

January 2006

CIRCLE SEEKER

NEWSLETTER OF THE

GREATER LAKE MICHIGAN URANTIA ASSOCIATION



URANTIA.

WHAT'S INSIDE?

President's Letter – 2

GLMUA News – 3

Joy To The World – 4

UAUS News – 5

Urantia Foundation News - 8

2006 UAI conference – 9

Interview with Seppo Kanerva – 10

ISB News – 14

UAI News – 16

Indonesia Study Group – 18

Pakistan Study Group - 20

Today in Urantia History- 21

Science and the UB – 23

James Woodward interviews

Seppo Kanerva

President of the Urantia Foundation

(See the full interview at www.urantiausa.com)



Seppo Kanerva

Message From The Vice-President

Rick Lyon



Greetings Everyone,

This message is actually a message from the Vice-President. Benet has been fighting illness for the last few weeks and asked me to fill in for him. Benet, we are wishing you a speedy recovery and hopefully by the time this hits the mailbox you will be feeling much better.

The most urgent news is the announcement of the date for our annual membership meeting. This is the most important thing we do as an organization to plan our course for the next year. I really encourage all GLMUA members to attend and give your input on our activities for 2006. It is always good to hear new voices and new ideas from our group.

I have been a member of GLMUA since 1994. There has never been a time in our short history when so many exciting things were happening. In 2005, the Foundation faced some financial decisions and therefore, some not too popular, but necessary, steps had to be taken. Still, with all that, the progress on several translations continues and the new audio CD version of the book was released. The short handed Foundation staff continues to be professional and friendly to all they serve.

The International Urantia Association became the Urantia Association International. The UAI was reorganized as a separate entity and is still a very young organization. Most of the activity in 2006 dealt with getting the charter and bylaws, making modification as needed. The various committees of the International Service Board are seeing a steady and exciting growth in activity. The new database is growing rapidly. The Dissemination Committee has helped many readers and the Study Group committee has helped create several new study groups.

The UAUS held a very successful conference aboard a cruise ship and revised it's website. Planning has already begun for the 2007 UAUS conference.

In 2006, GLMUA had probably the best attended membership meeting yet (and we hope to out do that this March). Our annual picnic became a weekend retreat due to August 22 falling on a Sunday. Many GLMUA members assisted in a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the printing of *The Urantia Book*. I still find that amazing. Reading the book today often seems like reading a book that is too advanced for our times. Just imagine reading it for the first time in 1955!

Nominations are open for President and Treasurer. There is always a need for more help in the various committees. Many exciting things happened in 2005 and great things were accomplished. Come help us to make 2006 even more exciting!

See ya,

Rick Lyon, VP

BECOME A MEMBER OF UAI

Membership in the Urantia Association International includes membership in the appropriate national and local associations. To become a member of Greater Lake Michigan Urantia Association in this area, you may complete the membership form online at www.urantia-uai.org or by contacting any GLMUA officer. UAI is a service organization developing teachers and leaders to disseminate the Urantia teachings. UAI serves all readers of *The Urantia Book*. Annual dues are \$40 per person.

GLMUA NEWS

GREATER LAKE MICHIGAN URANTIA ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

All members are encouraged to attend the 2006 annual membership meeting scheduled for **1 p.m. on Saturday, March 4, 2006**. **The meeting will be held at the Urantia Foundation** in Chicago. This year's elections are for the President and Treasurer. President Benet Rutenberg will not be seeking re-election due to his expanded duties as President of the Urantia Association of the United States. Bill Martin also will not be running for re-election. Bill was instrumental in recruiting the current governing board and handled the expenses of our 2004 international conference. He has also been a long time contributor to the success of GLMUA and supporter of the Foundation. Benet Rutenberg took over the vacancy at the President position and quickly established leadership and management that produced many successful events and projects during the previous two years. GLMUA has grown consistently since it's creation in 1994 and under the leadership of Benet and Bill this organization has become one of the most active UAI local organizations on Urantia. Our thanks to both Benet and Bill for jobs well done.

NOMINATIONS:

Nominations for the positions of President and Treasurer are now open. Nominees must be a member of good standing in UAI. Nominations will remain open until the time of voting during the annual meeting. Please submit a brief discussion of the qualifications of anyone you wish to nominate to any member of the GLMUA Governing Board. A list of the board members and contact information can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

GLMUA MEMBERSHIP DUES

2006 annual membership dues are due on March 5, 2005. The dues are now \$40 per person per year. Dues for members under 16 years of age or for Associate Members (those who have not completed reading the entire Urantia Book) are \$20.00. **2005 dues must be paid in order to vote at the March 4, 2006 annual membership meeting.** Membership dues may be sent to:

The Greater Lake Michigan Urantia Association, Inc.
105 Woodlawn Drive
Goshen, IN., 46526-5435

Joy to the World

2005 Annual Holiday Celebration

JOY TO THE WORLD so the song goes. Each year, at this time, we celebrate the source of this joy. For a season, this joy surround us, and if we allow it, wells up inside us to saturate our souls with love and good will to all people. There is the giving of gifts, symbolic of the Gift our world received in the life of Jesus. Urantia Book calls part 4, "The Life of Jesus." And that is because it is in his life and how he lived it, that we come to know his teachings. It is his relationships, communion, love, and togetherness which produce this joy in our hearts and souls... and in our friends. The simple answer is to allow the Spirit to find greater expression in our actions and attitudes. You know – that spiritual fragrance thing. What if we could take this lasting joy and give it, without measure, to all those who experience it in very limited ways? Is this not what Jesus did and, moreover, intended to do in his revelation of the Universal Father? Is this not what continues to happen, within each of us, as rapidly and completely as we allow it to? And then does this not also happen, within our world, in a truly evolutionary time frame? What can we do to help? The simple answer is to allow the Spirit to find greater expression in our actions and attitudes. You know – that spiritual fragrance thing. The formula for this is not something one of us can give to another. What we can do is

give permission to the spiritual influences which the Father has already bestowed upon us, so they can share the full complement of spiritual joy within and through us in our daily lives. There are two essential components necessary for us to participate in this ever-growing revelation of joy. And they are: Giving permission – saying yes to God and; availing ourselves of increased knowledge and experience resulting in wisdom. Giving this permission and receiving knowledge/wisdom opens the door for us to share. The theme for this holiday celebration is Joy. The theme for service in GLMUA is joyful active participation. Attainment follows intelligent coordination and integration along this journey within and without. As we share the inner life with our Father and then share the fruits of that inner life with our friends and family in the external world, the Love of God finds expression as Joy in and to the world. Happy Holidays to All!



