



HAPPENINGS IN INDONESIA

By Widi Nograho, Chief Translator, Indonesian Translation, Jakarta, Indonesia

With a new revenue source for my family, I hope that I can someday resign from my job, find more time to translate, give seminars, and preach the gospel of Jesus in Indonesia. People are so glad to hear the simple message of Jesus: the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. Jesus' teachings are so complete, so true to life, so remarkable, and so beautiful. They are the greatest teachings of all time. They can and will change one's life—and someday the world—completely.

Since translating Part IV of *The Urantia Book*, I endeavor to preach the Jesusonian gospel by using four basic teachings as the keys to salvation:

- 1) the Fatherhood of God,
- 2) the brotherhood of man,
- 3) our personal relationship with God, and
- 4) the doing of the will of God through the guidance of his indwelling spirit.

Of those who hear these four basic teachings, the more spiritually oriented people are usually

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Widi Nograho, Johan Niyadi, Intan Nugroho, A.M. Yusuf, Rahman Trimulyana, and Marlene Michelson-Dupont

willing to participate in discussions about the Thought Adjuster. After that, they usually want to know more information about the contents of *The Urantia Book*. Some very interesting questions have been asked in these discussions.

Every Monday evening we have a Urantia Book study group, which meets at the Viky Music Center in Jalan Minangkabau, Jakarta. There are about twenty of us, who come from different religious backgrounds. But all of the

attendees are becoming, not just readers of *The Urantia Book*, but students of it.

The gospel is so simple yet so powerful that it touches the hearts of men and women. Never again will I worry about speaking to groups of people from many religious backgrounds. We know that Islamists and Christians have built strong barriers between themselves and other faiths, but the Master's teachings, as revealed in *The Urantia Book*, will eventually win over all!

Today, the majority of Indonesians are Muslims, of whom about half are moderates. And these moderates are open to new teachings that show better ways of living. Slowly but surely *The Urantia Book*, will be accepted.

We translators of the Indonesian translation are struggling with what name to use for Jesus. In Islam, Jesus is a prophet for the tribe of Israel and is called "Isa" ("Eashoa" [pronounced EE-shoh] is "Jesus" in Aramaic),

and Muslims believe that Muhammad is Isa's successor for all nations. If we use the name Isa, Muslims may not accept him as the Creator Son of God. But if we use "Jesus," they will think that *The Urantia Book* is a Christian book and will not accept it.

The wider introduction and dissemination of the teachings of *The Urantia Book* must await the completion of the Indonesian translation.

NOTEWORTHY DECISIONS FROM THE JULY 2014 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING



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

Information and Decisions

Election of Associate Trustee

The Board of Trustees elected Ms. Sandra Burga-Cisneros to serve her third year as an associate trustee.

Book Sales and Distribution

Overall Urantia Book sales in Q2 improved from Q1, but the challenges of the global book industry continue. With a growing younger population that either does not read as much or only wants the latest new books, keeping a 1955 book on bookstore shelves is

a costly and challenging proposition. In addition, worldwide book sales for most publishers are soft with bookstores having increasing financial difficulties as they compete in the digital age. Fortunately, the global sales of books via the Internet are slowly gaining headway beyond North America and Europe. Amazon and other Internet book providers will help keep *The Urantia Book* readily available. Digital books, even though limited in appeal, also offer alternative distribution opportunities.

Efforts are being made to increase the distribution of *The Urantia Book* internationally. A team of readers from Colombia, South America, applied for a wholesale license to import Urantia Books and sell them in Colombia. Their intent is to significantly increase distribution while reducing the price of the book. Their first sales effort was at the Colombian book fair where they sold 230 books. Special thanks go to Wilson León and the team of Urantia Association Colombia. It is

encouraging that readers in Colombia, in cooperation with Urantia Foundation, are expanding book distribution in a country whose bookstore infrastructure makes placement difficult. To read more about books in Colombia, please go to: <http://www.urantia.org/news/2014-07/international-book-fair-in-bogota-colombia>.



