



Tidings

from Associations around Urantia

INTERNATIONAL URANTIA ASSOCIATION

www.urantia-iaa.org

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“Recent № 19” © Carol Cannon

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President's Message

Dear Friends and Supporters of IUA,

IN THIS SECOND ISSUE of Tidings, I would like to share with you some of the steps that have been taken to develop a project to help IUA become more efficient in the management of its membership and so acquire better autonomy.

In March, 2003, the Urantia Foundation Trustees, acting as Board of Directors of Urantia Brotherhood Association d/b/a International Urantia Association, took the first step in helping IUA on the road of autonomy. Like children when we acquire more liberty from our parents, we might have felt a bit disoriented and insecure. The task at hand was enormous and there was no clear way of achieving it, but goodwill and dedication always produces good results.

One major obstacle to IUA in acquiring autonomy was the proper and efficient management of its membership. In the past, IUA always relied on the Foundation database to send mail and funding appeals to its members, it always had to rely on the same database for the efficient management of its membership. As the number and complexity of the membership grew, so did the problems of efficiency and accuracy of its data.

After much effort was dedicated to solve this problem, it is during a trip I made in Colombia in June of 2003 to meet with the leaders of their many local associations, that

a great opportunity presented itself. In a country that is plagued with insurmountable problems, I met with an individual that had surmounted one of life's deadliest problems. In a country where poverty could be an excuse for anything I found the means to solve one of our biggest administration and logistic problems. A young and very enthusiastic member of the Barranquilla association, Oscar Morales, generously offered his service to help create



and program IUA's universal database.

I am pretty sure Oscar could have found very legitimate and acceptable excuses to refuse our request but on the contrary, on top of everything that he has done for the Spanish

Website, the Spanish discussion lists, his position as Vice-president of his local association and a very precarious financial situation, he accepted willingly to work tirelessly on the IUA database and has made quite a success of it. In his dedicated efforts to accomplish this, he was very well supported by another dedicated soul, Mario Caoile, IUA Webmaster. Mario has been very instrumental with his knowledge and judicial recommendations in helping build and test drive the new database and both of them deserve our total recognition and gratitude for helping IUA manage itself and communicate more efficiently with its membership.



Oscar and Gaétan, Barranquilla 2003

Now, let's talk about this database. It was on the drawing board since the year 2000 when I created the database to manage the membership of the Quebec Urantia Association. After sharing this program with other associations, I understood the true value that such a tool can be in the hands of dedicated members that are faced with a growing association and its managing problems. The blue print was there, the Foundation had

the data, and all that was needed was someone with the proper skills to design and build it as a universal database with ease of operation and security to its data.

Let's refresh our memory. The international database was created with many objectives in mind. Here they are:

- 1) To give every local and national associations a simple, economic and efficient tool to manage their

- membership in their own language.
- 2) To provide IUA with an online database that would be efficient and simple to manage and update with the participation of all the local and national associations.
 - 3) To give IUA, a tool to promote and help establish and manage study groups.
 - 4) To give IUA, a better use of its human resources by including, when possible, the special skills of its members.
 - 5) To give IUA and all its association the possibility of registering all *The Urantia Book* readers of their area for further contact to publicize conferences or any other activities that could benefit them and the mission of IUA.
 - 6) To give the means by which IUA and its associations could bulk mail or email any information it wants to make available to its membership worldwide.
 - 7) In the future, to further help IUA in the management of its fund raising campaigns.

All of this was done with a maximum approach to security and confidentiality to the membership. *Only the governing board members of local and national associations are given access to the database and they can only access the data of their own association.*

For the benefit of this introduction, let us go back to Tidings. In our desire to share it with all the members for whom we had an e-mail address, we found that for many of them, the e-mail addresses were wrong or had been changed. I want to make a very strong appeal to you now; would you please communicate your good e-mail address or any other information as concerns your membership to the board member of your association who is responsible with the task of updating the data. Could you, the board members of each local and national association, register to the database and update the data of your membership

COVER:

“Recent № 19” Pastel painting by Carol Cannon, Urantia Association of Greater New York. <http://carolcannon.com/>

☞ For variety, we shall have a different image on the cover for every issue. Artists, illustrators and other creatives are encouraged to submit images for possible use on the cover. Send your images to admin@urantia-iaa.org.

as soon as possible. If everyone is pulling his share of the load, then we will be more efficient and autonomous without requiring large costs for operation.

As far as the present IUA news as to what is happening at the RC and ISB level, progress is being made in resolving the details of making the smooth transition from Urantia Foundation Trustees’ involvement in the administration of IUA.

As stated in our Charter: 1.5 “Although a separate entity, IUA supports the Principal and Concordant Objects of the Declaration of Trust Creating Urantia Foundation and considers itself to be interdependent with Urantia Foundation.”

Work is still under way to acquire and operate the two discussion lists that were formerly owned and operated by Urantia Foundation. Volunteers are needed to supervise those lists. If any of you are interested, please contact Will Sherwood at will@thesherwoodgroup.com. In the event that no one volunteers to manage those lists, the project will be abandoned.

Hope you enjoy this new edition of Tidings, talk to you next month.

Gaétan Charland
President IUA.

TIDINGS

from Associations around Urantia

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

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

Deadline: **By the 15th of every month**

Editor: Cathy Jones

Layout & design: M. Caoile

Visit the IUA website: www.urantia-iaa.org

Chilean Mission

MARIAN HUGHES

Hawaii Urantia Local Association

EVER SINCE I STEPPED OFF the plane as a wide-eyed 16 year old exchange student in Medellin, Colombia, I have loved Latin America, the people, their culture and their continent. I lived with a family, learned their customs, and gained a rudimentary grasp of Spanish. The following year, a teenage girl from Peru lived with my family on Long Island; so I practiced my Spanish with her, and she practiced her English with me.

