



URANTIA ASSOCIATION
UNITED STATES

UAUS MESSENGER

The official newsletter of Urantia Association of the United States
September 2009

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"The Supreme", oil painting by Tonia Baney



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An Artist's Conception Of The Supreme

ONE YEAR AGO I RECEIVED A CALL FROM THE CANADIAN FRENCH-SPEAKING URANTIA BOOK OFFICE IN MONTREAL, QUEBEC ASKING FOR A VERY UNUSUAL FAVOR

Ten years ago the Urantia Foundation was looking for a way to increase circulation of the Le Livre D' Urantia translation in Quebec. George Michelson Dupont, trustee of Urantia Foundation had done a great job managing the translation, printing and distribution of the book in France. Unfortunately it was very hard to get the book distributed in French Canada as the bookstores were very reticent to carry the Urantia Book. It was not as well known as it is today.

Trustees of Urantia Foundation decided we needed an office to assist in sales and distribution. I was sent to interview a couple who had been recommended by several long time Quebec readers. We met at a local hotel and I was pleasantly surprised at their enthusiasm and knowledge. Richard and Colette. are lovely people who live in a small house on the St. Lawrence River and who are devoted readers. For almost ten years they have faithfully distributed the Le Livre D Urantia Book to even the smallest bookstores and continued to attend all book fairs throughout Quebec as well as assisting and attending conferences.

The call last year was to ask me if I would participate in their 10th anniversary coming up in October of 2009. They were so excited. The subject their committee had chosen was the Supreme. I was surprised at such an ambitious topic and was dumbfounded at the request. They wanted a painting of the Supreme to be auctioned off with its accompanying giclees to make money to support the office for the next year or so. Those of you who have studied the Supreme have a pretty good idea of my consternation regarding the request. The event committee had some ideas but I preferred to think on this a bit and get back to them.

After much thought I felt moved to explore one of the aspects of the Supreme, beauty. Beauty as growth of values and thus our planets evolution into Light and Life; Beauty as evolution, a reach for the eternal.

1101:3 "There is a sense of security, associated with the realization of triumphing glory, resident in the consciousness of the religionist who has grasped the reality of the Supreme, and who pursues the goal of the Ultimate."

PP 647:3 "The existence of beauty implies the presence of appreciative creative mind just as certainly as the fact of progressive evolution indicate the dominance of the Supreme Mind. Beauty is the intellectual recognition of the harmonious time-space synthesis of the far-flung diversification of phenomenal reality, all of which stems from pre-existent and eternal oneness.

Beauty is represented in the painting as white orchids taking nourishment through roots embracing the planet and pointing toward dark outer space while the growth of the planet is toward the occupied universes represented by the Milky Way Galaxy. When I described this idea to Collete and Richard they were a touch unsure but after discussing the idea at their study group they returned to me with enthusiasm. So in early 2009 I started the painting and finished in the spring. The brochure with an image of the painting and the announcement of the event was published and mailed in late July. A phone call came shortly after the Trustees August meeting to close the Canadian French office effective immediately.

My thanks to Collete and Richard for all their hardwork for the last ten years and for their confidence in my art.



David Linthicum
UAUS President
DavidLinthicum@chevron.com

President's Message

INTERESTING TIMES

These are interesting times for UAUS and I am grateful to have the opportunity to serve as your President. One of my primary goals is to make direct contact with each local association, visit with the local governing boards and attend as many Urantia events as possible. Thus far I have had the opportunity to visit with two local associations, attend the Boulder conference and talk with several local association board members about local issues. If your local is hosting an event and you would like for the UAUS Governing Board to attend please let us know well enough in advance that plans can be made. I can't promise that one of the governing board will be able to be there but we will make a good faith attempt to do so.

