



Tidings

FROM ASSOCIATIONS AROUND URANTIA

URANTIA ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL | [HTTP://WWW.URANTIA-UAI.ORG](http://www.uran-tia-uai.org)

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“067” Drawing by Carol Cannon

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2005 Report from the Representative Council President and Vice-President

Dear friends,

THE YEAR 2005 HAS BROUGHT many challenges and changes to Urantia Association International. As we were beginning the year 2005, the Representative Council voted their approval of the By-Laws by a strong majority. Soon after, UAI had its first election to replace some members of the International Service Board (ISB). This first election was a clear manifestation of our newly acquired interdependence with Urantia Foundation. It also heralded our entry into the realm of autonomy, which in turn, brought along the harsh reality of managing a very limited amount of funds provided by individual members and associations.



There was also an RC adopted resolution that provoked a strong reaction on the part of the Urantia Association of the United States Governing Board. This resolution was named Article 6 and prevented messages from the RC to be freely cross-posted to other UAI lists. At this time, this item is still pending at the Judicial Commission, after an appeal was made by the UAUS Governing Board to annul the vote. It should be resolved shortly as the Judicial Commission is now revising the case.

Following the adoption of this controversial article, a new resolution was proposed to provide a more open structure for the RC discussions but it was voted down by the majority of RC members.

As the year progressed there were many RC discussions concerning a request made by the Fellowship to have a joint conference in 2008. This delicate proposal resulted in the RC adopting a set of rules that would, in the future, help UAI process such requests without causing undue turmoil and controversial debate. Following this adopted resolution, a letter was sent to Marvin Gawryn, explaining the position of UAI concerning a joint conference. As long as certain controversial issues are not resolved, there will be no discussions for a joint conference.

Item 33 was passed: “regarding the desirability of changing the name of IUA as part of the re-incorporation of the organization under the laws of the State of Illinois, USA; UAUS moves that the name of the organization be established as International Urantia Association doing business as Urantia Association International. (IUA dba/UAI).”

The RC approved the creation of a new local association in the Dominican Republic. The RC and Urantia Foundation has approved the division of Southern Cone national association, resulting in two local associations, one in Chile and one in Argentina. This will enhance the efficiency and growth of both groups.

There is a resolution on the table at the present time regarding the 2006 Budget and the future status of the central office. We will keep you informed regarding the outcome of the voting.

The Representative Council continues to operate in the Team-Work mode, performing a cutting-edge function – attempting to unite the elected representatives of many cultures in discovering ways and means of bringing light and truth to the Universal Father’s children. ■

–Gaétan Charland, Canada
–Seppo Niskanen, Finland

TIDINGS

From associations around Urantia

Tidings is a monthly publication of Urantia Association International, whose mission is to foster study of *The Urantia Book* and to disseminate its teachings. UAI supports Urantia Foundation.

The Urantia Book online:

<http://www.urantia.org/papers/index.html>

You may submit articles about *The Urantia Book*, news about your association, stories, photos and poems to the editor. All articles are subject to revision. **Submissions limited to 2–3 pages (about 1400–2100 words).** A one-page article is about 700 words with a photo or graphic image.

Deadline: By the 15th of every month

Editor: Cathy Jones, cthjon@aol.com

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COVER: “067” drawing by Carol Cannon of New York City. You may submit images for possible use on the cover to admin@urantia-uai.org.

Tidings archives:

<http://urantia-uai.org/tidings/index.htm>



International Service Board officers

(First ISB photo, taken in 2003)

Top row, left to right: Mike Wood, Will Sherwood, Cathy Jones, Eddie King, Seppo Niskanen

Bottom row: Jerry Prentice, Shirley Pelland, Jeffrey Wattles, Gaétan Charland and Travis Binion

New people (2005):

Seppo Niskanen replaced Mike Wood as vice president

Mark Kurtz replaced Seppo Niskanen as chief financial officer

Gary Rawlings replaced Cathy Jones as membership chair

Carolyn Prentice replaced Jeffrey Wattles, Education

Peep Sober replaced Travis Binion, Translations

ISB 2005 reports and looking ahead

Chief Financial Officer Mark Kurtz

This has been a year of many challenges in performing my duties as CFO.

