

THE MESSENGER



URANTIA.

NEWS FOR STUDENTS OF THE URANTIA BOOK | WINTER 2017

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SHARING THE URANTIA BOOK WISELY

J.H.W., Kent, Ohio, USA

I have just completed this document on the Publication Mandate that is included below. The very reference to this document is a sensitive issue, and I did my best to write in a way that would express respect and love for all persons involved, regardless of their position.

The timing of my post and my sharing it with you is by no means intended to put forward this document (9-pages single-spaced) as an agenda item. Indeed, I may find time to stay in the discussion for only a hour, as I did last time. This document is part of a larger series that addresses issues that pertain to teaching truth, the gospel movement, and the line from Urantia Foundations Declaration of Trust about “the fostering of a religion, a philosophy, and a cosmology that are commensurate . . .” The larger series, in the section of the ubquestionsandstudies website, is titled “Sharing *The Urantia Book* wisely”; and it pertains to cultural differences between the two organizations (only very rough generalizations are possible here).

I believe that any meaningful unity must be based on discussing such matters (when? how? for how long? with agreement as the goal?) in ways that cultivate the skills and virtues that the apostles of Jesus and John achieved in their first meeting ([144:6/1624](#)). Fittingly, that meeting of the 24 took place after Jesus had given a lot of attention to prayer. To the combined group, he gave talks on sympathy, cooperation, and tolerance.

Without spiritual brotherhood we are dead in the water, no matter how many organizations we have.

The Publication Mandate

I am always working to improve and trying out new things. My very life has become an experiment in continuously discovering, living, proclaiming, and teaching the gospel. But two lessons about teaching truth have made me careful to experiment within the guidelines rather than with the guidelines.

Without spiritual brotherhood we are dead in the water, no matter how many organizations we have.

We are told about the Planetary Prince's staff and their successful policy of following, for the first 300,000 years, what I call the receptivity principle: "The evolution of the religious capacity of receptivity in the inhabitants of a world largely determines their rate of spiritual advancement and the extent of religious revelation" [\(52:2.3/591.3\)](#). After the rebellion, came the default of Adam and Eve, accompanied by a majestic lesson: "Never, in all your ascent to Paradise, will you gain anything by impatiently attempting to circumvent the established and divine plan by short cuts, personal inventions, or other devices for improving on the way of perfection, to perfection, and for eternal perfection." [\(75:8.5/846.4\)](#)

My respect for these two lessons makes me willing to scour *The Urantia Book* for good ideas

My respect for these two lessons makes me willing to scour *The Urantia Book* for good ideas about how to work with the Book, and to continue my search for wisdom outside its pages, using the Book as the lens through which to evaluate other texts.

Jesus promptly recognized truth in the Book of Enoch despite its context; he was "ever willing to learn from even the humblest of little children" [\(126:3.8/1390.3; 126:2.3/1388.3\)](#). And now his Spirit of Truth enables us to recognize good advice no matter what we think about its context or source. Gold is where you find it. You never know where you'll discover the next nugget of insight.

In documents associated with *The Urantia Book*, I have found gold in Urantia Foundation's Declaration of Trust (discussed in the previous document in this series) and also in the Publication Mandate. I write not to persuade anyone that any text is revealed, but only to bring forth wisdom. This second document gives a picture that fits in perfectly with the overall pattern that we observe in other epochal revelations. They all go through an early phase of getting established, and a later phase of full contact with the planetary population. Much of the wisdom about teaching truth in the Book focuses on working with individuals. But how shall we apply the receptivity principle with the fifth epochal revelation as it relates to the planet as a whole?

Have a look and see what you think.

The Publication Mandate

FOR: The files of the Executive Committee of URANTIA BROTHERHOOD

PRESENTED: 4 April, 1955

It seems appropriate, a second time, to bring to the attention of the Executive Committee certain wise comments and advices which have been gathered over a period of years and which pertain to the future problems of *The Urantia Book*. These advices could well be presented under the general caption:

The Timing of *The Urantia Book* (Generally designated as "The Publication Mandate"*)

"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. Overrapid 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." (10.5)

(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.

*In The History of the Urantia Movement, by Dr. William S. Sadler, this message is titled, The Publication Mandate. [This paper was presented by William S. Sadler, Jr. to the Forum on the above date. For public consumption, the pronouns were modified, e.g., “we” instead of “you.” For this purpose we have changed them back to the original. Copies of this paper were inserted into the secretary’s notebook of each standing committee of the Brotherhood. Committee chairmen received copies.]

[<https://goo.gl/eOE3XQ>, accessed May 27, 2013]

First, why is it wise to “regard the Urantia Book as a feature of the progressive evolution of human society”

Questions and comments

Among the many questions that could be raised about this document, I will discuss a few. First, why is it wise to “regard *The Urantia Book* as a feature of the progressive evolution of human society”? This way of looking at the Book places it in a broad historical context: we are in the post-bestowal age, in a new epoch in that age, and looking forward to a new era. A long-range perspective promotes the self-mastery required to set aside the revolutionary ambition to publicize the Book to the general public as soon as possible.

What now?

The first and last paragraphs of the Publication Mandate frame it with its most challenging ideas. No essay can overcome long-seated differences between readers; but we learn to listen to each other in love. In the light of Jesus’ call to sympathy, cooperation, and tolerance, we can learn to “to differ, to debate, to contend, to pray, and to compromise, and throughout it all to remain sympathetic with the other person’s viewpoint and to maintain at least some degree of tolerance for his honest opinions” ([144:6.11/1625.8](#)).

“The Book belongs to the era immediately to follow the conclusion of the present ideological struggle.” What does the phrase “the present ideological struggle” refer to? The heart of an ideological struggle is a conflict between systems of ideas; one thinks of the challenge of secularism and of the philosophic chaos of the conflict between “the three contending philosophies of religion”—science-centered, humanistic, and spiritual ([99:4/1020](#)). Potentially disastrous ideologies gain the upper hand in nations; one thinks of secular totalitarianism and other challenges to human liberty ([195:8/2081–82](#)).

