



URANTIA FOUNDATION'S NEWS ONLINE

THE ITALIAN TRANSLATION OF *THE URANTIA BOOK*

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By Guglielmo "Memo" Zago, Verona, Italy

The Urantia Book was translated into Italian after a series of apparently fortuitous events.

In 1980, I was employed by a large local company. I was a husband and father, and I was a physically fit fellow.

But then things began to change, to go wrong. My reality went in a downtrend, and I was feeling depressed, hopeless, and desperate to find something.

At the invitation of a friend, I attended a few meetings of an esoteric association, where I met Giuseppe Zecchinato, who introduced me to *The Urantia Book*, which he had discovered in France during a meeting (concerning cold fusion) with Jacques Weiss, the chief translator of the French translation of *The Urantia Book*.

Zecchinato procured a copy, which he began to read

immediately upon his return to Italy.

Following Zecchinato's example, but years later, I bought a copy of the French translation of *The Urantia Book*. My reading of the French translation was challenging, as it had been years since I had studied French in school. But I persisted and read the book in its entirety. After doing so, I desired to translate it into Italian, which I did, using the French translation as my "original" text, as I did not know English. The translation took me more than five years to complete. When I told Zecchinato what I had done, he told me that he had commenced an Italian translation of the book but had not worked on it in quite a few years.

He wanted to inform Urantia Foundation that I had translated the book into Italian, but I convinced him not to do so because I questioned the quality of my translation—and especially because I translated the French translation, not the English text, into Italian.

So I obtained a copy of the English text, and Zecchianato, who was fluent in English, and I commenced a comparison of the Italian translation with the English text.

Zecchianato and I met every weekend at his residence,

correcting and revising my translation. Unfortunately, Zecchianato, who was up in years, became ill, which limited his ability to participate in the project. Our progress was slow, but the revision was finally completed. We had been in communications with Georges Michelson-Dupont, who visited us in Verona. Georges arranged for a professional translator to check the accuracy and beauty of our translation. Shortly thereafter, Zecchinato died.

By this time I had retired and decided to compare the English and the Italian texts one more time, after which I sent all the files to Urantia Foundation, which printed the translation.

Finally, *Il Libro di Urantia* was available to readers of the Italian language.

Recently, having come into possession of a copy of the latest revised and corrected French translation, I decided that, during this next year—the eightieth year of my life—I would spend seven days a week revising and correcting the Italian translation.

Next August, Italian readers, at a location near Verona, will have their first conference, a mini-conference. Danielle La Scala is the impresario.

NOTEWORTHY DECISIONS FROM THE APRIL 2015 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING



By Judy Van Cleave, Trustee, Idaho, United States

Decisions Made

1. Fundraising

The fundraising committee described its plans to launch the "Revelation Bridge," a new planned-giving fund aimed at generating twenty-five million dollars to safeguard the Urantia Revelation from 2015-2050. Today, almost all donations come from older North Americans. We are entering a time when the largest transfer of wealth in the history of the world is taking place as the North American baby boomers pass on their wealth. Because the next generation of readers is not financially prepared to take on the growing expenses of education, outreach, translations, and book distribution, the aging baby boomers need to build the "Revelation Bridge" from their generation to the next. This is exactly what the early founders did for future generations, and now the baby boomers must do the same. We are very happy to help anyone who wants to donate to the "Revelation Bridge." Please call Joanne Strobel at 1-773-525-3319 or visit urantia.plannedgiving.org/.

2. Translations, Revisions, and the Golden Files

A. Trustee and Manager of Translations Georges Michelson-Dupont reported on the progress of each translation and revision in progress. Even though a translation or revision might take a decade or two to finish, in the foreseeable future, the vast majority of people on earth will be able to read *The Urantia Book* in their native tongue. We are truly blessed by the service of each translator and revisor! We are especially thankful to Georges for volunteering his time and resources and for coordinating this noble endeavor. Special thanks go to Marilyn Kulieke, Georges Michelson-Dupont, Jay Peregrine, Henk Mylanus, and Tamara Strumfeld for their excellent work on the Translation Committee.



Larry Watkins

B. Larry Watkins demonstrated the "Vault" to the board. Rogério da Silva and Larry have been producing what are called the "Golden Files"—the latest version of the English text and each translation—and storing them in the Vault. The Golden Files will preserve the master files of the text in all translations for decades to come. Any time a translation is improved, new Golden Files will be generated and stored in the Vault.



