



Tidings

from Associations around Urantia

INTERNATIONAL URANTIA ASSOCIATION

www.urantia-iaa.org

№ 3 ■ AUGUST 2005



"Jesus' Home" © Graeme Chapman, Australia

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President's Message

Dear Friends,

THERE ARE TWO things that I want to share with you, both being important to our organization.

As stated in the June Tidings, Representative Council Item 32, pertaining to the Marvin Gawryn letter, requesting a discussion for a joint IUA-Fellowship conference in 2008, has been resolved by the RC, through the adoption of a set of policies that will guide IUA in all future negotiations with invitations from other organizations wishing to participate in joint ventures. A letter was sent to Marvin Gawryn, stating our policies and informing him that IUA will not plan the 2008 conference as a joint project with the Fellowship.



As for the second piece of news, we have received a letter from the Trustees of Urantia Foundation, explaining the reason behind their decision to retain the legal charter of Urantia

Brotherhood Association and encouraging IUA to register under its own name. It also assures us of their good intentions towards IUA, the continuing granting of the use of the Concentric Circles Symbol and the name "Urantia" in our name. The letter is reproduced in its entirety in Tidings.

Good reading.

Gaetan Charland

President IUA

Letter from Trustees

Dear Gaetan, members of the International Service Board, and members of the Representative Council,

THE TRUSTEES GREATLY appreciate the IUA's unwavering support of the Foundation's mission, as well as the IUA's devotion to our common cause of promoting interest in, and study and dissemination of, the teachings of *The Urantia Book*.

We are writing to you because we would like to clarify the spirit and intent of our recent decision regarding the independent status of the International Urantia Association (IUA).

Several years ago the Trustees and a number of IUA leaders concluded that they had a common goal, which was for the IUA to have the authority to manage its own internal affairs.

The IUA has matured, and the Trustees believe that the IUA does not need our involvement, notwithstanding that the Foundation wants to remain actively associated with the IUA as a matter of conviction and common goals, not because of an institutional relationship that might be considered subordinate or dependent.

When the Board of Trustees met in October 2004, the Trustees adopted a resolution, which affirms the rights of IUA members to manage their own internal affairs. The Trustees value the Foundation's close association with the

IUA, and we believe that this relationship should henceforth operate on a moral and spiritual level and not as a matter of organizational linkages.

We understand that the leaders of the IUA desire that the IUA's full official name be "The International Urantia Association," but that other names have been under consideration. It is also our understanding that the names "Urantia Brotherhood" and "Urantia Brotherhood Association" are not being considered. Therefore the Trustees have decided to reclaim the corporation that bears the name and trademark "Urantia Brotherhood Association."

Several years ago, when the members of the IUA decided that they wanted their name to be the "International Urantia Association" - not "the Urantia Brotherhood" - it was decided that the IUA's legal name would be the "Urantia Brotherhood Association doing business as the International Urantia Association" because the "Urantia Brotherhood Association" already existed as a legal entity.

We knew that having the word "Brotherhood" as part of its name could be problematic for the IUA. In a number of countries outside North America, the word "brotherhood" is often associated with cults and religious orders. In some places these unfavorable overtones could create or intensify



Photo: James Woodward

Seppo Kanerva
PresidentGeorges Michelson-Dupont
Vice PresidentGard Jameson
TreasurerMo Siegel
SecretaryRichard Keeler
Past President

philosophic, social, or even political difficulties. That, in turn, could affect the willingness of readers to take an interest in a social or fraternal organization based on the teachings. Trusted advisers from other countries were emphatic about these concerns when the Trustees sought their advice in the mid-1990's. This is why, even then, the Trustees hesitated to allow the IUA to be exposed and associated internationally with a name containing the word "Brotherhood." Notwithstanding our concerns, the IUA was established as the "Urantia Brotherhood Association doing business as the International Urantia Association." It was the quick, easy, and cheap thing to do.

The Trustees understand that the current transition has administrative and legal implications. Since the IUA will no longer be part of the Urantia Brotherhood Association, it must form its own non-profit corporation and obtain a tax exemption in its own right. As a result, donations to the IUA by U.S. taxpayers will continue to be deductible on their tax returns.

The Trustees understand that the IUA will need a period of time to form this new non-profit corporation and obtain tax-exempt status as a charitable organization. We recognize that the process must be complete before the IUA can be fully separated from the Urantia Brotherhood Association in a legal sense, and the Foundation will cooperate with the IUA to smooth the transition. We are pleased that the IUA has already initiated the effort, and we hope you will continue to pursue it expeditiously.

The IUA shall continue to use the Concentric Circles

COVER:

"Jesus' Home in Nazareth" Painting by Graeme Chapman, Brisbane, Australia. (See story on page 4).

For variety, we shall have a different image on the cover for every issue. Artists, illustrators and other creatives are encouraged to submit images for possible use on the cover. Send your images to admin@urantia-iaa.org.

Symbol and to use the word "Urantia" in its name because of the license that the Foundation granted to the Urantia Brotherhood Association. When the IUA has become a non-profit organization in its own right, the Foundation will license the IUA.

Trustees want the leaders and all the members of the IUA to know that we have the highest regard for the IUA, and that we look forward to continuing our pattern of cordial cooperation with the IUA. The Trustees deeply appreciate the loyal support of the IUA, and we have many other reasons to regard the members of IUA as close colleagues in our common cause. We know that the Foundation's association with the IUA will remain active, friendly, and warm. □

Sincerely,

The Trustees of Urantia Foundation
The Directors of Urantia Brotherhood Association
Gard Jameson, Seppo Kanerva, Richard Keeler,
Georges Michelson-Dupont, Mo Siegel
14 July 2004

TIDINGS

from Associations around Urantia

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

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.

