gospel will gloriously persist thanks to new educators who will "dare to depend solely on Jesus and his incomparable teachings" and who will be "exclusively devoted to the spiritual regeneration" of humanity. 195:9.4 (2082.9)

In the last five years that I have been walking this path of dedication to doing God's will

with all my heart, a new awareness of spiritual strength and joy accompanies me every day, a living and growing faith in a kind and friendly spiritual world that is an answer to my demanding and sincere search for God. And I have discovered, in seeking and finding my own truths, in nurturing my personal relationship with the Spirit of God, a dynamic and sublime peace, "that peace which passes all human understanding, that cosmic poise which betokens the absence of all doubt and turmoil." 100:6.6 (1101.1)

This confidence and assurance in the eternal and universal realities constantly feeds my grateful soul, which has only one burning desire: to express grateful praises to the Creator, my Heavenly Father, and engage in His universal plan.

A flight to spiritual freedom and a total commitment to universal love without boundaries or prejudice is what *The Urantia Book* means to me, with this injunction of our Master Christ Jesus imprinted in my soul: "Devote your life to proving that love is the greatest thing in the world." 192:2.1 (2047.5)





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There is still time to submit a proposal for Science Symposium III

“Science: The Interface of Evolution and Revelation”

Thursday, June 16, to Sunday, June 19, 2022

Since the last Urantia Foundation Science Symposium in November 2019, scientific discoveries have continued to expand and excite public consciousness. A worldwide pandemic and its aftermath propelled mRNA, CRISPR-Cas9, and the benefits of genetic research into the mainstream. A recent study published by a Smithsonian anthropologist used ancient DNA to trace modern South Asian ancestry back to early hunter-gatherers of Iran. Scientists released the largest 3-D map of the universe ever created, producing measurements of more than two million galaxies and quasars. The current worldview of an expanding universe continues to approach that of revealed cosmology, which describes a universe revolving about God on Paradise.

This symposium will delve into the dual perspectives of current science and *The Urantia Book*, exploring ways in which evolution continues to approach revelation. We are seeking presenters from the fields of anthropology, archaeology, biology, chemistry, cosmology, paleontology, philosophy, physics, planetology, psychology, and related fields.

If you are interested in preparing and presenting a research paper, please contact Joanne at joanne@urantia.org for dates, deadlines, and other specifications.

The symposium will be held at Urantia Foundation in Chicago, Illinois, USA, and will be broadcast live. Where travel is prohibitive, presenters may elect to participate via Zoom.