



Tidings

from Associations around Urantia

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

№ 37 ■ JAN — FEB 2009

"Korean Landscape Painting," Artist Unknown



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President's message

Dear Friends of UAI,

AFTER WATCHING THE INAUGURATION of the President of the United States and listening to his speech, I could not but think of the similitude that exist in what we are trying to achieve with what he is trying to do for his country and the whole world. His task is enormous and so is ours, his goals are far reaching and ours go beyond this world. His message brings hope, ours assurance of a better life, he builds on human values, we on spiritual ones, he calls on patriotism, we on spiritual brotherhood, he strives to rally a nation on unity of purpose and we are striving to do the same within our own organization and in cooperation with others.

When I reflect on the spirit of his speech and what is happening in America, I get a better understanding of why *The Urantia Book* came forth from such a great nation. We are seeing history in the making, We live in very exciting times where humanity is facing many great challenges. These are times filled with great opportunities. It is up to each of us to decide if we want to be part of the changes or merely be a by-stander. It is during these times that moral and spiritual growth is potentially strong. It is these times that offer us the challenge of expressing the will and nature of God in our life. Will we be actors or spectators?

It is not a surprise and it is a good thing that we will have an ISB election coming up this year. The call for nomination has come a bit late, this because of a set back in the agenda of the RC, but no matter what, ample time will be given to each association and members of UAI to look within their ranks and nominate candidates for the positions that are open for re-election. We might have to postpone the election for a few months, but better to do this than jeopardize the democratic process of our organization.

Nominations for any position on the ISB may be made (1) by any current ISB member, (2) by any member of the RC, (3) by any National or Local Association, (4) by a nomination signed by at least ten UAI members.

Nominations must state the position for



which the candidate is nominated and certify that the candidate is willing and able to serve and meets the qualifications for the position. Nominations must also include background information regarding the candidate's administrative experience, references, language skills, prior UAI service, and any information pertinent to the candidate's qualifications to serve as a member. Please refer to Article:

Section 6.3: Election, *Terms of Office, of UAI By-Laws* Here are the positions that are coming up for election:

- President
- Chief Financial Officer
- Education Chair
- Membership Chair
- Conference Chair
- Translation Chair
- One Member of the Judicial commission

We will inform you later of the exact date that the election will take place. This will probably happen in June, in order to reflect the delay prescribed by our By-Laws.

Regarding the ISB, a meeting has been scheduled in Chicago at the end of February. It will be an opportunity for the ISB members to meet with some members of the Fellowship Council. We will explore together how to resolve the issues that stand in the way of purposeful cooperation. The rest of the weekend will be used to reassess our strategic plan of the ISB

For the RC, the minor setback in the last fall agenda has caused a serious delay in the process of executing its regular business. We just had the results for the vote on the three ISB positions that were open since last summer. Susan Owen is replacing Judy Van Cleave as secretary, James Woodward is replacing Rick Lyons as Chair of the Study groups committee and the person who was nominated to replace Jimmy Mitchell as Dissemination Chair could not at the last minute for personal reasons accept the position. The position of dissemination Chair will be added to the list of positions now being called for nomination. The term

TIDINGS

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Around Urantia

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

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<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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Submissions limited to 700 words (one page) or 1400 words (1½ page) plus one or two photos. Deadline by the 15th of every 2nd month.



for that position will only be two years as it is called for a replacement. The other individuals were elected by acclamation. Those new members will no doubt be of great service to UAI and the ISB.

A last reminder, do not forget to register to the 2009 UAI conference in Spain. This is a great opportunity to meet with readers from around the world and share your enthusiasm for *The Urantia Book* and participate in the growing spiritual brotherhood of man. Members of the Representative Council, the International Service Board and I will be there to welcome you to this momentous event. Reserve your place now while the plane tickets are affordable.

I hope and pray that you will answer to this call to participate in the extraordinary adventure that we are all in; it is time to make a difference and be a catalyst for change.

In spirit of brotherhood

Gaétan G. Charland President UAI

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Korean Urantia Association Report

The Chartering of the Urantia Association of South Korea.



GARY RAWLINGS
UAI – Membership Chair
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FOLLOWING IN THE STEPS OF Catherine Jones was always going to be a challenge and since 2005, I have been involved with the Chartering of the local UAI associations for the Dominican Republic, Belgium, Sweden, Malawi, Zambia and now Korea, always being accompanied by the President of UAI – Gaétan G. Charland.