Rogério da Silva

C. Every board meeting comprises two parts. One is the general session with the full board. The other is the executive session that is only attended by trustees and invited presenters. This April's executive session was spent mostly discussing the need for outside professionals to evaluate the translations and revisions.

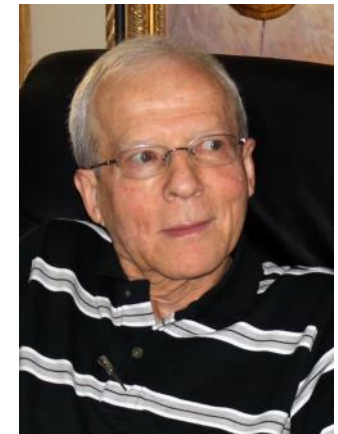
Most translations and revisions require tens of thousands of hours to complete and are done by volunteers—as labors of love. We are so thankful for the Foundation's translators and revisors. Through experience we have learned that having professional outside evaluators, early on, check the quality of a translation or revision dramatically improves the quality of translations and revisions. As time goes on, we shall need more services from professional evaluators. We view it as our duty to publish translations that are as beautiful and as true to the original as is possible.

3. Education

Georges Michelson-Dupont and Ralph Zehr reported that the interest in, and



Georges Michelson-Dupont



Ralph Zehr

attendance of, the Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS) classes are exploding. To date, over 1,050 students have taken classes since the inception of UBIS. Attendees have come from over 176 countries spanning five continents. Classes are offered in English, Spanish, and French, with Portuguese coming soon.

Gard Jameson, chair of the Education Committee, reported on two events. The first was a recent seminar held at Urantia Foundation that explored the socialization of religion. The other event is the Parliament of World Religions in Salt Lake City, Nevada, this October.

4. Books

Tamara Strumfeld and Henk Mylanus reported on final sales numbers for 2014. Urantia Book sales were up 7% with the biggest increases coming from Latin America.

This summer the Foundation will print 27,000 Urantia Books in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and German. Long-time English readers should enjoy this new printing because we are adding an elegant, limited-edition British Tan LeatherSoft® book. These books will come in an attractive gift box that makes it a splendid gift to give to a loved one or to a new reader.

Urantia Foundation participated in two book fairs during May and June.

5. Public Relations

Richard Jernigan made a presentation for a style guide that Urantia Foundation would use for organizational identification. The purpose of the style guide is to help Urantia Foundation ensure a dependable degree of dignity, professionalism, and graphic consistency in its work, programs, and dissemination activities. Our desire is that



Richard Jernigan

Urantia Foundation presents an image that is consistent with the dignity and values of the fifth epochal revelation.

6. Future Use of the Basement at 533

Gard Jameson presented architectural designs for the Foundation's basement to be converted into a library and learning center. A feasibility study is being conducted to determine the possibilities, timing, and expenses associated with the idea.

7. The Imprint Label: Urantia Press

The board voted in favor of

establishing the first imprint label of Urantia Foundation. Imprint labels are tools used by organizations to distinguish specially published materials from its normal publications. In this case, future books, videos, and audios will be published under an imprint label, not under the name Urantia Foundation.

The board voted in favor of printing oversized postcards for outreach purposes under the imprint label of Urantia Press. The first set of postcards was available at the book fairs recently attended.

8. Five-Year Organizational and Financial Plan

The board approved Urantia Foundation's developing a five-year organizational and financial plan. With the help of an outside executive resource, we will set five-year goals with plans for who will do what, by when, and at what cost. This planning process will be rather extensive and is much needed. When finished, the plan will also answer important staffing questions.

9. Recommendations from the Standard Reference Text Committee

A few years ago, under the leadership of Seppo Kenerva, a group of scholarly students of *The Urantia Book* formed the Standard Reference Text Committee, which has representatives from both organizations currently publishing the book. The committee reviewed all of the changes ever made in *The Urantia Book* and recommended the "Standard Reference Text" (SRT) that would serve as the inviolate text of *The Urantia Book* for future generations. Both of the current publishers agreed to print only the SRT.

Recently the committee found five more minor errors of grammar and punctuation in the text and recommended that they be corrected and included in the SRT. After review, the Board of Trustees approved these changes, which will be included in future printings of the English text.

MY REFLECTIONS AFTER THE BOOKEXPO AMERICA



By Víctor García-Bory, associate trustee, Urantia Foundation, New York, United States

As I was preparing to write this article about Urantia Foundation's participation in the 2015 BookExpo America in late May, I fondly recalled the time when I first found *The Urantia Book*. It was the early 1990s, and what a memorable day it was when

the book arrived via mail order to my apartment in Mexico City.

