



URANTIA FOUNDATION'S NEWS ONLINE

A SURVEY OF TRANSLATORS AND REVISERS OF *THE URANTIA BOOK*

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Conducted by Georges Michelson-Dupont, Trustee, Manager of Translations, Urantia Foundation, Recloses, France

A survey of translators and revisers (T-Rs) of *The Urantia Book* was conducted in 2013.

The purpose of the survey was to help Urantia Foundation understand the typical profile of a Urantia Book T-R in order to discover the kinds of individuals who will most likely become translators or revisers of *The Urantia Book*.

This survey was sent to thirty persons who have participated or are participating in the following translations or revisions: Arabic, Bulgarian, Chinese, Czech, Estonian, Farsi, French, Finnish, German, Hebrew, Hungarian, Japanese, Indonesian, Italian, Korean, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish—a total of twenty languages. Twenty-eight or 93% of T-Rs completed the survey.

Of the twenty-eight persons answering the survey, twenty were “original” translators. That is, they first discovered the English text in contradistinction to first discovering and reading a translation. Nine were original translators who also participated or are participating in the revision of their work. Eight persons were solely revisers.

A summary of each of the questions asked to the 28 T-Rs is as follows.

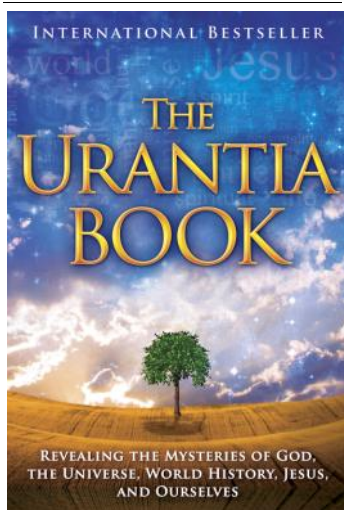
A. Background

The background of the T-Rs is related to the language that the books have been translated into. What follows is the number and percent of T-Rs in each area.

European	19	68%
Asian	5	18% (Chinese, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean)
French Canadian	1	3.5%
Cuban-European	1	3.5% Spanish
Persian	1	3.5% Farsi
Middle Eastern	1	3.5% Arabic

B. Mother Tongue

All of T-Rs speak the target language of their translation as their mother tongue. In addition to their



target language, the following shows the number and percent of T-Rs speaking languages other than their mother tongue and English.

Speaks 10 other languages	1	3.5%
Speaks 5 other languages	1	3.5%
Speaks 4 other languages	1	3.5%
Speaks 3 other languages	2	7%
Speaks 2 other languages	9	32%
Speaks 1 other language	9	32%
Speaks 0 other languages	5	18.5%

C. Experience as Translators or Revisers

For this survey, a professional translator is defined as an individual who makes his or her living as a translator. An occasional translator is defined as an individual who, in their profession, writes, reads, or speaks English extensively. No experience is defined as an individual who knows English but has no experience in translating from English into another language or vice versa. The following are the numbers and percentages of translators who have a certain type of translation experience.

Professional translators or English teachers	10	36%
Occasional translators	13	46%
No experience prior to translating <i>The Urantia Book</i>	5	18%

82% of the T-Rs have extensive professional experience in translating from English into their mother tongue.

D. Level of Education

Ninety-seven percent of the T-Rs have a higher education or university degree and are trained in intellectual and cognitive activities. The following is the number and percentages of T-Rs who have each level of education.

Advanced university degree (Masters or Ph.D.)	23	82%
University degree	4	15%
Some university education	1	3%
None	0	0%

E. TOEFEL or Ph.D. in English

TOEFL stands for *Test of English as a Foreign Language*. TOEFL is a standardized test of English language proficiency for non-native

Nearly 80% of the Translators-Revisers
were truth seekers interested in
spirituality prior to being exposed to
The Urantia Book.

English language speakers wishing to enroll in U.S. universities. A Ph.D. in English also suggests a high level of English proficiency. The number and percentage of T-Rs with each credential is as follows:

TOEFEL	4	14%
Ph.D. or equivalent in the English language	5	18%

F. Mastery of Mother Tongue and English

The next set of questions asked T-Rs to rate their level of mastery of both their mother tongue and English using a scale from zero to ten. A ten connotes mastery of one's own tongue. (One person did not answer.)

	Mother Tongue		English	
10/10	13	47%	2	8%
9/10	10	36%	7	26%
8/10	5	17%	7	26%
<8/10	0	0%	11	40%

Mastery of one's own tongue increases the quality, fluency, readiness, and beauty of the translation. A richness of vocabulary is essential for creativity in expressions and for translating the nuances of *The Urantia Book*.

G. Interest in Spirituality

A question was asked about whether the T-Rs read other spiritual books prior to translating *The Urantia Book*. This question provided a perspective on the T-R's interest in spirituality.