BENET RUTENBERG

Greater Lake Michigan Urantia Association Photo: Cece Forrester



James Woodward

Photos: Cece Forrester

Given at the GLMUA/FIRST SOCIETY, Holiday Celebration, December 10, 2005 at Urantia Foundation

UAUS NEWS



Secretary Judy VanCleave, President Benet Rutenberg, and Treasurer David Linthicum

all for their help and input in this task of finding one who will follow in Judy's example and keep us all informed and on our toes so as to be the best we can be." Judy's term as Secretary will soon expire so nominations for that position are being accepted.

Benet went on to say that membership has its privileges. It has its responsibilities too. There is much more we can do at the national and international level if we have the financing to do so. Item 32, concerning guidelines for joint projects with any non-IUA organization in terms of doing conferences or other endeavors is now the policy of UAI. The UAUS submitted this proposal to the Representative Council and it passed easily with only two no votes.

All CLP Members were urged to become more active on UAUS email list. Everyone's input is needed and desired. He extended an invitation for all good and fully baked ideas from the CLP for consideration by UAUS GB.

The UAUS offered an amendment to Item 33 before the RC concerning the possible changing of the IUA name to UAI. [This has since been passed by the RC]

New persons are to be assigned to the duties of Publications and Website in the near future. We are open for volunteers. There is a proposal for website updating from Rick Lyon and James Woodward, our Education Chair. Benet thanked Janet Quinn for her continued service to UAUS Messenger. We continue to value and be grateful for her service. And to Morris Kaplowitz, who has worked and supported the website, with little help or assistance, for the last several years. We will miss you Morris but know that you are working on other projects at this time. Thank you both very much.

Secretary Judy Van Cleave was appointed administrator of the UAUS online list a couple of months ago; Benet Rutenberg is the list moderator. Judy expressed her appreciation for the "supreme privilege of serving UAUS for the past 3 years, and of serving along with some fine GB members."

She said, "The skills, talents and unique gifts I have encountered among them, have truly been a boon in learning and growing for me. From serving alongside Lee Armstrong, Connie Greene and Mike Wood in Chicago 2002, to Lee Armstrong, Connie Greene and David Linthicum in Nashville 2003, to Lee Armstrong, Steve Shinall and David Linthicum in Chicago 2004; and finally to Benet Rutenberg, Steve

UAUS News continued:

Shinall and David Linthicum in New Orleans 2005, these teams have invigorated, challenged and encouraged me. And they have all been a pleasure to team with."

In researching venue options for the 2007 UAUS conference, Co-Conference Chair Jan Bernard decided to look for retreat centers rather than universities for more comfortable and interesting accommodations. She is consulting with UAI Conference Committee chair, Eddie King, about procedures for conferences.

The Education Committee of UAUS, chaired by James Woodward, has been quiet at the surface, but there has been a good deal of planning activity taking place. After recruiting some qualified members, he began to search for ways to make this committee actually do some educating. A quick survey reveals that a major underdeveloped and underused resource of UAUS is its website. After a series of discussions with Morris Kaplowitz, our esteemed webmaster since he inaugurated the site, it became clear that he did not have the time to devote to a much needed renewal effort – he is very involved in UBIS service duties. Nevertheless, we owe Morris a great deal of gratitude for all his years of volunteer work, which continues in his publishing of the newsletter.

To implement and operate this new site James has done some recruiting and hopes to have a team of volunteers organized soon. We plan to offer new features and content, especially that of an educational nature. It is his goal to that the UAUS should be a leading force in the fields of education, secondary works, leader training, and dissemination. A reinvigorated website will be the primary vehicle for this.

Publications Chair Janet Quinn's reported that UAUS Messenger Editor, Rebecca Oswald gave notice that she would be vacating her editor position. Morris Kaplowitz graciously agreed to assume

editorship duties. Morris has recently declined to serve further as Messenger Editor due to increased family demands. I have asked Chris Bailey to assume Messenger editorship, and she has agreed. Chris will be capable and energetic in this post, and we are looking forward to working with her during the next year. We hope to stir increased enthusiasm to all UAI members to submit relevant articles for upcoming issues of the UAUS Messenger.

Ways of conducting electronic business meetings were discussed to replace conference calls and the resulting long distance charges.

Secretary Judy Van Cleave emphasized that the new UAI database is an important tool that needs tending and updating by each local association governing board – sooner rather than later.

SURF is acting as a clearinghouse for the new Urantia Book Translation Fund. They encouraged all UAUS local associations and members to give financial support to the Urantia Book Translation Fund, P.O. Box 3126, Vista CA 92085-3126 for the printing of the by Urantia Foundation.

Nominations are now open for UAUS vice president and secretary. Steve Shinall is completing his first term as vice president and regrets that he will not be able to serve for second term. Judy Van Cleave is completing her second term as UAUS secretary and is ineligible for re-election. Nominations must be made through local association presidents and must be accompanied by a biography and goal statement. Please send your nominations to Judy Van Cleave at jrvancly@aol.com.



UAUS CONSIDERS BYLAW CHANGES

During the 2005 annual meeting of the UAUS Council of Local Presidents, it was proposed that the Membership Committee Chair position be added to UAUS Governing Board. The purpose of this is to allow the Membership Chair access to the UAI database to access membership information for updating the database and researching of memberships.

Adding the Membership Chair to the Governing Board also entitles the Membership Chair to Governing Board voting privileges, and therefore it was determined that the Membership Chair should be elected by the Council of Local Presidents and Vice Presidents (CLP) rather than appointed by the GB as is the current policy. Additionally, becoming a Governing Board member confers the responsibility to be present for, and to participate in, all shared responsibilities and requirements of other Governing Board members.

A vote by the CLP will be conducted at the end of the required 90-notice on March 20, 2005. The questions and comments of all GLMUA members is encouraged and should be communicated to President Benet Rutenberg RUTABL@aol.com or Vice-President Rick Lyon ricklyon@tctc.com so that they may vote according to the wishes of the members.