The UAUS Governing Board will also be hosting town hall type teleconferences from time to time in the coming months. Our first town hall was held on August 21st with participation by members of the Washington State, Arizona and New England associations. Please look for the next teleconference announcement and plan to attend; we want to hear about your successes, challenges, upcoming events, or just spend time visiting.

The recent experience we had with the issue of UAI participation at the Parliament of World Religions was very encouraging from the standpoint of engaging the local associations and their membership in the decision making process. I feel it is essential that the governing boards of local associations be a part of the decisions made at the National level and appreciate the efforts of all involved.

Fifteen local associations registered 21 votes on the resolution; both the President and Vice President of a local association are entitled to vote on behalf of their local association. The UAUS Governing Board's two Representative Council (RC) members, Marian Hughes and I, now have clear direction on how UAUS will vote on behalf of the United States. I want to thank the local associations and their membership for taking the time to study the resolution, conduct civil debate and register a preference. This is what the process should look like.

I know that some members shy away from "politics" and that is understood. However, from time to time, it is necessary to conduct "business". Such an opportunity is just around the corner when the Council of Local Presidents/Vice Presidents (CLP) gathers for their annual meeting which will be held this year in conjunction with GLMUA's (Greater Lake Michigan Urantia Association) Fall Study Session on September 25th in Chesterton, Indiana. This is the time when local association representatives gather to conduct UAUS business such as bylaw revisions, budget issues, conference planning, etc. It is a necessary function of a large organization and the UAUS Governing Board looks forward to hosting the CLP. If you have issues you want addressed at the CLP meeting please let your local governing boards know so that your voice may be heard or contact the UAUS Governing Board directly.

One of the issues we will be discussing at the CLP meeting concerns study groups. I received a request from one of our members to form a Study Group Committee within UAUS. I think this is a great idea whose time has come. The UB tells us that it is important that thousands of study groups be formed around the world. We have a good start but much more can and should be done to foster study groups. If you have an interest in this area there is a window of opportunity for any who wish to be involved. If you attend or host a study group please consider registering your group on the UAI and UAUS websites. I do believe this is the most effective means of fostering study of The Urantia Book and spreading the news of the Revelation to truth seekers.

Peace be with you,
David Linthicum
UAUS President



Will Sherwood, SURF Member
Valencia, California
will@thesherwoodgroup.com
CEO/Chief Creative Officer
The Sherwood Group

Tweet The World

USING THE INTERNET TO SPREAD THE TEACHINGS OF
"THE URANTIA BOOK" .

For almost 10 years, long time "Urantia Book" readers, Will Sherwood and Jay Peregrine, in cooperation with Urantia Foundation, have been forwarding a weekly digest of quotes from "The Urantia Book" to over 3,300 subscribers to the Urantia Foundation's "Thoughts To Ponder from 'The Urantia Book'" email list. Given Jay's very busy schedule as Urantia Foundation Executive Director, Will has set his sights on a much larger project: Tweeting the World.

This project is possible now because of new developments in Internet programming, specifically the introduction of Twitter and TweetLater. Using these technologies, Will plans to "tweet" a quote from the Urantia Book EVERY day in EVERY language where there is a translation completed for Book (each including a link to the Foundation's site where folks can read more if they'd like).

Given the way Twitter bypassed governmental controls in the recent elections in Iran, this may be the best time ever for a project of this sort. Consider this: Currently 300 million people in China are interested in Christianity and the Chinese government doesn't know how to deal with the trend. They have mandated fire walls in all computers sold in China, but mobile phones are another issue. (Twitter can be automatically ported to mobile phones.) This presents a wonderful opportunity,

database of quotes and allows us to schedule them for automatic distribution.

Using the online translations at Urantia Foundation's web site and an Excel spreadsheet that's available from Will on request, translating the quotes is a fairly simple matter for anyone who has a rudimentary understanding of a language. In the left column is the quote from the Book. In the second column, the page and paragraph number where the quote is found (all translations from the Foundation follow this system). The third column leaves a place for the translated quote, and the fourth column, a place for a link to the quote. This link column is especially important so that people who are interested in reading more can read the quote in the full context within the Book. Also, the link is important because Twitter only allows 140 characters in a "tweet" and most of the quotes need to be abbreviated.

