



URANTIA FOUNDATION'S NEWS ONLINE



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KSIĘGA URANTII: HOW THE POLISH TRANSLATION CAME TO BE



By Gosia and Paul Jaworski, Adelaide, Australia

We were both born in Poland, where we completed our secondary and tertiary education, and then worked there for several years. We have been married for 46 years and have two sons, two daughters-in-law, and six grandchildren. In 1985 we emigrated from Poland to Australia; since then we have lived in Adelaide. Throughout our lives, we read many books and looked for answers to questions, including subjects such as religion, archaeology, physics, and astronomy.

In 1995 an encyclopedia of spiritual knowledge led us to *The Urantia Book*. We found the book in a private library, borrowed a copy, and from that day on, our life changed. We still remember trying to verify whether *The Urantia Book* revelation is real. Late one night, Gosia found Paul, surrounded by textbooks on astronomy and physics, checking information from *The Urantia Book*. While browsing the scientific chapters of the

book, we tried to catch some falsehood that would discredit it. Instead, we found the science consistent and in modern terminology. The book even describes facts unknown to science at the time of its publication.

It gave us answers to many questions and cleared up many ambiguities in existing religious systems. But it took time to realize that we had something unique in hand, a heavenly revelation.

We wanted to share our discovery and our joy with our Polish friends, but for some, the original language of this work was too difficult to understand. In 1996 we started translating excerpts from the book. The first was translated for a friend whose

son had died, and who was upset and spiritually confused.

We made contact with Urantia Foundation in 1998 and began the Polish translation as a team of three. One member quit after translating three papers, so we continued as a team of two. Soon we found how accurate are these words: "Intellectually, socially, and spiritually two moral creatures do not merely double their personal potentials of universe achievement by partnership technique; they more nearly quadruple their attainment and accomplishment possibilities." 43:8.11 (494.10)

When we visited Poland in 1999 and 2000, we placed 10 copies of *The Urantia Book* in various universities and libraries. Altogether, 78 copies



Wawel Castle, Krakow, Poland

of *The Urantia Book* were placed in 67 Polish libraries, including some French and Russian translations. We also started to place *The Urantia Book* in libraries across Adelaide.

Our translation work continued. Paul translated Parts I, II, and III, and Gosia translated Part IV. We edited each other's work and edited the entire translation many times. Sometimes our discussions about which Polish word best expresses a particular English meaning would become very passionate and loud.

Before the first draft was completed, we concluded that information about the book would be useful to future readers. But how would we convey it to people in Poland, so far from Australia? In 2000, we started a website in Polish about *Księga Urantii*.

In 2005 we started a second website for the text of the translation. Every month we posted one paper, and if ever there was a delay, readers would ask what happened. By 2006, the complete text of *Księga Urantii* was on this site. To date, there have been more than half a million unique visitors to both websites.

In 2010, Urantia Foundation published and printed *Księga Urantii*; the fourth printing was in 2019. We are currently working on a revision and are convinced that revisions to the text never end.

In 2014, one reader started a Facebook group for *Księga Urantii* readers. Before leaving for the mansion worlds, he handed it over to us, and later we passed it on to the younger generation. And more groups for readers are starting to appear on

Facebook. We are running one such group ourselves.

Two years ago, we noticed the need for online videos as a method of disseminating the teachings. There were on YouTube two relatively good informative videos about *Księga Urantii* in Polish. And because other readers are working on dissemination, we are sometimes surprised and delighted to find new websites, new Facebook groups, and new videos from readers.

But along with the growing popularity of the book, there have also been many videos about the book made by people who clearly have not read it. To counter misleading information, we decided to upload a few videos of our own on YouTube. To date, we've made 16 of them. If interested, you can find them [here](#).



While we were doing the translation, Gosia often commented that if our work helps only one person, it's worth it. Paul says he's addicted to the book. We can both say that our lives changed for the better when we got to know *The Urantia Book*!

UPDATES FROM THE JANUARY 2022 TRUSTEE MEETING



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

Operations Overview

The board reviewed reports from Education, Translations, Books, Fundraising, and Finance.

Books

Book printings: Because of good book sales, we printed 9,500 English books, 2,200 Spanish books, 2,000 French books, and 5,000 Portuguese books. We ordered books in September 2021, and due to transportation problems, we didn't receive the last container until March 15.

Sales and Downloads: Book sales were up 7% despite

significant supply-chain delays and out-of-stock books. Urantia Foundation has been committed to keeping the price of *The Urantia Book* the same despite increased paper and transportation costs. Downloads of *The Urantia Book* from urantia.org were 86,703, with 842,811 website visitors, and 1,511,944 unique sessions.