In Ukraine, Anton Miroshnichenko applied for an import license, and 270 Russian books arrived safely in Ukraine. Thanks to Anton

and his team, the price of *The Urantia Book* in Ukraine will drop from \$60-\$75 to \$30. Even better, the first two months of sales were robust. To learn more about this exciting story, please go to:

<http://www.urantia.org/news/2014-07/urantia-book-blessing-ukraine>.

Books for the Next Generation

If anyone is looking for a fun service project, you might consider placing Urantia Books in university libraries, youth hostels, coffee shops, and other locations frequented by young folks. Urantia Foundation will provide you with books at the lowest possible price if you place them in these locations. Here is our policy: <http://www.urantia.org/urantia-foundation/library-placement-policy>. For exact pricing details, contact us at urantia@urantia.org.

Secondary and Educational Works

For the last couple of years

the board has been discussing the publication of secondary works that help people understand the teachings of *The Urantia Book*. The board has asked the Public Relations, Education, and Book committees to recommend policies and procedures for the acceptance and publication of new titles.

The Urantia Book Internet School

The September trimester of the Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS) began on Monday, September 15. There are five courses being offered in English, two in Spanish, and two in French. If you have never taken a UBIS course, you might consider it. The courses are free, but one must enroll by setting up a free account at <http://ubis.urantia.org>. Check back in December for information on courses being

offered during the January 2015 trimester.

Translation and Revision Progress

Progress is being made on the translation and revision front. The newly revised French translation has been printed, and distribution has begun. Some specifics on translations and revisions:

- Chinese translation—on Paper 51 of the third draft.
- Indonesian translation—on Paper 146 of the first draft.
- Hebrew translation—on Paper 57 of the first draft.
- Japanese translation—first draft completed.
- Farsi translation—104 papers completed.

- Portuguese revision—on Paper 66.
- Russian revision—on Paper 155.
- Spanish revision—on Paper 78.

External evaluations to monitor the quality of the translation have recently been completed in Chinese, French, and Hebrew.

Special thanks go to Georges Michelson-Dupont for his tireless efforts as manager of translations. Also, thanks go to the translation subcommittee consisting of Marilyn Kulieke (chair), Georges Michelson-Dupont, Henk Mylanus, and Jay Peregrine.

Website

Urantia Foundation's website, www.urantia.org, is translated into sixteen languages. The Foundation is committed to

improve the website to meet the needs of those who visit it. The first improvement will be to feature UBIS in a more prominent way. The team had numerous other suggestions that will be worked on over the next year.

Planned Giving

The board discussed the need and opportunity for the baby-boomer generation to set up their wills to benefit the Fifth Epochal Revelation. From the donor's perspective, what could be a more important legacy than giving part of your assets to the Urantia Revelation that transformed your life? Urantia Foundation will help you accomplish that worthy goal. To learn more, please visit: <http://urantia.plannedgiving.org/>.

THE URANTIA BOOK IN GUATEMALA



By Gerardo Leche, Guatemala

In the early 1990s, *The Urantia Book* arrived in Guatemala, and Luis Martinez and Gonzalo Caceros began introducing it to prospective readers. They also started a study group.

Mark Bloomfield, from the UK, came to Guatemala and traveled throughout Guatemala, placing the book in libraries.

Recently, readers participated in two book fairs, support for which was rendered by Tamara Strumfeld of Urantia Foundation and Buck Weimer and Agustin Arellano of the Urantia Book Fellowship. They were most helpful with the book fair, and we are grateful indeed for their assistance.

Today many Guatemalans are interested in *The Urantia Book*. Little by little the book is speaking for itself. And we observe that Guatemalans in a certain segment of society are ready to receive the great teachings of the Urantia Revelation.

In the future, the book may be well known and widely accepted, but time must pass. In the meantime, we shall “possess our souls in patience,” knowing that “over-rapid growth would be suicidal,” and that “the book is being given to those who are ready for it long before the day of its worldwide mission.”

Peace be with you.