I vividly remember how spiritually uplifted and how ecstatic with joy I was that day!

Now let me focus on the BookExpo America or BEA, where Urantia Foundation was exhibiting *The Urantia Book*. The BEA is the second

largest international book fair in the world. The Frankfurt Book Fair, held in Germany, is the largest; the Guadalajara International Book Fair, held in Mexico, is the third largest.

This year's BEA took place from May 27 to May 29 at the Javits Center in New York City. Urantia Foundation occupied a small space in one of the main pavilions at the show—in the same area where top national and international

trade and distribution companies were located. This allowed the Foundation to further cement relationships with partners that presently distribute the book in the United States and North America, as well as countries in Latin America, Europe, and other regions. There were also occasions to explore the book industry's global landscape to learn more about the opportunities and challenges that the industry as a whole faces nowadays.

Some 20,800 people attended the BEA this year, and it generated more than forty-four thousand Twitter posts, over twenty-two thousand Facebook likes, and some forty-five hundred Instagram followers. More than a thousand media representatives attended. There were over 350 speakers and more than 85 conference sessions, including a large number of them held by a massive number of publishers from China, the BEA's Global Market Forum Guest of Honor. Types of attendees included booksellers (both chains and independent organizations), specialty retail buyers, museum store buyers, and librarians, among others. The BEA was covered via webcast and on-air by PBS.

Despite how impressive (or not) the above might seem—at the time I wrote this article the Urantia Foundation Facebook page had some ten thousand likes, the FIFA Women's World Cup had more than 467 thousand, the Dalai Lama had 11 million, and Taylor Swift had 71 million. Does this illustrate that book reading in general among most populations on the planet is not growing? For a few years now, industry experts have been talking and writing about a general decline in book sales. In the United States and most of the world, the market currently appears to be relatively

stagnant, as both revenue and unit sales have failed to show significant changes in recent years, especially since 2012. That is true including meager to flat growth of the e-book segment last year. It seems many these days prefer social media, video content viewing, listening to music, gaming, and other activities to reading.

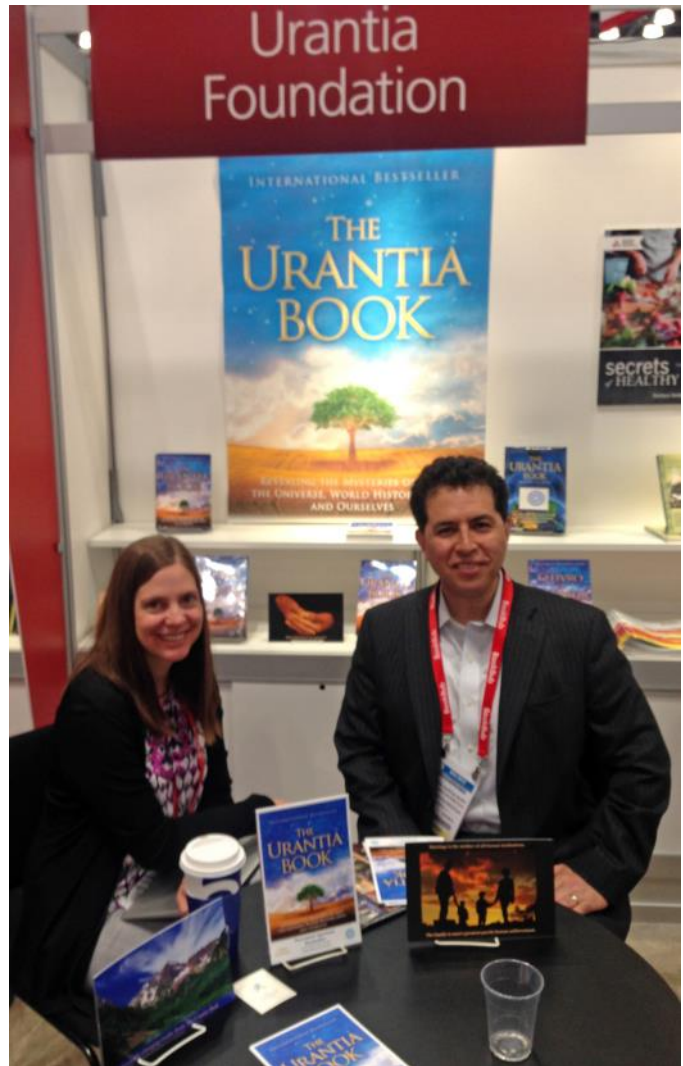
Why is all of the above important? Because it highlights how small, yet how paramount for the future of our planet, the distribution scale is for *The Urantia Book*. It is through commercial distribution that *The Urantia Book* has best succeeded in making significant and sustained advances in terms of broader availability and meaningful price reduction everywhere in the world.