With the aid of the executive administrator I have maintained the financial duties of the UAI, custodian of all funds and securities of the UAI and the responsibility for the receipt and disbursement of these funds, plus preparing and overseeing the budget for the Central Administration for the year for the ISB and the RC to act upon.

Have served as chairperson of the fund raising committee, having the responsibility of preparing and sending solicitation communications.

Our budgetary requirements are not being met at this time. It is the sincere hope that this situation will be remedied in the near future.

Secretary Shirley Pelland

For 2005 I have assisted the president in preparing and distributing agendas for face-to-face meetings of the ISB and Executive Committee, and RC. I have recorded minutes of the ISB, Executive Committee and RC. Also my responsibilities have included assisting the President with assembling quarterly reports to the RC of ISB activities, incorporating reports of each ISB member. Maintaining a register of the postal address, telephone number, fax number and email address of each Central Administration member that shall be available to the Secretary by each member.

Communications Chair Will Sherwood

A universal UAI database has been created that will help the many associations manage their membership records and promote study groups.

After approval from the RC a new Forum List was initiated. A List committee, with volunteers from various countries has aided in this project. This new communication list is helpful to discuss a broader range of topics relating to *The Urantia Book* and the Urantia movement.

Guy Perron was appointed by the RC as editor of the UAI Journal. ISB approved the initiation of a news magazine, with Cathy Jones, editor.

The UAI Website is being viewed by many people, worldwide. The Webmaster is Mario Caoile, who lends his talents to many areas of communication.

In general, there is an abundance of local and international websites and newsletters.

ISB officers look ahead

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Membership Chair

Gary Rawlings

Being elected to the position of the Membership Chair has been a very rewarding experience from being part of the team that was involved with the process of the Dominican Republic for the inauguration of their association in April 2005.

Since the creation of the Database system it has allowed me to monitor the progress of both the International and Local UAI associations and in 2006 I look forward to working with the relevant governing boards to ensure that their membership information is updated on a regular basis and to be available for their enquiries related to their associations' membership, in addition there is a number of countries on the brink of becoming new associations and we also look forward to their inauguration day.

I have been very busy in both contacting and the ongoing relations with MAL's (Members at Large) and once again this has taken me around the globe and I feel very humble and privileged in being in this position, where by meeting the various mortals that are truth seekers and that we have one thing in common, *The Urantia Book*, and this is exceptional and that one day with all our hard work this book will be in each and every country.

Last but not least being a member of the ISB board has given me an insight into the tireless work undertaken by other members on a daily basis to enhance the teachings of *The Urantia Book*, and I am very proud and privileged in being part of this team, that I am positive will enhance the expansion of the UAI family.

Education Chair

Carolyn Prentice

In process of devising means to foster in-depth study of *The Urantia Book*, and facilitate the development of teachers and leaders dedicated to the dissemination of the teachings of *The Urantia Book*.

As Education Chair I am available to work with the Dissemination, Study Group and Communication Chairs in providing articles, study aids or other educational material for websites, journals or other UAI publications. Associations are free to ask for assistance regarding education resources.

Conference Chair

Eddie King

A manual has been developed to be used as a guideline for policies and principles for international conferences of the UAI, including policies on financing international conferences and allocation of excess funds.

Planning for the 2006 UAI International Conference in Australia is on track, with wide participation expected. The 2008 Conference in Mexico is under study at this time.

Dissemination Chair

Rick Warren

Because members gave their support to UAI projects in general, and the Dissemination Committee in particular, cases of books were seeded in Kenya, Lithuania, Zambia, Cameroon and the UK during the past year. And scores of other books were placed in the hands of prison inmates. In its first year, members have used our organization well to spread the light of revelation around the planet at book fairs, in libraries, through translations and in prisons. Teamwork is required to disseminate an epochal revelation to a whole planet. Our organization has shown its ability and potential to accomplish this during 2005.