Android App: The digital team nearly completed the Urantia Book Android App. Currently, we are making minor improvements before launching. With the app, you can read *The Urantia Book* in 19 languages.

Education

In 2021, 452 students attended 737 classes at the



Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS). Forty-three volunteer facilitators led 53 separate courses.

Urantia Foundation is grateful to the corps of volunteers from around the world who work diligently to provide students of *The Urantia Book* with an in-depth and interactive study of the revelation.

Finances

Donations: 2021 was a successful fundraising year because unrestricted donations covered the operating costs. In the last three months of 2021, 54% of the annual contributions arrived in time to take advantage of the winter donor match. We are so grateful to everyone who contributed to the programs of Urantia Foundation!

We also received an unexpected estate gift. To learn more about donating an estate gift, click [here](#).

New Mustard Seed Fund: Because of the generosity of one family, the Mustard Seed Fund was established. This fund, restricted to grantmaking, is aimed at supporting community education and outreach endeavors. More information will be available in late spring.

In addition to the Mustard Seed Fund, Urantia Foundation has three other funds. They are the Perpetual Printing Fund (so that there is always money to print books), the Hales Fund (investment and cash flow fund), and the Revelation Bridge Fund (an endowment to ensure that Urantia Foundation endures for generations).

Translations and Revisions

The teams made progress on the Filipino, Chinese, Arabic, Farsi, Esperanto, and Greek translations. The Polish revision is ongoing, thanks to the dedicated work of Paul and Gosia Jaworski. The

Portuguese revision is nearing completion and should be ready for review within a couple of years.

Spanish Revision: On December 16, 2021, the Spanish revision was published on Urantia Foundation's website. Since then, we have received valuable comments and suggestions. Spanish-speaking readers are invited to study the new text at urantia.org/es-int and send their observations [here](#). After careful review, any necessary improvements will be made before printing. For those of you analyzing the new text, thank you for your help.

Russian Revision: Michael Hanian and his team completed the fifth revision of the Russian translation. Michael is the original translator and has improved the translation ever since the first printing in 1997. Thank you, Michael!

Given the world situation, we hope to have the Russian translation back in distribution



Michael Hanian

as soon as possible. In the meantime, you can find the revision here: urantia.org/ru. We are confident that our continued efforts to bring the teachings of *The Urantia Book* to the Russian people will bear fruit.

Community Relations

Urantia Foundation has been working with other Urantia organizations over the past year to disseminate the teachings. We hope to continue working together in the same cooperative spirit during 2022.

THE INQUIRING GREEKS: A CHRONICLE OF THE GREEK TRANSLATION OF *THE URANTIA BOOK*



Oia, Santorini, Greece

By *Evangelia, Greece*

Greece is one of the countries that was blessed by the

presence of Jesus himself, and later on, his apostles. The "inquiring Greek gentiles," who desired to see

Jesus and enter the kingdom, witnessed the last discourse of Jesus in the temple. Being present in that unusual assembly, they had the privilege of being instructed by him during the momentous time when he "perceived the end of one dispensation and the beginning of another." 174:5.6 (1903.3)

Many of them would be "at Gethsemane when the soldiers arrested Jesus and Judas betrayed him with a kiss." 190:4.1 (2033.4) It was not so long before that Jesus had visited Athens and its renowned Academy, planting the seeds of salvation, but

now in Jerusalem, he was addressing the Jews and these Greeks who so persistently sought him, declaring that "the hour has about come when the Son of Man will be glorified." 174:5.8 (1903.5)

Instruction Manual for the Planet

Two thousand years later, in present-day Greece, here we stand, with such a heritage and the enormous task of finishing the Greek translation of *The Urantia Book*. Such a voluminous project can be overwhelming for any translator, let alone when

these 2,097 pages are practically an instruction manual for the inhabitants of this planet.

I “discovered” *The Urantia Book* about 10 years ago through a friend of a friend, during a disorienting time of my life. I was in need of some guidance. He handed me his copy, and as I was instantly attracted, it was just a matter of days before I ordered my own. If I had to use one word to describe what I got from the book during that first read, that would be *hope*.

For several years, I tactfully declined a proposal to review and finalize the Greek translation. For all its revelations, that book was at times hard to comprehend; how could I take on such a huge responsibility? The thought of Jonah, and his reluctance to act as instructed, frequently crossed my mind, so it was a matter of time to accept the idea of being part of the mission, which proved to be a life-changing process. And imagine my surprise when I found out that Jesus himself acted as a translator for a considerable portion of his short bestowal in the flesh. It certainly rekindled my purpose!

