

# THE MESSENGER



URANTIA.

NEWS FOR STUDENTS OF THE URANTIA BOOK | SPRING 2016

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## SUMMER FUN IN SAN ANTONIO

**Will Sherwood, President, Urantia Association of the United States**



As some of you know, the Urantia Association of the United States will be joining with *the Urantia Book* Fellowship's Summer Study Session for a ground-breaking joint Urantia conference in San Antonio, Texas this June. It's going to be the first time in over 25 years we'll see both groups meet jointly for a conference.

The Lone Star Urantia Association board, under the direction of Katrina Glavan-heise, has been consumed with planning this exciting event, and it promises to be a wondrous celebration of Urantia brotherhood. We'll be studying through the theme "Jesus, The Master Teacher." Meditation, contemplation, sharing, prayer, learning, and discovering truths, these are just some of the ways we'll become closer with our creator son,

Michael of Nevidan. And, the LSUA board guarantees that we'll have some Texas fun along the way! A bus tour to the Alamo and the San Antonio River Walk with it's many restaurants and sights is just one of the fun options.

The conference will be located at Trinity University. It's a beautiful campus located right in the heart of San Antonio. TU will be making this a special experience for all of us. too. If you haven't seen the campus, click on this link and take a virtual tour of the campus: <http://web.trinity.edu/about-us/visit/virtual-tours>

Conference registrations have been coming in daily, and already we have over 150 confirmed registrations. If you haven't registered, there's still room for you. However, the Pre-conference Retreat IS almost full, and registration for (ONLY) that portion of the program will close once the capacity is met. So get yourself signed up now!

If you haven't registered, here's the link to save your place for this ground-breaking event: <http://conta.cc/1Z3cpnT>



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## UAI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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

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I am a conference fanatic. One of my first experiences with the Urantia community was piling into a car with four other young Urantia Book students and driving from Chicago to Vancouver, Canada for a conference. Over the years, these UBYouth Tours took us from Colorado to New York to Silver Springs to Kansas City to Philadelphia and Seattle and back again to Chicago over and over. We pleaded with the social organizations to schedule more conferences closer together so we could string them together for a summer. Along the way I met great friends, my future wife, hundreds of Urantia Book students, saw nearly every corner of North America.

When I was elected President of Urantia Association International I had few concrete goals, but one of them was simply, "More conferences." This year the Urantia Community will be trying something we have never tried before: four conferences on four continents sharing the same theme. And although Urantia Association is leading this effort, this is truly a conference season for uniting the entire Urantia Community for these events.

North America will begin the conference season over the four day weekend of June 9-12 in San Antonio, Texas, USA, where Urantia Association of the United States (UAUS) and *The Urantia Book* Fellowship are co-hosting a joint event uniting an Association National Conference with a Fellowship Study Summer Session. This will be an exciting event as these two groups unite for the first time! Registration is now open and currently around 150 people have already signed up!

In September, two conferences on opposite sides of the world will share a theme and a weekend and, technology willing, some program highlights. In Blackmans Bay, Tasmania, Australia the Australia and New Zealand Urantia Association (ANZURA) will host their annual conference September 16-19. Concurrently, September 15-18 in Budapest, the Hungary Urantia Association will work with the Blue Club of Europe to host a continental conference uniting the many Urantia communities spread throughout Europe. Registration is open soon for both events, so join us in one hemisphere or the other, your choice!

Finally, October 14-17 in Bogota Colombia will be the Latin American Conference bringing together representatives from National and Local Associations throughout South and Central America as well as the many pockets of readers who have been studying the book independently. This is the region of the world where the Urantia Teachings have spread the most rapidly over the last decade and this conference will bring together those who are dedicated to the growth of the revelation throughout the vast region of Latin America.

I highly encourage everyone to attend one or more of these conferences in person. For more information on these conferences [visit our Events page on the website.](#)

One more quick note: attending a conference is often the first interaction a person has with the Urantia community. Many of our current active leaders, including myself, started this way. A donation to the conference scholarship fund is more than a charitable gift – it is an investment in the future leaders of our community. [Click here to donate online.](#)

In service, Chris Wood, President, Urantia Association International

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## PRE-CONFERENCE RETREAT: BETTER SIGN UP NOW!