Jesus’ Urmia lectures are presented in such a way as to heighten their relevance to the 20th century ([134:4–6/1486–91](#)). Ideological conflicts may play out on the battlefield. World War has broken out when nationalisms bristled and the momentum of military build-up burst into flames; and when power, unchecked by religious idealism, grew overbearing and led to attempts by some countries to dominate other countries. The point of calling these struggles ideological is to draw attention to the fact that competing systems of ideas are at the root of the conflict. It takes wisdom to heal an ideological struggle.

Persons profit little from the Book unless they are willing to seek truth and righteousness. Does such seeking flourish during times of ideological and political conflict, or do people in such conditions rather tend to seek security or conquest? Progressive civilization follows a developmental sequence, in which the dominant interests begin with nutrition, security, and material comfort, continue through knowledge and wisdom, and philosophy and brotherhood, to spiritual striving and light and life ([50:5/576](#)). When civilizations are torn by ideological conflict, society gets polarized; the quest for wisdom suffers, as does the recognition of brotherhood, factors which affect the willingness to seek truth and righteousness.

Today we see the encouraging existence of many progressive individuals and groups, but the following words still apply:

“During the psychologically unsettled times of the twentieth century, amid the economic upheavals, the moral crosscurrents, and the sociologic rip tides of the cyclonic transitions of a scientific era, thousands upon thousands of men and women have become humanly dislocated; they are anxious, restless, fearful, uncertain, and unsettled; as never before in the world’s history they need the consolation and stabilization of sound religion. In the face of unprecedented scientific achievement and mechanical development there is spiritual stagnation and philosophic chaos. . . .” ([99:4.6/1090.2](#))

In the arts now, secular assumptions and dystopian scenarios are common. Competitive pressures rise, and immature distractions multiply. Many people are too busy to grow; the attention and energy needed to search for new truth and a new level of living is in short supply. When chaos threatens, religion tends to reinforce what is familiar more than to explore what is new.

Parents learn that when their children become teenagers and the crucial years of transition are upon them, they are not ready for many new and challenging ideas. Now our world is in crucial years of transition. During this time of confusion, chaos, and conflict, what are most people ready for? The Book itself answers that one: “All Urantia is waiting for . . . the living, spiritual reality of the gospel of Jesus” ([94:12.7/1041.5](#)).

What people need instead is friendship, teaching, and preaching which meet them where they are. Receptivity to *The Urantia Book* is enhanced by promoting a religion, a philosophy, and a cosmology that are commensurate with man’s intellectual and cultural development. The alternative could be akin to what happened as Christianity was presented to the peoples of the Western world.

Now our world is in crucial years of transition. During this time of confusion, chaos, and conflict, what are most people ready for? The Book itself answers that one:

Christianity presumed to embrace too much for any one people to assimilate in one or two generations. It was not a simple spiritual appeal, such as Jesus had presented to the souls of men; it early struck a decided attitude on religious rituals, education, magic, medicine, art, literature, law, government, morals, sex regulation, polygamy, and, in limited degree, even slavery. Christianity came not merely as a new religion — something all the Roman Empire and all the Orient were waiting for — but as a new order of human society. And as such a pretension it quickly precipitated the social-moral clash of the ages. [\(193:0.3/2069.3\)](#)

We want to do things with this revelation; but will our advice simply be to encourage readers in experimenting with any project they may choose?

Jesus did not work in such a way as to precipitate a social-moral clash. “In all his public teachings [Jesus] ignored the civic, social, and economic realms” [\(140:8.9/1580.4\)](#). By contrast, *The Urantia Book* sets forth projects in science, eugenics, world government, and other social, economic, and political topics. The Book tells of “the confusion and dismay which always result” as a result of “overteaching and overenlightenment” [\(66:6.6/750.1\)](#). The Book is not the gospel. Jesus said, “First see than men are born of the spirit before you seek to instruct them in the advanced ways of the spirit. Do not undertake to show men the beauties of the temple until you have first taken them into the temple” [\(141:6.4/1592.6\)](#).

Four tasks

The fifth epochal revelation gives no specific instructions about what to do with the Book itself. We want to do things with this revelation; but will our advice simply be to encourage readers in experimenting with any project they may choose? In practice, that would be equivalent to false freedom, disregarding the principles of teaching truth set forth in the Book. The Publication Mandate focuses effort around four tasks—training

leaders and teachers, preparing translations, forming study groups, and studying the fourth epochal revelation to discover lessons that apply to the fifth. These projects are not intended to monopolize all of our free time for service, but they clearly represent wise advice.

Does it not make intuitive sense that we should do these things? Do we need leaders and teachers? Their importance is made clear in the Book. Those who are experienced and knowledgeable can train others. For training, there are rich resources inside and outside the Book. Is it not obvious that we should learn from such persons and such resources? And how exhilarating it is to teach and lead, as we begin to obey the truth and act in accord with the Book’s guidance! One of the problems of teaching truth and actualizing brotherhood in our world is the multiplicity of languages; thus, we need translations, the best that we can realistically achieve at the present time. And study groups are needed to socialize and integrate the experience of study so that beginners can interact with experienced readers.

Another project is to “study the order, plan, and methods of progression as they were enacted in the earth life of Michael” with an eye to discovering the lessons for participating in the fifth epochal revelation. This is a topic for group study and for another document, but a few things can be said here. We are asked to “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?” These questions are rhetorical. The author presumes that the honest thinker who knows the Book can readily perceive the correct answer.

“Jesus had a perfect grasp of the situation; he possessed unlimited power, which might have been utilized in the furtherance of his mission, but he was wholly content with means and personalities which most people would have regarded as inadequate and would have looked upon as insignificant. He was engaged in a mission of enormous dramatic possibilities, but he insisted on going about his Father’s business in the most quiet and undramatic manner; he studiously avoided all display of power. And he now planned to work quietly, at least for several months, with his twelve apostles around about the Sea of Galilee.” [\(138:6.5/1543.3\)](#)

Nevertheless, though the overall answer is clear, the details are interestingly complex.