The Greek Translation of *The Urantia Book*

Konstantinos Diamantopoulos, a Greek businessman then residing in the United Kingdom, brought *The Urantia Book* to Greece after being introduced to it in London in 1998. He felt the urge to act, and after visiting Urantia Foundation in Chicago he accepted the invitation to become the representative of the Foundation in Greece. He maintained a presence in Athens for that purpose.

In 2001, he took the initiative to commence the project of the Greek translation, along with a series of magazine articles, lectures, and

presentations which elicited a significant response from the public, notwithstanding that *The Urantia Book* was not available in the Greek language. Under his sponsorship, four individuals managed to accomplish something extraordinary: They completed the first draft in just one year.

However, for various reasons, among which was Mr. Diamantopoulos' move back to London, the next step—proofreading—has taken us 21 years to date, and is still ongoing, hopefully coming to completion. If you ask “When?” I will say, in “God’s time.” One of the things I have learned while working on this project is to wait patiently until my questions are answered—sometimes a few days later, sometimes a few lines after.

I feel very honored that this labor of love has been entrusted to our group, to which I am one of at least 10 contributors. My long-distance collaborator in the United States, Emily Deam, has roots in historical Mystras, Sparta—the home of



Kourion Agora, Cyprus

the brave indeed. She and I have been working remotely on the review for the past four years.

Concordance (a term denoting agreement), diglossia (referring to two varieties of the same language), the style diversity of different translators, and the tendency of Greeks to endlessly debate about concepts, are just some of our challenges.

With all the great support provided by Urantia Foundation (special thanks to Tamara Strumfeld, Jay Peregrine, and Ashley Parratore for their assistance), and with Déjà Vu—an exceptional computer-based translation tool—at our disposal, our spiritual child is coming of age.

A special mention should be made of the island of Cyprus, a land also blessed by the presence of Jesus and his disciples. It is the only other country where Greek is the official language, and a stronghold of Greek culture despite great adversity. A reader from our beautiful sister country, Christos Magides, of long-standing service to the movement and a member at large, had a key role in our latest project, the translation of “A History of the Urantia Movement” by Dr. William S. Sadler. It is now available on the Urantia Foundation website, along with more content in Greek.

Hopefully, this collaboration will continue to bear fruit, perhaps extending to work on the book itself, during the next step of text approval, before publishing.

Some Interesting Facts about the Greek Language

Although we are known as “The Greeks” our country is called *Ell'as*, we are *'Ellines*, and our language is pronounced *elini'ka*. During the times of Jesus, it was widely spoken all over the area where he traveled and taught, being the equivalent of today’s English. Jesus himself was fluent in Greek, among other languages.

Greek is one of the oldest written languages of the world, with records dating back to 1400 BC, and our alphabet has been in use for almost 3,000 years.

The international standard language code for Greek is [EL] and right now it is the mother tongue of approximately 13.5 million people.

URANTIA FOUNDATION: ENHANCING A GLOBAL MOVEMENT



By Judy Van Cleave, secretary and Governance Committee chair, Idaho, United States

The mission of Urantia Foundation has always been to seed *The Urantia Book* and its teaching globally. The board of trustees furthered this mission in April of 2019 by hosting a Global Cultural Symposium. Thanks to the planning team, and our dedicated readers from Brazil, Canada, Indonesia, Israel, Lebanon, Nigeria, Peru, the Philippines, Uganda, and Ukraine, we were treated to a dazzling array of the cultural, philosophical, religious, and even culinary facets of each country.

I was impressed and inspired by the unique aspects of each presentation. It became obvious that, while *The Urantia Book* has been steadily finding its way across continents and into many countries, vast cultural differences abound. Dissemination efforts in one

region may not work in another. This invaluable realization has driven Urantia Foundation to further explore, understand, and appreciate the opportunities—and the challenges—for advancing the teachings of *The Urantia Book* and making the book itself available around the world.

The expanded board of trustees gathered the following October for an extensive goal-planning session. It was not surprising that globalization emerged as one of the top seven five-year goals.

The next two years were consumed with strategy and planning, and our efforts culminated in a Cultural Advisory Council. This new council will be composed of individuals from various cultures around the world, each of whom is dedicated to the study and dissemination of *The Urantia Book* and its teachings.

The purpose of the council is to facilitate the mission of Urantia Foundation in seeding *The Urantia Book* and its teachings globally; enhance the cultural awareness, compassion, and wisdom of our dissemination efforts; provide for council members to acquaint themselves with Urantia Foundation—its mission, vision, and values; foster partnerships between council members and the Foundation to support readership within their

respective cultures; and facilitate relationships and mutual understanding among members of the council.