In 2006, with your continuing help, the Dissemination Committee will double the number of *Urantia Books* seeded around the globe. They will be in several languages and in places as diverse as the nations of *Urantia*. This year's budget includes funds for seeding the book wherever teacher/leaders emerge, especially where material poverty limits access. These leaders and teachers appear more frequently as the previous dissemination endeavors bear their good fruit. Teamwork multiplies the potency of our service. It also hastens the day when the book that so inspired us is within the reach of all our siblings still seeking the light of revelation.

ISB officers look ahead

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Study Group Chair

Rick Lyon

The Study Group committee produced a “Study Group Starter Kit” that provides suggestions about how to start a study group of *The Urantia Book* and suggestions on how to make a group successful long term. The kit is based on a collection of materials and input from existing study groups. The kit was introduced around the first of October. During the first two months, twenty kits were produced and distributed. The kit was translated into French and Spanish thanks to UAI volunteers from France and Spain. Response to the kit has been very positive. As a result of this, a study group was formed in New Delhi, India, and one in Texas, USA, with other groups in the making.

The committee has solicited photos and articles from existing groups around the world to produce stories for the Tidings newsletter each month. Such sharing of information about existing groups should encourage anyone considering starting a group to do so.

Information about existing study groups has been entered into the UAI database and a letter encouraging all the local organizations to enter information about known study groups in their area was sent to all UAI national and local organizations. It is important to the grassroots function of UAI that the local organizations take the responsibility for entering this information. Local organizations were encouraged to visit study groups in their area to express the UAI's support for all study groups.

We worked with a few people that requested assistance to try to locate study groups near them. As the database information grows, this task will become easier.

The Study Group Committee is seeking someone to help with assembling the Study Group Starter Kits. Each kit includes a list of people interested in study group and any existing study groups in the area of the person ordering the kit. We could use the help of someone willing to research these lists of names in order to produce and ship the kits quicker.

Our plans for 2006 include continuing to produce the starter kit and maintaining contact with those who have received a kit. We plan to submit an article each month to the Tidings newsletter about a study group from somewhere in the world. We will encourage existing

Translation Chair

Peep Sober

A team of qualified translators of English, Spanish, French and Finnish is functioning well for the Representative Council. These translators are also available to assist the ISB and Judicial Commission in their communications and publications.

Upon request the Translation Committee gives assistance to constituent associations regarding translation issues.

Charter and Bylaws Chair

Jerry Prentice

My responsibilities include overseeing and coordinating the review and when appropriate, the proposed amendment of UAI's Charter and Bylaws in order to ensure that governing documents such as preparing for registration of the newly accepted change of name for the international association. We are in process of amending certain parts of the Spanish translation to ensure proper understanding.

Overseeing the review and execution of Charter Agreements and any other necessary documentation with new National of Local Associations in countries where no National Association exists, following approval of the new association by the RC. At the present time Southern Cone National is being divided into two locals.

study groups to send us information about study methods and techniques that they have found to be successful or not so successful. The growth of the UAI database of existing study groups is also a priority.

ISB President

Gaétan Charland

On the part of the ISB, new ground has been covered in establishing a very formal set of procedures to manage the decision process. A lot of work has been done to formalize and legalize our name and independent structure. Most of the business of the ISB in 2005 was dedicated to management and organization.

We are looking at ways to improve our organization management in order to reduce the workload and supply the proper tools to assure a smooth transition when board members are being replaced by new ones. The creation of an internet program could help us provide UAI with an archival and management system that would improve service to local and national associations while at the same time reducing the workload in management activities at all levels. We have to become more cost effective and help the membership understand the true value of its responsibilities in caring for the well-being of our organization and its mission of service and dissemination.