Order refers to sequence. Jesus grew to maturity before launching his public career. He chose rugged apostles and trained them not only in the gospel of the kingdom, but also in the interpretation of the scriptures with which they were familiar and which were regarded as authoritative by the people with whom they would be working. When they wanted to go public with the new message, he assigned them first to acquire experience and develop skill in personal ministry. As they began their public work, he insisted that they make sure that their students were born of the spirit, “in the temple,” the kingdom of heaven, before trying to show them “the beauties of the temple,” advanced teaching. In the early phase of their work, they spent a year quietly taking over the work of John the Baptist, before beginning aggressive proclamation.

The overall sequence of phases in Jesus’ life is fourfold.

“Jesus now entered upon the fourth and last stage of his human life in the flesh. The first stage was that of his childhood, the years when he was only dimly conscious of his origin, nature, and destiny as a human being. The second stage was the increasingly self-conscious years of youth and advancing manhood, during which he came more clearly to comprehend his divine nature and human mission. This second stage ended with the experiences and revelations associated with his baptism. The third stage of the Master’s earth experience extended from the baptism through the years of his ministry as teacher

We are asked to “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?”

and healer and up to this momentous hour of Peter's confession at Caesarea-Philippi. This third period of his earth life embraced the times when his apostles and his immediate followers knew him as the Son of Man and regarded him as the Messiah. The fourth and last period of his earth career began here at Caesarea-Philippi and extended on to the crucifixion. This stage of his ministry was characterized by his acknowledgment of divinity and embraced the labors of his last year in the flesh. During the fourth period, while the majority of his followers still regarded him as the Messiah, he became known to the apostles as the Son of God. Peter's confession marked the beginning of the new period of the more complete realization of the truth of his supreme ministry as a bestowal Son on Urantia and for an entire universe, and the recognition of that fact, at least hazily, by his chosen ambassadors." [\(157:6.3/1749.2\)](#)

The casual reader may think that Jesus' dramatic healings compromised his great decisions in the wilderness, but we are assured that this is not so.

Another dimension of order, sequence, in Jesus' public career is two-fold, where the transition takes place after the peak of popular appeal at the feeding of the 5000 and the king-making episode and the collapse of support to its low point during the week after the epochal sermon.

"The last of the seaside meetings was held on Sabbath afternoon, May 7. Jesus talked to less than one hundred and fifty who had assembled at that time. This Saturday night marked the time of the lowest ebb in the tide of popular regard for Jesus and his teachings. From then on there was a steady, slow, but more healthful and dependable growth in favorable sentiment; a new following was built up which was better grounded in spiritual faith and true religious experience. The more or less composite and compromising transition stage between the materialistic concepts of the kingdom held by the Master's followers and those more idealistic and spiritual concepts taught by Jesus, had now definitely ended. From now on there was a more open proclamation of the gospel of the kingdom in its larger scope and in its far-flung spiritual implications." [\(154:1.3/1718.1\)](#)

To comprehend Jesus' earlier and more or less compromising phase requires making the distinction between compromising with evil, which Jesus never did, and compromising in the light of the conditions of people's receptivity, which he did in various ways throughout his life. The casual reader may think that Jesus' dramatic healings compromised his great decisions in the wilderness, but we are assured that this is not so. He did allow his compassion to flow toward his suffering creatures in response to their faith and thereby partly to satisfy their erroneous concepts of the Messiah [\(136:9.11–13/1523:3–5\)](#). But he never used his superhuman power in an effort to overawe people and win them to believe in him.

The next chapter of our story is important for understanding the complex operation of the receptivity principle. A linear and simplistic human understanding of the principle is contradicted by a number of seeming exceptions—which is no surprise, given the limitations of even the wisest mortal understanding of the laws of God [\(3:2.7–8/47.5–6; 4:2.2/56.6\)](#).

The first seeming exception to the principle of receptivity has to do with our sequence of epochal revelations. We have a bestowal Son before a Magisterial Son. Why? We have only part of the answer: "If ever the authority or administration of a Creator Son is challenged, attacked, or jeopardized, he is eternally pledged to uphold, protect, defend, and if necessary retrieve his personal creation" [\(21:3.14/238.8\)](#). Moreover, our world was more receptive at the time when Jesus came than at any time before or since [\(121:1.1/1332.2\)](#).

The second seeming exception is Jesus revelation of himself to Nalda, the Samaritan woman at the well. Both the puzzle and its solution are clearly explained.

"This was the first direct, positive, and undisguised pronouncement of his divine nature and sonship which Jesus had made on earth; and it was made to a woman, a Samaritan woman, and a woman of questionable character in the eyes of men up to this moment, but a woman whom the divine eye beheld as having been sinned against more than as sinning of her own desire and as now being a human soul who desired salvation, desired it sincerely and wholeheartedly, and that was enough." [\(143:5.8/1614.2\)](#)

The third seeming exception is the toughest to account for. On three occasions Jesus publicly revealed his divine nature to groups of Urantia mortals, most of whom were not ready for it. Notice that he delayed doing so as long as possible, and that he continued to uphold the receptivity principle after each seeming suspension of it. Jesus avoided a clash with his enemies until they had organized and gathered before him, ready to declare open warfare. Only then, in the epochal sermon, did he begin to expand the revelation of who he was. Given the fact that most of his assembled enemies would not listen openly, he mercifully gave a strong warning, like a shepherd protecting his sheep, and giving his hearers a chance to wake up and realize their mistake before it was too late. After the epochal sermon, Jesus continued to insist that his apostles keep quiet about his divine Sonship, which he also made public toward the end, in the sermon on the light of the world and the sermon on the good shepherd. He thereby fulfilled the Paradise plan for a bestowal Son to reveal his combined nature during his mortal lifetime (and to all his receptive universe) [\(134:0.1/1483.1\)](#). And even after his mighty resurrection, he insisted that the gospel not be upstaged by the extraordinary facts connected with his divine Sonship, because he knew that these facts would so fascinating as to upstage the spiritual gospel, the entrance into salvation. Beginning with Peter's speech on the day of Pentecost, the distortion of Jesus' religion occurred as advanced truths upstaged the gospel. What will be the verdict on how Jesus' religion is handled by enthusiasts for *The Urantia Book*?

