



Tidings

FROM ASSOCIATIONS AROUND URANTIA

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

Nº 17 ■ OCTOBER 2006

"Autumn" oil on canvas painting by Demetrio Gómez (Madrid, Spain)



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President's Message

Dear Members of Urantia Association International,

AS SUMMER IS receding and giving place to the autumn season, many of you will restart hosting or attending your study groups for the next cycle and others will simply keep theirs going into the next year. This period should be a good time to evaluate the progress that was made and maybe make some changes that could improve interest and growth of understanding, while promoting integration of spiritual principles in our lives.

I say this in light of the coming strategic plan that will focus primarily on study groups as a way of improving intellectual and spiritual growth, while fostering leadership and teaching abilities. If you have read the last two editions of the UAI Journal, you probably took notice of two articles written by Carolyn Prentice, which are part of a series of four articles to help us improve our teaching skills. What better place than in a study group to explore with others this program that could benefit every reader and imbue them with a sincere desire to integrate and disseminate the teachings of *The Urantia Book*. The experience of study groups can be greatly enhanced if we stay focused on its spiritual purpose. So I encourage you to make a new start and make your study group a place of learning, of teaching and of growth.

For those of you that are too far from other readers to attend a study group or host one, you would do well to register with *The Urantia Book* Internet School (UBIS). (To register see the UAI Website) This electronic school is one of the best around if you are truly serious about this book and cannot attend a study group. In fact it is in need of new teachers and offers outstanding training to that effect. While a discussion list and forum are nice to participate in, I doubt they can



ever replace the experience and value of a good study group or the Internet school.

As for the news-in September the Representative Council (RC) has adopted resolution 37, which pertains to changing from a two-year cycle to a three-year cycle for international conferences. There is also the question of the location of the next conference that should happen in 2009. This discussion needs to be addressed soon. The RC will have to decide if the present arrangement of having international conferences alternative between North America and the rest of the world or if it will be changed to a bidding system. There is also pending Resolution 38 regarding creating the associate members-at-large category. This category would allow new geographically disadvantaged readers who have not completed reading the book to still join UAI and have a sense of "belonging" as they continue to read. The discussion period has been extended for an extra 30 days to allow all associations the opportunity to consult with their members.

On the side of the International Service Board (ISB), the budget has been monopolizing most of our discussions and should be presented to the Representative Council for approval in October. We are also finalizing the discussion and the ISB will vote on the creation of an open electronic forum to the public that will replace the Urantia T forum. After this step, this resolution will be brought to the RC for approval.

On the Spanish side, the translation of the Charter and By-laws in Spanish has been completed and should be on the Website for consultation. A few minor changes were made to make certain categories of membership in harmony with the English version of the text. It also

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 700 words (1 page) or 1000 words (1½ page) plus 1 or 2 photos. Deadline: By the 15th of every month

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admin@urantia-uai.org.

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

incorporates latest changes made to the name of our organization. The changes to the name in the Spanish version are still subject to the approval of the RC.

Important Notice: Do not forget to put in your nomination for the positions that are open for the next election of the members of the International Service Board.

On the weekend of the 28th of October some members of the International Service Board will meet in Chicago to continue their work on the strategic plan. If board members of any association would like to attend as observer, you are welcome. Please contact me.

Enjoy your reading ■

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How *The Urantia Book* Found Me

BY DOROTHY ELDER

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Southwest Urantia Readers Family,
Executive Director, Urantia Book
Internet School



Dorothy in Chicago

IT WAS the winter of 1968. I was 36 years old, married with two children, ages 10 and 12, a native of Los Angeles and still living not far from my childhood home in West Los Angeles. I grew up with a Protestant background, but mainly because a lovely little Presbyterian church was near by, and my Mother, having a beautiful voice, sang in the choir. My mother had a broad view on things religious. She very much believed in God, but not too much in church doctrine. I remember the day when, as a twelve year old, I asked her why we weren't members of the church we attended every Sunday. She smiled, took my hand, and said, "Well, dear, If we were members of this church that would mean that we weren't members of other churches or synagogues or houses of worship. If we aren't members of one, we can in our hearts be members of all." That rang a bell for me, and I never forgot those words.

