

The Urantia Book Fellowship  
Annual Report of the Publications Committee  
July 2003

---

Technically you have already seen most of this report because it arrives on your doorstep at regular intervals in the form of The Fellowship Herald or the Mighty Messenger. However, I have a few more comments to make and some favors to ask of you.

You should have already received The Fellowship Herald 2003. The committee hopes you enjoyed it, and that you will contribute your suggestions for future issues, or even an article. Following the General Council meeting, we will put together a Mighty Messenger as quickly as possible so those of you who weren't able to attend the Summer Study Session can have a report of the proceedings. Another Mighty Messenger is expected to go out by the end of the year with information about the GC meeting in February and the summer study session location for 2004.

The primary goal of this committee, to serve our readers by providing information about Fellowship activities and to help readers to share their thoughts with other readers, continues to guide us in our efforts. We feel that our publications contribute to a feeling of community among readers of *The Urantia Book* and provide important information. We rely on you, however, to send us information about your study group, society, etc. for the Mighty Messenger, and to share your personal experiences with truth in articles for The Fellowship Herald.

We'd like to extend a thank you to those who have contributed to our publications during the past year, and we look forward to hearing from more of you.

Thank you.

Linda Buselli, Chair

Publications Committee

The Urantia Book Fellowship  
Annual Report of the Finance Committee  
July 2003

---

The Finance Committee has advanced the strategies this year for reducing expenses while improving the efficiency and success of our organization. And as we do so, we remind ourselves that our goal is to introduce this wonderful revelation to as many people as possible. It is by this yardstick we can measure our efforts.

It is our committee's goal to increase fund raising to \$500,000 in 2004 and we would rejoice to reach a goal of \$1,000,000 for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, in 2005, of the publication of *The Urantia Book* and the formation of *The Urantia Book Fellowship*. The committee continues to evaluate short term and long term strategies to accomplish these goals while improving our overall effectiveness.

The Finance Committee has this year coordinated its efforts with the database project by beginning the process of merging all member financial data with all other membership data. This permits the Finance Committee to sort and filter segments of our readership, allowing us to target different solicitations to different groups within the readership. For example, we are sending all financial supporters of past years a stamped addressed return envelope, which is not feasible to the whole mailing list, but easily done with this defined group. Next we are working at different solicitation styles to members of societies, members at large, and attendees of our International Conferences and Summer Study Sessions that have not contributed in the last few years. We are looking for ways to encourage them of the importance that their contributions make to the furtherance of our revelatory efforts.

The rest of the mailing list that have no current record of attending our events or supporting *The Urantia Book Fellowship* in any way will receive yet another style of solicitation and much less frequently, which reduces the costs of our solicitation efforts. Each of these solicitation letters will be evaluated for their degree of effectiveness and changed accordingly in the upcoming years.

Another important strategy our committee is working on is the promotion and importance of monthly auto-debit contributions. With the increase in all of our committees service efforts and need for funding, it is important for us to stabilize the monthly cash flow of donations. Currently we have most of the donations coming in at the end of the year. By encouraging supporters to make a regular monthly donation through auto-debit, it is easier

for the donor and may allow the donor to increase their yearly donation. An example: if a donor gives \$100 yearly and we are able to encourage them instead to donate \$10 per month, we receive an increase of 20% over the year and it is affordable to the supporter for the increase.

For long term goals, we continue working on strategies to increase fundraising through special bequests and wills. This avenue will be among the largest sources of funds for *The Urantia Book Fellowship* in the years to come.

I gratefully acknowledge the dedication and hard work of the committee members, and I am always amazed and heartened by the dedication of all the volunteers and supporters of this revelation. It is a delight and a pleasure to work with such a sincere team of revelatory workers.

Sincerely,



*The Finance Committee*

Robert Burns, Chair  
Nick Curto  
Jerry Pando  
Larry Geis  
Ken Raveill  
James Gonzalez

---

**The Urantia Book Fellowship  
Annual Report of the Education Committee  
July 2003**

---

As a whole, the Education Committee was quiet for much of 2002, although a great deal of the educational labor for The Urantia Book Fellowship was superbly handled by the special committee and designated presenters who created the outstanding International Conference in Estes Park. Throughout the past year, however, many of the individual Education Committee members performed services in a variety of ways: they contributed to The Fellowship's publications, The Mighty Messenger and The Herald; helped produce retreats for their local Societies; and presented at regional conferences--such as at the "Joyous Living" weekend last month in Los Angeles (sponsored by The School for Meanings and Values). Our Committee members have also been collaborating with The Fellowship's Public Relations-Book Marketing Team, which will have a significant presence at this year's Summer Study Session.

