

# THE MESSENGER



URANTIA.

NEWS FOR STUDENTS OF THE URANTIA BOOK | SUMMER 2014

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## “WHAT A FANTASTIC STUDY GROUP SYMPOSIUM”

Jeff Wattles, PhD., Ohio Students of The Urantia Book

### Of All Conference And Symposia I've Attended...

This one was the richest in the quantity and quality of take-home items.

[I discovered] a creative tension between the goal of creating thousands of study groups and revealed teachings relevant to the method of working toward that goal. If we honor Jesus' mandate about not trying to show people the beauties of the temple until we first see that they are in the temple (141:3, 1589-90!); and if we honor Jesus' ideal of truth-coordinated living (155:1, 1726), which leads others to inquire from us — then it may seem harder to get to the goal of thousands of study groups. But this creative tension will vanish (I predict): in liaison with God nothing is impossible; and we will find a beautiful complementarity of between the goal presented in the Publication Mandate and the constraints on method presented in The Urantia Book.

The next important thing I got from the conference was a great handout on facilitating and an effective focus on facilitating during day 1. Among many other things, the handout emphasized the need for leadership and balanced participation. The first day we were assigned to select a facilitator for various components of our small-group work together; and things functioned smoothly. The second day, we neglected to select a facilitator, and in my opinion our conversation definitely suffered as a result. The third day, I made sure that we did select a facilitator, and by 5:p.m. after a busy day I felt more energized than I did in the morning.

Another beneficial aspect of the handout, was its emphasis on the design/planning phase [of meetings] as well as the follow-up phase. The handouts and a video are expected to be available online shortly. I strongly urge you to have a look. (Videos: <http://vimeo.com/album/2877982>, Presentations: <http://bit.ly/1ziELuM>, Forum: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KHht8VeSFAC>)

**Many people said they received more information about forming and maintaining study groups than ever before.**

## Another Very Good Symposium!

The 2014 UAI Study Groups Symposium was just completed at Madison, Wisconsin under the wise counsel and leadership of former UAI President Gaetan Charland. We heard many people say they received more information about forming and maintaining study groups than they had beforehand heard. The trip was well worth the time and expense. Many will go away from this inspired to spread the interest in discovering The Urantia Book contents.

I like to think of the Revelation as Michael's project, probably one of many details for upgrading Urantians as He moves closer to his high ideals of Nebadon. And to think of it: we are invited to participate! Imagine how we could all help him! We need to deeply understand and comprehend the teachings!

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Tonia Baney, Greater Lake Michigan Urantia Association

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## We Can Live The Life Of Truth...

I agree with Jeff [above] and must comment on Jesus mandate about not trying to show people the beauties of the temple until we first see that they are in the temple: (141:3, 1589-90) and if we honor Jesus' ideal of truth-coordinated living (155:1, 1726), which leads others to inquire from us — then it may seem harder to get to the goal of thousands of study groups.

But in our time we most likely will not get to the goal of thousands of study groups, but what we can do is live the life of truth, beauty, goodness and love, therefore spreading daily affection over all we do and all we meet. To live as Jesus live we must pay attention to our thoughts, our emotions and our activities being aware of how we are affecting those who surround us. Those whom we spend time with in our work, play, and family are who we affect the most. Do we by our actions show a more loving, aware, and supportive understanding of those around us? May God help us as we live such a life on such a planet!

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Katrina Glavan-Heise, President, Lone Star Urantia Association (LSUA)

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## Thousands of study groups must be brought into existence

David Glass and I attended the Study Group Symposium in Madison WI held from 11 to 15 June. What a phenomenal event it was! I am so fired up about Urantia Book study groups. There were 3 days full of ideas and information and there are several things I want to highlight about study groups.

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**Those whom we spend time with in our work, play, and family are who we affect the most. Do we by our actions show a more loving, aware, and supportive understanding of those around us?**

1. If you have a study group, I want to visit you at your study group. My goal is to meet everyone who attends the study group. I've given myself 2 years to accomplish this goal. If you have a study group that is NOT in the official data base, please post your information. Also tell me! I want to meet you and your study team.
2. **Chris Wood, Urantia Association International President said** that in Bogota Columbia they have 1 study group for every 500,000 people in the city. He defined that as the Bogota` Standard. He then challenged us to attempt to meet that standard. Here's what that means to Texans. There are ~26,000,000 people in Texas. That means we should have 52 study groups. Today the "official" Urantia Book study group database shows 9 study groups in the International registry. Clearly we have work to do in Texas to meet that standard.
3. **The Publication Mandate states**, "Thousands of study groups must be brought into existence and the book must be translated into many tongues." For the United States, with a population of ~330,000,000, that means we must have 660 study groups. For a world population of 6 Billion, that means, using the Bogota` Standard, we should have at least 12,000 study groups throughout the world.
4. **How do you find a study group?** First and best choice is through the International Urantia Study Group website (<http://urantiastudygroup.org/find.php>). But we have found that Meetup.com (<http://www.meetup.com/>) and Facebook.com (<http://www.facebook.com>) also are great tools to find or create Urantia Book study groups. This is great news! If you are participating in one of these study groups, encourage the leader to post the study group's information on the Urantia Study Group website.