Even after his mighty resurrection, he insisted that the gospel not be upstaged by the extraordinary facts connected with his divine Sonship

The Plan for the progression of the kingdom contains a rationale for the order, or sequence, of the unfolding of events. The plan was for Jesus eventually to openly reveal his divine Sonship, which he did) during the “second, or nonmiraculous phase of the progress of the kingdom” (134:0.1/1483.1; 165:1.2/1818.0). Jesus’ plan was anchored in the great decisions that he made in the wilderness after his baptism. By those decisions he restrained his use of the power at his disposal. *The Urantia Book* and today’s communication technologies are the main powers at our disposal, and we may study and pray, seeking wisdom for appropriate restraint in the use of that power. Jesus’ fourth decision is especially relevant (136:8/1520). He renounced the methods that people use to gain their ends in commerce and diplomacy. Instead, he pledged to accept methods that are “natural, ordinary, difficult, and trying,” just such methods as his followers would need to use in extending the heavenly kingdom (developing skills in personal ministry, teaching, answering questions, preaching, and effective organizing).

By the end of his adolescence, Jesus was nearly expert in revealing truth according to the receptivity of “all ages and stages” of people!

The methods of progression that Jesus learned from experience and from his Paradise Father were wisely adjusted to the people group in question. By the end of his adolescence, Jesus was nearly expert in revealing truth according to the receptivity of “all ages and stages” of people! And he said that we should ever be wise in selecting methods suitable for “the different races and tribes of men.”

Can growth happen too fast?

How could overrapid growth be suicidal? This warning comes from *The Urantia Book* and is given without explanation (39:4.12/435.5). My experience of warnings is that often when they come, I am unaware of being on dangerous ground and tending toward doing something or wrong; I also know how easy it is to neglect warnings. Let’s exercise our intelligence and see if we can understand why this warning might be given. Overrapid growth can precipitate a premature clash, in which we lack the trained leaders and teachers to handle the controversies, good translations so that people can read for themselves, and study groups where beginners can socialize their interpretations with more experienced students. Casting our pearls of truth before those who cannot nourish themselves on them may arouse hostility and sometimes persecution.

A social implication for 2017?

In the sentence about serving the Book and the Brotherhood, note that “Brotherhood” is singular, implying the unity of the spiritual brotherhood of students of *The Urantia Book*. In 1955, there was only one fraternal organization for readers. Now there are several. In my opinion, the service of the Brotherhood requires that we take our spiritual brotherhood to new heights and, with that enhancement of meanings and elevation of values, tackle the difficulties associated with achieving organizational unity between the two major membership organizations. If we little realize the import of our doings, it becomes all the more important that we obey sound advice, lest we complicate the birth of a new age of religion on this world.

Conclusions

We live in a time of rapid change, and more changes are needed: “Modern man is confronted with the task of making more readjustments of human values in one generation than have been made in two thousand years.” (92:7.14/1013.9). But does that mean that in this time of crisis, the receptivity principle is obsolete? That would be like saying that when you hit white water rapids, you should jettison the fundamentals of canoeing.

Much disagreement about how to work with *The Urantia Book* would disappear if we distinguish between urgent goals and wise methods. That distinction enables us to harmonize the apparent clash between (1) the need for wise evolutionary methods that obey cosmic principles of divine wisdom and (2) the need for prompt personal transformation to follow Jesus: “Jesus has shown the way to the immediate attainment of spiritual brotherhood” (52.6.2/597.3).

I have said that my purpose in this essay is to promote wisdom, not to persuade anyone in the debate about whether the Publication Mandate is authoritative. But I need a quote that is relevant to that debate in order to clarify the wisdom that I find there.

The proof that revelation is revelation is this same fact of human experience: the fact that revelation does synthesize the apparently divergent sciences of nature and the theology of religion into a consistent and logical universe philosophy, a co-ordinated and unbroken explanation of both science and religion, thus creating a harmony of mind and satisfaction of spirit which answers in human experience those questionings of the mortal mind which craves to know how the Infinite works out his will and plans in matter, with minds, and on spirit. (101:2.1/1105.5)

I cheerfully leave it to the reader to judge whether the ideas that I set forth meet that test. Does they integrate into a consistent and logical universe philosophy a scientific understanding of the facts of the present age together with the religious revelation of *The Urantia Book*?

Happy discerning! Happy praying! Happy revealing by your life and teachings!

“Modern man is confronted with the task of making more readjustments of human values in one generation than have been made in two thousand years.”

UPCOMING EVENTS

Check out Urantia Association International's Events Calendar at <http://urantia-association.org/events-list> for any recently added 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
Finnish Winter Conference 2017	Heinola	Finland	Jan. 27, 2017 - Jan.-28, 2017
Urantia London Day Study Group Meetup	London	UK	January 28, 2017
Urantia Ghana 2017	Accra	Ghana	Feb 10, 2017 - Feb 12, 2017
The United Urantia Family Festival in the Holy Land	Jerusalem	Israel	April 20, 2016 - May 5, 2016
Southeast Urantia Gathering 2017	Columbiana	Southeast USA	May 5, 2017 - May 7, 2017
IC'17 Fellowship International Conference	Denver	Colorado	July 19, 2017 - July 23, 2017
Scientific Symposium V	Kansas City	Kansas	Aug 18, 2017 - Aug 22, 2017
ANZURA Conference Victoria 2017	Hepburn Springs	Australia	Sep 29, 2017 - Oct 2, 2017
2018 Urantia Association International Conference	Noordwijkerhout	The Netherlands	Apr 12, 2018 - Apr 15, 2018

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

UAUS UNITY MEETING

Rick Lyon, UAUS Vice President, and Susan Owen, ISB Secretary

We held the UAUS CLP Zoom meeting on Thursday, December 15th. The meeting was attended by four of the five UAI unity team members, three ISB members - a total of 19 people. We began with a prayer and invited our Father and all our spiritual helpers to join us in this effort. Quotes from page 2090 and page 1091 were read. I made a short opening statement. Then we began a review of the unity team proposals.