In college I continued to take a few Spanish courses. This was fortunate when our college troupe was chosen to do a USO tour of Panama, Cuba, Puerto Rico and several other Caribbean Islands. A few years later during a college Spring break, the Spanish came in handy again when I had to be operated on for appendicitis in Mexico City. But like Dan Quayle said when he returned from Latin America, "I wished I had studied my Latin better in high school." LOL

Those experiences helped to prepare me for my call to serve the revelation in South America when, in 1997, Tonia Baney as executive director of Urantia Foundation, inquired if I would be willing to go to Santiago, Chile, to assist with the Foundation booth at a two week Book Fair held annually. *El Libro de Urantia* had been in print for four years and I was curious to see how receptive the Catholic-based Chilean culture would be to *The Urantia Book*. Thousands of people attend this fair and the potential exposure for *The Urantia Book* was quite large. Bob Solone, Francisco Stahl, and I met up in Santiago at the Estacion Mopochoco.



This is a huge, beautiful old train station which has been converted to an exposition hall. I stayed with the cousin of a Chilean friend of mine who I was also able to



Puerto Varas study group, April 2005

introduce to the book. Bob, Francisco, and I gave out lots of pamphlets and shared the book with many interested people who passed by our cosmic looking booth. We had the opportunity to attend a weekly study group with some young readers there. We were assisted at the booth by an able group of friendly readers from Santiago. I had the opportunity to look at many picture books of Chile and quickly realized what a beautiful country I was in. I decided that at the end of my stay that I would travel to the south of Chile. I only had a few free days before I left for home.

Trusting in the recommendation of a travel agent, and carrying a few Urantia Books in my suitcase, I flew south to a quaint hotel located on the shores of Lago Llanquihue, the largest lake in Chile. It had a beautiful view of a snow covered volcano reminiscent of Mt. Fuji.

The weather was cloudy and rainy when I arrived so I was holed up in my hotel room. After about ½ hour of sitting around, I decided to use the time "to go within." Suddenly a not so quiet voice said, "Marian, you are not going to turn anyone on to *The Urantia Book* sitting alone in this hotel room. Go across the street to the small shop on the left and you will find three people who will be very interested in the book." Following this inner direction, I dressed warmly, put two books in my backpack and marched across the street to find these unsuspecting future readers. Indeed, just as



promised, there were two nice gentlemen in a shop that sold local crafts and jewelry; the third, an American woman, arrived a bit later. They struck up a conversation with me almost immediately asking the standard question, "Where are you from?" They seemed very surprised when I said "Hawaii," they wondered why anyone would want to come to "Chilly" in November, from sunny, warm Hawaii. That broke the ice and I knew I had my opener. "I have been working at the Book Fair in Santiago introducing the people of your country to an amazing book." They asked more questions and as I spoke about the book they said "that sounds very familiar." My experience at the fair had taught me that when I heard the word "familiar," it was obvious that the person had read one or more of the J.J. Benitez books. I then responded, "You have probably read Benitez's book, *The Trojan Horse*." "Si, si, we have." "In that case you already know a lot of the stories from *The Urantia Book*, but from an entertaining, novel, perspective. Pulling out *The Urantia Book*, I said, "Would you like to see the book that he stole his information from?" They were very excited and interested. At that point Kate (second standing from right in Study Group photo), an American ex-patriot, entered the store and joined in the conversation. Later when the guys had to go back to work, Kate and I decided to go back to my hotel for tea and more Urantia Book conversation. Kate was in a depressed stage of her life and I knew that *The Urantia Book* teachings would be a great help to her. She had been raised an Irish Catholic and she wanted to know more about Jesus' life. Seven years later she is very well "adjusted" and her life situation has improved considerably. Her partner also attends meetings when in town.

The next day the sun came out and the clouds cleared to reveal two beautiful snowed-capped volcanoes. One of the gentlemen, Fernando, offered to be my sight seeing guide. As we drove around the lake to the hot springs, I was able to answer his questions, and tell him all about *The Urantia Book*. Meanwhile, back in Puerto Varas, Kate was busy organizing a study group meeting at the place she was staying. Fernando and I, upon our return, were greeted by the 10 people that attended Kate's potluck gathering. Some of them had heard of the book

before. One gal's mother read the book in Santiago but most attended out of curiosity. My time in Puerto Varas was very limited. Fernando and Claudio got the Spanish books and Kate got the English book that I had brought along. When they left me at the airport, I promised, "I shall return."

This I did the next November and every November since. In 1999 I decided to take a 600 mile road trip with three other Urantia reading sisters, to place books in the public and university libraries from Puerto Montt to Temuco. January Johnson flew from the states with me, as my youth ambassador, and to ride shotgun.

... Alessandro started to make a list of all the people who I had given books to over the years and called them to a study group at his restaurant. His enthusiasm was contagious. He put the book on a shelf to be seen as one enters his establishment. He even went so far as to give it to several priests. His approach was to say, "I have been reading this book and I would like your opinion of it."

Carolina Irana came from Bolivia, and Dr. Martha Villuendas took a bus from Bariloche, Argentina and met up with us near the border. A year before I had given the book to a friend. Her mother had a lovely apartment in Osorno on the way to Pucon, where we attended a study group with her spiritually inquisitive friends. In Pucon we enjoyed some R&R in the hot springs and kept up our missionary work whenever the opportunity arose. January and I shared the book at a re-entry party for a group of high mountain hikers who had just returned from three weeks with

Outward Bound in the Andes. A few promised to get the book when they returned to the states. With that task complete, some of us continued by different means and paths across the border to Bariloche, Argentina where we reconnected with Martha and her husband, Dr. Tommy Villuendas. Both are long time readers of the book. Tonia had given me their number and I had met them the year before when I was visiting Argentina. In response to my suggestion, a small gathering to introduce the book had been organized. Carlos Rubinsky flew down from Buenos Aires to assist us and visit his daughter who lived in Bariloche. There is another whole interesting story here that I will have to tell another time. After saying goodbye to our lovely friends in Bariloche I set off alone down south on a bus to a border crossing that would take me to the largest private park in the world. It was a rough trip but, finally in Parque Pumalin, I met up with Kate and a few other Chilean readers. I had two books left, one English and one Spanish, to put into the hands of Douglas Tompkins, whom I had an introduction to, via one of my best friends who knew him when he owned Esprit, and

before he became a deep ecologist. He had purchased 742,000 Acres of native woods to preserve it from the loggers. Alerce trees are like our redwood trees and his Parque Pumalin is full of them. He seemed too busy and involved with his project to save Mother Earth, than to take the time to read *The Urantia Book*. He took the books but who knows what happened? I just plant the seeds with no attachment to their sprouting. To learn more about this park click on: <http://www.parquepumalin.cl>

After flying back to Puerto Varas, I contemplated the warm response *The Urantia Book* received in this remote part of the planet. I decided that I needed a base camp if I was going to be successful in seeding this spiritually fertile area of Southern Chile. I was guided by an amazing set of circumstances to find some beautiful, inexpensive land. How does \$15,000 for three acres of land sound? A few years later I was able to build an affordable home there with a large, inviting fireplace to sit in front of and study the book together.

