



Tidings

FROM ASSOCIATIONS AROUND URANTIA

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

Nº 19 ■ DECEMBER 2006

"Rosa China" oil on canvas painting by Carlos Rubinsky (Argentina)



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President's Message

Dear Friends of UAI,

THE YEAR IS ALMOST over and it seems there was not enough time to do what we wanted to achieve. I feel like this when I look at the road that lies ahead of us and what we have accomplished so far. At the end of October, the majority of the International Service Board members, with four outside participants, met in Chicago for the second time this year to work on the strategic plan for UAI. Most of the work done during that second meeting was to assess the global situation of Urantia Association International. We also voted on three resolutions that are essential to our strategic plan. Those resolutions will be presented to the Representative Council as soon as the agenda permits it.

One of those resolutions was to adopt a motto that would support the spirit of our mission; I share with you those simple words that were once pronounced by Jesus, "Teaching Friendship With God". As we embark on the adventure of fulfilling our mission, this motto should always accompany our actions in our personal and organizational dissemination efforts. We have to remember that dissemination is the first step in teaching and promoting leadership. It is then followed by study groups, and later conferences.

At this time, the ISB is voting to create a restricted fund for global Urantia Book seeding. We have people that have come forth to help finance and work on this important activity. We also have received a substantial amount of donations from dedicated supporters. Shortly you will receive an appeal, asking you to match



those donations and we hope you will respond with a lot of generosity.

At the Representative Council, the vote was passed to permit restricted access to the UAI Forum list by unaffiliated readers. The Council has also voted favorably on Item 38, Associate Members-at-Large, but a minor technicality regarding the required number of votes necessary to amend the Charter and By-laws is under investigation and will delay the enactment of this resolution. The budget is now going through the voting process and by the time you read these lines, it will have been resolved. There have been a lot of discussions by the Council members about the financing of UAI by its membership and a resolution will soon be submitted that will require some changes to the By-laws in order to address this issue.

In December the Council will have to vote on the adoption of the Charter and By-Laws in order to meet the requirements of the new UAI registration. Once this is done, UAI will be legally independent from Urantia Foundation but still interdependent in its efforts to disseminate the teachings of *The Urantia Book*.

Good reading. □

Gaétan Charland
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UAUS 2007 Conference

SAVE THE DATES beginning Thursday evening, **July 26-29**, for the UAUS 2007 Conference. It will be held in lovely **Seattle, Washington** (remember "the bluest skies you've ever seen are in Seattle"). The theme is "The Magnificent Synergy of Seven."



TIDINGS

From Associations
A round 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.

The Urantia Book online:
<http://www.urantia.org/papers/>

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.

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

Submissions limited to 700 words (one page) or 1400 words (1½ page) plus one or two photos. Deadline: by the 15th of every month.

Getting to Know the Trustees:

Seppo Kanerva

"Get a Life"

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"GET A LIFE" was a not-so-well-meaning exhortation hurled at me by someone who did not share my views. It happened in the heat of one of the many list discussions on the now defunct "UrantiaL" in the mid-1990's. Back then, the list discussions, whose subject matter oftentimes was exclusively political, were frustrating: they did not constitute a debate with reasoned contributions and arguments; they rather consisted of unilateral political declarations, which convinced nobody nor did they accomplish a change of heart in anybody.

A reminiscence of this incident of years ago surfaced in my mind the other day and made me stop and ponder: What kind of life had I got? I felt that my life had been a happy one; I was (and continue to be) a happy creature. I have learned that my happiness has its roots in my being a son of God. My childhood home was not particularly religious; religious ideas hardly came up for discussion. But I have, since very early days of my life, believed that I am incessantly before the face of God. I have nurtured a personal religious approach, originally home-woven, but later, along with the religious education, I received in school, my intellectual religious thinking became a mixture of a personal relationship with God and Christian religious tenets and dogmas.