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**Katrina Glavan-Heise, President, Lone Star Urantia Association**

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This summer's Preconference Retreat will create a Circle of Trust, a gathering whose purpose is to consciously assist each other to grow Godward. With a consciousness that our divine inner teachers are present to guide us at all times, we'll use poetry and stories to explore issues of our own inner lives. We'll create a space where the soul feels safe by spending time in silent communion, listening deeply to each other, and speaking only when we can improve the silence. The retreat will begin on Tuesday, June 7th after dinner, meet all day Wednesday, Wednesday evening and Thursday morning until lunch.

Attendees are encouraged to read *A Hidden Wholeness* by Parker Palmer in preparation for the retreat. If you feel moved to participate in an experience designed to support each other in our personal spiritual journeys, you are invited to join Gard Jameson, Bobbie Dreier and friends for an adventure in creating a Circle of Trust. Participation will be limited to 25 attendees. [Sign up for Option 5 to attend the Retreat and the Conference.](#)

### Conference Room Mates

This historic Urantia conference is getting closer day-by-day! Shortly, I will be making dormitory room and suite assignments.

If you have a Best Bud who is also attending the conference and want to share a dormitory room (two beds) with that person, please tell me. If you want to share your suite (separate bedrooms, shared bath) with certain Best Buds, now is the time to let me know! If

you don't give us a preference, you will have a chance to make new friends. If you have no idea what we're talking about, don't worry, we'll take care of it all for you. I can be reached at [Urantia.Katrina@yahoo.com](mailto:Urantia.Katrina@yahoo.com) or call me at +1-210-679-8933.

## Special Car Rental Rates for 2016 Urantia Conference Attendees

We selected Budget to assist with some of our transportation needs. If you wish to rent a vehicle when you attend the Urantia Conference, there is a special discount for all 2016 UAUS/Fellowship conference attendees. Use the specific *BUDGET CUSTOMER DISCOUNT (BCD) number of U001963*.

When you call Budget at 1-800-842-5628 to make a reservation, you should provide the reservations agents with this BCD number to ensure you receive the best available car rental rate. The BCD is effective from 7 days prior to the event until 7 days after the conference.

[If you use this hyperlink](#), the BCD number will automatically be placed in the reservation detail. We hope this additional service makes your stay in San Antonio a bit more special.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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Check out Urantia Association International's Events Calendar at <http://urantia-association.org/events-list> for upcoming events. Urantia Book reader events provide opportunities for students to gain a deeper understanding of the ideas and concepts presented in *The Urantia Book* and help to facilitate a personal commitment to the ideals of spiritual living.

We hope you can make it to some of these events and experience the joys of meeting and studying with fellow readers.

Event*	City	Country	Date
<a href="#">XV Encuentro de lectores de El libro de Urantia</a>	Bilbao	Spain	Apr 28, 2016 - May 01, 2016
<a href="#">New England Annual Spring Retreat</a>	Assonet	USA	May 20, 2016 - May 22, 2016
<a href="#">Minister Pato Banton's 4th Annual Spiritual Gathering</a>	Los Angeles	USA	May 27, 2016 - May 30, 2016
<a href="#">French National Meeting of Urantia Book Readers</a>	Nouan-le-Fuzelier	France	Jun 03, 2016 - Jun 05, 2016
<a href="#">San Antonio Joint Readers Conference</a>	San Antonio	USA	Jun 09, 2016 - Jun 12, 2016
<a href="#">The Finnish and Estonian Summer Conference</a>	Tallinn	Estonia	Jun 11, 2016 - Jun 12, 2016
<a href="#">The United Urantia Family Festival in the Holy Land</a>	Jerusalem	Israel	Aug 10, 2016 - Aug 23, 2016
<a href="#">Dutch &amp; Flemish Annual Urantia Meeting</a>	Baarn	The Netherlands	Aug 21, 2016
<a href="#">European Urantia Conference</a>	Budapest	Hungary	Sep 15, 2016 - Sep 18, 2016
<a href="#">ANZURA Conference Tasmania 2016</a>	Blackmans Bay	Australia	Sep 16, 2016 - Sep 19, 2016
<a href="#">1st Latin American Urantia Conference</a>	Bogotá	Colombia	Oct 14, 2016 - Oct 17, 2016
<a href="#">Scientific Symposium V</a>	Kansas City	USA	Aug 18, 2017 - Aug 22, 2017
<a href="#">10th Urantia Association International Conference</a>	Noordwijkerhout	The Netherlands	Apr 12, 2018 - Apr 15, 2018

\* For more information, click on the event you're interested in.