I named the casa, "The House of Divine Views" in



the hope that all that stay there experience, not only the magnificent views of the volcanoes, but also the inner divine view. I love designing, building, decorating living spaces; especially with the abundance of local woods and crafts that are affordable and easily available nearby. The pieces just seemed to fall easily into place and suddenly we had an inviting Urantia Center in Southern Chile.

Carlos Rubinsky was my first house guest and helped me get many things organized. It was after a Urantia Book conference in Santiago, that he flew to the south with me and we had a meeting of interested people. Carlos was able to teach them in Spanish. He helped me decorate my home with many of his beautiful spiritual light paintings.



Fireplace study group setting

Nearby, I have purchased another parcel situated between two volcanoes with spectacular views of each. This is where I hope to someday erect the "temple of the unseen Father." A Chilean architect reader is working on the plans that I saw in a dream one night.

When I am in Chile the readers enjoy getting together to study

but when I am not there (remember I lead two lives), the group had lacked leadership. This problem was solved this past March when an old friend and Urantia Book reader, Gianni (tall bearded man standing left in Study Group photo), an Italian man living in Chile, (who had attended the first Urantia Book meeting with Carlos), asked if he could bring someone to dinner. Gianni was the manager of a restaurant and his guest was the owner, Alessandro Guarneri (yellow shirt in Study Group photo), a restaurateur from Puerto Varas, who had read a lot from a borrowed Urantia Book a few years before. The book he was reading had been snatched out of his hands by its owners and he had never found a replacement. You can't imagine his joy when I immediately gave him the same blue "rubber ducky" Urantia Book that he had originally been reading. He said that the color of the book is what attracted him in the first place. Never have I had such an enthusiastic and inquisitive student. I felt like a genuine Sethite priestess. Alessandro is bright. He speaks four languages and has a gregarious personality. He was able to interest his wife and his mother in the book. His mother, Rosa, anxiously awaits

the Italian translation publication. Alessandro started to make a list of all the people who I had given books to over the years and called them to a study group at his restaurant. His enthusiasm was contagious. He put the book on a shelf to be seen as one enters his establishment. He even went so far as to give it to several priests. His approach was to say, "I have been reading this book and I would like your opinion of it." Since only one in 100 people are real leaders, I was overjoyed to have him walk into my house in Chile, at the end of the Earth, and relieved when he said, "Don't worry, you have got a leader now." Ten people attended his first study group. They all enjoyed the evening and the group has continued to meet ever since. □

How The Urantia Book Found Me

CHANDERSHEKAR SHREEKUMAR

Bangalore, India

SINCE EARLY CHILDHOOD I was always fascinated by the question, “What happens to me after I die on this earth?” As I grew up into an adult, the fascination turned into fear, “the fear of death.” The more I questioned myself, the more intrigued and fearful I became. I guess the root cause of all such fear is ignorance. My basic doubt was – what happens to me (not in the physical sense, the answer of which is quite obvious), on cessation of my journey here on earth? How is it that the individual in me, my personality, or my individuality could just cease to exist after my material existence is over?

A satisfying answer emerged as I started reading *The Urantia Book*. How the book found me? Let me recollect:

The book was gifted to my wife who was then in Chicago on an official visit, or conference. She spoke to me of an “odd book” that has been gifted to her and that the contents have very many similarities to the Hindu and the Christian philosophy. I too became rather curious. Of course I was in India, and hence could not get a copy of the book. The book was given to my father-in-law, since he was a spiritual kind of person. He probably could not take the effort of reading it due to his advancing age, and the book finally came into my life in the summer of 2003 while I was at a remote location, close to the city of Calcutta.

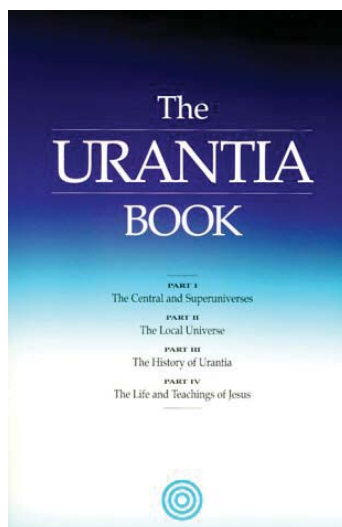
I started reading *The Urantia Book* from Part II, since it provoked my scientific temperament, of evolution and the origin of the earth. The concept of Intelligent origin, evolution by



Intelligent design and Divine intervention all seemed perfectly in order and fitted into modern day science. Though I do have queries as I plod along, the difficult task of assimilating the Great Revelation but in time I know as I come across more learned readers of *The Urantia Book*, my questions will be answered.

The greatest gift the Revelation has given me: the profound knowledge of the wondrous life beyond this material existence; and my ability to keep smiling, in spite of the adversities and challenges of life.

You may write to Chandershekar, “Sree” for short, at csreekumar@hotmail.com



NOTE

To new and not so new readers: Send your stories about how *The Urantia Book* found YOU to cthjon@aol.com.

Deadline is the 15th of every month for the following issue.

Lived Truths

GUSTAVO MARTINEZ (GUALOMA)
Pereira, Colombia

Translated by Santiago Kneeland

Extracted from the Spanish forum:

www.librodeurantia.org



I'LL TELL YOU SOMETHING that happened to me, that got me very excited. Maybe you've had similar experiences.

Is there a communication between our Thought Adjusters that we don't perceive?