Yes	23	82%
No	3	10%
No answer	2	8%

Most of the T-Rs (nearly 82%) were truth seekers interested in spirituality prior to being exposed to *The Urantia Book*. Many have read the Bible, the Koran, and books of Eastern philosophy, not only in their mother tongue, but also in English, which I see as a preparation for the translation of *The Urantia Book*. For instance, Jacques Weiss, who translated *The Urantia Book* into French, translated Alice Bailey and other spiritual writers before translating *The Urantia Book*.

97% of the Translators-Revisers have a higher education or university degree.

H. Discovery of *The Urantia Book*?

Where the T-R first came into contact with the book is shown below. The categories were predetermined.

From a family member/friend	15	54%
In a library	2	7%
In a bookstore	0	0%
Browsing the internet	3	11%
From other books	6	21%
From the media	2	7%

It is not surprising that 54% were introduced to *The Urantia Book* by a family member or friend, and no one found it in a bookstore. Twenty-one percent found *The Urantia Book* through other books (Spanish: J.J. Benitez and French: *La vie des Maitres*).

I. Personal Qualities Required to Translate *The Urantia Book*

In this question the T-Rs were asked to list the personal qualities that they believe were required in translating *The Urantia Book*. Each individual may have given multiple responses.

Love for the book and its teachings	16
Determination and commitment	16
Understanding of <i>The Urantia Book</i>	12
Command of target language	11
Team spirit	10
Time available	9
Patience	7
Self discipline	5
Experience in translating	5
Sense of responsibility	4
Creativity	4
Friendliness	3
Work as a labor of love	3

Love of the book and its teachings come first. It is the source of a commitment to devote seven to twenty years of one's life in translating *The Urantia Book*. This is the major reason why it is not advisable to use a professional translator unless he or she is a reader. Commitment comes second. This is not surprising considering the time required to complete a translation. One

has to be truly committed to work every day for a minimum of three to five hours. *The Urantia Book* is composed of over 1,100,000 words and 18,000 paragraphs and contains, according to Dr. Sadler, 56 new concepts. Composing a list of specific Urantia Book terms in a target language is required before starting a translation. Such a glossary or dictionary of terms ensures coherence and consistency.

J. Current Status of Translations

Under the auspices of Urantia Foundation, twenty-four translations have been completed or are in-progress.

As for the completed work of these 28 translators and revisers, the following is the status of each translation published, either in print or electronically by Urantia Foundation.

Physical books and eBooks

Dutch, Estonian, French, Finnish, German, Hungarian, Italian, Korean, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish Americas, Spanish European, and Swedish (15)

eBook or internet only

Arabic, Bulgarian, and Romanian (3)

Translations in-progress

Chinese, Czech, Farsi, Hebrew, Indonesian, and Japanese (6)

The following translations have not yet been revised:

Dutch, German, Italian, Lithuanian, and Swedish.

The following translations have been revised at least once:

Estonian, French, Finnish, Hungarian, Polish, Russian, and Spanish.

The following translations are being revised for the first time:

Korean and Portuguese.

The following translations are being revised and corrected for the second time:

French, Russian, and Spanish.

For a translation to complete a full cycle and to be considered complete requires about forty years. A full cycle consists, first, of translation; second, of revision and correction; and, third, of second revision and correction. For example, the French translation began in 1956 and was first published in 1962. From 1979 to 1994 the first in-depth revision was done, and it was published in 1994. A second revision of fine-tuning and polishing started in 2010, was completed late last year, and will be published this year. So the French translation required almost 60 years to complete a full cycle; the French translation is the only translation that has completed a full cycle. Translations are a long-term project and one that Urantia Foundation is committed to.

NOTEWORTHY DECISIONS FROM THE JANUARY 2014 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING



By Judy Van Cleave, Trustee, Secretary, Urantia Foundation, Boise, Idaho, United States

Richard Jernigan Elected as Associate Trustee

The Board of Trustees appointed Richard Jernigan of Dallas, Texas, to the position of associate trustee. Richard is a long-time reader and study group host. He is an executive producer and director of all creative aspects of video, including more than 200 educational products. Many readers of *The Urantia Book* know his film about the Holy Land, *A Feast of Uncertainty*.



Staffing Changes

After 15 years of dedicated service to Urantia Foundation, Executive Director Jay Peregrine is

retiring. During his tenure, the Foundation has made much progress. We are thankful for all that Jay has done for Urantia Foundation, and we salute him and bid him Godspeed in his retirement.

You may have seen the Foundation's post regarding the availability of the executive director position. We have received more than 20 applicants. Every week we receive more applications and feel confident that we shall find the right person. In the meantime, Jay has agreed to continue as executive director until his replacement arrives. A special thanks to Urantia Foundation's staff for laboring so diligently during this busy period. With Jay leaving and Tamara Strumfeld working part time (so she can spend more time with her young children), the shifting workload has occasioned some adjustments on the part of the staff.