The next challenge was to select the first four members. We looked for individuals who exhibited leadership potential, had the ability and willingness to work with and on a team, and who would speak at least two languages—preferably including English.

The following accepted our invitation to be the first members of this council:

- Ms. Stephy (Yi-Hsuan) Hsu of Taiwan, currently living in New York
- Ms. Krystyna Piasecka of Poland, currently living and working in Norway with her family
- Mr. Marcos Dalmolin of São Paulo, Brazil
- Mr. Jaime Rey Alborno of Bogotá, Colombia

Stephy made the first presentation at the January quarterly meeting of the expanded board of trustees. She is an award-winning art student who currently lives in New York City, pursuing a master's degree in art therapy at NYU.

She found *The Urantia Book* through her mother, who is assisting Vicki Yang on the Chinese translation review team. Her mother is from China, and frequent

childhood visits there helped Stephy expand her perspectives.

Her presentation gave us a fascinating and colorful glimpse into Taiwanese culture and history. From the lively conversation that followed, we learned that Taiwan will be key in disseminating *The Urantia Book* and its teachings.

We appreciated her youthful insights about engaging her age group regarding interests in religion and the pursuit of spiritual truth. It is her point of view that the story of the colored races and the world will attract younger generations.

Krystyna, Marcos, and Jaime will be introduced during one of the three remaining 2022 quarterly board meetings.



Stephy (Yi-Hsuan) Hsu

The purpose of the council is to facilitate the mission of Urantia Foundation in seeding *The Urantia Book* and its teachings globally.

AN INDISPENSABLE PARTNERSHIP: THE PIPELINE OF LIGHT



By Paula Thompson, Colorado, United States

Editor's Note: Paula Thompson recently retired as executive director of the Urantia Book Fellowship. She previously served for 13 years as executive director of the Jessonian Foundation. She was also a founding member of TruthBook.com, where she was responsible for much of the content, from Quotes of the Day to topical studies. Paula has spent her career dedicated to service and the spreading of the fifth epochal revelation. While she has earned her retirement, we have no doubt that Paula will continue to touch the lives of everyone she encounters, as she passes by.

The idea of raising money to get books to impoverished countries came as early as the Fellowship's International

Conference in 1990 in Snowmass, Colorado.

There was a reader from Estonia who was seeking help to supply books for his compatriots. An impromptu fundraiser took place at one of the plenary sessions, and a paper bag was passed around for funds to buy books for him to take home. We filled that bag to the brim with cash donations. Books were more expensive then, but we raised enough money for a good supply of hardcover English Urantia Books, purchased from Urantia Foundation.

In between the Snowmass conference in 1990 and the Flagstaff conference in 1996, the Spanish translation was completed and published. At the conference in 1996, a Chilean reader impressed on many of us how hard it was for Spanish speakers to afford the book. This person explained that one book could cost some Spanish speakers an entire month's wages. Another Spanish reader described a group of one hundred people who were reading and sharing just one book. Therefore, the Urantia Book Fellowship mobilized again to raise the money to purchase and send Spanish books to Chile and elsewhere in Latin America.

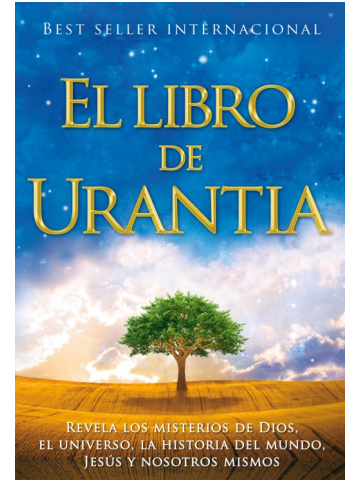
We soon realized that we had to create something that would

address the problem. We knew that even if books became more available and affordable, the problem of distribution to other countries would still exist. This is when the idea of the Pipeline of Light was born. A pipeline to keep the revelation constantly flowing to those who cannot afford it . . . a Pipeline of LIGHT!

The Spanish translation of *The Urantia Book, El Libro de Urantia*, has always been our most requested Pipeline book, and Urantia Foundation has consistently made affordable Spanish books readily available to the Fellowship. The Pipeline would not flow to meet the needs of the Spanish speaking community without Urantia Foundation's able and ready help.

When we get a Pipeline request for the Spanish book, we immediately send that to the Foundation office, and they make sure the book or books get drop-shipped to those who are anxiously waiting. The Pipeline has purchased many Spanish books, but in the last few years, Urantia Foundation has given Spanish books to the Pipeline. The Pipeline then pays to ship them. This arrangement has greatly increased our ability to send books to Latin America.