Later in my life, in my teens and early twenties, my religious convictions generated also social awareness in me. I concluded and realised that there existed a wide gap between my — and not only my but by and

large the prevailing — religious ideals and the social, societal and political conditions of the world. A compelling desire was born in my heart to change the world so that it would finally be more in harmony with Christian ideals. This process of observing the world — with its innumerable injustices, its violence, cruelty, wars (in Vietnam and elsewhere), poverty, selfishness, indifference to the miseries of so many thousands of millions of our fellow men who live in developing countries — resulted ultimately in a conviction that only a revolution, turning the old world upside down, would save the world and bring decency into it. I travelled far to the left; I became a Marxist and a professed atheist. Yet, also when my mouth was declaring and professing atheism, I did, deep in my heart, know that I am incessantly before the face of the Heavenly Father. And all of it was confirmed when I, at the age of 33, at long last was introduced into *The Urantia Book*. The revelation cleared up my thinking: revolution is absolutely not the way to transform the world; only the realisation of the brotherhood of man is.

I was born 63 years ago in a small town in the West of Finland. My country was, at that time, at war against the Soviet Union. I am the elder brother to three lovely sisters, uncle to a number of nieces and nephews, and granduncle to seven. My bus-driver father and the only breadwinner of our family died of chronic kidney troubles when I had hardly turned 17. My mother, who had until then been a homemaker, and who was of poor health, had to seek a job so to be able to support the surviving family. After many disappointing experiences my mother was employed by a mental hospital as an assistant nurse. Soon after my father's death I, too, tried to earn some money; my occupation was that of a telegraphist. I went to school during the day, and after the school I walked to the telegraph office. Because it concerned a small town and there were not too many telegrams to handle, I was able to do my homework at the desk of the telegraph



office, and was usually through with it by the closing time at 9 p.m.

I graduated from the lyceum (you would call it "high school") of my home town at the age of 18 and soon thereafter I continued my studies at the Institute of Posts and Telegraphs. The institute was in Helsinki, the capital of my country. It meant that I left my mother, sisters and childhood home and travelled to Helsinki where I started my independent life at the age of 19. Once I had graduated from the institute, I was appointed a junior officer at the National Board of Posts and Telegraphs. I also enrolled in the Helsinki University, where I did my best in the law department — a few years later, in the philological (language) department. But as I had to work full time and earn money, I could not give the necessary attention to my academic studies, consequently my toiling in the university was never a great success. Soon after my political "awakening" I quit my junior officership at the Board of Posts and Telegraphs, joined the peace movement and was employed as one of the Secretaries of the Peace Committee.

My independence in a big city, away from my mum's watchful eye, gave me a chance to start building my own life and solving my own problems. I had, as far back as I could remember, felt that I was different from all other boys. For a long time I believed, as most of my kind believe, that I was the only one. Once I had realised that I was wrong, that there are others, it became a compelling desire for me to find a life-time partner, one with whom I could share my joys and sorrows. My search went on for many years, but finally, when I had just turned 25, I found him. It is confusing to our friends that his first name is the same as mine.

For the two of us, there then ensued many long years of intensive political activities, endless meetings and rallies, sometimes *ad nauseam*. Maybe all of that provided me with some understanding of how organizations work and operate.

Then one August day in 1976 a friend of ours showed me a copy of *The Urantia Book* telling me that I should read it because "it gives answers to almost all of your questions." He left his book with me and I started thumbing. I turned up randomly one page and started reading; what I read was about Thought Adjusters. What a shocking and shattering revelation it was to read

EDITOR'S NOTE:

This is third in the five-part series, "Getting to Know the Trustees." The January issue of Tidings will feature Gard Jameson. —Cathy Jones

about those Father fragments. All through my life I had known that I am before the face of the Lord and now this knowledge was confirmed in an authoritative voice: It is not only that I am before his face, but that He indwells me as a fragment. I read that every human is indwelt by a Thought Adjuster — it then had to mean that I, too, must have one. I immediately discarded all notions of atheism. I decided not to resist, I decided to embrace Him. Tears were rolling down my cheeks. It all seemed and sounded so profoundly truthful. I concluded that since this one random piece of the narrative was so utterly true the rest of it must be equally genuine and truthful. I immediately accepted the book, and to embrace all of it became my supreme desire. Seppo had a similar experience a week or two later. For a long time we did not feel any need to get acquainted with other Finnish readers; we just read and marvelled. After many years I did however attend one or two of the meetings of Finnish readers, who had been translating the revelation into Finnish already for many years and who then studied the translated materials at regular weekly meetings. I evidently expected too much of the meetings because they were a crushing disappointment for me — and the quality of the translated Papers was incredibly poor.

One of the practical consequences of this reorientation was that I quit my Peace Committee job. I had passed the respective tests and was authorised by the Government to work as an Official Translator. So I became a free-lance translator. Fortunately, I won some prominent clients, like the Foreign Ministry (the equivalent of the American State Department) and the Finnish United Nations Association. The Indian Embassy soon invited me to become their permanent translator. In the late 1970's the Foreign Ministry sent me twice to New York to assist at the Finnish Mission to the United Nations. But I wanted to see more of this world. That is why I joined the tour conductor corps of one of our major travel agencies, and this two-year undertaking took me to Madeira, Crete and Egypt.

Once I was through with that experience it was time to do something else, and the something else turned out to be that Seppo and I set up a stationery shop in downtown Helsinki in 1983. He had his daily job in an oil company and I was running our shop.

The leader of the Finnish reader group had learned that I am a professional translator and he told me that Urantia Foundation wanted to have the second Finnish transla-

tion of the book assessed. I promised to give my opinion of the work, which existed only in three copies — a few hundred copies of the first translation had been made available to interested readers. I had five or six sample Papers with me when I was working on Madeira and later on Crete. And even if the second work was somewhat better than the first, it was, in my opinion, still far from acceptable. I let the Foundation know of my views. Then, in early 1984, I was asked to translate the book myself. I accepted the invitation with much hesitation; after all I had all those years been convinced that

...served the customers until 5 p.m., had some dinner and then got back to translating the revelation into my native language.

most of the revelation is untranslatable; it is too difficult; and the poor quality of the existing two Finnish translations just seemed to corroborate my views. Only when I was told that the revelators themselves had mandated its translation into other languages did I reluctantly concede. It opened another chapter in my life — one of active involvement in the dissemination of the revelation. I guess that the same chapter still continues.

My conceding to translate the book meant many years of hard work. Practically every morning at 7 I left for the wholesalers, opened our stationery shop at 9, served the customers until 5 p.m., had some dinner and then got back to translating the revelation into my native language. Some time between 2 and 4 at night I began to feel so exhausted that I had to retire. And it was like this from 1984 until 1989, when I handed over my work to a Finnish university professor in Toronto, who acted as my copyeditor.

In those years I was also involved in endeavours to get a Finnish reader organisation formed. The efforts were brought into fruition in 1989 with the installation of the Finnish Urantia Association, which thus became the first overseas chapter of the former Urantia Brotherhood. We were quite unprepared to face the rift between the Foundation and the Brotherhood which we had to witness soon after our Association's chartering. We aligned ourselves with the Foundation in this conflict. During the years 1989 through 2003 I held various positions on the Governing Board of the Finnish Association and its committees.

I was invited to join the staff of the Head Office of Urantia Foundation in October 1991 and was assigned to finalise

and format the Finnish translation and to format the Spanish work as well. I was also one of the first members of the (short-lived) Advisory Committee to the Trustees. I participated likewise in the formation of the International Urantia Association (IUA). My stint in Chicago was over in May 1993 after the Finnish and Spanish translations had been printed and published.