Anyway, back to March of 1968. This year began with much stress and uncertainty. My husband had been ill for some time and was in and out of the hospital and unable to work. His illness was very serious and debilitating, and as the future was very uncertain, I was filled with much sadness, fear and worry. About that time, my mother began telling me about a book she had found that had all the answers in it; a book that was written by the angels and it told everything about Jesus and the whole universe. She kept urging me to get this book, but the more she urged the more I resisted. At a time like this I didn't need to get this book and find out that, along with all my other

worries, my mother had, ... you know... gone off the deep end!! So for several months I continued to evade her urging that I read this book.

Then, one morning in July, my Mother appeared on my doorstep holding a big blue book. She came in, thrust the book in my hands, and told me to "sit down with this book in your hands for a while, and if after a while of looking at it you aren't interested, I won't mention it to you again." I was flabbergasted, a bit disturbed to say the least, but she *was* my Mother, so with a pounding heart I plopped down on the couch, stuck my thumb in and opened to book to.....

"THE YOUNG MAN WHO WAS AFRAID." I read it, and I read it again. How fabulous were those words to my soul! "*My friend, arise!*" ... I pondered these beautiful words from Jesus to Fortune, and felt like they were sent just to me!! I said not a word, nor looked up from the book, but turned to another page.... this time to "AS HE PASSED BY". My heart was filled with an unbelievable sense of calm and gladness as I read those never to be forgotten words: "*Graciousness is the aroma of friendliness which emanates*

from a love-saturated soul." By this time I was really wondering about this book, but gave no outward sign. I turned to another page and read THE ADJUSTER'S PROBLEM. I had no idea what an Adjuster was, but I read those first words: "*Uncertainty with security is the essence of the Paradise adventure....*" and my whole self seemed to be lifted up!!! I couldn't believe what was transpiring within me, just that I was filled with total happiness!

Without looking up, I quietly said to Mother that I'd like to borrow the book, if that was OK. My Mother said one word, "Fine.", and left. And so I sat on the couch and read and read. For three days I sat and read. I managed to feed my children and tend to their needs, but barely, as all I could focus on was reading this book. ... And at the end of the three days, I called my mother and said with a heart overflowing and a soul filled with certainty, "Yes, Mother, this book is written by the angels!"

And that's my story. From that day on, my life took on new meaning. My children became readers along with me, and remain so today, along with my sixteen year old grandson. My life has been enriched and overflowing with the joy of sharing this book with others. And, there isn't a day that goes by that I don't look up to the heavens, and give thanks for that wonderful day so many years ago, when my Mother came knocking on my door. □

How *The Urantia Book* Found Me

BY GUY LEBLANC
Urantia Association of Quebec

IN MARCH of 1973, a great transformation in my small life started: being in a funeral home, a spirit of fraternity animated me and I liked to converse of philosophy with those which had an open mind. I was 30 years old and I sought, through a very animated life, answers which were not always satisfactory. But here was an old woman all dressed in black, sitting in a corner, looking and listening to me. Somebody drew my attention and made me aware that she wanted to speak to me. With a simple smile, she said to me: "The answers to all your questions are in *The Urantia Book*." The days which followed made me discover the contents of



Guy, in a study group in Berthier sur Mer

this extraordinary revelation. I had become a student of this marvellous Book.

To progress and grow in age while reading and studying it many times made me a different individual. My Indwelling Spirit had just made the seed

of eternity germinate in me which we must gain with so much difficulty. Today, I feel myself well modelled with the will of my Celestial Father. I realize that, in my entourage and the voluntary service to my fellow human being, I answer his call. I am also very

attentive with regard to the people who seek the truth as well as those who lost the desire to live. Without forgetting to think of those which do not have allegedly no problem. It is never the work of chance; I am often at the right place at the good time. As I love the children much, my Thought Adjuster showed me how to love the adults. He never ceases teaching me. One day or the other, there will certainly be a fusion between him and me. Time always plays in my favour.

"Small thought for a myope"

Perhaps while walking in your comfortable shoes, you did not see yet, on the way of your life, the marvellous spectacle which colors your passage on the left and on the right. But, if you would stop to contemplate this marvellous landscape, the "click" of the interior spark could start at home an earthquake which would change your life forever.

