

# THE MESSENGER



URANTIA.

## NEWS FOR STUDENTS OF THE URANTIA BOOK

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Will Sherwood, President, Urantia Association United States, Valencia, CA, USA**

### The Blessings of Financial Support

Firstly, I'd like to express my gratitude to each of you who so generously contribute your time and money to the Urantia Foundation, UAI and UAUS. My hat's off to all of you. *Thank you!*

Secondly, I'd like to share my own experience with giving, specifically with personal financial contributions.

Some years ago, I had a conversation with Gaetan Charland on this topic. At that time, though I was doing fairly well financially, I hadn't made any ongoing commitment to either Urantia Foundation or UAI. It seemed that every time the solicitation mailings came around, I was short of funds and wasn't in a position to make a contribution.

During our discussion, Gaetan told me of his experience with giving. He alluded to the fact that the more he gave, the more he was able to give. He warned me however that giving with the idea of receiving didn't work. It was only when he gave from his heart that the money to flow in and cover his giving commitments. This made sense to me.

A couple of days later, (Talk about a coincidence!) I received a call from Rich Keeler about his dollar a day donation club. Even though giving this amount would only cause me to give up 10 of my beloved Starbucks lattes, again I didn't feel in a position to contribute. However, as I thought about it, I recalled this quote from *The Urantia Book: The believer has only one battle, and that is against doubt - unbelief* (1766.4) 159:3.8. <http://bit.ly/1hU6Z5T>

While pondering this quote, I realized that the main reason I hadn't been contributing was because of fear that my livelihood might be threatened. I frankly recognized that it was time to step out in faith and make a move forward, so I decided to make a *faith experiment* and started with a small monthly contribution to the Foundation, just to see if I would notice the money missing.

It turns out I didn't miss the money, and after a couple of months I added an additional monthly contribution to UAI. Several months later, after I still found that didn't miss the money, I upped each contribution, and still later added UAUS and a couple of others for good measure. Today, I am stunned that I've never missed any of the contributed money. As a bonus, I feel a wonderful sense of gratitude and inner radiance.

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**The more I gave, I found that the more I was able to give.**

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Gaetan was right. The more I gave, I found that the more I was able to give.

If you're not currently contributing to the Foundation, UAI, and UAUS, I challenge you to step out in faith and give it a try. Start with a small amount, even \$5 or \$10 a month just to see. Or if you're more brave, donate \$30 each month. I bet you'll come up to me at a conference and say, "You were right. Giving has brought much more to me than I ever imagined!" Here are the links to the donation pages so you can begin your "faith experiment:"

<http://urantia.org/donate>

<http://urantia-uai.org/overview/support-uai/>

<http://urantiausa.com/index.php?view=show&page=donations-dues>

And remember, when it comes to exercising faith in our unseen friends, we all have only one battle, and that is against doubt - unbelief.

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## UPCOMING URANTIA CONFERENCES

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### **The Still Small Voice: The Urantia Book and Private Revelation: 2014 TOKAN Regional Conference, March 7 – 9, 2014**

**Location:** Atrium Hotel & Suites, 4600 W Airport Freeway, Irving, TX

This year's theme is *The Still Small Voice: The Urantia Book and Private Revelation*. Be sure to brush-up on Papers 107 – 112.

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**Cost of TOKAN registration is \$250 for the three-day event which includes all meals, snacks and beverages.**

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*The evolutionary planets are the spheres of human origin, the initial worlds of the ascending mortal career. Urantia is your starting point; here you and your divine Thought Adjuster are joined in temporary union. You have been endowed with a perfect guide; therefore, if you will sincerely run the race of time and gain the final goal of faith, the reward of the ages shall be yours; you will be eternally united with your indwelling Adjuster. Then will begin your real life, the ascending life, to which your present mortal state is but the vestibule. Then will begin your exalted and progressive mission as finaliters in the eternity which stretches out before you. And throughout all of these successive ages and stages of evolutionary growth, there is one part of you that remains absolutely unaltered, and that is personality — permanence in the presence of change.*

**Speakers this year will include:** William Sadler Jr., Dan McCauley, David Glass and Gard Jameson! All Urantia Book students are welcome!

Day Visitors (not staying at Atrium Hotel) are also welcome.