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## CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTHDAY IN THE HOLY LAND

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**Diane Labrecque, The United Urantia Family Festival, Montreal, Quebec**

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Join us in the Holy Land to celebrate Jesus' Birthday and visit Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Mount of Olives, Bethany, Capernaum, Mount of the Beatitudes, the Jordan River, Sepphoris, Scythopolis, Nazareth, Cana, Caesarea-Philippi, Mount Hermon as well as the Sea of Galilee! Your heart will sing in Joy. Ours do every single time we behold these sites and connect inwards.

This pilgrimage trip is scheduled from August 10 to August 23, 2016 as part of The United Urantia Family Festival 2016, when Israel is entering its beautiful summer-fall season, the weather is agreeable and the crowds are minimal.

Through careful planning and arrangements, our 13-day spiritual pilgrimage will be very affordable. The cost is \$1,750 USD, which includes all breakfasts and dinners, lodging, transportation, and site entry costs while visiting in Israel, except your airfare that you will have to purchase on your own, due to the fact that participants will be coming from different cities and countries.

Itinerary and Activities: Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Mount of Olives, Nazareth, Mount Hermon, Galilee, Mount of Beatitudes, the Dead

Sea, Mount Zion and a worship service on the Sea of Galilee held on a replica of the Jesus Boat! We even have planned to celebrate Jesus' Birthday with a specially catered traditional Nazareth meal, authentic to the time of Jesus with food and first century decor! [Visit our website](#) for an overview, and check out our [Program Page](#) for more details.

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## URANTIA ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL'S SOCIAL MEDIA

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### UAI Social Media Committee

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The Social Media Committee of Urantia Association International is pleased to announce the launching of the Association's first Public Facebook Group. This differs from the existing Facebook Page of the Association in that it provides a platform for discussions and online study between Urantia Book students and anyone interested from the public at large. Posts can be viewed by the public, but if anyone wishes to join the discussions they will need to click on the "Join" tab and their request is vetted before they are accepted as a member of the group.

The Mission Statement for this Public Group states: As Urantia Association International's mission is to foster the study of *The Urantia Book* and to disseminate its teachings, our purpose as faith sons of our Heavenly Father is to keep *The Urantia Book* on the top shelf of human thought by engaging in discussion on the uplifting truths contained in the book. The aim of this site is for participants to be exposed to the truths contained in *The Urantia Book* by providing an arena for the free expression of philosophic ideas concerning the Fifth Epochal Revelation to our planet. Discussions here are to be true to the spirit of Jesus as we share our highest truths in an effort to uplift and encourage one another in our study of the book.

This Group may be viewed at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/UrantiaAssociationInternational>.

In addition, the Social Media Committee has been revising the Association's Facebook and Twitter sites. See our Facebook Page at: <https://www.facebook.com/urantia.association> and Twitter at <https://twitter.com/UrantiaAssoc>. (Follow us on Twitter!)

The creation of the internet's social media opened a vast arena of networking capability for Urantia Book students and teachers. It expanded the reach and potential of the local Urantia Book study group. Many Urantia oriented social media sites are now available to the new and seasoned reader. From the Association's Forum to our Facebook Page and Public Group, from Twitter to Instagram, from YouTube to Vimeo, from LinkedIn to 'Blogtalkradio,' you will find many, many items of interest related to study and dissemination of *The Urantia Book*. This was not so a mere ten years ago. What will it be in 2026? The potentials are virtually endless for study and dissemination.

Social media can be especially helpful to the lone reader. Many an isolated reader, with no one to discuss this life-altering book, has found a wellspring of friendship and a library of information on social media's Urantia oriented pages. This new and rapidly growing opportunity for study and friendly connection unites students and simultaneously reveals their private studies and reflections to a much larger audience than the study group would without social media. Even more, social media offers topical studies and an almost limitless array of images and artwork inspired by the teachings.