Each of those countries is unique, geographically and in culture, but unified by the reading of *The Urantia Book*. The planned trip for the chartering of the local Association was underway with dates agreed upon by David Kim the nominated President of the association. Having met up with Gaétan in London, we then took the overnight flight to the capital of South Korea - Seoul and eight hours later after flying over Europe, Russia and China, and eventually arrived at our destination where we were met by David and his wife. Having settled into the hotel on the west bank of the city, we were then taken on the following day to one of the major tourist attractions in the city, the Seoul Tower. This was an incredible visit to this amazing sight with views of the winding river cutting through its centre that were crossed over at various locations by a number of bridges, the view was truly stunning.



Scenic views of the beautiful Korean countryside



View of the Korean capital, Seoul

The following day, in the morning, of the 30th of November, we prepared ourselves for the inauguration ceremony that took place in the afternoon and this was truly a momentous day for the UAI and the chartering of a local association in Korea. We met with the board members before the ceremony, which took place after the weekly study group meeting which was held at the Seoul's Women's Plaza. David Kim introduced both Gaétan and me; I then thanked and congratulated David and his board members for their hospitality and for making this visit possible.



David Kim watches as Gaétan announces the inauguration of the Korean Association, witnessed by Gary Rawlings and recorded by Korean readers

After relating the duties of the Membership Chair, I then introduced Gaétan who gave an overview of what the UAI stands for and the aspirations of the newly formed Urantia Association of Korea, which was followed by a period of questions and answers and

then the handing over of the concentric circle banner of Michael to David from Gaétan was one of these precious moments in life that one will always treasure.

After the presentation and a photo session, a dinner was provided with a number of excellent local food dishes. >



David Kim, President of the Korean Association, accepts the nomination with gratitude on behalf of Korean readers

Korean Urantia Association *continued from page 3*

The following days after the ceremony were taken up with the visit to the Emperors Palace and the demilitarized zone (DMZ) that is on the border between North and South Korea, where we were personally escorted by David Kim and his wife and this event was extremely fascinating that covered the tourist highlights on this Panmunjom tour

On the last day we met up with a number of Urantia Book readers and drunk some very enriching Korean tea and discussed various parts of the book which was again another special moment on this wonderful visit to Korea and a great experience.



David Kim, Gaétan and Gary, experience the warmth of friendship as they visit a Korean temple

Having said goodbye to our hosts we then flew back to London and Gaetan went from there to Canada with vivid memories of those special moments carrying out the Fathers will.



David Kim receives the concentric circles flag from Gaétan

In loving service.
Gary Rawlings
UAI – Membership Chair. □

A Personal Story from a Korean Reader



DAVID KIM
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MY INTRODUCTION TO *THE URANTIA Book* is my life's most eventful happening. It showed me the revelation of God's will and changed my life's direction to do his will. My other event that I'd like to share is when I was young, I climbed a mountain top at night and resolved not to live for my own benefit but to live for the benefit of others, not my will but God's will is something that I'm striving for in my life. I received *The Urantia Book* from Robert Reno in 1982; I instinctively felt the book would have a life changing effect on me.

So, I put the book in the left corner of my upper most bookshelf. After that, due to my duty with the military, I did not have a chance to read the book until 2000. At that time the Korean translation came out so it helped me to read it relatively quickly. The Korean translation helped me to understand the original English version. Thereafter, I contacted the foundation and inquired whether there was a study group in Korea; the Foundation introduced me to Professor Choi Eun-Gwan who informed me that there were no study groups as of yet in Korea. Sometime later, Professor Choi inquired of me whether I'd be willing to serve as representative of the Korean Urantian chapter to which I gladly consented.

With the help of my wife, we started to distribute the Korean translation to numerous peoples; some had concerns about the quality of the translation. But despite the discrepancies of the translation, we have now about 500 readers who study the book and of that approximately 100 of them are continuous readers; of these 50 are what I'd consider avid readers.

When we formed the Korea chapter of UAI, about 40 people attended. I believe these people will be instrumental in helping distribute the books elsewhere in Asia like China, Japan and Taiwan. The fact that Gaetan and Gary attended the opening ceremony really helped make the ceremony go smoothly and spiritually. Thinking that the study group is more important than the ceremony itself, we held a study session prior. The topic was how Michael of Nebadon overcame and handled the Lucifer's rebellion as a human being incarnate. Normally the group is no more than ten but using the projection screen about forty people attended which really was significant in its meaning. Perhaps Gaetan and Gary's attendance and their comments helped the large attendance.

After the ceremony we discussed extensively the bright outlook for spreading the revelation in Korea and Asia in general. *The Urantia Book* as a revelation of the Divine Creator requires humans to understand some knowledge in the various disciplines of philosophy, science, theology or if not at least the curiosity to know these disciplines in order to understand and grasp the book which is not easy!