In 2003, despite limited funding, an effort to revitalize the Wrightwood Seminar has begun. The current Wrightwood group's goal is to develop a program on the subject of "family". The outcome of this study will be to produce a Urantia Book-based interfaith, public-outreach presentation that embraces the ideals and values of family in the broadest context. The product could then be a centerpiece for Summer Study 2004, especially if we select an interfaith-friendly environment. This will allow The Fellowship another public venue for presenting key common teachings from TUB and the life of Jesus. After all, what could be more universally appealing than the ideals and values of family?

This summer, The Education Committee, primarily at my urging, has tackled a challenging and perplexing subject for this year's Summer Study Session. Under the general heading of "Revelation and the Religionist", we will focus on exploring the distinctions between socialized (even institutionalized) religions that evolve from sacred texts (or divine mandates) and the challenges that each of us as individual, truth-seeking religionists must face when belief encounters incongruent facts, and faith confronts doubt.

Jesus tells us: "There is but one struggle for those who enter the kingdom, and that is to fight the good fight of faith. The believer has only one battle, and that is against doubt -- unbelief." <sup>159:3.8</sup>

At this time, it appears to me that there are a number of relevant issues:

1. Recent discoveries of significant “human source” authors along with their source documents;
2. Recognition that some of the “facts” stated in *The Urantia Papers* (“which constitute the most recent presentation of truth to the mortals of Urantia”) may be “in need of revision”;
3. Public promotion of *The Urantia Book* by various groups and organizations, which seek to gain a wider audience and foster social acceptance of the book and its teachings;
4. Preparations by reader-believers to handle potentially greater and more critical social, academic, secular and theological scrutiny of the book; and
5. Controversy within the Urantia “movement” about unity and organizational purposes.

Will these factors coincide to meaningfully challenge Urantia Book reader-believers? Could *The Urantia Book* “movement” be soon facing something akin to a “Crisis at Capernaum”?

Should this be the case, regarding *The Urantia Book*, can we rely on the following statement from Jesus’ Epochal Sermon?

153:2.11 ...“Let us be patient; the truth never suffers from honest examination. I am all that you say but more.”

One of the desired outcomes of this summer’s study session is to evaluate and put the human source information in perspective, such that dedicated Urantian religionists may go forward with interfaith efforts and public outreach presentations with a deeper understanding of the evolutionary underpinnings of *The Urantia Book*, rather than naively portray it as a totally divine and perfect document.

Jesus, in speaking with Nathaniel about the veracity of any sacred scripture stated:

159:4.8 “Mark you well my words, Nathaniel, nothing which human nature has touched can be regarded as infallible. Through the mind of man divine truth may indeed shine forth, but always of relative purity and partial divinity. The creature may crave infallibility, but only the Creators possess it.”

The Summer Study Session in 2004 will focus more on “taking it to the streets”, therefore

we are planning to have the next Session in a favorable interfaith-oriented community, such as Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Your thoughts on this report and on any other ideas related to education are positively welcomed. My email address is: [smith606@pacbell.net](mailto:smith606@pacbell.net)

Sincerely,

Lee Smith

Education Committee Chairperson

## The Urantia Book Fellowship Annual Report of the President July 2003

---

The year, as we reckon it in The Fellowship, began with an International Conference at Estes Park in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. We were blessed with the presence of some 725 Urantia Book readers, and 150 of their sons and daughters, from a dozen different countries who assembled together for the purpose of fellowship, worship and study. As has become the norm at these large gatherings, many of those attending were Fellowship members and many were not; some were IUA members; some were members of both the IUA and The Fellowship; some were not affiliated with any organization; two were Urantia Foundation Trustees. It can be said that there was something at this gathering for everyone. It can, perhaps, also be said that everyone there could find something objectionable. It can certainly be said that hardly anyone there would have rather missed it.