It is what I wish for you with all my heart. □

Special Announcement

Many associations are now printing **TIDINGS** each month and mailing it to their members. We have been asked to limit our magazine to 8 pages in order to cut printing and mailing costs. We can still keep the quality and appeal of our communication piece - just shorten it a bit. So, please limit your news stories to **700 words (1 page) or 1000 words (1½ page) plus one or two photos**. If you need a special cover, please contact:

admin@urantia-uai.org

Thank you.

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Attention UAI officers:

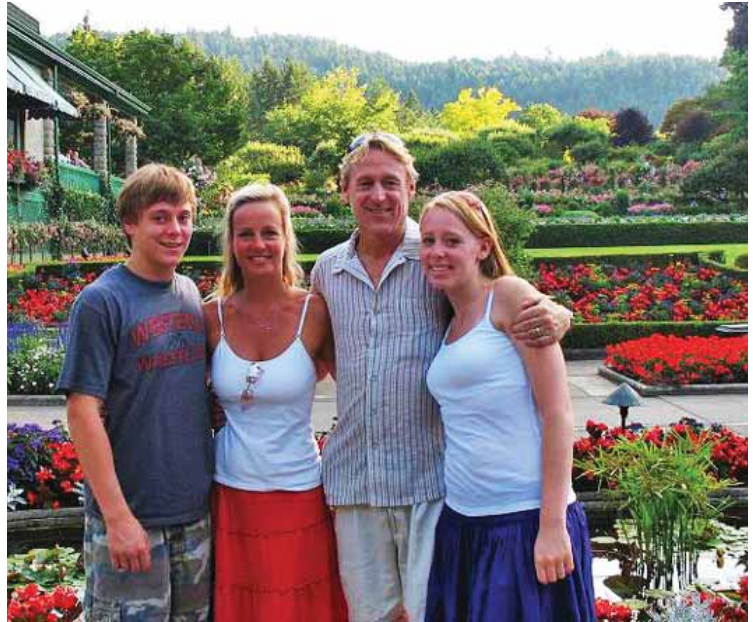
Please maintain a current survey of the contact information for your members. When changes in address, email or phone occur, update those details in our UAI database. If you are not yet familiar with this valuable tool, please send a note to info@urantia-uai.org or call the office and one of our administrative team will be glad to help you. It's easy to learn and updates are vital to communication!

James Woodward
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Getting to know the Trustees

Mo Siegel

msiegel@capitolpeaks.com



Luke, Jen, Mo and Kate Siegel

I AM A COLORADO country boy, chiseled out of the snow and rock of these mountains. The year I was born, my father, who was raised in Chicago, moved our family to a dairy ranch on the side of a 9,000-foot-mountain pass in Colorado. The stormy weather at the ranch proved too harsh for the cattle, so that spring my father moved to us to Palmer Lake, a little mountain town at an elevation of just over 7000 feet—still high by most standards—where I spent my childhood.

When I was two years old, my mother was killed by a drunk driver, leaving my traumatized father to raise three young children alone. Although my

father, a self-styled Jewish John Wayne, was deeply religious, he had always led an unconventional spiritual life. He'd married my mother, although she was a Protestant, and felt closest to God while riding horses in the mountains; he prayed by the rivers and spent little time in formal religious environments. At home his religious word stood supreme, at least in his presence. But like my dad and his father before him, I grew up curious about religion, unconventional in my ideas, and in quest of deeper spiritual meaning. As a consequence—and to the terrible annoyance of my dad—I asked a lot of questions about God and religion. During my formative years I was especially troubled by the apparent conflict between science and religion over the subject of evolution.

I spent my last two years of high school living at a Catholic monastery and attending their college prep school. I entered the monastery school as a confused agnostic and graduated as a searching Christian. At the monastery, one of the priests introduced me to the teachings of the brilliant Catholic theologian, Teilhard de Chardin. Chardin's elegant writing on the relationship between religion and science propelled me to read a broad array of books on evolution. Before long, Charles Darwin became one of my life heroes, and his theories laid the foundation for my thinking on the subject. While searching bookstores for books on evolution, I also

scoured the religion sections. I spent a number of years reading a wide range of religious books at an almost frenetic pace, ranging from Norman Vincent Peale to Taoism. The more I read on religion and science, the more I was convinced that science reflected the divine nature of God, rather than contradicting it. I wanted to understand how the world was the way it was. The idea that the universe was created in six days, or even 6,000 years, was something that wasn't working for me. I was rapidly moving toward centrist Christianity with a complete endorsement of scientific fact.