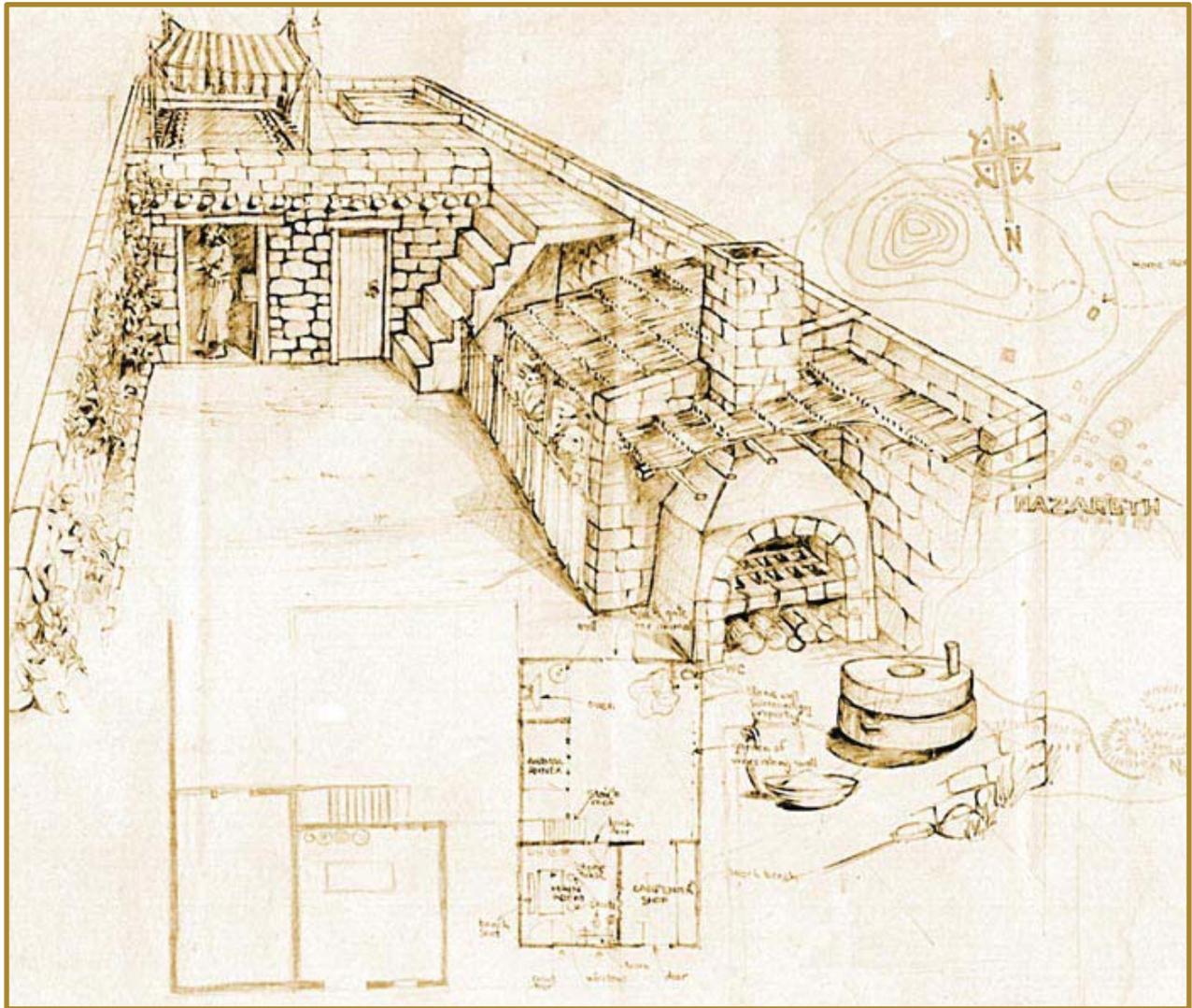
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The Home at Nazareth



The Urantia Book

P.1349 - §8 to P.1350 - §2

THE HOME OF JESUS was not far from the high hill in the northerly part of Nazareth, some distance from the village spring, which was in the eastern section of the town. Jesus' family dwelt in the outskirts of the city, and this made it all the easier for him subsequently to enjoy frequent strolls in the country and to make trips up to the top of this near-by highland, the highest of all the hills of southern Galilee save the Mount Tabor range to the east and the hill of Nain, which was about the same height. Their home was located a little to the south and east of the southern promontory of this hill and about midway between the base

ILLUSTRATION BY VERN VERASS

President, Australia & New Zealand Urantia Association

of this elevation and the road leading out of Nazareth toward Cana. Aside from climbing the hill, Jesus' favorite stroll was to follow a narrow trail winding about the base of the hill in a northeasterly direction to a point where it joined the road to Sepphoris.

The home of Joseph and Mary was a one-room stone structure with a flat roof and an adjoining building for housing the animals. The furniture consisted of a low stone table, earthenware and stone dishes and pots, a loom, a lampstand, several small stools, and mats for sleeping on the stone floor. In the back yard, near the animal annex, was the shelter which

covered the oven and the mill for grinding grain. It required two persons to operate this type of mill, one to grind and another to feed the grain. As a small boy Jesus often fed grain to this mill while his mother turned the grinder.

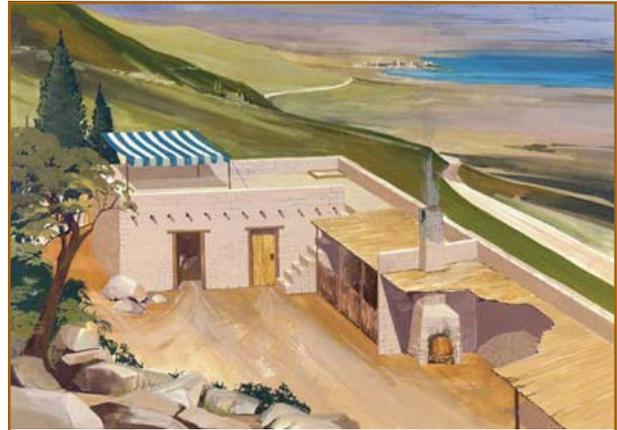
In later years, as the family grew in size, they would all squat about the enlarged stone table to enjoy their meals, helping themselves from a common dish, or pot, of food. During the winter, at the evening meal the table would be lighted by a small, flat clay lamp, which was filled with olive oil. After the birth of Martha, Joseph built an addition to this house, a large room, which was used as a carpenter shop during the day and as a sleeping room at night.

