



URANTIA FOUNDATION'S NEWS ONLINE

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*And the Father
also rules within
the hearts of his
children on earth
by the spirit
which he has sent
to live within the
souls of mortal
men. Page 1588
(141:2)*



WELCOME



By Seppo Kanerva (President,
Urantia Foundation)

This electronic newsletter, *Urantia Foundation's News Online*, is a new opening and a novel approach in Urantia Foundation's efforts to communicate with the reader community and to inform about our new and ongoing projects. Our plan is that, through this modern communication facility we shall on a quarterly basis be keeping you updated about the latest

important developments. *Urantia Foundation's News Online* will be provided in English, but thanks to the services of volunteers we are in a position to send it also in Spanish to Spanish-speaking readers. Furthermore, some of our branch offices are willing to translate *Urantia Foundation's News Online* into their respective native languages.

For many years it was necessary to drastically cut the expenses of the Foundation, be more frugal than ever, and just make sure that we can sustain the core functions of our organization. Because paper newsletters are expensive to print and even more costly to mail, we had to stop publishing the traditional *Urantian*

News altogether, at least for the time being, and just provide, once a year, an *Annual Report* on our activities. The outcome of these measures was predictable: our communications with the readership and the Urantia community suffered. Along with *Urantia Foundation's News Online*, we are now working harder to repair our shortcomings in our public relations.



NEWSWORTHY ITEMS FROM THE APRIL 2007 TRUSTEES MEETING

By Mo Siegel
Secretary, Urantia Foundation

The extended Board of Urantia Foundation met in Boulder, Colorado, United States, for the April 2007 Quarterly Trustee Meeting. The meeting

proved to be a very productive two-day session, where an extensive list of issues became resolved. The Board also had the opportunity of attending a local community potluck dinner and a *Urantia-Book*-inspired planetarium presentation, sponsored by the Rocky Moun-

tain Fellowship of *Urantia Book* readers. The potluck was attended by some 150 people. This was followed by a wine and cheese social with the leaders of the Executive Committee of the Fellowship at the home of Mo and Jennifer Siegel.



Urantia Foundation's Extended Board: (Back Row) Neal Waldrop, Seppo Kanerva, Richard Keeler, Gard Jameson, Jorgan Andrews, Jay Peregrine, Mo Siegel (Front Row) Judy Van Cleave, Patricia Mundelius, Georges Michelson-Dupont, Irmeli Ivalo-Sjolie, Claire Mylanus, Marilyn Kulieke, Tamara Wood, Sue Tennant

Apart from the excellent food, inspiring program, and the opportunity to renew old friendships and gain new ones, the weekend vividly demonstrated that the only true end is relationships.



Georges Michelson-Dupont.
President of the new Urantia Europe Board.

In an effort to improve communications with the worldwide Brotherhood of believers, you are receiving the first

e-mail newsletter titled *Urantia Foundation's News Online*. For a long time we've heard many readers express the need for Urantia Foundation to communicate more. Since the Foundation is run by mostly volunteers, we have found it difficult to communicate all the news and inform about activities that are taking place in a timely manner. Please let us know if this format for communication has been helpful and if you have any suggestions as to how to improve it in the future. We really want your feedback.

Highlights of the Trustee Decisions

Before we discuss new decisions, you should know that Jay Peregrine, Executive Director, and Tamara Wood, Book Sales manager, spent the first few hours of the meeting leading us through all the good work taking place at 533 Diversey Parkway. Jay talked about the web site, leaky water pipes on the third floor of our building, reader services, the new book keeping system, branch offices,

and the host of opportunities at hand. Tamara told the Board about increasing first-quarter book sales spanning from Russia to Canada, book storage problems, the next books that need reprinting, book industry trends, difficulties collecting money from some of our distributors, and our new distributor in Central and South America. If you love *The Urantia Book*, you'd be thrilled at all the work being accomplished by the team in Chicago. On behalf of all the readers worldwide, thank you Jay, Tamara, and the rest of the Chicago team.