So far, daily quotes from "The Urantia Book" are going out in English <<http://www.twitter.com/UrantiaKid>> and Hungarian <<http://www.twitter.com/UrantiaKidIromany>> thanks to Gabor Cseh, lead translator for the Hungarian UB. Currently, readers Al Turnbo and Patricia Snyder are translating the list of 365 "thoughts" into Spanish and French.

More volunteers are needed. If this project is of interest to you, contact Will Sherwood by email at will@thesherwoodgroup.com, or by phone:

Rick Warren
Lone Star Study Group
rewar@swbell.net

UAI Forum Administrator

One Page A Day

A NEW PLACE TO STUDY ONLINE

Rick Warren from Lone Star Urantia Association invites you to join the One-Page-A-Day online study group here on UAI Forum. The goal of OPAD is for participants to daily read, and if you wish, comment on that day's presentation. You'll see what others discern in this densely packed revelation as you gradually build a comprehensive knowledge of it. To finish one read-thru will take about seven years. Read a page when and as life's ins and outs permit it, come and go as you please. Auditing/observing is certainly encouraged.

The first page of Paper 1 will be presented to the OPAD UB Study Group on Aug 21, 2009. All sincere students are welcome, and you need only read to be a part of it. Join us, it's your opportunity to slowly study the whole revelation, from first to last, in the comfort of home, while in constant contact with other readers, leaders and teachers around the planet, observing their interpretations in light of your own, digging deeper into this new and astonishing revelation.

Between now and August 21st, the Foreword of The Urantia Book will be posted a page at a time. The first page is presented in the post following this one. If deep discussion is desired on any day's presentation, please start a new thread in OPAD or other appropriate subforum under a germane title. Join in and spread the word!

Fraternal regards, Forum Admin
Rick Warren, OPAD Host/Moderator (for the present).



Marian Hughes
Hawaii Local Urantia Association
 ellanora606@gmail.com
UAUS Messenger Editor

Where I Found the Urantia Book

IT WAS THE SUMMER OF LOVE, 1968
 NORTH SHORE, OAHU ISLAND, HAWAII

As you editor I thought I would kick off this new column:

"Where I found the Urantia Book"

It was the summer of Love 1968. After several frustrating years on my quest for the truth, a big blue book called to me. It was sitting on a new friend's coffee table. It lay among eight or so other big, and in some cases, even big blue books. Called may be the wrong word, for it was more like a magnetic pull. I did not pick up any of the other so called spiritual texts. As I opened this first printing of the Urantia Book I became quickly confused by The Parts of The Book. I thought " the WHO of the WHAT of the WHERE"? So I said to myself, let's see what this book has to say. Haphazardly I opened to page 623 Death and Translation. Having always had a vivid imagination, as I read I could envision what it might be like to be a fusion candidate in a morontia temple resting among family and friends while waiting for the "life flash" to consume me with the grandeur of spiritual fires and ascending glory. Wow, I thought that is the kind of God I can relate to. If that is what we are evolving towards then it finally all makes sense.

I didn't know I had a Revelation in my hands at the time, that would come much later, what I did know was that I had to order this book from the publisher since I had finally found something that felt right to me. I always keep a Urantia book on my coffee table in the hope that some searching soul will discover it there. I have been dusting around it for years and one day I said to my husband Matt.

" This is silly, no one has ever found the book on my coffee table and he replied, " that is not true the day I found you, I also found the book on your coffee table."

What a score!

Please send your stories of WHERE you first found the Urantia Book to ellanora606@gamil.com so the rest of our UAUS members can share in your good fortune.