Additionally, the revelation and so-called reality of human thought is a gap especially evident in the present Korean translation which struggles to overcome that spiritual gap. Despite the handicap if God and all his heavenly creatures will help overcome the Korean or Oriental mores in order to understand the book, I'll pledge my loving service.

Lastly I thank profusely the Father and all his heavenly beings who brought the revelation to us. □

Brazil – 4th National Urantia Readers Meeting

November 28, 29 and 30, 2008



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THE BRAZIL MEETING TOOK PLACE on November 28, 29 and 30, 2008 in Gonçalves — State of Minas Gerais at the Fazenda Kalevala owned by Marianne Prado, Irmeli Ivalo Sjölje's daughter.

There were 24 readers from different cities of Brazil and abroad, among them: Jay Peregrine from USA, Irmeli Sjölje from Finland, Ricardo Machado from Portugal and Nemias Mol from Brasilia, the president of UAB.

In the program we had a beautiful slide presentation about the journey of the soul from Urantia to Paradise.

Irmeli and Jay informed us about the works of the other Urantia Associations around the world and gave tips for the dissemination of the Revelation in Brazil and to Portuguese speaking countries.

Jay answered and clarified some interesting questions of the readers.

Nemias prepared an interesting presentation comparing the strategies utilized

in the Five Epocal Revelations and opened a discussion with excellent plans for UAB's future strategies as editing *The Urantia Book* in audio format to take the message of the revelation to people that are blind or illiterate or to whom prefer to listen instead of reading. Also discussed was a project to expand the UAB website with chances for people to contact each other.

Clebson, from Brazilia, talked about the Realms in Heaven and surprised us with his great familiarity and understanding of the Revelation.

The meeting was very pleasant, within a family cozy climate with delicious food and activities as walking in the beautiful mountains, and sauna. During the dinner we had music by Vidal França, a reader of our São Paulo group, who invited everybody to dance and sing. It was suggested that we should repeat these meetings every year in the same place. □



Jay Peregrine, Urantia Foundation representative, 2nd from right, shares a delicious family meal with Brazilian readers

Germany – 2nd Reader Meeting, Frankfurt



CHRISTIAN RUCH
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AROUND 20 GERMAN SPEAKING readers of *The Urantia Book* met for the second time in Frankfurt/Germany. After having met for the first time last year to get to know each other and to learn more about the history of the UB and the problems to translate it, this time it was paper 112 which was to talk about. Therefore, the title of the meeting was "Personality – in this life and after death".

It was very nice to see a very high level of the discussions and a deep understanding of the teachings so that everyone seems to be glad to have come to Frankfurt and went home enriched. Among the participants was a lady who was welcomed in a very warm way: Rita Schaad from Newcastle/Australia, secretary of the Australian ANZURA. Rita who is originally Swiss used her trip to visit her family for taking part in the meeting of the German speaking UB readers. She also takes part in the German speaking newsgroup which exists on the internet.

Another highlight was the presentation of the German audio book. The Swiss reader Reinhard Schneider took the huge effort on his shoulders to produce mp3-compact discs for people who want to listen to the revelations. He earned loud applause for this work.

It seems that the meetings of the German speaking readers of *The Urantia Book* will get a kind of tradition. So everybody is looking forward to the next one, next November, also in Frankfurt. Then it will probably be Lucifer's rebellion which is the topic to talk and learn more about. □

How *THE URANTIA BOOK* found me



DIPTI BHAKTI
Celestial Musician
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WHEN *THE URANTIA BOOK* FOUND me I never thought that its pages were going to completely change the direction and sense of my life.

As the majority of the siblings of my generation, I received the benefits and inconveniences of an inherited religion, which through the years it generated more questions than answers, that finally led me to seize the road of Truth searching. Such road led me to temporary stages on many different philosophic, scientific and religious theories, which in certain way led me to believe that it didn't exist an Absolute Truth, and that everybody could have its own personal belief that better suits him.

The Urantia Book came to my hands one noon of 1998, when inquiring about the printing of the next book of JJ Benitez, an unknown brother wrote to me saying: "if you want to learn more about Jesus' life you should visit www.librodeurantia.org and read the papers from 120 on". Since that moment I became interested in looking into that site, and I felt with grate emotion how life had just put me in front of an endless source of answers, where my most recurring questions have found a peaceful silence"

It took me more than three years to complete a first reading in middle of the limited spaces of the daily living, nevertheless the revelation was unfailingly fulfilling the correspondent enhancement of my spiritual perception, giving place to a slow but steady birth of the conviction and unbreakable faith in this marvellous adventure to which our Father invites us.

