



Tidings

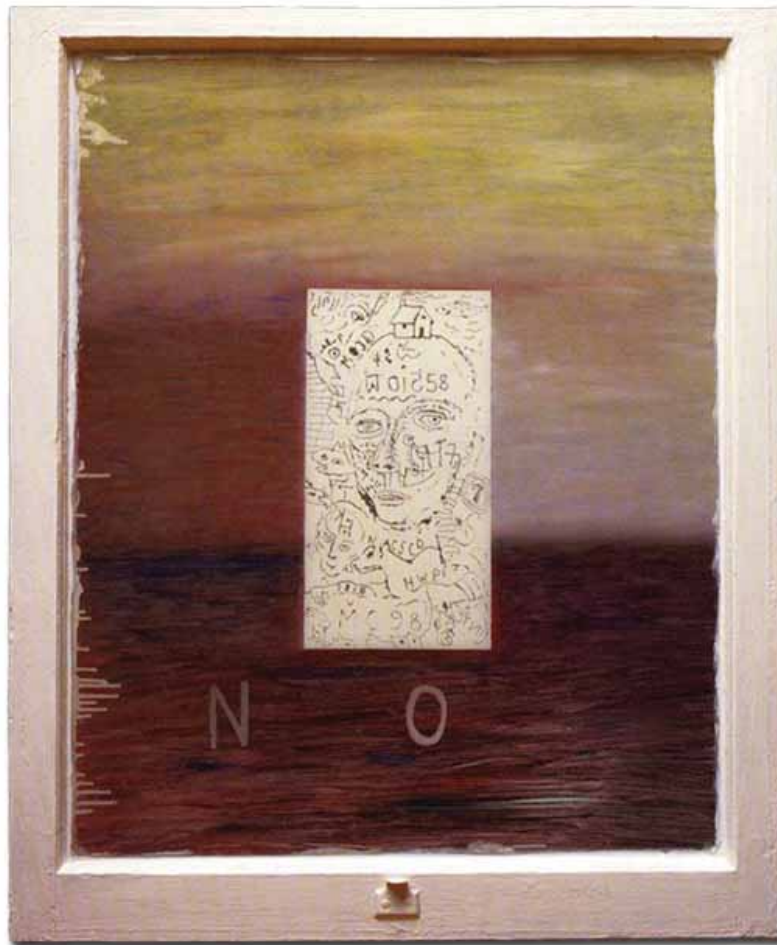
FROM ASSOCIATIONS AROUND URANTIA

First Anniversary Issue

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

№ 13 ■ JUNE 2006

"New Opportunity" oil, enamel on window, painting by M. Caoile



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President's Message

Dear Friends,



LAST MONTH I INFORMED you that some members of the ISB were meeting in Chicago to lay the ground work necessary to help create a strategic plan that would engage UAI fully in the realization of its mission. This project is one of the most important efforts that the members of the ISB will engage themselves in this year. Not only will this need a long term commitment on their part, but it will require the support, efforts and dedication of all UAI members, dedicated to serving the Revelation in the enactment of its mission.

During our three days meeting, we had the opportunity to have with us as an observer and co-worker, Benet Rutenburg, the UAUS president. His keen sense of observation and experience, coupled with his sincere desire to serve has made his contribution very useful and worthwhile. The meeting was very productive and each one contributed wisely to the evolving project.

Here are some of the conclusions that we feel are necessary to fulfill before the many associations of UAI are ready to engage themselves successfully in the implementation of a wise and workable strategic plan.

1. We recognise that communication is essential to the growth and welfare of any association. Each association is to be encouraged to publish a news letter not only dedicated to their members but the general readership of their own area. The news letter Tidings could very well help us in this direction by incorporating local news. UAI and all its associations need to publish a paper version of its Journal to all its members and occasionally to the general readership.
2. Supply a welcome package for new members, which would include all the necessary information to help them understand the history and mission of UAI. It would also include many necessary documents such as the Charter, By-laws and DOT. It could also include the list of all the study groups in their area and a list of all the project that UAI is engaged in and ways to participate.
3. Put in place a standard way for collecting dues from members and revise the way UAI perceived its regular funds.
4. Redefine the role of study groups in our organisation and support we can give to the ones outside of UAI. What role study groups play in fostering leadership and teachers. Develop teaching programs that could be implemented in study groups.
5. Redefine the role of conferences and their frequency to accommodate training opportunities for leaders and teachers. Encourage local one day conference and workshops in relations to national conferences.
6. Provide every association with the tools necessary to alleviate the burden of bureaucracy by providing the service of an Intranet that would also serve as an archiving place to help future generations of readers to appreciate and understand our history and mission.
7. We also recognise the need to inform and train the leaders of our organisation in the ways to accomplish our mission. Emphasis is to be placed on study groups, and board members of every association should actively promote this activity as it is in the forefront of the means by which to accomplish our purpose.