About Jesus' Home

We asked Vern: What prompted you to make the drawing, the thoughts that came to you while you were creating it, and why do you think the midwayers included this description of Jesus' home?

VERN VERASS
Duffy, Australia

IDID THE ILLUSTRATION after reading the section on the Nazareth home in 1980. I had been traveling in the USA, Canada and New Zealand and kept a journal in which I illustrated ideas, impressions and scenes along the way, this was one such attempt. The awesome significance of the 7th bestowal experience of our Local Universe Creator Son in such a humble abode struck me and I wanted to visualise his home and surroundings. I included a plan view and a topographical impression of the location showing surrounding hills and proximity of Nazareth to the sea to get a better understanding of where he grew up. I included the main items mentioned in the text; the roof shelter, sand box, animal shelter, garden, wood stove, grain mill and food preparation area. I know there are flaws in my illustrative interpretation. The surrounding wall was probably not as high behind the house and the garden was probably more extensive with fruit trees. The stairs to the roof may have been wooden as Joseph was a carpenter but wood was valuable and stone was freely available. I also should have included some large pitchers,



Painting on the cover of this issue

As you probably remember, the painting is a derivative work based quite literally on a pencil sketch by Vern Verass, who deserves credit for most of the interpretation. You could say that Vern worked out the house and I set it into the landscape.

—Graeme Chapman
Brisbane, Australia

water storage vessels in the Kitchen area. There was probably a bench or table here as well. Although I've provided a glimpse through the door, a specific illustration could be done of the house interior showing the loom, sleeping mats, pots, dishes, lampstand, stools and stone table.

I think the reason we have such a detailed description is to give us a greater understanding of his humble habitat. The Universe Creator willingly divesting himself of power and comfort of regal status. Some of us have enjoyed the experience of traveling to Israel and have walked the hills he walked, the description we have makes more real Jesus the child growing up in such basic surroundings.

I hope this gives a better impression of my thinking regarding the illustration. □

Copies of Vern Verass's illustration of Jesus' Nazareth home and Graeme Chapman's painting on the cover are both available for purchase from ANZURA (Australia and New Zealand Urantia Association). For more information go to their website at: <http://www.urantia.org.au/anzura/archives.htm#music>



"The Adoration of the Magi," Pieter Aertsen, 1560

Birth of Jesus August 21, 7 B.C.

ALL THAT night Mary was restless so that neither of them slept much. By the break of day the pangs of childbirth were well in evidence, and at noon, August 21, 7 B.C., with the help and kind ministrations of women fellow travelers, Mary was delivered of a male child. Jesus of Nazareth was born into the world, was wrapped in the clothes which Mary had brought along for such a possible contingency, and laid in a near-by manger.

In just the same manner as all babies before that day and since have come into the world, the promised child was born; and on the eighth day, according to the Jewish practice, he was circumcised and formally named Joshua (Jesus).

—*The Urantia Book*, P.1351 - §5 to P.1351 - §6

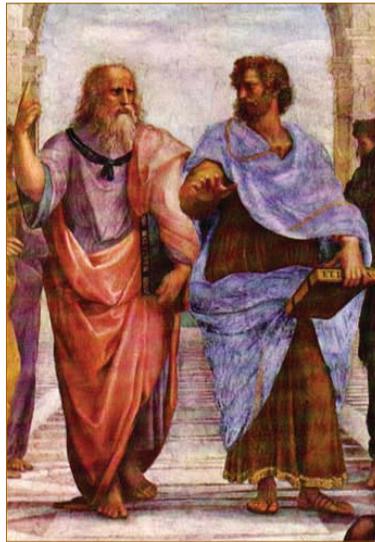
A Lesson of Love... A Conversation

DOROTHY ELDER

Director, Urantia Book Internet School

DURING A UBIS STUDY course that I was facilitating not long ago, one of the students, an engineer for a US petroleum company, was participating in the class while he was overseeing a project in the United Arab Emirates. This reader, (I'll call him John), was on top of an oil derrick over-looking the Persian Gulf. He was observing safety procedures, and when he spotted a man not wearing his safety hat he reminded him to follow company procedures to always keep the hard-hat on. The man responded that he wasn't too concerned with such cautionary measures because Allah was the only one he had to fear, and if Allah was angry with him and chose to punish him it wouldn't make much difference if he was wearing a hard-hat, or not. John saw that the man spoke sincerely in making this comment, and he paused to engage him in conversation.

John began by asking Hamid about his family, and the man's countenance radiated joy as he talked about his much-loved three sons. John also inquired about Hamid's parents, and he learned that the parents had reared him in a loving environment and had watched over him wisely as a child and youth. The conversation centered around the father-son relationship, and soon John asked if it wasn't reasonable



Plato and Aristotle, detail from "School of Athens" Raffaello Sanzio 1509-1510

that, if Hamid, a mere man, could find it so easy and natural to love his sons and carefully rear them, wouldn't Allah as the infinite upholder of a universe have even a bigger and greater love for all his children? Wouldn't Allah, capable of such love and possessing infinite wisdom, want his children to take care of themselves wisely, the same way he, Hamid, raised and watched over his own sons? Wouldn't Allah's attitude towards him be one of the love of a father?

This conversation continued for well over an hour as Hamid was filled with enthusiasm upon contemplating an enlarged and illuminating concept of

Allah as a universal, loving Father. He said, "This makes better sense to me! I will henceforth believe in a loving Father-Allah, not an Allah I must fear. And I will teach this lesson to my sons, just as you have taught it to me."

And Hamid was a happier man for this encounter. He and John had many other conversations as the weeks went by, and our class was much enriched by John's sharing his experience with us. □

For more information about *The Urantia Book* Internet School go to their website at: <http://mercy.urantia.org/ubis/>

The Third Annual Mexico Urantia Association Conference

2005 June 11 & 12

SANTIAGO KNEELAND
AUM, Spanish Translator ISB

I'M PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE that the Third Reader Conference of the Urantia Association of Mexico was held this past 11th and 12th of June, 2005 in Mexico City.