It was in 1969 at age 19 that I first encountered *The Urantia Book*. A number of friends had praised its teachings on evolution, and that Christmas a girlfriend gave it to me. I was surprised at its daunting size: 2,097 pages long. What confounded me the most was that the book contained 875 pages on the life and teachings of Jesus, including the missing years of his life—from age one to twelve and then from age thirteen to approximately thirty—not chronicled in the Bible. How strange and intriguing, I thought. Dinosaurs and Jesus all in one text. I didn't read it right away; instead, I lent it to a friend. But over the course of the next few months, people kept telling me about *The Urantia Book*. So late one night, after hearing, "You really have to read this book," for what seemed like the hundredth time, I knocked on

EDITOR'S NOTE:

This begins a 5-part series, "Getting to Know the Trustees."

The first by Trustee, Mo Siegel, is an article he wrote as part of *You've GOT to Read This Book!: 55 People Tell the Story of the Book That Changed Their Life* by Jack Canfield and Gay Hendricks. These are stories by a group of prominent people who pulled themselves up by their boot straps after reading a particular inspiring book. Mo's story is certainly inspiring.

my friend's door and told him, "I need my book back." For the next year, I was absorbed in reading it—and I've been reading it ever since. Even today, I still host a weekly Urantia Book study group at my home.

Initially, I found the Foreword to *The Urantia Book* utterly confusing, but I kept reading anyway. What followed was a fascinating intellectual and spiritual adventure that shook up everything I thought I knew. The first two parts of the book describe God, the Trinity, the organization and structure of the universe, life on other worlds, life after death, angels and other personalities, and Heaven. When I read Part Three, I felt as though I'd won the lottery. This section deals with the origin and history of our world, starting from the origin of our sun over six billion years ago—when it spun out of the disintegrating Andromeda Nebula—and ending with the birth of Jesus. From ice ages to saber tooth tigers; from the first human family to the evolution of modern government; from the story of Adam and Eve to the birth of prayer—*The Urantia Book* presented a logical story of physical and social evolution. It was the bridge between science and religion that I had been searching for, and I was finally at peace with the subject that had consumed me for years.

The fourth section of the book recounts the magnificent life and teachings of Jesus. Before I read *The Urantia Book*, I loved the story of Jesus in the New Testament, but I had always felt disappointed that it only covered a few years of his life. I wanted to know his entire life story and have it fit into a bigger context. Being born to a Christian mother, raised by a non-conformist Jewish father, and having spent two years in a Catholic monastery, my smorgasbord of religious education had taught me to question everything. How did the idea that Jesus was the only son of God relate to Moses, Buddha and other prophets? And if you were born in India and had never heard of Jesus, would you really go to "hell?" When I read the section in *The Urantia Book* about Jesus, I was profoundly moved: Jesus—both the human being and the Son of God—came alive in the most superbly written biographical literature that I have ever come across. In addition to reframing Jesus for me, it made me far more respectful and appreciative of my

childhood training in both Judaism and Christianity.

Simply put, Part Four transformed my life from one of doubt to one of faith, from one of insecurity to one of trust in God—with Jesus as the lens in which God becomes visible. As a spiritual adventurer, I was thrilled that the Jesus of *The Urantia Book* built upon the Bible, and then took me a hundred miles further.

The Urantia Book changed three major things inside me. First, it made me examine my values and commit myself to doing something worthwhile with my life. After college, studying and peace marches were replaced by the ordinary tasks of living: making money and raising a family. After studying the teachings in *The Urantia Book*, I knew that it would feel selfish and wasteful to simply focus on material success. So, as a young man, when I began thinking of what I could do to make a living, I immediately turned to the health food industry. I was adamant that whatever product or service I sold should be healthy and make a positive difference in people's quality of life.