Agustin Arellano and Ethan



Agustin Arellano and a new reader



Agustin Arellano and Vanessa

JOINT SEMINAR OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THREE MAJOR URANTIA ORGANIZATIONS



By David Kulieke, the
Urantia Book Fellowship,
Lincolnshire, Illinois, United States

For those who desire increased unity among Urantia organizations, recent events have provided a cause for optimism. In recent years a plethora of initiatives have demonstrated a desire for additional cooperative efforts among three major Urantia Book organizations: Urantia Association International (UAI), the Urantia Book Fellowship, and Urantia Foundation.

There have been unity meetings among leaders, an agreement to work together in a publicity seminar, and regular communications among the presidents. Members of each organization have made presentations at each other's conferences. There is a joint Study Group Directory. People involved with information technology (IT) have participated in multiple roundtables since 2009 to discuss common issues. Members of different organizations have worked together on book fairs in Asia and expos in South America. And as more opportunities have occurred to share meetings and other activities, such as a recent tour of Israel, differences among organizations have

blurred as individuals have established friendships and recognized the common desire to spread the teachings of *The Urantia Book*.

A recent initiative between organizations included a seminar of sixteen individuals who met at 533 W. Diversey Parkway in Chicago. It was sponsored by the Education Committees of the UAI, the Urantia Book Fellowship, and Urantia Foundation from June 9 to June 11, 2014. The purpose of the meeting was 1) to reinforce one another's programs through discussion, 2) to give abridged versions for comment and review of each group's portion of a joint workshop to be given in July at the Fellowship's international conference in Amherst, Massachusetts (IC'14), and 3) to seek common ground regarding all three groups' educational missions. The three groups' chairpersons, Sheila Keene-Lund, David Kulieke, and Gard Jameson, planned and chaired this seminar.

The meeting began on Monday evening with a sharing of each participant's gratitude. Then ensued a discussion about purposes and priorities in education, based on the teachings of *The Urantia Book*. This discussion was based in large part on a publication of the Fellowship Education Committee, "*Prime Education References by Category*," which gives twenty indexed pages of quotations about education from *The Urantia Book*.

The second day's focus was to review and give response to a presentation of each group's workshop that would be given at IC'14. The combined workshop was entitled "Seeking Educational

Excellence in *The Urantia Book*." Urantia Foundation's representative, Dave Elders, gave a talk on "The Purpose of Education and the Importance of Education." Part of his presentation focused on the second paragraph of *The Urantia Book*: "to expand cosmic consciousness and enhance spiritual perception." Next the Fellowship representatives used a workshop approach to examine one method of "How to Educate Effectively." The three presenters were Ken Keyser, David Kulieke, and Marilyn Kulieke. After modeling an educational technique utilizing several quotations, attendees were placed in smaller groups to analyze other quotations from the book, finding a focus in each case. Then the group reconvened to discuss its findings and how to apply them in study groups. The last presentation was by Sheila Keene-Lund, representing the UAI. She spoke on "Education as Transformation, the Teacher-Student Dynamic." After the presentation the whole group discussed the concepts presented and gave suggestions. After Tuesday dinner many seminar participants attended the Tuesday night study group that weekly meets at Urantia Foundation.

Wednesday morning was focused on the topic "Our Educational Mission: Can We Find Common Ground?" Discussion of this topic resulted in the following statement:

Joint Educational Initiative Statement

Urantia Association International
The Urantia Book Fellowship
Urantia Foundation

In aligning our educational efforts with the revelators' endeavor "to expand cosmic consciousness and enhance spiritual perception," (1:2) 0:0.2 we are inspired to study and share the teachings of *The Urantia Book* in ways that:

- Illuminate God and his reality through the progressive discovery of truth, beauty, and goodness.
- Foster intellectual, moral, and spiritual transformation.
- Encourage individuals to grow Godward as well-balanced personalities.

The group also agreed that the Joint Committee should meet again.

Finally, several ideas were brainstormed for possible future consideration and, in some instances, possible joint projects, even as the group recognized that each organization's committee would continue to initiate its own works and projects.