The architects of *The Urantia Book* study group website are creating a way for students to indicate they want to attend a study group in their area if one is not already listed. Additionally, they are figuring out how to indicate if a study group is virtual. More to come on those 2 features of the study group website.

## What Were Our Take-Aways From the Study Group Symposium?

On the way home my wife, Margo, asked me what my one take-away from the Study Group Symposium was. I had to stop for a moment because there were so many. Among others, I ended up sharing these:

1. Staple a 3" x 5" card to college and university bulletin boards with the words "Urantia Book Study Group" and a phone number. Then create and place a small (or free) newspaper ad with the same wording.
2. Get a voice mail subscription and a phone number just to handle any inquiries from 1) and 2) above. Use a recorded message that states something like this: Thank you for calling in regards to our Urantia Study Group notice. Please tell us a little about your interest in a Urantia Book study group and we'll be getting back to you. Please leave your name, phone number and email so that we may contact you, and please speak slowly and spell any difficult words. (Set this up so I receive and email transcription of each call.)
3. Put a listing in every area code serving my area with a phone number and message as mentioned above
4. Start serving food at study groups (When Tonia Baney was asked why her study group in Maui was a success for over 30 years, she said: "food.")
5. Reschedule our study group meeting time to Sunday afternoons so that people don't have to fight rush hour traffic getting to us on week nights.
6. Make sure our study group meeting and contact information is up to date on: <http://urantiastudygroup.org/>
7. Join a UAUS or UAI committee and invest an hour on Sunday evenings (the golden time for reaching people at home) building relationships with other UB students by phone (e.i. The UAUS Urantia Outreach committee under Susan Owen or the UAUS Study Group committee under David Linthicum.)

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Belen Asidao, Greater Lake Michigan Urantia Association

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## I learned a lot from various experiences from all Urantia readers

1. The actual break-up session into different small groups will help me put into application what I learned from other readers' experiences from their study groups. I got to know more other readers of Urantia.
2. I really greatly appreciated the presenters' papers that got distributed after each talk. The presenters effort to make the contents easy to understand especially for the newcomer like me to Urantia. Delivery was dynamic for each one in their own stylish way!
3. Very organized gathering from logistic, meals, to the program itself, etc.
4. Socials were spiritually bonding!
5. I left the conference with resolved dedication the the Fatherhood of God and brotherhood of men.

Thank you again with heartfelt gratitude,  
Belen Asidao

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## STUDY GROUP SYMPOSIUM VIDEOS AND SPEECHES

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There is a wealth of information available for those of you who were unable to attend the Study Group Symposium. The following links include the a DropBox link to written copies of the presentations given along with video's of the entire symposium.

Symposium Presentations on Video: <http://vimeo.com/album/2877982>

Dropbox - Study Group Symposium Presentations: <http://bit.ly/1ziELuM>

Video of Early Forum Members: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KHht8VeSFAC>

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## UPCOMING URANTIA EVENTS

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Messenger staff

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### Jesus' Birthday Celebrations:

**Toronto, Kansas, Urantia Association of Kansas:** On the 21st day of August 2014 we are celebrating the birthday of Jesus in Cross Timbers State Park at Toronto, Kansas. This location has one of the better dark sky areas in the Midwest and we are hoping to view the constellation of Sagittarius and the Milky Way, 15:3.3. The main topic for the celebration will be reviewing and contributing to the Top Ten reasons to work for The Kingdom of Heaven. <http://bit.ly/1ziLcy5>

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**Please confirm the details for any of these events with the contact person(s) listed.**

**Hopkinton, Massachusetts, Urantia Association of New England:** Please join us for our Annual Jesus Birthday Celebration Family Picnic at Hopkinton State Park, Hopkinton, MA, Saturday, August 23 beginning at 12 noon (Rain date Sunday, August 24, same time) Please bring a dish to share, your ideas for our Spring 2015 Retreat, and your appetite for goodies, community and love! There are outdoor grills and picnic tables at the park (please bring your own charcoal if you plan to grill!) For more information: Jorjey Krupa 508-644-3657 [bannerofMichael@ymail.com](mailto:bannerofMichael@ymail.com) or Linda Huff 860-839-0964 [LindaM75@comcast.net](mailto:LindaM75@comcast.net)