We left the meeting with a sense of direction and the realization that there is much work to do. We have scheduled our next meeting for the end of October. We will probably use this

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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

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Tidings archives:

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

The First Anniversary Edition of Tidings



IN APRIL, 2005, as Executive Administrator of UAI, I made a request to the International Service Board (ISB) for permission to start a monthly news magazine on the UAI Website that would feature news articles from our international community.

The birth of this idea was the result of a need to fill an apparent void in the realization of transparency of the Representative Council (RC) and ISB and the prompt publication of their announcements and decisions to the members.

In researching a “name” for the magazine I asked a friend to read what the Thesaurus said about “news.” When she came to the word “tidings” I said “that’s it!” As readers I believe we all relate the word to “glad tidings” as used many times in *The Urantia Book*. So, we bring to you Tidings of great joy, connecting us as a brotherhood of believers.

Your response has made the magazine a success. Thank you all very much. As we start our second year with this publication it is hoped that you will

continue sending your news and sharing your experience with *The Urantia Book*.

A debt of gratitude to Mario Caoile, layout and design and to our translators, Olga Lopez and Line St-Pierre.

—Cathy Jones, Editor
Tidings From Associations
Around Urantia

President’s Message

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opportunity to invite other national board members to participate in this momentous effort.

As for the regular news, the ISB is at this time exploring ways to make its business more transparent to the general membership. It is also proceeding with the business of the registration process of UAI as a new legal entity.

On the part of the RC, no business is on the table at this time, the last item had to do with the name change.

Good reading ☐

In Spirit and Brotherhood,

—Gaetan Charland,
President UAI

Keep Our UAI Circuits Connected

UAI MEMBERS AND FRIENDS are invited to stay connected! This is important even in a mobile society where people change jobs and living quarters. We need your current mailing address, email address, and telephone numbers on file so that we are able to contact you when necessary.

Local association governing boards are asked to review member contact information monthly and update the UAI Online Database whenever new contact information is received on any person. The secretary has primary responsibility for this task.

Please contact your local association or if necessary your national association secretary with new contact data when there are changes. This is appreciated.

—Gary Rawlings
Membership Chair, ISB

How The Urantia Book Found Me: A Mission of Mercy

JAMES H. PERRY
Virginia Carolina Readers
Membership Chair



Dr James Perry at home.

THE YEAR WAS 1976, and I was just about midway through my medical internship. As this year unfolded, I was still struggling with two unresolved problems: the problem of making a living and the problem of finding sustaining meaning in life. About 8 years ago I had walked

And as the time progressed I came to realize a simple purpose for my life: And that was to wholeheartedly do the Father's will.

away from a military career that had solved the problem of making a living, but after 7 years of investment had failed to provide me with a sustaining purpose. And as I reflected upon these

two problems I realized that I was still very much dissatisfied in terms of finding sustaining meaning.

I had graduated from Medical School about 8 months previously, and though it was a substantial intellectual accomplishment, I still felt

deeply dissatisfied in my soul. The accomplishment failed to provide sustaining meaning. I somehow felt that it should have increased my level of spiritual satisfaction but it did not. While practicing the profession of medicine would almost of a certainty solve my economic problems if I stayed with the program, I was reminded that this profession could also go up in smoke like the military career when something that I could not identify deep down inside of me rebelled. I felt I was really in a bind.

It was about 2:00 AM in the morning one night during that year, when I had been called to check on a patient on one of the wards. I arrived on the ward, but did not readily see a nurse. I looked at the ward station, and peered back into a cubby space and spotted the nurse reading a big blue book. Now I was always curious when it came to books, especially someone reading a book that time of morning. I spoke to her and introduced myself to her. She told me that there was a patient who needed to

have his intravenous fluids restarted, the previous one had infiltrated, that is it had come out of his vein. In the course of our conversation I asked her what she was reading. She responded with a series of superlative adjectives such as wonderful, mind blowing, and colloquially a something else, etc. I asked her to let me look at the book momentarily. I checked the table of contents and found myself dumbfounded by the titles of the papers. I asked her where I could get one, and she volunteered to get one for me. I then completed the medical task that had brought me to the ward in the first place.