I've been working for over eight months in Ghana, Africa. Always with my book, there, on the night table. Reading and learning. I've put messages on different Web Pages to see if I could find a reader, group or someone that knew the book, and in these eight months. Nothing.

Nevertheless, I continued with that dynamic faith and the expectation of making and recognizing the will of the Father.

I talked about God here and there, basing myself on the New Testament (under the illumination of *The Urantia Book*), so as not to hurt susceptibilities, and to avoid a wrong interpretation. Anyways, in Ghana the soil is very fertile, they know the Bible and there's a huge faith. Sometimes, maybe, a bit unfocused, but this doesn't hinder the great truth of where we are headed. I found two seeds, that I believe, can be ready. The first, a Rasta singer (with a religion basing in Ethiopia). Yes, like Bob Marley. When I read and heard his lyrics, I saw and knew that he was on the path. I immediately tried to pass the pearls I have with me, but I haven't given him *The Urantia Book*. I'm passing copies of the documents that he reads, and we later comment. This is working out good, and I think he's a seed that can bear many fruits. Let's pray that it does.

The following part really excited me.

A few months ago, I had Malaria, what a terrible

thing! But there are specialists on this over here. A lot of rest, fruits, good hydration, and more rest. I got to stay home and be taken care of. Therefore, more time to talk to the person that helps me. And what a thing, we started talking about Jesus. She told me that she was a Catholic, and that she loved Jesus. Me, always with skepticism of fanatic visions distorted from the African shepherds. I always try to show them something more clear, so that they can't be robbed, so they'd analyze. But this wasn't the case. I found a woman very clear in her ideas, and much better than most people. A clarity about the spirit, that I was jumping with joy. I asked her why she knew so much, and where she'd learn all that. She told me that her brother in law was the head of a house, and that he read a book. He told them things about Jesus, but that sadly, the man had died a couple of years ago and they didn't get together anymore. I was left with the curiosity, so I called the widow and asked her if she still had the book her husband read. And she told me she did and that she'd send it to me this afternoon because nobody read it anymore.

Surprise! That afternoon I got *The Urantia Book!* English version, printed in Barcelona, 1998. How exciting.

Now I continue to read *The Urantia Book* with Mary, my domestic employee, and continue to SEEK THE FATHER'S WILL. □

Gustavo has recently left Accra, Ghana and returned home to Pereira, Colombia.

Posted to the IUA List, 8 June 2005

A Few Questions

ALFRED (AL) TURNBO

Southwest Urantia Readers Family

A FEWDAYS AGO one of my new age friends shared some exciting news with me. She told me Jesus' real name was Joshua ben Joseph and his spiritual name is Michael. I asked how she found this out and she told me she was reading a channelers book. What a surprise! Or was it really?

When I joined the IUA I did it because I did not want to lower the bar of Jesus' teachings. I stay in this organization for the same reason. Meanwhile the interested public is learning all about this revelation from channelers and other fringe types and it seems all the IUA is doing is organizing. If anyone thinks I am being negative then someone should tell me what we are doing.

Here are a few questions.

1. How can we supply the leadership and inspiration for social, moral and economic change of our planet?
2. How can we look out for each other's economic welfare? How many

Benet Responds

G REAT QUESTIONS, AL. Your enthusiasm is very welcome. We need good energy to do the work. So what is the

work. As an individual that can be a wide range of things. As a group, it may seem that there is just this organization that organizes. As that organization our adopted mission is to foster study groups and disseminate the teachings. This may seem boring or pedestrian to some and that is all right. Over time, it has been determined that the slow personal method of spreading the teachings is the most effective in terms of finding readers who will take the full path of learning. While many may get infused by the spirit and feelingly experience a profound sense of truth which impels them to go out and share, there

Any IUA member can join the IUA email discussion list. Send an email with your name and Urantia association to admin@urantia-iaa.org

of us can give of ourselves full time to this revelation? How can we lessen the influence of wealth on this revelation? When Oscar suggested sharing resources to get our web sites up he touched upon something that may very well be our economic future—cooperatives.

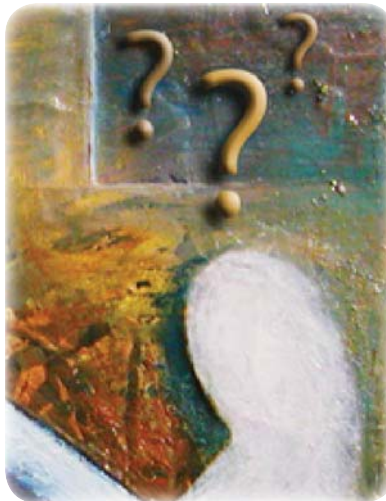
3. Can we heal the Urantia community by becoming healthy competitors with other Urantia Book based organizations showing which group can show the fruits of the spirit and attract new readers? What kind of support system do we need to for this? How can we take the kingdom by storm?

4. Is it time for all of this?

These are just a few many questions. I hope I can get some positive feedback. I'll take the lumps also.

What did Abner do while Paul hijacked the revelation? Lets just have a Pop-Tart and forget about it. (smile) We better not. Looking forward to the dialog.

Peace,
Al



is usually a minimally fulfilled sense that comes out of this. I am reminded of Jesus parable having to do with the sowing of seeds and the various places

seed takes root. The cultivated soil holds the most promise but does not rule out other possibilities.

It is my opinion that one cannot be too well prepared for sharing these teachings. I can understand a sense of frustration with having people find the book through more sensational and overt means. What will matter after that initial phase has been experienced is whether that person can find a study group, and over time, come to know the teachings in a real and long standing way. There is also the fact that *The Urantia Book* was given to us about a thousand years ahead of the time in which

it is destined to take root. Our world is filled with diversity in a multidimensional and multicultural collage of beliefs, religions, isms, philosophies, cults and the potential for confusion. We are ahead of the time and in many ways represent the first cultivation of this future soil. There is no hurry, but that does not lessen the urgency for discovering and living the truths of Jesus, and finding out what he believed. The imitation and consequent mastery of his Faith and his action in service to our fellow men is where this is headed.

