



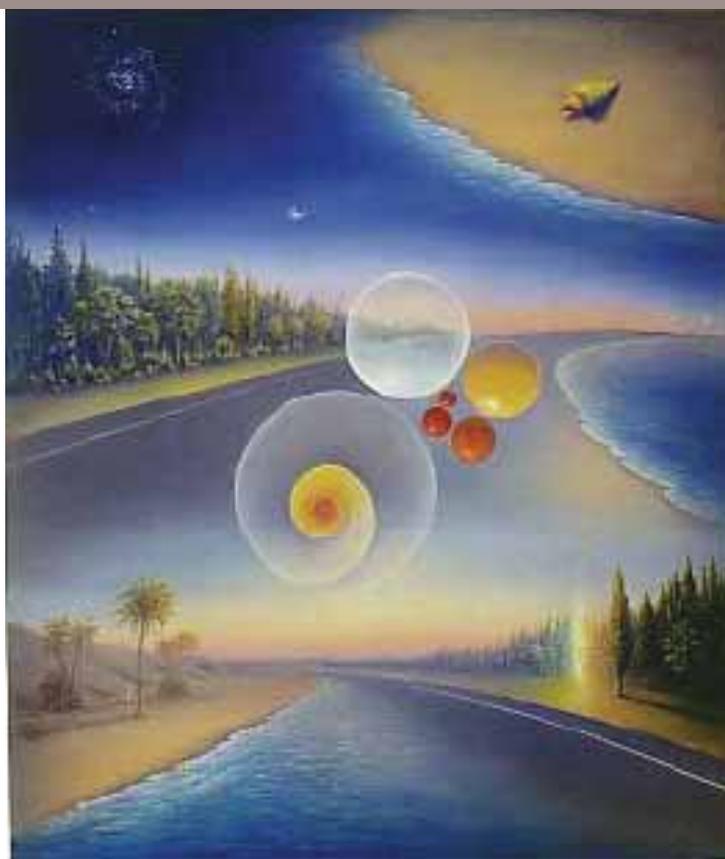
# Tidings

FROM ASSOCIATIONS AROUND URANTIA

URANTIA ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL | [HTTP://WWW.URANTIA-UAI.ORG](http://www.uran-tia-uai.org)

Nº 6 ■ NOVEMBER 2005

"Towards the Tao's Path" Painting by Carlos Rubinsky



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# President's Message

Dear friends of UAI,

**T**HIS MONTH BRINGS TWO pieces of good news; the first one is the publishing of a Study Group Starter Kit by Rick Lyon, Chair of the Study Group Committee of UAI. As you all know, study groups are one of the main objectives of the mission of UAI. The Revelators have admonished us to create thousand of study groups and train leaders and teachers. I believe that through study groups we can achieve all of this and much more. If you have been participating or hosting a study groups for many years you know that this activity, when accomplished with sincerity and devotion, has the ability to enhance all aspects of our lives. It is one of the

means by which we can approach and establish a spiritual brotherhood.

It also is a way to learn how we can integrate the teachings of *The Urantia Book* in our own life through the sharing of real life experiences, enhanced by those same teachings. It help us become teachers by gaining knowledge, understanding and confidence in our abilities to listen and share our own interpretation of the spiritual principles contained in the teachings of *The Urantia Book*. It helps us become leaders by sharing in the responsibilities of maintaining and enhancing the spiritual and intellectual flavour of the study groups we are hosting or participating in.

**I**n the Starter Kit that Rick has produced, there are many examples that can be used to improve your study group, try them and see their benefits. But be patient, growth is progressive whether it is material, intellectual or spiritual. Having two study groups for

the last six years, I can truly say that it is getting better as we progress in spirit and understanding. I would say like Rick, what is the most important thing in starting and keeping a study group is a strong desire and commitment and I would add this comment, spirituality is not something to be taken lightly, it is serious work that requires the best that we have to offer. Start today, be part of a study group as a host or a participant.

**T**he second good news is the adoption by the Representative Council of a second discussion list in the form of a bulletin board for the English speaking members of UAI. This list will give the opportunity to members to participate in the discussion of their choice by choosing which topics are of interest to them. They will also be able to initiate new topics as long as they are in keeping with the rules that will be established for that list. They will also be able to peruse past messages as this form of list can archive any discussion or topic. It has the merit of not clogging your mailbox as you are required to log in to be able to participate. This list will in part replace the UrantiaT and Forum lists that the Foundation was managing and cancelled several months ago. An email will be sent to all UAI members upon the availability of the bulletin board. □

–Gaétan Charland  
President, UAI



## TIDINGS

From associations around Urantia

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

*The Urantia Book* online:

<http://www.urantia.org/papers/index.html>

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. **Submissions limited to 2–3 pages (about 1400–2100 words).** A one-page article is about 700 words with a photo or graphic image.