The various social media have already, in their relatively short existence, become a deep reservoir of Urantia related presentations, using text, graphics, photos, audio, documents, and videos that are easily created and widely broadcast. Social media is also a magnificent bulletin board for announcing conferences and links to teaching tools; it offers a place to teach and learn outside the reader realm. The ability to 'SHARE' on Facebook brings with it the potential for spreading the teachings limitlessly across time and distance – the "viral factor" applies. When Urantia Book students and teachers embed links in quotes and images, they lead revelatory pearl-seekers back to the book, and some will find their way to Urantia Association's and Urantia Foundation's webpages.

A note of caution: Social media is not yet perfected. Participants are well advised to protect privacy and use discretion when creating an identity, 'friending', private messaging, and giving out personal information. With proper precautions (which the Association and Facebook provide the tools for) students and teachers can usually navigate Urantia social media safely, profitably, and with a minimum of distraction and discomfort.

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## UBIS: A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

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**Michael Barrett, California, United States**

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Before I took my first class with *the Urantia Book* Internet School (UBIS) in 2013, I remember being very nervous and unsure of what to expect. For one, I was not (and am still not) very computer-savvy. For two, I hadn't been to any type of school in over twenty years. And for three, I did not know how much time the class would really take. Besides, I simply never felt a need, had a desire, nor thought of myself as one who would go back to school.

When I took my first class on the resurrection of Jesus, I was pleasantly surprised by the inspiring support of

the staff and the comfort of finally finding fellow truth seekers to be students with. The time constraints I had worried about were all but nonexistent. All students partake and proceed at their own pace, and ample time is allotted for all weekly requirements. The insights and pure wisdom that get thrown around a virtual classroom are simply mesmerizing!

During this course, I learned so much that I took another, and then another, and then another. Now, in between semesters, I find myself greatly anticipating the next classes to be offered. One can hardly imagine just how much soul expansion and spirit attunement takes place in one ten-week period. I would have never thought a single online class could teach and inspire us so much, not to mention align us with eternal truth and bring more meaning and fulfillment into our lives. I was spiritually “blown away,” and I thank the Good Lord still to this day for the experiences during my first class.

One thing I have learned along the way is that continual spiritual growth truly leads to the peace that surpasses all understanding. The classes with UBIS have helped me tremendously to achieve this lasting inner peace. The Teacher-Facilitators are not intimidating and inspire much more than instruct. The wonderful people I have met from all over the world have truly broadened my personal perspective and brightened my spiritual horizons.

If there is anything I could do for anyone who is serious about learning of the spiritual realities revealed in *The Urantia Book*, it would be to encourage that person to take a UBIS class and experience the power of the Spirit that guides us all and somehow permeates these virtual classrooms. If learning how to experience God’s peace, joy, and love for you is of interest at all, UBIS provides a platform for people from all parts of this planet to do just that.

I should also mention that other people have noticed a change in me for the better. I find, just from the objectivity and assurance these classes have provided, that now more people are asking me about things they didn’t ask me about before I started studying online. Friends and family frequently ask me about God, Jesus, life, and other topics/questions they have about spirituality in general. And (almost) always I can answer much better than I ever could have before I started taking classes with UBIS.

To those behind the scenes at UBIS who volunteer their time to make this superb school possible, thank you very much! You have compassionately developed and are magnificently maintaining a place to learn about the infinite love of God and the incredible life He offers His beloved children here on earth.

May the Father above hold us all in the palm of His hand and turn us around which way He will.

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## URANTIA UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE

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### From Tidings Newsletter

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Urantia University is a global center of study and service dedicated to training teachers and farseeing leaders and fostering a spiritual community with cosmic ideals based on truths in *The Urantia Book*.

Part of a long-range plan to develop a university grounded in cosmic wisdom, ideals and aspiration, Urantia University Institute (UII) was set up to provide diverse learning paths for students in an online educational environment in which to explore, discern, and actualize the truths and knowledge found in *The Urantia Book*.