**New York/Pennsylvania Urantia Association:** Contact Betty Zehr for details: [rbzehr@stny.rr.com](mailto:rbzehr@stny.rr.com)

**Greater Lake Michigan Urantia Association, Chesterton, Indiana:** GLMUA's Jesus Birthday Picnic will be held on August 24, 2014, Sunday, at Indiana Dunes State Park. 11:00 AM Central / Noon Eastern Time. GLMUA includes the states of Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana and Michigan. Contact Benet Rutenberg, GLMUA President for more information: [mailto:RUTABL@aol.com](mailto:mailto:RUTABL@aol.com)

**Austin, Texas and Dallas, Texas:** There will be a potluck in the Austin area and likely one in the Dallas area. As we gather more information on these and other pot luck "Jesus Birthday Celebrations in the Park," be sure to check the Lone Star Urantia Association website for specifics: <http://www.urantia-lsua.org/>.

**Los Angeles:** Details for the Jesus birthday celebration of the Urantia Association Los Angeles will be posted on the UALA Facebook page: <http://on.fb.me/17jHepg>

### Other Domestic Events:

**Lone Star Urantia Association: UB in San Antonio** will be held on Saturday, October 18, 2014 in San Antonio, Texas. It is a casual, 1-day event about the Local Universe Mother Spirit. Registration is now open. You'll find more information about it in this newsletter. To register: <http://conta.cc/1kud1cT>

**Lone Star Urantia Association: LSUA15 will be held in March, 2015** in the Dallas metro area. Covering a couple of days, the topic is "Hitchhiker's Guide to the Local Universe". We are in the early planning stages and are looking for speakers and subject matter ideas. Contact me with your great ideas! Katrina Glavan-Heise <[urantia.katrina@yahoo.com](mailto:urantia.katrina@yahoo.com)>

May 15, 2015: **Scientific Symposium** (Chicago, Illinois)

Aug 14, 2015: **Women's Retreat** (Chicago, Illinois)

Sep 18, 2015: **Educational seminar on "The Supreme"** (Chicago, Illinois)

May 13, 2016: **Spiritual Economy** (Chicago, Illinois)

Aug 12, 2016: **Women's Retreat** (Chicago, Illinois)

Sep 16, 2016: **Educational seminar on "Personality"** (Chicago, Illinois)

### International Events:

Oct 4, 2013: **ANZURA Annual Urantia Book Readers' Conference** (Forrest, ACT): <http://bit.ly/1rJwduZ>

Oct 3, 2014: **ANZURA Annual Conference** (Auckland, New Zealand): <http://bit.ly/1n6qz37>

Jul 30, 2015: **International Conference 2015** (Lennoxville, Québec, Canada): <http://bit.ly/1skz0YX>

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## URANTIA FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT 2013

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**Mo Siegal, President, Urantia Foundation**

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Dear Friends of The Urantia Book,

Thanks to your generosity in 2013, Urantia Foundation made progress distributing The Urantia Book and spreading its teachings globally. Our work is only possible with your support, time, and prayers.

We live in one of the most exhilarating times of material, social, and religious change in the history of the world. With such rapid transitions, people can easily lose their moral and spiritual way. Humanity needs a new road map that safely guides them from a feeling of isolation into a personal relationship with a loving God who rules a friendly universe. Long term, the teachings of The Urantia Book are exactly what the modern world needs because they will free people's minds, liberate their souls, and bring lasting peace and goodwill.

Like the first astronauts launched into space, you and I are pioneers of a new spiritual age destined to transform the world. Jesus said that the words he spoke would one day rule this very world. Thanks to you, the Urantia Revelation is making that happen.

Thank you again for your support.

Click this link: <http://bit.ly/1j7jgZ1> for the complete Urantia Foundation Annual Report.

