

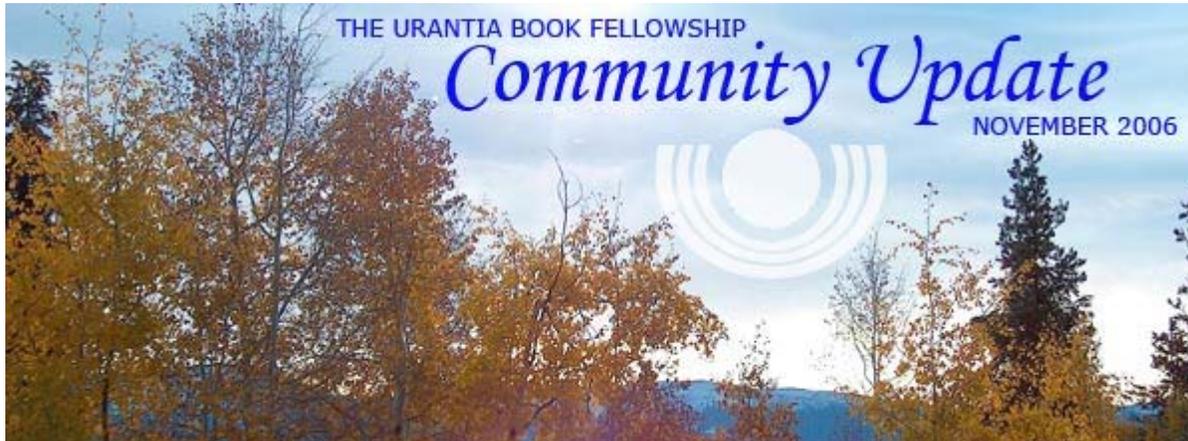


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Community Update, November 2006

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To: kristen.michaels@gmail.com

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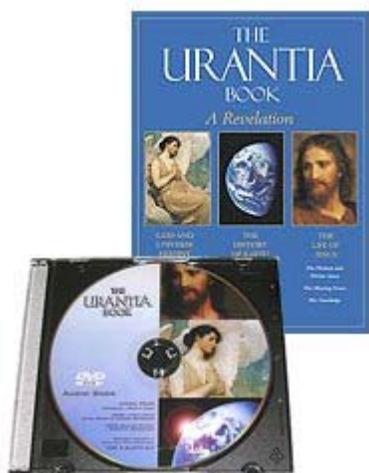


The approximately monthly newsletter from UrantiaBook.org

Vol 1 No 8

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The Uversa Press indexed edition of The Urantia Book with a free MP3 format DVD containing an audio version of the entire text of the book is now in bookstores throughout North America.

Executive Committee Meeting, October 20-21, 2006

The Executive Committee met the weekend of October 20 in Kansas City to discuss issues related to Fellowship business. This was the annual meeting where the committee chairs review upcoming opportunities and a budget is worked out to enable as many potentials as possible to be actualized.

Opportunities to spread the revelation far exceed available resources. The Finance Committee is moving forward with plans to raise more money for revelation projects. John Hay presented a five year marketing, distribution, and sales plan that promises to significantly increase book distribution while also increasing the organization's financial base.

Sales of the Uversa Press edition of The Urantia Book have increased so rapidly that plans for another printing are now being made. John has been successful in getting Barnes and Noble to move the book from the occult section to the religious section of their bookstores.

The Uversa Press indexed version of the UB with a free DVD containing the entire text of the book is moving into the book marketplace. It is now on the shelves at Barnes and Noble throughout North America. 1000 copies of the book were ordered by B&N distributors this summer, enough for at least one book in each of their 800+ stores. The summer order has been depleted already and B&N distributors have re-ordered another 800 books! The marketing committee, led by John Hay, is actively working with other major bookstore chains and national book distributors.

Fellowship Secretary General, Michelle Klimesh, adds these notes:

1. The Summer Study Session will return to the Hogwarts-like campus of Dominican University in River Forest, Illinois next summer, July 20-22, 2007. It will be preceded by the TDA meeting and followed by the General Council and Executive Committee meetings. The theme of the 2007 study session will be "Cosmic Citizenship." More information will be provided as it becomes available.
2. Things are hopping behind the scenes. Our office, thanks to the heroic efforts of Paula Thompson and David Kantor, is coming slowly but surely into the 21st century. By winter we'll have integrated our bookkeeping, database, and point of sale software, greatly reducing duplication of effort and cost of doing business. This streamlining of processes is a joy to my businesswoman's heart.
3. Robert Burns is doing an incredible job as President of the Fellowship. He has initiated communication with the trustees of Urantia Foundation and is in regular contact with Foundation President, Seppo Kanerva. In addition, he is actively traveling and meeting with readers from throughout the readership community, listening to their concerns and talking about how we can more effectively be about the business of spreading the revelation and fostering more productive integration of the readership. CHANGE IS IN THE AIR, my friends! Your prayers for the success of current endeavors will be greatly appreciated.

Pipeline of Light Places More Than 800 Books!