As expected the meeting was filled with passion and excitement over the prospect of unifying the Urantia community. It was friendly and light hearted at times and serious and passionate at others. We were fortunate to have several people who have dual membership bringing both perspectives to the meeting. We recognized the need for some people to vent past frustrations and that was allowed as long as it was kept civil and for the most part it was. Clearing up misunderstandings and rumors is part of this process. Occasionally the mortal tendency to dredge up the past and things that cannot be undone crept into our conversation but we pulled ourselves back into the planning of the future.

The Unity Team meeting that was held at Urantia Foundation in October and the process followed in that meeting was discussed in this meeting. We explained the discussions, conclusions, comments, and attitudes of the people involved in the unity meeting. We explained how the team came to its conclusions and the reasoning behind them.

We discussed the Fellowship commitment to not publish the Uversa press version of the book. Someone asked about how that would happen. Chris Wood, UAI President, explained that the Fellowship organization doesn't actually print the book but that certain Fellowship members have the book printed and delivered to the Fellowship. So, it will be up to the Fellowship to inform those members to stop doing that. Other possibilities for this book were discussed because there are people who like it and some of its features. The important thing is that this road block to unity has been removed.

The question was asked why the UAI offered to remove the statement from our charter about being interdependent with the Foundation and the membership application pledge to support the Declaration of Trust of Urantia Foundation. UAI is planning to revise the Charter anyway and replacing that language with a policy statement of our commitment, support, and loyalty to the Foundation is legally a wise move for UAI regardless of the unity effort. The demands of the membership application have been a point of debate within UAI for some time too. So, we can fix some things we need to fix anyway and give the Fellowship some things they want at the same time.

Chris Wood explained the thinking behind the idea for changing the name from Urantia Association International to something like Urantia International or Urantia Global or whatever. While probably the ideal situation for unity is to form a third organization

**We discussed
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to replace UAI and UBF and combine them, the reality is that a new organization would most likely be built with a structure very similar to UAI since it has been very successful especially at the international level. Building a totally new organization would be a monumental task, take a few years to accomplish, and perhaps interrupt the momentum that the Urantia community enjoys today around the world. Changing the name will in effect make us a new organization that blends the two organizations in the least disruptive way and yet draws a line that says we are something new and better and together. Honestly, I didn't understand the importance of this until now. Thanks Chris!

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We talked about the need for what the unity team called “a new narrative” in that when we talk about the UAI, Foundation, and the Fellowship in the same conversation, it always seems to end up in a discussion of our past history and the issues that divided us - even though we see unity in our events, our mission statements, in personal unity among the people, and in our goals. We have allowed our past errors to be the image of our organizations rather than the true, beautiful, and good spiritual philosophy that we live by. We need to stop bashing each other in public and in our minds while keeping any valid criticism positive and constructive in nature. How can we hope to help unify the world if we cannot unify ourselves?

We discussed some efforts and signs of growing unity within our events and communities - the relationship of GLMUA and First Society in Chicago, the teamwork in the Los Angeles area, and the Florida organizations are examples that we can work together and of what can be accomplished when we do. The unity of our community will exponentially multiply our spiritual effectiveness around the world.

We were fortunate to have some people in the meeting who have traveled extensively internationally. They shared their disappointment when they saw what a lot of us consider only a problem for the USA, infect the readership in other countries. They said that internationally there are many questions about why the USA is not a united community and what is happening with it. They do look to the United States - UAUS and UBF - for leadership in this revelation and this community. I learned that what we are doing here with this unity initiative is even more important globally than I realized.

We shared the understanding that there have been attempts at unity in the past beginning almost from the time of the split 27 years ago. The problem was that after agreeing that unity is a desirable thing, the follow through and leadership necessary to complete the re-unification was missing. We are determined to not let that happen again because the time is right, nearly everyone wants it, and the world needs it from us. We need our leaders and members to keep this effort alive.

The idea to charter the Fellowship as a second national association was explained using the document produced by the unity team. Other ideas were discussed and at this point nothing is “off the table,” but we need to take this in steps. This concept of a second national association, while not the ideal end solution, may be a good first step in the evolution of this goal. However, we are still open to suggestions and other possibilities. Personally, I want to make sure that we build what I call “personal unity” among the members of UAI and UBF so that the organizational unity doesn't fall apart in 4-5 years.

In this online meeting we acknowledged that both UAI and UBF agree on our missions, goals, and ideals. It was suggested that we need a vision statement about what we are trying to accomplish with this unity effort. While ego's and personalities may have caused these issues in the past, today we need to place our commitment to the sovereignty of God and following Jesus above all else. This is not about ‘merging’, but about focusing on highest values, principles and purposes of a revelation – to do what is right and best for the people of this planet and Christ Michaels plan for this world.

Other issues mentioned included the U.S. copyright of *The Urantia Book*, however the copyright expired in 2000 so this is no longer an issue of debate. A question was brought up about the division of money when the Foundation and Fellowship separated ties, but I am told from several sources that this is of no concern to either the Foundation or the Fellowship.

It is time to unite the world under one banner – the banner of Michael. Let us resolve to unify our community in order to help unify the world with a new revelation of Jesus. When we fuse with our adjuster we become a new entity with a new identity. To be the light of the world, we also need to think in terms of a new identity and a global fresh start. As long as an organization is worried about preserving its identity, its momentum, its culture, it is focusing on its own self-interest. Unity is not possible when self-interest comes first. If we need to tear down the old, to lose our identity, our momentum, and our culture to bring unity to the whole global Urantia community, then so be it. Each organization must be willing to give up everything, in order to be reborn anew; To give up all self-interest for the greater good. Time will reveal the fruits of our labor in this unity effort. These are indeed exciting times.

We plan to host a Zoom meeting every month with the next one planned for January 19, 2017. Watch for the announcement of this coming soon. This next meeting will invite all 10 of the unity team members – UAI and UBF - and all members of UAUS. After the Fellowship General Council meeting in February, we will invite all UBF members to participate as well. I hope that all of you share our excitement and commitment to this process and seeing it through to whatever conclusion comes from it. But for now, we hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and wish all of you a very wonderful exciting new year. It will be that and more I believe.

