

THE MESSENGER



URANTIA.

NEWS FOR STUDENTS OF THE URANTIA BOOK4 | SPRING 2014

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TOKAN CONFERENCE REPORT

Katrina Glavan-Heise, President, Lone Star Urantia Association

What A Fantastic Conference We Had!

For those who missed the TOKAN Conference, we met for 3 days in Irving Texas and spent the weekend talking and learning about Thought Adjusters. Our speakers: David Glass, Dan McCauley, John Causland, Bill Sadler, and Gard Jameson not only gave exciting presentations but were around all weekend to interact with us. I'd like to share some of the comments from our attendees—I'll quote them. Our speakers were “excellent”, “fantastic”, “most inspirational”, “wonderful”, “a joy”, and “totally inspiring”. The breakout sessions allowed “opportunity for lots of discussions” when we inquired about various parts of The Urantia Book. One attendee commented, “Will be thinking about these questions for the coming weeks.”

The hotel accommodations were “great”, “great location” “conducive to conversations with out of the way nooks”, “excellent accommodations”, “amazing value for the money”, “would be very good place for other conferences”.

And the food! All meals were included in the conference price. The “food was excellent, very enjoyable, delicious.”

I'd like to say “thank you” to those who made the conference possible through their planning activities, hard work and diligence. Thanks goes out to David Linthicum, Ken Ingle, Bill Sadler, David Glass, Sia Amadzadeh, Suzanne Kelly and last minute volunteer, Debra Guevara. To each of you who made the effort to join us, “thank you”.

It appears we'll have to have another conference next year. As we plan our future activities, stay tuned to our website at <http://www.urantia-LSUA.org> for details on upcoming events. We hope you'll be able to join us next time. Until we meet in person ...

God bless, Katrina Glavan-Heise, President, Lone Star Urantia Association (LSUA)
 210-679-8933 | Urantia.katrina@yahoo.com | <http://www.urantia-lsua.org/>

We met for 3 days in Irving Texas and spent the weekend talking and learning about Thought Adjusters.

WHAT IS YOUR “WHY” FOR SHARING THE URANTIA BOOK?

WILL SHERWOOD, PRESIDENT UAUS, LOS ANGELES

Some time ago, a fellow student of the revelation said, “We are today’s Vans and Amadons, holding the light for the fifth epochal revelation.” I believe this to be true. It also helps me keep moving forward in faith.

Recently, Rick Lyon, former executive director of UAI sent the above quote and the following note through the UAI email list:

[You] will doubtless live and die without fully realizing that [you] are participating in the birth of a new age of religion on this world”. Publication Mandate.

Here is a short video presentation of a message that I believe is important to the success of this revelation and therefore vital to the future of our world. I believe it is important for all and each of us to see and consider this message.

Check out this amazing TED Talk:

Simon Sinek: How great leaders inspire action

<http://bit.ly/1mRJe0g>

We are today’s Vans and Amadons, holding the light for the fifth epochal revelation.

Over the years, I’ve been a great fan of the TED Talks, and though I don’t get to watch as many as I’d like, I took Rick at his word and watched this 18 minute program. It proved to be a real eye-opener and prompted me to write down my “Whys” for sharing “The Urantia Book:”

1. It transformed my life. You might even say it “saved me” and I feel compelled from within to share my overflowing joy.
2. The rock-solid philosophy of living based on the life and teachings of the greatest man that ever lived, Jesus, have made me a better man. Nowhere else that I’ve found is this available.

3. The security (even in the presence of uncertainty) that I will survive time and embark on the eternal adventure, is the touchstone of my enthusiasm. Plus, it’s nice to know why we’re here and where we’re going.

I know there are people out there who also want to have the security of these “whys” in their lives. At this point, though there have only been a handful of folks that I’m aware of having reached with the Book, I know that the truth, beauty, and goodness coming through the Book is available to everyone who is seeking and are willing to open their minds and hearts. I just need to touch them with Spirit’s help.