**Accommodations:** A block of rooms has been reserved at the Atrium Hotel and Suites for our conference guests at a special rate of \$75/day. Accommodations should be booked directly with the hotel and are not included with the conference registration. Be sure to reference the TOKAN Regional Conference when making your room reservation. Call the Atrium at 972-513-0800 or visit their website at <http://atriumhotellandsuites.com/> for a look at the amenities and to book your rooms. Be sure to register by February 20th to receive the guaranteed discounted room rate. Below are some of the features you will enjoy:

- 24-hour complimentary shuttle to/from DFW airport (3 miles)
- Indoor Heated Pool
- 24-hour Fitness Center
- 24-hour Business Center
- Free Parking

**Conference Registration:** Cost of conference registration is \$250 for the three-day event which includes all meals, snacks and beverages.

Visit the [event page](#) for more details, or [click here to register](#).

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**\$10.00 per person. Please pay in cash at the door.**

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### **Spiritual Gathering 2014 near LAX in Los Angeles**

May 23rd 5pm-8pm Check-In / Meet and Greet

May 24th 10am - 10pm Family, Fellowship & Fun

May 25th Pato Banton's Marriage to Antoinette in Malibu

**Cost: \$10.00 per person** (food and lodging NOT included) Please pay in cash at the door.

**Accommodations\*:** Embassy Suites, 9801 Airport Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA, 90045  
Phone: 310-215-1000 (\*Mention the word "Social" to get the best room rates.)

## Study group Symposium 2014, Madison, Wisconsin, USA, June 11-15, 2014

We have great news about the upcoming 2014 Study Group Symposium! The organizing team has made significant changes that we know you will appreciate; we have provided you with a better deal to attend this very important gathering. The changes involve a new date and a different venue, offering you better prices.

**Please mark your calendar** – June 11th to the 15th. Registration will start soon and early registrants will benefit with nice savings and first choice on room accommodations. The venue is Edgewood College, 1000 Edgewood College Drive, Madison, Wisconsin, 53711. This campus has lots of amenities and will provide a great working environment while easing your personal growth budget. You can browse the college website here: <http://edgewood.edu>.

**Cost:** Regular registration ends on April 15 with a price of \$395.00; late registration, which ends after May 11, will cost \$450.00. All prices include symposium fees, your room, and meals; upgrade options are available if you want more privacy.

The program itself is tailored to meet the needs of any host of a study group who wants to improve their knowledge and skills – to add new styles and techniques – to make study groups a worthwhile and significant contribution to the mission of the Fifth Epochal Revelation.

This symposium has been designed for hosts of study groups who want to invigorate their group, or any Urantia Book reader who wants to start a dynamic study group. To keep costs down and streamline our sessions, this event will be in the English language only. Financial aid will be made available to those who require assistance, subject to certain conditions.

If your study group doesn't have a strategy for welcoming new readers, one that includes shifting your standard format, you should consider attending the Study Group Symposium. If you have had new attendees to your study group who have never returned after one or two meetings, you should consider attending the Study Group Symposium. If your study group has followed a fixed format for a long time and hasn't experimented with fresh approaches, you should consider attending the Study Group Symposium. [Click here for details and to register.](#)

*Be Part of the Change – Join Us at This Symposium!*

## Madison, WI Conference: The Parables of Jesus, Friday June 27 - Sunday June 29, 2014

*In instituting this remembrance supper, the Master, as was always his habit, resorted to parables and symbols. He employed symbols because he wanted to teach certain great spiritual truths in such a manner as to make it difficult for his successors to attach precise interpretations and definite meanings to his words. In this way he sought to prevent successive generations from crystallizing his teaching and binding down his spiritual meanings by the dead chains of tradition and dogma. The Urantia Book Paper 179 Section 5*

What is the difference between a parable and an allegory? A fable? A story? How do the parables of Jesus relate to today's generation and the greater Urantia community?

Join us in Madison, Wisconsin to examine these and other questions in depth. Bring your Urantia Books, but also bring your favorite fables, touching stories, and of course your musical instruments, as we gather to study Jesus' parables and bring together Urantia Book students from across the region.

**Location:** Edgewood College is located near the heart of Madison, WI, approximately 140 miles (225 km) northwest of Chicago, IL. Madison can be accessed via the Madison Airport, or it is about two hour by car from Chicago O'Hare Airport and ninety minutes from the Milwaukee Airport. Madison is located on the shore of Lake Wingra, Edgewood Campus is within a two mile walk to downtown Madison and the Wisconsin Capitol Building.