A signal event at the beginning of the conference was the launching of the Uversa Press edition of *The Urantia Book*. This launching coincided with an Executive Committee decision to sign an exclusive agreement with IPG, a major book distributor. Book sales over the year have been disappointing and the Executive Committee decided in its April meeting to terminate its relationship with IPG. Once the current contract with IPG lapses in the end of 2003, The Fellowship will be free to use alternate distribution methods, including direct sales to retailers, the method used in 1996 to distribute the first Uversa Press edition, which had proven to be quite successful.

Prior to the General Council's January 31<sup>st</sup> meeting, the Executive Committee held a special, retreat-like, session to discuss fundamental questions it normally has no time to consider during its regular business meetings. A fairly detailed report on the substance of this special meeting was given to the General Council and a summary appeared in the February 2003 issue of the Mighty Messenger. Some of the highlights of that meeting were as follows:

1. What should be the "official" Fellowship position regarding *The*

*Urantia Book?* This question provoked a great deal of discussion, much of it philosophical and often highly personal. There was no clear consensus about what the “official” position should be. But, although everyone present appeared to consider the book to either be a revelation or to contain a revelation or to cause individuals to experience revelation, a number of the participants felt that it may not be appropriate for The Fellowship to adopt an organizational position declaring The Urantia Book to be a “revelation”. Further discussion of this question is likely take place in the coming months.

2. What should be The Fellowship’s “face to the world”? Are we projecting what we think we need to project through our use of print publications and the website? It was generally felt that we are doing a fine job in both media, but a question was raised as to whether “political” material on the website is too easily accessible. Subsequent investigation revealed that one needs to dig deliberately for that type of material; it is not readily available to a casual visitor.
3. Is publishing *The Urantia Book* an integral part of The Fellowship’s mission or is it a time limited effort? A brief discussion of this question ended with a reaffirmation that publishing the book is essential to our mission at this time. It was felt that there was no value in speculating now about whether this will remain so in the distant future.
4. Should The Fellowship become involved in translations of *The Urantia Book*? The group reviewed current translation efforts and concluded that, for now, there is no need for The Fellowship to sponsor translations.
5. International outreach – Our major area of concentration has been in Mexico and in Central and South America. We need to find the resources for reaching out to Africa, Western and Eastern Europe, and Asia. During a discussion of this item at the General Council, there were suggestions that we need to challenge the younger readers in our movement with a meaningful international outreach and/or service project.
6. Organizational structure – There was a consensus on the Executive Committee that we need to review our constitution with an eye toward determining whether it serves our organizational needs in its current form. Should we determine that changes are needed, we would then have to decide whether to proceed with an incremental series of amendments or with a radical overhaul. This topic will require a great deal of attention in the coming year.

A number of General Councilors expressed interest in having a General Council retreat so that the entire Council will have an opportunity to discuss the philosophical basis for our organizational work. The Council will have an opportunity to pre-plan this retreat at its July 2003 meeting.

The office reorganization and virtualization work has continued throughout the year. The Wrightwood building has been on the market since early spring; The Fellowship's computerized database has been converted and is currently being updated, de-bugged, and made accessible (while secure) through the web. This work is highly detailed and time consuming. Once the entire system is fully operational, it will greatly increase our efficiency and our operational effectiveness and flexibility.

A great deal has been said this year about "unity". Many have been calling for unity between the Foundation and the Fellowship; some have condemned the actions of individuals on either or both sides that caused the "split" in 1989. To be sure, unity is a desirable outcome. Harmony among all organizations and individuals who are identified with the mission of spreading the fifth epochal revelation is something we would all want to experience. Indeed, as each of us seeks to do the will of The Father and as we recognize our brotherhood and our responsibility toward one another, we are already united in spirit. As we, regardless of our organizational affiliation, continue to focus on our spirit-driven work, while relying less and less on the institutions that are "Caesar's", the social unity for which so many of us yearn will begin to emerge.