On July 24, at IC'14, the committees held the workshop that was previewed in Chicago in June. At that meeting Bobbie Dreier replaced Ken Keyser, and Chris Wood, president of the UAI, substituted for Sheila Keene-Lund. Chris spoke on the relationship between student and teacher. About thirty individuals, including members of the committees, participated as a joint presentation became a reality.



Ken Keyser



Marilynn Kulieke



Bobbie Dreier



Chris Wood



Sheila Keene-Lund

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2014: A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE



By Sandra Burga-Cisneros, associate trustee, Urantia Foundation, Zürich, Switzerland

Under the name "Grow Godward," the International Conference (IC'14) of the Urantia Book Fellowship was held this summer. I attended a preconference retreat on contemplative prayer and meditation. There was a feeling of trust and belonging that developed among the participants. I experienced five days of the kind of love that flows so naturally from our Father to us. The feeling was so present in everybody and everywhere that it was impossible not to see or feel or share it.

"Mortal man cannot possibly know the infinitude of the heavenly Father. Finite mind cannot think through such an absolute truth or fact. But this same finite human being can actually feel—literally experience—the full and undiminished impact of such an infinite Father's LOVE."
(50.4) 3:4.6

I had never attended such a big conference in my life. I was amazed. First, because of the incredible quality of the organization, and second, because there were so many people assembled for the same purpose, for the same cause, which motivates us to keep working on ourselves in order to allow this feeling and energy to be part of our daily lives.

During the conference it was possible to choose from a number of simultaneously-running workshops. Much music was provided at the conference every morning and most evenings. It was impressive, beautiful, and inspiring, and it preceded worship. Group worship was held at the morning and

evening meditation sessions. Every time was a pleasure, and was, as we say in Peru, "un regalo del cielo" (a present from heaven).

"Worship is the highest privilege and the first duty of all created intelligences. Worship is the conscious and joyous act of recognizing and acknowledging the truth and fact of the intimate and personal relationships of the Creators with their creatures." (303.5) 27:7.1

I often wonder after a gathering like this what we do when we go back home? How do we take these experiences and this energy and apply them and spread them in our daily lives? First, I think we have to start with ourselves. How? According to this quote on worship, we can start by cultivating our relationship with our Father, this connection with our Thought Adjusters. In my experience I disciplined myself to engage in prayerful, worshipful meditation. With time, it became a beautiful habit, which now is impossible to break. This is the first step in growing Godward. Each person must find his or her

own way to take this first step. We are, after all, different, and we know our Father likes diversity. Events like IC'14 help us to remember that our main purpose in life is to love one another as our Father loves us.

IC'14 was organized by the Urantia Book Fellowship and was sponsored by Urantia Foundation and Truthbook.com. The feeling of brotherhood among the participants was very strong. It was inspiring to see all of these people working together to spread the Urantia Revelation around the world. I hope that the future will afford us opportunities to use the resources of each organization and their members to keep working for the same cause and purpose. It was an honor to be a part of it, and I thank everyone who made this event possible.

It was inspiring to see all of these people working together

A DREAM COME TRUE: EXPERIENCING URANTIA FOUNDATION AND THE STUDY GROUP SYMPOSIUM



Cesar Paulo Zapello and Marcia Regina dos Santos

By Cesar Paulo Zapello, president, Urantia Association of Brazil, and Marcia Regina dos Santos, vice president, Urantia Association of Brazil.

In July, Marcia and I traveled to the United States and experienced a dream come

true. We visited Urantia Foundation in Chicago for several days and attended the Study Group Symposium hosted by Urantia Association International (UAI).

While at the Foundation, we participated in a meeting of the Education Committees of

the UAI, The Urantia Book Fellowship, and Urantia Foundation. All were united in a common goal which is to develop tools and resources that provide support to individuals studying the teachings of *The Urantia Book* and to promote the discovery of meanings and higher values that will result in transformation—intellectually, morally, and spiritually—by encouraging individuals to grow with God and to grow with well-balanced personalities.

We also participated in a study group in the same room where the Forum used to meet before the publication of *The Urantia Book*. We were able to stream the study group live to Brazil and other Latin American countries. What a wonderful experience!