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**Click this link:**

**<http://bit.ly/1j7jgZ1>  
for the complete  
Urantia Foundation  
Annual Report.**

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## A FEAST OF UNCERTAINTY

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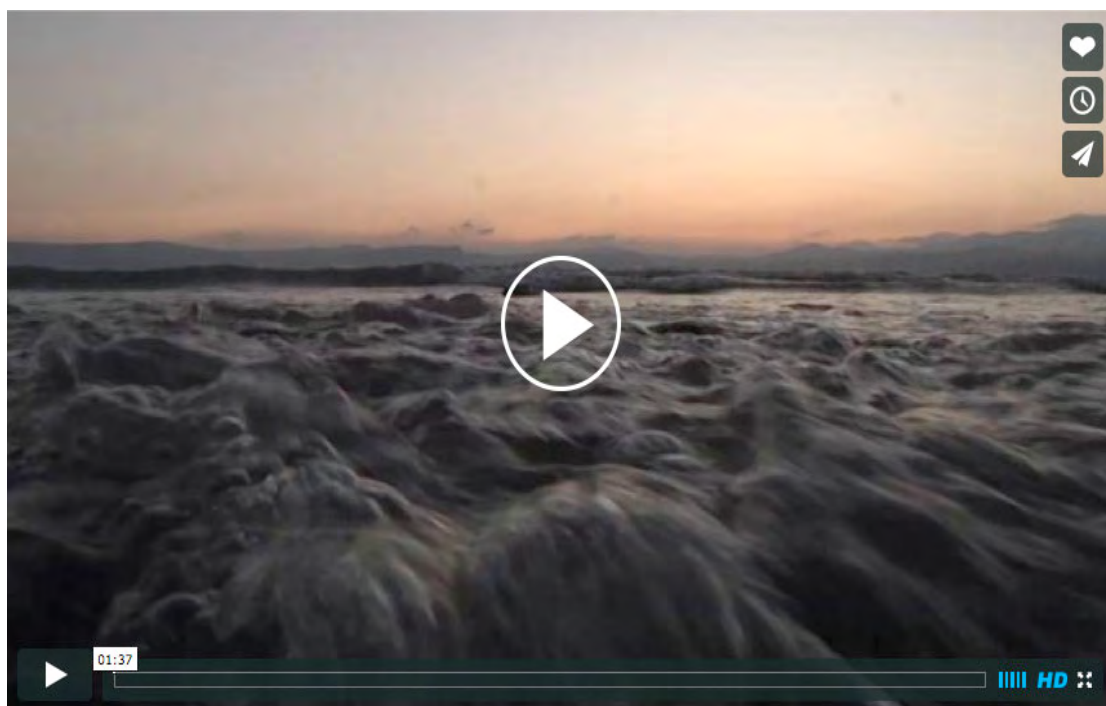
Dear fellow Urantia Book stuents, many of you have experienced *A Feast Of Uncertainty*, a profoundly moving 106-minute journey to the places where Jesus lived and taught.

One Urantia Book reader said, *It shed miles of much-needed light upon the astounding and unspeakable depth of the book and made it seem so much more real to me.*

Another wrote, *This film IS brilliance and brings so much rejuvenation to the promise contained in the revelation.*

At this reflective time of the year, I hope you'll view it and share the experience. This film is powerful to Urantia Book readers AND non-readers alike.

View the trailer here: <http://vimeo.com/51409797>





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## THE .5% SOLUTION

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**Chris Wood, President, Urantia Association International**

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Here is an easy way to help Urantia Association International — ***STOP USING the regular Amazon website!***

***INSTEAD USE <http://smile.amazon.com>*** and .5% of your purchase will be donated to Urantia Association International!

This is a feature Amazon has offered for years, but previously it was only accessible by going through a charity's website. Now you can go directly! Simply go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and sign up by choosing Urantia Association International as your charity.

Prices don't change. Your Amazon benefits don't change. Your account doesn't change. The only thing you need to change is your bookmark! Stop using [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) and start using [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)

*While you are at Amazon, leave a 5 Star review of The Urantia Book!*

In service,  
Chris Wood  
President

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## UB STUDY GROUP RESOURCE

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Download the full PDF version of the Urantia Book. You may download an electronic copy to read offline on any number of devices. Choose the file: UF-ENG-001World-2009-0.19.SRT.pdf.zip. You can also print your own copy of this PDF file if you like. Click on this link for directions: <http://bit.ly/1pVAmfy>

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## URANTIA STUDY GROUP DIRECTORY

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**The Urantia Book Study Group Directory Team**

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If you haven't listed your study group in the Urantia Study Group Directory, now's the time to do it. If you have, thank you for participating. Your study group's listing in the directory is important to readers in your area and around the world looking for a study group in which to participate.

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### **Study Group Hosts! Please validate and/ or update your listing in the Urantia Study Group Directory.**

NOW, however, we need you to take a moment and allow us to do some spring cleaning. If you are a study group host, please to return to the directory at this time and validate/update your listing. This way, we can ensure that all the information listed in the directory is up-to-date and accurate for anyone searching for a study group.

Study groups must show that they can respond to these periodic update requests in order to remain listed in the directory. It's easy! And, it will just take a moment of your time.

***Please follow these simple instructions.***

1. Click here to return to the directory: <http://urantiastudygroup.org/find.php>
2. When prompted, log in with your email address and password. If you have forgotten your password, just click on the link and it will be emailed to you.
3. Review your listing, make any changes if needed, and then check the box indicating that your profile is now up-to-date.
4. Then, be sure to Save Changes whether or not you made changes. This will let us know that you have reviewed your listing and that your study group is still active.