Plus, as we know, "Commerce has been the great civilizer through promoting the cross-fertilization of culture." 69:4.8 (775.8)

The matter of making *The Urantia Book* available and accessible globally is not an insignificant challenge. But it is one that, with the help of committed Urantia Book readers, has been and can continue to be met with success. Labors of love and contributions of many kinds taking place every day all over the world make the availability of *The Urantia Book* possible.

Yes, the mission ahead is still enormous, but we can continue to make steady progress with the commitment and cooperation of leaders, readers, and groups in local communities and within organizations across the globe.

The Urantia Book needs us all. Attending BookExpo America is an important part of the equation, as is attending many other relevant book fairs around the world. But



Tamara and Víctor

remember that this is possible, thanks to the cooperation, support, and assistance of readers.

If there is something that I could say to you today, it would be: Know that *The Urantia Book* needs you. Know that Urantia Foundation needs you.

Distributing *The Urantia Book* and making it accessible is a team effort of global proportions, yet of small scale. If you can, join in the joy of service and the thrill of making a difference in taking the fifth epochal revelation to all corners of the world. Contribute (or continue to contribute) in any way that you can. Do it in your village,

town, city, country, or region. But participate. Be of service from the heart.

Contact Urantia Foundation online, in person, or via the phone and find out how you can be part of making *The Urantia Book* more available and more affordable to readers across the globe.

Let us remember that, "In liaison with God, nothing—absolutely nothing—is impossible." 26:5.3 (291.3)

THE BOGOTÁ INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR

By Isabel Reinoso, Marlene Tovar, Andres Ramirez, and Wilson León, Bogotá, Colombia

The Urantia Association of Colombia and the Bogotá Urantia Association exhibited at the 2015 International Book Fair in Bogotá, Colombia. A two-week event for the printing and publishing industries, it was held this year from April 21 to May 4 at the Corferias-Centro de Convenciones in Bogotá, Colombia.

This was undoubtedly the best book fair in which the association has participated during recent years. Attendance was high, scheduled events were many, and the opportunity to reach thousands of people with information about *The Urantia Book* was great.

First, we wish to thank any celestial beings, who may have been involved, for their guidance that made it possible for us to be there and to provide a service of love.

Second, we thank Urantia Foundation in Chicago, which donated 100 Spanish paperback Urantia Books. The gifted books helped us offset the costs of participating in the book fair.

Finally, we are grateful to the organizers and volunteers who supported us in the booth for fifteen days.

The results of our efforts were the following:

- More than 8,500 flyers were distributed.
- Information about *The Urantia Book* was given directly to more than 2,000 people.
- More than 240 email

addresses were collected from people interested in Urantia activities.

- More than 140 copies of *El libro de Urantia* were sold.
- Three presentations about *The Urantia Book* were attended by more than 100 people.

The most gratifying part of attending this book fair was the personal contact we had with the visitors to our booth. Many were exposed to the book for the first time, but some had encountered it before. The enthusiasm of so many young people gladdened our hearts.

In preparation for the fair next year, we shall do the following:

- Have a data phone to process credit cards.
- Request a better location with more booth space.
- Participate in the business conferences.
- Participate in more workshops.
- Do more promotion.
- Give mini-lectures in the booth.
- Have a children's corner with puzzles.
- Serve coffee and water.
- Improve our techniques on how to approach visitors.
- Improve the flyers.

It was our privilege and great pleasure to tend the booth and be of service to visitors.