UAUS ANNOUNCES WEBSITE UPDATE

The UAUS website committee has revised and expanded our website, www.urantiausa.com. We have built upon the excellent site, which Morris Kaplowitz originally created, by adding new features and a new look. Some of the pages are still under construction but the site is ready for you to use.

The home page features a welcome message and a statement of purpose for first time visitors and a brief calendar of Urantia related events. New features to the website include a library of Urantia materials, web pages for UAUS local organizations, photo galleries of Urantia events, and feature stories about current issues and opportunities. The current feature article is an interview by James Woodward with Urantia Foundation President, Seppo Kanerva. It offers a glimpse into the heart and mind of a dedicated leader. There are pages for Urantia art, Urantia music, study groups, Urantia Book Internet School, and other areas of interest.

Two of the new features that we would like to point out are the “Urantia Library” and the “Local Websites” pages. With the Library, our goal is to gather Urantia related materials that readers have written through the years and make them easier for visitors to find. This site will grow, with your help, to house a valuable reference archive of Urantia writings so that the UAUS website will not only serve our members and readers from the U.S., but also those from around the world. Be sure to visit the unique “Study Hall.” If you have any materials that you would like to submit for consideration to be included in the library, please contact James Woodward, the library administrator at TBandG@comcast.net. Another new feature of the site is the offer of a free webpage to all UAUS local associations that would like to have one. There are some restrictions and guidelines—for more information about this service please contact Rick Lyon ricklyon@tctc.com or Sheila Schneider smschneider758@insightbb.com.

We wish to give personal thanks to Morris Kaplowitz for his tireless work in developing and maintaining this website for many years. We also wish to thank our new web team of Rick Lyon, James Woodward and Sheila Schneider for their work thus far and for their commitment to this project.

URANTIA FOUNDATION

Urantia Foundation’s Translation and Revision Projects

In early December the first truck-load of the newly printed Das Urantia Buch, the German translation, reached the Head Office of Urantia Foundation. Once the copyright has been secured, the distribution of the German book can begin in earnest. German is spoken as first or second language by some 124 million people; it is the national language of Germany and Austria and one of the four national languages of Switzerland.

Das Urantia Buch is the Foundation’s eighth printed and tenth available translation. The other available printed translations are: French (1963; full revision 1994; 126 million speakers), Finnish (1993; 6 million), Spanish (1993; 401 million), Russian (1997; 280 million), Dutch (1997; 21 million), Korean (1999; 76 million), and Lithuanian (2004; 4 million). The Portuguese (2003; 186 million) and the Rumanian (2004; 30 million speakers) which are still preliminary are available only on CDs. The Italian translation will soon be downloadable on the Foundation website.

The next translation to go to the printing press is the Italian (62 million speakers). The work is ready to be published, but its distribution has to be organized before the printing may start running.

The Swedish, Estonian, and Polish stand next in the line. These three translations are at their final stages of improvements and refinements.

Translations on which work is still in progress are: Farsi (Persian), with 47 papers completed; Japanese with Part IV and second part Papers 57 through 83 completed; Chinese, whose translators have the first draft of Parts II, III, and IV completed and are currently working on Part I, refining at the same time the first-draft papers; Greek with the first draft of the entire book completed and work on perfecting the first draft progressing acceptably; Czech, which was launched hardly a year ago and comes with 19 first-draft papers completed. Other translation projects include Bulgarian and Indonesian, which are progressing slowly.

There are good chances that an Urdu translation effort can be launched in near future. The Foundation is also sponsoring efforts to revise the existing Spanish translation and to refine the Portuguese and Rumanian translations so to get them into shape fit for print.

Seppo Kanerva, President
Urantia Foundation



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA, JULY 2006

The countdown is on . . . less than 200 days until the commencement of the International UAI Conference. Hosting an event such as this is an incredible privilege, and I'm sure it will be an experience the Australian and New Zealanders will remember for many, many years. Get your registrations in and finalize your travel plans – this is one you should not miss!

The conference committee has been very busy and we are well and truly on track. All key milestones in the project plan have been met and we are under budget. The purpose of this article is to give you a bit of an update on what has been done so far, what still needs to be done, and how you can get involved.

Theme – The Rewards of Isolation: [Small Teams in Deep Waters](#)

We are going to have access to some brilliant minds throughout the 4-day event, with 7 plenary sessions, over 25 workshops to choose from, and approximately 10 different study group topics. The program has been designed to ensure that all attendees have the opportunity to grow, develop, and expand their understanding of *The Urantia Book's* concepts. The workshop facilitators come from around the world and offer a diversity that has never been seen before on Australian shores. If you are interested in leading / facilitating a workshop or a study group, please contact me as soon as possible [Merindi@bigpond.net.au].

Venue and accommodation

The Women's College is a magnificent, historical building, located on the outskirts of Sydney University. The venue is perfect for Sydney's clear winter days and chilly nights – all rooms are internally accessed, there is a lovely little protected courtyard that captures the sun, and the general "feel" of the place is cozy, calm, and welcoming.

Volunteers

After our very successful conference-planning weekend in September, we have filled all volunteer spots. This is excellent news and I'm confident the weekend is going to run very smoothly with these volunteers at the helm. We have a logistics team, a sound & lighting team, a registration team, a children's program team, a bookstore roster, a bar service team, and of course the general dogs bodies. It is highly likely we will need extra hands on the day, so rest assured, if you're not on a volunteer team already, there will be plenty of opportunities for you to provide assistance.

The conference committee, the volunteers, and the International contingent are all very confident this is going to be a well planned, well executed, and well attended event. The overall aim of our conference committee is to facilitate an event that encourages learning and stimulates the development of our minds and our souls.

Visit our website at www.urantia.org.au/anzura/UAIconference2006 for regular updates and information. You may also register for the conference or volunteer your time and skills. For further information, please get in touch with ANZURA, PO Box 609, Narrabeen NSW 2101, Australia. Telephone: +61-2-9970-6200, Fax: +61-2-9970-6201, Email: anzura@urantia.org.au.