Next was another remarkable experience—the Study Group Symposium at Edgewood College in Madison, Wisconsin. The setting was lovely with a chapel for morning meditation, a wooded area, a lake, and a courtyard. The symposium was well organized with excellent plenaries and workshops. The tools we learned and the experiences we had at the Foundation and the symposium will help us to better serve the readership community in Brazil.

To everyone we met, thank you. You made us feel completely at home. We send you our love and affection. You are immortalized in our hearts and minds.

THE STUDY GROUP SYMPOSIUM: REPORT ON THE SPEECHES



Georges Michelson-Dupont, Gaétan Charland and Richard Keeler

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

Urantia Association International sponsored the four-day Study Group Symposium in June. It was tailored especially for study group leaders.

Gaétan Charland of Québec, Canada gave the introductory speech.

He asked the question: Why have study groups? He read the instruction in the Publication Mandate that “thousands of study groups must be brought into existence.”

He also read the following excerpts from a 1981 letter from Emma Christensen, who was better known as Christy:

“One of our major jobs is the starting of many study groups. Thousands must be formed in order that we may have teachers and leaders prepared for the day when *The Urantia Book* and its teachings will need many friends scattered all over the world.

“Adam and Eve had been instructed to open what I call ‘beacons of light’ throughout the world through their offspring, but their default put an end to their doing so. I think that we might help them out a bit by encouraging study groups as we were told to do and by fostering them until

they can stand on their own.”

Gaétan pointed out that fifty-nine years have passed since the publication of *The Urantia Book*. And we have 584 study groups worldwide: 383 in North America, 117 in South America, 50 in Europe, 17 in Africa, 9 in Asia, and 8 in Australia.

Of the 196 countries in the world, 30 have study groups.

“Our challenge,” said Gaétan, “is to align our study groups with ideals of the Publication Mandate.” (See <http://www.urantia.org/urantia-foundation/history#pub> for the Publication Mandate.)

Gaétan said, “There is no doubt in my mind that you and I, the hosts of study

groups, are the most important leaders of the movement." No single drop of water thinks it is responsible for the flood.

After Gaétan's plenary speech, we broke into study groups of seven to eight persons to discuss and offer answers to prepared-in-advance questions.

David Kulieke gave the afternoon plenary speech of the first day. The title of his speech was "Effective Group Leadership." According to David, study group leaders should have three major concerns:

- 1) the enhancement, through prayer and worship, of the spirituality of the study group members;
- 2) the enhancement of the quality of the study of the book; and
- 3) the improvement of our sense of community.

David stated that "study groups are very, very important," and that "study group leaders are very, very important in our pursuit of stronger community, progressing comprehension, and more real prayer and worship."

After David's presentation, we broke into afternoon study groups to discuss and possibly answer more prepared-in-advance questions.

Joycee Patterson was the plenary speaker on morning two of the symposium. "Carpe Diem" was the title of her speech. She pointed out that Gaétan's speech focused on answering the question: Why have a study group? She said that her speech focused on answering the question: How do we accomplish the directives of the Publication Mandate, which emphasizes seeking truth and

righteousness. Such seeking, Joycee said, is spiritual, not intellectual. And she encouraged us to be mindful of the importance of maintaining a balance between the spiritual and the intellectual in our studies of the book. Prayer is less thinking and more realizing. According to *The Urantia Book*, "prayer is the most potent spiritual growth stimulus."

Sheila Keene-Lund gave the day two afternoon plenary speech entitled "Do You Want to Change the World?" and subtitled "The Spiritual Attributes of Study Groups." Sheila emphasized that one person plus one person working harmoniously on a project are more nearly like four persons as regards their attainment and accomplishment possibilities.

Sheila advocates prayerful and worshipful meditation before and after study group as a means of enhancing our LQ, that is, our love quotient. She quoted Jonathan Swift, the 18th century Irishman who wrote *Gulliver's Travel*. "We have just enough religion to make us hate, but not enough to make us love one another."