What are your “Whys”?

REGISTER NOW FOR THE STUDY GROUP SYMPOSIUM – JUNE 11-15 2014 IN MADISON WISCONSIN.

James Woodward, Study Group Symposium 2014 Committee

In the Publication Mandate (<http://urantia-uai.org/overview/legal-information>), the human associates who worked to bring the fifth epochal revelation to our world were advised to create thousands of study groups. Since we are far from that goal, the current status and prevailing models of study groups ought to attract our attention.

The Urantia Book offers a personal spiritual message for each individual as well as a coherent blueprint for progressive social evolution. Urantia Book students gain enhanced appreciation and a deeper understanding of these advanced teachings by studying with others, exploring rich content, and sharing personal insights. An informal group is the best way to incorporate study and comprehension of a new revelation with the art of living—blending the teachings into our everyday life experiences.

Are Urantia Book study groups destined to be more than a periodic meeting where people read and socialize? Could they offer greater value to the inner progress of the individual and thence to our world?

A recent survey of Urantia Book readers brought unwelcome news: Only twenty-six percent have attended a study group, and the percentage of groups to readers is quite low. Is our study-group culture failing to flourish because it reflects the cultures that so many of us were raised with? Today’s secular society does not encourage daily prayer, meditation, and worship practices, although the new revelation does. The post-modern model of religion is trending secular, and we know this is a planetary problem. We may enjoy a weekly church attendance, and we

may engage in personal and private spiritual practices, but how many of us celebrate religious activities in our study groups? The Chief of Urantia Midwayers offers some direction:

But prayer need not always be individual. Group or congregational praying is very effective in that it is highly socializing in its repercussions. When a group engages in community prayer for moral enhancement and spiritual uplift, such devotions are reactive upon the individuals composing the groups; they are all made better because of participation. (998.5) 91:5.2

Could there be an unrealized role for Urantia Book study groups, something that has not yet evolved beyond reading and discussion? Of course it takes deep study to understand deep new teachings, but can study groups help to establish the Father's will in the hearts and minds of mortals? Could study groups become dynamic centers of spiritual enthusiasm, reflecting the wise guidelines for true religious living outlined in The Urantia Book? What if they modeled the open-armed friendliness of Jesus and were willing to serve all sincere truth seekers?

Urantia Association International was created to foster the in-depth study of The Urantia Book. Following the success of 2011's Leadership Symposium, Urantia Association is now preparing a Study Group Symposium. Please join us in Madison, Wisconsin, June 11–15, as we explore the workings of what makes a study group thrive, and how we can make them more attractive and inspiring to our troubled world.

Come and learn new strategies for welcoming and retaining Urantia Book students, as well as proven facilitation methods. You will have the opportunity to discourse with experienced study-group leaders, as we share our discoveries in the art of living the teachings of The Urantia Book. The program will feature engaging sessions designed for those who are serious about expanding study groups to new levels of service.

Editor's Note: Urantia Foundation is sponsoring this event along with <http://Truthbook.com>

To register: <https://www.regonline.com/studygroupsymposium>

UF NEWS Source: <http://www.urantia.org/news/2014-03/study-group-symposium>

At the Study Group Symposium you'll learn new strategies for welcoming and retaining Urantia Book students, as well as proven facilitation methods.

URANTIA FOUNDATION QUARTERLY REPORT

By Judy Van Cleave, Trustee, Secretary, Urantia Foundation, Boise, Idaho

Richard Jernigan Elected as Associate Trustee

The Board of Trustees appointed Richard Jernigan of Dallas, Texas, to the position of associate trustee. Richard is a long-time reader and study group host. He is an executive producer and director of all creative aspects of video, including more than 200 educational products. Many readers of The Urantia Book know his film about the Holy Land, A Feast of Uncertainty.