2013 Donations

Urantia Foundation raised about \$777,000 in 2013. The budget was \$706,000, but the goal was \$800,000. An additional \$115,000 in pledges arrived in early January 2014. That brought the total 2013 donations, pledged or received, to \$865,000. The best news was that 913 persons donated in 2013 versus 807 persons in 2012—a 13% increase. Thank you, generous donors! The work of printing, translating, and distributing *The Urantia Book* and its teachings globally will continue to steadily move forward.

Book Sales

John Lennon once said, "Life is what happens while you are busy making other plans." We started 2013 expecting physical book sales to grow about 7%, but they declined about 12%. Since North America is the number one market for Urantia Book sales, the declines seem to reflect the sales trends for spiritual books in North America. Although the final numbers are not yet available, global sales numbers for books are also flat to declining.

The biggest surprise in 2013 was that North American digital book sales declined about 10%, and free downloads were also down for the first time since digital books were introduced. In the United States, digital books had been the growth engine and darling of the book industry for the last few years, but something changed in 2013.

From a numbers perspective, 2013 was an exceptionally good year for distribution of *The Urantia Book* worldwide through the app provided by Dandelion Applications. There were 33,995 downloads, an increase of 68% from 2012. The app just had its five-year anniversary, and since its inception, over 177,000 Urantia Books have been downloaded in 116 countries. In 2013 the top five countries for downloads were Russia at 6,526, the US at 5,716, France at 3,443, Italy at 3,300, Mexico at 2,366, and Brazil at 2,306.

In the next few months we shall learn more about why physical book sales declined and about what we can do to improve them. With Barnes and Noble struggling

financially, selling books in North America will be more challenging than ever. We need to reinvent our strategies in order to keep *The Urantia Book* in circulation while the book industry sorts itself out. That is our job, and we shall figure it out.

Translations and Revisions

The task force comprised of members of the Translation Committee presented a special report concerning translations and revision of translations. The Foundation is establishing policies and procedures to guide future translations and revisions. Marilynn Kulieke, George Michelson-Dupont, Henk Mylanus, and Jay Peregrine presented the report, which included policies, history, priorities, and evaluation criteria. In the end, this project should streamline translation and revision costs, improve quality control, amplify strategic decision making, and provide a documented system that allows the board to pass on to the next generation proven procedures and policies concerning translations and revisions of translations.

Renovation of the Third Floor, Attic, and Carriage House

In December the third floor renovation was completed on schedule and below budget. For the first time in decades, Dr. Sadler's gift of the beautiful building at 533 W. Diversey Parkway is in pristine condition. The top three floors have been fully renovated with new electrical, plumbing, bathrooms, kitchens, flooring, insulation, and much more.

The carriage house (that is, the garage and garage apartment) in the back of the building is also being renovated and will

be rented. The architect, the contractors, and the builders did an outstanding job, and the renovation would not have been possible without

donor support. (See article on page 6.) Please visit the Foundation and see the renovated home of the Fifth Epochal Revelation.

THE URANTIA BOOK IN THE PHILIPPINES: AN OUTREACH PROJECT UPDATE



By Mike Wood, Overland Park, Kansas, United States

Eugene Asidao and Nestor Nano have now been in the Philippines for more than a month distributing copies of *The Urantia Book* (donated by Urantia Foundation and Urantia Association International) to libraries, universities, study groups, and interested individuals. Shortly after their arrival, they met Febby Marshall who is a police inspector living in Manila. The introduction came via a reader of *The Urantia Book* from the United States who read about

Eugene and Nestor's trip in the December issue of *Urantia Foundation's News Online*. Febby was excited to meet them and has been helping with project logistics.

Urantia Foundation has received numerous emails from libraries and universities in the Greater Manila area thanking the Foundation for donating *The Urantia Book*. The list thus far comprises six university libraries with fourteen branches, including the Loyola School of Theology, the National College of Business and Arts, and two public library systems with a total of twenty-five branches.

Upon their return, I look forward to hearing Eugene and Nestor recount the details of their adventure seeding *The Urantia Book* in the Philippines. Although we may never know the full impact of their endeavors, I am reminded of "the parable of the sower."