It offers an exciting and innovative series of online classes which not only introduce newer readers (and any student) to some of the most important concepts, truths and themes found in *The Urantia Book*, but also provide intensive studies of selected topics in the book.

The classes do not require attendance at any fixed times. The UII virtual classroom is open 24/7 so students may visit anytime to engage in their classwork. Most classes may be taken in one of two ways:

Participant – A student who intends to actively engage in the class through reading, learning exercises, class discussions, video instruction, meditation exercises, and webinars.

Auditor – A student who intends to make limited use of the selected readings, videos and learning exercises but who, for whatever reason, does not intend to participate in class discussions and webinars.

You will be given an opportunity when you register to declare which track you wish to pursue.

Learn more about UII’s exciting new series of classes focused on *The Urantia Book* at: <http://www.urantiauniversity.org>.

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## NOTEWORTHY DECISIONS FROM THE JANUARY 2016 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

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Judy Van Cleave, Trustee, Idaho, United States

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## Conference Sponsorship

The board agreed to co-sponsor the following three conferences: 1) the 2016 joint Urantia Association International (UAI) and Urantia Book Fellowship conference in San Antonio, Texas, 2) the 2016 UAI Budapest conference, and 3) the UAI Latin American conference in Colombia, South America.

## Video Conferencing at Board Meetings

Because quarterly face-to-face meetings are expensive and logistically difficult for international board members, the board adopted a new policy to install a video conferencing system so that members can attend some meetings digitally. This policy will enable us to expand the number of international board members by permitting them to attend meetings virtually.

## Science Symposium Coming June 2, 2016

The Education Committee of Urantia Foundation will hold a science symposium this summer. Topics will range from neuroscience, evolution, astronomy, molecular biology, and cosmology. [To learn more, please email Joanne Strobel at \[Joanne@urantia.org\]\(mailto:Joanne@urantia.org\).](#)

## Chinese Translation Team to Visit Chicago in April

The Chinese translation team will attend parts of the April board meeting in Chicago. We are thrilled for this opportunity to visit with the team and begin discussions and plans for the day the Chinese translation becomes available.

## Associate Trustees

The board reappointed Ralph Zehr, associate trustee emeritus, to actively continue serving on the board through 2016. Richard Jernigan was reappointed for his third annual term as an associate trustee.

## Safeguarding and Preserving *The Urantia Book*

The Declaration of Trust that established Urantia Foundation states the following: “It shall be the primary duty of the Trustees to perpetually preserve inviolate the text of *The Urantia Book*.” The Declaration of Trust also mandates the safeguarding of the original inviolate text, its medias for printing, all future printings, and all translations. Three copies of all printed books and translations thereof are stored in a salt mine. Today, translations and formatted books (media for printing) are stored digitally. Because of the change in media, we are developing a new system to protect physical books and digital files. This system is expected to be in place within the next three months.

## Help Wanted

From time to time, Urantia Foundation is in need of associate trustees, committee members, UBIS facilitators, staff, and volunteers. If you have specialized skills, such as bookkeeping, accounting, writing, editing, teaching, text formatting, marketing, sales, computer technology, book industry experience, outreach experience, board experience, and more, please send your resume to [Joanne@urantia.org](mailto:Joanne@urantia.org). Your data will be kept on file in case a relevant opportunity arises.

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## THE WOMEN’S ASSEMBLY—AN UPLIFTING EXPERIENCE

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**Line St-Pierre, Associate Trustee, Québec, Canada, and Katharina Becker, New Mexico, United States**

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*Union of souls—the mobilization of wisdom. Every human being sooner or later acquires a certain concept of this world and a certain vision of the next. Now it is possible, through personality association, to unite these views of temporal existence and eternal prospects. Thus does the mind of one augment its spiritual values by gaining much of the insight of the other.*  
~ Rodan of Alexandria 160:2.7 (1776.1)

Attending the Parliament of the World’s Religions last October in Salt Lake City, Utah, United States, was a dream come true, especially because the first day was dedicated to women and to their importance to, and participation in, the current epoch. The members of a fifteen-woman panel—composed of multi-faith speakers who were mothers, grandmothers, daughters, and sisters—shared their experiences, knowledge, passion, and vision of how to make this world a better place.