Waimea Bay, North Shore, Oahu, Hawaii



Off To The Mansion Worlds

BERT COBB, 1943-2009

On September 12th we saw the passing of a beloved UAUS member, Bert Cobb. He was a warm and gracious mortal whom many in the Urantia movement had come to love and respect over the many years of his service.

Bert was a loyal supporter of the UAUS and the UAI. He often gave of his time and money to the Urantia Movement, but more importantly he gave his friendship to all who were open to his warm embrace. His friends from different locations around Urantia have posted remembrances on the UAUS website. If you wish to add your thoughts and condolences to this memorial webpage please feel free to contact your UAUS editor: Marian Hughes: ellanora 606@gmail.com

Eulogy Link: <http://urantiausa.com/bert-cobb.html>

Bert's Celebration Memorial is scheduled for
 High Noon on October 3rd
 at 330 Canyon Crest Drive in Twin Falls, Idaho.

A POEM BY BERT

EARTHBOY

I'm an Earthboy from Urantia,
 this planet is my home,

and the open range of the Universe
 is where I'm going to roam.

Mother Earth is my base camp,
 it's just going to be a short stay,

even if I live to a ripe old age
 I'll soon be on my way.

I'm searching for my Father.
 I simply want to do right.

My face is turned toward the heavens,
 my soul reaches out for the light.

My roots are in the soil of Urantia,
 Mother Earth has born a son.

Divine spirits sent down their blessings,
 an eternal adventure has begun.

I love my temporal living,
 but some day I will die.

My body will return to Mother Earth,
 and my spirit will soar to the sky.

Today the dusty trails of our homeland,
 we don't have much time to kill,

for tomorrow we'll travel the stardust trails,
 and be living the Father's will.

Where Are They Now?

SHIRLEY PELLAND
BIG ISLAND OF HAWAII



After packing up and picking up her life in California, Shirley Pelland headed to the Big Island to be closer to her son and his extended family. Shirley has put new roots down in the most southern point of the United States, She can see when the surf is up from her little cottage in Hawaiian Ocean View Estates. Shirley is growing a lot of her own food and helping a friend shape Koa surf boards. Koa is a beautiful and rare Hawaiian hard wood. These boards are used as wall displays in luxury homes. Though she really misses her friends in SURF she makes the occasional drive to the north part of the island to attend the HULA meetings.

Announcement

CLP MEETING
SEPT. 25, 2009
CHESTERTON, INDIANA

Greater Lakes Michigan Urantia Association, GLMUA, has been kind enough to let The Urantia Association of the United States hold its annual Council of Local Presidents and Vice Presidents meeting on September 25 the afternoon before the festivities begin. A tour of Urantia Foundation can be arranged either before or after the meeting. We appreciate being able to piggyback on to the GLMUA study session. Many of us plan to attend both meetings and tour Urantia Foundation also. What an autumn treat for those of us who could not attend the International Conference in Spain this Spring. This will be a great chance to visit with our Urantia siblings and study the Revelation. The hotel is the Hilton Garden Inn in Chesterton, Indiana, which is about an hours drive east from the Foundation. It is near a train depot so those coming from O'hare airport or the Chicago area can get there easily by train. The Hotel is outside of the Chicago traffic and easy to find by car. Contact Rick Lyon ricklyon@tctc.com

606 Marketplace

A PLACE FOR SHARING SPIRITUAL ITEMS OF VALUE

Giclees of the cover Painting are now being sold through the UAUS to benefit our national group.

The giclees will be enhanced, painting on the canvas, signed and numbered, and sold for \$150 plus shipping and handling.

Un-enhanced but signed giclees are sold \$125 plus shipping and handling.

Un- enhanced and unsigned giclees are sold for \$100 plus shipping and handling

This price is offered to members of UAUS and UAI . The Web price will be \$250. This is a limited edition of 300 giclees only.