A sower went forth to sow, and it came to pass as he sowed that some seed fell by the wayside....Other seed fell upon the rocky places.... Still other seed fell upon good ground and, growing, yielded, some thirtyfold, some sixtyfold, and some a hundredfold. (1688.4) 151:1.2

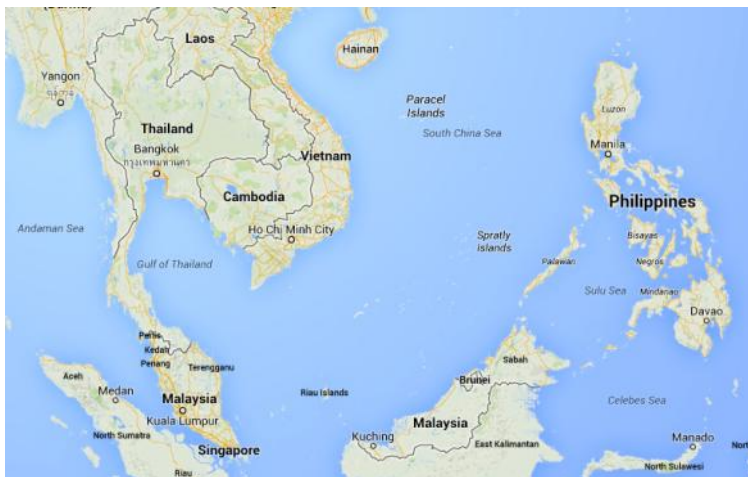
project would unfold. They just knew that they wanted to share with the people of their homeland *The Urantia Book* and its teachings.

Their outreach service brings to mind one of my favorite morontia mota statements:

The weak indulge in resolutions, but the strong act. Life is but a day's work — do it well. The act is ours; the consequences God's. (556.13) 48:7.13

No one asked Eugene and Nestor to undertake this project; it was entirely their idea. They made arrangements to take the time off of work, they paid for their own transportation, and they paid for the shipping of the books. They only asked for help in obtaining copies of *The Urantia Book*.

As we boxed up 160 Urantia Books in November, Eugene and Nestor told us that they had no idea how this



RESTORING THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE FIFTH EPOCHAL REVELATION



By Joanne Strobel, *Urantia Foundation, Chicago, Illinois, United States*

The words “upheaval,” “decimation,” and “extinction” appear in *The Urantia Book*. Although these words may not have much personal relevance to most of us, they took on new meaning for the staff of Urantia Foundation over the past two years.

In an effort to restore Foundation headquarters at 533 W. Diversey Parkway in Chicago to its original integrity and dignity, the Board of Trustees approved a major renovation project

in 2011. When I arrived here in January 2012, there was destruction, construction, and hanging plastic all over the first floor. Tamara and Connie, both expectant mothers, had long since retreated to dank basement offices in an effort to avoid ingesting toxic dust and fumes. Mike, Jay, and I braved it out upstairs, seeking refuge in the already-completed second floor for some peace and quiet, a functional kitchen, and a working bathroom. By May it was finished, spring was here, babies had arrived, moms were refreshed and had returned to work, and the offices were reassembled. We all reveled in our beautiful, new, and updated surroundings.

The respite was short lived. While our third floor tenants enjoyed their vintage suite and the graciousness of a benevolent landlord, fears began to creep into the minds of management. After all, if an old pipe should break or old electrical wiring should start a fire, the beautiful second and first floors would be ruined if they survived!

Discussions were held, decisions made, funds raised, and action taken. Our bevy of bachelors on the third floor reluctantly vacated their apartment in July. And on August 15, 2013, Dalius “Dale” Budas and his intrepid crew of Lithuanian contractors began demolition of the third and final floor under the supervision of benefactress Jennifer Siegel. And with a nod to Sir Alfred Lord Tennyson,

Plaster to the right of them,
Salvage to the left of them,
Bare stud in front of them
Hammer’d and ravage’d;
Storm’d at with screw and nail,
Boldly they worked, and well,
Into the jaws of Obliteration,
Into the mouth of
Destruction
Toiled the six workmen.

I saw the invoice myself. An unimaginable 30 tons of debris was hauled away. We wept and lamented the loss of decrepit claw-footed tubs. We squirreled away vintage doorknobs, hinges, and hooks in the hopes of restoring them someday. We took photographs and posed alongside naked walls and their once-buried electric wires. We

sold countless treasures to Salvage One.

Before we knew it, December arrived. The renovation was complete; the makeover accomplished. Dale and his crew, always men of few words (Yes! Soon. Tomorrow? No!) had transformed the entire third floor into a magnificent revival of genteel living. A realtor was recruited to estimate the rent and solicit qualified tenants. Before the Multiple Listing Service ad could hit the internet, the flat was rented by the very first couple who looked at it! And who could blame them?

Next up is the Coach House, that is, the garage and garage apartment behind the headquarters building. Stay tuned!



Kitchen before....



Kitchen after....



New dining room



New bathroom



New master bedroom



Old bathroom and fittings

CHURCHIFICATION



By Richard Keeler, Trustee, Urantia Foundation, Evanston, Wyoming, United States

Editor's Note: This article was written in the mid-1990s, and finding the information still relevant, we decided to share it with you in this issue.

William S. Sadler, Jr., the first president of Urantia Brotherhood, spoke these words to the General Council of the Urantia Brotherhood in delivering the "President's First Triennial Report (1955-1957)".