**Program:** If you have a suggestion for a project for small or large groups, please let us know!

**Accommodations:** A Bedroom has two single beds and two bedrooms share one bathroom.

**Cost:** The entire event costs \$150 if you register early by April 30, which includes one bed in a Standard Bedroom, food, and the program itself. After May 1, standard registration is \$180.

**To Register:** visit our website <http://urantiamadison.com>

**Questions?** Chris Wood: [askchriswood@gmail.com](mailto:askchriswood@gmail.com) Landon Arkens: [landonarkens@gmail.com](mailto:landonarkens@gmail.com)

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## JOB OPENING AT URANTIA FOUNDATION

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Can you imagine being the executive director of an organization whose mission is "to seed *The Urantia Book* and its teachings globally" and whose vision includes fostering the spiritual transformation of humankind by presenting these teachings to the world?

Urantia Foundation's executive director, Jay Peregrine, is retiring after more than a decade of service to Urantia Foundation. If you have the experience and qualifications to be an executive director of a non-profit foundation, and you are a dedicated reader of *The Urantia Book*, Urantia Foundation needs you!

**Job Title:** Executive Director.

**Location:** 533 W. Diversey Parkway in Lincoln Park, Chicago.

### Primary Responsibilities

**Leadership:** Ensure ongoing programmatic excellence with rigorous program evaluation. Actively engage and energize staff, committees, partnering organizations, and donors.

**Publishing, Financial, Fundraising, and Legal Management:** Manage global publishing and distribution systems to grow sales of *The Urantia Book*.

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**Requirements:**  
**Undergraduate degree; MBA or similar advanced degree highly desired. Five years management experience in for-profit or not-for-profit organizations.**

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Oversee fundraising planning, implementation, and donor communications. Oversee ongoing policies, processes, and production of translations and revisions of *The Urantia Book*. Oversee accounting systems and provide quick access to accurate financial information that enables strategic budgeting. Ensure the annual audit is completed on time. Actively participate in the oversight of Urantia Foundation's investments. Ensure that all legal and fiduciary responsibilities and compliances are met.

**Administration:** Assume the responsibility for the training, the development, the performance evaluation, the recruiting, and the compensation and benefits of staff. Oversee website, social media, and reader services. Assist the president and the chairs of board committees to efficiently carry out their responsibilities and achieve their goals.

### Allocation of Time:

25% managing publishing, translations, and global distribution of *The Urantia Book*.

20% managing donor-centric activities.

15% on managing internal financial and information systems.

20% on leadership, management, and administration.

20% on project management.

**Key Qualification:** As a prerequisite, the executive director must accept the values of Urantia Foundation and enthusiastically serve the Foundation's mission and vision. The ideal candidate:

Should have proven organizational experience and a demonstrated ability to lead and build the capabilities of a bright and devoted team of employees and volunteers. Should have knowledge of fundraising strategies and donor relations and should have demonstrated the capability to raise money. Should have 1) a proven track record of exceeding goals and a bottom-line orientation, 2) the ability to balance the delivery of programs with the realities of a budget, and 3) propensity for problem solving, project management, and creative resourcefulness. Should have a thorough understanding of finance, fundraising, human resources, and office management, and a broad experience with strategic development and planning.

**Professional Qualifications:** Undergraduate degree required; MBA or similar advanced degree highly desired. Five years management experience in for-profit or not-for-profit organizations. Past success working with upper management and preferably with a board of directors; able to cultivate relations with board members. Strong written and verbal communication skills; a persuasive and passionate communicator with excellent interpersonal and multidisciplinary project skills.

**Compensation And Benefits:** Base salary: \$75,000-\$85,000, depending on qualifications and experience. Excellent health and vacation benefits provided.

**How To Apply:** Please submit a cover letter accompanied by a résumé as a pdf or Word document to [joanne@urantia.org](mailto:joanne@urantia.org).

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## URANTIA ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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**Chris Wood, President, UAI**

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### **Thank you for helping Urantia Association International meet our financial goals for 2013!**

These funds are an investment in the global programs and projects UAI is leading to spread the gospel of the kingdom and *The Urantia Book* teachings. We understand that a great trust has been placed in the hands of our volunteers and we are committed to fulfilling that trust.