Marian Hughes will handle all sales please contact by email. [ellanora606@gmail](mailto:ellanora606@gmail.com)
If you have a product that you would like to sell in the 606 Market Place and are willing to donate 20% of the sale price to the UAUS, we would be happy to review your product for placement in the next issue.





Maramis Choufani
Las Vegas, Nevada
 maramistribune@gmail.com
 Prison Inquiry Response Team (PIRT) Volunteer

PIRT: Reaching Out to Those on the Inside

AN OVERVIEW OF WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE A PIRT MEMBER, DEDICATED TO GETTING THE URANTIA BOOK OUT TO THOSE INQUISITIVE AND SEARCHING SOULS BEHIND BARS.

THE LARGE BROWN ENVELOPE WITH THE PRISON INQUIRY RESPONSE TEAM RETURN ADDRESS LABEL ON THE OUTSIDE – AND a whole bunch of request letters from inmates inside – arrives in the mail about every other month, give or take a week or two. It may show up on a day I'm working on the newspaper, and I don't dare open it when I can't throw myself into it wholeheartedly. If I do, I'll fall behind in my work, knowing I'll want to stop working and read every one, pondering their words, feeling their feelings, contemplating their need. I tell myself that if I finish my work a little early this night, maybe I'll treat myself to just taking a quick peek at how many letters are in there this time. And maybe I'll allow myself to read just one. Well, I have discovered – for me – those request letters are like visual potato chips: I can never read just one. But opening the envelope and seeing how many requests are in there, and even reading all the requests, just brings me up to the starting point. Although that is quite enough for day one – and I really wouldn't have time to get to reply to them for several days anyhow – I still feel the need to read them carefully enough to highlight or underline their particular request or questions and to notate on the letters if they will be needing the regular (standard) response or something more personal. I am thankful that I spent enough time in the early days of my involvement to create several standard response letters that can simply be printed out and sent on to the letter-writers to address their requests. Most of the letters that arrive in those brown envelopes are from those who write to the Urantia Foundation to say that they've discovered that a Urantia Book exists and they want a copy. And, as you can imagine, most of those requests are asking for, hoping for, and even begging for, a copy of the Book for free. When I was first asked to become a member of the team, I had already been writing several inmates on an ongoing basis, with a focus on their desire to better understand the teachings in the Book, along with a thirst for spiritual communion with another human being. I have to admit that I had a little talk with myself about taking on yet another volunteer activity; but as you can see, the "other" me won out, and I pooh-poohed the suggestion that enough was enough. Apparently, the "other" me thinks I can just take on any inmate who needs a little spiritual spark and a little in-depth explanation to some of his Urantia Book-related questions; apparently "enough" then, is a relative term! Not really knowing what I was getting into, I asked David Linthicum – the person behind the PIRT project – to send me all the details, which of course he did. I discovered that this four-year-old endeavor was comprised of just a few dedicated souls, among them "long-timers" Tamara Strumfeld (at the Foundation), Joy Brandt, Jeanette Schafer, and David. Apparently they were all happy to learn I'd be the new kid on the PIRT block. Both Joy and David sent me copies of the standard letters they send to the inmates so I would have a guide as to what to say in mine.