"What is the Urantia Brotherhood—another sect? This question has been put to the writer of this report more than once. To this question, a negative answer has always been given, 'No, the Urantia Brotherhood is neither a church nor a sect. It is simply a social group which has a religious objective.'

"[One reads on page 1487 of *The Urantia Book*] that 'religious peace—brotherhood—

can never exist unless all religions are willing to completely divest themselves of all ecclesiastical authority and fully surrender all concept of spiritual sovereignty. God alone is spirit sovereign.' The modern world hardly needs another church, another sect. At the present time, we suffer from a plethora of churches and a multiplication of sects.

"But, if we are not a church, how then do we differ from a church? If we can clearly see how we differ, then perchance we can maintain such differences. And, if we can maintain these differences, then we may be able to preserve our organization as a distinctive Brotherhood; we may be able to avoid a

possible evolution in the direction of a church.

"There are three main differences between the Brotherhood and a typical church: We claim no spiritual sovereignty; we claim no exclusive path to salvation; we claim no ecclesiastical authority. So long as we do not claim these things we can hardly become a church.

"But even if we are not a church, even if we never become a church, is it also true that we are not a sect? A reader of *The Urantia Book* could be a sectarian religionist; he or she could be a religionist who is primarily dedicated to the propagation of *The Urantia Book*. Would

such a dedication, however, be a valid dedication? The writer submits that such a dedication is not valid as a primary dedication. Such an exaltation of a most worthy secondary dedication to primary status could well transform a religious reader of the book into a sectarian reader—a reader who has allowed the importance of *The Urantia Book* to take precedence over the importance of God.

“How then can we, as readers of *The Urantia Book*, avoid not only churchification but also sectarianization? The writer believes that both of these unfortunate developments can be avoided if we are careful in distinguishing between Means and Ends. This is another way of saying that we should be careful not to confuse our secondary loyalties and our primary loyalties. The writer would accordingly submit for the careful consideration of the Brotherhood the following philosophy of action:

“God is the only true End. Our primary spiritual loyalty and dedication is to the Universal Father and to Him alone. When we encounter some spiritually hungry brother, our first objective is to bring him closer to his spiritual Father. This we may attempt with, or without, the book. All other things are secondary and subordinate to the acquisition of this one ‘pearl of great price’—the realization of sonship with God.

“*The Urantia Book* as a Means to the End. The book itself is not an End—it is a most important Means to an End. It is designed to bring God closer to man and to bring man closer to God. We may minister to our spiritually hungry brothers with or without the aid of *The Urantia Book*. But if the book ever becomes mandatory in our ministry, then have we truly become sectarian. Our

primary objective, as readers of *The Urantia Book*, is the service of God, and the book is an important Means to that great End. Here we should make a vital distinction between that which is value and that which has value.

“Neither is the Urantia Brotherhood, nor membership in it, a true End. The real function of the Brotherhood is also the function of a Means to accomplish a desired End. The structure of the Brotherhood is to the spiritual experiences of its members as the river banks are to a river; it is true that no river can be had without its banks—but neither should the banks be confused with the flowing river. The Brotherhood is designed to promote the book, and the book is designed to bring God and man closer to each other.

“If we can clearly separate Means and Ends, if we can always subordinate Means to the true End, then we shall continue for a very long time as a real Brotherhood. And we shall avoid becoming merely another church or another sect in the world of the twentieth century—a world which needs neither a new church nor a new sect.”

On another occasion, Bill Sadler, Jr., said that “we need another religion like we need a hole in the head.”

Dr. William S. Sadler in his treatise “Consideration of Some Criticisms of *The Urantia Book*” said that “*The Urantia Book* does not aim to contribute to the creation of a new galaxy of saints or to the organization of a new church.”

Later in the same treatise, Dr. Sadler said that “it is not the purpose of *The Urantia Book* to start a new church. The book condemns sectarian religions. The book is a gift to all religions, including Christianity.”

Said Bill Sadler, Jr.: “This book is not religion. This book is a cosmology, a philosophy, a metaphysics, a theology. Anything which is in written language is not religion. It’s intellectual. That should be very, very clear. But this book is attempting to make an intellectual approach, a philosophic approach to the religious nature of man. And if you encounter a person who is not philosophical, don’t rub his nose in Part I of the book and the Foreword; give him the spiritual heart of the book. I don’t think he has to know anything about the Trinity of Trinities to qualify for the first mansion world. It says that you have to accept sonship with God. That’s all.

“This book is a tool. Use it when you need it, but if you don’t need it, in heaven’s name, don’t bring it into the picture. It’s sort of like a guy that’s using a pitch fork, and he finds it such a handy tool that he takes it with him wherever he goes, including to a tea party.”

I agree with Dr. Sadler and Bill Sadler, Jr. We must not become a church.

In Oklahoma, where I grew up, a minister delivering a sermon was droning on in a theological baritone when he heard someone snoring. Spotting the sonorous slumberer—an elderly gentleman with his wife seated at his side—the preacher said crossly to the woman, “Wake up that man.”