Wilson León, Carlos Rincon, Liliana Vargas and Gustavo García



Elizabeth Prieto

A COOPERATIVE VENTURE AT THE CHICAGO LIT FEST



By David Kulieke, Illinois, United States

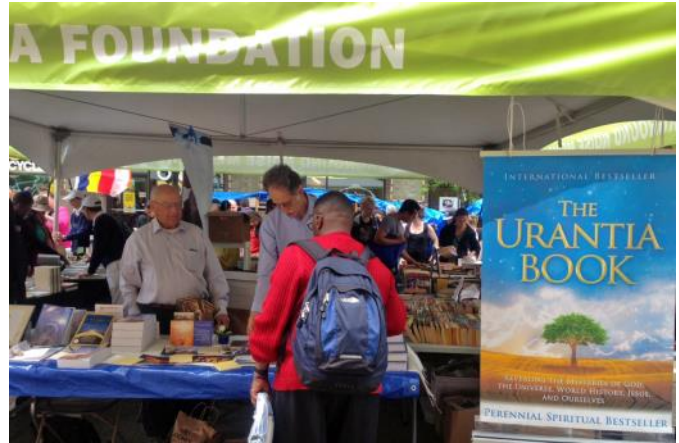
Another cooperative venture of readers of *The Urantia Book* from different Urantia organizations highlighted Chicago-area activities during June. After many years of hosting booths and presenting *The Urantia Book* at gatherings, such as the Mind, Body, Spirit Expos, Chicago-area readers tried a new venue, the venerable Printers Row Book Fair, which this year was called the Lit Fest.

This large, two-day, outdoor affair stretched over several blocks in the south Chicago Loop. June 6 was sunny and

spring like; June 7 was stormy then clear. Small and large bookstores, publishers, and organizations, which publish a main title or represent a special interest or religious group, worked hundreds of tables.

Urantia Foundation and the Urantia Book Fellowship, represented by Chicago's First Society for readers of *The Urantia Book*, shared a booth under part of a tent. One objective of trying this venue was to try to create more sustained interest in the book. At Expos, books have sold briskly, and workers have enjoyed discussing the teachings and other spiritual ideas with numerous visitors. However, recently these interactions have generated little interest in participating in local Urantia Book activities, despite extensive follow-up efforts on the part of First Society.

The readers who worked in the booth had mixed opinions on the results of attending the Lit Fest. Only fourteen books were sold, and one worker wondered if being just one of several hundred booths selling books made it difficult to stand out.



John Hales and Daniel Glazer

The workers at the Foundation-Fellowship booth included the following: Paul Anderson, Emily Deam, Daniel Glazer, John Hales, Ken Keyser, David Kulieke, Marilyn Kulieke, George Philosophos, Mo Seigel, and Joanne Strobel.

Notwithstanding modest sales and interest, the workers appreciated the positive interaction with visitors. Mo commented, "To me it felt reasonably successful considering that it's our first year, that the weather was iffy, and that it generally takes multiple exposures before someone

buys a Urantia Book." Emily added, "Glad to have been a part of a new attempt to reach others with this good word."

A highlight was the friendships that we made with the workers of an adjacent exhibitor, an American Buddhist group focused on service.

And, once again, the event underscored the delight that readers from various organizations experience when working together to spread the teachings of *The Urantia Book*.

THE FOUNDATION'S PHOTO GALLERY: PRESERVING HISTORY



Tamara Strumfeld, Urantia Foundation, Illinois, United States

Do you have a personal or family photo collection that might contain images of historical value to the Urantia community? If so, you could perform a meaningful service by sharing them with Urantia Foundation.

The Foundation is embarking on a project to add to its historic archive's photo gallery, especially from the years between 1900 and 1990. This will be used as a general historical archive and also as a source of photographs to include in newsletters and other publications. While there are many historic photos known

to be in circulation, the Foundation's collection is far from complete.

You can help us to make sure that prior generations are represented in the archive, and that people and subjects that may be missing or unknown to us are identified and included. This

encompasses people with a connection to Urantia Foundation or to Urantia Brotherhood—leaders and readers doing the work of the Urantia Book project or just getting together at significant locations and events. If you are willing to go through your photo collection and to identify and share your photographs, you may be making a unique contribution to preserving the historical record.

Old photos will need to be scanned and digitized. If you are able to do this, please refer to the instructions below for scanning, labeling, and sending electronically. If you think this is beyond your level of expertise, we will gratefully accept the loan of your hard copy photos and will return them after we have scanned them.

Here is how you can assist us:

Scan and submit electronically.

You may scan photos on your own scanner or take them to a professional service such as FedEx (formerly Kinko's) or the UPS Store.

Images should be scanned at a minimum of 300ppi. Please do not crop, color balance, or "fix" these files in any way. We have our own resources to make them look better. All we need is a high-resolution scan of the original.

