



# Tidings

from Associations around Urantia

URANTIA ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL ■ [HTTP://URANTIA-UAI.ORG](http://URANTIA-UAI.ORG)

Nº 46 ■ JUL—AUG 2010

Positive graffiti — illustration



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## President's message

Dear Friends of UAI and readers of Tidings,

THE SUMMER SEASON IN THE Northern hemisphere is already on us and many of you have probably already planned some of your vacations around Urantia activities, such as conferences. If you plan on traveling to another country, there are some associations that offer conferences or social gatherings for Urantia Book readers. I myself, as a simple reader, will be giving a presentation in two different languages, French and English, about the mission of *The Urantia Book* and its relationship to study groups. Those presentations will happen under an activity organized by an independent group of readers and is to happen in Montreal at the beginning of July. For some members of UAI, any conference or activity not organized by UAI could be seen as problematic as they might not respect the criteria that UAI is fostering in its role as disseminator of the teachings of *The Urantia Book*.

More precisely, UAI, through its Representative Council has in the past adopted a resolution that regulates how UAI can cooperate with other organizations in projects that could benefit the mission of *The Urantia Book*. Those projects could be joint participation in book fairs, World Parliament of Religions, conferences and/or any other projects promoting *The Urantia Book* and its teachings. For most members of UAI, the culture that is prevalent in the way we organize conferences and the criteria that guide the organization of such activities needs to be safeguarded and any move toward cooperative activities with other organizations have to be examined in light of those criteria.

What are those criteria some of you might ask? The exclusive focus, study and fostering of the *The Urantia Book* and its teachings - whether this has to do with study groups, conferences or any other activities aimed at fostering *The Urantia Book*, its guardian and publisher. Some of you might have attended various conferences not organized by UAI and have seen the variety of non-Urantia activities taking place or focusing in areas of study or



exploration not conducive to intellectual or spiritual enlightenment. You might have also witnessed all sort of paraphernalia being presented and sold during those activities which have nothing to do with our mission. For all those reasons and many more, UAI has adopted a policy regulating our cooperation with other organization.

But as an individual, you are welcome to explore and share your beliefs for it is through social activities and participation that we can hope to enlighten and progress.

*You are the salt of the earth, salt with a saving savor. But if this salt has lost its savor, wherewith shall it be salted? It is henceforth good for nothing but to be cast out and trodden under foot of men.* [Paper140:4, page1572:2]

*You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and be led to glorify your Father who is in heaven.* [Paper140:4, page 1572:4]

If it is not you, then who?

If not now, then when?

These are some of the questions I kept asking readers during my trip in South America, but also of myself—they help me keep focused Ask them of yourself and see what are your answers!

On the part of the International Service Board, since the last publication of *Tidings*, we have voted on three resolutions, only one of them will require the RC approval.

1. ISB Motion 2010–7: Approval of Recommendations of UAI Leadership 2011 Sub Committee for Techny Towers Facility Lease Agreement was adopted.\*\*
2. ISB Motion 2010–8: Meeting Between ISB and Fellowship Executive Committee was adopted. Moved that the ISB accept the invitation from the Fellowship Executive Committee to meet at the Urantia Foundation for a meeting on

## TIDINGS

From Associations  
Around Urantia

*Tidings* is a bi-monthly publication of Urantia Association International, whose mission is to foster study of *The Urantia Book* and to disseminate its teachings.

The Urantia Book online:

<http://www.urantia.org/en/urantia-book/read>

You may submit articles about *The Urantia Book*, news about your association, stories, photos and poems to the editor. All articles are subject to revision.

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COVER: *Positive graffiti*, adapted from 1920's advertisement. You may submit images for possible use on the cover to: [vern@designnd.com.au](mailto:vern@designnd.com.au)

*Tidings* archives:

<http://urantia-uai.org/tidings/>

**Submissions limited to 700 words (one page) or 1400 words (1½ page) plus one or two photos. Deadline by the 15th of every 2nd month.**



October 23, 2010 where UAI will make a presentation on the structure, goals, and mission of UAI, identify our common purposes, and work to resolve issues that cause confusion within the readership.