But what I had to learn the hard way – and it never even entered my mind to ask! – is that some prisons have a stack of rules regarding incoming mail that would make your head spin. One letter came back to me twice! The first time, they had stamped on the front of the envelope, Sender must use full name and address on front of envelope. I had just used our acronym, P.I.R.T., along with the address. And up to now, I had always used just my fake first name, even on the envelopes, to all the other inmates. So I simply tucked that returned envelope inside another envelope with Prison Inquiry Response Team written out, including my full fake name below it, not wanting it to be returned for lack of a human name as well. Three weeks later, it came back to me in one of the prison's large brown envelopes, along with a 28-page compendium of rules and regulations regarding the inmates' mail. They had opened both of my letters – so they knew perfectly well what was in them – but because neither one of my letters to that particular prison conformed to the rules they had drawn up to protect their prisoners from the likes of me, I had to read their rules to see what I had done "wrong," and then try again. (In case you're curious, here is how I broke their rules: They mentioned right on that first letter that I needed to use a full name to conform to their rules. However, they failed to mention that I could not place upon the letter, in any way shape or form, front, back or sideways, any sticker bearing a flower, such as I – in my crazy, wild and uninhibited fashion – had placed there, with full unauthorized enthusiasm and desire, in order to add a spot of beauty to the receiver's surroundings ever so bleak. But, when sending the letter back the second time, in a new envelope with the proper fully-written-out name – and even sans any sticker on this one "just in case" – it came back because my "enclosure" – yes, the original letter – still had the original sticker on it; and such things, as any person would automatically know, are a grave source of danger to the institution. No stickers of any kind anywhere on any paper inside or outside the envelope addressed to the inmate or any member of the institution.) Yes, my third try stuck; after all, I now had their official rule book for guidance! I can say for sure that it'll take me many more moons before I'm up to snuff with the likes of my teammates, but I am doing my best under my particular circumstances. What does that mean, you may ask? Well, sometimes during my intended response-writing days, my computer goes down: It's always Embarq's connection going astray, due to where I live and something about the actual distance the signals have to travel from their source, and I can't tell you how that impacts all the work I do. When that happens (I've had the repairman out here eleven times since last year!), I cannot get to print out another batch of letters. Then, sometimes, I find myself out of town for an extended period when the envelope shows up, and it has to wait till I get back. Of course, there are times I get all the copies made in a timely fashion and feel so good they're all ready to go – and then I discover I don't have any stamps left with which to mail them!

(I'm not always up to hopping on the bus to go the post office to buy more stamps; and unfortunately, they are not something I can get within walking distance of where I live.) And there were even days I ran out of envelopes or copy paper! So I can see that this PIRT business requires a bit more plan-ahead activity than I had factored in! The good news is that I am getting better and feel I am making progress. This service to our brothers in prison is no small thing. It's generally pretty easy to care about or to love sweet little angelic children; little old ladies sitting alone in "the home" because they have no one to visit them; veterans who are wounded and depressed after serving their country, and possibly tied to a bed for who-knows-how-long; those suffering the ravages of their last debilitating illness, and those daily living with excruciating pain. We may have one or another of those in our very own family, but we all certainly know at least one person who is very young, very old, very sick, very lonely or is living under the umbrella of their final days. Yet prisoners, as a rule, are not exactly lovable. No one automatically cares about those who have abused their fellowman. Their daily life in prison generally reinforces the aspects of their personality that brought them to their present state of affairs. I can probably say without fear of contradiction that no one goes to prison to become a better or more spiritual being, and the possibility of that happening is hardly high. Yet I do hope you will allow yourself to consider that some inmates sink to a low enough level – or rise to a high enough level – where they come to realize that the only way out (of their "predicament" or their self- or system-imposed prison) is by going in. There are those who really do discover their Thought Adjusters without ever having known that term; without ever having seen the Book. And to finally get that book in their hands – to be able to read those soul-nourishing words at last – they can honestly feel their old self falling away as each new paper reveals its comforting and life-changing truth. To think that some of those searching souls will never get to even see the Book, to hold it in their hands – never get to read its supernal heart-, mind- and soul-saturating words that uplift and cheer all of us on in our daily life – and all because they cannot come up with the funds for one paperback, or the cost of even the \$8 for the "donation" Book and postage, touches me. "I have had to wait a year and a half to come across your address just to write this letter. PLEASE consider my request with the highest regard, for I would be most appreciative..." wrote one inmate. "If there is any way that I could receive a book...it definitely would be appreciated from the deepest of my heart and soul. Please! be kind enough to respond one way or the other. In the meantime, I'll keep praying..." wrote another. "...Rest assured the book will be taken care of and thoroughly read from cover to cover. I have no money to pay you for the book as I am indigent and have been for a long, long time and appeal to your generosity that I may possess this Urantia Book for my own. If I had the money I would be more than glad to send it to you..." pleaded yet another. Are they just phishing for a free book? Trying to get whatever they can? Some inmates never write back after discovering that the book is not automatically free. They are encouraged to ask to be put on the waiting list for the time when someone will either donate a book or the postage on their behalf (or the Foundation will find it is able to accommodate their request), if there truly is no way they can come up with the funds, but many do not even ask. There will always be the insincere among us. However, I am of the belief that if they go out of their way to find us, to write us, to plead for this book – the most amazing book that was ever written – most of those inmates sincerely intend to read it. Many of them even hope to start their own study groups within the prison walls if able and allowed to do so. But just as we – on the outside – find that the average person we bump up against is not exactly a candidate for learning about the book, let alone for reading it, imagine what the "average person" behind bars might be like!