Thank you for your assistance in helping us maintain a current study group directory.

In Service,

The Urantia Book Study Group Directory Team  
Bill Beasley, Scott Brooks, Barry Clark, Jacquelyn Koury, Tamara Strumfeld

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## NEW URANTIA ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL WEBSITE

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**Chris Wood, President, Urantia Association International**

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### Announcing the Revised Website for Urantia Association International

**Urantia Association has launched its revised website!** You can visit it at <http://urantia-association.org>. (The old domain name for the previous site, <http://urantia-uai.org> is being redirected to this new one.)

**Why the need for a new version of the website?** We felt that after a 15 month trial of the previous site, some important changes were necessary. Some of these changes were purely aesthetic while others were more about cost, simplicity of use, improved maintenance features, and overall compatibility and harmony of the website compartments. Central to the thinking of members of the Website Management Committee was the desire to make the site more user friendly, simple to navigate, and to create a comfortable, welcoming environment that would appeal to long-time readers and first-time visitors alike.

To keep the site current, we needed to be able to manage our own content without the costly ongoing reliance on a webmaster to do it all. Volunteers on the committee have been trained and we can now manage our own content. Also, in accordance with a request made by the President Chris Wood, we have moved away from using the term "UAI" publicly. References to "UAI" have been replaced with either our full name: "Urantia Association International", or the more shortened versions of "Urantia Association" or "The Association".

**One of the significant changes is the creation of a new forum.** Over the trial period, the website committee received consistent feedback from users that the previous social network style of forum was complex and cumbersome. We hope that the new simplified forum alleviates these problems. The forum is now free – no more paid subscriptions. Also the public can now view topics, and can choose to register as a participant if they wish to join in. As we didn't want to lose any of the valuable topics and conversation threads from the previous forum, we have archived it so it is still accessible as 'read only' at <http://urantia-association.org/social>. Users can copy text from the old forum and paste it into a thread on the new one if they wish to continue any discussions.

The forum is moderated by a team dedicated to helping participants and providing a safe and courteous environment for both new and seasoned readers. Our Forum Rules <<http://urantia-association.org/forum%20rules/>> are only there to insure this forum remains friendly, spiritually fragrant, and focused on issues relating to The Urantia Book and its teachings. The only prohibitions in place are about so called channeling activities (see our Channeling Policy <<http://urantia-association.org/channeling-policy/>>), and of course rudeness, bad language, and personal attacks are not permitted.

As many readers live in isolated locations, we hope this site will encourage people to fellowship and study on-line. In keeping with this, we are conscious of the need to develop a website that reflects the diversity of cultures and languages that characterise our readers. Providing translations of the site into other languages is one of the goals to be achieved in our ongoing developments.

A new feature of this site is that it is now compatible with cell/mobile phones and other handheld devices. So please, visit the new website and make it one of your favorite sites to visit. To seasoned readers, please consider joining the forum and assist new readers in their study of The Urantia Book. To new readers, come in and meet a whole gamut of readers who may be able to answer your questions on the book. We hope you will want to stay and even participate in our global objective of fostering study of The Urantia Book and dissemination of its teachings.

Warm regards,

The Website Management Committee, Urantia Association International

<http://urantia-association.org>

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**You might notice that we have stopped using "UAI" and are using Urantia Association International, or Urantia Association, or The Association throughout the site. This is so that the site is more search engine friendly.**

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## ANNOUNCING URANTIA BOOK RADIO

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**Jim Watkins, Urantia Association of Florida**

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### Pato Banton and Will Sherwood Interviews Are Now On Urantia Book Radio

Urantia Book Radio is a live, 24 hour a day internet radio station that finally gives Urantians a radio station they can

tune in any time from any device and enjoy lively discussion about The Urantia Book, including getting news and information about community projects, and we will feature audio narratives of selected papers.

Listening to the great spiritual insight contained in the Urantia Book is a great experience. I felt I could use knowledge of broadcasting and create radio station on Urantia subject matter; the time has come for Urantia Book readers to have a station they can call their own, and thus Urantia Book Radio was born!

“How I found The Urantia Book”

Interview with Pato Banton: <http://bit.ly/1q3ZaII>

“The Power of Study Groups”

Interview with Will Sherwood: <http://bit.ly/1nlHT4h>

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## MAKING HEAVEN BETTER ONE PRISONER AT A TIME

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**Bill Sadler, Lone Star Urantia Association, Houston, Texas**

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### The Polunsky Unit Maximum Security Prison Project

This planet was not designed with the intention that so much needless confusion and unnecessary turmoil would warp and complicate the lives of our Father's children who must contend therewith in order to survive here. No. Were it not for the attempted disruption of God's plan by the nefarious doings of the instigators of the Lucifer Rebellion, we would live on a normally progressing evolutionary world slowly working its way toward the era of Light and Life. However, our world's affairs have been disrupted, and all of us must deal daily with the consequences. Most suffer greatly, but manage to live their lives through successfully. A few fall down and are in real danger of not getting up again.