She replied, “You wake him up. You put him to sleep.”

Our mission is not to put people to sleep but to wake them up to the enthralling truths of the fifth epochal revelation.

I believe that Urantia Foundation is commissioned to publish, translate, protect, and disseminate the greatest and most thrilling book in all

of human history. We must not drift into the doldrums of “churchification.” We must not become “God’s frozen people,” slumbering in a stupor of self-satisfied self-righteousness.

Since *The Urantia Book* was published in 1955, our early leaders encouraged many young students of the Urantia Revelation to express their “evangelical enthusiasm” by promoting the spiritual message of the book without publicizing the book itself. This is an important mission which will not only help to foster a planetary spiritual renaissance, but which will also lead many individual truth seekers to *The Urantia Book* “as we pass by.”

So let us maintain person-to-person introduction as our top priority.

Consider the following mathematical analysis. If there were only 100 students of *The Urantia Book* today, and if each of those persons introduced the book to only one other person per year, and if each one of them introduced the book to only one other person a year, every man, woman, and child on earth would have been personally introduced to *The Urantia Book* within only 30 years.

This is the quiet, unspectacular, but enormously effective spread of the teachings of *The Urantia Book*.

Let us create fraternal associations, not ecclesiastical institutions; let us build personal relations, not churches. And in the presence of our brothers and sisters, let us salute each of them and salute the fragment of infinity, spark of divinity, and ember of eternity within them.

THE STUDY GROUP SYMPOSIUM



By James Woodward, Study Group Symposium 2014 Committee, Placerville, California, United States

Editor's Note: Urantia Foundation is sponsoring this event along with Truthbook.com.

In the Publication Mandate (<http://urantia-uai.org/overview/legal-information>), the human associates who worked to bring the fifth epochal revelation to our world were advised to create thousands of study groups. Since we are far from that goal, the current status and prevailing models of study groups ought to attract our attention.

The Urantia Book offers a personal spiritual message for each individual as well as a coherent blueprint for progressive social evolution.

Urantia Book students gain enhanced appreciation and a deeper understanding of these advanced teachings by studying with others, exploring rich content, and sharing personal insights. An informal group is the best way to incorporate study and comprehension of a new revelation with the art of living—blending the teachings into our everyday life experiences.

Are Urantia Book study groups destined to be more than a periodic meeting where people read and socialize? Could they offer greater value to the inner progress of the individual and thence to our world?

A recent survey of Urantia Book readers brought unwelcome news: Only twenty-six percent have attended a study group, and the percentage of groups to readers is quite low. Is our study-group culture failing to flourish because it reflects the cultures that so many of us were raised with? Today's secular society does not encourage daily prayer, meditation, and worship practices, although the new revelation does. The post-modern model of religion is trending secular, and we know this is a planetary problem.

We may enjoy a weekly church attendance, and we may engage in personal and private spiritual practices, but how many of us celebrate religious activities in our study groups? The Chief of Urantia Midwayers offers some direction:

“But prayer need not always be individual. Group or congregational praying is very effective in that it is highly socializing in its repercussions. When a group engages in community prayer for moral enhancement and spiritual uplift, such devotions are reactive upon the individuals composing the groups; they are all made better because of participation.” (998.5) 91:5.2

Could there be an unrealized role for Urantia Book study groups, something that has not yet evolved beyond reading and discussion? Of course it takes deep study to understand deep new teachings, but can study groups help to establish the Father's will in the hearts and minds of mortals? Could study groups become dynamic centers of spiritual enthusiasm, reflecting the wise guidelines for true religious living outlined in *The Urantia Book*? What if they modeled the open-armed friendliness of Jesus and were willing to serve all sincere truth seekers?

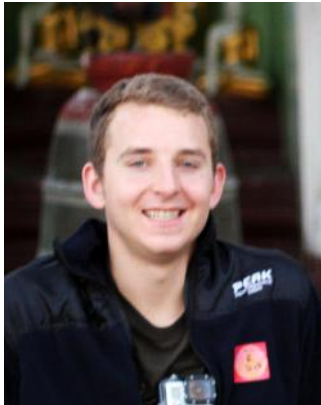
Urantia Association International was created to foster the in-depth study of *The Urantia Book*. Following the success of 2011's Leadership Symposium, Urantia Association is now preparing a Study Group Symposium. Please join us in Madison, Wisconsin, June 11–15, as we explore the workings of what makes a study group thrive, and how we can make them more attractive and inspiring to our troubled world.

Come and learn new strategies for welcoming and retaining Urantia Book students, as well as proven facilitation methods. You will have the opportunity to discourse with experienced study-group leaders, as we share our discoveries in the art of living the teachings of *The Urantia Book*. The program will feature engaging sessions designed for those who are serious about expanding study groups to new levels of service.

