

# HOW I FOUND THE URANTIA BOOK



AND HOW IT CHANGED MY LIFE

324 Inspiring True Stories

Compiled by  
Saskia Praamsma

How I Found  
THE URANTIA BOOK  
and  
*How It Changed My Life*

*Compiled by* Saskia Praamsma



Square Circles Publishing, Inc.  
Glendale, California

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FIRST EDITION

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Many of these stories previously appeared in slightly different form in a privately circulated work entitled *How I Found the Urantia Book*, © 1998 by Square Circles Publishing, Inc. This compilation is a revised and enlarged version of that work.

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## DEDICATION

*This book of testimonies is dedicated to  
the humans and superhumans  
whose joint efforts brought us  
the Urantia revelation.*

## ABOUT THE URANTIA BOOK

### *What is the Urantia Book?*

The Urantia Book is a revelation given to the peoples of our planet, Urantia. It instructs us on God, angels, life after death, the structure of the universe and its divinely planned development, the origin and history of our planet, the life and teachings of Jesus, and our eternal destiny as perfected citizens of a friendly universe. It provides an enlightening picture of reality in which science, religion, and philosophy are unified.

### *Who wrote the Urantia Book?*

It is held by believers in the Urantia revelation that the authors are a corps of celestial beings who were authorized to reveal this information to us. Because such higher beings do not ordinarily communicate directly with human beings, a favorably constituted human conduit—known as “the contact personality”—was used.

### *How did the Urantia Book come into existence?*

No person alive today knows exactly how the Urantia teachings were transmitted to us. The human beings who were most intimately involved with their reception—six people known as “the contact commission”—have all passed on to the mansion worlds and have taken their secrets with them. We are left with some facts, some myths, much conjecture, and a 2,097-page book comprising 196 papers of incomparable beauty, scope and spiritual power.

### *How do we know the Urantia Book is true?*

There is no way to prove scientifically that the cosmic and spiritual teachings of the Urantia Book are true. Each seeker must discover the truth of the teachings deep within his or her soul.

## HISTORY OF THE URANTIA BOOK

*The following historical outline has been widely accepted by believers in the Urantia Book, though the lack of firsthand documentation makes it impossible to verify its accuracy.*

Early in the twentieth century, in Chicago, a man in his sleep began to transmit communications from benevolent celestial personalities. The man became a patient of Dr. William S. Sadler, a well-known psychiatrist and author. The scope of knowledge and depth of wisdom of the communications were so far beyond the ken of this man, that the doctor, a noted debunker of spiritualism, was forced to take the case seriously.

Dr. Sadler, his wife Lena, their son Bill, their adopted daughter Emma (Christy) Christensen, Lena's sister Anna Kellogg and her husband Wilfred Kellogg, became the custodians of the manuscripts and were known as “the contact commission.” The man transmitting the information was known as “the contact personality” or “the sleeping subject.”

From his wide circle of patients and acquaintances, Dr. Sadler invited a number of individuals to attend weekly meetings at his residence at 533 Diversey Parkway, Chicago. The members of this group, called the Forum, signed a pledge not to tell non-Forumites about their involvement with the unfolding revelation. They studied and discussed the teachings as they were being revealed, and were encouraged to ask questions regarding the material. The content of the Urantia Papers would sometimes be modified by the revelators in response to these questions. In 1955 the completed series of papers was published as *The Urantia Book*.

Many revelations have been given to our world, but the Urantia Book claims to be a revelation of epochal significance, the first of its kind since the days when our Creator Son, Michael, as Jesus of Nazareth, came to reveal the loving nature of God.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I wish to express my gratitude to my co-workers in this endeavor: Matthew Block and Joy Brandt for their editorial assistance; Chick Montgomery for the cover art; Will Sherwood for producing the cover; and Al Loskamp for his legal services. I also salute the late Julia Early Fenderson, a dedicated Urantian and Forum member, who began this project many years ago and whose collection of early accounts, included here, have given this work an historical depth that would not have been possible otherwise. My deepest appreciation goes out to the 324 individuals who shared their stories. I am merely the string that has tied them together.

—Saskia Praamsma

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## Part I

### Forum Days

**CLYDE BEDELL:** How can a man or woman be so fortunate as to become intimately associated with an epochal revelation—as every reader-believer of this generation is?

My story begins in Chicago in 1921, when I was 23. I was working at the Walter Hoops Advertising Agency. My best friend there was Lister Alwood, much my senior, and a gifted writer and poet. While at Hoops I also met a lovely creature who joined the company after I did. I asked her for a date, she told me “soon,” and I gave her a rain check. But before the rain check could be honored, I left Hoops to join an agency in San Francisco.

After two years on the coast, I received a wire from Alwood urging me to apply for an \$8000-per-year job he had applied for unsuccessfully. (I was making only \$400 a month, and \$8000 was a mint of money at that time!) I agreed to return to Chicago for a personal interview. When I told my boss of my dilemma that good man said, “Go get it if you can, and God bless you. If you don’t get it, come back and go to work and forget about it.” I got the job.

The first evening back in Chicago I had dinner at Alwood’s home. He asked if I would like to attend with him, on the following Sunday, a meeting at the home of a famous psychiatrist—a Dr. William Sadler, a great speaker and teacher. Perhaps there would be some reading, but interesting discussion and conversation for sure. I accepted. Before Sunday came, I had a date with the “Hoops lovely,” making the rain check good. We had not corresponded, but I had carefully kept the address.

The first Sunday I was back in Chicago—the last Sunday in September, 1924—I attended my first Sadler Forum meeting. Afterwards I asked the doctor if I could bring a young woman the next time. He consented.