**Deadline: By the 15th of every month**

Editor: Cathy Jones, [cthjon@aol.com](mailto:cthjon@aol.com)

Spanish Translation: Olga López,  
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Tidings archives:

<http://urantia-uai.org/tidings/index.htm>

COVER:

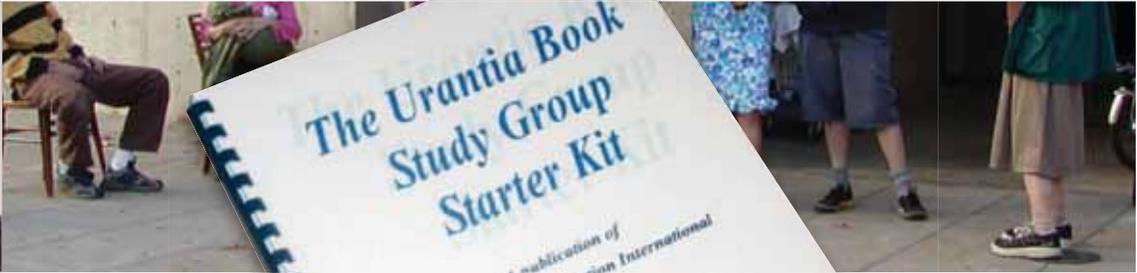
"Towards the Tao's Path" painting by Carlos Rubinsky of Buenos Aires, Argentina.

 We shall have a different image on the cover for every issue. Artists, illustrators and other creative types are encouraged to submit images for possible use on the cover. Send your images to [admin@urantia-uai.org](mailto:admin@urantia-uai.org).

# UAI committee creates Study Group Starter kit



RICK LYON  
Study Group Committee Chair



**T**HE STUDY GROUP COMMITTEE of the Urantia Association International has completed assembling a starter kit for people wishing to create a study group of *The Urantia Book*. The kit will include information on how to find potential members, set up your first meeting, how to have a successful and long lasting group, and various group activities that enhance the study group experience. The kit includes a list of readers in the host's area as

**None of this material is needed or required to create your own study group. The only thing required is the desire and commitment of at least one person dedicated to the success of the group.**

potential members of the study group along with other nearby study groups. Information about how to stimulate discussion, how to be a good facilitator, and several different ways of conducting a study session are also part of the kit. Everything you need to establish a group in your area is in the kit.

We are asking for a contribution of \$19.95 for the kit to cover the cost of printing and shipping the kit. We are now accepting requests for the English version of this kit. Translation of the kit materials into

other languages is in progress and will be announced upon completion.

Here is a list of items the starter kit includes:

- A welcome letter
- How to have a successful study group.
- Step by step checklist of creating and hosting your first study group
- How to solve problems that arise in study groups
- Group activities outside study group
- List of names from your area to contact
- List of other study groups in your area
- How to submit study group info for the UAI database
- A form for sending study group news to the UAI study group committee
- Invitations to send out to area readers
- Announcements to send to other area study groups
- A guest speaker invitation card

None of this material is needed or required to create your own study group. The only thing required is the desire and commitment of at least one person dedicated to the success of the group. We hope that this kit will assist you in getting a group started in your area.

To order your Study Group Starter Kit, send your request to Cathy Jones, UAI Administrator, by mail to: Urantia Association International, PO Box 82308, Phoenix, AZ 85071-2308 USA. You may also order by phone (602/938-9163) or by fax (602-938-9187) in the United States or by email at: [info@urantia-uai.org](mailto:info@urantia-uai.org).

Tell Cathy you would like a Study Group Starter Kit. Be sure to include your name and address so that we can send the kit to you and locate potential group members in your area for you to contact.

Please send any news about your study group and group activities to Rick Lyon, UAI Study Group Committee, at: [ricklyon@tctc.com](mailto:ricklyon@tctc.com) or P.O. Box 397, Linden, IN 47955, USA. We would like to share study group experiences among all study groups. □

# Asian study groups need books

Note: To preserve the flavor, these letters were left unedited.