Their love, power, and inner strength gave the attendees hope by elucidating real possibilities for *Reclaiming the Heart of our Humanity* (to borrow the title of a pre-Parliament event). Many of the speakers helped us understand what has to happen to effect the healing of humanity. They urged women to listen to and trust their inner teacher and to speak non-judgmentally from the heart. They called upon women to be the bearers of light and love and to take on the attributes of God. They asked the women attendees to

form circles with sacred spiritual centers, to be activists from within, and as women of Spirit and faith, to uplift all women.

This first Women's Assembly was attended by more than three thousand people, including a few hundred men. Throughout this day and continuing during the entire conference, there was a growing understanding and even a sense of urgency felt by women at the Parliament for the need to regain our dignity, our importance, and our value as women, mothers, and teachers. *The Urantia Book* reminds us that *woman has always been the moral standard-bearer and the spiritual leader of mankind. The hand that rocks the cradle still fraternizes with destiny.* 84:6.4 (938.8)

Notwithstanding the diversity of religious faiths at the Parliament, the attendees exhibited a spiritual unity, a looking in the same direction towards a higher purpose, a divine one, to God our Father-Mother. During workshops, in circles, women connected at the heart level through rituals, prayers, and reflections. In supporting each other with compassion, women planted seeds of love and experienced greater understanding.

*The Urantia Book* encourages us, as we grow more spiritual, to *construct a new and appealing philosophy of living* that integrates truth, beauty, and goodness. We felt that the gathering of women at the Parliament demonstrated how women are feeling the call to *construct a new philosophy of living.* 2:7.10 (43.3)

*But the great problem of religious living consists in the task of unifying the soul powers of the personality by the dominance of LOVE.* 100:4.3 (1097.7)

What will resonate for a long time—perhaps forever—is the sharing of stories by many God-conscious women with voices and thoughts, such as:

“What’s my religion? It’s the presence and the breath of our divine source—love—unconditional love!” ~ Dr. Rose Pere

“Revolutionary love is the call of our times. Forgiveness is not forgetting. Forgiveness is freedom from hate.” ~ Valarie Kaur

“Be students of each other, be teachers of each other. Mothers are nurturers of the world.” ~ Amerind grandmother

“Hope starts it, but faith completes it.” ~ Bishop Barbara King

“The belief is that we can create whatever we want.” ~ Mallika Chopra

“It’s very important to teach our children to take responsibility for their lives, to understand their purpose and their power, and to rewrite the wrongs of our society.” ~ Ilyasah Shabazz

“The idea of women changing the world is a very real possibility. We are the solution if we could see the beauty, the strength, and the capacity in women.” ~ Jean Shinoda Bolen

“Welcome to the revolution and shine with the divine.” ~ Diana Butler Bass

*When you give women education, they become passionate and free-thinking. They raise passionate and free-thinking children, who grow up to be passionate free-thinking adults—and passionate free-thinking adults are difficult to manipulate and impossible to control.* ~ Marianne Williamson

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## THE URANTIA BOOK IN CAMEROON

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**Paul Tsekar, Cameroon, Africa**

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### Reflections from a Study Group Leader

I would like to share my experience with discovery, sharing, and study of *The Urantia Book*.

In 2004 I personally came to know about *The Urantia Book* after becoming tired of religions and their doctrines. I had asked many questions about certain stories in the Bible, which the Pastors and Evangelists were not able to answer, so I got fed up with these religions and was looking for something more convincing.

On Google I began searching for spiritual and religious organizations. Finally I came across *The Urantia Book*, the website of Urantia Foundation, and later Urantia Association International. What I discovered about the book concerning God, religion, creation, Jesus, etc., caught my attention. I started reading the book, and there came into my mind the urge to share my newly discovered knowledge with others.

I then started the Cameroon Urantia Book Study Group in my house. Later there was a need to rent a suitable site for our meetings. That lasted until 2010 when I lost my job and could no longer keep the meeting site. Consequently, the group scattered.

Since then, I had been doing all I could to re-establish the group, but was without success until September 2015. At that time, with the help of Rick Lyon and some other readers, I received twelve copies of the French translation of *The Urantia Book*. Cameroon has two official languages: English and French. I had decided to target the French-speaking Cameroonians, so I requested the French

translation of *The Urantia Book*. When these books arrived, I set out to meet the French-speaking people.