I was thereupon asked to continue working for the Foundation but to do it from Helsinki, from our home. Seppo and I were assigned also to work as the voluntary managers of the newly established Finland Office of Urantia Foundation, which was set up for the purpose of distributing and marketing the Finnish book. We handed this assignment over to others nine years later, in 2002. My other duties during those labour-intensive years were multifarious: involvement in the revision of the French and Spanish translations, participation in the recently launched Swedish translation, translating and getting others to translate a great number of information pieces published by the Foundation and the IUA. The IUA started soon to take shape and operate, and I was appointed as one of the members of the (now dissolved) Co-ordinating Committee of the IUA. As soon as the IUA Journal was launched, in late 1994, I was appointed its first chief editor, and I continued to serve in that capacity until 1996. At the same time and even after I had relinquished my chief-editorship, I was translating the Journal into Finnish, and after a while I took it also upon myself to get it translated into French and Spanish. In 1998, when the IUA Co-ordinating Committee was substituted for the Council of National Presidents and Vice-Presidents (CNP), I was elected the Council's first (and only) Chairman. In 2003, the CNP was, in accordance with the new Charter, reconstituted as the Representative Council. During many years I served also on the Charter Committee of the IUA, which was assigned to write a new Charter and Bylaws for the IUA. In 1997 my employment as the Manager of Translations of Urantia Foundation was formalised. During these years there have been numerous other assignments, tasks and duties, too many to mention.

In January 2003 I was invited to become one of the two first Associate Trustees of Urantia Foundation. On 13 May 2003 I was elected Trustee, and eleven months later, on 16 April the Board of Trustees elected me their President.

So, after all, maybe I did get a life? □

How *The Urantia Book* Found Me

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Australian and New Zealand Urantia Book Readers Association (ANZURA)

IN 1973 I WAS AN idealistic young man of 24 living in my home city of Sydney, recently graduated as an Industrial Designer. A teenager in the 60s, I felt part of a grand spiritual awakening with music the unifier of my generation. I was convinced that, a love motivated, intelligent youth of the world could effect planetary improvement. After all, we were not encumbered by the fears our elders grew by.

I had recently broken up with my first girlfriend after a seven year relationship. We had met at school and we were no longer being true to each other. She met another guy, an artist, whose name also happened to be Vern and went to live with him in Nimbin, Northern New South Wales. I was an emotional mess and a friend suggested I visit a lady who made flower remedies. On meeting her, she looked at me and said 'I think you're ready for this' and handed me a book. No, it was not *The Urantia Book* but another, what I term, my stepping-stone to *The Urantia Book*, the Ohaspe Book. I gratefully accepted it and began reading its quaint style. As I waded through its bewildering genealogy the pearls of wisdom that stayed with me were, a faith in GOD and the thought that spiritually motivated individuals need to make an effort if they are to experience growth. I became a vegan, took up yoga and fasted every Friday. My family was very concerned.

I had left home and was renting a room in a share house in the city, walking distance from my job in a design company. Sydney was full of music at this time and I went to many concerts and shows. I went to 'Jesus Christ Superstar', enjoyed it immensely though perplexed by the lack of mention of him in the Ohaspe Book. Though I had been brought up in the Lutheran faith and found its tolerant teachings refreshingly



Photo: Will Sherwood

free of dogma I was still unclear about Jesus. Was he, 'just a man', as the words in the song, said?

August 1973 I visited a friend and was browsing his bookshelf and saw there a big white book, I grabbed it and quickly saw the large section on 'The Life and Teachings of Jesus'. In my mind I was still holding to the teachings of the Ohaspe book and decided it was not time for me to confront this yet. I put *The Urantia Book* back on the shelf.