2013 Donations

Urantia Foundation raised about \$777,000 in 2013. The budget was \$706,000, but the goal was \$800,000. An additional \$115,000 in pledges arrived in early January 2014. That brought the total 2013 donations, pledged or received, to \$865,000. The best news was that 913 persons donated in 2013 versus 807 persons in 2012—a 13% increase. Thank you, generous donors! The work of printing, translating, and distributing The Urantia Book and its teachings globally will continue to steadily move forward.

Book Sales

John Lennon once said, "Life is what happens while you are busy making other plans." We started 2013 expecting physical book sales to grow about 7%, but they declined about 12%. Since North America is the number one market for Urantia Book sales, the declines seem to reflect the sales trends for spiritual books in North America. Although the final numbers are not yet available, global sales numbers for books are also flat to declining.

The biggest surprise in 2013 was that North American digital book sales declined about 10%, and free downloads were also down for the first time since digital books were introduced. In the United States, digital books had been the growth engine and darling of the book industry for the last few years, but something changed in 2013.

From a numbers perspective, 2013 was an exceptionally good year for distribution of The Urantia Book worldwide through the app provided by Dandelion Applications. There were 33,995 downloads, an increase of 68% from

2012. The app just had its five-year anniversary, and since its inception, over 177,000 Urantia Books have been downloaded in 116 countries. In 2013 the top five countries for downloads were Russia at 6,526, the US at 5,716, France at 3,443, Italy at 3,300, Mexico at 2,366, and Brazil at 2,306.

In the next few months we shall learn more about why physical book sales declined and about what we can do to improve them. With Barnes and Noble struggling financially, selling books in North America will be more challenging than ever. We need to reinvent our strategies in order to keep The Urantia Book in circulation while the book industry sorts itself out. That is our job, and we shall figure it out.

[T]his project should streamline translation and revision costs, improve quality control, amplify strategic decision making, and provide a documented system....

Translations and Revisions

The task force comprised of members of the Translation Committee presented a special report concerning translations and revision of translations. The Foundation is establishing policies and procedures to guide future translations and revisions. Marilyn Kulieke, George Michelson-Dupont, Henk Mylanus, and Jay Peregrine presented the report, which included policies, history, priorities, and evaluation criteria. In the end, this project should streamline translation and revision costs, improve quality control, amplify strategic decision making, and provide a documented system that allows the board to pass on to the next generation proven procedures and policies concerning translations and revisions of translations.

Renovation of the Third Floor, Attic, and Carriage House

In December the third floor renovation was completed on schedule and below budget. For the first time in decades, Dr. Sadler's gift of the beautiful building at 533 W. Diversey Parkway is in pristine condition. The top three floors have been fully renovated with new electrical, plumbing, bathrooms, kitchens, flooring, insulation, and much more.

The carriage house (that is, the garage and garage apartment) in the back of the building is also being renovated and will be rented. The architect, the contractors, and the builders did an outstanding job, and the renovation would not have been possible without donor support. (See article on page X) Please visit the Foundation and see the renovated home of the Fifth Epochal Revelation.

Source: <http://www.urantia.org/news/2014-03/noteworthy-decisions-january-2014-board-trustees-meeting>

LAUNCHING, HOSTING, AND FACILITATING STUDY OF THE URANTIA BOOK

UAI President Emeritus Gaetan G. Charland

UAI now has it's Study Group Guide available online:

This beautifully designed and printed guide has been produced with loving care by people who respect the mission given to us by the revelators to create thousands of study groups. These study groups are in themselves the foundation on which the revelation can stand to accomplish its worldwide mission to expand cosmic consciousness and enhance spiritual perception in the minds of men. They can also serve to foster the emergence of leaders and teachers, for study groups are like small classrooms.

Study groups are places where spiritual brotherhood takes root and where intellectual and spiritual growth can be fostered in the participants. While study groups are autonomous, they can benefit greatly from interaction with other study groups or with the organizations supporting and nurturing them. While their autonomy is necessary to foster spiritual unity, it should always be protected from political, social or sectarian influence.