We pray that we will see you there. In loving service
Merindi Swadling
Conference Chair



By James Woodward

Interview with Seppo Kanerva President of the Urantia Foundation

James Woodward: [Can you tell us about some of the responsibilities you now have as President of the Trustees.](#)

Seppo Kanerva: When I became President it was exactly a year ago I made a short statement after the election that I don't pretend to be a great leader. What I try to accomplish is that I am a team player, I don't imagine that I would be the sole person to lead this enormously important project I need support, I need people around me, of course my fellow Trustees. I am very keen on that it is my major focus to keep the team together and to work as a team.

Apart from the Trustees we now have four Associate Trustees and two Trustees Emeriti. We are really a great team. The five Trustees have their opinions, their views, their understanding, but the pool of perspective is much larger now when we have the Associate Trustees and the Trustees Emeriti. It is hard to overemphasize the importance of these close associates who are involved in everything the Trustees do. There are truly very few issues where I need to limit the discussion to concern only the five Trustees. Whatever the five Trustees then decide amongst themselves is shared freely with the Associates and Trustees Emeriti. As a team, we are now approaching the time, in my personal opinion, and the moment is here now, when we all realize, especially during this weekend meeting, that we are a team, we are a team. I sensed for the first time, a genuine and sincere effort by each and every one to be a good member of a team.

One of the lessons in *The Urantia Book* is that what we have to learn here is teamwork. And that there are very few assignments in the universe that are solo that a servant can perform. Almost everything that happens in the universe is the result of teamwork. I think, and I believe that we are at this moment, realizing this in a very tangible way. Of course everybody has known about this at the mind level, but I see that now it has sank into the hearts of everyone.

JW: [Are you still serving as Manager of Translations? And can you give us an update on translations in progress.](#)

SK: Yes, I am still functioning in the role of the Manager for Translations. That is an area where a lot is happening. We are currently ready to publish in one form or another, the Italian translation. It has been formatted to be published as a book but we are also formatting it to be published on the internet, on our website, along with so many other translations. The Italian work came to a close, finalized a year ago, now it is ready to be made public. Just recently we published the Lithuanian translation - it exists in book form and is finally distributed in Lithuania, after so many troubles and difficulties but we have it finally. Then, with regard with those works that are soon to be published we may count also the Portuguese translation; it is in the stage of being formatted. The German translation we detected spelling mistakes and discrepancies, minor things like that, the corrections work will be finalized by the end of this month and then the formatting process may set in. So we have three major translations to be published, the Italian, the Portuguese, and the German will be published this year.

The work on the Chinese is going very well. Parts II, III, and IV exist in the first draft form. The team is currently working on the Foreword and will then go on to part I. What this team is also doing is they are also checking what has been translated so far, correcting and improving it at the same time as they translate the Foreword. I have great admiration for the Chinese team especially,

because the Chinese language is so completely different from the Indo-European languages. It is a great, great challenge to translate a text as complex as The Urantia Book into a language where you don't have subordinate clauses, where you can hardly make a distinction between the singular and the plural, the present and the past tense and so on. Of course this it can be expressed but it is so difficult and complex that the work must be very difficult. No speaker of a European language can imagine how difficult it is to translate into Chinese.

And another Asian language, the Japanese translation, is progressing steadily and very well, thanks to one translator and her assistants. The Japanese translation has advanced to the stage where Part IV is ready and now the translator is working on Part III. It's interesting to note how translators tend to begin with what they conceive to be the easier parts. And then the third part of the book which is not that difficult. And then they tackle the Foreword and Parts I and II, which are more difficult.

Going back to the Indo-European languages, the Swedish translation is also finalizing, or refining, is progressing steadily. I am personally part of that team. We have covered so far, the Swedish translation exists in its final form from the Foreword to page 79 now. The Estonian translation has been in the making for ten years now. They are also now at the final stage of refining and correcting, analyzing the text and we expect them to be finished sometime next year. The Polish translation exists at first draft level, the entire book, and a lot of refining has also taken place. With that translation we are at the stage of getting it assessed by independent, educated Polish speakers. The Czech translation was launched about a year ago. The team is of the type where the people are not retired, they are actively involved in their daily jobs so they perform this translation only in the evening hours and free time, so it is understandably progressing pretty slowly. But they are working steadily as well. And then we have the Bulgarian translation, where unfortunately the original team did not get along, so we have only one translator left who is desperately looking for people who could assist him. He has 27 papers translated.

The Greek translation was completed in the year 2001. There was a standstill because the person who was in charge of the project had no time for the corrections and refining of the text. But now, a few months ago he managed to get two highly educated persons to assist him. And both of those people are actually readers of The Urantia Book, so we have a fortunate situation there. One of them is a university professor and the other person also works in a teaching capacity so that translation is in good hands now.

JW: Can you give us an update on overall Foundation business news, especially as to financial health?

SK: Well, most of that came up in the discussion of translations, of books to be published. We are currently printing the English book, a new printing. What is remarkable with that is that we need not determine in advance how many hard cover or soft covers we print. They are going to be bound on demand. We are currently having the situation where that there are more hard covers than paperbacks and the demand for the hard covers is considerably more than the paperback, which is something that we could not foresee. Also we went to print the third printing of the Russian book. The printing happened in St. Petersburg in Russia. Unfortunately the book will be nine centimeters thick because the printer cannot print on the thin paper, the so-called Bible paper. But we have been told by our Russian friends that it is not a big problem, because in Russian readers tend to think that the thicker a book, the more important it is. You can have a nine centimeter book; it must really look like an impressive book! [Laughs] The Italian needs to be printed and we have a person who has promised to raise the money for that. The German needs to

be printed and we have two persons who have promised to raise the money for that. So we are safe with that respect and we can safely proceed with these two printings. There are people who are busy raising the money to print the Portuguese book. So there's good hope that we can print the Portuguese book. We recently made public the MP3 audio version of The Urantia Book. Of course we understand that it has limited demand because people don't have the facilities needed, but we consider that it's important that we can have it available. Instead of the very cumbersome 96 tapes we have six CDs to listen to.