The Conference title was "The Life and Teachings of Jesus" and it covered topics, all viewed from the fourth part of the book, such as: Identity and Genealogy of Jesus, The Bestowal Missions, All of His Public Life, Good & Evil, The Mind, The Soul, Death, Fraternal and Parental Love, plus many more.

We had excellent presenters, many of whom were founding members of the Urantia Association of Mexico, such as: Liza Palm (Representative Urantia Foundation), Mary Tere Ortega (President AUM), Eligio Bautista (Vice President AUM), Victor Oracio Hernandez, Edgar Ibarragan, Francisco Javier Torres, Guadalupe Torres, Rebeca Aguirre, Israel Moreno, Raduyshurishka Fedorenko, Fernando Maldonado, Jazmin Vazquez, Roberto Martinez, Francisco Serrano, Alberto Chavez, and from Uruguay, representing the Southern Cone Association, Jaime Diaz Page.

This was the third annual conference held by the association, since its foundation in 2002. Among the things we're coming to have, as a new and growing association, is a dedicated and thorough readership base. We could see it in this conference since many of the presenters were former presenters and have come to enhance and further their studies of *The Urantia Book*. This, along with other activities and the establishment of study groups, has given us a solid base that will allow us to grow.

One of the highlights in this conference was that we opened the invitation to readers as well as non-readers. Although this was a bold move from what the AUM, as well as the rest of the associations had traditionally done, it proved to be quite rewarding. The event was publicized through channels and groups of people that have "alternative religions" and most are truth seekers, much like most of us before we found *The Urantia Book*. We got a good number of these people in the conference, and we saw that



At the auditorium. More pictures at www.urantia-iaa.org/photos/

many of them either knew about the book, or had the book, but did not really read it. Many of them were amazed by the information they were receiving, and since there was no "preacher," and it was the readers that were presenting, they realized that they too could access all this knowledge of truth by reading the book. Since the Conference was about Jesus and his teachings, many of our Mexican brothers and sisters were also able to relate in many ways, and were enlightened by just hearing all the things the presenters were saying.

Among the things we learned in Mexico from this type of conference, is the lesson of the great truth giver and the great truth seeker, and the marvelous, enlightening and rewarding experience of them meeting. The policy of the Urantia Foundation and to an extent the IUA, has been to remain low-key from massive publicity, and that the Revelation should be distributed by person-to-person contact. In my personal opinion, we should maintain this policy

Mary Tere Ortega, President AUM



and let our unseen friends guide each of us in getting the Revelation to the people that are ready and willing to receive it. Nevertheless, we can create instances such as the conference we had, avoiding massive publicity, and incorrect communication channels, where truth seekers can attend and experience the joy we all have experienced when we attend a conference; and rejoice not only from listening and comprehending *The Urantia Book* in deeper levels, but also feeling the Loving Service and sense of brotherhood of each presenter, as they commune in the Gospel. □

Mind Body & Spirit Exhibition in London

GARY RAWLINGS, COSTAS DIAMANTOPOULOS, EILEEN APPELYARD AND ROBERTO LARA
Urantia Association of United Kingdom and Ireland

PLEASE FIND ATTACHED the various reports on the Mind Body Spirit Show held in London at the end of May 2005, and once again a memorable occasion for all concerned where in total 47 books were sold at this event from the stand in addition 4 sets of MP3's, 6 of the Daily Thoughts to Ponder and one set of audio tapes with a CD-ROM departed from stand No 49 to truth seeking mortals who visited us there which numbered over three hundred in the 5-day event, with myself as the anchor man supported by a wonderful array of talented Urantia members from our association, and thank you:

Eileen, Donna, Costas, Chris, Gavin, Roland, Max, and Roberto—what a team effort that can be summed up in one word: Outstanding.

Please find the set of photographs on the IUA website <http://www.urantia-iaa.org/photos/> showing that all had great experiences with our soul brothers and sisters who were drawn to our stand for one reason, and that is to know and understand about *The Urantia Book*.

Many thanks to the IUA and the Urantia Foundation for their support, Jane Ploetz for her "Daily Thoughts to Ponder" and Jan Bernard for the MP3's; also to our donor for assisting with the cost of the event, and all those who participated in making a large number of mortals aware of *The Urantia Book* and its teachings, and we look forward in seeing you all once again at the Mind Body Spirit show in Manchester on the 29th September 2005 for 3 days.

In loving and loyal service,
—Gary Rawlings, President, Urantia Association of the United Kingdom & Ireland

Costas Diamantopoulos writes:

This year's festival was held on the Bank holiday weekend, 26th -30th of May. Our association with the aid of sponsors amongst our ranks occupied stand 49. We all gave freely our time to be there, man the stand and assist with



Roberto, Costas, Eileen, Gavin and Gary at stand #49. More pictures at www.urantia-iaa.org/photos/

the presentation of the Book to newcomers. Those attendees hungry enough for the Truth purchased the book. They came mainly from London but the book was sold also to foreigners living in London, including Poles, Slovaks, Ukrainians amongst others.

An interesting achievement of our team was the invitation by the Rastafarian Society to participate in their exhibition in July. The two ministers (man and woman) of this Ethiopian Christian Orthodox Church proved to be of a highly inquisitive nature, well versed in the subjects of the Trinity and God's nature. They felt the Book would reinforce the faith of many among their folk, who number up to 5,000.

We also succeeded in selling two Russian and two Spanish books among the 43 total sales the highest achievement in sales of the book to date in such exhibitions. Counting from last year's similar event as a cycle a total of 120 books were sold in UK and Ireland directly from such collective effort, the highest ever sales of the book in the realm. This does not take into consideration any secondary sales after the event.

It seems that our closely knit team benefits even more from the previous experience of working together and focusing in spreading the teachings, that every time the results flow with less effort.

We intend to increase our efforts this year again starting from the autumn and attempting to include Scotland and Wales as well as many smaller local exhibitions.

We all believe that our effort to spread the book is rewarded with the fruits of the spirit and as such we will continue to do so, hoping that others will follow our steps in different countries. If every Urantia Association worked in the same way, membership increases and book sales will be measurable attainments during our short sojourn on Urantia, through our teamwork. However the seeds we plant right now will bear ample fruits in future generations and the joy of this achievement will follow us in eternity.