In friendship,

Avi Dogim

The Urantia Book Fellowship  
Annual Report of the Membership Committee  
July 2003

---

**THE PAST YEAR:**

**Committee Membership:** During the past year, the Committee had all its positions filled until January, 2003, when Wm. ‘Sonny’ Schneider (Hawaii) resigned from The Fellowship and the Committee. (Please see below for a description of events in the Aloha Society.) Other Committee members include Charlene Morrow (Oklahoma), Dale Sztejnberg (New York), Lenny Cowles (Colorado), and John Causland (Michigan) who serves as the Committee’s secretary. Charlene’s term expires this summer and she has decided to not be a candidate for a Committee seat at this time. Richard Omura has agreed to become a candidate for one of the two vacancies. If you or anyone you know is interested in the areas of membership and fostering Society purposes, please contact us.

**Name Change:** Last summer the General Council passed the Constitutional amendment to change the name of Charter Committee to Membership Committee.

**Membership Structure:** The Committee finalized materials that describe membership, explain criteria, and facilitate application. The materials are now available for download from the website at <http://www.urantiabook.org> and follow the links *What Is The Fellowship to Membership Information*. Here are some highlights:

**Societies** – The standards for Society chartering requires at least ten Founding Members who have read the entire *Urantia Book* and who adopt a constitution to create an organization which participates in the representative governance of The Fellowship. The Fellowship does not require that a Society’s Charter Members and subsequent regular Members to have read the entire *Urantia Book* as these standards are determined by each Society.

**Members-At-Large** – The Executive Committee has the authority to approve individuals to be Fellowship members. Applicants are not required to have read the entire *Urantia Book*

**Affiliate Organizations** – The Executive Committee also has the authority to establish an administrative relationship with Affiliate Organizations. MAL applications are made available to the individual participants of Affiliate Organizations who wish to become

Fellowship members.

**Societies:** No inquiries for chartering were received during the past year and no new Societies were installed.

**Evergreen** – In January 2003, eight remaining active members decided that, “...we should let Evergreen Urantia Society of Washington fall by the wayside and channel our energies into the larger and more active Washington Urantia Association.” A request has been made for the group to return the charter document to The Fellowship.

**Aloha** – In February 2003, The Fellowship received a petition from 14 of 24 members of *The Urantia Book Aloha Society* (TUBAS) of Hawaii. These individuals agreed to rescind the special election of February 5<sup>th</sup> as is provided for in their constitution and they asked The Fellowship to assist in monitoring a fair election. They sighted numerous instances where the constitution of TUBAS was not being followed while some officers made arbitrary and unilateral decisions about membership and procedures. Several members resigned from the Society and thereby The Fellowship, sighting harassment and intimidation by these officers. Shortly after The Fellowship agreed this request, Bud Kagan went to court seeking a temporary restraining order against The Fellowship. The Fellowship then withdrew from participating in a new election. The majority of members believe that the Society does not function constitutionally. Discussions about resolving this dispute will likely continue in the coming months.

**Members-At-Large:** Welcome to Edward Risley of Renton, Washington and Theresa Ransbottom of Zephyrhills, Florida who applied and were approved by the Executive Committee to become Fellowship members. Theresa is now serving as a member of the International Fellowship Committee.

**Affiliate Organizations:** No application for becoming a Fellowship Affiliate has been received since the installation of “Centro didático-terapêutico Casa de FAD” on May 6, 2002 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

**Furthering Society Purposes:** This Constitutional task has focused on the following:

- **TDA** – The Committee continues to foster an annual meeting of Society representatives primarily by providing information to new delegates and alternates and promoting the exchange of ideas and information.
- **SocAdmin Email List** – In January, SocAdmin celebrated its third birthday by adopting a revised and expanded set of guidelines. It is evolving into a wonderful tool for Society officers and representatives and General Councilors to communicate with each other.

NEXT YEAR:

**Society Expectations:** The Committee is faced with addressing issues of Society functioning and vitality. Should Societies be expected to maintain a minimum number of members? Should Societies be expected to abide by their constitutions? Should a majority of society members be allowed to petition the central organization for oversight? These issues are not currently addressed in The Fellowship Constitution. Possibly the TDA could discuss the characteristics of a well-functioning Society and recommend criteria to determine when a Society no longer a living part of the organization.

**Administrative Communication:** The Committee believes that Societies and individual members should have easy access to all administrative forms and materials. We hope to assist in making increasing amounts of information and materials readily available on The Fellowship's Website.