A series of events followed, starting with losing my job. Undaunted, I decided to be

My next puzzle to solve was the identity of Adam and Eve, so off to page 828 I went...

a healer rather than a designer and took up a scholarship in a Naturopathy course at a private college, there to learn massage, nutrition and herbal medicine. During that nine month period I became friends with one of the other students, a girl called Anita. Anita and I practiced yoga together and soon decided to journey West and join a community we'd heard of. In the Ohaspe Book there is a whole section about children leaving the city to form an alternate society. We bought a green Kombi van which we fitted out with seagrass matting and a storage box, the lid of which folded out as a bed, then loaded up with a case of dates and a tin

of cashew butter, a blanket, a sheet, a shirt, spare sarong and headed West. The 3,000km journey across Australia was a leisurely trip punctuated by mechanical breakdowns and repairs but we made it over the bull dust of the then unsealed Nullarbor Desert, past rusted wrecks of the cars that didn't make it, to arrive in Perth September, 1974. Spring flowers dotted the surrounding bushland, in particular the unusual red kangaroo paw and the electric blue Leschenaultia.

We had arrived to join a community called 'the Universal Brotherhood', short for 'the brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God'. I'd met Fred Robinson, the old man who started the community, the previous year at a talk he gave in Sydney and was impressed with his sincerity and humility. Anita and I were warmly welcomed by Fred, his wife Mary and 100 young men, women and children of 'the Brotherhood' living on a rural property at Armadale, South-East of Perth. As new arrivals, we enjoyed the group activities, work, play, learning and worship. It soon became apparent this property, called 'Shalam' after the community described in the 'Ohaspe Book', was too small. So we went out to secure employment where we could, then handed in our unopened pay packets to pool money towards buying a larger property. All this time I was still a vegan, only wearing cotton and fasting every Friday and doing yoga every day. My idea of a meal was to climb up a mulberry tree and feast on ripe berries. Three of us from the Community were employed by the local shire to look after parks and gardens. I remember wearing gum boots to clear water weed from an ornamental lake in a park. The edge of one of the boots was rubbing on a scratch on my shin. After a couple of days this scratch was infected and a day after

that my lymph glands had swollen in my groin and I could no longer walk. My body was having difficulty healing itself due to the extreme diet and physical routine I was putting myself through. In short, I ended up in the hospital with a severe leg ulcer. It was time for a reality check.

Fred Robinson was responsible for the first large shipment of *Urantia Books* into Australia, 'the Brotherhood' title sprang directly from his reading of *The Urantia Book*. Fred held two books up as examples of our universe family at large communicating something worthy of notice, the Ohaspe Book and *The Urantia Book*.

My enforced hospitalization was the perfect opportunity to find the answer to my burning question about the identity of Jesus. As I was recovering and beginning to add dairy food to my diet for the first time in a year, Anita visited and left a *Urantia Book* on my bedside table. When I picked it up I went straight to the Jesus papers. By the time I had read the first page on 'the Bestowal of Michael on Urantia' I was convinced this was true. Of course a Creator must become the creature to fully understand the experience of that creature. It's so obvious, why had this not dawned on me before? In that instant the mystical Jesus of childhood Christmas became a rightful creator parent of power and majesty with full authority over his own creation. I wanted to know more. My lifetime association with *The Urantia Book* had begun.

My next puzzle to solve was the identity of Adam and Eve, so off to page 828 I went and soon had doorways of understanding unfolding in my mind as the concept of up-stepping evolutionary races took root. Eureka! At last religion and science are reconciled. To know that the sure and gradual evolution from the lower to the higher is the ordained pattern of divinity was refreshingly assuring. I wanted to know it all.

It was time to read this from start to finish. The routine of my remaining stay in the hospital as my leg healed was spent absorbed in the pages of *The Urantia Book*. I was struck by the beauty and sheer poetry of the words which conveyed these new concepts with such eloquent elegance. My mind was taken on an incredible journey to the limits of my comprehension and left at that limit with sufficient understanding that what I have grasped is but a tiny fragment of what there is to know. And it has been ever so since that time 31 years ago when new understandings unfolded, as well-read pages are revisited.

When out of the hospital, with a large healed scar on my shin (still there), I returned to my friends at the community, we had enough money to buy a 317 hectare—established apple, peach and nectarine orchard with a colonial homestead, in a little town called Balingup and set about moving 300 Km South. That is another story.