Several months went by, and I did not see the nurse again until finally I was on call again one night when she was also working. I asked her about the book and where I might get one. She apologized for not getting one for me but said she had been extremely

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How The Urantia Book Found Me: a mission of mercy

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busy, and was not able to pick one up for me at the Yes Book Store in the Georgetown section of Washington D.C. Not long after that, one summer evening after getting off work about 7 00 PM., after repairing a flat tire on a busy street just off the 14th Street bridge in Washington, DC, I drove to the YES Book Store in Georgetown about 8:00 PM. I asked the clerk if she had a book by the name of Urantia. She replied that she had, and showed me the section where it was located. I quickly retrieved the book and paid about 28 dollars for it, and made my way back home.

As I said earlier I had not yet found the solution to my difficult problem of integrating the economic function with a sustaining purpose. I had already discovered that I received no joy at all from diagnosing illnesses in patients which seemed to be the chief pleasure of my professors and instructors. It's not that they were not caring people,

but their chief meaning appeared to come from the intellectual challenge of figuring out what was wrong with their patients. As one professor responded when I asked about the functionary and apparent callousness of some of the doctors with their patient, you can't teach empathy and compassion. You have to bring that with you. And as I watched those sick patients slowly deteriorate, my soul filled with despair at the thought that I had invested so much time in acquiring a profession which I hated. And this was my state of mind when I left my training and went into the professional world of medicine.

As I began to study *The Urantia Book*, after some delay, for the first time I tried to seriously read it, I did not make too much progress which I later attributed to the fact that I was trying to make the concepts in this book harmonize with my own concepts of life and purpose instead of the other way around, I began to realize that here was an outline of my eternal career starting right here as I was. It also revealed to me the purpose of all this struggling and suffering. I gained insight into why there was so much sickness and illness in the world, why so much conflict and trouble.

And as the time progressed I came to realize a simple purpose for my life:

And that was to wholeheartedly do the Father's will. This decision resolved the conflict between economic necessity and sustaining purpose as I realized that in serving my patients, I was indeed serving the Heavenly Father. I realized that though my efforts could not cure any of the terrible diseases that my patients were afflicted with, I could prolong their lives and the quality of those lives for a much longer period of time than if I had not intervened. I realized that by keeping them here longer with a quality of life, I was indeed helping them to do their part in actualizing the Supreme Being. And as I continued to amass the divine values and meanings through my work, I realized that I would gladly do this work for free, so enjoyable and filled with purpose and meaning it has become. Yes I did not know it at the time, but my unseen friends had mercifully reached out to me in the form of *The Urantia Book*, truly a mission of mercy. □

How The Urantia Book Found Me

—Part 2

FABIÁN HERRERA ACEVEDO
 Charter Member and Past President
 Barranquilla Urantia Association (Colombia)



Fabián of Barranquilla

AS I SAID IN Part I of my story, the clash of knowing too many things too young in a town which was a bit less than completely ignorant about *The Urantia Book* and its teachings, made me feel alienated from my society. It was like being surrounded by strangers in a strange land.

One day, during a class at school, a teacher introduced a subject that probably encouraged me to “reveal” to other young people the knowledge of *The Urantia Book*. I was always sure that I didn’t want to start a new religion or something like that. In fact, I was very reluctant to discuss religions, maybe for

the typical rebelliousness of the adolescence. I only wanted to show *The Urantia Book* to other young people and they could decide and draw their own conclusions after having read it. So well, the

In about a year, they read almost the whole Book. They became my friends and we lived many things together. Those years were just wonderful.

Father always has His methods. It was in a Philosophy class, early in the year 1996, when the teacher said “man does not adapt physically to his environment but he adapts his environment to him”. And it was in this class that I started discussing many topics like - the origin of life, the existence of God, the evolution of man, etc. I began to attract the

attention of some fellows. Previously, for a long time, many of them had been rather cold and unfriendly. Following these discussions, some of these fellows, full of curiosity and that thirst for knowledge typical of the adolescence, started to pose questions and looking for the source.