Urantia Europe

After extensive discussions and appreciation of the work done by the newly created European Board, Urantia Foundation's trustees approved the continued planning for the new European organization. The trustees asked that the European team comes back to Urantia Foundation's Board in August 2007 with a detailed plan of action regarding organizational structure, financial

“The terms of the new license encourage all dedicated social groups committed to the revelation to use the concentric circles and the name Urantia to identify their groups.”



needs, details that will be defining the working relationships between Chicago and Europe, and book distribution options. It would be fair to categorize the developments in Europe as some of the most exciting developments in the current history of Urantia Foundation.

Social Trademark Licensing for the UAI



Jay Peregrine & Gaetan Charland signing the UF - UAI social trademark license

Some months ago Urantia Foundation introduced a new expanded social trademark licensing system. The terms of the new license encourage all dedicated social groups committed to the revelation to use the concentric circles and the name Urantia to identify their groups. The requirements of the new license can be viewed at:

<http://urantia.org/soc-lic.pdf>

Urantia Association International applied for the new license and became the first licensee under the new system. The Board deeply appreciates the UAI's continued support of Urantia Foundation's long term mission to bring God closer to man and man closer to God by disseminating and promoting *The Urantia Book* and its teachings. For more information visit the web site of the UAI at <http://www.urantia-iaa.org/>

Printing the Portuguese Translation

The immediate and tangible demand for a printed Portuguese *Urantia Book* (which is available online and on a CD), resulted in a resolution to print a limited run of 3,000 copies of the existing translation. We had hoped to make numerous corrections before we go to print, but due to the needs of Portuguese and Brazilian readers, the Board decided to print a limited number of copies. It is estimated that approximately seven years will be needed to accomplish a full revision of the translation.

Additionally, the Board agreed that a disclaimer paragraph needs to be included on the publisher's page of the printed Portuguese translation, explaining that this edition is a work in progress and not the final translation. The paragraph will explain that the nature of translations is evolutionary, needing continuous improvement, which results in further revisions and corrections. The paragraph will express the Foundation's views that translations not only strive for accuracy of interpretation but beauty of language as well.

Disclaimer in all Translations

The Board resolved that all translations of *The Urantia Book* need a disclaimer paragraph on the publisher's page, explaining the evolving nature of any translation. By including this short disclaimer, Urantia Foundation is stating the need to provide ever more accurate and beau-

tiful translations, based on the highest standard available at the time. The disclaimer lets readers know that improvements and changes might be seen in future editions and that the English text is the authoritative text..

Paper-Section Numbering System

For many reasons, ranging from multiple publishers, user friendly study group referencing, and greater flexibility in publishing, the Board agreed that Paper and Section numbering will be introduced in all future printings of *The Urantia Book*. In the currently available editions the left-hand header indicates the Paper number along with the name of the respective Part of the book. In future printings, the Paper number, the Section number, and the name of the Paper will be included in the left-hand header.

Definition and Determination of the Inviolable Text

The Board decided to establish a six-member ad hoc Committee on the Inviolable Text. The Committee will be chaired by Trustee Kanerva; its other Foundation members will be



Tamara Wood.
Urantia Foundation's Sales Manager

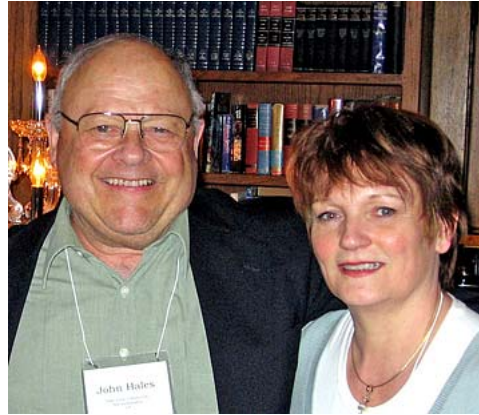
“Pent up demand for hard copies of Portuguese Urantia Books resulted in a resolution to print 3,000 copies of the existing translation.”



Seppo Kanerva & Patricia Mundelius

Executive Director Peregrine and Associate Trustee Kullie. Uversa Press will be invited to appoint three members to serve on the Committee. The Committee is charged to examine all changes effected in the first-printing text and determine whether or not the changes were and continue to be correct. Additionally, the Committee was asked to recommend an appropriate method for indicating the acceptable changes made in all published versions of *The Urantia*

Book. At the completion of their work the Committee is to recommend the text that will be defined as the Inviolable English text.