Money is always short. Due to the situation that money is short we were forced to unfortunately, reduce staff, which is really deplorable. But we are happy to see that we can manage shrinking, with this staff that we currently have. But of course we need more hands, and also paid hands to help us. We are currently in the process of hiring a sales manager. We understand that as long as we are a book publisher we better do it properly and we need to be interested and concerned about distribution and sales of the book. You can do it but it is not properly done if it is a sideline, a staff person's sideline. We need a person who can concentrate exclusively on the distribution and sales of the book all over the world. But of course the US market is the major market so that's where the sales manager will need to concentrate. I need to underscore not only in the US market but the translations need to be kept in mind and the markets explored and ways found out how to get into the distributors in those countries or areas where the suspecting language is spoken. There is a lot for the sales manager to do and we understand that only one person can do so much. But there is enough that we estimate someone can help us in that area.

Those are the major highlights concerning the business aspects. The money, the fundraising, is always an issue that is discussed at every Trustee meeting, which happens not only quarterly at the face to face meetings but we have telephone meetings quite often. The financial situation is explored and studied at every meeting either by telephone or face to face. The dollar a day campaign that was launched a little over a year ago is very interesting. It is mostly done by one trustee who calls people on our mailing list one by one. His ambition is to go through the entire mailing list. It is always intriguing and sometimes uplifting to listen to his reports on the progress of this project. What the response is, most people called, according to him respond positively, but of course it is not a surprise that he gets also negative and hostile responses sometimes. But it is a project that is giving us steady income because these people who are called and who respond positively pledge to give a dollar, or a Euro in Europe, which means \$360 dollars a year. What is also remarkable is the number of small donations is on the increase constantly. What we are short of is really big donations. This does not mean that we are not extremely grateful to the small donations. We understand that not everybody can give a million dollars or even a hundred thousand. Even one dollar a day is something that we are grateful for.

JW: It appears that Urantia Foundation has been running very quietly, what can we look forward to in the way of guidance and leadership?

SP: What may seem to have been quiet is maybe a choice. The Foundation was constructed by the revelators, all those superhumans who were in charge of the revelation, instructed the early leaders that we need not, we must not, seek publicity and rely more on the silent spread of the teachings and distribution of the revelation in the book form or other forms that are currently available, either electronic or otherwise. Maybe it looks strange but it is that way. I receive every so often calls from people who have recently discovered the book and have been reading it and are overwhelmed by the teachings and almost invariably say, "Why don't you advertise it? It is such an earth shaking and important work, why doesn't anybody know about it?" We were instructed that the

revelation was given to us well before its worldwide impact so we take it that we need to proceed slowly but steadily and securely to create the basis for a solid basis for this revelation to take fruit. And only then can its transforming impact on the world be genuine flashy attention can be drawn to it, there's no question about it, with modern technology and advertising, we could make it known within days all over the world. But that is not what we were instructed to do. We need to create a solid basis, slowly, surely, and securely. What we are trying to accomplish is to overcome a rift that has been the plague of the readership, the movement as a whole, for so many years, for more than fifteen years. We have tried to accomplish a friendlier atmosphere. Understand that we must not act in a pushy way if there is to be a feeling, to overcome that rift, it needs to happen sincerely, it needs to happen peacefully. We cannot force people to change their minds but we can always act as an example. And we are still in that process, within the Foundation itself, we try to overcome that rift. And in my very personal estimation, as I said in the beginning of this interview, we are making steady progress. We have always understood on the mind level that we are a team but now especially during this weekend meeting I saw it affect our hearts. If we act in a pushy way it will fire back we will just simply create more dissention and more disunity if we don't act silently, peacefully, and in a non-spectacular way. That is how we understand this. There is no question about it, that is one of our expressed goals and objectives to overcome. Sometime ago we made a formal decision, a resolution, that the Foundation would raise from interfering with the internal affairs of any reader organization, any social organization, and why we don't have formal ties with the Fellowship of course, concerns the IUA. We don't want to interfere with the internal proceedings and affairs of IUA. The Foundation has not interfered much in the past but now we want to formalize it so that we cut all formal and legal ties between the Foundation and IUA. It may be that members of IUA do not know about it but the fact is that the board of Trustees as individuals, members of the board of Trustees, are also the board of directors of the UBA, doing business as IUA. And it is our policy and we are going to implement that policy that even that tie will be cut. The foundation trustees, not as a body, nor as individuals, will have formal or legal ties with IUA needs to be fully independent. There is some paperwork to do with regard to that and the issue is complex.

JW: What is the overall vision of Urantia Foundation in the next five years?

SK: The traditional activities of book distribution, their dissemination, the translation, the reprinting, dealing with the physical aspects of the revelation, while the word was given and made book, of course continues to be our primary and first concern. In five years time I think there will be documents, memoranda, about the various ways on how to proceed with that task, which is actually of a primary objective, the secondary objective is the book itself. In five years time I'm sure there will be a few more translations to print. There will be a lot of developments in these modern ways of disseminating the teachings, besides the internet, facilities and means, maybe other electronic gadgets who knows what the technology holds for us in five years time. And how to use those new methods and means will be challenging but it also belongs to the secondary objective of the foundation concrete physical dissemination of the teachings. The real challenge is the more abstract dissemination of the teachings which form the other ways to transform the world.

ISB NEWS

Mark A. Kurtz, UAI Chief Financial Officer and UAI Fund Raising Committee Chair, announced that an anonymous donor sent a challenge to readers of *The Urantia Book* to raise funds for UAI activities. The generous donor offered to match any donations made to the UAI up to \$5000 before the end of the year. And, we did it, UAI! We exceeded the challenge from our anonymous donor! Even though the matching fund challenge has ended, we invite others who wish to contribute to the Urantia Association International to please send your check by mail to UAI \$5,000 Challenge, P. O. Box 82308, Phoenix, AZ 85071-2308 or visit the UAI website at www.uran-tia-uai.org. Your donation will help fund the work of our international association and the local organizations.

We extend a hearty and warm thank you to all who responded and especially to our anonymous friend who prefers to enjoy our progress from the sideline. This challenge was inspired by the recent announcement of the Study Group Starter Kits from the Study Group Committee of the UAI International Service Board. This anonymous person is pleased with our progress for fostering study groups and especially with the commitment to promote and support study groups to all readers of *The Urantia Book*.

The incorporation of UAI is on hold until we have a new Bylaws document that is updated to remove references to former Urantia Brotherhood Association. Resolution 2005-15 Charter/Bylaws Changes was presented to the Board for discussion on October 25, 2005. This resolution to amend the bylaws was passed on Nov. 25, 2005.