To register: <https://www.regonline.com/studygroupsymposium>



PREPARING FOR MY FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



By Geoff Theiss, Livermore, California, United States

I know these newsletters go out to thousands of Urantia Book readers around the world—dedicated, casual, or otherwise. I have the utmost of confidence, that regardless of our geographical location and manifold beliefs, each of us strives daily in our own ways to grow Godward. But besides this intuitive feeling of our soul fraternity, there is a part of me that craves to know each of you as individuals before I even get to the purpose of this article. How do I share with complete strangers my utmost and sincerest excitement for a summer conference without

knowing who you are?

Then it dawned on me. As I scratched down the first scribble of an outline, I experienced an “A Ha! Moment”: the journey is my destination! The reason why it is so hard to “know” my audience and couch this piece is exactly why I have to write it. We need an opportunity to get to know each other as brothers and sisters: to know each other's sincere motivations, to celebrate our cosmic family, to share our personal experiences with God in a safe and loving environment, to rejoice in worship, and to exchange with one another the wisdom that we have gained from our personal experience with *The Urantia Book*.

It is my great privilege to invite you to the Urantia Book Fellowship's International Conference, July 23-27, in Amherst, MA (IC'14). The conference theme is, “Grow Godward,” and the setting is the historic and pastoral Pioneer Valley. My experience with this part of the country comes from my

work with the Fellowship's Youth and Young Adult (YaYA) Committee, which put on a conference for young adults in Massachusetts last spring. Now every member of the YaYA Committee is highly involved in planning IC'14.

This conference will bring exciting new programs and will help us all to get to know about 500 of our siblings of all ages from around the world. The conference will feature a first-ever, Urantia-oriented YouTube film festival, the premiere of the Joshua Ben Joseph Project, and the first live performance of “The Story of Ruth,” a children's musical that explores Jesus' life through the eyes of his beloved little sister. In addition to these creative works, and so many other unmentioned artistic and musical contributions, the conference will feature seven themed tracks comprising over 40 workshops which will allow conference goers to tailor their conference experience to their interests. The tracks include: “Study the Book,” “Serve with Love,” “Live the Teachings,” “Seek Truth,” “Bring the Family,” “Grow Personally,” and “Engage the World.”

Being part of the planning committee for this conference, I can share that there is a palpable sense of excitement for this year's conference. There had been some trepidation that historical averages of international conference attendance have declined over the last decade. But that

Your actual achievement is not so important as the fact that the direction of your progress is Godward.

What you are becoming day by day is of infinitely more importance than what you are today.

The Urantia Book, (1653:1) 1475:7

anxiety has lessened. Not only is the registration up from recent conferences at this point, but single hotel rooms are already sold out. And if that isn't enough, the most exciting fact of this conference is the amazing coordination and collaboration of the Urantia Book Fellowship with Urantia Foundation and Truthbook to bring together the Urantia community just for that purpose: community.

So, with sincerest excitement, I encourage you to visit <http://ic14.org/> and take a look at what we have planned for this summer. It is your presence that matters, together with sharing with so many others an opportunity to understand what it means to be true, beautiful, and good citizens in this universe. Thank you in advance for making my first international conference the best one yet.



WHAT THE WOMEN ARE PLANNING: A REPORT FROM OUR SECOND GATHERING



By Line St-Pierre, associate trustee, Urantia Foundation, Ste-Sophie, Québec, Canada

“The greatest strength of women lies in their innate motherhood, in their creative, life-giving power. And this power can help women to bring about a far more significant change in society than men could ever accomplish.” (Mata Amritanandamayi, aka Amma)

Our heavenly Father sent the Life Carriers to implant life on Urantia. After the first humans, Andon and Fonta, were born, Fonta, of course, bore the children—as have all women since Fonta. Child bearing is just one of the many gifts that the Life Carriers have entrusted to women. These gifts have inspired a deep reflection upon what it means to be a woman, a daughter of God. To deepen this reflection and see how we can help one another grow, we have planned a retreat in October to be held at Urantia Foundation in Chicago.

This year we gathered again in Florida from January 9-11 to continue our plans based on the mission and vision statements we drafted last October.

Mission Statement: To enhance the status of being a woman dedicated to spiritual growth, intellectual advancement, and moral progress.

Vision Statement: To touch women's hearts by exploring the dignity of being daughters of God, by honoring their value and importance, and by co-operating with the divine spirit within to bring forth the bountiful fruits of the spirit.

Each woman at the seminar presented one gift that the Life Carriers entrusted to women. Our retreat in October will explore these gifts in greater depth.

Some of the insights and comments expressed at the seminar are the following:

Carolyn Prentice, in summarizing her assessment of the seminar, said:

We explored how *The Urantia Book* has inspired us as daughters of God to live our lives more fully. We acknowledged our place on this gendered world, in which humans have used sex differences to divide people. We examined what *The Urantia Book* specifically says about these sex differences and about how women have slowly won rights and considerations from men through the ages.