3. ISB Resolution 2010–9: An Affirmation of Interdependence was adopted.

As for the RC, a few items were adopted and the one that should capture your attention is the "Application form & Readers Referral processes".

- Item 2010–83: Revised UAI Membership Application & Reader Referral Processes
- Item 2010–84: ISB Telephonic Meeting, minutes 13th & 27th March 2010
- Item 2010-85: 1st quarter financials
- Item 2010-86: 2012 International Conference, call for proposals.

For any information concerning the RC items, please contact your local or national representatives.

In the spirit of brotherhood

Gaétan G. Charland

President UAI

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# You are the salt of the Earth



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SEVERAL MONTHS WERE REQUIRED for Gaétan and I to prepare this long forty two day trip aimed at meeting Urantia association leaders in South America to present them our views on the mission of *The Urantia Book* and on the importance of study groups.

We journeyed through six countries including Columbia, Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Chili and Peru. We exchanged money six times and witnessed two earth quakes, the first one in Chili at 5.9 and the second in Peru with a similar magnitude. In daytime, temperatures varied from 12 C. to 34 C. and the food, needless to say, was quite varied. I was given opportunity to taste an incredible variety of fruits that I had never seen. Some of which were really pleasant to taste, others with an essence that, I suppose, people get accustomed to.

Gaétan made presentations in 10 cities, Bogota, Barranquilla, Pereira, Medellin, Sao Paulo, Buenos Aires, Punta Del Este, Santiago in Chili, Arequipa and Lima... many fortuitous acquaintances with readers and fifteen planned group meetings — 5 means of transportation: plane, ferry, bus, taxi, trains, 17 flights and many hours of patience in airports.

A common ideal united these people who waited on us in all these visited regions; the responsibility of sharing the teachings of *The Urantia Book* and the message of the fifth epochal revelation.

I firmly believe in the old adage saying that "travel broadens the mind." Taking distance from our established customs and exploring new ventures unfolds into a most profitable adventure; perspectives from others on their knowhow and how they make things known contribute to widen the scope of our actions and the spirit in which we do things.

What a pleasure to learn other cultures and mores, to share our experiences regarding our successes and failures in our

approach to disseminate the teachings. I saw the work of committed couples bringing light in this world through their varied personal implications, as living examples of the teachings for their kin. This makes me think how blessed we are to benefit from teamwork. As a couple, we can better energize, stimulate and understand our mutual hopes as we give meaning to our lives within a common goal.

I met marvelous and courageous persons, many women of all ages who were just as curious as me, longing to know which activities I was involved with in Québec in regard to the fifth epochal revelation. For numerous hours we shared thoughts on life, our children, marital experience, spiritual birth and spiritual joy manifested within new encounters. These human contacts inspire me to better serve God within. The awareness of God, particularly manifested within woman sensitivity, enables me to better appreciate the goodness of God.

Sharing experience with others is a mutual fortification and everyone in their outburst is encouraged to serve with joy and enthusiasm.

*The God-knowing man describes his spiritual experiences, not to convince unbelievers, but for the edification and mutual satisfaction of believers.* [Paper 1:6, page 30:5]

I saw the loyalty of women in Peru and Chili, working collectively on projects either in educating children or in the teaching of working techniques founded on high values. I saw this need they have to put everything in place in their lives so as to sustain the most important cause existing at this moment on this planet.

I saw God's wisdom through the actions of many who also feel this urgency to live with and teach higher values. In Pereira, Columbia, two couples are educating their four young boys (5, 6 and 10 years of age) to become future leaders of the Urantia movement in their country. We sojourned for four days in Jairo Franco Londono and his wife Maria Mercedes's home, their 10 year old son is outstanding; vivid, intelligent and creative, he composed a story of many pages which, to his friends and professors is akin to science fiction but which also portrays the teachings of the UB. For several years already, he has been following and assisting his father within study groups. Parents organize role play games with personages such as Andon and Fonta, Adam and Eve. I noted that their family values were very high. I was so



Peru billboard put up by UB readers Cecilia Barreto (left) and Maria Teresa (right), translates as, "If not me then who? If not now then when?"