## From Moses in Pakistan:

**T**HIS MAIL IS a letter to shake your souls to transfer what you have got to the next generation. I want you to think over for the UB readers of the third world countries or the countries which have found the UBook recently, try to organize some training sessions, or meetings where people like us can come and learn how the system works and work more efficiently for the spread of the revelation. I want some opportunities where you can give me and some of my fellow readers with Presentable material

**You should spread your arms to these areas and either visit these countries and train individuals, or invite individuals to the foundation in order to train them for the better working in the spread of the UBook.**

and train us how we should and can work more efficiently. for example:

1) Their are bible study centres all over the wold where people are provided with the material

and taught how to use it in future, they are spiritually motivated to work more efficiently.

2) In case of muslims, their are madaris in every street to teach them, and tell them how to use their abilities in order to satisfy people about their thirst for Islam, and how to answer simple questions asked by muslims or non-muslims.

3) For urantians their are neither any information/training centres here, nor people those are experienced willing to transfer their skills and experiences to the next generation ▶



## From Prana in Indonesia:

..... For us Urantia Book is very importance, because in it many knowledge that able to assist us in development experience in spiritual.....

...We very glad if we earn to open discussion or share experience with your study group friends or you, especially in spiritual experience.

We are planning to attend the next international conference < IUA International Conference Sydney Australia 2006>, will you be there? Hopefully we could meet in the conference and share our thought.

present in the third wolds countries.

You should spread your arms to these areas and either visit these countries and train individuals, or invite individuals to the foundation in order to train them for the better working in the spread of the UBook. Try to give us special attention as we want to work efficiently for the UBook and satisfy our souls. in order to do that we need you people to train us.....

Take care & by bye.  
with best regards,  
Moses David.

## From UAI/ISB members:

Dear Members,

If you or your Association cares to sponsor Book seedings in Indonesia and/or Pakistan, there is a present need. A study group leader in Indonesia contacted the ISB, he said they have two Urantia Books, but over 30 students. In Pakistan an energetic new reader reached out who wants to spread the seeds of revelation in his homeland.

Please contact one of us if this form of service appeals to you, your Local or National. There is an immediate need for 45 soft covered English Books, plus the shipping. Approximate cost: between seven and eight hundred USD. Beyond that, they are seeking sponsors for the Sydney conference.

Sincerely,  
UAI/ISB members.

Secretary, Shirley Pelland  
[ShirleyPelland@comcast.net](mailto:ShirleyPelland@comcast.net)  
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Study Group chair, Rick Lyon  
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Dissemination chair, Rick Warren  
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UAI Executive Administrator,  
Cathy Jones.  
[info@urantia-iaa.org](mailto:info@urantia-iaa.org)

## The study group experience

During 1993–2000 Rick Warren hosted the Jesus Lighthouse Study Group in Fort Worth, Texas

RICK WARREN  
Lone Star Urantia Association



Photo from the 2004 LSUA Conference in Texas. Suzanne Kelly to the right and Rick is second from left, back row.

**T**WELVE PEOPLE CAME to my first study group meeting! I live in a big metro area where there are scores of readers, so attendance wasn't a problem. But it was a little awkward because I knew only half of those who came. Some were there solely because their mate or spouse are readers.

I was fortunate to have a good reader friend at my side. Suzanne was the first sincere reader I met after having found the book six years earlier.

**The only iron clad rule I embraced was to maintain the focus on the text itself, not on individuals, not on peripheral matters, and especially not on politics.**

She had known *The Urantia Book* about as long as I had and also wanted to meet with others over this awesome revelation. Before long we began talking about forming a study group. I had all the essentials, a quiet comfortable place (my living/dining room) and a regular time slot available. I gave it much thought and finally decided to have our meeting one workday evening every two weeks. That fit in very well with everyone concerned. A weekly meeting seemed too much strain on my household, so I chose the two week schedule.

That's one of the beauties of

hosting study groups, they can be designed anyway the host wishes. The frequency and method of study are left entirely to the host. The only iron clad rule I embraced was to maintain the focus on the text itself, not on individuals, not on peripheral matters, and especially not on politics.

The awkwardness was gone by the second meeting, and so was about half the group. Only seven showed at our next meeting. Over the seven year period of my study group, the number of attendees varied from three to twenty two. I quickly came to realize that more than seven or eight people at a SG meeting creates a social dynamic that can inhibit the less assertive members. And it becomes more a production than an intimate study session. That's not a bad thing, it just needs to be handled differently.