I had to use self-control not to speak to them about *The Urantia Book* for a long time, because I decided that it was better to share with them what I knew or sensed in an indirect way. After several months I did show the Book to them and as unreal as it may seem, when I was 16, I started a little study group with seven people. I still believe that we were the study group with the most atypical beginning, and none of us were more than sixteen years old.

In about a year, they read almost the whole Book. They became my friends and we lived many things together. Those years were just wonderful. Of course, there were always ups and downs and setbacks, but in general we kept our friendship and went on with the study of the Book. However, even though

we were a group and we could access the Book in its Spanish version, we felt terribly alone. We had no idea that there were more study groups or associations. We believed that we were alone in the world and we didn’t feel especially bad because of that, but it wasn’t very comforting to us anyway. We were very young and we’ve already known many things that people more aged than us didn’t know at all. We were, without realizing it, almost a brotherhood, but we were not closed, on the contrary, we looked for more interested people and in fact we succeeded little by little. So the year 2000 came. Four years have passed since they knew about *The Urantia Book*, thanks to me, and we were starting a new stage of our lives with *The Urantia Book*.

This stage was as significant as the previous ones and it was to me like a journey of experimentation and internalization through socialization and mutual understanding. The third part of this story is not my story yet, but practically the story of the Barranquilla Association in Colombia, that humbly came into being and making each and every member of our group feel that we were not alone in the universe.

So that’s the way it begins in the third part of my story with the Book. □

6th Annual Meeting of T U B Readers in Spain

OLGA LÓPEZ
Urantia Association of Spain

FROM THE 29TH APRIL until the 1st May, we held our Annual Meeting of TUB readers in Segovia, an ancient city quite near Madrid. The place, the monastery “San Juan de la Cruz” (Saint John of the Cross, a mystic poet who lived and wrote in the 16th Century), was very beautiful and quiet. This monastery is defined as “spiritual centre”, so was perfect for our meeting. And it really was.

We arrived at the monastery on Friday, at lunch time. All through the afternoon and part of the evening

I think the better aspect of this Meeting, more than the contents, was the atmosphere, the feeling of spiritual unity that we had during all those days.

people were coming and we (AUE board) were welcoming them. After dinner, we celebrated our first gathering for presentations. We were about 32 people from many different places: Madrid, Barcelona, Tarragona, Seville, Bilbao, Valencia, Burgos and Majorca, among many other places. Even a couple of friends who lived in France, near the Spanish frontier, came down to be with us on this event. We provided some material to those present, as one CD with secondary works, newsletters,



Group photo

etc., accessible from our web site. We did the same last year and it was very well accepted.

We started the “real meeting” next day, on Saturday. After breakfast, we talked about “How to disseminate the UB teachings”. I made a ten minutes presentation about this subject, based on Paper 92, “The Later Evolution of Religion”. After that, people expressed their opinions and their experiences about how to spread the fifth epochal revelation. One thought was unanimous: we have to “absorb” the teachings first, and after that show them to others. It’s not only useless but harmful of men to others and to do the contrary.

In the afternoon, after lunch, an out-of-program activity was done. Eduardo Altuzarra, our vice-president, made and showed a PowerPoint presentation about the Milky Way and the Superuniverse of Orvonton, according to TUB and comparing with modern

science theories. People were discussing with a high level of knowledge of astronomy, but there were no firm conclusions due to the ambiguity of TUB on the subject.

After this activity, there was another gathering for talking about another aspect of the spreading of fifth epochal revelation: study groups. This time Santiago Rodríguez, secretary of our Association and member of the Barcelona study group, made the presentation, based on Paper 160, “Rodan of Alexandria”. We were many study group members at the meeting (from three out of four active study groups here), so we were able to share our experiences and enhanced our group wisdom on the subject. We talked about the necessity of new teachers and leaders, not in the old way but more

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6th Annual Meeting of TUB Readers in Spain

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service-oriented. In addition, people from Majorca showed their interest in forming a study group. Eduardo stated that they will start a study group in Bilbao, with Carmelo Martínez as their host. That was excellent news for us! We've got only four study groups in Spain, and I strongly believe that we have the potential for having much more!

On Saturday evening, we showed a Discovery Channel documentary titled "Hyperspace and Life", with the latest scientific theories about the origin of life. As we could see, many scientists place this origin in outer space.