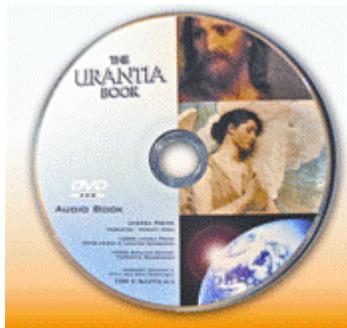
The Pipeline of Light project to date has placed 809 books into 51 countries around the world. Urantia Foundation donated almost two full cases of Spanish books to us for the Pipeline this summer! What a wonderful example of the cooperative efforts being fostered between the organizations.

During the third quarter of the year, Pipeline of Light volunteers placed a total of fifty-six copies of The Urantia Book into fifteen countries, including Peru, Zambia, Germany, Ecuador, Mexico, Colombia, Russia, Chile, and Lithuania. We were excited to expand our list of Pipeline countries by placing books into six new locations: Chechnya, Iceland, Germany, Italy, China, and Turkey.

A small but significant event affected the Pipeline this summer as a result of the Summer Study Session in River Forest, Illinois. Urantia Foundation manned a book booth at SS '06. To show their appreciation to us for the opportunity, Tamara Wood of Urantia Foundation donated an entire case of El Libro de Urantia and a portion of a second case to our South American connections. In addition, Urantia Foundation donated 131 French hardcover books to the project. Single copies of the revelation in English were placed into the national libraries of Iceland and Italy through the efforts of Buck Weimer and JJ Johnson. The German translation was requested through the Pipeline for the first time; we've sent three out so far.

This quarter's placements bring our Pipeline all-time totals to 809 books placed into fifty-six countries around the world. We truly thank you for your continuing financial help, which makes this work possible! If you would like to contribute to this work, donations can be made online at: www.urantiabook.org/support or by mail to: The Urantia Book Fellowship, PO Box 4583, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163.

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One little DVD with the entire Urantia Book in MP3 audio format

Unprecedented new technology works on both PC and Mac

**Read by Merritt Horn
Produced by John D. Hay**

**Receive this DVD as our thanks to you
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IC08 Update



IC08 Conference Chair, Susan Cook, confers with IC05 Conference Co-Chair, Lila Dogim of the New York Society, and John Hay, Chair of the Fellowship's Marketing Committee

San Diego State University has been chosen for The International Fellowship Conference in 2008. We're beginning on Wednesday July 16 and ending on Sunday July 20th. San Diego State University has ample room for outdoor music, workshops and gatherings but the best part of this University is the close proximity of all venues.

Pato Banton is opening the conference with special music and opening plenary talk on his loving ministry. The IC08 conference team will be sending out more information very soon.

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A Conversation with John D. Hay by Maria Downing

John discovered The Urantia Book in 1969 when he was twenty-five years old. He had come to Boulder, Colorado from New York City to visit his brother and sister-in-law. It was there that he met their good friend, Mo Siegel. Mo had recently completed reading the book. As they went together into the foothills of Colorado to pick herbs, Mo was keen to pass on to John his knowledge of plants, but John was more interested in hearing the insights Mo had gained from this amazing book.

John's mother is an Episcopal priest. He comments, *"I was always close to God. I don't know why. I just always had a good relationship with Him. Maybe it's because I'd had a lot of trauma from being sent away to a Christian boarding school early in life and I found refuge in the church and chaplain there."*



He began reading The Urantia Book and in a relatively short time was living in Boulder and hosting a study group.

Mo and John were both looking for a way to make money to support their families and to further the Urantia movement. As their friendship blossomed each brought a unique business expertise into the founding of Celestial Seasoning Tea Company. *"The reason Mo and I started Celestial Seasonings was because of The Urantia Book. We donated monthly to Urantia Foundation and we also gave them a bunch of stock in the Company. We used to bootleg the teachings on the sides of our packages. We even took the concepts of truth, beauty and goodness and applied them to the business."*

As a result of his study group experience, he developed an appreciation for the people who were knowledgeable about the teachings. *"It was great to have guys like Jim McNelly and Merritt Horn*

and Mo show up because they had actually read the whole book. They'd answer questions and keep us on track. In those days not many people had read it." John resolved to create a serious course of study for Urantia Book students so that more Urantia Book study groups could have resident experts. Hence he founded and maintained the Boulder School for Readers of The Urantia Book. He says that 113 students attended the school between 1982 and 1987.