John Hales (Fellowship) & Claire Mylanus (Foundation) at the Saturday night social.

“All translations of The Urantia Book need a disclaimer paragraph on the publisher’s page, explaining the evolving nature of any translation.”

THE URANTIA BOOK IN INDIA



By Sue Tennant

Sue had an opportunity to visit India in November 2006 and gather information on The Urantia Book context in India. Here is her report.

Last November, after visiting our FreeSchools in Bihar, India, I met with Rev. Ashish Amos in Delhi. Amos heads up ISPCK (Indian Society for the Promulgation of Christian Knowledge) and they have printed and distributed *The Urantia Book* in Asia for us. I was looking for an update and in a nutshell was told sales are poor but gifts are strong.

The Indian Context

Amos explained that there are

19 constitutionally recognized languages in India, 1200 recognized dialects and 1800 unrecognized dialects. Literacy runs at 38% but only 2% are literate in English. 330 million people live below the poverty line (living on less than \$2/day). 85% are Hindu, 2.5% are Christian. Only .002% of the population can afford to buy a book. The population is 1.1 billion. If our market is 5% of over 21 million eligible book buyers, it could be as much as 100,000 books in India.

Integrity And Staying Power

ISPCK was founded in India in 1711 and serves Asia and Africa. Over the last 20 years, Christian publishing houses have struggled. ISPCK is one of 4 out of 35 to survive. Ecumenical, with full media services and a strong force for Interfaith Dialogue, they publish 74 titles a year on theological, interfaith, social and environmental issues. They also provide anti-poverty programs such as women’s empowerment, child care, and education. They are a well rounded Christian publishing/ service organization.

Free Urantia Books

Amos explained that Protestant seminary students face financial challenges in India. After 4 years of study, the burdens eliminate 50%. Once qualified, income is only \$40/month. ISPCK helps by subsidizing text books and upon graduation, gifts a set of books including a *Bible*, *Bible Concordex*, several ISPCK publications and a *Urantia Book*. So far, 5,081 *Urantia Books* have been gifted. No one knows to what extent these ministers actually study *The Urantia Book* or use it in their ministries. But of the 132 theological colleges in the ISPCK jurisdiction, only 6 refused the book. Their reason: “It discounts the whole work of Christ.”

Contextualization

Amos told us that a *Bible*-looking book like ours is of little interest to secular book stores in Asia. Amos recom-



“So far, 5,081 Urantia Books have been gifted. (In India)”





"Go into all the world and preach the glad tidings of the kingdom. Liberate spiritual captives, comfort the oppressed, and minister to the afflicted. Freely you have received, freely give." - Jesus. Page 1584 [140:9]

mends that we continue to gift the remaining books to seminary students and consider reprinting a *Urantia Book* that is specifically designed to look Indian and appeal to the Asian market. He urges us to take out information about American organizations and include a special Indian introduction. He also recommends aggressive book promotion with reviews, publicity, advertisements, and in-store marketing.

Problem for Christianity in India

India's substantial quality education infrastructure is thanks mostly to centuries of perseverance by Jesuits, Christian nuns and other missionaries. But today, Hindu fundamentalism has caused a Christian backlash. 8 of 24 states have outlawed proselytizing. Each month ISPCK receives over 200 hate mail and many evangelical pastors are in jail.

Our Challenge

Travel in Asia is cheap and appeals to many hundreds of thousands of young people

and retirees. Book stores in travel centers feature many English books like *A Course in Miracles* and *Conversations With God*. Since *The Urantia Book* does not represent a particular religion but rather is a revelation to all religions, including Christianity, making the book available in these special markets is our challenge. We need to consider if our asso-



ciation with ISPCK maximizes this potential or if a secular book production company would do better. We need a well-designed quality book, at the right price, widely distributed throughout Asia.

"We need a well-designed quality book, at the right price, widely distributed throughout Asia."



**URANTIA FOUNDATION STAFF:
JAY PEREGRINE**

*In this interview Jay Peregrine—Executive Director of Urantia Foundation for the past three years—shares a bit about how he found his way to *The Urantia Book* and his hopes for the future of the *Urantia Revelation*.*

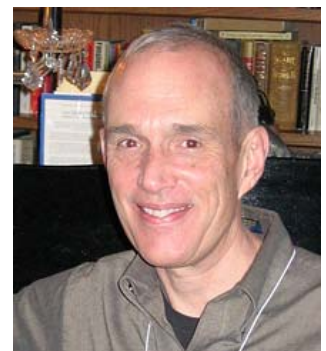
Where were you born and where did you grow up?