South American trip — 6 countries visited

moved by their savoir-faire with their children that tears occasionally wet me with the love vowed to them.

Within official encounters organized by the association presidents in our visited countries, attendance was from 25 to 55 readers. At the early start of the meeting, Gaétan asked the group leader to read paper 140, chapter 4, "vosotros sois la sal de la tierra", You are the salt of the Earth. It was read with reverence and, time on time, the participants and I were inspired. I heard this text twelve times in Spanish and three times in Portuguese. Even though I did not entirely understand the linguistic expression, I felt the intensity in which the message was shared. The more I heard it, the more I was soaked into it. After each lecture of this text, Gaétan would add "And if you don't do it, who will? And if it is not now, when will it be?" This thought is recurrent in my mind since our return.

What joy and what privilege it has been to meet so many personalities devoted to bringing man a little closer to God and to bringing God a little closer to man.

A trip strewn with blessings related to these human and spiritual experiences exchanged with men and women, readers and non-readers. □

# Service Trails

## Part 1



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**“Sit down with me while I tell you of the service trails and happiness highways which lead from the sorrows of self to the joys of loving activities in the brotherhood of men and in the service of the God of heaven.”** [The Urantia Book Paper 130:6, page 1437:2]

**A**BOUT A YEAR AND A HALF AGO I WAS just minding my own business, reading *The Urantia Book* with a renewed interest. In my random readings I stumbled upon the following passages which really arrested my attention, so I saved them. I kept coming back to them over and over again.

*Service—purposeful service, not slavery—is productive of the highest satisfaction and is expressive of the divinest dignity. Service—more service, increased service, difficult service, adventurous service, and at last divine and perfect service—is the goal of time and the destination of space.* [Paper 28:6, page 316:5]

*...the religion of the spirit grows into the increasing joy and liberty of ennobling deeds of loving service and merciful ministration.* [Paper 155:6, page 1732:2]

*In my Father's kingdom there shall be neither Jew nor gentile, only those who seek perfection through service, for I declare that he who would be great in my Father's kingdom must first become server of all. If you are willing to serve your fellows, you shall sit down with me in my kingdom, even as, by serving in the similitude of the creature, I shall presently sit down with my Father in his kingdom.* [Paper 137:8, page 1536:8]

*The believer's chief concern should not be the selfish desire for personal salvation but rather the unselfish urge to love and, therefore, serve one's fellows even as Jesus loved and served mortal men.* [Paper 188:4, page 2017:4]

So much to ponder, and in pondering these passages, I had to face some pretty big shortcomings. Not only was I not doing much in the way of service, I realized I was actually avoiding it. I was content with my life in the rural, piney woods of Southern California. Sure I was a little lonely, a bit isolated, and in a major depression, but I was doing just fine – thank you very much. Yet, I was drawn like a moth to the flame to the ideas of service as essential in my universe career and service should be my chief concern. I was fascinated with the ideas of service as a source of joy, satisfaction, and liberty; divine and perfect service as the goal of time and the destination of space. Contemplation of these concepts was disturbing my status quo, not to mention all the excuses my mind created as to why I was too busy, was too far away from everything, and too depressed to be of service. But the words kept urging me to make room in my life for more service. And I have to admit to a little extra selfish motivation. Since I was being treated for depression, I had to ask, is it really possible the joy and satisfaction of service could actually relieve my depression? I wanted to find out, but only a little bit. So I made a feeble prayer for a new service trail.

I have always been most comfortable working with the elderly. Shortly after I sent off my prayer in December of 2008, my study group member Eva Meyers mentioned that St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in Palm Desert, California was starting a ministry to local nursing homes. I said sign me up – and she did. I was assigned a 92 year old woman of Russian descent named Anna. I showed up at her room one day in mid-January 2009 and asked if I could visit with her. She said 'yes'. I pulled a chair up across from her and we sat in the doorway of the room she had lived in for 6 years and chatted. And so our relationship began. I visited her once a week for an hour or so. She was from a background and belief system as far away from mine as you can get. But a miracle happened. Somehow I was able to set

aside my normal judgmental attitude and in that process my heart was opened in a new way. We formed an amazing friendship and came to love each other deeply. Anna graduated last August, and even though our time together was short, the love we shared is with me still.