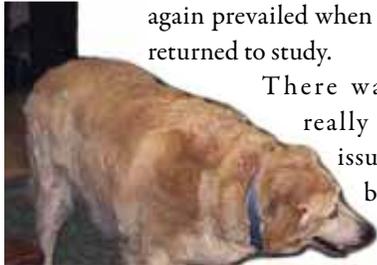
The size of a study group very much affects the ebb and flow of each participant's open engagement. The host naturally wants to make all feel involved. And if not involved, at least valued and respected. The more members though, the more difficult it becomes to retain that unmistakable intimacy that a small group fosters.

But large study groups are not to be avoided per se, they just require a different attitude, greater attention and more planning. And sometimes the best solution may be to spilt into two or three smaller groups.

We followed the long established pattern of taking turns reading, gathered in a circle, or around a table. And everyone took a turn even though there was no rule requiring participation. We experimented with asking members to read a whole section, whether it was a few paragraphs or two pages. But that sometimes exhausted the poor reader, so we switched to a paragraph or two, mostly at the reader's discretion. These readings were interspersed, and interrupted, with discussions arising out of the text. Interruptions were tolerated if not encouraged. Discussing the text as it is being read is the real heart of the meeting. Herein lies the true value and fruit of study groups. Encourage this in your study group and it will succeed and prosper, if goodness is also present.

The only rules I insisted on were: keeping the focus on the text, and no politics. Occasionally and inevitably the group's focus drifted off the ▶

text. Inevitably the level of harmony always dropped in direct proportion to the extent of the drift. I distinctly recall this happening in the lead up to the 2000 election in the US when a spontaneous political argument broke out. It felt awful. But harmony again prevailed when attention was returned to study.



There was only one really troublesome issue that had to be dealt with. One which created much consternation and diversion from study at first. It was a problem that took considerable time to discover the remedy for. How was I to deal effectively with members who habitually talked about themselves and issues unrelated to the group's focus? I found that resentment can easily develop within the group when the same person(s) dominates the meeting with off topic issues. Talk of car deals, software or lawn pests will cause some to be bored. If it continues, they

will drop out. And, you may never know why. Too many distracting side conversations can have a deleterious effect as well. If the study group is seen as a social gathering/

chatfest more than a study venue of this unique, vivifying revelation, then interest will flag.

Eventually it occurred to me to handle study group members who constantly took the focus off the text by asking Suzanne (who has an infectious laugh and is a naturally loved-by-all kind of person) to act as "sargent at arms". I never announced her as such, but we agreed beforehand to work together to keep the meeting from being hijacked by well intentioned but intrinsically talkative members. And we pledged to try to do it without hurting anyone's feelings.

Looking back on it, I recognize we were able to accomplish this only because the group's greatest desire was to study this amazing revelation we hold in common. They came to study with others who came to study.

The group took to Suzanne's good natured ribbing and it instantly became a joke. So much so that before long, all Suzanne had to say when the meeting began to drift off text was, "Shut up, and read." Big laughs would attend her commands and no one felt shamed, they often apologized for leading us astray. We were left with a more jovial atmosphere of sincere study and learning.

Meeting once every two weeks as we did, it took years to read the Book from cover to cover and discuss all that came up during our readings. But there is simply no substitute for group study, it must be done to fully appreciate and integrate the teaching of this, the most profound book ever written. In my opinion the revelation can't be fully absorbed without at least once, reading it through with a group who recognize the Urantia Papers for what they are, a revelation to a benighted world from those who care for and attend us on high.

We usually read about a Paper per meeting, around ten pages. But sometimes we read just five pages, and sometimes it was fifteen or more. It all depended on the ratio of discussion-to-reading that took place. It should be noted that some people will gladly come half an hour early to socialize and converse. Some would happily stay half an hour after, all depending on what the host permits. I welcomed this overlap of the meetings as time to strengthen friendships, and it had the added advantage of allowing members time to talk about unrelated matters so the study sessions might keep closer to the real focus of the meeting—studying the text. We experimented with switching nights a couple of times to adjust to the

human schedules and such. But we finally settled on Thursday night, from 7:30 to 9:30.

Then came our last meeting. We gathered in a circle, talked over our past, celebrated and toasted "Adios". At the end of my hosting period and after conferring with other members, our SG broke into two more, one for each side of the city. Suzanne become host to one of them. They are both still active. Both are places for new and old readers to intermingle and live out the ancient axiom, "you have learned a thing when you have taught it to another".