Study groups should always focus on the teachings of The Urantia Book and their integration in everyday life, for it is when the truth is alive within us that it becomes a most effective tool of dissemination in our family, at work and in society at large. Study groups are a reflection of their participants and the hosts who lead them in the path of spiritual and intellectual discoveries.

Study groups need a worthy goal so they can achieve their purpose of transforming the world one person at a time. Read this guide carefully and benefit from the experience of others it should help you start or improve your own study group. When man goes in partnership with God, great things may, and do, happen.

Building a spiritual community one study group at a time. <http://urantia-uai.org/pdfs/UAI-StudyGroupGuide.pdf>

OPAD ~ ONLINE URANTIA BOOK STUDY SESSION NOW OPEN

You are heartily invited to join the One-Page-A-Day online study group at UAI Forum. The goal of OPAD is for participants to daily read, and if you wish, comment on that day's presentation. OPAD readers will discover what they and others discern in this densely packed revelation and thereby gradually build a comprehensive knowledge of it. This works especially well for readers who are isolated, not near a home Study Group.

To finish one read-thru will take several years. Read a page, and if you like, participate in the conversations. The study session is always open, so come and go as you please. All sincere students are welcome, and you need only read to be a part of it, posting is not a requirement. Auditing/observing is certainly encouraged.

The online study group discussed the Foreword first, during July and August, page by page. Then began the daily presentations of Paper 1, on Aug 21, 2009. But it's never too late to join us! The Forum retains all posts for immediate review. This is an opportunity to slowly study the whole revelation, from first to last, from the comfort of your home, and 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, astonishing and formidable revelation.

Read/Search The Urantia Book: <http://urantia.org>

Link to OPAD: <http://urantia.invisionzone.com/index.php?forum/34-opad/>

Read a page, and if you like, participate in the conversations. The study session is always open, so come and go as you please.

MAKING CONTACT

David Glass, Communications Chair, Lone Star Urantia Association

Emerging readers everywhere submit their names to Urantia Foundation Reader Services who passes them on to UAI local Associations like ours for inclusion in our database and activities. All Local "referrals" are kept by LSUA communications person, now David Glass. David can give you phone numbers and email addresses for any readers in your area who want to be listed as a contact, as will Urantia Foundation Reader Services. Please feel free to email him if/when you want to start or add to your Study Group, make new UB friends, or just talk with another reader: DGlass63@aol.com

READ THE URANTIA BOOK ONLINE

UAI and Urantia Foundation are interdependent in the study and dissemination of the revelation. To read, download, search, or listen to the Urantia Book online, and for the latest news reports from Urantia Foundation visit the link below. It's the Foundation's official news outlet, alongside its many other services as a clearinghouse and reader nexus in 13 languages.

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<http://www.urantia.org/>

MESSAGE FROM UAI PRESIDENT, CHRIS WOOD

Chris Wood, President, Urantia Association International

We often hold conferences to study The Urantia Book together; indeed that is the mission of Urantia Association International: "To foster study of The Urantia Book and to disseminate its teachings." But every few years we host an event that is about the Urantia community itself: our goals; our proposed methods to achieve those goals; how our community is organized; and what we can do to better serve the growing family of Urantia Book students.

One of these events is coming June 11-15 in Madison, WI: The Study Group Symposium. If you have not already, I highly encourage you to enroll and attend this special event. The Symposium Series is designed to gather instant

feedback from participants and this feedback not only guides the remaining days of the event, but also helps set goals and policies for the years to come. A wise man once said, "Decisions are made by those who show up." Add your voice!