Eileen Appleyard writes:

As a new reader of *The Urantia Book* from Ireland, I was truly honoured to join in with the boys at stand no. 49 and to do my little bit in both the sharing and representing of “god-in-action”. From the moment I was greeted by Roberto, at Heathrow airport (a special, kind, warm and loving soul) I knew I was re-uniting with a very “special family” indeed.

My few days were filled with many happy memories of meeting in with such fine people who came to our stand, and I was one of the lucky ones who was given the option of visiting other stand holders, chatting with them, and sharing our news, with our “description” leaflets.

Quite a few of those people did actually make the effort in whatever spare time they had to visit our stand, with a passion for truth, guidance and information. (Which I really did appreciate, as it made me feel my time had not been wasted).

It was almost like we had a magnet of “unseen beauty” hovering over our heads as we all did our little bit in assisting those souls, who were somewhat enchanted by the dedication, care and spirit of my lovely spirit brothers, Gary, Costas, Roberto, Gavin and Max and my spirit sister Donna.

These boys worked with such amazing love, gave from their Hearts to all who came in contact with them. They were always ready to expand and nourish the “hunger for enlightenment” within the hearts of all interested seeking males and females of Urantia.

Gary was like “big brother” to us all, always ready to step forward and give of his time and endless energy. I will never forget the kindness and encouragement that I received from each and every one of you, for the welcome and hospitality that you all shared, in your own special way. May God bless you all. eileenappleyard@hotmail.com.

Roberto Lara writes:

This Mind Body & Spirit festival was a different experience, as on this occasion two women were at the stand, Donna from Australia and Eileen from Ireland; they provided the feminine touch. This is indeed a new and important aspect for the future, since when I saw them presenting the teachings of *The Urantia Book*, I felt that we (the human race) have made great progress. Women are our other half in these endeavours and I saw them as comrades, striving to share the Good News, that the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.

A Melchizedek tells us the importance of “agreeable working groups” to achieve certain projects.

P.432 - §6 Social architects do everything within their province and power to bring together suitable individuals that they may constitute efficient and agreeable working groups on earth; and sometimes such groups have found themselves reassociated on the mansion worlds for continued fruitful service. But not always do these seraphim attain their ends; not always are they able to bring together those who would form the most ideal group to achieve a given purpose or to accomplish a certain task; under these conditions they must utilize the best of the material available.

Malavatia Melchizedek emphasizes that these associations multiply four times the potential of two human beings.

P.494 - §10 7. And then, climax all of these procedures of multisocialization with the concurrent enhancement of spiritual insight as it pertains to the augmentation of all phases of personal endowment through group spiritual association and morontia co-ordination. Intellectually, socially, and spiritually two moral creatures do not merely double their personal potentials of universe achievement by partnership technique; they more nearly quadruple their attainment and accomplishment possibilities.

Teamwork comes to my mind, powerful teamwork, when men and women are working together; at the stand I just experienced this concept, it is real and doable. I see the relative equality (in their own spheres of action) of men and women complementing one another, I see the future of the human race achieving full respect and trust between the sexes, since those are the pillars for a better and genuine civilization.

Many thanks to Donna and Eileen for being with us and really hoping that in the future men and women will be together hand in hand, working for a heavenlike society, since that is the way things should be and are to be.

Finally, an immense gratitude to my Father and your Father for the extra help He always gives us all to accomplish a small step in announcing the Good News. □

LIFEC LIMB

The climb to perfection is a perilous ascent
full of chugholes, pitfalls and cliffs
And though the scenery is varied and the way well marked
we're continually plagued by "what if's".

Those what if's are followed by should have's,
darn it's, oh no's and what's next
And, it wasn't on purpose, I refuse to believe it,
and of course the occasional possessed.

Cause there is always two guides, and it's hard to tell,
who knows the way and who is lost
And not until the next panoramic view
does mis-direction tell you the cost.

For Mis-direction is incredibly clever
and will convince you he knows the way
But halfway there his piper arrives,
him you always must pay.

Then sooner or later on the mountain climb of life
Mr. Experience you will find
He'll help you discover your faithful guide
and leave Mis-direction behind.

For Mr. Experience always waits,
you decide if he's bad or good
And if you chose the latter, through the other,
its countenance will find Brotherhood.



And Brotherhood can scale the highest of heights
it even carries me and you
To the panoramic abode of our Heavenly Guide
that exists just beyond our view.

Brotherhood can catch you when you stumble,
if you but hold out your hand
Its open arms are also guided
and will extend to every man.

So as you climb your mountain of life,
if you lose your foothold or you fall
Never fear for a faithful tether
is secured to the Guide of All.

He's always there, even if you don't believe,
but faith will heighten reward
For on the peak of this summit, all climbers of perfection,
find access to the house of the Lord.

—SUZANNE MARIE KELLY-WARD
Eules, Texas

2005 June 2, 3, 4 & 5

French National Meeting at Lumières, France

CHRIS M. RAGETLY
France

IT WAS UNDER a radiant sun that the French national meeting of *The Urantia Book* readers took place under the patronage of the AFLLU (The French Association of *The Urantia Book* Readers) in the tiny village of Lumières near Avignon in southern France.

For the first time the reunion lasted 3 full days.

Half a day dedicated to settling in and to the joy of meeting old and new readers, whether under the linden trees shade or in the swimming pool.

Two days dedicated to the study of the proposed topic “is it possible to have an experiential religion helped by a philosophy, and enhanced by a revelation?”

Half a day dedicated to elect the officers of the AFLLU committee, and other pending questions.

The members split up in 3 or 4 study groups, to broach the proposed topic and give the chance for everyone to take the floor, and give his or her personal point of view. *The Urantia Book*



Another group of French readers. Unfortunately, the camera failed to register the presence of a midwayer who was observed visiting with this group.



A few members of the French national Urantia gathering in southern France in June 2005. From left to right: Philippe Roland, Xavier Grandvaux and Jean Annet.

quotations were numerous. As for me, I particularly valued Rodan's, and his way to observe and be inspired by Jesus' life, in this way, building a strong starting base for the life of every one.