It did not take me long to recognize value of the teachings of *The Urantia Book* compared to those of the Ohaspe Book which paled to insignificance in the light of this truth. It had served its purpose as a stepping stone to the source of a higher truth.

There is a saying, "...we set off on a journey only to return to the place from whence we started, to know that place for the first time."

"I know what a wonderful world it will be when we each learn the part that we play."

So it was with my experience with the community, I left the society in which I was raised and tried to establish a new one, only to return to the civilization that took a million years to evolve. I returned to Sydney and appreciated the unconditional love of my family. Even though they thought I had thrown away my education and career, I understood their concern. My prayer for them had always been that they establish and strengthen their own faith.

Other than the wonderful experience of living a rural lifestyle of communal living for three years, two special treasures that have stayed with me to this day are the teachings of *The Urantia Book* and the friendship of Kathleen Swadling, who was there also and for longer than I was.

To round this story off, my journey with *The Urantia Book* then took me to my first International conference at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin in 1978 where I met some of the pivotal people involved with the book. Some who I met again at our International conference in Sydney this year. Some like, Christy, Jim Mills and Clyde Bedell are well on their paradise journey a step or two ahead of us, I would like to see them again. I met so many wonderful people at that time who became my friends and were willing to have me stay with them as I traveled through the USA and Canada that I may find out more about how study groups were established and find out how extensive was the growth of the readership. During that time I met my best friend and fellow Australian, Trevor Swadling, who was in the USA for reasons

similar to my own. Trevor and I met at Julia Fenderson's house in Culver City, Los Angeles. Julia had come to Australia in 1976 in her capacity as Field Representative for the Foundation when I was still living in the community in Western Australia. The property we moved to in Balingup we had chosen to call 'Urantia', Julia came to ask us to change the name as it was a breach of trademark, we willingly complied.

Trevor and I decided to head up to the regional conference on Vancouver in 1979. Drove up Highway 101 in his Kombi van, stopping by the roadside to rest as we went. That was an amusing tale of 'getting to know you' as we each revealed our funny little ways and irritating habits. We eventually discovered tolerance and made it to Vancouver for a fabulous conference where we established more long time friendships. That's where I met my dear friend Marian Hughes who I visited later in Hawaii, traveled through New Zealand with, kept in contact with, and met again at the Sydney conference in 2006.

Trevor and I resolved to establish study groups when we returned to Australia, this we did. Back in Sydney in 1980 I was catching up with old friends and obviously told my good friend Kathleen all about my trip. I told her about a study group I was going to, at a guy called Trevor's place, did she want to come? She came she met Trevor, they fell in love. I was proud to be best man at the wedding on the headland overlooking Narrabeen Beach, one of the most famous beaches of the world.

Trevor, Kathleen and I worked at establishing the Sydney study group and made contact with other readers in Australia. Eventually there were enough study groups around Australia to warrant a Regional Conference and thereafter National conferences were held every year in the major capital cities on a rotational basis. From those small beginnings Australian and New Zealand readers have kept in touch with each other, registered ANZURA and have become members of Urantia Association International (UAI), confident that the brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of GOD is our planetary destiny. Words come to me of a song Kathleen and I used to sing when we were still in the community all those years ago "...my dream slowly fades with the passing of time but my vision grows clearer each day, I know what a wonderful world it will be when we each learn the part that we play." □

How *The Urantia Book* Found Me

RENÉ ROMÁN

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IN 1996, WHEN I WAS 47, I saw it in a bookstore called “Karma”, in “El Ángel” shopping centre placed in Santiago de Chile. I was going to a deeper study in Sufi literature; I had selected several texts and looked around their shelves for hours. I was paying in front of the cashier when, above and behind her, in a high corner—unreachable without a ladder—I saw the white box of *The Urantia Book*! When I saw the Index I felt happy due to the number of pages dedicated to the life and teachings of Jesus. Since I was a child I had tried to get to the bottom of the unknown years—due to my Catholic education—of the Divine Master, and this book promised to tell about them with exquisite details. Likewise, the cosmology of plenty of universes and the personalities who inhabit them called my attention. Of course I bought it, despite its high price: 48.000\$ (about 94 USD).