Even as the reality of the school faded, John was all the more dedicated to helping people study the book. His next concept was to create an audio version of the book. Because of his own busy schedule he wanted to be able to listen to the book while in a car or on an airplane, or walking or hiking. It was in the 1980's that he hired Merritt Horn to record the entire Urantia Book on audio tape. He describes those days with a mixture of pride and disbelief, *"We got it done! And the best part of all, the reward, was the experience of taking the audio version to Jerusalem with me. Imagine walking on the same path that Jesus walked in Jerusalem and being able to listen to the story of his life at the same time. It was amazing to be able to point out to the guide the route that Jesus 'really' took to his crucifixion."*

With the book finally on cassette tapes came the task of mass producing them which John accomplished using his 10 duplicating machines. With each machine churning out one copy at a time, he supplied them to the students at the school and many others. *"A doctor friend of mine still listens to those cassettes in the mornings when she drives down to Boulder from the mountains."*

When CDs made their appearance in 2002, John began the process of transferring the tapes to discs. It was quite labor intensive getting the tapes cleaned up and standardized. *"We could get 2 papers on one CD, if we were lucky; and it took me almost two years to transfer the tapes to CDs because they each had to be cleaned of hiss and noise in the process. After that I started looking around to find some professionals who could put them on DVD. That way I thought we could get ten papers on one disc. Eventually I found these guys in Denver and they said they had come up with some new technology. They thought they could get the whole book on one DVD, all 12.2 gigs! Well, they not only got it all on there, they got it on there twice! The DVD is compatible with both Macintosh and PC machines. That technology had never been used before."*

"From there we were able to get them stamped out and placed in the back of every book for free. Now you can download it on your computer, put it into iTunes, put it in your MP3 library, mix and match, do whatever you want. It's basically yours."

John never stops. He has begun a new project with the intention of planting seeds of revealed truth around the world. We can't wait to see what he will come up with next.

I asked John if there had ever been a time when he felt that he had received help from our unseen friends. He said, *"Well, a couple of months ago we sent a request to Barnes and Noble that they stock our new edition of The Urantia Book with the DVD in the back. The buyer responded in just 2 days with an order! They ordered books for every store! They put it in their entire chain! THAT doesn't happen. That never happens. Normally you go through the whole process... again and again...you have to sell them like crazy. Something was going on. Christy used to say, 'The first 50 years are for the Angels of the Churches and the next 150 years are for the Angels of Progress.' To me that was the work of the Angels of Progress."*

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Of Flying Hindus and Tech Support
By Christilyn Biek

My boyfriend Steve was flying from Milwaukee to Denver this past Spring and he chanced to sit next to an Indian man on the plane. He greeted him warmly stating that he had just recently tried Indian food for the first time. He mentioned that his girlfriend (me) was an "Interfaith Activist". The man sitting next to him visibly perked up, and said he hadn't heard of "Interfaith" activism...what was it?

Steve said it had to do with focusing more on what our faiths had in common than arguing over the ways our religions were different. The Indian told him he was a Hindu. Steve told him he had never met a "Hindu" before, and asked about his personal religious experience. This opened a lively and open conversation about their respective faiths. At some point the Indian man asked Steve what his

religious background was and he told him that while he was raised "Catholic", more recently he had been introduced to this amazing book called The Urantia Book which was having a profound influence on his life and faith.

A stimulating conversation ensued for the duration of the flight.

After returning to Wisconsin, Steve found he was having connection problems with his high-speed internet. He called "tech-support" and naturally, found himself speaking with a man with an Indian accent. Since Steve had so recently had the experience with the guy on the plane, he recognized the accent and asked the young man if he was in India. "Yes, I am", said his phone contact. "Well, I just spent two hours talking about your country, your culture and religion with a delightful Hindu man I met on a flight last week," Steve explained, "We shared a lot about our personal religious experience and I turned him on to this great book about religion that I have been studying." Steve decided that if this guy asked him the name of the book, it would be a sign to tell him about The Urantia Book.

However, the conversation quickly shifted to the task of fixing Steve's technical problem. When they were finished, the tech-support guy said, "Hey, you mentioned sharing a great book on religion with the guy you met on the plane. I would like to share a great book with you, that a friend of mine just introduced me to, do you have a pen and paper handy? Its a rather complicated word, I will spell it for you. As he started to spell out the word "U - R - A - N - T---"

Steve interrupted, "Whoa, back the truck up! That's the same book I'm talking about!" And they laughed.

"You're kidding!" said the Indian guy in response --"No WAY!"

They laughed and laughed about how neither of them had wanted to push the book on the other, and how ironic -- how impossible -- that they had been talking about the same book. Steve asked him how he had found the book.

"Oh, I got a web-link for the book sent to me by a friend of mine in California. I recently started reading it online. What do you think about the book?" he asked Steve.

"I think it is remarkable! Every page I turn is better than the one before! It seems to ring true to me, in fact, I felt like it confirmed everything I knew inside had to be true" Steve replied.

"Yeah, I feel the same way. It is the best thing I've ever found!" replied the tech support guy.

So, I guess our angels can work with the internet, phone support lines, and perhaps even our technical devices to bring the fellowship of believers together from all over the world now. They will use us where and when they can. Let's try to be open to all the opportunities that come our way, even if we don't know the person we are sitting next to. Let's always be willing to start up a conversation with anyone about faith and the spiritual life.

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European Gathering in Scotland November 24-27, 2006



A conference of European readers is being held on the legendary shores of Loch Lomond in Scotland the weekend of November 24-27, 2006. The weekend is intended to be informal and oriented around the establishment of friendships between readers from the diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds scattered across Europe.

[Click here for full conference information \(in pdf format\)](#)

Or, contact the organizers directly for additional information:
[David Quinn](#) or [Gavin Dormand](#) in the UK.

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