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A NEW LIBRARY OF HUMAN SOURCE BOOKS

Steve Dreier, Newark, New Jersey

Editor's Note: *Urantia Foundation was the fortunate recipient of a collection of books and materials containing concepts and text similar to those found in The Urantia Book. This is the first contribution to a research library created by Urantia Foundation over the past year. Many thanks to Jen Siegel for creating the physical space; to Steve Dreier, Gard Jameson, and Joanne Strobel for establishing the library; and to our anonymous donor.*

Students of *The Urantia Book* know that the revelators made extensive use of human concepts in constructing the Urantia Revelation.



In the Foreword, an Orvonton Divine Counselor states: "Accordingly, in making these presentations about God and his universe associates, we have selected as the basis of these papers more than one thousand human concepts representing the highest and most advanced planetary knowledge of spiritual values and universe meanings." [0:12.12 \(17.1\)](#)

Again, in the acknowledgment to Part IV, a secondary midwayer states: "As far as possible I have derived my information from purely human sources." [121:8.12 \(1343.1\)](#)

Urantia Foundation has received a donation of an extensive library of "human source" books and other related material. This collection is housed in a newly constructed library in the basement of 533 W. Diversey Parkway in Chicago. The library is a unique education and research facility for students of *The Urantia Book*. Visitors to 533 can now examine for themselves the exact nature of the relationship of the "human sources" to the content of *The Urantia Book*.

The identification of texts related to the content of *The Urantia Book* is almost entirely a result of the work of Matthew Block. Few other Urantia book students have undertaken a serious study of this topic. The collective understanding of *The Urantia Book* would benefit significantly if more readers would put in the time and effort to explore these relationships. Some who have done this have found that the careful study of these texts has greatly deepened their understanding and appreciation of *The Urantia Book*. It is hoped that the addition of this new library will encourage others to look into this most interesting matter.

FAREWELL TO CATHY JONES

Reprinted from "Tidings" Newsletter



Cathy Jones graduated from this world on September 17, 2016 at the age of 91. Cathy was loved and respected by many students of *The Urantia Book* all over the world. She played a prominent role in helping to build Urantia Association International and worked tirelessly for the revelation. She served as the Association's first Executive Administrator and established this newsletter, *Tidings* to keep us in touch with news and events of Urantia associations across the globe.

The memorial ceremony was held October 10. On behalf of Urantia Association and in honor of Cathy's dedication to the revelation, Rick Jones presented Cathy's granddaughter and grandson with the Amadon Award.

In the words of Cathy's granddaughter Casey:

My grandmother and I shared a very special relationship. More than anything she was my best friend. She taught me many things throughout my life but most importantly how to love unconditionally. I would like everyone to know that she truly believed we were all created equally and that no man should judge another, yet embrace and love each other. In her very last journal entry she wrote. . . ."you are born and then you die and all you should do in-between is love."

The following testimonies show what an inspiration Cathy was to so many students of *The Urantia Book*; starting with Patricia Snyder who was a close personal friend – one who championed her during the trying times of her illness in her final months and helped to raise the funds needed to bring Cathy home from China so she could pass peacefully with her family by her side.

Patricia Snyder, Marina del Rey, California, USA

My heart sings and cries to inform you that Cathy passed last weekend. Casey, her granddaughter was with her, holding her hand. Casey said, it was a beautiful transition. With a singing and crying heart, I said, how could it have been any different with our Cathy. Thank you all for your support, prayers and good vibes throughout our Cathy's intense trials to get home. Her real journey has started. Let's hear it for Agondonters!!

Gaetan Charland, Quebec, Canada

I met Cathy Jones for the first time in the fall of 1999 during a celebration meeting for my local association in Quebec, Canada. Since that time, Cathy has been part of my life, as a friend and as a mentor. Cathy was always the first one to volunteer when a task had to be done, no matter how big, small or important it was. This for me was the mark of a true leader and servant. As the first President of Urantia Association International, Cathy was my mentor during many years. She then served as the Executive Administrator and she was ever the generous contributor of her time and experience as co-founder of the Association.

What I remember of Cathy's personality is her good nature, patience, generosity and stalwart integrity to the mission of *The Urantia Book* and its teachings. There is no doubt in my mind that her spirit of service will continue to be an example to many of us as we journey onward in our life.

I look forward to the time when I will meet and work with her again in the next world of our new life.



Chris Wood, President of Urantia Association International

Cathy Jones put you to work. In the Ordination of the Twelve we are told: *The carpenter's son never taught character building; he taught character growth...* [Paper 140:8.27, page 1583.1]

Cathy urged you to grow, she put you in the position where you could choose positive action, and she defended you in your mistakes as grand moments for learning and personal evolution.

The first time I met Cathy, she put me to work identifying regional leaders and building a local community in my home city. The second time we met she sat me down for a few hours of folding letters, addressing envelopes, and taking them to the post. 18 years later, just a few months ago, I spoke with her for the last time and she laid out plans for synchronizing local and regional conferences throughout the United States. She was always leading.

Study *The Urantia Book*, Love One Another, Get to Work. I am one of many people throughout the world who Cathy guided into leadership. She changed my life. It was an honor to serve with Cathy Jones.



Rick Lyon, Vice President, UAUS, Indiana, USA

Cathy was one of the driving forces in the creation of Urantia Association International. She spent many hours on the phone and many days traveling to help students of *The Urantia Book* set up most of our local associations. We have several file cabinets of correspondence that she wrote in her efforts to create and lead the Association. She spent many days away from home living in Chicago at 533 working tirelessly for this revelation and this organization. She was a great teacher and leader of this revelation and her love for people encompassed everyone she met. She not only believed these teachings but she lived them. She had great faith in and hope for our Association and for all of us.