Rather than to talk about or teach about *The Urantia Book* we would be better to compel ourselves to imbibe and live these wonderful teachings. As a group of religionists we do well to perfect the practice of our religion while remaining tolerant to all other pursuits. As individuals, inspired by these teachings and this truth, we may pursue our lives of service in many ways, be that economic, social or practical. All real improvements to society have their value and place. As a spiritual organization it is anathema to become political within society. In fact it renders it a political organization which is what many of our religions have become. That does not free us from some internal politics. But it is not the mission of this association. IUA was founded, in part, as a positive response to some of our predecessors who wished to go public and evangelize, churchify or commercially promote the book.

In answer to the question, is it time? I would suggest that it is time to continue building a strong network of teachers, leaders and study groups so as to be prepared for a gradual or sudden onslaught of new readers who will need some direction in sharing the inner life with God. We may someday make a splash in the world but we should not precipitate that time. Results come in many ways. The world changes one person at a time and a person changes one decision at a time. The teachings of UB, whether or not from or detached from the book itself, have the capacity to provide authoritative knowledge of facts and a felt sense of truth that is unsurpassed. Outward results will not equal the joy of leading one more person to know God as their Father and all people as their extended family.

Warm Regards,
Benet Rutenberg, UAUS President



Drawing by Carol Cannon, New York

Jesus Was a Working Man

Jesus was a working man,
he labored with his rustic tools all day.
He packed his lunch and stayed on the job
and put in long hours for his pay.

He walked to work early each morning,
he didn't drive a fancy pickup truck.
He might have hitched a ride on a camel or an ass
if he had just a little bit of luck.

He didn't own a cellular phone,
and he wasn't on the Internet,
but he was the best communicator there ever was,
and that's a pretty sure bet.

He could have been a priest or a businessman,
or a wealthy Jerusalem tycoon,
but he chose to live the simple life
and he slept on the ground beneath the moon.

He worked livestock on his uncle's farm,
he was a carpenter, and he could make a tent.
He became skilled at the trades of men,
to buy the groceries and pay the rent.

He fished all day in an open boat,
out in the wind and the sun,
then he talked to the Father out under the stars,
when his working day was done.

So if it seems sometimes that you can't get ahead,
though you're trying as hard as you can.
Remember that life is just a day's work,
and Jesus was a working man.

—BERT COBB

Idaho Urantia Association

The Water of Life

JIMMY MITCHELL

Washington State Urantia Association

HELLO THERE FRIENDS. Hey, I wanted to drop you a line and tell you about a wonderful opportunity to help in the spread of the good news that may possibly be right in your neighborhood. The Seattle metropolitan area like many cities in the United States is made up of many smaller neighborhoods and just about everyone in our area has their summertime street fair. Each one has some kind of specific theme like music, food or art. In the neighborhood that immediately surrounds the University of Washington (the U District) their theme is the first fair of the season. For a while our association has been kicking around the idea of a fundraiser to develop our treasury. Well, a few meetings ago a couple in our association recommended that we take over the spot in the U District Street Fair that they had been using for a fundraiser for the University Masonic Lodge.

For the past seven years they have been selling water, yes folks, bottled water. They would buy the water at Costco's at five dollars or so for a case of 24 and then sell at the fair for a dollar a bottle. In past years when the weather would cooperate they had been able to raise a possible \$1,000. The Lodge had decided to do something else this year, so it left their spot open. I think the location was key, near the University with thousands of young transient people trying to expand their minds and find their path in life. Sounded like *Urantia Book* country to us so we jumped on it and what an opportunity it turned out to be. However, we had to put this together in a few weeks. So we did all the things that we needed to do and we were in.

Now, because the time was short we did not have a lot of time to do what I call glossing up the booth, you know, putting a glossy poster of the universe or making a really cool sign. In fact, our booth looked a little crude as you can see from the photos. This gave us a very benign look. We did not look like a big institution, trying to



Photo: Pio Park

Cameron and Jimmy

seek out members and change the world, just a couple of people selling water behind a table with many big books in different languages.

Early Saturday morning I picked up my 14-year old nephew who I asked to help me with the water drive. When he jumped in the truck he immediately asked me a question, "So, what exactly are we doing today, I know it has something to do with *The Urantia Book*?" I told Cameron our mission – that we were really doing two things today. We would be going down to a mob scene with thousands of hot, thirsty people and bringing them water to quench the thirst for a mere dollar and the profits would fill our association's treasury. If we are really successful we will meet our financial goal and possibly make a nice donation to the Urantia Foundation. That is what we will be doing in the front story of this mob scene. In the back story of this scene we will accomplish the second part of our mission and that is, we will be helping out Jesus and a lot of Guardian Angels. "How are we going to do that?" "Well Cam, people thirst in two ways – materially, they thirst for water, but spiritually, they thirst for righteousness, truth, and understanding of who they are and what their relationship is with our Universal Father. *The Urantia Book* is meant for everybody, but only at the proper time, people must have the capacity to understand what the book is speaking about. We're doing the Angels

After coming back from a visit to the restroom, Cameron told me, "I sold another book. Some lady came by and said that she was ready for it."

and Jesus a favor by carting down this big load of books along with our water for those people that are ready for it. You see, Cam, the Angels are in the spiritual realm and they cannot pick up this material object and take it to their charge, the person that they are guiding, and who is ready for it, so we will do it for them. The potential at

this fair, with a mob scene of students, is very good and we will probably make some connections. Whatever they thirst for, we got it covered.”

As the river of people flowing by our booth rose into a torrent, we were on to something. People would casually stop in front of our booth and try the book on for size. *“Inherent capacities cannot be exceeded, a pint can never hold a quart. The spirit concept cannot be mechanically forced into the material memory mold.”* [p. 556]

Some people would ask questions but because we were so busy selling water we really could not strive after them, we could only answer their questions quickly. Many times I told them a page and paragraph that might answer their questions, which immediately would plant their nose between the pages. One young fellow stopped by with his girlfriend and as he excitedly turned the pages, looked over at his girlfriend and said, “Do you see what this is, this is incredible, I’ve got to have this book.” A young woman stopped and said, “I have this book, my father’s really into it, I guess I should try again to read it.” At one point three young men flanked the front of our booth with the demeanor of skepticism, and asked a question, “What is this?” So I told them to open to the first page of the Forward and read the first paragraph and the last paragraph and if that did not grab them, there was nothing more that I can say that would. So they stood



Street fair at the U District

there and read—one of them read in the French version, and when they were finished, they looked up at me and said, “What does it mean?” “Like I said, if that doesn’t grab you, I don’t know what will. Would you like to buy some water?” They declined and moved on. But at least they got their first exposure. After coming back from a visit to the restroom, Cameron told me, “I sold another

book. Some lady came by and said that she was ready for it.”