My habit is to visit Christian people and talk to them about Christianity, religion, and the Bible. One fateful day I visited Pastor Mvondo in his church—a branch of a Pentecostal church based in Yaounde—with one of the copies of *Le Livre de Urantia*. He asked me what this big book was, which led to my introduction of *The Urantia Book* to him.

I must say here that I believe my encounter with Pastor Mvondo was directed by higher beings that had decided to intervene in our case to solve our problem of needing a permanent site for our study. Pastor Mvondo acted with a surprising interest when I introduced the book to him, as if he had been looking for it for many years. He called a meeting of his Elders and Deacons the following week and introduced the book to them in turn. He then established a study meeting giving us a permanent site for the Cameroon Urantia Book Study Group.

Our new group has thirteen members. We meet on every Saturday of the week. Members are more interested in the Life and Teachings of Jesus, so that is what we are studying at the moment. The French-speaking members have the French books, and the English speakers have English books. One member may read aloud in French or English, and we then continue in either of the languages.

I have learned a big lesson from this experience. Our unseen friends assist in the work of spreading this good news. We should not worry about the means to do it, but we should try our best and leave the rest to faith. “When man goes in partnership with God, great things may, and do, happen.”

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## HOW THE URANTIA BOOK INSPIRES GIVING

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**William Cooper, Texas, United State**

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At Christmastime in 1970, my mother spent a few days with us in Dallas, Texas. She gave *The Urantia Book* to me because she was impressed with it. For the next several months, I would read some about the nature of God and then some in the Jesus papers. I would read to my wife, Kaye, and ask her: Could this be true? Could God and Jesus really be this wonderful? Tears of joy often ran down my cheeks (and into my smile) as I contemplated what was said about them. Since then, Kaye and I have come to trust the book as being spiritually true. I believe we would continue to feel this way even if we found it to be inaccurate as to scientific fact.

From very early in our exposure to *The Urantia Book*, Kaye and I have had a special interest in using the lessons that the book has taught us to optimize our relationship with God, Michael, the Holy Spirit, and our celestial family.

Much has changed for the better since I started reading the book. In 1972, there was official opposition to anything that brought public attention to the book. There was even resistance to translating it into other languages. Today, there is enthusiasm for translations and for projects involving public exposure of the book and its teachings. What a wonderful time to be living on Urantia—seeing these new and miraculous events unfold and participating in the awesome undertaking of the celestials in correcting the course of this planet by applying the teachings of *The Urantia Book*!

It is a good time to join our celestial family in this effort. There are many things we can do. There are already a score of activities and organizations working to promote Urantia Book principles on the planet. They need volunteers, and they need funds to cover necessities that volunteering does not cover. Coordinating actions around a cause people believe in can result in their making small financial contributions and becoming active in small armies of volunteers. There can be many positive effects from this approach to disseminating the teachings.



Lately, I am trying to encourage, with words and funds, those worthwhile Urantia Book activities that I discover. I look for activities with which I have substantial agreement, but I do not demand agreement on every detail. We have a wonderful opportunity. I pray that neither you nor I will insist on putting our time, efforts, and money into our social or financial success while wasting the opportunity to participate right now in our celestial family's adventure of reclaiming this planet. I want my little piece of that action, and I want you to have yours too. There is adventure to be had now by giving regularly of service and financial assistance. Contributions do not have to be large to have a huge effect—provided there are enough of them.

So grab hold, and hang on. It is a cosmic ride, but the price of the ticket is modest.

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## THE PUBLICATION MANDATE:

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**Gaetan Charland, ISB Study Group Chair, Montreal, Canada**

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Gaetan Charland finished out a recent Lone Star Urantia Association conference by talking about [the Publication Mandate](#) and Study Groups, a subject that's dear to many of us. The bottom line is we need more study groups to accommodate the increased



readership of *The Urantia Book*. (Note from editor: the “Publication Mandate” has been adopted as a guiding document for UAUS and a copy is currently available on the [UAUS website](#) and on the [Urantia Canada website](#).)