I was born and raised in Oak Park & River Forest, Illinois.

My family was "quietly" religious; I went to church every Sunday and started singing in the boy's choir when I was eight. We had a Sunday evening family Bible study for years. I've believed in God and Jesus as long as I can remember. I've always liked going to church.

My mother died when I was seven, which I think triggered my spiritual searching, maybe

a little earlier than would have happened otherwise. After a normal and nurturing first seven years, my next few years were increasingly tumultuous and difficult. Maybe not so out of the ordinary. The resolution of all the internal conflicts of those years came when I decided to dedicate myself to the Truth at all costs, and set out to find out for myself what my life was about.



"I decided to dedicate myself to the Truth at all costs."

"I'm one of those who believes that this is a long-term project, and that we are in the preparatory stage."

"It is such a great literary masterpiece that when I first started to read it I found I didn't care who wrote it, or where it came from. It was simply thrilling to read!"

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On the web at
www.urantia.org

When and how did you find *The Urantia Book*?

I spent a lot of time in my early 20's reading everything I could find about religion and spirituality, and trying out this and that. I lived in a Buddhist ashram for awhile. I practiced Transcendental Meditation. From all of these experiences I gleaned what I thought was the best, what I thought of as "my religion." I was convinced, as the result of an idea that came into my head while meditating one day, that there was a "third testament," a book that I needed to find. It took me about three years, and moving across the country. I found *The Urantia Book* in a metaphysical bookstore in San Francisco in 1974, and from the moment I started reading it I knew I had found what I was looking for.

Strangely enough, it turned out that my grandfather, a lawyer, had known the Hales family socially in Oak Park, and probably through that connection my father, also a lawyer, had done legal work for the Sadler family in the 1960's. My Dad had heard about *The Urantia Book*, but had never read it, and never mentioned it to me.

What do you like best about *The Urantia Book*?

That question is hard to an-

swer! There are so many things I like about the book – but I'll chose one: Someone once said that *The Urantia Book* is like a symphony; themes are stated, worked on, give way to new themes, only to reappear later on in another form. It is such a great literary masterpiece that when I first started to read it I found I didn't care who wrote it, or where it came from. It was simply thrilling to read! To this day I can assure inquirers that if they take the time to read the book I guarantee them it will be worth it. It's a good book! But I refuse to summarize it. It would be, I say, like trying to summarize a great symphony by humming a theme or two. You still need to listen to the real thing to appreciate what the composer was trying to communicate.

How did you find your way to Urantia Foundation?

It's a little of a mystery to me. Like many readers, I thought a lot about the role of the various Urantia groups over the years. As a result of a topical study I did in the late 1980's I came to the conclusion – right around the time of the "split" – that Urantia Foundation had a unique and important role to play in the movement as a whole. So I developed an approach of "if it's broken, let's fix it, but we mustn't lose the essence of its critical role." This lead me to get more and more involved, first as a volunteer on

the Coordinating Committee, then doing work on weekends for the Foundation (flying in from San Francisco), and finally in 1998 to accepting a position on the staff. In the last ten years I've learned through lots of hands-on experience the mechanics of keeping a small not-for-profit running.

What are your hopes for the *Urantia Revelation*?

I'm one of those who believes that this is a long-term project, and that we are in the preparatory stage. We need to be patient, and learn to live the teachings we've found in this book. The world does not need a religion "about *The Urantia Book*" but it does need a new breed of religionists who dare to live the religion of Jesus.

I've found myself focused the past few years therefore on taking that challenge seriously, while working on getting the book itself out into the world, into bookstores, into the hands of people who will read it and think about the ideas it contains. I believe that the book contains within itself the seeds of spiritual growth which, when planted in fertile soil, will take root and in time bear fruit.



When the flood tides of human adversity, selfishness, cruelty, hate, malice, and jealousy beat about the mortal soul, you may rest in the assurance that there is one inner bastion, the citadel of the spirit, which is absolutely unassailable...