It was after this experience with Anna that I reread the following with new understanding and appreciation.

*The consciousness of sacrifice implies the absence of that wholehearted affection which would have made such a loving service a supreme joy. The idea of duty signifies that you are servant-minded and hence are missing the mighty thrill of doing your service as a friend and for a friend. The impulse of friendship transcends all convictions of duty, and the service of a friend for a friend can never be called a sacrifice.* [Paper 180:1, page 1945:3]

I call this the 'friendship' service trail. What an amazing experience to have my heart and eyes opened to the joy of friendship service. My experience with Anna changed me hopefully for the better. But visiting a nursing home didn't do much for my depression.

Several months after Anna passed on, I read a small article about Mother Teresa. I learned that early in her life she made a series of private pacts, or vows to God. These vows were not made out of compulsion or obligation, but offered from a spirit of love. She vowed to God: "I will refuse him nothing". She decided to invest herself fully in whatever God asked her to do. She then asked herself a question: "If God imparts himself fully to us, shall we answer with just a fraction of ourselves?" Her answer led to her next vow which was "to do his bidding without delay", not next month, or when I'm not as busy or when I retire, but immediately. I had to ask myself: Am I willing to drop everything to do God's will? I wanted to find out.

Many small opportunities to be of service to others came my way. I was more alert to all kinds of small opportunities I would have missed before. I began noticing I was less depressed. I was enjoying people more, wanting to be out and about to see what would happen next. I call this the 'ready and willing' service trail. I have to admit I found this particular service trail to be quite a challenge. I was not always ready and open to serve. Some days I was too shy, too self absorbed or lacked self-confidence. Some days I just wasn't as willing as others. Mother Theresa I am not. I know it is a process and I am still on the trail.

One of the bumps I hit on the 'ready and willing' service trail was when a woman came up to me in the parking lot of Trader Joe's and asked for bus fare to the homeless shelter. I am always uncomfortable in this situation. What I learned from this encounter was exciting.

To be continued in Part 2.. □

# Meet the UAI List “Mod-team”



**VERNER VERASS**  
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IN APRIL I MADE AN ANNOUNCEMENT on the UAI List inviting nomination from members to become List moderators. Four List members willing to serve responded. Their offer has since been accepted by their peers without objection.

I am now pleased to introduce our “Mod-team” and extend a hearty welcome to each of them:



Meredith Van Woert who lives in California, USA and heads the “Mod-team”  
[vanmeredith@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vanmeredith@sbcglobal.net)



Bill Martin who lives in Indiana, USA and is also UAI Forum Administrator;  
[sageofsalem@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sageofsalem@sbcglobal.net)



Paul Tsekar who lives in Yaounde Cameroon and brings wisdom from Africa;  
[tsekarpaul@yahoo.fr](mailto:tsekarpaul@yahoo.fr)



Daniel Foster who lives in California, USA, a musician and clear thinker well grounded in *The Urantia Book*.  
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No doubt many of you are personal friends of some of the members and have noted their contributions to the List. The “Mod-team” is ably lead by Meredith as they address the initial task of reviewing the List Guidelines. I invite comment from you all to assist them to make the UAI List an inviting place to share ideas as together, we begin to actualize the self-regulatory vision of UAI List management.

Vern □

# Coffee Talk an idea for local circles



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CLINGING TO A FIRM BELIEF THAT greater dissemination success for readers and Revelators will likely result from local service, I wanted to experiment more with a Coffee Talk in Goshen, Indiana (USA), my residence city. An Alabama library director suggested the idea upon a request for a table and time to display *The Urantia Book*. My wife and I were wintering there to escape the snow and cold. Twelve persons attended in March this year and that buoyed me with a good feeling to try it at home.

Since writing the Personal Circles article (*Journal*, February 2008) there has been even stronger conviction that service is best close to one’s home. That story suggested drawing imaginary concentric circles around your house, say one, three, and five miles (or larger) and work within that geographic range. Recall Urantia Book authors tell us Jesus ministered as he passed by in life—villages, cities, hamlets and the many narrow or wide avenues teeming with people doing their daily work. He ministered wherever he was located, continuously and with perseverance for mission.