Sunday morning was dedicated to the AFLLU.

1) Election of the board.

President: Séverin Desbuisson, re-elected.

Vice-President: Thierry Lepage, re-elected.

Treasurer: Anne-Marie Ronfet, re-elected.

Secretary: Yves Guillot-Goguet, newly elected.

2) Concerning “Le Lien Urantien”, Ivan Stol will give a hand to the Paris team, he will be in charge of the printing and mailing.

3) Johanna Beukers will be in charge of the fund gathering for the reissues of *The Urantia Book*, as well as for other tasks.

4) Pascal Coulombe will be the manager of the AFLLU's Website.

5) Other people are in charge of diverse administrative tasks.

It has been decided that there will be only one national meeting a year. The venue for next year's gathering remains to be chosen. □

How The Urantia Book Found Me

MOUSSA N'DIAYE

Dakar, Senegal, Africa

President, Association Sénégalaise de Recherches
d'Étude et de Formation Spirituel

Dear Friends,

THANK YOU TO AWAKEN in my memories my meeting with *The Urantia Book*. This is the story:

It was about in 1973 that I saw the name of *The Urantia Book* under the translation of Jacques Weiss, *The Cosmology of Urantia*. I found this title in the bibliography of a French review called *Science of Mental*. It immediately impressed my thought. I bought it. Nobody talked to me before about it.

Georges Michelson Dupont, who heard about me, gave me a stock of Urantia Books, new edition.

That is the history of my meeting with *The Urantia Book*.

In a deeper manner, when I met *The Urantia Book*, I was already in an activity of spiritual research since 1956 and I had already discovered in different manners the most information contained in this book when I got it. Nevertheless, I found a more rational conception of the creation and the organization of the transmission of God's love to human creatures. It was also an interesting bringing for my research which I liked—rational, fundamental and final. I think that this book can bring to deep searchers of the nature and the love of God, information that a man can only get from a source of revelation. Man could never invent God and will never organize Him. Only a revelation

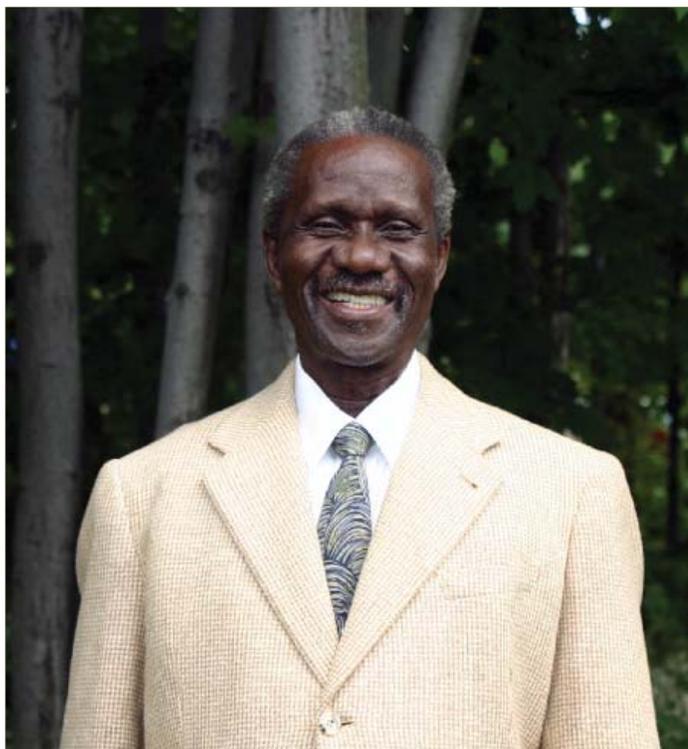
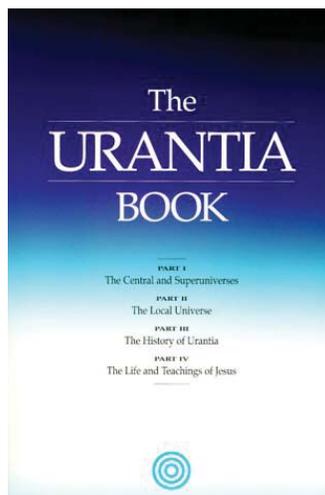


Photo: Gaétan Charland

can give to human beings such information. Generally, religions, theologies, religious philosophies and science can hardly bring out fundamental elements concerning the organization and the administration of God facing to his creation.

This is, in a simple manner, what I can say on my meeting with *The Urantia Book*. □

In friendship.
Your Moussa N'diaye.



Design: Will Sherwood

NOTE

To new and not so new readers: Send your stories about how *The Urantia Book* found YOU to cthjon@aol.com.

Deadline is the 15th of every month for the following issue.

Soul Nutrition

JAMES WOODWARD
Chicago, Illinois

A NOFTEN HEARD question is “Why has *The Urantia Book* remained so relatively obscure?” Part of the answer is because we find ourselves in a world so full of confusion, misinterpretation, myth, even deception regarding spiritual truth.

Due to this woeful reality, along with lazy conditioning, we are challenged when it comes to processing more than meager doses of inspired wisdom. Even if our appetites are hearty, the prevailing backdrop of cultural and religious dissonance restricts many to a diet of spiritual appetizers. The full course requires a progressive commitment to soul nourishment that most are unwilling or too undisciplined to sit for. It takes moral courage and persistent faith to sup with supermortal servers.

P.1223 - §4 *May I admonish you to heed the distant echo of the Adjuster's faithful call to your soul? The indwelling Adjuster cannot stop or even materially alter your career struggle of time; the Adjuster cannot lessen the hardships of life as you journey on through this world of toil. The divine indweller can only patiently forbear while you fight the battle of life as it is lived on your planet; but you could, if you only would--as you work and worry, as you fight and toil--permit the valiant Adjuster to fight with you and for you. You could be so comforted and inspired, so enthralled and intrigued, if you would only allow the Adjuster constantly to bring forth the pictures of the real motive, the final aim, and the eternal purpose of all this difficult, uphill struggle with the commonplace problems of your present material world.*

P.1474 - §5... *The great thing in all human experience is the realization of knowing the God whose spirit lives within you and seeks to lead you forth on that long and almost endless journey of attaining the personal presence of our common Father, the God of all creation, the Lord of universes.*

The Urantia Book constitutes a banquet of rich nutrition, a formidable feast that features new tastes, exotic dishes, and splendid desserts. But even those with true hunger, those who accept the special dining invitation, will find that meaningful consumption takes many sittings, years of devoted repast. More difficult still, due to the potent nutritive value of the teachings, is the process of intellectual digestion. And



“Lake Tahoe Sunset” Photo: James Woodward

authentic assimilation, living the truth as witnessed by the showing forth of the fruits of the spirit, represents the acme of progression in religious maturity.