Successful SG's are not difficult if one knows the few pitfalls. Indeed they can be very gratifying. Certainly not all SG experiences are good ones. A few years ago, another friend who decided to host found a very contentious and somewhat alarming person at her first SG meeting. Her SG died then and there. She hasn't opened her home again. It pays to screen people. Of course, this requires good people skills and must be delegated to a sagacious reader.

Overall, my SG experience was most rewarding, and essential to growing in the teachings. But caution is a must, ever observing the Master's admonition: be you gentle and wise. About all I furnished was a regular, quiet place with a determined focus on the UB. Except for ice water, cookies and coffee, that's all it takes. Having a big dictionary on hand helped too. Members often brought what they liked to snack and sip on. It was a relaxed and informal meeting that always gave us the same feeling one gets from any UB reader conference. Maybe there exists an Angel of the Study Groups that imparts the glow that seems always to characterize such gatherings under Jesus' light.

Good studies, □

R. Warren,

Lone Star Urantia Association

Maybe there exists an Angel of the Study Groups that imparts the glow that seems always to characterize such gatherings under Jesus' light.

## One reader, one book

OLGA LOPEZ

Asociación Urantia de España

**W**E HAVE JUST STARTED a new project called “One reader, one book” (“Un lector, un libro”). This project is addressed to Spaniard readers, and wants to give one more step in the dissemination of *The Urantia Book* in our country, placing the book in public libraries.

If you live in Spain and want to participate in this project, the steps to take are very easy: you just have to buy a copy of *The Urantia Book* and donate it to the public library you prefer. We have print labels with information of

our Association, to stick in the first blank page of each copy. We will send these labels to interested readers.

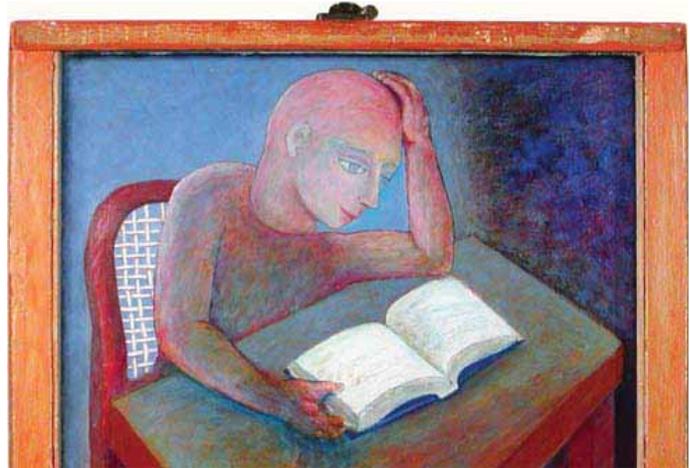
After placing the copy of the book, we will be very grateful if you contact to the Association to tell us where you have placed the copy, in order to update our database.

We strongly believe that this

is a good way of making the book available to the majority of people. So we would like to count with your collaboration. On us, readers of *The Urantia Book*, depends that its teachings are known all over our country. □

Fraternally,  
*Olga*

“Reader” M. Caoile



## Love and Friendship

JAVIER BERRIO

Asociación Urantia de Medellín (Colombia)

*Very Good Day:*

**A** VERY SPECIAL GREETING on this day. Friendship is everywhere, and daily living nurtures us with valuable experiences that make us value what the true meaning of friendship is, which is nothing more than the glorification of the human associations but that, nurtured will flourish also in eternity.

I'd like to share this reflection.

**A BIG HUG TO ALL**

The enthusiasm to live. Being isolated tends to wear down the charge

of energy in the soul. The association with our brethren is essential to renew enthusiasm for life, and indispensable to conserve the courage necessary for the battles that lie ahead in ascension into higher levels of human life.

Friendship intensifies the happiness and glorifies the triumphs of life. Affectionate and intimate human associations tend to rid sadness from suffering, and a lot of bitterness from difficulties. The presence of a friend

augments all beauty and exalts all kindness. Through wise symbols, man is able to live and augment his capacity for the appreciation of his friends. This power and possibility of mutual stimulus of imagination is one of the supreme glories of human friendship. There exists a great innate spiritual power in the conscience of being consecrated full hearted to a common cause, of being mutually loyal to a cosmic Deity. □



Friends in Medellín

# Virginia Carolina Readers (VCR) Mini-Conference

Theme: "Partners in Eternity Through Perfection of Character"

MARION B. PERRY  
VCR President

VIRGINIA CAROLINA READERS (VCR) members and friends gathered at the home of Dave, and Dr. Patty Pearce to share in what turned out to be another wonderful VCR annual mini conference. Saturday, Oct. 1, 2005 was a bright and comfortable day in Raleigh, North Carolina. Our hosts provided us with all the comforts of home. As different topics were presented the setting was extremely conducive for study, fellowship and spiritual reflection.