Friends, this turned out to be an incredible opportunity. After it was all said and done, we sold seven books, met four people that were looking for other readers and got their contact information, exposed the Revelation to thousands,

covered all our expenses and put \$200

in our treasury, all in two days. Folks, this is the water of life!!!

I’d like to thank all who participated, Janiece and Douglas for the idea, Jim N. (support), Cameron (youth) and Joy, and Sasha (Janiece’s pet dog who attracted so much attention).

If you’d like to try this in your area and you’d like some “how to” information in detail, we have a list of everything you will need and some tips from Douglas so that you too can get the flow of the water of life, let it flow! □

For more information contact Jimmy at 425-218-6740 or Janiece and Douglas at janiece@stylemastersalon.com

WSUA Elects New Officers

RON LAWSON

The Washington State Urantia Association held elections for three offices and the responsibilities for those offices are now assigned as follows:

- President – Ron Lawson seven38@comcast.net
- Vice President – Cassandra Discher cassandradischer@hotmail.com
- Treasurer – Leslie Creed
- Secretary – Patrick Irick pirick@earthlink.net

So we are off and running, looking forward to reaching out to all the old readers and believers in the FIFTH REVELATION OF TRUTH wherever they may be

around our beautiful NorthWest corner of the good old USA. Of course we’ll also be striving to generate interest from the uninitiated and curious souls who may come into contact with this energizing bunch of folks. There have been some great efforts at extending the hand of welcome to that latter category over the past months and years as our association stretched and grew. Thanks to Jimmy Mitchell, Janiece and Douglas Hoggatt, Ellen Gaynor and all the giving people who worked so diligently at the promulgation and distribution of this message of living life the way our Creator intended. □

Suomen Urantia-seura r.y.

Summer Conference in Finland

TAPIO TALVITIE

President, Urantia Association of Finland

URANTIAASSOCIATIONOFFINLANDheld its summer conference on 10-12 June 2005 with an annual membership meeting. There were more than 40 people present in that event. The theme was “Progress,” which is no less than the watchword of the grand universe (54:5)! The concept was studied and discussed thoroughly, by topics like: “Spirit aid on human progress,” “Progress of human mind in the arena of philosophy,” “Creativity and progress,” “Decision making and progress of civilization” and “Progressing of values in the eternity.”

The place was in southern Finland, by one of those thousands of lakes we have. Weather was excellent, and as you know this time of the year the daylight lasts till midnight (in northern Finland even throughout the night), but few mosquitoes and a Finnish sauna for those bathing in the chilly water of the lake. Atmosphere was warm, harmonious and inspiring. Daily programs started with short moments of worship and continued with lectures, workshops, panel discussion etc.

Some changes were effected in the governing board as a normal procedure to rotate the office holders; all in accordance with our bylaws.

Workshop**Audience, just some to name:**

- Martti Vanninen (1st row on left)
- Kari Kuosmanen and Reijo Hamari (visiting with Kristina Siikala) (2nd row on left)
- Leena Kari and Raimo Ala-Hynnälä (1st row in the middle)
- Maarit Huhti (1st row in the right)
- Helena Juola and Paula Mannerjoki (2nd row in the right)

**Our new governing board 2005**

Persons from left to right are:

- Tapio Talvitie (President)
- Matti Tossavainen (Vice-president)
- Hanna Holopainen (Secretary)
- Tapio Pulli (Treasurer)
- Tuula Parviainen (Membership chair)
- Kalevi Eklof (Publications chair)
- Kalevi Krekila (Outreach chair)
- Erja Kalenius (Conferences chair)

Visit Finland's website: <http://www.urantia.fi/>

Associação Urântia do Brasil

Second National Meeting in Brazil

15–17 JULY 2005

BRASILIA, BRAZIL



Study group at Romualdo's home in Alphaville, São Paulo
Left to right: Romualdo, Marina, Waldemar Salata, Cleci, Rogério and two daughters (Nadia and Laura), Nancy, David, Nívia, Caio Mario.
Seated: Rosa, Laura Lobo, Cristina, Monica, Rosângel Salata and Cynthia.

THE URANTIA ASSOCIATION OF BRAZIL invites everybody to take part in this “2nd National Meeting”, which will be presented the 15th, 16th and 17th of July, 2005, in Brasília, Brazil’s Capital.

Theme: “Humanity—A Divine Project”

Topics Covered:

- Urantia’s History—from the cosmic dust to the human race.
- Adam and Eve—The city model and the gardens of the Eden.
- The Light and Life Age—a brilliant future.
- Jesus Christ—Son of God and Son of Man.
- Thought Adjuster—God living inside the human mind.
- Live — Our first challenge! (with emphasis at work in group).

For more information, contact

presidente@urantia.com.br



Jundiaí study group

Right to left: Airton, Nilde, Rosângela, Laura (my daughter), Cleci and me.

Portuguese Translation

AUB - Associação Urântia do Brasil Segundo Encontro Nacional.

A Associação Urântia do Brasil convida a todos para participarem do 2º Encontro Nacional, que será realizado nos dias 15, 16 e 17 de Julho de 2005, em Brasília/DF. Assuntos abordados:

- A história de Urântia - da poeira cósmica à raça humana
- Adão e Eva — A cidade modelo e os jardins do Éden.
- A Era de Luz e Vida — um futuro brilhante!
- Jesus Cristo — Filho de Deus e Filho do Homem
- Ajustador do Pensamento — Deus vivendo dentro da mente humana
- Viver — Nosso primeiro desafio! (com ênfase no trabalho em grupo)

Para maiores informações, contactar

presidente@urantia.com.br

Note from Rogério

I go with Cleci, my wife, to both study groups, at Romuado’s since 2002 and in Jundiaí, my city, since 2003.