I had left many stages before finding the Fifth Epochal Revelation.

By that time I was still trapped by the network of “the central computer of the specie”, that “old villainous” that make humans sleep and hypnotize them, convincing them that they are awake. It’s enough to see the state of this mankind to realize that something is going wrong; fratricide violence, fierce selfishness, satisfaction of systems, self-satisfaction and also spiritual laziness abound.

When the book found me, I was continuing my search of existential answers as much as operational procedures to move forward. I had many wrong ideas; in fact I expected almost nothing from the teachings of men in spiritual matters. I had spent my life studying by myself philosophies, biology, history, anthropology, sociology, religions. I had practiced the Fourth Path in Gurdjieff’s way (not yogi, nor fakir, nor monk). I was not either unaware of politics of social changes between 1965 and 1975, a stage when I “surfed” and dived in these revolutionary waves. I was also a pilgrim



René and his wife Patricia Sairafi

of esoteric ways including tarot, alchemy, astrology and magic.

However, there was still in my soul that essential worry which pushed me to walk through new mountains of search and comprehensive experience. I was a bit lost and I knew. I did not have, among other things, the cosmic map of *The Urantia Book*.

Then I started asking my doubts and the book—which is alive—started answering me....

The consciousness to be conscious, to develop the essence of this being that wants to transcend to look for other opportunities of spiritual survivor is commendable though vague, uncertain, “strong-willed”, if it does not recognize the Universal Father and places itself in the cosmic plan of authoritative wisdom that Him, the First Source and Centre, has foreseen to his creatures. Certainly, man does not live for himself.

There was a process of many years of book study, in which the revelators made that scales fell from my eyes (even though there are many scales left); I had to abandon old ideas and prejudices, and face our destiny.

It was not easy to convince myself, because the first three years I studied critically what was revealed, I took notes, revised, compared, and tried to understand sincerely what they meant. I felt so blocked with the Foreword that, after reading time after time, I gave it up. Then I started asking my doubts and the book—which is

alive—started answering me and, incidentally, to teach me with the best of human knowledge, corrected by a kind of superior wisdom, mota wisdom.

Like that monkey, that primate putting his hand and forearm inside the narrow neck of that bottle to catch the cherry, with the tasteful fruit on hand, I found myself—before *The Urantia Book*—trapped without being able to take out my hand and the cherry. I felt tangled under those conditions of knowing, daring and trying. So like a lion breaking its cage, I broke my cage thanks to the teachings of *The Urantia Book* and got free from the eternal ordeal, according to the divine plan for each one of mortals, trying to do it with divinity of will, correct motivation of personality and consciousness of Supreme.

With Patricia, my beloved wife since three decades, we face now the voluntary commitment of creating study groups. When the student is ready, teacher comes, and these notable teachings were given to us by superhuman and celestial personalities who, enlightening our way, enhanced our cosmic vision.

Consider yourself the meaning of the declaration of revelators that *The Urantia Book* is the Fifth Epochal Revelation. Do you know the First? The Second? The Third? And the Fourth, the life and teachings of the Divine Master Jesus of Nazareth?

The Fifth Revelation was given to us for an approximate period of 1,000 years. In some way we are privileged to have the possibility of studying and practicing these guidelines and teachings.

Like this old account of an old wise man who had lost his key at home and looked for it in the street under a streetlight, a friend came and helped him to find it and, after a half an hour he asked him, why do you look for it here if you lost it at home? And the old master answered: because there is more light here!... So I—a modest maker—tell you: look for the key here BECAUSE THERE IS MORE LIGHT! We are ducks brought up like chickens by the “old villainous”. Some day we will swim naturally to the cosmic depths revealed in this tremendous work.