Carlos Runinsky, Buenos Aires, Argentina

I can say that Cathy Jones is my sister for ever. I have her in my soul. Since I first met her I felt we were family. Since that day, around 15 years ago, I keep a place in my heart that belongs to her. She showed me her love and her irrevocable belief in *The Urantia Book*, as well as her commitment to building an organization of readers and students of the Revelation. She came to South America not knowing the language nor the readers, but with the mission of helping to create a Urantia Association. This happened at the first Conference of readers taking place in Santiago de Chile, where I flew from Buenos Aires. And the task was accomplished; the Urantia Association of the Southern Cone was born. But although this chapter of the Association didn't last long, it provided the foundations for the creation of different Associations in those countries whose readers tried to work together. On that day she designated the officers of the first board, and I became its Vice President. She chose me as a leader for no reason, but by doing so I felt I was obliged to act according to her expectations, and I've been involved with the Urantia movement since that day, mainly because of her. She has always been an inspiration for all who had the lucky chance of meeting her.

I've been trying to recall some of our conversations and I remember asking and receiving her wise advice many times. The most vivid impression is the loving feeling that comes to my conscious when I think of Cathy. She is a big loving soul that shows us the way of how to be a child of God...

Hope to see you again soon dear Cathy, (not too soon though :-)) Enjoy your new residence. Many of us will miss your physical presence, the special sound of your voice, but you remain in our minds and in our hearts. I love you always dear Sister!! Thanks for everything!!

Marian Hughes, Hawaii, USA

I had the privilege of calling Cathy a friend, mentor and sister. This morning I felt that her angels raised up their wings to transport her beautiful soul to Mansion World number one. Cathy worked tirelessly with her Rolodex in her office at the Foundation to build the new readership organization. She single handily called us and gathered the scattered flock together to form Urantia Association International. She then started to travel the USA and the world, licensing many different associations and fostering leaders and teachers to carry on the mission. What a service minded trooper she was and so beloved by so many of us.



So let us all rejoice in the fact that she will soon have her new beautiful morontia form and we will someday be reunited with our dear sister. Let us rejoice that thanks to her friends and family she will have her earthly grave stone close to her home that was so important to her. Let us all keep on with what she so gallantly started and continue to make Urantia Association International the wonderful worldwide organization it has developed into.

In memory of Cathy I will be making donations to both Urantia Association of the United States (UAUS) and Urantia Association International (UAI) and hope many of you will also join me in doing that, for that is truly what she would like us to do as we think of the work she has done.

David Linthicum, Tulsa, Oklahoma, USA

I first met Cathy at the chartering ceremony for Spirit of Oklahoma in 1997. Over the years she was my mentor and friend, always willing to offer sage advice, support and, above all, words of encouragement that helped me to weather storms along the way. Once, when I was feeling rather down, she told me, in that way she had, to perk up, be patient, keep a long view in mind, do the work, build the basics today and have faith that those that follow will take it from there. I have carried that message with me ever since, and it has served me well. Cathy was the embodiment of loving service and unselfish devotion to the Revelation. She is much loved and will be sorely missed.

Caio Mario Caffé Nascimento, Brazil

Cathy left to us a legacy of successful achievements that certainly help to foster the spiritual progress of humanity. To mention just two: the Urantia Association International, and the Urantia Associations that she founded in several countries of the world. She was endowed with a brilliant personality, a steady character, a determined mind, and a pleasant friendly smile. Charismatic, yes, with a hard and beautiful task to fulfill. And she did it. How elated we Brazilian students of *The Urantia Book* were in June 2003, when she handed us the Licensing Agreement between the Urantia Foundation and the Urantia Association of Brazil together with the President book and the flag with three azure blue concentric circles on a white background. . . . The Brazilian Association took its roots and flourished. Cathy was one of those magnificent women who carry the torch of the spiritual progress of humanity – a faithful server, a planetary heroine. God bless your soul and thanks for your accomplished mission and thanks also for the memories.

Gary Rawlings, Wales, UK

I would like to pay my respects and tributes to Catherine Jones who has now departed from Urantia and graduated to the Mansion Worlds. She was my mentor and under her guidance I was able to serve two terms having taken over from her in the position of Membership Chair from 2005 to 2015 for and on behalf of the Association to whom she was a founding member of the organization. With her visionary ability and exceptional personality, Catherine shone in so many ways, and I, like many others, will miss her dearly. Thank you for going all those many extra miles.

With Catherine in mind, let us all try to remember that: *The weak indulge in resolutions, but the strong act. Life is but a day's work — do it well. The act is ours; the consequences God's.* [Paper, 48:7.13 11, page 556.13]

Carl Ramm, Alaska, USA



While I'd met Cathy briefly at conferences and had exchanged a few emails and phone calls with her, I really didn't get to know her until she stayed a while with me and my wife Susan. At the time Cathy was in Alaska as part of an effort to help get a state chapter started. Susan and I were living in a tiny, funky old cabin near the end of a back street in a rather questionable part of Anchorage. Cathy never gave the slightest hint of being bothered by any of this. At a time in her life when many people would never consider such a thing, Cathy couch-surfed with near-strangers as casually and simply as if she was twenty three. . . . She was the soul of graciousness – a delight to be around.

Benet Rutenberg, USA

Cathy has been and remains an inspiration to me. She caused many of us to up our game in service to the revelation. She was both gracious and full of grace. Her smile brought peace and joy to all who were blessed by her company. It is soothing to know that she

passed in and up beautifully yet as she lived. We will all miss her but only for a time. It should bring calm and hope to all of us that we will sometime be welcomed by so many of our friends and family on the shores of that not so distant tomorrow.

Alain Cyr, Quebec, Canada

Dear Cathy, if you have risen on the third day, which is my belief, hopefully you will be made aware of my thoughts and appreciation in regard to you even before I pass on to the Morontia worlds and this hope gives me the thrill and enthusiasm of seeing you again in a time where maybe we can jointly participate in some adventure. Thank you for your great work with us in Canada and for the ensemble of the Urantia community. I wish you a superb continuity, a rejuvenated retreat with ongoing projects on the morontia spheres.