The ISB recommended to the RC that we should establish two new restricted funds, an UAI Conference fund to receive and disburse funds contributed specifically for the process of conference production, and the UAI Conference Scholarship Fund, to receive and disburse funds contributed for the purpose of making grants to individuals who need financial assistance to allow them to attend conferences. The procedures for managing the funds shall be established by a committee comprised of ISB Conference Committee Chair, ISB Treasurer and one or more members of the ISB and/or the RC. It shall be the responsibility of that committee to determine the administrative measures required to manage these two accounts. Since it may take some time for all policies and procedures enacted under this resolution to be put into place within the UAI, and as it is important for the process of soliciting funds for scholarships for the 2006 International Conference, this resolution provides that ANZURA (New Zealand and Australia Association) is authorized to solicit funds and place those funds in their own scholarship/sponsorship account or in the UAI account established under this resolution.

The ISB also approved requiring one authorized signature for all checks, drafts and financial orders in accordance with the Bylaws Article VI, Section 6.1.3.c for amounts not to exceed \$10,000. For any transaction amounts exceeding \$10,000 for any one specific and identifiable project or program, including those requiring more than one financial instrument for completion, the president or vice-president shall also sign each check, draft, or order for that project or program.

ISB DISSEMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT

This committee wrote articles on the prison placement project for the June and September issues of *TIDINGS* newsletter. This netted financial support and several offers of help from within and without UAI.

We also submitted request to CFO for \$2000 to be allotted this committee in the 2006 budget proposal for seeding books.

Reader referrals were received from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, England, Finland, Germany, Lithuania, Mexico, Netherlands, Panama, Philippines, Peru, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the US. We also received and responded to 52 prison inquiries to the PIRT.

This committee produced a document titled "Letter of Trust Regarding Referrals" in English and Spanish for publication in the "Local President's Notebook" concerning the proper use of readers personal information and safe guards for reader privacy.

Copies of The Urantia Book were sent to a study group leader in Indonesia who sent an email seeking contact with other readers.

We wish to recognize the Oregon Association for all their work and support of the prison and other UAI projects. Joy Brandt has added two volunteers to respond to letters from inmates who have already received a book from the PIRT program.

ISB STUDY GROUP COMMITTEE REPORT

The Study Group Starter Kit has been well received. In two months, over 20 kits have been delivered and at least three new study groups have been created; one in India, one in Texas, and one in California. Other groups are in the process of forming. The kit was translated into French and Spanish thanks to other UAI members in France and Spain.

Several study groups have been added to the UAI database along with the names of people looking for study groups. So far, our goal of submitting an article featuring a study group from around the world each month to the Tidings newsletter has been accomplished. We encourage everyone with a group to send us a photo and a brief description of your group to us. We feel that it is very important to share this information to encourage others to form their own groups.

This committee is looking for a volunteer to take over the printing and mailing of the study group kits. This person would receive the request for the kit, print it out on a home computer, assemble the list of readers and study groups in the area of the person receiving the kit, and then have it bound and mailed. All expenses are reimbursed.

One of our goals for 2006 includes developing a program to pair study groups together to directly support one another in study efforts.

UAI NEWS

The National Association of Cono Del Sur has been replaced by two new local associations, one in Argentina and the other in Chile. This change of status is a result of growth of this organization and is necessary in order to encourage further growth and leadership in these countries. All the members of the Association of Cono Del Sur in Argentina and Chile have voted positively in favor of such changes and will soon be electing their new governing board members. The UAI will charter these two new local associations and the Urantia Foundation will issue two new licensing agreements to these organizations.

Will Sherwood, Communication Chairman of the UAI, announced that the Representative Council voted in favor of creating a new UAI list in the format of a bulletin board.

UAI has created *The Forum* Electronic Discussion Group for members of Urantia Association International. Thanks to the tireless efforts of Oscar Morales and Mario Caoile, this electronic discussion group is now ready to go. The purpose of this email list is to facilitate communications among our members. Discussions that relate to philosophy, eugenic, religion, sociology, education, study groups as they are relevant to *The Urantia Book* are both permitted and heartily encouraged. The Guidelines are pending final approval by the Representative Council. This list is available to all members of the UAI worldwide.

We wish to thank the Urantia Foundation for transferring the rights to these lists to the UAI. More information about these lists follows.

UAI CREATES NEW EMAIL DISCUSSION LIST FOR MEMBERS

The RC recently approved the re-creation of the new email discussion lists that were transferred from the Urantia Foundation to the UAI. The "Forum" list is now available for members to use. Currently, the Forum is distributed in several categories and sub-forums, like this:

CATEGORY --> Urantia Book Study

- **General Discussion** : General topics about The Urantia Book and its teachings
- **Thought Gems**: Selected quotes from The Urantia Book. Living the teachings.
- **Science & Cosmology**: Discussion about science and cosmology topics as described in The Urantia Book.
- **Religion, Theology, & Philosophy**: Discussion about religion, theology, and philosophy as described in The Urantia Book.
- **Eugenics**: Discussion about eugenics, evolution of the race.

CATEGORY --> UAI Community

- **Welcome and socialization**: Welcome messages, birthday greetings, social news.
- **Events, Conferences & Meetings** : News from UAI events across the world.



STUDY GROUPS AROUND THE WORLD - INDONESIA

The Urantia Book study group Prana Cipta Urantia Indonesia wishes to thank those of you that have given aid in the form of copies of *The Urantia Book*. This group recently received 10 books and they will be receiving 6 more. Keluarga Besar Nitiprana says that these books are very meaningful because this study group has 32 members but they only have 2 books to share among them. Their study group time is divided into two meetings: Study Group I (Prana Cipta Spiritual), which started in 1992, and Group II (Prana Cipta Urantia Indonesia), which began in 2002. Keluarga describe the groups in a recent email:

Study Group I (Prana Cipta Spiritual): 132 people

The Urantia Book knowledge takes away from: Bible, Qur'an, Veda, Buddhist, and other religious books. Our study group consists of 60% Moslem, 30% Christian, and 10% Buddhism and Hindu. We have never had a problem of religion because we study moral and spiritual problems. In our group study, one of the instructions concerning procedure is to open our "spirit eye" to recognize and see "The God Messenger" existing in the human being itself (in *The Urantia Book* referred to as The Adjuster). After they learn to recognize "The God Messenger" (The Adjuster), we introduce *The Urantia Book* to them, and follow up with study of *The Urantia Book* in Study Group II (Prana Cipta Urantia Indonesia).