Finding a book-reading buddy or even someone with whom to discuss those passages calling out for dissection, inspection and reflection is not easy; and not having access to a computer for online classes further limits their advancement in digesting and understanding the contents of the Book. How can I not offer to answer any questions they may have? How can I not spur them on to continue their solitary reading and encourage them to ponder the material until they feel they've finally gotten it? How can I not acknowledge them as my brothers, and be their sister, to the extent they truly grasp the meaning of brotherhood? Regardless of why they were placed behind bars (I never ask), I truly feel that each inmate who writes me – once he or she starts reading and comprehending the contents of the Book – is a different individual from the one that was first placed in that cell. They sometimes tell me that themselves; other times I just feel it. And I always feel that their tiny link with the outside world regarding their new-found treasure is of great value to them. Therefore, it is of great value to me. The Foundation wishes it could send free books to all the inmates who ask. They used to do that, to the extent they could. But times are tough. Funds are low. It's not so easy any more. We do ask them to buy the book, or at least pay for the postage. Many can't. And so they remain deprived. We're doing all we can to carry out this prison ministry so we can once again address each and every request of those who cannot pay. I have started adding in a little note to each inmate suggesting that if they are even a little bit more fortunate than the rest, perhaps they would be willing and able to donate some amount to make it possible for us to send a book to another inmate in their name. They could also, at the same time, consider the benefit for themselves: that such a donation might give them a possible pen-pal for the sharing of what they read in that book. This little additional note may work. It may not. It can't hurt to try. I don't often know when an inmate receives his book, although Tamara will let me know that one has been sent. If inmates have a hard enough time coming up with a stamp to even request a book, it's not too likely that the stamps will be flowing freely for them to write "thank you" notes. But every now and then...

"Just wanted to say thank you so much for the Urantia Book. What a mind-full, by the way. I've had it for a couple of months and I'm on page 300...this is very interesting material to say the least. I would have written sooner, but I've not had the stamps to get a letter out the door... I've got a year left to finish off an eight-year sentence...and I would be surprised if I had the book read through for the first time yet. It will be one of the few things I do take with me when I leave here.... Anyway thanks again for the book, what a unique load of wonderful knowledge it is. It really pays to be a truth seeker, I'll tell you! Love & Light, W.T."

And so it goes....

Anyone can donate directly to the prison ministry, either the cost – which includes postage – of a paperback book (about \$23), a hardcover book (about \$35), or a reduced-rate/donated book (\$8). These amounts will be immediately earmarked for the inmates and each such donation guarantees that we will be reaching one more searching soul. If you haven't been able to make larger donations to any other Urantia-related cause, realize that donating even \$8 to the Foundation to be applied toward a reduced-rate book and postage will mean so much to those spiritually-hungry seekers who have so little and yearn only for the same nourishing soul food that we've all been so fortunate to have found.

*Maramis is the managing editor of the Las Vegas Tribune and a freelance writer and editor.