The project to place 180 books in the Philippines, Dubai, Nepal, India, and Cameroon continues into 2014. For this effort, UAI has teamed with Urantia Foundation to place books in libraries and universities where these books can be found by seeking students. Urantia Foundation will provide half of the funds to place these books! Shipping and traveling costs are provided by volunteer travelers! We are fortunate to be able to work with the Foundation to coordinate these book placement efforts. We will continue to accept donations for this project until all of the funds are provided.

Once a new student has *The Urantia Book* in their hands, the work of UAI continues. Study groups remain the port of entry for many new students and are the stabilizing reinforcement for experienced students. The Study Group Directory is a work of the entire Urantia Community aimed at connecting students seeking a study group and UAI will continue to lend our support. The Study Group Symposium will be June 11-15, 2014 in Madison, WI. UAI will lead the effort to bring together current and future study group hosts to examine the potential for growth and development available to each group. This international symposium will bring together "what works" from around the world to better coordinate successful individual study groups and a larger study group network. The Foundation, the Fellowship and Truthbook will all sponsor this UAI lead symposium showing our communities evolving commitment to support and serve all Urantia Book students. Early Registration is now open and is only \$350 for the five day event.

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**Study groups remain the port of entry for many new students and are the stabilizing reinforcement for experienced students.**

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Our goals for 2014 do not end with book placements and fostering study groups. Regional conferences, national conferences, and at least one multinational conference are all in the works for the coming year. Planning will continue for the 2015 International Conference near Montreal, Quebec July 30 - August 3, 2015. Our Education and Dissemination Programs will continue reach out to Urantia Book students and non-students alike to help spread the gospel. And in 2014 we hope to add four new National Associations to our growing international organization.

The year ahead will be filled with challenges and opportunities for volunteers to rise and meet those challenges. 2014 will be a year of individual enlightenment and community growth as we continue to march forward carrying the banner of the fifth epochal revelation.

Contact Chris by email at: [askchriswood@gmail.com](mailto:askchriswood@gmail.com)

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## URANTIA ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL UPDATE

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The international plan for the next three years is vigorous, comprehensive and focused. The harvest is abundant so many field workers are needed, locally, nationally, globally.

In October 2013, the International Service Board held our annual face-to-face meeting at Urantia Foundation in Chicago. We discussed several ongoing projects as well as a road map for the next three years. As always, any project proposals that develop out of this road map will be brought to our Representative Council for approval. Below are some highlights of our discussions.

This is an exciting time to be a member of the Urantia Community. Urantia Association International is poised to grow and flourish with our good works in the next few years. I am more excited than ever about the endeavors that lie ahead. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to serve.

- 1. Study Group Symposium 2014.**
- 2. Slogan**
- 3. Operations: monthly meetings and reports; Director search; Executive Team.**
- 4. Six Goals for Three Years**

## 1. Study Group Symposium 2014

On Thursday October 17, the Study Group Symposium Planning Team met. Progress was made on the program. Overall the Symposium is coming together well.

Two decisions were made that will affect the future of the Symposium. First, it was decided that we should relocate and reschedule the Symposium to June 11-15, 2014 at Edgewood College in Madison, WI. This move will drastically reduce the individual cost of the Symposium to roughly \$350 from the original price of \$500 per person. And, it moves the Symposium further away from the Fellowship's IC14 which is scheduled for July 2014.

Second, it was decided to open the Symposium up to support from other Urantia Book Groups and projects. In exchange for Scholarship and Financial assistance, we will open the Symposium to co-sponsorship to the Fellowship, Foundation and Truthbook. This will remain a UAI event and we will brand the Symposium appropriately to make that clear. However, study groups are an area of concern for all Urantia organizations and an area where we have pledged increased cooperation. We do not know whether or not any of these groups will accept the role of sponsor for the symposium. The RC has already approved sponsorship by the Foundation, and a resolution will soon be submitted to allow for the sponsorship of the other organizations.

## 2. Slogan

Slogans can become reality. Advertisers have known this for ages. Slogans are not action statements, nor are they Mission Statements or even Mottoes. Slogans are supposed to be easy to remember and give a generally positive view of the organization. Slogans are meant as a short one-line answer to a question that brings out a second question and starts a conversation. When someone who is unfamiliar with *The Urantia Book*, Urantia or UAI asks "What is Urantia?" we need an answer that does not make us sound crazy.