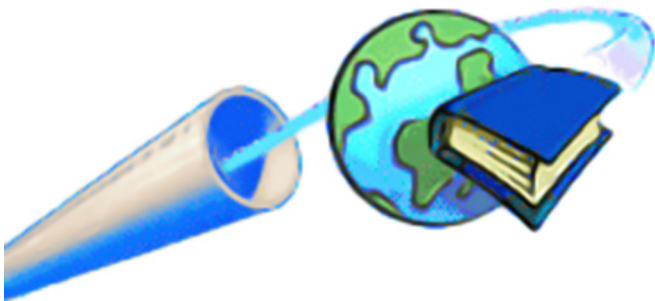
Shipping one book to Latin America can cost more than \$30, but shipping costs go down significantly (about \$13 per book) when they are



shipped by the case. Over the years, Urantia Foundation has provided over 1,700 Spanish Urantia Books to the Fellowship's Pipeline of Light, and many of those were at no cost to us.

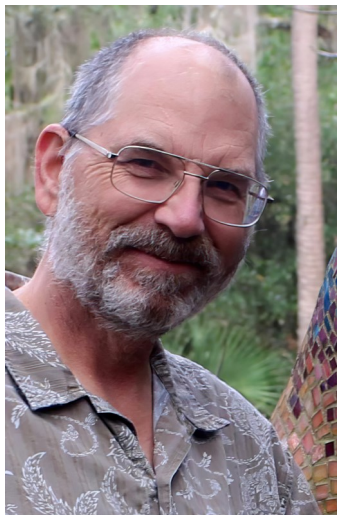
The Pipeline of Light has been instrumental in helping dedicated Urantians disseminate the book in countries all around the world, and Urantia Foundation has been an indispensable partner in making all Urantia Book translations affordable and available to the Pipeline.

In the 15 years that we have kept track of Pipeline placements, as of June 2021, the Pipeline of Light's all-time totals were 12,221 copies of *The Urantia Book* placed into 89 countries around the world.



The Spanish translation of *The Urantia Book, El Libro de Urantia*, has always been our most requested Pipeline book.

COLLABORATION AND SPIRITUAL UNITY: THE URANTIA BOOK STUDY GROUP DIRECTORY



By Rick Lyon, Indiana, United States

Whenever I talk about the Urantia Book Study Group Directory, I like to point out that the sun never sets on the Urantia community. With 63 countries confirming active study group listings, it is a testimony to the world that like-minded people, often coming from many different religions and cultures, can share the love and friendship of a worldwide community of religious believers. As a matter of fact, 2021 had 49 new listings added, the third-largest number of new groups since the directory was created in 2011.

Within this online directory lies proof that we can come together to study and discuss deep, intimate, and sometimes difficult topics in a civil manner, as brothers and sisters of our Paradise Father. What an inspiration, and what a demonstration of the world-changing power of the love of Jesus when shared sincerely among what may surely be the most diverse group of people on the planet!

The Urantia Book Study Group Directory is a joint project of Urantia Association International, the Urantia Book Fellowship, and Urantia Foundation. This is an example of three organizations working together with a true spirit of organizational and spiritual unity. Bill Beasley serves as chairman of the directory team. Jackie Koury serves as the Fellowship representative, Tamara Strumfeld represents Urantia Foundation, and I am the representative from the Association.

Scott Brooks developed and administers the database and website. There were significant and costly upgrades in 2021 that were paid for by the three organizations. The most visible change is the greater emphasis on virtual study groups. Because this is where the major growth has been, we made it easier to find them on the home page.

You can trust that the directory is current, with the latest listings of location, day and time, and host contact information. Every year, we contact every study group in the directory to confirm that they are still meeting. This is a tremendous labor of love, but it is worth the effort

because we are constantly welcoming new readers. Our team wants to ensure that if you find a study group you wish to attend, it is still actively meeting on a regular basis.

Last year we added three new countries (Honduras, Hungary, and Japan) and two new languages (Indonesian and Hungarian). That brings our total number of countries to 63. The states of Delaware and Vermont were new to the US listings.

The statistics are pretty impressive. By the end of 2021, we had the following numbers of listings worldwide. As you can see, we finally broke the 500 mark by a good margin!

- 513 total groups
- 243 online groups
- 358 in-person groups
- 88 that are both online and in person

The top 10 countries by number of registered groups:

- United States
- Brazil

- Colombia
- Canada
- Spain
- France
- Mexico
- Australia
- Venezuela
- South Korea

The top five languages are English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, and Korean.