May this New Year bring us the wisdom and dedication to achieve our goals. □

Study groups in Indonesia

RICK LYON
Study Group Chair ISB

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.

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.

Our study group consists of 60% Moslem, 30% Christian, and 10% Buddhism and Hindus. We have never had a problem of religion because we study moral and spiritual problems. In our group study, one of the instructions concern-

ing 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).



The Prana Cipta Urantia Indonesia study group displays new Urantia books

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.

This is our experience from our Study Group. Thank you for your attention to us.

Warm Regards,
Prana Cipta Urantia Indonesia
Keluarga Besar Nitiprana

Prana Cipta Urantia Study Group
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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.

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My study group experience

Madrid Study Group (Spain)

MARIANO PÉREZ
Asociación Urantia de España

THE SEED THAT WAS SOWN in my mind for the creation of a study group was the visit of Trustee Richard Keeler and Víctor García Bory to Madrid in November 2003. I believe it is important to meet and exchange feelings with the closest people to the Foundation and the International Association, because it shows that there is a real world-wide movement and gives reliability to the movement about the Blue Book.

Several months after this visit, I asked Chicago to give some information about UB readers in my area. Víctor sent a list to me with all the available data from each reader, and put me in touch with the Urantia Association of Spain, for which I asked a list too. With both lists I made a new one with all the available data from each reader.

...the main objective of the group is to study the Book, to share different points of view and, in short, to enhance and to get better our understanding about the Book.

I had three ways of communication: first, for all whom I had their address, through ordinary mail; second, for all whom I had no address but e-mail, through e-mail; and, last of all, for all whom I had no address nor e-mail, but phone, through a personal call. I followed this order of priority.

I wrote a first letter where I invited to a meeting with date, but without specifying any place (so I didn't know the number of people to come) and where I asked to contact me if they were interested. It's important that the person makes a minimum effort to show their interest. If all is planned with place and time, it's very likely that many people won't attend, because if people don't commit to their attendance they



The Madrid study group. From left to right: Rafael, Mariano, Francisco, Demetrio, Blanca and Nana.

tend to forget this invitation letter too often.

I made a selection of interested people from the list, about 8 or 9 people, and I set an appointment at my house. In this first meeting the rules of our study group for next meetings were established.

Meetings take place monthly (usually last Sunday of each month) and they last about two hours and a half, with certain flexibility but always being respectful with the host. One member plays the part of facilitator and manages people's turn to speak to avoid crossed or segregated conversations, very typical in our culture. He also does the presentation about the chosen Papers for this day. Then the chosen member proceeds to do the presentation. Meeting after meeting, the part of facilitator is more spontaneous and every one of us can moderate if we feel so inclined. We don't oblige anybody to be the facilitator against their will.

We study sequentially, one document at a time or more than one if they

are related to each other. There is a lot of flexibility in this matter. We will be setting the progress as long as time goes by. I think the role of a "secretary" is also convenient, the one that takes notes about attendance, discussed topics, conclusions, the papers that we're talking about next meeting and the one that is going to do presentations next time.

Before getting started, we observe a minute of silence, that each one uses the way they want to, with the purpose of getting calm and be conscious about the important moment that we're going to live, but with nobody managing this minute of silence. This was a controversial subject, because someone proposed to do a sort of prayer and, before the rejection, I had to play the role of moderator/peacemaker and finally we got this commitment.

With the group experience so far I would like to make some remarks:

- Periodicity of meetings must be assumed for the majority of members. I mean, it's no use that we try ▶

How The Urantia Book found us

ROGERIO DA SILVA

President, Associação Urantia do Brasil

WAS A CATHOLIC PRIEST FOR 3 years, but 20 years ago I returned to the lay state. I got married and now I have 4 daughters. My greatest problem in the first 2 years was to reconcile my conscience with my faith. I knew I was not wrong in my decision, but sometimes my conscience seemed to disagree.

But I did not become a reader immediately. The book seemed to be very strange ...