Recognizing that *The Urantia Book* is an artifact constrained by early 20th century conventions and words, we discussed the nuanced understanding of sex difference presented in the Urantia Revelation, which emphasizes the benefit of having two forms of humans and proclaims the spiritual equality, dignity, and value of men and women.

We also discussed how the seventh adjutant mind-spirit, the spirit of wisdom, demands more than knowledge or information. Wisdom must include insight into the past and future, as well as recognize the emotions of human beings. We coined a new term for this joining of heart and mind: Heartellect.

Katharina Becker summarized her thoughts about the seminar as follows:

We reflected on and discussed Body—Consciousness—

Personality—Sanctifying Life—Heartellect—and the Wisdom of God for Women. We were blessed to share the sacred and the mundane in one another, to witness the unfolding of our spiritual selves, to display tears of grace, and to feel the love of God.

Doreen Heyne offered this review of the seminar:

There was a sincere and genuine effort to engage in the sharing intimacy of our souls, which created an immediate acknowledgment of one another and reflected our Thought Adjusters' loving expression.

The challenges before us as a team will be imbued with love and grace. It all comes from a place of love.



Line St-Pierre, Katharina Becker, Share Beasley, Carolyn Prentice, Doreen Heyne



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A READER'S COMMENT

How *The Urantia Book* Found Me and What It Means

By Myra Height, Lake Tahoe, Nevada, United States

My story begins around age five when I began to *feel* God. But I was challenged because my father is an atheist, having as a young man had his Christian faith unraveled by watching the ravages of the Korean War. My mother was raised Catholic and had been abused by nuns in the convent where she was left for a time while my grandmother came to America to establish residence. Needless to say, I was not raised in a religious household.

When I was about eleven, I began debating with my father about the existence of God, and I always felt frustrated because I could not prove in words that God existed. I believe these discussions were fertilizing my mind for the Urantia Revelation. They made me question what I heard, as I later went from church to church, and what I read when I went from book to book searching for what could answer my questions. Having by then been imbued with my father's critical thinking, I found hypocrisy and unclear presentation of beliefs in them all. None of this was going to help prove to my dad that God exists! I became almost angry because I could not fathom that, with all the knowledge in the world, there was *nothing* written to tell us the real truth! If God is the Creator, why can't we know

about Him? But where was it? I prayed hard to find "it," and I didn't care what it was, as long as it was the truth. I kept searching.

One day in 1977 (I was 17), I was sitting on a small, empty beach, and a darling blond-headed boy strolled up, sat next to me, and we talked. He said, "You should meet my mom," and I said, "Okay." We walked back to their place, and Jean and I hit it off. Not long after, we began talking about God, my favorite topic. She looked at me and said, "I have a book," and she opened *The Urantia Book* to the Foreword, and I read it and cried. I knew with every fiber of my body, at last I'd found it, or rather it found me.

The Urantia Book gives me a "universe view," and it answers my questions: "Why do I exist," and "Who is God." *The Urantia Book* is my guide to understanding my brother and, from there, to grow to love my brother. This feels good.

The Urantia Book lets me know that the choices I make along my journey matter in the eternal eternity. It gives me reason to get up every day to see what little ol' me can do to contribute to the Supreme and to our planet, Urantia. It lets me know that all actions do contribute, and that I should, therefore, do my best. The teachings help me to overcome the conflicts stemming from my mortal weakness. It gives me purpose for living and the strength to do God's will.

The Urantia Book allows me to live on this strife-torn planet with the larger understanding that those suffering will survive, and that their experience contributes to the Supreme; pain is not devoid of value. It tells me that Urantia has a host of unseen friends doing all that universe laws allow them to do in connection with their efforts to move our planet toward light and life. This knowledge gives me energy and expands my capacity to shine God's light and live Jesus' teachings rather than be consumed by, or numbed to, the pain.

I feel blessed that I found *The Urantia Book* at a young age. Through it, I have found the keys to connecting with God. I always knew that God was inside, and *The Urantia Book* tells me that we are indwelt by our beloved Thought Adjusters. *The Urantia Book* tells me that I need to "take my heading" in accordance with moral compass of God that is guiding me on the eternal ride of my life. It means everything to me.

I did give my father a book, and no, he did not read it. That's okay; I know he will be just fine. Jean was my only study partner for decades, although we always did our best to be faithful disseminators. In 2004 I went to my first conference and was blessed to meet many beautiful people whom I cherish deeply. Now that my kids are grown, I even have time for service work, which brings me joy. I am "living the dream." Thank you, Father.



"...put your trust in the Father whose messengers you are. Do not forcibly resist injustice; put not your trust in the arm of the flesh. If your neighbor smites you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also."

Jesus to the Apostles, *The Urantia Book*, (1571.1) 140:3.14