Not only are we seeing growth in the number of study groups, we are also seeing increased usage of the directory as people, probably new to *The Urantia Book*, search for like-minded individuals to study with. If you have not yet listed your study group, we encourage you to sign up today. Help make 2022 our best year ever!

You can find it at <https://www.urantiastudygroup.org>

If you would like more information, please contact: team@urantiastudygroup.org



Jackie Koury



Scott Brooks



Tamara Strumfeld



Bill Beasley

JOINING THE TEAM AT URANTIA FOUNDATION



By Brad Garner, *Urantia Foundation, Arizona, United States*

"No chick may be had without the shell, and no shell is of any worth after the chick is hatched." 48:6.32 (554.6)

As a lifelong second-generation student of *The Urantia Book*, I'm the newest addition to the staff of Urantia Foundation. Until a few years ago I was an employee of the federal government, working on various natural-science projects and helping publish

that material online. It was a rewarding job, and I am grateful for both the salary and the experience it provided me.

But to be honest, after 15 years it was becoming humdrum (there's a lot of paperwork). Moreover, it was the very distilled essence of the secular world, and that was becoming problematic in my midlife; no one on any team—in any hall or during any speech—ever uttered a word about metaphysics, philosophy, the inner life, and certainly not God.

Mindful of the warnings about secular totalitarianism in Paper 195, my favorite, I chose to make the leap out of the wastelands of the secular world. The shell had served me well; but I felt as if I had metaphorically hatched. It was time to be about other business.

Not long after that personal sea change, I was singularly blessed to meet the love of my life. Ruthie and I married one year ago. Then along



Ruthie and Brad Garner

came an opportunity to begin helping Urantia Foundation with the website, using the computer skills and project management craft I've accumulated through degrees, books, and the school of hard knocks—wisdom borne of tribulation as declared in Section 7 of Paper 48.

This year Urantia Foundation offered me a full-time position, meaning I can contribute in an even more focused and enduring way. I am grateful to join the team, and I look forward to furthering the mission of seeding *The Urantia Book* and its teachings globally.

SHARING *THE URANTIA BOOK*



By Gary Deinstadt, *Connecticut, United States*

I think I've had more success in sharing *The Urantia Book* when I was not trying to share *The Urantia Book*. For many years I stood in front of book booths, speaking to the few that passed by. Perhaps because I lacked an effective way to measure success, my confidence waned. Though I can say that marriage allowed me to successfully introduce the book to my wife Andréa (a one-time-only sales strategy). Eventually, I decided to put my sales pitch aside, and put more of my energy into serving the readership community.

Back in the late 1980s I met fellow Urantia Book reader Dr. Peter Laurence, who at the time was executive director of the United Nations-affiliated interfaith organization, The Temple of Understanding. Peter was instrumental in my growing interest in interfaith. In the early to mid-1990s, I met Rabbi Joseph Gelberman, an interfaith icon who founded the All Faiths Seminary International (for training interfaith ministers). Years later, I had the opportunity to attend the seminary from 2010 to 2012.

Rabbi Gelberman used to say, "Never 'instead of,' always 'in addition to,'" which essentially meant that a greater understanding of the religions of the world could only add to your own faith. At the end of the first year, my fellow classmates and I attended a weekend retreat at an ashram. At some point, in the presence of others, someone asked me, "Gary, what is your 'never instead of?'" It caught me off guard. I was so intent on learning more about the faith of others that it never dawned on me that someone would be interested in knowing mine. I told them that I was an on-and-off-again Christian until I



Rabbi Gelberman

discovered *The Urantia Book*. To my surprise, quite a few people in the group had heard of it, and many expressed a sincere interest in hearing more about it.

I've enjoyed working on various Urantia Book outreach efforts, including book expos. However, dissemination was predominantly from the *outside-in* approach. I would give materials such as topical pamphlets, links to websites, or bumper stickers that read "You've got to read this book." What I was beginning

to experience were the multiple benefits of sharing revelation from the *inside out*. As a Solitary Messenger explains in the section on "The Inner Life," "Ideas may take origin in the stimuli of the outer world, but ideals are born only in the creative realms of the inner world." 111:4.10 (1220.9)

A few years later I was invited to speak on *The Urantia Book* at a monthly interfaith service at a local Christian church. I knew these people well because I'd worked with them in other interfaith endeavors. In addition to the invited speaker, there was an interfaith team of five people, who each contributed a five-minute talk related to the speaker's subject matter.