For the Membership Committee,

Bob Bruyn, Chair

The Urantia Book Fellowship  
Annual Report of the Outreach Committee  
July 2003

---

2002 was a slow year for the Outreach Committee. As the chair I offered to forgo funding for my committee in deference to greater financial concerns within our organization. This was a challenge for a committee that is used to a modicum of funding. Sadly, all nonprofits were hurt in 2002 by the ebb of finances in post 9/11 America but Outreach Committee still accomplished a lot in spite of low funds.

In 2002 we did manage to help support several noteworthy outreach efforts including a couple of book exhibits in small spiritual expos. One such show was put on and managed by committee member Thomas Orjala in Spokane, WA. Although we could not provide the monetary support we usually provide for shows like the one Thomas did, we did have a ready supply of first edition Uversa Press Urantia Books to provide for these kinds of outreach efforts. Without funding, these books became our primary resource and we surely put them to good use. In fact, it may have been our best outreach effort ever.

I have always believed that books sitting in a warehouse are of benefit to no one. I have also felt that although the angels are very good at leading people to the book even they have a hard time leading people to a warehouse. The decision to get the books out of the warehouse prompted the angels to present us with several excellent projects to get them into the hands of interested persons. Bless their hearts!

The seraphim guard you; they do not seek directly to influence you; you must chart your own course, but these angels then act to make the best possible use of the course you have chosen. (113:5.4)

#### The New York Firehouse Project

Soon after deciding to put these books to good use, Nick Curto, a dedicated member of the New York Society's Outreach Committee, called us with an idea about sending one book to all the New York City firehouses. Nick explained that he had had a very meaningful spiritual conversation with a fireman and felt that perhaps, since firemen do often have time on the their hands, the firehouse libraries would be a rich soil in which to plant The Urantia Book. Nick provided us with addresses and one book each went out to 215 New York City firehouses.

Outreach Committee member Jo Ann Wiedman is owed a great deal of gratitude and appreciation for this effort. She mailed out these books and hundreds more with love and dedication, at a time when huge and distracting professional changes were taking place in her life. Heartfelt thanks go to Nick and Jo Ann! It's indeed a privilege to serve with such loving and dedicated individuals!

### The Interfaith Minister Project

Almost immediately after Nick called with his idea we got an email from Les Jameson, yet another dedicated member of the New York Outreach Committee. He wanted to send books to interfaith ministers. He had an email list of interfaith ministers and workers in the Northeast. He composed a letter and sent it out to the list. Soon we were receiving dozens of email requests for books. Most of the ministers who requested books expressed how they had always wanted to read it and how thrilled they were to finally be able to have it. Each person also promised to place the book in his or her organization's library. Les, of course, kept a list of everyone who received a book so that he could follow-up with them. Nearly 100 books went out for this purpose. Many thanks to Les, whose boundless energy for service is always inspiring!

### The Puyallup County Fair

Next we got a call from Don Lee in Seattle, WA. Don and the Seattle area readers were doing an exhibit at the Puyallup County Fair. The fair was schedule to last for nearly two full weeks and it is no small task for a group of readers to arrange for volunteers to be at the booth full time, especially during the workweek. Yet, under Don's leadership, they pulled it off without a hitch, and are planning to do it again this year. We sent plenty of books and literature to Don and friends for this purpose and they placed well over 200 books at this event. Kudos to Don and the Seattle readers!

### Books To Congressmen and Senators

About the same time as we heard of the Puyallup Fair we got an email from another wonderful reader in Omak, WA. Her name is Rebecca Bratrude and she explained that God was guiding her to send books to all US Congressmen and Senators. She asked if we could help. With a chuckle I asked her how many books she would like. We ended up sending her 200 books for this purpose. This sweet sister single handedly sent a book to each and every congressman and senator in the United States. Thank you Rebecca, your efforts are truly those of a second miler!

### International Requests

In addition to the above domestic shipments of books, we also sent numerous cases

abroad. Several cases went to JJ Johnson in Pakistan. JJ has always done such amazing outreach work and he continues to quietly go about our Father's work. Because of JJ there are currently two Urantia study groups in Pakistan. Thanks JJ, for years of quiet and effective outreach service!

Following is an excerpt from a grateful Urantia Book recipient in Pakistan:

Good Morning in the name of Jesus Christ! We want to inform you that we received the book and have started to study it. It really is a wonderful book! Thank you!