P.1100 - §6 *The self has surrendered to the intriguing drive of an all-encompassing motivation which imposes heightened self-discipline, lessens emotional conflict, and makes mortal life truly worth living. The morbid recognition of human limitations is changed to the natural consciousness of mortal shortcomings, associated with moral determination and spiritual aspiration to attain the highest universe and superuniverse goals. And this intense striving for the attainment of supermortal ideals is always characterized by increasing patience, forbearance, fortitude, and tolerance.*

P.380 - §2 *With the advancing evolution of an inhabited planet and the further spiritualization of its inhabitants, additional spiritual influences may be received by such mature personalities. As mortals progress in mind control and spirit perception, these multiple spirit ministries become more and more co-ordinate in function; they become increasingly blended with the overministry of the Paradise Trinity.*

So break open your stellar recipe book, invite the friendly ministries, fill your plate with healthy soul food served up from the cosmic kitchen, and offer a prayer of grace. Don't forget to carry your savor and recommend the First Source Chef to your hungry friends. And remember to forgive yourself and others for the occasional burp—it's part of the mortal process.

P.1823 - §2... *The welfare of the soul is more than food and drink; the progress in the spirit is far above the need of raiment.*

P.286 - §5 *These brilliant creatures of light are sustained directly by the intake of the spiritual energy of the primary circuits of the universe. Urantia mortals must obtain light-energy through the vegetative incarnation, but the angelic hosts are encircuited; they “have food that you know not.” They also partake of the circulating teachings of the marvelous Trinity Teacher Sons; they have a reception of knowledge and an intake of wisdom much resembling their technique of assimilating the life energies.* □

Study Group News

Hawaii Urantia Local Association (HULA)

MARIAN HUGHES
Kamuela, Hawaii

THE AHLEN FAMILY of Göteborg, Sweden were the guests of honor on Sunday afternoon, June 26th, at a HULA study group and potluck dinner at the home of Matt and Marian Hughes in Kamuela, Hawaii. The family were house guests of the MacIsaac's. Johan and Greg originally met in Stockholm at the apartment of Greg's son, Michael. They all proceeded to the Urantia International conference held in Helsinki, Finland in 1998. The Ahlen's were on the second stop of a tour of the US that included time in New York City, Hawaii, California, and Oregon.

The theme of the study group was: What is your favorite passage from the UB? After two hours of sharing wisdom, the group enjoyed a wonderful dinner that included local Hawaiian preparations of fish and chicken. It was certainly a pleasure to get acquainted with Johan, a charming and



articulate UB reader. His son, Olaf, entertained the group with wonderful classical piano music after dinner. In the background, the art of our Argentinean brother, Carlos Rubinsky, is prominently displayed. From left to right in the picture: Sondra Atcheson, Johan Ahlen, Diana Riera, Matt Hughes, Marian Hughes, Olaf Ahlen, Karen MacIsaac, Greg MacIsaac and Gerd Ahlen. □

Study Group News

Québec, Canada

GAËTAN CHARLAND
Québec, Canada

ON SUNDAY THE 24th of July, under a blue sky in a setting reminiscent of Jesus with his apostles, a group of sixteen people from the region of Québec City met to share food and have a study group under a canopy of green trees.

It was a gathering where new friendships flourished and old ones could deepen, in an atmosphere of spiritual fragrance and brotherhood.

As a group, we read part of paper 22 and engaged in a very enlightening discussion about the merit of the inevitabilities of life and the afflictions that beset mortal men and help in



the spiritual growth of his soul. We also reflected on the gains and value of living in a world beset by rebellion and wondered on our future possible participation in the group of Trinity embraced sons.

Everyone enjoyed the gift of sharing spiritual truth and friendship. □

Study Group News

Ireland holds its first study meeting

EILEEN APPLEYARD
Dublin, Ireland

IRELAND HAD HER VERY first “Urantia Study Group Meeting” from my house here in Dublin, on Tuesday, the 5th of July 2005. A total of six Students arrived, all on time, and one soul turned up at the last minute as a result of receiving his email each Sunday morning from Urantia Foundation, Thoughts to Ponder (which Gary mails to me without fail)!

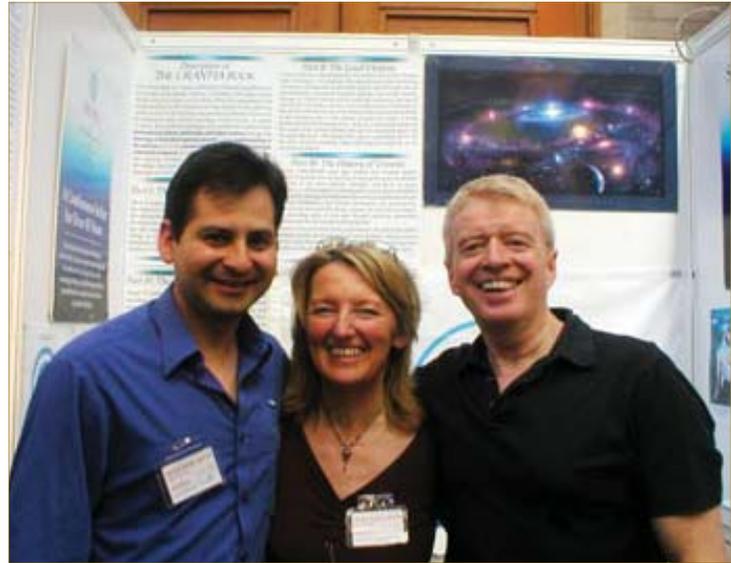
This man, who arrived last, spoke to one of our boys at the Urantia stand, when Gary, Costas, Roberto and Gavin visited Ireland last March for the 12th Irish Mind Body Spirit International Festival. **Now boys, you all know, it was well worth your time and effort, in making the journey over across the water “to do the work of our Father.”**

He only gave out his email address, did not buy the book, but took the pamphlets home from the stand, to read them through! From that, and our “Thoughts to Ponder” (and Thought Adjusters) he found himself on my doorstep, and went home with *The Urantia Book*, under his arm.