Then I went to the bookstores seeking for spiritual books and I found J.J. Benitez, an author that uses information from *The Urantia Book* to write his books. Until now, more than 15 years after, we continue without the Portuguese Urantia Book, but it will come soon. After I read the 6th book from Benitez, in 1999, internet was

installed in my job and I did a search for information about those books. How could someone write so elevated theological ideas? I found the answer with a link to the Urantia Foundation web site where I found one PDF Spanish version of *El Libro de Urantia*.

But I did not become a reader immediately. The book seemed to be very strange and I waited more 9-10 months until one more great deception with Catholic Church. That day, on the way home, something like a "voice" in my mind said, "you have that book." Then, in the same day, using a notebook, I became a reader, and afterward I read the entire book at least 3 times. I needed to remake several existential concepts,



Rogerio and family

but everything ran with softness, and I was happy.

Religion is my largest interest and for my luck is also the main subject of the book. It was very easy to do the first adaptations in my life to turn me into a celestial citizen. The progress has continued and almost every day new steps are revealed.

Today my family, wife as a reader and daughters as listeners, follow *The Urantia Book* teachings, and all of us are very happy with this. □

Madrid Study Group

continued from previous page

to make meetings more often if there isn't any real possibility to attend or a serious commitment by all the members. Sometimes we were talking in my group about (and even trying to) make meetings more often, but... what a coincidence! The one who is more insistent is the first not to attend, no matter what the cause was. It's desirable that a meeting takes place once a month and keep a regular attendance.

- Another thing that we have learned is not to bring pressure on the members that don't offer themselves to prepare the work about the paper that is going to be discussed. This must be completely voluntary. It doesn't matter if they are

always the same people presenting the works. Not everybody has got the time or the skills to prepare the work. It's better for a few people working seriously than coming to meetings with nothing prepared and therefore improvising. At the end of each meeting we ask for volunteers to prepare for the next papers (usually two per meeting), even though sometimes we can discuss about only one.

- There is a certain danger in losing time in those study groups where there are couples who, trying to cause a good impression, get the situation complicated about "coffee break", mainly if meetings rotate from house to house. It starts with taking away real time of study, and we must avoid this

giving a stipulated time for break. We usually do it at the end (though this depends on the host), separating study time and social time. On the contrary, a meeting might become a gathering of friends who talk about any matter, not only about the Book. Of course, we talk about the Book in the coffee break, but in a more informal way.

Anyway, we must take into account that, independently of the friendship that may arise among the members, the main objective of the group is to study the Book, to share different points of view and, in short, to enhance and to get better our understanding about the Book.

I hope this experience will be useful for someone. Hugs. □

Mike MacIsaac, Chris Kowal and Chris Wood

Joy to the World

BENET RUTENBERG
Greater Lake Michigan Urantia Association

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

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.

The simple answer is to allow the Spirit to find greater expression in our actions and attitudes. You know – that spiritual fragrance thing

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.

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! ■

Photos: Cece Forrester



Benet Rutenberg



James Woodward



BRAZIL 1: from our happy Christmas meeting last Saturday at Romualdo and Nivea home (at the center of 1st photo)



BRAZIL 2
Group picture



Christmas pictures



BRAZIL 3
A happy lady



CALIFORNIA: Christmas gathering at the home of Jane and John Ploetz. Jane at piano.



The Same Family Tree

STEVE SHINALL
Northwest Georgia



SO, THERE WE WERE: Brothers, sisters, wives, husbands, children, grandchildren, friends and our mother. Nineteen of us gathered together around the Christmas tree with its multicolored lights throwing soft reflections in the mirrors, windows and eyes. I look at my mom, at my brothers and sister, at our children. We are all living reflections of the life that gave us life. Multicolored light throwing off light.

We meet at our mom's house, like we do every year, to exchange gifts and catch up on the comings and goings of our all too busy lives. A rare event to find us all together under the same roof at the same time. A small miracle in itself.