I admit to feeling a bit disappointed that only four persons attended at Goshen even after a color newspaper ad in the Sunday local edition and an email announcement to those I know who are aware of, but not yet fully into reading the book. The anticipated event was in

the upstairs meeting room of a local book store on June 10, 2010. Three of those were this writer and two persons I know to be reading. The fourth admitted he had never heard of anyone in my area who knew of the book. He saw the ad and came to see who else could be present who are reading this unusual book. A new friendship is anticipated.

There was a copy of the latest Urantia Foundation hard copy; also Sheila Keene-Lund’s *Heaven Is Not The Last Stop*, Description pamphlet and a short list of websites available. There was good discussion too.

Maybe you’ve heard it said, ‘you never know; you just never know!’ Somebody’s grandmother says that a lot. In faith we are able to say we never know when someone has benefitted. This is a prime reason to have faith and keep trying. Try a coffee talk in your home area at libraries or book stores or colleges and see who shows up. We presented simply, informally, and briefly and were done in one hour. Present the book and take questions and trust Thought Adjusters that attend with people. Try it! You’ll like it!

Mark Kurtz, June 2010 □

# Clarification on rumours of channeling at conference

**GAETAN G. CHARLAND**  
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ATTENDED THE URANTIA FAMILY Festival in Montreal and I did not witness any promotion of channeling nor any activities relating to channeling.

I did meet some people who are involved with channeling but very few of them and they could be at any conference. This does not mean that the Montreal’s Urantia Family Festival was promoting channeling.

As a presenter, I made two presentations on the value and importance of study groups and provided the attendees with some information regarding the fallacy of channeling. Positive and spiritual education is always a very efficient tool against errors and evil. This quote from *The Urantia Book* relates to such or similar activities:

...Jesus intervened and allowed him entire freedom of action for a few days. All who heard his preaching soon recognized that his teaching was not sound as judged by the gospel of the kingdom. [Paper 148:8, page 1666:2]

In spirit of brotherhood  
Gaetan G. Charland □



## UAI SERVICE REPORT

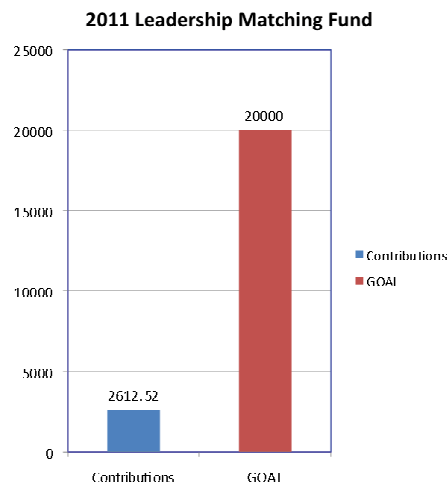


**RICK LYON**  
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**F**OR THE NEXT YEAR OR MORE, our educational focus will be on “Leadership”. Our UAI Leadership 2011 symposium will train teachers and leaders in an ongoing long term effort of UAI. We mailed out a fund raising letter for our UAI Leadership 2011 symposium. Even though it is a year away, we need to set the registration fees and decide how much we can afford to help leaders from far away places get to Chicago. This fund raising effort will help us to reduce the cost for attending and allow our guests to plan ahead based on whether we can provide travel assistance to them or not. So, even though it seems a long way off, we need to generate funding for the event now. A reader has offered a \$20,000 matching fund challenge that will double your contribution for this very important and worthy event.

Thanks to financial contributions from readers in response to our need for books in Zambia, we will soon be shipping 56 books to our friends in several study groups there. We sent 7 Spanish books to Argentina and delivered 10 Spanish books to readers in Peru. All this can only happen because of your contributions that allow us to buy and ship books. We put a bookstore owner in Peru in touch with Urantia Foundation opening a distribution path so that books can begin to flow into Peru. Currently, there is no supplier of books there.