Study Group II (Prana Cipta Urantia Indonesia): 32 people

One of the constraints which we face at this time is that there is no Indonesian translation of *The Urantia Book*. Nugroho Widi of Jakarta is working on this translation for the Urantia Foundation. In this Study Group II, only about 40% understand English. At the moment we are comprehending knowledge about The Adjuster and human being's journey to the Father in Paradise.

For us, *The Urantia Book* is of vital importance as additional knowledge about The Adjuster in *The Urantia Book* adds to our confidence that God with His love gives His Spirit to every human being and that can be proved manifestly. For us Urantia Book is very important because in it is knowledge that assists us in spiritual development and experience. We would be very glad if we could open discussion or share experience with other study groups or readers, especially in spiritual experience. We are planning to attend the next IUA International Conference in Sydney, Australia 2006, will you be there? Hopefully we could meet at the conference and share our thoughts. This is our experience from our Study Group. Thank you for your attention to us.

Prana Cipta Urantia Indonesia
Keluarga Besar Nitiprana

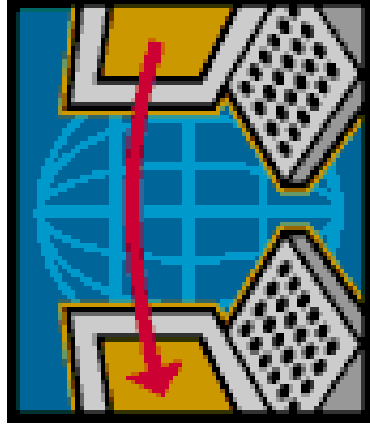
18

- **Education & Study Groups** : Discussion about education, study groups, study aids, and dissemination.
- **Publications & Translations** : Discussion and news about publications, magazines, journals, newsletters. Discussion about translations of the Urantia Book.
- **Service opportunities** : Share information about service opportunities, service actions, request for task support. Fund Raising activities. Offer & demand.
- **Organization and Policies** : Discussion about organizational improvement, new projects, policies. The mission of UAI.
- **Charter and Bylaws** : Discussion about the Urantia Association International Charter and By-laws.

CATEGORY --> Technical Support

- **Support Area** : Lost in the forum? Have problems using the different tools? Want to learn how to use a function? This is the place to ask for support. Moderators and members are encouraged to help each other.
- **Remarks & Suggestions** : If you have remark or suggestion that will help us improve the Forums, you are welcome to share it with us.

All of you who were already subscribed to this UAI email list were automatically subscribed to the new Forum. If you are a UAI member and would like to participate in these email discussions, contact Oscar A. Morales at oscar@consulting.com.



17

If you would like to sponsor book seedings in Indonesia and Pakistan, there is a present need. In Pakistan an energetic new reader, Moses David, wants to spread the seeds of revelation in his homeland. He has reached out to us for assistance.

Please contact one of us if this form of service appeals to you. There is an immediate need for 45 soft covered English Books, plus the shipping. Approximate cost: between seven and eight hundred USD. Thank you for your help.

Secretary, Shirley Pelland, shirleypelland@comcast.net
Membership chair, Gary Rawlings, garyurantia@aol.com
Study Group chair, Rick Lyon, ricklyon@tctc.com
Dissemination chair, Rick Warren, rewar@swbell.net
UAI Executive Administrator, Cathy Jones, cjhjon@aol.com



The Prana Cipta Urantia Indonesia study group displays new Urantia books

MEMBERS OF PAKISTAN STUDY GROUPS NEED YOUR HELP

This message was received from Nadia Gill, a Urantia Book reader, concerning the tragedy of the earthquake in Pakistan. Nadia is from Pakistan. She attended the Parliament of the World's Religions in Barcelona in July 2004. She is an unsung heroine in her twenties, a true leader who is passionate about the Urantia teachings. At great personal risk, she has spread *The Urantia Book* to over 40 young people in Pakistan and devoted herself to nurturing study groups. In this patriarchal Muslim culture a woman *and* a teacher of epochal truth is in danger. But she is smart and has deftly managed to stay out of prison. Today, she faces the greatest challenge of her young life. She speaks of her own possible death and the urgency of getting the truth out to as many people as possible in case she dies. Carrying her beloved Urantia Book, she proclaims the love of our Father God and the brotherhood of man to comfort victims.

The Earthquake in Pakistan is not over. People continue living in terror in appalling circumstances with little or no medical help or aid. Nadia has made good use of the funds sent to help the victims who are Urantia book readers. But she needs more. Please read a shortened version of Nadia's most recent plea for help.

In an email from Nadia Gill, she wrote, 'I was in the affected area for three days to meet my other Urantian sisters and brothers who are suffering very badly. It is a bad destruction there! Very bad Earth Quake! It really shook me! I am feeling so sorry for them. They lost everything! One of my great and sweet Urantian friends, who is a running a small study group is alive after 5 days, buried in the rubble. She has a broken leg. All of my group members have lost their homes and a very intelligent friend who is about 21 years old lost his parents.'

I am not fine after seeing my all sisters and brothers in trouble. This study group is a new group and they were progressing very fast! This first study group (outside my town) was showing me very much interest and requesting me to visit them twice or thrice a month. I am very sad!

My Urantia study group in Muzaffarabad lost all their Urantia Books too! I took two Urantia Books with me as I told you that I am always carrying my hard cover UB everywhere, so I had two extra books and my Urantia book readers in Muzaffarabad (affected area) asked me to give them one book so they don't know the bad time and can die reading as much as they can. I gave one book to them and the other book was given to the news reporter from CCNB news.

It is getting cold with snow falling. I bought 50 water proof tents for the earth quake victims, candles, matches, ready made food, water, blankets, warm clothes, medicines etc. I tried very hard to bring my Urantian sisters and brother to stay with us but they refused. They want to be with their own people. We have no more funds to take care of these Victims. They still need lots of stuff.