Images should be clearly labeled with what information you have. This can be done by renaming the digital file (example: Joe_Blogs_1957.jpg) or supplying an accompanying text file referencing the numbered image (MG11529.jpg = Joe Blogs,

1957). If you do not have an exact date, an approximate date will be helpful (Joe Blogs, circa 1957 or Joe Blogs, late 1950s.) If you are uncertain or cannot label the photos, please send them with what information you have.

You may e-mail the photographs, but the size limit is 10MB per message.

If you use free file sharing services like DropBox at <https://www.dropbox.com/> or Google Drive at <https://www.google.com/drive/>, please share your uploads with Tamara at tamara@urantia.org.

Share hard copy photos.

Please know that we will take great care of your photos and will return them after scanning, but we suggest that you keep a copy for yourself

and package them securely to avoid damage.

Send to: Urantia Foundation, Attention: Tamara Strumfeld, 533 W. Diversey Parkway, Chicago, IL 60614.

Please label each photo on the back with your name, contact information, and information about the subject (names, date, location, etc.). If you have additional information to provide, you may include it on a separate piece of paper, but please number the photos on the back, and refer to each by number.

On behalf of the team at Urantia Foundation, we thank you and appreciate your efforts in helping us complete and preserve the photo gallery for generations to come.

WHAT *THE URANTIA BOOK* MEANS TO ME



Andrea Barnes and her son, Dan

By Andrea Barnes, California, United States

I was very fortunate to discover *The Urantia Book* when I was nineteen years old, although it threw me into a real tailspin for many years. Growing up, I was a very inquisitive child. I always wanted to know what was really going on. Religions left me with too many questions

that did not seem to have logical answers. Even so, I did become involved with the church and decided that perhaps faith was necessary to my "buying" that preposterous story about the blood sacrifice. When I was about fifteen, my minister was arrested for embezzling church funds, and that just tore my little heart to pieces.

I denounced the church and all "believers." In my mind they were simply sheep that needed to be placated with pleasant fables. I was not interested in any more churches, and religion seemed like a waste of time. I suppose there was still a part of me that wanted to believe, but if it did not make sense, I was not going to be involved. I never dreamed I would find something with answers I could "buy."

One night, at a local pub in Fort Collins, Colorado, I sat down with a new friend, and we discussed religion and philosophy. He said he had recently started reading a big book with a lot of answers. So I proceeded to ask one question after another until dawn. I was simply astounded at the answers he gave me. They were clear, made perfect sense, and rang true in my heart. He did not have the book with him, but I did see it the following week. All week I dreamed about seeing the book, holding it, and getting a copy of it. I was so disappointed that it was a blue book with little circles. I had anticipated a large leather book with gold embossing and cursive writing—something with enough flourish to reflect what was in the book.

I was, however, immediately thrilled with what I read, and I started driving ninety minutes every week to attend a study group in Denver. I had such high ideals about everything and tried to live up to them. What I realize now was that I was a tadpole trying to be a frog.

I married the friend who told me about the book, moved to San Diego, and had three sons. I spent years devoted to raising our family but always made time every week for study group. But after my children left home, I busied myself with other things and did not attend a study group for about five years. But the truths that I had gleaned from *The Urantia Book* were always a part of me. I felt as though I had made a lot of mistakes in my life and did not feel worthy to be part of

the movement anymore. Then one day I was listening in my car to a minister who was talking about that very subject. He said that if you have a desire to serve, that is proof that you are worthy. He said there are so few laborers, and the fields are ripe. He spoke to my soul, and I was so moved. I pulled over and cried.

I decided to attend the Urantia Family Festival in Montreal, Canada, in 2010. From there I went with a group of readers to visit study groups, to talk about the book to whomever we met, and to develop new outreach methods. The following year I was elected to the General Council of The Urantia Book Fellowship. I felt so honored to be a part of something so special. Even though I could see that we were but a human institution, still we were religionists devoted to a higher purpose.

I was elected to be the chairperson of the Fellowship's Outreach

Committee in 2012. I followed what had been done by previous chairs. In addition, I arranged to have booths at various book expos to share *The Urantia Book* with the public. Over the years we have had the opportunity to tell thousands of people about the book in a one-on-one setting. Finding out where a person is in their spiritual journey is the first thing I do before telling them anything. We must realize that we are not here to change anyone's beliefs but only to add—in a delicate and wise way—to their beliefs. Is this not the Jesusonian method? There is a real art to sharing the book, and this art takes time to develop.

Often I do not mention the book but ask people questions and then embellish on what I consider to be their higher thoughts. This is "sharing the gospel." Simply loving others is sharing the gospel. Not everyone is interested in this book nor should they be. We are all at different places on our journey. Having respect

and affection for each person is the key.