Doug Cable, the "Wandering Urantian," told us about driving his camper hither and yon to visit study groups up and down the East Coast, over to Louisiana and Texas, and even up to the state of Washington. Doug had a list of about fifteen suggestions for study groups, among which were:

- 1) Have a social period before and after the meeting.
- 2) Have a prayer and worship segment of the meeting.
- 3) Have a leader who sees that the group stays on topic.
- 4) Conduct regional mini-conferences.
- 5) Discuss transformation from beliefs to faith.

David Glass delivered a speech entitled "The Glorious Good News." David said that "study group creation represents one of the preeminent means of service humanly available to us at this time." David advocates:

- 1) study group mission statements;
- 2) visiting other study groups for cross-fertilization;
- 3) periodic meetings between two study groups, and
- 4) remembering that the most important aspect of a study group is the spiritual progress of the individual.

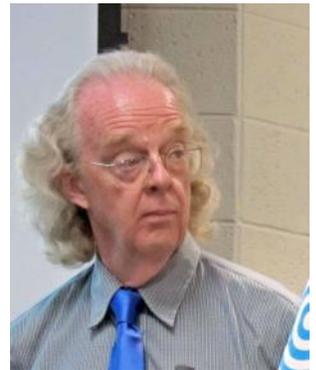
Georges Michelson-Dupont was the final speaker at the symposium. His speech was entitled "In-Depth Study Group Strategy and Practice." He asked us: "Are we apostles, disciples, actors, or just spectators of the fifth epochal revelation?" We are responsible, Georges said, for the "fostering and promoting of the world-wide proliferation of efficient and attractive study groups." Georges thinks that when study groups reach the critical mass of 12 or 13 members, they should split into two groups. Georges advocates that study group attendees read the text before the meeting, and he thinks that all-day study groups are very productive. For more information visit urantia.org/study/strategy-and-practice-in-depth-study-groups-urantia-book.

The Study Group Symposium, which began on Thursday morning, ended after lunch on Sunday.

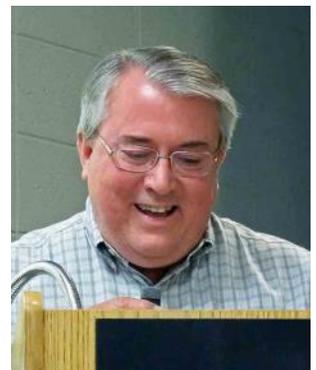
(For symposium educational materials, motivational videos, photographs of Forum members, photographs of the symposium attendees, power-point presentations, publication mandate materials and videos, and speeches please request them at kawmls@gmail.com.)



Joycee Patterson



Doug Cable



David Glass



Jonathan Swift

THE BEAUTY OF SHARING: SEEDING THE TEACHINGS IN INDONESIA



By Betty Tresnawaty, Jakarta, Indonesia

My spiritual thirst was quenched two years ago when I discovered *The Urantia Book*. A friend gave it to me, and secretly I began to study it. To openly study *The Urantia Book* in Indonesia could be very risky, as the majority of the Indonesian people are Muslims. Some members of my family learned that I am reading *The Urantia Book*, and it put a strain on our relationship, especially my relationship with my sister. But all of this is not an obstacle for me. I am not trying to win a popularity contest. The important thing is that I am known, and maybe even popular, among the angels and our other unseen friends.

The values in *The Urantia Book* are applicable in our daily lives. It not only contains history, cosmology, science, and religion, but it contains teachings and guidance for everyday life. I think the real meanings and values that one can derive from reading *The Urantia Book* come not from reading the book with human eyes only but from reading it carefully, examining the teachings deeply, and discerning them spiritually and then implementing them into our lives.

The Urantia Book has changed my life! My view of

life is no longer narrow and skeptical. I am happier, and I feel comfortable communicating and interacting with people from different backgrounds. There is a beauty that is difficult to describe. I feel God's love within me, and I feel it radiating around and from me.