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**I am an “officially approved” spiritual advisor at the Alan B. Polunsky Unit Maximum Security Prison in Livingston, Texas.**

That is where this story begins.

My name is Bill Sadler. I am an “officially approved” spiritual advisor at the Alan B. Polunsky Unit Maximum Security Prison in Livingston, Texas. For just over one month, I have been counseling a growing group of Urantia Book readers [new and otherwise] awaiting execution. This group of interested prisoners is expanding at an exceedingly rapid rate – I am currently counseling five men, and have a list of ten. A few days ago I was informed of more men commencing to read the book. In fact, I just received a letter from another Truth seeking inmate today!

This is a Good News story of these Death Row inmates experiencing radical -- nearly unbelievable -- transformation. Their conversion is slowly but surely taking place as our Universal Father's love is revealed to them through the 5th Epochal Revelation we call The

Urantia Book. Most of these men have spent years seeking answers and solutions by reading various sacred religious scriptures, “spiritual” self-help books, philosophy texts, and the like – pretty much covering the spectrum of human works. However, very few are finding much personal satisfaction therein.

The exception to the rule is found, of course, with The Urantia Book. Once the men start reading the UB, their searching questions begin to find answers, and, as each man comes to believe the message presented by the UB authors and faithfully puts it into practice, everything about him begins to change.

These men, most of whom lived lives of crime and all of whom have been convicted of violent offenses involving capital murder, actually start smiling again. They go about with a twinkle in their eyes looking for every possible opportunity to do good to their fellow creatures. Of course, they still must deal with deeply ingrained habits that are the result of decades of evil choosing, but it is remarkable to note how very quickly the activity of the Indwelling Spirit does indeed bring about significant change when each person begins to make Love focused choices.

Among the inmates I counsel, there is one change they have in common. This is a new realization that there is still something worth saving within them – that, in spite of their frequent and even heinous mistakes, God still loves them. Further, whereas most had given up any hope of survival after death, now they realize that they have but to accept the merciful forgiveness and rehabilitation plans offered by the Universe authorities in order to remain living children in the Father's Universe family. No more do so many run from nightmares of hellfire and damnation accompanied by eternal torment and/or total darkness. Now they are all filled with new hope for life everlasting in roles of loving universe service while they seek to find the Universal Father in Paradise.

All the new, relevant information has been brought to each person in and through or as a result of The Urantia Book. I am sure the guardian seraphim and Thought Adjusters rejoice when the Banner of Michael comes into view!!!



Let me now briefly relate to you the stories of just two of these death row inmates:

The conversion of one person from an iniquitous life of Devil worship, drugs, thievery, and even murder to an example of the model prisoner for over a year has caught the eyes of many – inmates and officials alike. Chris has been on death row for over seven years. All of his appeals have been denied, and he now awaits the date for his execution to be assigned any day...yet he continues to march forward.

After realizing the extreme change in his behavior, the other inmates look inquisitively at him and ask, “What happened – are you scamming??? What is your con???” He then tells them about The Urantia Book. These convicts live in solitary confinement, so news travels more slowly than in most institutional environments, but nevertheless the story of Chris and The Urantia Book is now spreading like wildfire.

Up until I became involved, the men were passing around pages torn out of Chris’ book. But now, thanks to private donors; the Prisoner Inquiry Response Team [PIRT] of the UAI; and the free book postcard program of the Urantia Association of Los Angeles, books are being provided to many searching inmates, and I know that God will continue to deliver everything necessary and sufficient for further expansion of the Urantia Movement and our explanation of the Revelation in the Polunsky Unit and elsewhere.

Let me tell you a bit more about Chris...

Before reading The Urantia Book, Chris, nicknamed “Cujo” after the mad dog in Stephen King’s story, was an extremely violent criminal who killed with full premeditation. He tells me that he always struck first rather than wait to be struck. He was a member of the Church of Satan, and had every intention of being swallowed up into the bowels of what he understood as “hell.” His expectation of utter annihilation was clearly stated on his Go Fund Me website [which is now being removed because of his change of outlook.]

The guards at the Polunsky Unit are very familiar with Chris’ behavior. It became so very severe that at one point they had him locked away in an entire unit set apart just for him. He told me that they could not handle him without being hurt by him. He was truly an agent of evil – and that is what he believed was his lot in life. He was convinced there was really no other option for him – he had been taught since childhood that only evil was expected of and from him.