In 2014 my middle son lost his battle with drugs at the age of twenty-eight. Although I constantly worried about him, when something like this happens, you are never prepared. My life felt as though it was over. The amount of regret I felt was inconceivable, and I thought I might lose my mind. Nonetheless, through prayer and indulging feelings of gratitude, I managed to steady myself and stay on course, despite the extreme pain.

Whenever I ask for help, I receive it. I feel that the Universe Mother Spirit is with me at all times, looking for ways to comfort and hold me. I literally visualize her presence, count on her, and love her in return. My meager faith had to rise to the levels of real trust that would carry me through the pain. The revelators tell us that there is "no growth without psychic conflict and spiritual agitation." I try to remember

that, to be thankful, and to know that something good will come out of it all. I know that I shall definitely see my son again and shall be able to spend as much time with him as I want.

Without *The Urantia Book*, the death of my son would be a burden that I believe I could not bear. I was immensely helped by recordings of the Symmetry of Soul team (<http://www.symmetryofsoul.org/>). I listened for hours to the sections on personality survival and then went on to other broadcasts, and my knowledge of the fifth epochal revelation grew as it had never done so before.

I am so thankful for the Urantia Revelation, for my personal revelation, for my family, for all of my brothers and sisters, and for the blessings of life on this sphere.

Peace be with you.

MY QUEST TO FIND ANSWERS



By Cesar Paulo Zapello, president, Urantia Association of Brazil, Caxias do Sul, Brazil

Regarding my search for answers to my spiritual and cosmic questions, I always

had questions about God, the universe, and Adam and Eve, to name a few, but I never found the answers in institutionalized religions. Understanding the Bible—I was raised Catholic—never gave me the answers I sought.

For forty-eight years I had questions but no answers, until I had a very difficult time in my life: My small business went bankrupt, and I felt great stress. But the experience did cause me to turn to God and to ask yet another question: Why is life so difficult?

My spiritual hunger led me to evangelical churches, to Seicho-no-je, to shamanism,

and to the Great White Brotherhood (Ascended Masters), but none of them gave me answers. They did, however, prepare me for my discovery of *The Urantia Book*.

On July 31, 2010, while searching on the internet, I found *The Urantia Book*. Looking through the Table of Contents, Paper 74, "Adam and Eve" caught my eye. The information in Paper 74 was so logical and made such good sense. I just knew that *The Urantia Book* was going to answer the questions that I had had for so many years.

Since then, with the help of long-time readers and online

On July 31, 2010, while searching on the internet, I found *The Urantia Book*.

study groups offered by the Urantia Association of Brazil (UAB), I have not stopped reading *The Urantia Book*. My life has changed. My wife, after some resistance, also started reading the book. Today she and I have spiritual unity, and we are helping new readers.

Most of our friends are Urantia Book readers in Brazil and around the world.

I participated in the Study Group Symposium in Chicago in June 2012 and visited Urantia Foundation headquarters. I also made a lot of friends from various countries who motivated me to do the will of the Father and to serve my brothers and sisters.

When somebody asks me which part of *The Urantia Book* I like the most, I always answer that it is the part I am currently reading. But there are two paragraphs that have motivated me the most:

”Eternal survival of personality is wholly dependent on the choosing of the mortal mind, whose decisions determine the survival potential of the immortal soul. When the mind

believes God and the soul knows God, and when, with the fostering Adjuster, they all desire God, then is survival assured. Limitations of intellect, curtailment of education, deprivation of culture, impoverishment of social status, even inferiority of the human standards of morality resulting from the unfortunate lack of educational, cultural, and social advantages, cannot invalidate the presence of the divine spirit in such unfortunate and humanly handicapped but believing individuals. The indwelling of the Mystery Monitor constitutes the inception and insures the possibility of the potential of growth and survival of the immortal soul.” (69.8) 5:5.13

“Social architects do everything within their province and power to bring together suitable individuals that they may constitute efficient and agreeable working groups on earth; and sometimes such groups have found themselves

reassociated on the mansion worlds for continued fruitful service. But not always do these seraphim attain their ends; not always are they able to bring together those who would form the most ideal group to achieve a given purpose or to accomplish a certain task; under these conditions they must utilize the best of the material available.” (432.6) 39:3.5

In closing, let me emphasize that it is not enough to know *The Urantia Book* intellectually. The great value of its teachings is to put them into practice in our everyday lives. The strength of our pursuit is exhibited by the quality of our relations with other readers and with

all our brothers and sisters.