I am feeling so sorry that I wrote about it to many Urantian friends to help us in this hard time. Our people really need us! Again requesting you all to help us! We really need help because we don't want to lose our friends and other country fellows. This is a very tough time. Please if you can try for funds! Victims are waiting for us! In Father's Love, Your sister in faith, Nadia.

To find out how to donate funds or how you can help, please send Nadia a personal message at: nadiagill2000@hotmail.com. You may also telephone her at: Phone #: 0092-(51) 5511397 Cell Number: 0092 (300) 950-9812 or call 1-800-546-5601 Thanks for anything you can do!

TODAY IN URANTIA HISTORY

FEBRUARY:

- 2** P.1365:3 AD 2 Nahor, one of the teachers in a Jerusalem academy of the rabbis, came to Nazareth to observe Jesus.
- 4** P.1365:4 AD 2 Two days later in February, Jesus decided to "talk with my Father who is in heaven"; and felt he should remain at home.
- 11** P.1357:5 2 BC Jesus arrived at his first moral decision; and there came to abide with him a Thought Adjuster, a divine gift of the Paradise Father.
- 15** P.1373:3 AD 7 Jesus became assured that he was destined to perform a mission for the enlightenment of man and the revelation of God.
- 18** P.1825:3 AD 30 Jesus was at Ragaba, where Nathaniel made a breakfast this Sabbath morning for all of them and invited Jesus as the guest of honor.
- 19** P.1827:8 AD 30 Jesus said to the lepers, "If you would be made whole, go forthwith and show yourselves to the priests as required by the law of Moses."
- 22** P.1833:3 AD 30 Messengers brought word of advancement of the kingdom in Palestine, Alexandria and Damascus.
- 23** P.1505:7 AD 26 John looked up and beheld Jesus coming. John said: "Behold the Son of God, the deliverer of the world!"
- 24** P.1527:1 AD 26 Philip led Nathaniel to Jesus, who said: Behold a genuine Israelite, in whom there is no deceit. Follow me.
- 25** P.1835:1 AD 30 Jesus spoke a parable, which even his host was compelled to take to heart: The Parable of the Great Supper.
- 26** P.1836:6 AD 30 "Lord, he whom you love is very sick." Jesus said: "This sickness is really not to the death."
- 27** P.1530:5 AD 26 Agents of the Creator made wine just as in natural processes except they did it independent of time.
- 28** P.1532:1 AD 26 Jesus came to understand that his followers never would see him in any other light than as the long-expected Messiah.

MARCH:

- 1** P.1839:4 AD 30 Jesus said: Marriage is honorable. It is the divine will that men and women find joy in the establishment of homes.
- 2** P.1846:1 AD 30 And when he [Jesus] had prayed, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!"
- 3** P.1847:2 AD 30 The Sanhedrin met to deliberate further on the question, "What shall we do with Jesus of Nazareth?"

- 4** P.1683:5 AD 26 Jesus' first visit to Nazareth since the beginning of his public ministry. He indulged in reminiscences of his childhood days
- 6** P.1850:1 AD 30 Jesus arrived at Pella camp. Jesus was very active in teaching the multitudes and instructing apostles.
- 9** P.1850:8 AD 30 Jesus talked about the "Grace of Salvation." He retold the parable of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and his favorite of the prodigal son.
- 10** P.1687:2 AD 29 After the 3rd preaching tour, Jesus' followers assembled at Bethsaida as sober, serious, and disillusioned preachers
- 11** P.1858:1 AD 30 Jesus' last sermon at Pella. It embraced a full and complete discussion of the kingdom of heaven.
- 12** P.1688:1 AD 29 The Master talked to the groups on "The mission of adversity and the spiritual value of disappointment."
- 13** P.1868:3 AD 30 Jesus and his twelve apostles took final leave of the Pella encampment, starting on their tour of Perea.
- 15** P.1868:6 AD 30 Acting on Apostle Andrew's instructions David Zebedee closed the visitors' camp at Pella
- 16** P.1362:1 AD 1 The fourth member of the Nazareth family, Joseph, was born on a Wednesday morning.
- 17** P.1637:1 AD 28 The first public preaching tour of Galilee ended with the return to Capernaum.
- 20** P.1373:4 AD 7 Jesus graduated from the local school of the Nazareth synagogue.
- 24** P.1421:6 AD 22 Jesus left Zebedee and Capernaum. He asked for a small sum of money to defray his expenses to Jerusalem.
- 25** P.1496:1 7 BC John the Baptist was born in accordance with the promise that Gabriel made to Elizabeth .
- 26** P.1889:1 AD 30 After the 10 day period from the 15th to the 25th money-changers moved to Jerusalem and set up their exchange tables in the courts of the temple.
- 27** P.1700:2 AD29 Jesus and the twelve planned to escape to the opposite shore but the people would not have it so.
- 28** P.1700:5 AD29 The multitude had increased to over 3000. People continued to bring all manner of sick folks with them.
- 29** P.1871:3 AD 30 Simon Zelotes and Simon Peter issued over 100 swords to all who would accept and conceal them.
- 30** P.1701:4 AD 29 Jesus took the loaves and after giving thanks, broke the bread and fishes. About 5000 ate of this extraordinary feast .
- 31** P.1878:3 AD 30 The Chief priests decided not to seize Jesus among his friends but to await his coming to Jerusalem.

SCIENCE AND THE URANTIA BOOK

News article from the Associated Press. November 2006

VATICAN CITY - A Vatican cardinal said Thursday the faithful should listen to what secular modern science has to offer, warning that religion risks turning into "fundamentalism" if it ignores scientific reason.

Cardinal Paul Poupard, who heads the Pontifical Council for Culture, made the comments at a news conference on a Vatican project to help end the "mutual prejudice" between religion and science that has long bedeviled the Roman Catholic Church and is part of the evolution debate in the United States. Evolution may be slow but is undeniable.

The Vatican project was inspired by Pope John Paul II's 1992 declaration that the church's 17th-century denunciation of Galileo was an error resulting from "tragic mutual incomprehension." Galileo was condemned for supporting Nicolaus Copernicus' discovery that the Earth revolved around the sun; church teaching at the time placed Earth at the center of the universe.

The Circle Seeker

Newsletter of the Greater Lake Michigan Urantia Association.

Rick Lyon, editor.

Submission of articles, news items, or any Urantia related material is always welcomed for publication consideration.

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