Our table almost groans under the weight of the food. And presents from and for so many spill out from under

Voices began to recede and everything goes to slow motion. She is holding a book. It is opened in her lap and she is reading it.

the branches of the Christmas tree onto the floor and along the wall like a festive river in flood. We have our health. We have each other. We are loved and we love. We are blessed to have so much, I think to myself and close my eyes for a moment.

I look once again at my mom. She is smiling quietly while watching her extended family making all this happy noise in her home. It has not been easy for her. My father died twenty-two years ago at the age of forty-four. He was career Air Force and we traveled extensively, living overseas and many different places here in America. He was also a musician. He always had a band wherever we lived. Usually an eight piece affair, four piece horn section, playing rhythm and blues music. I grew up thinking everyone had an eight-piece

band rehearsing in their living room. He once toured with Lloyd Price. The only white man on stage. He use to come on local TV every Saturday night when we lived in Savannah, Georgia. He played at the American Embassy in England and Morocco, Africa. Their lifestyle was different from almost everyone else we knew. They loved it. But it came to an end with the death of my father. She never remarried.

She also never went to church except for family weddings, funerals and the occasional Easter when we were young and my father was still alive. Due to lifestyle and belief (or lack thereof), both she and my father abandoned the dogma of organized religion long, long ago. She wasn't concerned with Hell. She didn't believe in it.

All my early attempts to talk about *The Urantia Book* never impressed her...as much my fault as anything else. Though over the last few years she would make comments like, "Steve and I kinda believe the same thing." And I would think, how would she know that? She doesn't really know what I believe. She never wanted to talk about God but in the most general of terms. She didn't really want to talk about death at all. We never got to the life after part. These things made her uncomfortable. There was a void between what she didn't believe and what she wished she could. She needed a bridge she could trust. Yet, I recognized the comments she made as a sign that she wanted to believe in something. At long last, she was looking. And I began to see it wasn't my words that impressed her but my actions: she began to question me about the conferences I spoke of participating in, the friends I had made from other states, other countries, my unswerving belief in "this book" over

the years, how these beliefs had changed me from the man I once was. She had seen the change.

Still, it took me by surprise, when earlier this year she said she might like to look at "that book you like to read." Normally, this would be THE SIGN I would look for. But between trying to make sure I did this just right and a hectic lifestyle on my part I actually put it off and then forgot she even mentioned it. Three weeks later she reminded me again: "I thought you were going to bring that book over." Is she serious? Is it more than coincidence she has asked twice? I started making plans on how I would handle her questions. At Thanksgiving, she said, "Hey, where is that book you promised?"

So, there we were: My family gathered around the Christmas tree and everyone is opening presents. Laughter and thank-yous fill the air. There is much movement, noise and merrymaking bordering almost on pandemonium filling up the room. Wrapping paper is flying. My son, Keegan, is the youngest of all the children present. His eyes are shining, full of light and innocence. He is pulling on my sleeve trying to show me his baseball cards. I am watching my mother. She is the only one not moving. Voices began to recede and everything goes to slow motion. She is holding a book. It is opened in her lap and she is reading it. There are colored lights reflecting and moving on the white dust jacket and I am finding it hard to breath. I allow myself one last look before I have to turn away. Everything is blurring. The lights on the Christmas tree are elongating and the stinging sensation is hurting my eyes. Keegan pets my hand and asks if I feel OK. ▶

The Wonder of Faith

When I think of faith, I often wonder why
so many people keep missing the boat
For if you have faith, stinging winds of confusion
will be blocked by this spiritual cloak.

Your faith can move mountains
though it's a wonder, when you see
How sometimes the mountains
can be you or me.

So if obstacles confront you
don't just stand there dismayed
Walk courageously onward
faith will show you the way.

Then you'll be filled with wonder
as your faith is restored
When its quiet footsteps
enter the House of the Lord.