He was born into a very abusive family and schooled by a fundamentalist church organization where he was frequently beaten in the “name of Jesus.” His mother regularly told him how dumb and useless he was – and that he was certain to wind up in prison, or worse. He came to accept their judgment and decided that he was going down the path that they had predicted. He was convinced that there were no bounds to the potential of his criminal behavior – that outlook combined with the teachings of the Church of Satan resulted in a nonstop engine of horror.

That was true up until he was “mistakenly” given a copy of The Urantia Book intended for another prisoner. He had seen the book before, but had not looked into it. This new copy, however, he kept in his locker. One day, after nearly a year had passed, he became so very bored that he picked it up and started reading it – only because there was nothing else to do...at least that is what he recalls. He quickly realized that this book was not the same as any of the other religious books he had read – and there were many. You see, in spite of all the horror, he had always felt the need to keep searching for something better....something, someone, kept knocking at his door, so-to-speak.

He kept reading...rather quickly he began to see the light. He continued – he could not put the book down...because the message of hope had taken hold of what was left of his soul? Then, he saw that the life and teaching of Jesus were involved, but, due to his deplorable treatment “in the name of Jesus,” he resolved to stop reading when he reached part four. But, something inside him said “march forward, move on”...and when he reached part four, he did not want to stop. “This is too good to let up,” he thought.

He came to realize that the presentation of a weak and timid man of sorrows presented by many Christian Churches as “Jesus” is not accurate. He now learned about the true nature of our Paradise Creator Son, Michael – now the Sovereign of our Universe. No longer could he hate Jesus because now he realized that the supposed person he thought was Jesus was not the Creator Son, Michael, but rather a poor reflection and fundamentalist’s distortion of Christ. Now he began to love the son of man and Son of God.

Chris no longer expected and desired extermination, but rather he started wanting the Final Destiny revealed by The Urantia Book authors. He decided to do whatever he could to find the way back home to the Father – whatever that would require. He changed his attitude and his behavior in a radical way. He underwent what is

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**The conversion of one person from an iniquitous life of Devil worship, drugs, thievery, and even murder to an example of the model prisoner for over a year has caught the eyes of many – inmates and officials alike.**

typically called true repentance. However, he still had many questions and doubts about his worthiness. He re-read the UB several times, but needed more help; so, he sought assistance from a pen pal in finding more information about the UB from the “outside.”

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**After hearing about the Urantia Book from another prisoner, he picked it up and has not put it down since.**

That pen pal found a local study group host in Huntsville who, knowing of my education and experience with The Urantia Book and Movement, contacted me.

Chris has no hope for pardon and accepts responsibility for his many extremely violent crimes - but he has sincerely repented as far as any outside source can discern. In fact, he aspires to become a Mighty Messenger. He is also helping to financially support my efforts to bring the good news to others. God always ensures that one way or another His plan will be worked out and His goal for us attained both inside and outside of the Universe of time and space.

Now I am going to tell you about another death row inmate, Reinaldo. Reinaldo worked as jeweler in the northeastern United States until being charged with capital murder. He is another example of a seeker of truth at heart who lost his way early on in life. He became involved with various sorts of economic crime decades ago – amassing great wealth along the way only to lose it all along with his right to live in this world.

He has been reading spiritually oriented books since his incarceration, and, like the others, was not able to find fulfillment through the messages offered therein; however, after hearing about the UB from another prisoner, he picked it up and has not put it down since. It is now HIS book. Everything about his life is now Father oriented and based upon the teachings found in The Urantia Book. He contacted me after hearing about my work with Chris, and I have been acting as his spiritual advisor ever since.

Reinaldo is now a painter. His paintings are unusual in that he is not allowed access to any paint!!! He is only allowed small colored pencils and paper. This, however, does not stop him. He uses what he knows to fabricate various colored “paints” using ground up pencil lead, soap, shaving cream, toothpaste, and just about anything else he can find! He has painted hundreds of marvelous pictures since incarcerated. Many of his paintings have gone on display and some even in the Texas State Capital building in Austin, Texas!

Reinaldo paints impressions of what he is currently reading and learning about [unless someone requests something specific]. He is now painting various works based upon material found in, or suggested by, the material presented in the UB. He has authorized me to share access to his most recent series for your viewing pleasure, and he has also agreed for me to offer these paintings for sale as part of a fundraising effort to support the Urantia Movement at the Polunsky Unit Death Row facility.