I encourage all readers to participate in study groups. I know whereof I speak. I participate in online study groups every Monday, Tuesday, Saturday, and Sunday through UAB's internet conference room, and every Thursday at a study group at our home. And for three years, we have had a monthly regional meeting in the south of Brazil. Since I found *The Urantia Book*, I have also actively helped to organize national meetings.

I feel honored to share my “what *The Urantia Book* means to me ” story with other readers.



Christ the Redeemer, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A WOMEN’S RETREAT—DANCING WITH GOD

By Line St-Pierre, Québec, Canada

The Urantia Book tells us that, as we are lead by the Spirit of God, we are the daughters and sons of God.

Have you ever had an inspiration of value and acted upon it, which brought you spiritual joy?

At our next retreat, “Dancing with God,” four daughters of God have put together a program whereby the participants will explore questions, such as:

How do we understand and experience the fact that “woman has always been the moral standard-bearer and the spiritual leader of mankind”? What is woman’s

next evolutionary step in upholding and expanding this responsibility?

How have we come to know and experience God’s gifts and wisdom expressed through women?

Of the many gifts—mind, body, spirit, consciousness, and personality, for example—given to us to aid

us on our ascension career, how do we become aware of the sacredness of these gifts?

If you would like to join us on September 10 to 13 at 533 W. Diversey Parkway in Chicago, contact Joanne Strobel at joanne@urantia.org.



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**On the web at
www.urantia.org**

THE URANTIA BOOK FELLOWSHIP SUMMER STUDY SESSION 2015

By *Bobbie Dreier, New Jersey, United States*

Location: Techny Towers, Northbrook, Illinois, July 9–12

Join with fellow readers of *The Urantia Book* this summer as we explore "Our Relationship with God the Father." With a focus on Papers 1–5, the Education Committee is initiating a

journey through the major themes in *The Urantia Book*. The conference committee is planning a variety of experiences, including workshops for new readers, in-depth study, experiential workshops, and advanced studies. In addition to the study program, there will be opportunities to participate in worshipful meditation and to enjoy renewing old

friendships and making new ones.

A preconference retreat, "Creating Circles of Trust," will be held from July 7 to July 9.

Register online at <http://www.urantiabook.org/>.

URANTIA ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL SUMMER CONFERENCE—AN EVENT NOT TO BE MISSED

By *Gaétan Charland, Québec, Canada*

Something important is happening this summer in Quebec, Canada. From July 30 to August 2, a conference sponsored by Urantia Association International is taking place and needs your participation. These international conferences are events that should not be missed; they provide unparalleled opportunities of social interaction and inner growth while promoting a genuine fraternity with others from many cultures.

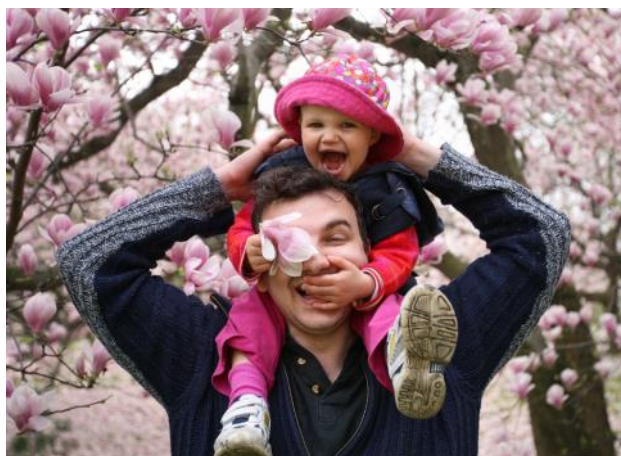
The conference will focus on

one of the most important teachings of *The Urantia Book*: the education of the family and society. Many of us are looking for ways to disseminate and share advanced techniques with our children, family, and friends. This conference will feature plenaries and workshops that will explore these relevant topics. The program has been designed so that workshops are linked in synergy to the corresponding plenaries.

We are looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at this event. Many readers are coming from

around the world, and our financial aid committee is working hard to collect funds and manage requests from readers who need financial assistance to attend this conference. If you feel generous, please contribute to our scholarship fund by visiting <https://urantia-association.org/get-involved/support-uai/>.

Register online at <https://www.regonline.ca/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1643032>.



Without the genuine love of a home, no child can achieve the full development of normal character.

The Urantia Book,
160:2.6 (1775.7)