Since then, *The Urantia Book* has become a partner and a permanent guide in this wonderful adventure that suddenly changed its destiny... Now my road was not in the search of Truth, but to the encounter of it!! . Clearly emerged the certainty that YES, there is an Absolute Truth, and it was upon my own choice that my steps would have the right direction.

I soon realized that the natural impulse of human and social life have taken me into his rushing flow up to the point to ignore the possibility to use one of the most precious gifts of the Father: the will.

More and more frequently I felt assaulted by existential questions that made me understand that the direction of the social flow wasn't necessary the one that I wanted to choose, and after a strong spiritual fight between the material impulse of life and human ideals I sat victorious on the throne of personal decision having elected to follow Father's will wherever it takes.

Five years have passed since I choose that my journey towards the Father and my destiny as finaliter, was going to go through the School of Celestial Artisans (if it is His will) and this ideal has become a spiritual banner that even transcends mortal time. Although this decision has not been easy, as it implied to leave behind the inertia of my material life, it became a challenge that really moves each fibre of my personality.

The journey towards this ideal hasn't been, and it won't be an easy task, but the search of this goal is becoming day after day in a permanent test that gives me infinite happiness, and even my steps might be short, I know they are sincere and will always be confident to recognize the Father's will.

The UBook has found me and as a great blessing its revelation has allowed me to open my eyes and recognize who I am, which is my origin and where I'm heading for, and now... go and LIVE the life !

I take the chance to invite you to my Website www.diptibhakti.com and listen to my first musical work, which I want to share with you, my spiritual family.

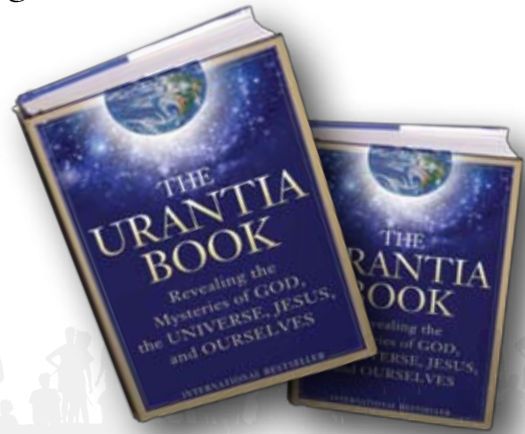
Loving you all...

Dipti Bhakti □

Personal Experience of Dissemination of *The Urantia Book*



GILLES BERTRAND
Canadian UB Reader
Quebec, Canada
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HAVING WORKED FOR A YEAR AT the restoration of the paternal home, mostly seven days out of seven, I was out of date on the news of the world and the last movies to be seen.

One morning, I decided to go to the nearest film rental agency. There, I met a lady of my age and asked her to counsel me on my choice of movies to be viewed. Being the only customer at that time, she became quite taken in by her explanation of the ins and outs of all the films that I was interested in.

I had shared with her my aversion to violence and the lady, who also turned out to be the owner of the store, was forceful in pointing out the details of the history and the contents of the films she knew. She did so in a way that brought to memory the story of < the young man who was scared > well described in *The Urantia Book*. The lady seemed to live the present moment in each of her descriptions and I got the feeling that I was the benefactor of an unusual personal service.

There also was in this store, an array of used books and I recognized, among others, some books on the betterment of the self, if not squarely of a spiritual nature, such as < the small voice >, by Helen Caddy. All of a sudden, I had a flash that if I provided her with a *Urantia Book*, she could rent it out and keep the small profit. (10 cents a day) Furthermore, this would also provide a window of opportunity to display the fifth revelation. Not being knowledgeable of the work, this amiable lady was open to my suggestion and, that afternoon, she scanned a few pages of the book before it was placed on the shelves.

Almost a full week later, I decided to go see if anyone had been interested in the

book and checked with the owner of the store. A surprise was in store for me; she had simply begun to read *The Urantia Book* and was already up to page 200. She told me categorically that she would read the book in its entirety, if her husband allowed to do so because he, too, was sold on *The Urantia Book*. He was even further on into this adventurous lecture than she was. I am sure that they will someday give their testimony after *The Urantia Book* will have found its place back on the shelves of their store.

I believe, for my part, that to share with those of open minds or who seek to fill the void in their life, is a proper and efficient approach to spread the good news. Remember well that there are no small experiences of dissemination. Quality is not an affair of quantity! By living the present moment, the Spirit of Truth will be active in you. It is well written in *The Urantia Book* that to, "make contact with your brothers and sisters, know their problems and learn to love them, is the supreme experience of life."