Click here to be taken to our registration page: <https://regonline.com/studygroupsymposium>

**The mission of
Urantia Association
International is To
foster study of The
Urantia Book and
to disseminate its
teachings.**

WHILE TRAVELING IN COLOMBIA, I was able to meet with the local students and the leaders of the Colombian Association. Did you know that they have 14 study groups in Bogota alone? One of the goals of the Symposium is to share success stories and standards from across the world. We will be discussing this at length at the event, but consider this: in a city of approximately 7 million people, they have 14 study groups or about one group for every 500,000 residence. Ponder where you live, whether it is urban or rural, and ask yourself if your community is meeting the Bogota Standard? If not, what can you do to help increase the study of The Urantia Book in your area? The Bogota Standard and other ideas will be discussed at the Symposium in June. Please join us!

Earlier this year, thanks to the generous support of donors, the Foundation and Association were able to provide 150 books which were distributed to libraries and universities in the Philippines. We have received numerous letters from these institutions thanking us for our gifts. Eugene Asidao and Nestor Nano returned to Chicago in mid-March and we are enormously grateful for the good work they have done. Thank you Eugene and Nestor! Look for articles detailing their service adventure in newsletters from both the Foundation and Association.

SPEAKING OF THE FOUNDATION, our friend Jay Peregrine will be retiring soon from his position as Executive Director. Jay has overseen the Foundation during a time when the number of translations and countries of distribution have greatly expanded while the resources to accomplish this work have contracted. Thanks to the work of Jay and the staff at 533, the number of people reached by the fifth epochal revelation has grown and the work of our Association has swollen. Thank you Jay!

As you may know, one of the joys of international events is meeting fellow students of The Urantia Book from different cultures and countries. Often the Association attempts to raise funds to provide transportation for those who could not otherwise afford to travel.

WE HAVE RECENTLY RECEIVED A \$2500 PLEDGE specifically to help student travelers and the donor has humbly suggested that their pledge be matched by donations from the greater Urantia community. When you register for the conference, you will have the opportunity to add a donation to your registration cost or you can contact our Central Office to arrange a donation at (773) 572-1180. We hope to be joined by representatives from the Ukraine, Brazil, Colombia, Indonesia, Haiti, Pakistan, and many other nations. Please help aid this effort.

Along with the Foundation, Truthbook.com has joined us as a sponsor of the Study Group Symposium! Truthbook recently launched an updated website so if you have not visited lately, go check out the new Truthbook.com.

As the work of Urantia Association International grows, the number of dedicated students volunteering to shepherd these projects also grows. In August we will formally charter a new Urantia Association in the Netherlands, our 23rd National Association! And recently Colombia welcomed another Local Association in Cali! Welcome! Bienvenidos! Welkom!

Chris Wood

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Continued on next page...

**Along with the
Foundation,
Truthbook.com has
joined us as a sponsor
of the Study Group
Symposium!**

FREE URANTIA BOOK POSTCARD PROGRAM

Will Sherwood, UAUS President, Valencia, CA

FREE Urantia Books Are Steadily Being Shipped Out, Though With Some Challenges...

It's a real joy every time we open our mail to find another postcard requesting a FREE Urantia Book. At this point, we've sent out close to 500 books, and we hope to reach 1,000 books by the end of next year, but we could use your help when handing out postcards so that you are following the guidelines set by our anonymous donor:

The anonymous donor who funded this project has placed these 4 restrictions and conditions on the people who are eligible to receive a free Urantia Book:

Get Your Free Copy!

The primary message and greatest truth of *The Urantia Book* is one of hope and spiritual freedom. All humanity are brothers and sisters in one worldwide family of God.

Like no other book, *The Urantia Book* offers an unprecedented integration of science, philosophy, cosmology and religion, clarifying and revealing a unique contribution to our planet, Urantia.

Truth seekers who have read and studied the book believe it is the greatest gift they have ever received and happily study it and share it with family and friends. *The Urantia Book* is not a "religious" piece. It is a spiritual compilation that builds upon the heritage of the past, and encourages growth through personal, living faith.