On Sunday morning the subject was "How to live TUB teachings". Demetrio Gómez, member of the Madrid study group, made a very brilliant presentation based on Paper 147, "The Interlude Visit on Jerusalem". He showed some photos of his trip to Israel and a map of Palestine in Jesus' times, for better locating the places named on this Paper. He emphasized the importance and the spiritual meaning of the "rule of living". Before lunch, we enjoyed another out-of-program activity. Eduardo Altuzarra showed another PowerPoint presentation about "How to disseminate TUB teachings", and Catalina Covas, from Majorca, did



The AUE Board. From left to right: Andrés Pérez (Treasurer), Eduardo Altuzarra (Vice president), Olga López (President) and Santiago Rodríguez (Secretary).

a brief but very interesting speech about personality and genetics.

On Sunday afternoon, we celebrated our Assembly, where the board of the Association informed the members about future projects and perspectives. In the evening, after dinner, we had our last gathering. There people had the opportunity of expressing their opinion about the Meeting, and I have to say that they were all positive. People proposed topics and made suggestions for next Meeting as well. Of course, we'll take them into account.

I think the better aspect of this Meeting, more than the contents, was the atmosphere, the feeling of spiritual unity that we had during all those days. As Carmelo says in his "chronicle", published in the last issue of "Luz y Vida", in those days we had the opportunity of living the spiritual brotherhood in a way that is almost impossible here on Urantia due to the

Lucifer rebellion and Adam and Eve's fault. I think this is the reason why it is so hard to say goodbye when the time of farewell comes.

You can see the introductions and a summary of audience's comments (in Spanish) in the fifth issue of our newsletter "Luz y Vida" (Light & Life). The archives of "Luz y Vida" are viewable at <http://www.auesp.org/luzyvida> □

In Everlasting Love

He is my Creator
And my Father
And my Brother
All at once.

The First Source and Center,
His love is there for all.
One has only
To accept it.

The gift of person
He has granted me
And you
And everyone.

The greatest gift of all,
He has given us life
As individuals.
He lets us choose our own Path.

He wants us to be like Him.
For us to do His will
Is to one day
Find Him.

The Eternal Son, he became.
The ultimate personality
And the ultimate giver
Of spirit.

The connection to all beings
Who choose to find the Father,
Spirit binds us all.
Together in love.

The Second Source and Center,
He is the Word of God,
Our brother in eternity,
The expression to the Father's thought.

His son came to us in the flesh
To show us our destiny.
To help us
Find our way.

For this crime of love
He died upon the cross
Then rose again
To guide us still.

From the Infinite Spirit, we have our mind.
The Conjoint Actor springs forth
From Father and Son,
Co-Eternal.

The Third Source and Center
Gives us the intelligence to know God
And the freedom
To choose God.

Reality comes forth by his bidding.
Suns and planets form,
And our journey
Then begins.

We live our lives upon this world
And try to learn right from wrong.
The Spirit of Truth
Is our conscience.



"Supper at Emmaus" Rembrandt van Rijn , 1629

A Father-fragment dwells within us.
Our guide can only show us the right path.
But still
We must choose.

Should we choose to do the Father's will,
Then survival is His gift to us.
Our death
Becomes new life.

We awaken, no longer human but something more.
An eternal soul, we begin an eternal journey
Of everlasting growth
And everlasting love.

The goal is to one day find our Father
So we can stand before Him
And embrace Him
In everlasting love.

In everlasting love.

—Tony Daniels
Greater Lake Michigan Urantia Association

Smilage

As our life speeds onward and the scenarios change
And personality loses control of our age
Lets hope wisdom and humor have come for the ride
And pray we don't lose it on the down hill slide

Because laughter and wisdom form a pretty good ladder
That aids our ascent to the heart of the matter
Yet what matters most is not our means
But how we adjust to the changing scenes.

If in the middle you reflect the same
Or just off center in only half of a frame
If this is the case you can feel perplexed
But in any situation, never ask what's next

For this blatant inquiry more times than not
Is answered on impact and accompanies shock
Then incidents run rampant -But we'll outrun them with ease
As long as our focus is out of rampant's reach

And although they form life's backgrounds and settings
The way that we face controls the view we're getting
So always face forward as you read your life's book
And when the opportunity arises take a good look

What you will see without tunnel vision
Is that attitude is the roadblock or freeway of decision
So include a horizon with each turning page
And approach each chapter with a smile on your face

Look always for happiness as your story is told
And remember it's only your body that's old
And although it may put a cramp in your style
Just give it a rub... and go the next million miles.



—*Suzanne M. Kelly*
Lone Star Urantia Association