**I have included contact information below for those interested in purchasing one or more paintings and/or supporting the Polunsky Urantia Movement in other ways:**

Rev. William J. Sadler, D.Div.  
3406 Woodbriar Drive  
Houston, Texas 77068-1329  
[williamsadler53@gmail.com](mailto:williamsadler53@gmail.com)  
281-610-8132

You can view high quality PNG files by following the link below this line [click on or copy and paste into your browser]: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/bc2ontu7ix6iae7/AABgiOMEITV51gNROsNjnZ1sa>

[Please note: the actual paintings are 15” by 20”]

**I have included lower quality JPG files [below] to give you quick overview of his Urantia related work**

After the sale of these paintings, Reinaldo is planning to continue with Urantia based themes and is also willing to do commissioned work. His sole intention is to support the Urantia Movement. Details will be announced later.

Now, you can see that this is really a Good News story about how the Urantia Revelation is saving men’s lives – and preparing them for a new beginning on the Mansion worlds. It is an example of how God uses even the worst case scenario to build up the souls of men that in eternity they may still join the Paradise Corps of Finality. The story of how Chris, Reinaldo, and the other men have been impacted by The Urantia Book also has the potential for beginning the universe rehabilitation of many more death row prisoners at Polunsky, and elsewhere. Where this ministry goes from here is according to the will of the Father and his Universe Family of our loving sisters and brothers.

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**Reinaldo paints impressions of what he is currently reading and learning about [unless someone requests something specific]. He is now painting various works based upon material found in, or suggested by, the material presented in the UB.**









Additionally, how can there not also be an overflow of interest into the prison officials (since they read the prisoners' mail and ensure the safety of all packages). They are certainly aware that one of their most violent offenders is now calm and friendly (for a year!) -- And the authorities are definitely interested in what is happening!!! They are seeing and hearing about The Urantia Book and the effect of its message upon even those with a violent criminal history -- when nothing else worked.

This Urantia Movement at the Polunsky Unit Maximum Security prison in Livingston, Texas, is literally making heaven better one prisoner at a time by beginning the process of universe rehabilitation of its future citizens before they are dispatched for the mansion worlds by earthly authorities.

Be of Good Cheer!!!  
Bill Sadler

## HELPFUL LINKS:

<http://urantiausa.com/> This link will take you to the national Urantia Association of the United States (UAUS) website where there are photos, UB inspired music and art reviews, and other info germane to UAI members and students of the Book in the United States of America.

<http://facebook.com/urantiausa/> This is the Urantia Association USA's Facebook page. If you "Like" the page, news postings will show up in your Facebook news feed.

<http://www.urantiausa.com/index.php?view=show&page=membership> If you're interested in membership in Urantia Association of the United States, the application and requirements are available at this link.

<http://urantia-uai.org/> The link will take you to Urantia Association International's main website, where you will find the Charter and Bylaws, also UAI projects involving study and dissemination, event information, membership requirements, applications, and many, many other items of interest to members.

<http://urantia-uai.org/overview/uai-membership/> If you're interested in membership in Urantia Association International, the application and instructions are at this link.

<http://urantia.org/> The Urantia Foundation website. If you want to read, download, search, or listen to *The Urantia Book* online, and for the latest news reports from Urantia Foundation you can also go to: Urantia Foundation's News Online: <http://urantia.org/urantia-foundation/newsletter-pdf-archives>

<http://urantia-uai.org/Journal/> *The Journal*, Urantia Association's "scholarly" publication, is available electronically free of charge at <http://bit.ly/Q6WnY4>. To receive hard copies, one may subscribe to the JOURNAL at these rates: Annual \$20 US, \$28 Australian, \$28 Canadian, or 18 (Euro). Single Copies \$5 US \$7 Australian \$7 Canadian, or 4.50 (Euro). Other foreign language edition rates will be equal to \$20 US for subscription or \$5 US for a single issue in local currency according to international exchange rates at the time of subscription. Funds sent to Urantia Association International (USA) must be in US dollars.

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## QUOTE OF THE QUARTER:

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*It is beginning to dawn upon the enlarging minds of the ascending mortals that some stupendous and magnificent, some supernal and divine, destiny awaits all who complete the progressive Paradise ascension, which has been so laboriously but so joyfully and auspiciously begun. (537.5) 47:7.5 <http://bit.ly/1mCyHt6>*

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## ABOUT THE MESSENGER

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*The Messenger* is a quarterly publication of Urantia Association of the United States (UAUS) and is emailed to friends and members of Urantia Association International (UAI) at their request only. .

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If you would like to receive *The Messenger* by email, click on this link: <http://bit.ly/1hF4tj3>

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## PHOTOS FROM THE STUDY GROUP SYMPOSIUM JUNE 11–15TH, 2014

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Thanks to Rick Lyon and others...

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