"Arise and shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. Darkness may cover the earth and gross darkness the people, but the spirit of the Lord shall arise upon you, and the divine glory shall be seen with you. Even the gentiles shall come to this light, and many great minds shall surrender to the brightness of this light." (1629.3) 145:2.2

I feel that it is important to share it, so that other people will experience the benefits that I have derived from it. How wonderful it will be when all of the inhabitants on earth absorb the values of *The Urantia Book* and live the teachings. Doing so will make life happier, peaceful, and better. Moreover, if we share with others this happiness, it will be felt by all of us. Human beings cannot be happy alone.

"Happiness and joy take origin in the inner life. You cannot experience real joy all by yourself. A solitary life is fatal to happiness. Even families and nations will enjoy life more if they share it with others." (1220.6) 111:4.7

How beautiful the world could be if there is no more

violence, war, or other vices that make our planet unstable.

Based on my experience of the last two years, I can spread the values of *The Urantia Book* through the example of my good behavior. Meanwhile, I can invite others to come and read *The Urantia Book* and to join in some of the other programs I offer like stress management, self-discovery, and cooperation with one's Thought Adjuster. I developed these programs based on ideas from *The Urantia Book*.

"Mind is your ship, the Adjuster is your pilot, the human will is captain. The master of the mortal vessel should have the wisdom to trust the divine pilot to guide the ascending soul into the morontia harbors of eternal survival. Only by selfishness, slothfulness, and sinfulness can the will of man reject the guidance of such a loving pilot and eventually wreck the mortal career upon the evil shoals of rejected mercy and upon the rocks of embraced sin. With your consent, this faithful pilot will safely carry you across the barriers of time and the handicaps of space to the very source of the divine mind and on beyond, even to the Paradise Father of Adjusters." (1217.4) 111:1.9

Thus I spread the teachings through these training programs, and step by step, the teachings spread to many people without my mentioning the book.

Some time ago I received ten books from Urantia Foundation (thanks to Tamara for sending them), and I gave the books to my colleagues at the university where I am studying for a PhD. I think that my colleagues will be more open to read and study *The Urantia Book* because they are intelligent, insightful, and analytical. In addition, my dissertation pertains to *The Urantia Book*. I hope that one day more and more people will find the book through my academic presentation after my dissertation research is completed. It is my mission to spread the light and become the salt of the Earth.



FINDING *THE URANTIA BOOK* IN NIGERIA: AN ANSWER TO MY CHILDHOOD PRAYER



By Olusegun Falola, Lagos, Nigeria

I was born and raised in Nigeria, Africa, and I live there today. Our family went to the Baptist Church. When I was a child, my parents made sure I attended Bible-study classes, a part of which was bible recitation tests at which I excelled. When I was about ten-years old, something deep inside me told me that there was more to God than all that we were doing and learning at church.

So I started praying: "God, show me your secrets and the secrets about the devil and the secrets of heaven and hell. I want to know more than what they teach us at church. In Jesus' name, Amen." For a long time I did not know what led my young mind to offer such a sincere prayer, but I knew that I was dissatisfied with traditional religion.

I remained in this state of mind for a long time until my final year at FUTA, the Federal University of Technology in Akure, Nigeria. At this time, people were just starting to access the Internet in Nigeria. University students were obtaining their email addresses and were learning to browse the Internet for the first time. Each time my fellow students encouraged me to join them

to browse the Internet, I replied, "Not yet." Something inside me said, "Be patient. In due time you will find some amazing information on the Internet." It was a strange premonition.

In 2004, during my last year at the university, I had a slight hiccup involving my senior project, and I had to spend extra time re-writing it while my mates were all rejoicing about their upcoming graduation. This was quite disturbing to me because I was an A student. Because I did not have a computer, I was using the computer at a cyber-café to do more research. One fateful morning, I entered the café with some sadness about my situation. After I finished doing school work, I thought that I would google search my questions about God and Jesus. So I typed "childhood of Jesus" into google and hit enter. On the monitor appeared many results, one of which was *The Urantia Book*. At first I was a bit skeptical thinking this book may be one of the so called lost books of the Bible. But after reading for about maybe fifteen minutes, I thought, "This book is different. It is full of details about the childhood of Jesus and presents them in chapter after chapter."