We are shipping 400 books to Mark Bloomfield who is in Ireland for a seeding project there. One reader has offered to pay for the cost of the 400 books plus the shipping – which is well over \$1000. We can purchase more books from Urantia Foundation to replace these books being shipped to Ireland. If you would like to help us do that, please send a contribution to our Global Seeding Fund by calling us at 1-773-572-1180.



The new study group network/database is nearing completion. Our Intranet project has taken a back seat to this project for the moment but it too is moving forward. These are going to be important tools for us and for those we serve.

We submitted a revision to the membership application and the membership and referral process to the RC. The RC has passed these revisions. This will clarify and document the membership process within UAI and our associations. We believe this will make things easier for the local associations and eliminate confusion by readers who want to join a local association of UAI.

Let us know if we can do anything for you or the readers in your area or if you wish to serve in some capacity. We can always use more help with the UAI office and our many projects by the committees at the international, national, and local levels. Our phone number is 1-773-572-1180.

Rick Lyon ☐

## UAI MEMBERSHIP AND READER REFERRAL PROCEDURES



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**I**N RESPONSE TO CONCERNS EXPRESSED by some of our local associations, the International Service Board (ISB) created an ad hoc committee to look at the UAI membership process and reader referrals. The lack of a documented membership process caused confusion among applicants for UAI membership because they would, for example, apply online for UAI membership but then be contacted by someone from a local association that they never heard of or they would apply for membership in a local but then discover they belonged to something called “UAI”.

After many months of work, the ISB submitted a resolution to the Representative Council (RC) that defines and documents the membership process for UAI as a whole and the process for contacting reader referrals by local associations. It included a revised UAI membership application to more correctly reflect the actual membership process of our local associations and UAI. Simply stated, an applicant joins the local association if there is one in their area and thereby also becomes a member of the appropriate national association and UAI internationally.

It gives me great pleasure to announce that the Representative Council has passed UAI resolution 2010-83 which documents the membership process, reader referral process, and a revised membership application. There will be further details announced in *Tidings*. Let me take this opportunity to thank all those who participated in this process. Their efforts have produced another major step forward in UAI having a stronger and more accessible organization of associations.

UAI functions as the family model, which is well defined and lauded in *The Urantia Book*. Every member of a family has a unique personality but they belong to a core unit with (ideally) a uniform set of goals and guidelines that engender strength and facilitate their progress in achieving those goals. >>

UAI Membership and Reader Referral Procedures  
continued from page 5

The ISB works to communicate our mission, methods, and goals in order to foster progress in our mission.

In an effort to communicate and adhere to the universal and unifying requirements of membership in UAI, we have revised and documented the membership process and redesigned the membership application. We have documented the procedures for our local associations to process and contact reader referrals given to us by Urantia Foundation.

The purpose of the UAI membership application is to make sure that all members of all associations meet the UAI minimum requirements for membership as stated in the Charter & Bylaws and that applicants agree to those minimum requirements in writing. Of course, local and national associations may add to these membership requirements based on their own group wisdom and culture.

One problem we see within UAI is that some associations don't see themselves as part of the worldwide UAI family of readers. They don't feel connected to the worldwide community of Urantia Book readers. Building that worldwide community is an important part of what we as UAI are trying to do.

We help individual readers, both members and non-members, to feel part of this worldwide community by promoting communication and interaction among all readers around the world through such things as Tidings, Journal, website, the coming study group network/database, reader social events, and by helping to put readers in touch with other readers.

How do we encourage this feeling of belonging to this worldwide family and readership community? We think we can do that by doing all we can to put readers in touch with other readers around the world and in their local communities. We also recognize the things that all UAI members have in common – our mission and group membership. The charter and bylaws define these common elements that create an association of organizations. They define who we are, what we want to do, and how we go about doing it and all organizations within the association agree to abide by these group choices. We all agreed to join the team and follow the game plan. We all have the same purposes and goals and we all belong to the same organization and the different elements within that organization. All members of the same organization should meet the same minimum requirements as all other members and go through the same process for membership. This is how we build a family of like-minded individuals willing to work together for a common goal.