As you can see in the second photo, we use A4 paper copies of *The Urantia Book*, because we do not have the Portuguese book printed. Do you know when the Portuguese version will be printed?

Fraternally, Rogério Reis da Silva

Visit Brazil’s website: <http://www.urantia.com.br/>

1000 people standing in line

The Priority of the Portuguese Printing

BERT COBB

Idaho Urantia Association

IDON'T HAVE A SINGLE FRIEND in Brazil, nor do I even know anyone there. In fact, I don't know one person on the planet who speaks Portuguese. But I am sincerely focused on the high priority of getting the Portuguese translation of *The Urantia Book* printed and distributed as soon as possible.

It's a wonderful fact and an exciting reality that there is an International Urantia Association in Brazil. How extraordinary considering that they don't even have a book! The association's president, Rogério Reis da Silva, has been developing a detailed graph of the number of personal inquiries related to *The Urantia Book* and it's availability. One of the first questions people ask is, "When will *The Urantia Book* be available in our language?"

You may be wondering how many individual inquiries Rogério has been recording in order to create such a graph showing the rate of interest growth. How about 1000 and growing

Now I don't know about you, but I would love to "turn on" one person a week to the Urantia papers, or maybe even just one a year. In my mind's eye, there are 1000 Portuguese-speaking people standing in line, hungrily waiting for their turn to become an important part of this planetary revelation.

The amazing Spanish author, J.J. Benitez, has much to do with the existing situation. His fiction novels are all translated and sold in Portuguese. He has revealed to his large readership that the source of many of his stories is from "The Fundación Urantia." The Spanish-speaking source seekers had *El Libro de Urantia* available and waiting for them... note the Foundation's records of how the Spanish edition had recently been outselling the English one. What Brazil, Portugal, and her handful of colonies



Statue of Christ over Rio de Janeiro

are ready for now is the gift of the 5th epochal revelation in their own language!

Think about those 1000 people standing in line. Think about 1000 more people that they will share the book with after they get their own copy. Think about how important good timing is to the unfolding of this epochal gift to the world.

The people in the countries mentioned above are just now emerging into the global economy. Their income and standard of wealth is generally far below that of the western world. How many years might pass before a wealthy Portuguese-speaking benefactor may embrace the teachings and desire to pay for the printing of the book?

How many times have we sat in our cozy study groups and pondered how we can be of better service to our fellow man? What greater service can we partake in at the present time than printing this book for such a ready group? It's been reported that about \$42,000 is required for the printing and distribution of the book. It is very encouraging to relate that the Director of the Urantia Foundation reports that we are about 1/4 of the way to our goal.

I would like to thank all of the individuals and Urantia Associations that have contributed to this important project, and I highly encourage us to continue! By working together as a team, we will deliver the book to the Portuguese-speaking world, then we can turn to each other and say, "Okay, what's the next priority?" □

United States Urantia Association

Conference at Sea

4 – 8 AUGUST 2005

“Science, Philosophy and Spirituality”

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Urantia Foundation’s printing of the original URANTIA Book

PLANS FOR THE 2005 Urantia Association of the United States (UAUS) Annual Meeting/Conference are now completed and it promises to be a joyful and stimulating event. Many people are arriving at Hotel Montelone on August 2, to celebrate the publication of the original Urantia Book in 1955.

<http://www.hotelmonteleone.com/>

Tues. night, August 2, the first group dinner will be held at the renowned Pelican Club. www.pelicanclub.com followed by a night of Jazz music and dancing in the French Quarter.

Wed. morning August 3, a group hotel buffet breakfast in Le Cafe will be in order after our night on the town. The UAUS business meeting will be held at the hotel on the afternoon of Aug. 3. A light lunch will be served at the meeting, since we want to save our appetites for dinner at Arnaud’s classic Creole restaurant, the ultimate New Orleans dining and Jazz experience. <http://www.arnauds.com/index.html>.

Thursday August 4, we will bid the land conference attendees adieu, as we board the Carnival Sensation for our voyage to Cozumel, Mexico.

http://www.carnival.com/Ship_Detail.aspx?shipCode=SE



Sail to Cozumel,
Mexico
from New Orleans,
Louisiana



Carnival Sensation

Conference presenters Cathy Jones, Jane Ploetz, Will Sherwood, Marian Hughes, and Matthew Hughes, our astronomy expert, will hold forth on our days at sea with fun and stimulating talks and workshops. We have ensured that there will be plenty of free time to bond and put our heads together so as to plan the best way to support the advancement of the teachings through our organization. The ship provides a free day camp for the kids.

It is not too late to sign up for either the land or sea portion of the conference, so come join this intimate fun-filled learning experience.

If you are interested in attending please contact Marian Hughes at ellanora@kona.net

Watch for a full report complete with pictures of the conference in the September issue of Tidings!

Visit the United States website:
<http://www.urantiausa.com/>

2006 IUA Conference — Sydney, Australia

The Rewards of Isolation: Small Teams in Deep Waters

14 TO 18 JULY 2006The Women's College, Sydney University
Newtown, Sydney, Australia

IUA International Conference > Sydney, Australia

ON BEHALF OF THE INTERNATIONAL Urantia Association (IUA), the Australian and New Zealand Urantia Association (ANZURA) takes great pleasure in announcing the IUA's next international Urantia Book study conference, which will be held in Sydney, Australia in 2006.

Mark your calendars and start making plans for this once in a lifetime opportunity. Meet and mingle with Urantia Book readers from all over the world to study and ponder "The Rewards of Isolation" and contemplate what "Small Teams in Deep Waters" can accomplish for the fifth epochal revelation.

THE THEME:

Our mortal struggles and experience reflect a theme playing at all levels of the current grand universe age: small groups of persons, high and low finding themselves in unfamiliar circumstances facing tasks that initially seem too big and too hard, but which somehow they eventually come to master.

Like small teams placed in deep waters, and allowed to learn to swim.

Often these struggles involve isolation, and for mortals, they always involve faith. But there is a priceless result: each cycle of struggle and success ripens each person involved by a few more degrees.