For faith is the bridge all souls must cross
to reach the Heavenly Father's abode
So simply, believe and faith you'll receive
as you wonder, on life's winding road.

—*Suzanne Marie Kelly*
Lone Star Urantia Association



"Prayer before the Meal"
Adriaen Jansz. van Ostade, etching, 1653

The same family tree

continued from previous page

When I look back she is smiling at me and mouths a 'thank-you' across the room. I wave a "you're welcome" back. A space has been bridged between us... between her and the unknown. She has taken the first step upon a new bridge... I know it to be solid as the rock where Moses stood.

Later, when I fumble an explanation of how hard the Forward is and if she just wants to thumb through the book

at first and if she has any questions... she stops me with a hand on my sleeve and says kissing me on the cheek, "I'm going to read all of it." The sweetest gift, a mother's love.

So, here is wishing all of you, my extended family, a Happy New Year! May you and yours grow closer as the days grow shorter.

Thank you so much for the gifts and talents you have shared disseminating the teachings in your own special way.

We are all part of the same family tree...multicolored lights reflecting God's love. □

Shine On,
—*Steve Shinall*
NW Georgia

[Das Urantia Buch now available](#)

Urantia Foundation's Translation and Revision Projects

(December 2005)

SEPPO KANERVA
Foundation President



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). Apart for the eight printed books, there are two translations which are still preliminary and available only on CDs:

the **Portuguese** (2003; 186 million) and the **Rumanian** (2004; 30 million speakers). 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 organised before the printing machines 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.

In addition to the above projects the Foundation is 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. □

New web-based format for the Urantia Book Internet School

<http://www.urantiabookschool.org>

DOROTHY ELDER
Director, UBIS
delder03@sprynet.com

REGISTRATION FOR THE JANUARY 2006 SEMESTER of the Urantia Book Internet School began on Monday, January 2, via its new website. After a year of preparation and testing, the UBIS will now be presenting its courses with a new web-based format. The UBIS is an Educational/Outreach project of the Urantia Foundation, and the development of the website was made possible through generous reader contributions to the Foundation earmarked for the UBIS. In addition to the readership's funding support and the Foundation's administrative support, many hours were given by the UBIS's teachers and volunteers in working with the web designer and testing the website. Thanks to everyone who helped to bring this about. It was truly a team effort!

Please come and join us and participate in the UBIS's Inaugural semester of courses using the new website.

The Semester begins with Registration on or after 12:01 AM (Eastern time) January 2, 2006.

Go to the UBIS page of the UF website:

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

There you will find the link to the new website and directions to register.

<http://www.urantiabookschool.org>

The course titles and Teacher/Facilitators for January are:

PART III

TITLE: A STUDY OF THE SUPREME

PAPERS 115, 116, 117 and 118

TEACHER/FACILITATOR:
POLLY FRIEDMAN

Course Descriptor: This study explores the definition, nature, expression and evolution of the Supreme Being, with emphasis on the Supreme's relationship to the universe, the Trinity and the individual. Study questions are designed around the expanded truth that leads to a personal enhancement of the meanings and values of every day life. The goal is a deeper appreciation for the universe plan that leads to increased worship, love and service.

THEMATIC STUDY

TITLE: THE KINGDOMS OF MEN AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD

PAPERS 52, 70, 71, 99 and 170

TEACHER/FACILITATOR:
MARY STEIGERWALD

Course Descriptor: Following the "Origin, History and Destiny" approach, this course is designed to

foster an understanding of our planet's social and evolutionary path to the present, and explores the future with the good news of the prospects for peace and brotherhood on our planet.

THEMATIC STUDY

TITLE: LIVING THE LIFE OF A MORTAL

PAPERS 5, 110, 140 and 160

TEACHER/FACILITATOR:
RICK LYON

Course Descriptor: The four papers that make up this course concern the common every day issues of "such a life on such a planet". Each paper contributes insights into building the unified whole, a Life Instruction Manual for living the life of a mortal.