In the planning stages of my talk, I collected quotes from *The Urantia Book* and asked if they'd be interested in choosing one to speak on. I suggested that in their presentations they read the quote as is, and then feel free to add anything they'd

like. So, on the day of the service, I really had no idea what to expect.

I was surprised at what they came up with. It was interesting to see what they gleaned from an out-of-context quote from a book they didn't know. Much of it was insightful. It demonstrated to me that it wasn't important whether they got it right or not. It was more about creating the space, the freedom for them to find it for themselves, to share their own perspectives, reach their own conclusions—which, interestingly enough, led to a common desire of digging deeper into *The Urantia Book*. Three pastors, an interfaith minister, and some congregation members have come to our home for our Urantia Book study group. The *inside-out* approach has been slow, but effective. I've actually given more books away in the past 5 years than I had in the last 35.

Ever since I first picked up *The Urantia Book* I've been trying to figure out ways of sharing



it. Early on I realized that the amount of God one experiences is the amount of God one allows. If I didn't learn more about the religious experience of others, I could easily make the mistake of over- or under-revealing. I discovered that when we meet people where they really are, we can better give them what they really need, instead of what we think they need.

On one Sunday, a Presbyterian pastor began his sermon by saying, "When I get up in the morning, I like to start my day reading from a religious text. *Could* be the Bible, *could* be *The Urantia Book*." *Could* have knocked me over with a feather! I was amazed how all this came about from my sincere desire to learn more about the faiths of others. How cool is that?

WHAT *THE URANTIA BOOK* MEANS TO ME



By Anton Miroshnichenko, Kyiv, Ukraine

I found *The Urantia Book* in 2005 while working at the Age of Aquarius Center in Kyiv, where I helped organize training in meditation and spiritual development

practices. It was a time of intense change in my life. Having recently graduated from university, I found this job interesting and useful. I made many new friends and discoveries!

One day I saw a pamphlet mentioning *The Urantia Book* on the windowsill. I remembered the name, and later bought a copy. I read it on my own for two years, having decided to read the entire volume before telling anyone about it. I wanted to be 100% sure that I could trust it.

Several years passed, and *The Urantia Book* became a part of my life. Once I

recognized that I was a citizen of the universe, I gained a new and unusual strength to patiently live this earthly life while looking forward to life beyond this world. Perhaps it comes from the power of such accurate, logical, and precise knowledge about the future.

I often recall Einstein asking the important question, "Is the universe a friendly place?" As if answering this question, *The Urantia Book* not only unequivocally affirms the friendliness of the universe, it clarifies how, and why. I accept this picture of the universe in my soul—without fear of being deceived and with full confidence and awareness.

Twenty years later, you would observe nothing demonstrably different about my daily life. I perform no special rituals; I have no special superpower; I cannot see chakras, angels, or hear celestial voices. No, after reading *The Urantia Book*, I remain the same person I was. And yet, there is a difference!

The Urantia Book taught me to have a greater trust in the universe. In place of the fear of death is the joy of awaiting a definite, though still unknown, future. This joy can be compared to waiting for a holiday in childhood. Remember how you anticipated the wonderful New Year's celebration when you were little? This is the same feeling I

experience when I think of the moment when I will open my eyes on another world. Instead of living in dread of the inevitable, unknown, frightening, and dark nothing, I choose to live in anticipation of the holiday.

The Urantia Book taught me to appreciate the extraordinary importance of my earthly life. Overcoming obstacles in this world is a unique and important experience that will never be repeated during our entire ascension career.

The Urantia Book taught me that we are all brothers and sisters in spirit and before God.

The Urantia Book taught me to believe that the path of ascent in the universe is open to anyone who believes. Why is faith so important? Because faith is trust, it is the only possible human response to the offer to join a friendly and intelligently governed universe. Only by accepting this offer can we “open our eyes anew” in another world. This is because even God does not force man to make any choice. The absolute sovereignty of mortal free will in the matter of eternal survival has been decreed by the Creator, and even he will not violate it.

Therefore, I never attempt to aggressively convince a person of the truth of *The Urantia Book* if I see that he has real faith. Faith will save, and everyone will be able to find out the details of the arrangement of the universe on their own, if not in this, then in the next world.



Pechersk Lavra, Kyiv, Ukraine

The Urantia Book has taught me patience. My wife does not appreciate the book, which sometimes upsets me. But I accept this with understanding. I do not impose it on my sons. I believe that for now they just need to see that this book is very important to me. Not every dish that adults appreciate should be fed to children. I believe that when you begin to get acquainted with *The Urantia Book* you should already have some bank of knowledge about the world, and have begun to develop a worldview. Then *The Urantia Book* will be able to complement this worldview and polish it as a diamond is cut. Until young people are ready for this knowledge, parents' love for their children should ensure that they will come to adopt the values expressed in the

parents' lives. But the final choice is made by each individual, and no one else.