And once each context is mastered, this cycle repeats,

in waters that are deeper, more marvelous and ever more complex. In this way the Father unfolds the potentials of all his experiential children.

But a deep question remains. Why bother with such elaborate evolution? What needs of the future motivate the Father to set up the entire grand universe, and devote this entire age, to experience and education? What is it about we finite evolving persons that could possibly contribute to the Father's long-term plan? How on earth might humans make a difference in the universe of universes?

Well, the papers tell of the magnificent perfection of persons populating the central universe, but imply that while such perfection makes for a fine foundation, it is inappropriate, or insufficient, to confront the vastness of the Father's eternal infinity.

They then contrast such static completion with the main phenomenon of this transitional universe age: trillions of new persons, engaged with evolving themselves. Created as near nothing, then given struggles and troubles and the

time to master them—a sequence that allows the full potentials of each person to unfold.

And then the Father plays a wild card—fusing such surprising persons with a fragment of himself. He makes us sufficient to penetrate the place where he dwells, and to begin unimagined work by his side.



A small Aussie team A
Merindi Swadling, Rita Schaad, and Kathleen Swadling

STREAMING CHOICES

The plenary sessions and workshop topics have been designed to tease out various aspects of this broad and fascinating theme. We have decided to categorise the workshops into three “streams” to allow for a diversity of choice:

1) The “Reward of Experience” stream – making sense of how things work. This stream will explore the rewards of isolation from a universe viewpoint and attempt to discover how having a ‘big picture’ understanding can strengthen the effectiveness of the work we do.

2) The “Reward of Life” stream will explore how so very much depends on an enthusiastic and effective load-pulling spirit and how revelatory truth has relied on committed teams to keep the light of truth alive on our planet. Discover the heroes of the past, present and future and “never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” [Margaret Mead]

3) The “Reward of Faith” stream – touching the source. This stream will explore ways of finding the values and meanings to launch ourselves all the way to the Father. It will focus on the individual dealing with the fact of isolation and how to grow as a team player. It will discover



A small Aussie team B

Left to right: William Wentworth, Vern Verass, Trevor Swadling, and Nigel Nunn

ways of proving that prayer and worship are antidotes to feelings of isolation.

THE VENUE

The conference site is located on the grounds of the University of Sydney, whose Women’s College offers heritage surroundings with a range of seminar and function rooms, accommodations, and full dining facilities. You will be less than 4 kilometres (2.5 miles) from Sydney’s bustling city centre and adjacent to the colourful café-lined suburbs of Glebe and Newtown.

We hope students of *The Urantia Book* will start making plans for an exciting and unique trip to the great land “down under”.

Visit our website at www.urantia.org.au/anzura/IUAconference2006 for regular updates and information. You may also register for the conference or volunteer your time and skills.

For further information, please get in touch with ANZURA, PO Box 609, Narrabeen NSW 2101, Australia. Telephone: +61-2-9970-6200, Fax: +61-2-9970-6201, Email: anzura@urantia.org.au.

A Call for Workshop Leaders

THE ANZURA CONFERENCE planning committee has been busy, and exciting ideas for the program are unfolding. With help from the IUA team, this conference will become a rewarding and educational experience for serious students of *The Urantia Book*.

Our theme will be: “Rewards of Isolation – Small Teams in Deep Waters”. As there will be a lot of focus on teamwork in relation to the dissemination of revela-

tory truth as well as the efficacy of small teams pulling together for common goals, we aim to emphasise the workshop/study group components of the program. There will still be quality plenary sessions that will set the tone for each day’s theme, but we are allowing plenty of time for smaller discussion groups so that readers may choose those areas of study they feel most drawn to and make the most of the opportunity to fully explore their

Visit the Australia and New Zealand website:
<http://www.urantia.org.au/anzura/>

chosen topics.

The plenary sessions and workshop topics have been designed to tease out various aspects of this broad and fascinating theme. We have decided to categorise the workshops into three “streams” to allow for a diversity of choice:

- 1) The “Reward of Experience” stream – making sense of how things work. This stream will explore the rewards of isolation from a universe viewpoint and attempt to discover how having a ‘big picture’ understanding can strengthen the effectiveness of the work we do.
- 2) The “Reward of Life” stream will explore how so very much depends on an enthusiastic and effective load-pulling spirit and how revelatory truth has relied on committed teams to keep the light of truth alive on our planet. Discover the heroes of the past, present and future and “never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” *[Margaret Mead]*
- 3) The “Reward of Faith” stream – touching the source. This stream will explore ways of finding the values and meanings to launch ourselves all the way to the Father. It will focus on the individual dealing with the fact of isolation and how to grow as a team player. It will discover ways of proving that prayer and worship are antidotes to feelings of isolation.

Naturally, we will need input from some of you good folk to help us make this a successful conference. We need workshop leaders to present and facilitate these workshops to help us make this an educational and rewarding study experience for conference attendees. Therefore we would like to invite you to volunteer your services in leading the workshops during the conference. Below is a list of workshop topics that are still available as of 20 June 2006, with a brief description that gives an overview of the purpose of each one.

Please feel free to contact us on anzura@urantia.org.au to express your interest in leading a workshop and stipulate which topic you would like to present. We’ll do our best to match you up with the topic of your choice, but we can’t guarantee it if we have multiple contenders for the same workshop. (If you don’t feel drawn to this avenue of service there will be plenty of opportunities for other avenues as more detailed plans on logistics unfold. We’ll keep you posted.) □

The Grapes

From the patio bench where I sit
I look to the leaves of a trellised grapevine
and to the garden beyond.

What a miracle is a grapevine,
grown from old-world genetic code
blueprinted by the Life-giver
and cultivated by man!

I see the sunlit-shadowed leaves,
mantles of outbound vine-trails,
baby grapes here and there
in sheltered thumbnail clusters.

In time the grapes grow larger,
the sour bunches
looking like bundles of peas.

In August they tint lightly in rose and green.

Come September and October
they sweeten deeply to burgundy-blue,
the full-flavored clusters
blushed for the harvest.



—MEREDITH VAN WOERT
Southwest Urantia Readers Family