Nathen Jansen, President, Urantia Association of Canada (UAC)

On behalf of UAC, we have so many wonderful thoughts of Cathy Jones:

It was back in the 1990s that we became associated with Cathy when she was extensively traveling the world establishing Urantia Associations. In the latter part of that decade, the first Canadian local Urantia Association was formed, Urantia Association of Quebec, followed shortly thereafter with Urantia Association of The Cascades, British Columbia/Alberta. This event took place on the west coast of Canada at a retreat on Bowen Island where many of the Vancouver and area study group members were gathered for the signing of the Urantia Association of The Cascades. They enjoyed meeting and getting to know Cathy's caring and likable personality as she was easy to communicate with and we enjoyed being in her presence.



Cathy was also seriously committed to establishing the National Urantia Association of Canada, subsequently inaugurated at the Silver Springs Retreat Centre in Ontario, in attendance with the local Northern Light Urantia Association of Ontario. At this memorable gathering and along with her untiring passion for the Association, we all had a lovely time furthering our friendship with Cathy at Silver Springs.

We also have many treasured and fond memories of the times when Cathy was visiting us again on the West Coast of Canada and while helping the local Urantia Association of The Cascades with their joint participation in the IC99 Fellowship Conference in Vancouver, BC. She was a great inspiration for the membership of the local Urantia Association at this conference. She always was found to be working for the greater good of group cooperation where the sincere truth mattered.

Our prayers are with Cathy as she continues the never-ending journey underway for her in Christ Michael's many mansions.

Enrique Traver, Brazil

I never met Cathy Jones, but I am convinced from all I've heard about her, that she made a major difference by assisting our brothers and sisters in setting up the Urantia Associations around the world. According to Rogeriro Silva, the second President of the Urantia Association in Brazil, she was there with Gaetan and others to initiate our Association in Brazil in 2004. Rogério told us that he remembers her very well. Her sympathy and dedication to Urantia Book readers was contagious and she played a significant role in helping us to overcome the unknown. Rogério said that her presence on that occasion made all difference to his performance as Director and later as President of the Association in Brazil, much more marked on that day by her presence than all others. We will miss her, but she is certainly one more friend to meet again in our next journey.

James Woodward, California, USA

I first met Cathy Jones in the early nineties when she'd visit the Ploetz home, a center of Urantia Book activities in Southern California. Those memories are vivid, meeting new friends who were active in Urantia service. Cathy stood out—a dynamic person—and very determined to expand the fraternal group she had helped create.

Cathy was charismatic and it has varied roots, including her Texas heritage; she was independent and loyal to her values. She was also gifted with formidable courage and loads of faith. Later, as a colleague, I would discover that her work ethic was established and strong. Most people do not know that she was also a yogi. For many years she practiced Kundalini yoga, an apex practice of spiritual meditation and breathing. These disciplines and loyalties produced in Cathy what we acknowledge as true leadership. Plus, it was always tethered to graciousness—that ready smile, a hearty laugh, and the warmth of a love-saturated soul.



Cathy and I began working closely at Urantia Foundation in the year 2000. She would spend months living at 533 in Chicago, leading and organizing from her small office. We worked together on many projects, some local and some stretching all over the world. As one of the few who knew her actual age, it always amazed me when she energetically planned another working trip to South America or Russia, or anywhere else where readers were organizing for service. She was always on fire with the truth of *The*

Urantia Book, with the selfless motive to share its story of how much we are loved by God and guided by all the spirit ministries in our friendly universe.

Early in 2005, Cathy told me that we needed an informative and inspiring newsletter. She believed in the effectiveness of personal communication but said we had to expand our efforts and share the “good tidings from Associations around Urantia.” After prayer and reflection she said it was going to be called “Tidings” and she asked for my help. Along with a team of talented volunteers we produced the first issue of *Tidings* in June of that year. It remains an honor to contribute to Cathy’s legacy publication.



The best leaders always mentor those who are ready and willing to serve. Cathy was a mentor to so many of us, and she was much more: a loving friend. It was a momentous day when she called and said she had decided to retire. Such news I had been expecting but not her next words. She asked me to consider taking the job, that I was her first choice to be the next Executive Administrator of Urantia Association. That was classic Cathy: point to an important task, offer her full confidence, and then charmingly imply that declining wasn’t really an option! It was effective (and very humbling) and led me to new levels of service in this great organization. I am indebted to Cathy Jones in many ways and continue to be inspired by her. Those of you who share the same sentiments should seize every opportunity to grow in servant leadership. We honor Catherine by acting on our moral duty of cosmic citizenship.

HELPFUL LINKS:

Urantia Association of the United States (UAUS) website. There are photos, UB inspired music, art reviews, and other information 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/>

Membership information for Urantia Association of the United States: <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: <http://bit.ly/1Is0cAe>

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

The Urantia Book **online.** 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. 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/>

QUOTE OF THE QUARTER:

Even on normal evolutionary worlds the realization of the world-wide brotherhood of man is not an easy accomplishment. On a confused and disordered planet like Urantia such an achievement requires a much longer time and necessitates far greater effort. Unaided social evolution can hardly achieve such happy results on a spiritually isolated sphere. Religious revelation is essential to the realization of brotherhood on Urantia. While Jesus has shown the way to the immediate attainment of spiritual brotherhood, the realization of social brotherhood on your world depends much on the achievement of the following personal transformations and planetary adjustments:

1. Social fraternity... 2. Intellectual cross-fertilization... 3. Ethical awakening... 4. Political wisdom... 5. Spiritual insight...

<https://goo.gl/OyaRpU>

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 .

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Please send articles and submissions to Will Sherwood: owsherwood@gmail.com

THE URANTIA BOOK FELLOWSHIP'S INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2017

'SPREADING OUR WINGS' PROGRESSING TOWARDS LIGHT AND LIFE

The University of Denver, July 19 – 23, 2017

Join us for a 5-day Urantia Conference that includes all the things you've come to love about the Fellowship's International Conferences, as well as special events that showcase Interfaith and the good works happening globally in businesses, education and the Emergent spiritual community. The conference will also offer two privately produced public speaking and music events on Friday and Saturday nights that are sold separately. (Conference attendees get a 50% discount!)