Evangelical Door-to-Door Church  
Pakistan

Many additional books have gone out to various African groups at Norman Ingram's request. Norman continues to amaze us with his stalwart dedication domestically and abroad. Norman was also the recipient of many books that he placed from his bookstand on Venice Beach. Thank you Norman!

All in all, last year we placed 1,100 books in the libraries and with individuals.

Outreach Committee is deeply grateful for having had this wonderful service opportunity. We offer heartfelt thanks to our Fellowship for blessing us with the task of getting these books out of the warehouse and into the world and for graciously providing the funds needed to ship them. With special thanks going to the Angels who no doubt helped us find all those willing recipients and made our job so much easier!

#### Additional Outreach Committee Efforts

In addition to the book distribution project Outreach Committee also updated the Study Group Directory and is working with David Kantor to keep it up to date online. We will be publishing this directory only online in the future. Doing so will save paper and printing costs and allow interested individuals to print only those portions of the directory they need.

In Faith and Friendship,

Paula Thompson

The Outreach Committee of The Urantia Book Fellowship  
Paula Thompson - Chair  
Thomas Orjala  
Robin Jorgensen

Robert Buselli  
Brian Smith  
JoAnn Wiedman  
Les Jameson - Adjunct

The Urantia Book Fellowship  
Annual Report of the Interfaith Committee  
July 2003

---

2003 has been a year of team building as well as action for the Interfaith Committee. We met several times this spring via conference calls to discuss the committee's immediate and long-range purpose and goals. After considering the past emphasis by the Committee on outreach to other major religious groups, we decided this year to focus our efforts on outreach to the Urantia Book community itself - an "intra-faith" approach to service. This decision was in response to the years-long breakdown of reader and organizational communication between members of the Foundation and the Fellowship. The Committee felt that by bringing to the community some of the communications tools already developed by other effective interfaith organizations, we could help empower individuals become more effective at building relationships and promoting harmony within the larger community of readers.

Because of this decision, the Committee is offering two workshops at the Summer Study Session that are geared toward this effort. We hope that these workshops will be the first step in an on-going effort to provide education about conflict resolution and productive dialogue among all readers of the Urantia Book. We hope to expand our efforts next year by collaborating with interested IUA members and offering workshops at conferences sponsored by both organizations.

The committee continues to recognize the importance of representing the Urantia Book and the religious movement it has inspired to the established world religions and interfaith organizations. We also recognize, however, that other religionists will not take the Urantia Revelation seriously until our organizations provide a positive example of inter-group harmony and unity of purpose. It is to this end that the Interfaith Committee is working in 2003.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rebecca Kantor

The Urantia Book Fellowship  
Annual Report of the Secretary General  
July 2003

---

During this last year of my three-year term, I was given additional responsibilities:

1. member of site location team for the Summer Study Session (SSS 2003)
2. co-chair with Lila Dogim of the next International Conference (IC05).

We chose Villanova University as the site for IC05 after many months of site visits and research with Lila and Avi Dogim, Dale Sztejnberg, Bob and Linda Buselli, Bill Rocap, and Karen Larsen. We made a commitment to Villanova after a final site visit with the site search committee and Gary Deinstadt and Bobbie and Steve Dreier who agreed that Villanova had all the elements needed for a successful international conference. We are continuing our efforts to bring together the right mix of skills to further the progress.

I made social contacts and did lots of networking in the reader community:

1. "Florida Students of The Urantia Book" Conference
2. Connecticut Retreat
3. I.U.A. Conference in France
4. Local area events
5. Four Executive Committee meetings.

As coordinator of the mail forwarding, office re-organization process that was implemented last year, I have the responsibility to direct requests or changes to the appropriate person or committee. So far this process has been working well.

I'm not under any illusion that any one person can turn the organization around. Some things we do well and some decisions we made did not materialize as expected. The risk of challenge and change requires emotional maturity to experiment with new approaches and learn from the results; to be steadfast in the face of pressure.

Working within an established group with a shared purpose, moral integrity, focused on high ethical standards without self-importance is the mark of the leadership of this organization. The enduring values of integrity that have been forged over many years have

given us the guidance and the initiative to pursue an even greater vision for the future.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Doreen Heyne

Secretary-General