I have proposed a slogans for UAI. *We bring people together.*

Perhaps you want to replace "people" with UB Students, or God Seekers, or some other term, but "We bring people together" rolls off my tongue better. We bring people together in study groups and in Study Days. We bring people together for regional, national, and international conferences. We bring people together using technological tools that allow a person in Rio de Janeiro speaking Portuguese to chat using instant translation with a person in Berlin speaking German. The Foundation publishes books. What do we do? "We bring people together."

## 3. Operations

- A) In our push for leadership, we have ignored another class of UAI members who are just as important: the former leaders. These are people who might no longer wish to take committee assignments, but they still wish to contribute to the cause. These are the people who can create and foster community excitement for our projects. They might be able to travel, but more importantly they can make phone calls and connect with our members. They can keep the current batch of leaders on track, motivated, focused and excited. There is an entire group of these leaders waiting to be activated. Tonia Baney has been activated to lead this project.
- B) With Rick Lyon's impending retirement, we will be proposing to hire a Director Team consisting of Continental Directors for Europe, North America, and South America and an International Director to lead this team and assume many of the central office duties. Rick Lyon, Chris Wood, Merindi Belarski, and Susan Owen will lead the search for the International Director and will submit a candidate to the ISB. The new International Director will be heavily involved in choosing the continental directors. Since this expansion of the Central Office will be a significant shift from past operations, the RC will be asked to approve the Continental Directors concept before any candidates are selected.
- C) The President, Vice President, CFO and Secretary will begin to operate as an Executive Team to deal with many ISB issues that don't fit neatly under one of the committees. The goal is to free up time and obligations for the committee chairs so they can focus on their projects.

## 4. Six Goals For Three Years

I proposed the following goals to the ISB at this meeting. Once the ISB formally approves this Three-Year Plan, it will be sent to the RC for approval.

1. *Increase Conferences by 50%.*

*Leader: Conference Chair.*

*Year One goal:* Identify exactly how many conferences we have each year.

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**In our push for leadership, we have unintentionally ignored UAI members who no longer wish to take committee assignments, but who still wish to contribute to our cause.**

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Conferences are an excellent way to “bring people together” as well as an excellent project for a local association to work toward. However, our reporting system for conferences is not very good. We often find out about a conference in the days before or after the event. So first we need to fix our reporting system, and then work toward increasing conferences. As a bonus goal, we should aim to have Continental Conferences in Europe, South America and North America by 2017.

## *II. Expand our Leadership Pool.*

*Leader: Executive Team.* Year one goal: Create a Presidential Advisory Committee consisting of our future, developing leaders. This committee will have its own assignments, but members will also help the standing committees with their projects with the hope that they will find a project they are passionate about and potentially assume a leadership role in that committee in the future. Future goals include identifying leaders to run for the ISB in the 2015 elections.

## *III. Foster Study Groups*

*Leader: Study Group Chair.* Year One Goal: Complete Study Group Symposium

- a) Study Group Symposium. This project’s initial goal will be completed in June 2014. However, once the Symposium is over, we will need to turn what we learn into workshops and guides for translation and presentation at conferences around the world.
- b) Urantia Book Study Group Directory. UAI will continue to lead the effort to turn the Directory into a successful guide for the entire UB Community.

## *IV. Teacher Training Symposium*

*Leader: Education Chair.* Year One Goal: raise awareness through conversation and brainstorming.

In 2015, we will begin planning for a 2017 Teacher Training Symposium. The Publication Mandate asks us to Train Leaders, Train Teachers, and Foster Study Groups. The Teacher Training Symposium will complete our Symposium Trilogy.

## *V. Disseminating the Gospel of the Kingdom*

*Leader: Dissemination Chair.* Year One Goal: Develop a booklet entitled “How to have a five minute conversation about the UB without sounding crazy.”

Jesus did two things simultaneously. He gave in depth instruction to those who were ready while at the same time he *taught as he passed by*. He open people’s eyes to the realities of God without going into advanced teachings. The UB Community has been largely, though not entirely, lacking in this second service. We ought to provide training for UB students to be able to spread the teachings of the book without necessarily teaching the book. So the three year goal of this project is to translate the teachings into the everyday religious language of the world.