Then I went back to google and searched for the answer to another question that I had had since I was a youngster: What was Lucifer's fall from heaven? And up came many results, one of which was from this same strange Urantia Book titled "The Lucifer Rebellion." I could not believe my eyes and my luck. So I started reading as fast as I could.

By the time I finished reading, I felt a bit scared.

Then I remembered my childhood-one-point-prayer and thought "I know where to find the answers to my questions concerning the secrets of God, the devil, and heaven and hell. In *The Urantia Book*! Whoa! Immediately, I googled "Adam and Eve," and the papers did not disappoint me. I was vigorously nodding my head as I glanced through these papers thinking, "Eureka! Yes, this is it—the missing links; this is the book!" I memorized the website: www.urantia.org and was filled with excitement, wonder, amazement, and perplexity.

What churches teach is limited by the Bible; what *The Urantia Book* brings to the table is an expansion of knowledge. When I returned to the house in which I was rooming, I entered my room, dropped to my knees, and said, "Thank you, Father; thank you, Jesus! Thank you for leading me to *The Urantia Book*, and thank you for answering my childhood prayer."

While I basked in the euphoria of finding *The Urantia Book*, I called my parents and friends to share the good news.

The next day I bought packs of diskettes which I took to the cyber-café, where I downloaded quite a few papers from the book. These were the early days of the Internet in Nigeria. Later, when I had a computer, I transferred the book from diskette to my desktop computer, where I read it continuously for more than ninety days.

For ten years, I have been reading *The Urantia Book* online until last month when I received a physical Urantia

Book, sent to me from Barnes & Noble in the USA. I felt as though I were a child having his first "toy." The book stays in my office bag because I take it to work every day.

My experience finding *The Urantia Book* online was an intriguing one. Can you imagine having your childhood prayer answered beyond your wildest imagination? It was much later that I read the history of how the Forum started receiving the papers. Honestly, the contents of *The Urantia Book* are enough for me; I am not really interested in information *about* the book; I am interested in the information *of* the book. The challenge I have is how to spread this revelation to my people, the people of Africa who are tradition-bound and religiously dogmatic. But I learned from the book that revelation must be introduced tactically, wisely, and patiently to our evolutionary world.

One of my colleagues at work (yes I work now—I managed to finish my senior project and graduated on time with my mates), a member of Yahweh Church, has commenced reading *The Urantia Book* with keen interest. I regularly post excerpts from *The Urantia Book* on Facebook and other social media.

Let me conclude this article by expressing how grateful I am to the trustees and staff of Urantia Foundation, especially to my dear friend Tamara for finding time to reply to my emails and my many, many questions.

With this revelation, I know where I came from, and I know where I am going.



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On the web at
www.urantia.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Women's Retreat—the Daughters of God

October 24-26

Facilitated by Line St-Pierre, Katharina Becker, Carolyn Prentice and Doreen Heyne.

It is written that men and women are different in nature, reaction, viewpoint, and thinking. How do women who are inspired by the teachings of *The Urantia Book* receive God's wisdom and use the gifts that he entrusted us with?

In a circle of trust amongst participants, we will be reflecting on what makes us stand in our own feminine sphere and how we value its importance.

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

Vision: *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.*

If you have any questions, please contact urantia@urantia.org

The Urantia Book Android App

The Urantia Book Android App is now available in all 16 languages in Google Play at <https://play.google.com/store/apps/developer?id=Urantia%20Foundation&hl=en>.

The price - \$0.99

If you use an Android Phone or Tablet and you already own a physical copy of *The Urantia Book*, as well as the audio version, the eBook version, a PDF version, and if you are old enough—and hip enough—to have owned the five floppy-disk set (runs in the Windows® environment on IBM-compatible computers), then you surely need the Android App version.

If that is not reason enough, be assured that income from the sales of the Android App (and other formats of *The Urantia Book*) go towards developing new formats and mediums for the dissemination of *The Urantia Book*.

If you have any questions, please contact Tamara at tamara@urantia.org.



“Science, guided by wisdom, may become man's great social liberator.”

The Urantia Book, (909.3) 81:6.22