And the revelation taught me one more thing—or rather, it focused my attention on it. It is an attention to the inner voice of the Thought Adjuster, the part of God that resides in all of us and guides us through this complex earthly life. It is very important for me to listen to the quiet voice of this Mentor. God never forces—he only leads. And it is in our will to listen or not to listen to his quiet but definite voice.

Often, I feel this voice as a pull, an urge to do an action, accompanied by a sense of its rightness. One result of such an experience is the dissemination of *The Urantia Book* in Ukraine, which I have been doing with several

friends as a nonprofit project. For many years, those who want to buy books have been coming to us and receiving them by mail. I am thrilled that Ukrainians have this opportunity, and hope that in time we will complete the translation of *The Urantia Book* into Ukrainian and find a better way to distribute it.

Ultimately, I will say that *The Urantia Book* inspires me to what I would call a calm and unchanging thirst for life. Naturally there are times when I am disappointed. I can grow weary, and even suffer periods of depression. But this constant thirst for life never allows me to take negative feelings too seriously. Mere feelings cannot shake my faith and trust in a friendly universe. Nothing in the world can separate us from God and his love.

Mere feelings cannot shake my faith and trust in a friendly universe. Nothing in the world can separate us from God and his love.

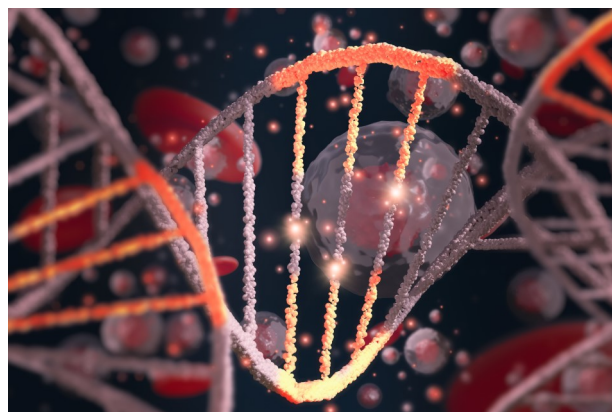
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Urantia Foundation presents Science Symposium III

“Science: The Interface of Evolution and Revelation”

Thursday, June 16, through Saturday, June 18

If the pandemic taught us anything, it's that video and teleconferencing technology advanced massively over the last two years. For many of us it has become part of our daily lives, allowing us to transcend time and space as we gather together as a community of Urantia Book students.



Space is limited at 533, and not everyone's budget and schedule allow them to take a multi-day trip to Chicago. We want to initiate and encourage great conversations and interactions in the Urantia community, in a way that's accessible to more people than ever before.

For these reasons, the Education Committee has decided to plumb the depths of technology and offer the upcoming Science Symposium on an online platform. Many more of you will be able to attend and interact with our panel of researchers and aficionados as they delve into the dual perspectives of current science and *The Urantia Book*.

Presenters include Byron Belitsos, Phil Calabrese, Philippe Hatt, Gard Jameson, Conrad Lavallée, Jenny Martin, David Neuffer, George Park, Marjorie Ray, and Ralph Zehr. So mark your calendar and plan to join our panelists as they delve into the myriad ways in which evolution continues to approach revelation.

A detailed announcement with links and the schedule of topics will be emailed in late spring. If you are interested in serving as a discussant, please contact joanne@urantia.org for additional information.



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Summer Study Session 2022

The Urantia Book Fellowship Education Committee
Presents
**Machiventa Melchizedek: Preserving Truth and Lighting
the Way for Future Revelations**

Thursday, July 21 to Sunday, July 24

Oak Brook Hills Resort and Conference Center
3500 Midwest Rd, Oak Brook, Illinois

Join us as we gather to learn about "one of the most unique of all characters ever to become connected with the history of Urantia." 93:10.11 (1026.1)

It was 4,000 years ago that Machiventa Melchizedek heroically "personalized" on earth at a perilous time when revealed truth was on the brink of extinction.

Come study, worship, and fraternize with us as we reflect on many of the features of the third epochal revelation and celebrate the 4,000th anniversary of Machiventa Melchizedek's bestowal on our planet!

For more information, visit urantia.org
or email fellowship@urantia.org.



An Update to the Farsi Translation, کتاب یورنشیا

The Farsi translator has completed several new papers since the last set of files were uploaded to urantia.org/fa. You can find them [here](#).