Growing up in Colorado, I had developed a love for hiking and spending time in the mountains. Not long after I read *The Urantia Book*, I decided to start collecting the herbs that grew wild in the canyons and valleys of the mountains around Boulder. With the help of friends, I collected and dried 500 pounds of my first blend, called Mo's 36 Herb Tea®. It was packaged in hand-sewn muslin bags and sold to a local health food store. This was the start of Celestial Seasonings Teas, which today is the largest manufacturer and marketer of specialty teas in the North America.

Like all business people, I have had to make choices every step of the way. My materialistic side could easily have hardened me, forming me into one tough businessman. But the ideals I internalized from *The Urantia Book* kept pushing me to choose good over greed and to care about the people I worked with as well as the people who bought our products. In fact, those ideas were the inspiration for the uplifting quotes we print on the side of our tea boxes and on our teabag tags!

The second thing the book for me did was instill the importance of family. One line in the book reads, "The family is man's greatest purely human achievement." Everything I have done since

reading *The Urantia Book*—from my career to my mountain-climbing—has been influenced by my decision to put my family first. I vividly remember the moment when I first understood the choices this commitment required. It was December 24th. I was 26 years old and was sitting in the beautifully appointed office of the first billionaire I'd ever met. It was an important meeting: the billionaire and another executive in the company—also extremely wealthy—were talking to me about investing in Celestial Seasonings. Although the offices were emptying as employees departed to celebrate Christmas Eve, these two men just wanted to talk to me. It was snowing like crazy and I realized I might get stranded at the airport if I stayed much longer. I thought, "I'm going to miss Christmas with my wife and three young children...chasing after money!"

After a while, when the building was empty except for us, I asked one of the men where he was spending Christmas and what he was doing that night. He broke down and told me of his many divorces and how his children hated him. It turned out that he had nowhere to go. The billionaire also had been through multiple divorces and had no one waiting for him at home. They were hanging around their luxurious offices, entertaining a 26-year-old kid—because they didn't have anywhere better to go. The combination of the snowstorm, the two lonely men in that super-rich office and the quote in *The Urantia Book* about human achievement and family hit me hard. I asked myself, What's important in life?

The answer was obvious. I stood up and said, "Excuse me, I've got to catch a plane." I left them, those two sad older men, and went home to spend the holiday with my wife and kids.

The third and most valuable thing that *The Urantia Book* did for me was to make God real. I once saw a sign on the inside of a friend's front door that said, "God is knocking on the door; let's see whose face he's wearing this time." I loved that idea, but it wasn't yet my experience. Finding God on an everyday basis—and in everyone I met—seemed an almost impossible task for me. After reading and absorbing *The Urantia Book's* specific and

Continued on page 7

Urantia Book Readers' European Winter Gathering

**Loch Lomond, Scotland
24–27 November 2006**



Rowardennan Hotel

A SMALL GROUP of Urantia Book readers in Great Britain are organizing a gathering to take place over the last weekend of November. We hope that this will be a great opportunity to kindle new friendships and deepen existing ones between readers in Europe—with our diverse languages, we have remained perhaps rather separated from each other over the years!

We've chosen the tranquil eastern shore of Loch Lomond in Scotland: a beautiful natural setting, staying in

comfortable, cozy lodges—just the place to enjoy conversation and perhaps a wee dram of whisky around the fire once the night draws in. Indeed, the weekend is to be quite an informal one, with the emphasis on friendship. And fingers crossed: the weather may allow walks in the fresh country air or spending time down by the loch, with daytime average temperatures of 7°C in late November.

As we particularly wish to welcome Urantia Book reader friends from across Europe, Loch Lomond was also chosen

for its proximity to three international airports, one of which is a main hub for budget airline Ryanair.

We'd love for you to join us! So please act soon—ideally by 22 October; space is limited and bargain flights and train fares get snapped up quickly.