One question that each student of *The Urantia Book* faces is *What is Urantia?* How do we answer this simple question? Each person must find their own answer that works for them. One I will share is “*The Urantia Book* inspires a personal relationship with God that propels a person into service.” Perhaps you don’t like the word “inspire” or the word “propel” and you want to replace them with words of your own choosing. Perhaps you reject the entire line. But for me, this answer leads to second questions about God and our relationship with God, about our relationship with each other, and how helping one another can transform from “duty” to “service.” And how do we “inspire” that in the first place?

## *VI. UB Leadership Exchange Program*

*Year One Goal:* Increase ISB travel.

It is extremely important for leaders to travel to meet one another, to become familiar with other cultures and to share ideas. This should happen at all levels of our organization from Local Board members and Study Group Leaders to the RC and ISB. We need to establish a network of hosts as well as a system to raise funds for this travel.

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**What is Urantia? How do we answer this simple question? Each person must find their own answer that works for them.**

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## UAI'S SOCIAL NETWORK

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### You are invited to visit and join our new Urantia community social network.

Both members and guests are invited. Come check out this amazing website designed to accommodate Urantia's ever growing family of readers, believers and seekers: <http://urantia-uai.org/social/>

If you have questions or problems please let us know. One or more of the website staff is available and ready to serve your needs. We're all looking forward to very lively conversations that foster friendship and learning!



#### INSTRUCTIONS:

If you've already created an account in the social-network and you checked the box for 'UAI Member' in the registration form then you will already have access to this area, and you can begin to start any new discussions which you wish to initiate ("Post a New Thread").

If you do not have an account, click on "Sign Up Now" and check "NO - Create an account now!" Click the "Sign-Up" button and follow the prompts to create your new account.

Once you create a new account, within less than 24 hours you should be able to access the "UAI Member Discussions," a sub-forum in the UAI-Zone of the social network page.

#### TIPS

You can also use the "Watch Forum" and "Watch Thread" command. These buttons appear to the right just above the box containing the posted threads. When you click on either of these buttons a box will appear offering you options for when and how you will be notified when new messages appear. You may choose to receive an email notification, an "Alert", or both.

If you visit the social network often you may want to choose the "Alert" option under "Watch Forum" or "Watch Thread" which will notify you of new postings in your "Alert" box which is in the upper right corner of the Forum section to the right of your name. If a red box appears to the left of your "Alert" box, simply hold your mouse over "Alert" and a box with a link to the new message will appear.

To make it even easier to participate in conversations: When you log in, next to the "Log In" button is an option you can enable to "Stay Logged In." The system will remember you. Future logins are automatic until you log out.

In addition, if you stay logged-in and you receive an email notification that new content has appeared in the "UAI Member Discussions" you will see within the email a link you can click which will take you straight to the new post/discussion topic.

It is recommended that you "Stay Logged In." It's your choice if you wish to use the "Watch Forum" command to receive email alerts. If you don't choose this feature you will need to check the forum at your convenience as you won't receive notification emails.

The "UAI Member Discussion" forum is free, meaning you don't need to subscribe to participate like you do with some of the other forums. However we encourage you to consider subscribing through PayPal at the fee level of your choice to help support your UAI website and our unique social-network community. Subscriptions help to keep the site maintained and provide further funding for future developments such as providing the site in multiple languages. It will also give you many more options for participation. Come and meet a world of readers there and join in with others to study *The Urantia Book*.

Visit the UAI website by [clicking here](#).



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## LAUNCHING, HOSTING, AND FACILITATING STUDY OF THE URANTIA BOOK

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Gaetan G. Charland, UAUS President Emeritus

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### UAI now has a Study Group Guide available online!

The Study Group 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.

Get it here: <http://www.urantia-uai.org/pdfs/UAI-StudyGroupGuide.pdf>

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## ONE PAGE A DAY: ONLINE URANTIA BOOK STUDY SESSION.

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### 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 posting is not a requirement.

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.

UAI Forum has hundreds of topics and 23,000 posts on a wide range of subjects, all related to the Papers. Guests may read without joining. Members can make comments to our international group of student/readers, ask questions, offer insights into the teachings, or start new topics related to study. This is an open invitation to new readers, long-time students--anyone who wants to better know *The Urantia Book*.