Please visit our website [www.urantia-uai.org/membership/index.html](http://www.urantia-uai.org/membership/index.html) to see the

# Planning for UAI Leadership 2011

Chicago, July 13<sup>TH</sup>–17<sup>TH</sup> next year  
Techy Towers Conference Center



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LEADERSHIP IS IMPERATIVE TO THE progress and growth of our mission: to foster study and share the truths and teachings of *The Urantia Book*.

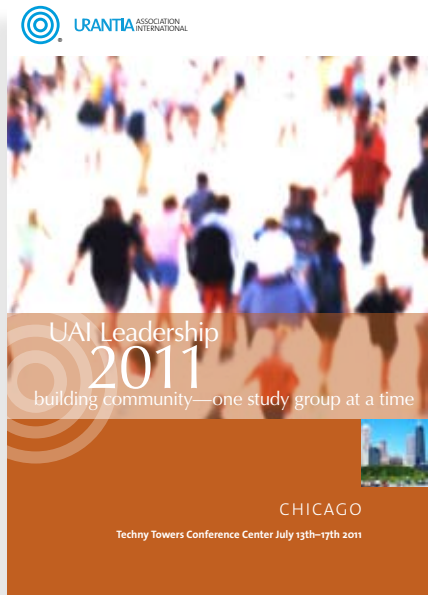
The fundamental challenge that we have with the leadership symposium is the limitation of time—three days is barely enough. The primary goal, is to bring a clear understanding of the mission by presenting a vision of a community of study groups. “If we don't know where we are going how are we going to get there.” To address this, **Day 1** will focus on The Origin, History and Destiny of the Mission.

**Day 2**—will be devoted to Spiritual Self-Leadership—developing a framework or blue print for self leadership/spiritual development—an incredibly important subject that is elemental in the leadership reality—leaders depend on God for spiritual guidance, self-development, wisdom and the formation of a love dominated service disposition. This task of self-leadership always falls to the individual, our goal is to raise an awareness of this framework so our leaders may increase their service capacity.

**Day 3**—what we had planned originally was to provide a series of workshops giving folks instruction on items ranging from operation as a legal organization, using the data base, conducting meetings, techniques of leaders, developing study groups, roles of officers, association activities...ok the list could go on, but you can see—there is no way that we can make this happen in one day.

new membership application. For more information about the membership process and reader referrals contact your local or national association President or Vice President. You may also contact me at [garyurantia@aol.com](mailto:garyurantia@aol.com) or the UAI office at 1-773-572-1180.

UAI Membership Committee  
Chairman,  
Gary Rawlings □



Poster announcing the event

Instead **Day 3** will share inspirational success stories of individuals who have successfully led their local areas in the formation of study groups, readership development, dissemination and association service.

In addition, one half of each day will be time for the group dynamic. This part of the program will take place in established groups of about 10–12 people delegated at the beginning of the symposium. Each day the same groups will go to individual rooms to tackle specific tasks related to the topic of each day. The purpose of this group dynamic is to:

- Gain an appreciation for group relationships and the challenges of working together.
- Increase the awareness of individual leadership strengths within a group.
- An opportunity to develop strong working relationships that we will continue to develop post symposium.
- An opportunity for the group to go through the leadership discovery process by their own thinking stimulated by direct questions and tasks.

This symposium is not a magic bullet that will solve all of our leadership needs, but the UAI's commitment to leadership development will continue after this symposium. Rather it is transforming into an event that will raise an awareness of the need for leadership, an understanding of the vision, tools and opportunities for leadership and the inspiration for the service adventure that lays before all existing and potential leaders for the revelation.

Your voice and assistance is welcome, and your service is desperately needed, so please contact us at [uaileadership@gmail.com](mailto:uaileadership@gmail.com)

Let's share and learn together—leadership is vital to the progress of our revelation. Please be sure to visit our website at [www.uaileadership.com](http://www.uaileadership.com) □

# Best Available World



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**OUR CURRENT HIGH LIVING** standards for some 1 billion people have been made possible through the amazing scientific and technological development within the last 100 years. However, the rest, about 5.5 billion people, are still waiting for the same standard of living with their own houses, water pipes, cars, TVs, education, fair legislation, and a safe and active society.