Read it, study it. *The Urantia Book* will change your life! □

Santiago, Chile

Urantia Association of Chile 2006 Annual Conference

HORACIO GAMBOA & MARÍA JOSÉ GARCÍA
In charge of the Conference

EARLY THIS YEAR, we began to plan and organize the Urantia Chile annual meeting. The place that we chose turned out to be the most appropriate for the occasion, located in a valley of the Andes with a very wide river.

We chose the 3rd, 4th and 5th of November because of their “waxing to full” moon. The day came and 22 Urantians got into the Andes through “Cajón del Maipo” to the “Hostería Millahue”, in order to get together with this marvelous revelation and, if possible, try to learn more about it.

We started our experience on Friday afternoon, among mountains, with a mighty Andean spring providing magnificent colors and exquisite aroma. And, of course, the river, with its powerful and relaxing sound, that put us in harmony with Nature.

Conference began with a moving welcoming speech and a brief summary of the subjects on the agenda, introduced by René Román, President of our Association. In addition, we shared our experience of finding the book, told by each one of us in their own words and feelings. So this is how the first day ended.

The first speech was given by René Román and its title was: “*The Urantia Book*,



Group picture AUCH—more photos at: <http://www.urantia-uai.org/photos/>

some aspects”; it was a captivating and intense summary about topics of interest and curiosity of the book, treating subjects as religion, Supreme Being, canalizations, UFOs, reincarnation and others.

We went on with the second speech, introduced by Lissette Mancilla and titled “Machiventa Melchizedek”. It was a very well assembled contribution with respect to the Melchizedek origin and function, concluding with Machiventa and his sojourn in Urantia; an insightful exposition.

Our next presentation was the responsibility of Yolanda Silva, titled “The Religion of Spirit”, an interpretation of the UB teachings concerning the religion in our daily life, combined with wonderful quotes of the revelation. It was a moving speech.

To conclude the presentations, we had Oscar H. Gimenez with his speech titled “Planet Origin and Development”, who enlightened us magnificently. It was a dynamic report about our evolutionary world, supplemented with quotes of *The Urantia Book*; it was a sweeping account.

I want to emphasize that these four speeches were given to us the first day in a folder including more educational material about revelatory cosmology, seraphic planetary government, human races, scientific predictions of *The Urantia Book*, and so on.

But not all was learning: we followed the advice of the revelators and combined study and relaxation. The place was perfect for this task. We had the pleasure of enjoying a swimming pool with thermal water at room temperature and another one at 34°C. The orography of the Valley of Maipo River gave a touch of serenity to us.

We organized a “full moon night” with a guided meditation conducted by a group member—Gloria Chacón—from San Rafael, Argentina. This activity was complemented by a full moon observation through a telescope.

On Sunday, the 5th in the afternoon, after speeches and a refreshing lunch, time to leave came, but it did with no sadness. Most of us know that we will meet again, studying every Thursday, being certain about the future regarding noble and wise guidance of so many beings that are with us and enlightened the way that will lead us inevitably, step by step and world by world, to the glory of our beloved Universal Father. □

Urantia Association of New England Holds Elections

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ON SATURDAY NOVEMBER 4, 2006 the Urantia Association of New England (UA-ONE) held a gathering in Sterling, Massachusetts. The meeting was attended by fifteen readers representing a diverse knowledge of *The Urantia Book*.

A short business meeting was held at the beginning of the gathering and resulted

in the addition of ten new members to the association. Officers were also voted in which resulted in the election of Nick Scalzo as President, Al Aldo as Vice President, Karen Koultab as Treasurer, and Phil Taylor as Secretary.

Following lunch Phil Taylor conducted a workshop on service and its relationship to dissemination. This was a study of how service-minded living leads to effective methods of disseminating the truth. The

discussion also included some talk about how study groups can foster the ideals of service in our personal lives.

The group finished the meeting with an engaging study of Paper 170, The Kingdom of Heaven.

For those who are interested in more information about UA-ONE activities please contact:

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