*We regard The Urantia Book as a feature of the progressive evolution of human society. It is not germane to the spectacular episodes of epochal revolution, even though it may apparently be timed to appear in the wake of one such revolution in human society. The book belongs to the era immediately to follow the conclusion of the present ideological struggle. That will be the day when men will be willing to seek truth and righteousness. When the chaos of the present confusion has passed, it will be more readily possible to formulate the cosmos of a new and improved era of human relationships. And it is for this better order of affairs on earth that the book has been made ready.*

*But the publication of the book has not been postponed to that (possibly) somewhat remote date. An early publication of the book has been provided so that it may be in hand for the training of leaders and teachers. Its presence is also required to engage the attention of persons of means who may be thus led to provide funds for translations into other languages.*

*(You) who have dedicated (your) lives to the service of the Book and the Brotherhood can little realize the import of (your) doings. (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.*

*“The future is not open to (your) mortal comprehension, but (you) will do well to diligently study the order, plan, and methods of progression as they were enacted in the earth life of Michael when the Word was made flesh. You are becoming actors in an ensuing episode when the Word is made Book. Great is the difference in these dispensations of religion, but many are the lessons which can be learned from a study of the former age.*

*(You) must again study the times of Jesus on earth. (You) must carefully take note of how the kingdom of heaven was inaugurated in the world. Did it evolve slowly and unfold naturally? or did it come with sudden show of force and with spectacular exhibition of power? Was it evolutionary or revolutionary?*

*(You) must learn to possess (your) souls in patience. (You) are in association with a revelation of truth which is a part of the natural evolution of religion on this world. Over-rapid growth would be suicidal. The book is being given to those who are ready for it long before the day of its world-wide mission. Thousands of study groups must be brought into existence and the book must be translated into many tongues. Thus will the book be in readiness when the battle for man’s liberty is finally won and the world is once more made safe for the religion of Jesus and the freedom of mankind.”*

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## HELPFUL LINKS:

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**Urantia Association of the United States (UAUS) website.** There are photos, UB inspired music, art reviews, and other info germane to UAI members and students of the Book in the United States of America: <http://urantiausa.com/>

**Urantia Association USA’s Facebook page.** If you “Like” the page, news postings will show up in your Facebook news feed: <http://facebook.com/urantiausa/>

**For membership in Urantia Association of the United States** the application and requirements are available at this link: <http://bit.ly/1J3hvhV>

**Urantia Association International’s website.** Here 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-association.org/>

**Membership in Urantia Association International.** The application and instructions are at this link: <http://bit.ly/1Is0cAe>

**The Urantia Foundation website:** <http://urantia.org/>

**The Urantia Book online.** For the latest news reports from Urantia Foundation, you can also visit Urantia Foundation’s News Online: <http://bit.ly/1luKtyN>

**The Journal, Urantia Association’s “scholarly” publication,** is available electronically free of charge at <http://urantia-association.org/publications/uai-journal/journal-archives/>.

**To receive hard copies of The Journal,** you may subscribe to *The Journal* at these rates: Annual \$20 US, \$28 Australian, \$28 Canadian, or 18 (Euros). Single Copies \$5 US, \$7 Australian, \$7 Canadian, or 4.50 (Euros). 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 should be sent to Urantia Association International (USA) and must be in US dollars.

**Tidings newsletter, from Associations around Urantia,** is a semi-monthly newsletter published by: Urantia Association International. Your fellow UAI members around the world want to know what is happening in your association. New and seasoned

readers are encouraged to send material for publication on any of the following topics: 1. How *The Urantia Book* Found Me, 2. Special projects such as Book Fairs, Library Placement, and Outreach, 3. New or established study groups – How you got started – What keeps you going? 4. Your annual meeting, picnic or just getting together. You can read current and back issues here: <http://urantia-association.org/publications/tidings-newsletter/tidings-archives/> Please send articles and submissions to: [messengeredit606@gmail.com](mailto:messengeredit606@gmail.com)

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## QUOTE OF THE QUARTER:

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*We know that the death on the cross was not to effect man's reconciliation to God but to stimulate man's realization of the Father's eternal love and his Son's unending mercy, and to broadcast these universal truths to a whole universe.*

<http://bit.ly/1RDym38>



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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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