Here's the link to the OPAD group: <http://bit.ly/LScG99>



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## FREE URANTIA BOOK POSTCARD PROGRAM FROM URANTIA ASSOCIATION LOS ANGELES

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Will Sherwood, UAUS President, Valencia, CA

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### One of the responses I received from our recent fundraising campaign...

was from a gentleman who disagreed with giving out free Urantia Books to people who sent in one of the FREE Urantia Book postcards that have been distributed throughout the Urantia community over the last year, and more recently to attendees at the UAUS conference in Kansas City, KS. He felt that the book should simply "end up in the hands of earnest seekers who, guided by their adjusters, make contact at the right time and place on their path."

This man went to the trouble to write me a typewritten 2 page, single spaced letter describing his concerns. (No contribution. Just the letter.) And, if the old adage that a single letter represents 1,000 people's thinking

If the old adage that a single letter represents 1,000 people's thinking then this clearly there may be others who share his concerns. That said, I'd like to take this opportunity and express the rationale for the unbounded enthusiasm I have for this FREE Urantia Book postcard program by sharing my response to him (sent by snail mail):

Dear Mr. XXX (name removed for privacy),

Thank you for taking the time from your busy schedule to write me and express your personal concerns about the distribution of free Urantia Books. I certainly agree with your position of allowing the Thought Adjusters to gently lead and motivate individuals to find the book when they are ready for it. However, I think you may have misunderstood the purpose and strategy of the FREE Urantia Book postcard program which, in my opinion, is designed to work with the Thought Adjusters giving them a new and very specific opportunity to guide and enlighten the subjects of their indwelling.

In my opinion, one of the biggest problems a new reader faces is introducing the book to relatives, friends and neighbors. As you may well know, at this stage of our planetary evolution very few people are truly ready for the book, and the rejection we experience when trying to introduce the book in our early days has led many devoted readers to keep quiet, oftentimes never telling another soul about the book for fear of reprisal.

Personally, I've found that I'm on a conversational basis with about 200 or so people within my community: business associates, classmates, fellow volunteers, servers in restaurants, shopkeepers, and other casual acquaintances. Generally speaking, the conversations I have with the vast majority of these folks don't tend towards the discussion of deeper spiritual topics which could lead to a personal introduction to *The Urantia Book*." Bottom line, there many people that I see on a regular basis where discussion of *The Urantia Book* just doesn't come up, though I would love to introduce the book to them.

To resolve this situation, and thanks to the postcard program, I've started keeping a small stack of FREE UB postcards with me at all times, and when I see a bright shiny face looking back at me, I just pull out a postcard and say, "By the way, I came across this postcard for a free book. In case it resonates with you, you can send it in. Cool, huh?" Everyone I've given a postcard to is very pleased that I would think of them for this offer, and no one has ever said "No." In reality, of course, only a few folks ever go to the trouble of returning the postcard: they're not interested, they're not ready, they're too busy, or whatever. To me, handing someone a postcard is my contribution to helping the Thought Adjusters to connect with the subjects of their indwelling who are ready for the book. By doing this I feel that I'm creating an opportunity for that person's Thought Adjuster to elicit a "truth" or "reality" response and guide them to fill out the postcard.

If you agree that this is a good plan, I hope that you will reconsider contributing to UALA, who originated this program, so that we can continue these sorts of outreach efforts through our mission of seeding *The Urantia Book* and its teachings: The Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man throughout the US and its territories.

### Please send your contributions to:

Urantia Association of Los Angeles, 24402 Vista Ridge Drive, Valencia, CA 91355,

Questions: Phone: 661-287-0017 Email: [owsherwood@gmail.com](mailto:owsherwood@gmail.com)

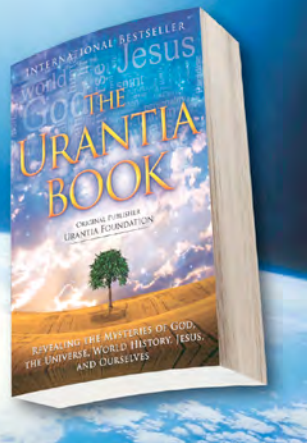
### Get Your Free Copy!

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 "religion," per se. 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).



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## HELPFUL LINKS:

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<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.

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## QUOTE OF THE QUARTER:

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*The lamp of the body is the eye; if, therefore, your eye is generous, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is selfish, the whole body will be filled with darkness. If the very light which is in you is turned to darkness, how great is that darkness!*  
(1577.6) 140:6.12 <http://bit.ly/1fbVpTf>



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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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