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More information on accommodations at:

<http://www.users.waitrose.com/~gavin/urantia-scotland/Urantia-Scotland-24-Nov-2006.pdf>

Getting to know the Trustees—Mo Siegel

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detailed teachings about the real fragment of God that dwells within all of us, I slowly grew to trust that a very real part of God has been implanted in our minds to guide our decisions toward God. This part of God—the still small voice of Christianity and Judaism, the Atman of Hinduism and the Tao of Taoism—lives with us in our joys and our sufferings. Experiencing God as something real and tangible inside of me and inside of you, and not just some kind of wispy spirit, was pivotal for me.

This reality has shaped every single day of my life since that time.

When I first heard people discussing *The Urantia Book*, they said it was a revelation, written not by human beings, but by angels, which I thought was just the goofiest thing I'd ever heard. I ended up reading it in spite of all that. After I read it, I was not concerned about who had written it or how it had been written because it was so powerful. I'd wanted bold; I found bold. I'd wanted spiritual

adventure and I was on the ride of my life. I'd wanted truth and the book was loaded with it. Since that time, I have looked into it deeply and I cannot find any author associated with the book. But that is not the point, because I love what it says and I'm a much better person because of its teachings. I've learned not to pick fights with the books I read—I'm appreciative and I grow from them. □

Jesus birthday celebration in Chile

URANTIA ASSOCIATION OF CHILE
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Group photo. More pictures at <http://www.urantia-uai.org/photos/>

IN CELEBRATION of Jesus' Birthday, a meeting in his memory took place in Santiago de Chile, near the Andes Mountains, where 22 readers of *The Urantia Book* gathered. His mission, his life and his teachings were remembered with the reading of Paper 155, with his two discourses on "true religion". After that we enjoyed a picnic in the countryside on a beautiful winter day, where we shared a delicious chocolate cake. The group left feeling happily rewarded for these splendid hours of brotherhood, celebration and study.

This is a summary of the opening speech of the President of the Urantia Association of Chile, René Román:

"We are together now to celebrate the 2012th year of the birthday of the Divine Master Jesus of Nazareth, which took place the 21st of August in the year 7 BC in Bethlehem. As we all know -as the revelators told us in *The Urantia Book* - Jesus of Nazareth was the seventh bestowal of Michael of Nebadon, a Paradise Creator Son belonging to the category of Michaels, and the one who created the Local Universe of Nebadon. He, in his path to the First Creator Son, had already bestowed six times before; as a Melchizedek Son, as a Lanonandek Son, as a Material Son, as a Seraphim, as an ascendant pilgrim, as a morontia mortal and last of all as a man. He was born in the

same way that human babies do: through the union of their earthly parents, his being Mary and Joseph.

"His mission was to make a new revelation of the Universal Father to mankind. In addition, when living his life as a human being and according to the Father's will, he made an enhanced revelation of the transcendental possibilities of man to God and to superhuman personalities. Another purpose was to technically end Lucifer's Rebellion while being a man; to act as the Master of mankind of all the worlds of his Local Universe; and to be an inspiration for all the creatures in his vast universe.

"Jesus came here to give us a personal religion (1632), neither national nor racial. Jesus brought a new gospel of eternal life and divine truth where love is the rule of living as much as devotion to God. He proclaimed the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of men. God is love, God is spirit, the kingdom of heaven is spiritual, and sovereignty is divine.

"Jesus of Nazareth insisted on two main commandments that had already been stated by the prophets: 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, with your entire mind and with all your strength' (1901-2) and 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' He left a new commandment to his apostles: 'That you love one another

even as I have loved you. And by this will all men know that you are my disciples if you thus love one another.' (1944).

"Jesus gave us the religion of personal experience, being in touch with our Divine Monitor, doing the Father's will on earth and helping the evolution of the Supreme and our own evolution in service to all our brothers and sisters.

"He lived just such a life of prayerful consecration to the doing of his Father's will and ended his life triumphantly with just such a prayer. The secret of his unparalleled religious life was this consciousness of the presence of God; and he attained it by intelligent prayer and sincere worship--unbroken communion with God--and not by leadings, voices, visions, or extraordinary religious practices.' (2089)

"Thanks Christ Michael for giving us so much. You are the Liberator of the world, a great light in the world.

"Thanks Divine Master Jesus of Nazareth for having taught us that you are the way, the truth and the life, the door that takes us to the Universal Father. The bread of life as much as the creative Word of the Father is revealed in the Son." □