I then wish you many supreme experiences and I am certain that you will have many new friends.

And your actions will always be coloured by softness and truth. To taste the unique and intimate relations between people, is to live the beginnings of the brotherhood. The lady recognized my quest to get up to date on the movies to be seen and all of sudden, heaven answered her personal call, her need to know and widen more her life experiences.

May simplicity, passion, interest, love, opportunity, occasion, listening and service be with you in this New Year 2009 and forever.

Gilles Bertrand,
Quebec, Canada. □



**Father Bob
Columbus, Ohio**

FATHER BOB WAS A SAINT. I DOUBT he'll be canonized by his church. In fact, it was evident that some in his church didn't even perceive his Christlike ways. He lived a life of joyous service. He recounts how he decided to become a priest at the young age of 11 or 12. He said, "I knew priests helped people. And I liked helping people..." So, he began his life of service to the Father by serving others as a priest. Even to the end, in retirement, he conducted masses in the Columbus area that other priests could not or would not.

He used to say to me "Life is an adventure," a maxim I have repeated to many others. What a wonderful way to wrap up the struggles and triumphs of this life experience -- an adventure. That simple perspective on life can improve one's life permanently -- I think it did mine!

Father Bob seemed to have a deep connection to the truth and a wonderful ability to express it. One of his church friends, who loved Fr. Bob, told me that before a mass, he'd watch who was coming in to the church almost as though he were deciding what to say in his homily based on the individual needs of the attendees. I know at our study group sessions his comments were always wise and uplifting. ALWAYS! He never missed.

He will be missed.
Cheers, Scott Brooks □



**Alcide Paradis
Quebec, Canada**

DURING THIS PERIOD IN WHICH sickness destroyed his physical energies, Alcide was so firm in his faith and in his assurance of eternal life that his moral and humour were always stable and serene. "My old cart is leaving me", as he would say with humour. He very well seized from a clear vision of his destiny that death was but a means of terrestrial escape.

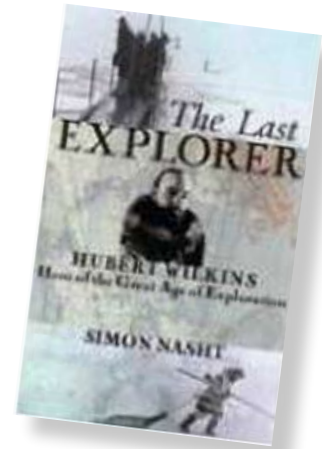
Very early in his life, Alcide responded to this inner call for righteousness which leads us to God.

Some 30 years ago, a student presented to Alcide a sample of "The Urantia Book". The curious and knowledge hungry professor was immediately intrigued and stunned by the extraordinary teachings in this book. The great truth seeker which Alcide was had found his philosophical corner stone which vivifies "Faith on destroyed dogma" as founded in Victor Hugo's narrative "La foi sur le dogme détruit". It is with passion that from this moment he worked to make *The Urantia Book* known.

The Urantia movement in Québec largely benefitted from Alcide's ongoing efforts to support readers and students of the fifth epochal revelation in their research. For now, we can only say "au revoir".

Have a merry trip Alcide.
Line St-Pierre □

Book Review – *The Last Explorer*



HERE IS THE AMAZON.COM REVIEW OF the book: *The Last Explorer: Hubert Wilkins, Hero of the Great Age of Polar Exploration* by Simon Nasht

"Unlike such famous explorers as Amundsen, Peary, Scott, and Shackleton, Sir Hubert Wilkins is little known. Nasht has now brought Wilkins' exploits to readers' attention with this book. He writes that Wilkins began his exploration by sledging thousands of miles across ice and slogging for years on foot through the deserts and tropics. He was the first to grasp the potential of discovery from the air and by submarine and, in 1928, completed a map of the world in eight months of flying. In August 1931, aboard the submarine Nautilus, Wilkins and his crew were the first to dive into the Arctic Ocean. He was the first to fly across the North Pole, resulting in a knighthood; the first to fly to the Antarctic; and the first to discover land by plane. Wilkins, a scientist, was the first to understand the link between the pole and changing global weather. Anyone interested in the history of polar exploration will want to read this book. George Cohen"

What the review fails to mention is that Wilkins was one of the original members of the UB Forum and was a financial contributor to the first printing. The book features a wonderful section on Wilkins' devotion to the UB that makes the book especially interesting for contemporary readers. Wilkins survived numerous plane crashes and shipwrecks that are all vividly documented. He definitely kept his guardian angels working overtime. Check it out.

Marian Hughes, Editor □