Fill out and mail this card today for your own free copy (a \$19.95 value).



1) To receive a free book, the requester must have included their phone number(s) and email so that we can add them to the UAI database, for confirmation, sending newsletters, and for future possible contact. Postcards with no phone or email require us to contact them by snail mail to request this information. As you can imagine, this really slows down the process of getting *The Urantia Book* in their hands in a timely manner.

2) The postcard must have been sent by an individual who is new to the Book. This program has been implemented exclusively for people who are *new* to the Book. However, we sometimes receive postcards from people who have been studying the Book for some time and would like to replenish their supply of Urantia Books to hand out.

This is not the intent of this program. It's to help current students of the Book overcome any

fear of rejection that many of us have felt when trying to share the Book with colleagues, neighbors and friends. This is one of the biggest problems we've seen new students face. The postcards are a great way to eliminate any rejection you might experience when trying to introduce the Book. Just pass them out to people you know and/or like and allow the thought adjusters and the angels to take care of the details. If the person receiving a postcard is ready, they will go to the trouble of sending in the postcard on their own.

3) The person requesting the Book must be the person sending in the postcard.

We sometimes receive postcards that are postmarked from a different city than the address information on the card. For example, we just received 2 postcards that were postmarked Salt Lake City, but the names and addresses are in Hawaii. Clearly these were sent on behalf of those people by some well meaning student of the Book. From our donor's experience, these books would likely gather dust, thus this restriction. Though this may be a well meaning gesture, it defeats the purpose of allowing an individual to exert their own initiative and go to the trouble of filling out, stamping and mailing in the postcard on their own.

4) A Urantia Book is only sent out after the address and contact information have been confirmed.

We attempt to confirm the information on the postcard 3 times by email, and 3 times by phone. If after these 6 attempts, the sender has not responded, we assume that someone sent the postcard on their behalf, or they're not really that interested and we don't proceed any further.

ONE LAST POINT:

We'll be distributing packets of 10 postcards to each attendee at the Study Group Symposium.

Register now so you're sure to get your own packet of postcards: <https://regonline.com/studygroupsymposium>

If you can't attend the Study Group Symposium, you can request postcards and/or send a contribution to help with this program by writing or emailing:

Will Sherwood
Urantia Association of Los Angeles
24402 Vista Ridge Drive
Valencia, CA 91355
Email: owsherwood@gmail.com

The anonymous donor who funded this project has placed several restrictions and conditions on who is eligible to receive a free Urantia Book.

HELPFUL LINKS:

<http://urantiausa.com/> This link will take you to the national UAUS site where there are photos, UB inspired music and art reviews, and other info germane to UAI members and students in the US.

<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://urantia-uai.org/> The link will take you to UAI'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.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 UAI Journal, UAI's "scholarly" publication, is available electronically free of charge at UAI Journal. 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.

To subscribe: mail check or money order according to subscription rate, payable to Urantia Association International, to:

UAI Journal
559 W. Diversey Pkwy. #351
Chicago, IL 60614, USA

When paying by credit card, telephone orders may be placed by phoning: (773) 572-1180

UAI Journal Archives: <http://www.urantia-uai.org/Journal/>

QUOTE OF THE QUARTER:

Having started out on the way of life everlasting, having accepted the assignment and received your orders to advance, do not fear the dangers of human forgetfulness and mortal inconstancy, do not be troubled with doubts of failure or by perplexing confusion, do not falter and question your status and standing, for in every dark hour, at every crossroad in the forward struggle, the Spirit of Truth will always speak, saying, "This is the way." (383.2) 34:7.8 <http://bit.ly/1qdBZSl>

ABOUT THE MESSENGER

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. .

Editor: Ellen Gaynor
Graphics: Will Sherwood

Please send articles and other submissions to Ellen Gaynor <ellen.gaynor@gmail.com>. Please send graphics comments to Will Sherwood <owsherwood@gmail.com>.

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