So Gary, it looks like it is true, some people will read their T2P (Thoughts to Ponder) emails after all.

We had a lovely Spiritual and Uplifting evening, one, which lasted almost three hours. We chose Paper 107 for our study – Origin and Nature of Thought Adjusters. I am also very lucky, that I have a wonderful Spirit Sister by the name of “Wendy Wisdom” who is a new reader like myself to the book, and who is of great assistance in getting our Message out to the “future Urantians”.

We would like to thank all you dear brothers and sisters, who were



The author flanked by Roberto Lara in blue shirt and Michael Dillon, her sister's cousin-in-law who moved to London 25 years back from Ireland. Eileen writes: her sister “made a phone call to him [Michael] to say I was working on the stand and flying in from Ireland; he contacted me with an offer to visit him during my short stay. Then he made a visit to our stand and bought *The Urantia Book*. Michael lives just 10 minutes down the road from Gary Rawling’s apartment.” More pictures from that event at www.urantia-iaa.org/photos/

praying for us on our first adventure, with the above. (We did feel we had more than the six mortals in our room) and, at one stage the door (which was closed) made a few funny noises? Just as we were about to get into the readings, and, as the music was about to finish. (Indeed spirit in action).

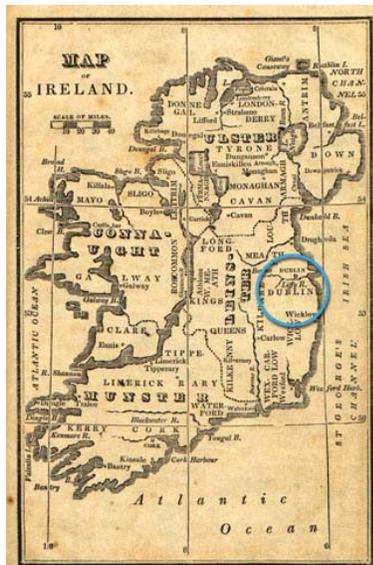
The music I had playing was, that interesting CD which I bought from the stand off Costas, in Dublin, the one I brought home, and found, that there was no disc inside? And yes, now we feel it was perhaps moved by Spirit, in order to get Ireland on the Map. (Why? “To get back talking to Gary, and as a result, two more Urantia Books were bought).

They were sold on within ten days. Both readers turned up at our study group! (One of whom is our avid reader Wendy).

The CD is called “Pray Tell Me How”.

So, now I believe, that, for everything that happens, there is a perfect good reason!

Our next meeting goes out on August 9th. We will be looking at Paper 91 – The Evolution of Prayer. □



[IUA List post, 16 June 2005](#)

Framing the Revelation

TRAVIS BINION
Wartrace, Tennessee
Southern Kindred Spirits

Greetings Siblings,

MAY THE WISDOM of our beloved Master guide our decisions and actions.

We all have heard that impatience is spirit poison. Unbridled egoism is its twin. Unforeseen consequences are their handmaiden. Unbridled egoism and impatience have combined to cause the split between the former Brotherhood and Foundation, the loss of copyright and much acrimony among the readership. In 1954 or 1955, the Contact Commission received the following message from the Revelators:

“We regard *The URANTIA Book* as a feature of the progressive evolution of human society. It is not germane to the spectacular episodes of epochal revolutions, even though it may apparently be timed to appear in the wake of one such revolution in human society. The book belongs to the era immediately to follow the conclusion of the present ideological struggle.

That will be the day when men will be willing to seek truth and righteousness. When the chaos of the present confusion has passed, it will be more readily possible to formulate the cosmos of a new and improved era of human relationships. And it is for this better order of affairs on earth that the book has been made ready.

“But the publication of the book has not been postponed to that (possibly) somewhat remote date. An early publication of the book has been provided so that it may be in hand for the

All current members of IUA are eligible to subscribe to the IUA discussion list. Send email with your name and Urantia association to admin@urantia-iaa.org.

One day when Ganid asked Jesus why he had not devoted himself to the work of a public teacher, he said: “My son, everything must await the coming of its time. You are born into the world, but no amount of anxiety and no manifestation of impatience will help you to grow up. You must, in all such matters, wait upon time. Time alone will ripen the green fruit upon the tree. Season follows season and sundown follows sunrise only with the passing of time. I am now on the way to Rome with you and your father, and that is sufficient for today. My tomorrow is wholly in the hands of my Father in heaven.” —*The Urantia Book*, P.1436 - §4

training of leaders and teachers. Its presence is also required to engage the attention of persons of means who may be thus led to provide funds for translations into other languages.

“You must learn to possess our souls in patience. You are in association with a revelation of truth which is a part of the natural evolution of religion on this world. Over-rapid growth would be suicidal.

The book is being given to those who are ready for it long before the day of its world-wide mission. Thousands of study groups must be brought into existence and the book must be translated into many tongues. Thus will the book be in readiness to comfort and enlighten the peoples of many languages when the battle for man’s liberty is finally won and the world is once more made safe for the religion of Jesus and the freedom of mankind.”

That was only 50 years ago. Nothing has changed since that time to make this message irrelevant today. The most pertinent part for those of us who are so blessed to have received the teachings in this era is “An early publication of the book has been provided so that it may be in hand for the training of leaders and teachers. Its presence is also required to engage the attention of persons of means who may be thus led to provide funds for translations into other languages.” As a group of believers, dear siblings, our primary mission should be to help get the book translated and kept alive until that future time when its time will have come so that it may be in hand for training leaders and teachers.

I pray that the impatient ones will not do too much harm. □

Peace, Travis