This means that the world is going to need much more energy, metals, food, legislation, humanism, etc. in the near future. The global dilemma may be summarized in the following question: How can we increase the living standards of larger groups and simultaneously maintain the beauty and biodiversity of our nature?

This cannot be done by a savings policy, or using the new technology, because the global population will increase by 100 million every year. In addition, sustainable Best Available Technology (BAT) is simply not enough. We need much more, because the other fields of our society and life can destroy, spoil or misuse any of our technological achievements. World wars, economic depressions, terrorism, and corruption are only a few of the most obvious examples.

We need Best Available Economics (BAE), which is not based on short-term gains but on strategy and plans for 10 to 20 years. Bonus schemes based on short term results and fast career development commercialize confidential core competence and kill off research and development investments and all efforts which are essential for the long term success of the companies and society. We will lose out the economical race to China, which plays with own rules, if we are not able to update our own economical system.

We need a system, which utilizes the natural human passion to reap benefits from hard, honest work, but shares excessive profits among the whole of society which provides all the facilities to us. Automobiles do not stay



Best Available Technology ?

on the road without shock absorbers. Our economic system needs similar devices, which taxes short term share transactions more heavily than long term investments. Best Available Technology must be based on processes and companies working in symbiosis with each other within the industrial ecosystem.

We need Best Available Politics (BAP), which is not based on corruption and dogma, but on the dynamic development of best practices and legislation. We need Best Available Religion (BAR), which is not based on fear, but on confidence and faith, which helps us to love our neighbor. We need religion that improves our spiritual welfare and makes us happy.

We need Best Available Societies (BAS), which are founded on the solid family units with competent and responsible parents. We need Best Available Science, which is not based on scholarship and funding missions, but on the pure experimental truth. We need science that improves our physical welfare. We also need Best Available Management (BAM), which is not based on authoritarianism and exploitation, but on encouragement, dialog, and long-term strategy.

This sort of change starts from individual human beings. Companies and countries do not feel, think, or make decisions; only individuals are capable of these tasks. We should think about what we are doing and why. That is, we must have targets. We must understand that the world is not "Black and White." Instead, differences and variations make us strong. We need continuous development and dynamic economics, religion, science, and technology.

We should continuously revise and update our own ideology using the best available ideas and concepts, which we may also borrow from other societies and nations. Continuous change makes our life exciting and challenging. Forgiveness may be the most important and difficult skill that we have to learn. We can see the effects of our right and wrong decisions precisely because our world has been made incomplete. We have the privilege of learning using empirical experience.

We can always identify the best options from the results. Natural sciences are based

on experimental work. The best available technologies may be found by comparing the results of different options. The same procedure should also be applied to the other fields of our society. For example, history books give us an extensive amount of results of political, economic, and religious experiments. This is why truthful, unbiased historical records are extremely valuable. We should not distort or hide our history or set limits on freedom of speech, because otherwise future generations will sooner or later reproduce our errors.

We can make this world a better place for everybody while simultaneously maintaining the beauty and biodiversity of our world. However, we need a dynamic revision and development of the whole of society using "Best Available" principles and practices. After all, we can always identify the best options from the experimental results. We must also remember that we are all in charge of this vital and positive development project. □

## One-page-a-day Feel free to join the UAI (OPAD) Forum's Online Study Group

**UAI FORUM** <http://www.urantia-uai.org/forums/index.php?> was created by Urantia Association International <http://urantia-uai.org/> in 2005 as an international web-home for members to connect and study the book.

In 2006, when all was ready, the Forum opened to the public. Now guests may view any of thousands of posts on hundreds of Urantia Book related topics written by a diverse group of students and teachers. Guests can view all subforums, members may post questions, comments, insights, and use the Forum's many features. If you are not close to a study group, or simply want to supplement your study, the OPAD (one-page-a-day) online study session is open 24/7/365. OPAD is but one of the many subforums designed for study and dissemination of the revelation. Readers, students and teachers from around the world meet at UAI Forum daily to grow in understanding, to make or connect with new and old friends in the global reader community. Visit us! — <http://www.urantia-uai.org/forums/index.php?> □

## CONTRIBUTE TO UAI

To support the work of UAI please send your contribution to:

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