Passages from the UB used for reflection on the theme "Partners in Eternity through Perfection of Character" were found in Paper 111 pg. 1221, 5.

Our program opened with a well received original composition, sung by guest Mel Preslar from Bel-Haven, NC. Afterwards several excellent papers were presented, and they are listed as the following: It will be worth the effort to keep an eye open for their publications in a future publication of the UAUS Messenger.

VCR Treasurer, Sherry Layton and her daughter, Erica Layton



Outgoing President Voyette Perkins-Brown and James Perry, MD, Membership Chair

"A Definition of Psychological and Spiritual Health According to UB Principles." Dr. Patty Pearce-Raleigh, NC.

An art composition entitled, "And Away I Go", was an attempt to convey what she depicts as her soul's journey from Urantia and beyond, was shown by Voyette Perkins-Brown of Norlina, NC.

Other topics included, "Mind Change and Spiritual Adjustment", by Marion B. Perry-Norlina, NC., and "Doing the Will of God as a Willing Partner with our Thought Adjuster," by Dr. James H. Perry also of Norlina, NC.

"Effect in all who believe, Loved One, an absolute faith and trust in all you are and have ever been and will always be, and lead us to the door of your love," are samples of the beautiful poignant prayer which was shared by Sherry Layton of Durham, NC.

Our teen age reader, and participant Erica Layton of Durham, NC conducted the group in singing, "This Little Light of Mine, and then encouraged us to accompany her in singing, "As I went down to the river to pray." All the while the environment was very peaceful, and spiritually inviting for worship.

One of the Great highlights of

the day was a cookout prepared and donated by our Secretary, Dennis Kidwell of Raleigh, NC. Bone sucking Baby Back Ribs, Chicken, String Beans, Red Potatoes, Hamburgers, Veggie Burgers, and salads were just some of a large assortment of wonderful tasting foods prepared for us. Our host baked fresh bread, and a member's wife made velvety brownies with chocolate icing.

As Out-going President Voyette Perkins-Brown, and Treasurer Roselyn Armstrong ended their long terms of dedicated service to VCR, Marion B. Perry was duly elected VCR President, and Sherry Layton as the new VCR Treasurer. These two women are both long time readers of *The Urantia Book* and have been active participants in VCR activities over the past 10 years. Three readers were voted in as new VCR members, with hopefully two to be added during the new year. Other visitors from Florida, NC and Virginia helped to make our conference well rounded and successful.

The one very sad note of the day was the absence of our Vice President, Lee Armstrong, and his wife and daughter Roselyn, and Ozanne. They had not missed a meeting since our inception, □

# Partners in Eternity: The Perfection of Character

## *A Prayer*

**Dominate** our souls, oh Lord of Light, and gird us through  
the *long and winding road that leads to*<sup>1</sup> you

**Sculpt** us from within and renew our strength and trust in you,  
so that we may follow your will

**Mine** our hearts and minds for glimpses of your nature, for filaments  
of character that reveal the loveliness of your personality

**Remove** the blinders and blunders of our wardrobes,  
and outfit us with golden gowns befitting sincere  
ambassadors of your mercy and goodness

**Forge** within us that which heeds only your voice  
and responds to your touch

**Make** us mindful always of the spiritual powers available  
for our use because of your generosity of spirit

**Build** a sturdy gateway from one room of your mansions to another,  
and climb with us as we share our ever new and broadening  
spiritual selves with our associates passing by

**Stimulate** our minds on this road to perfection so that we may  
garner greater meanings and values of your design

**Effect** in all who believe, Loved One, an absolute faith and trust  
in all you are and have ever been and will always be

**Lead** us to the door of your love, Great Parent

**Claim** more for yourself the righteousness you have wrought  
in your children of time and eternity

**Deliver** us finally to the doorstep of your paradise place  
so that we may claim our inheritance, having become warriors  
of your perfect love, soothed by your abiding presence,  
delighting in you always

**Send** us forward to declare your saving love on the worlds  
to come and for the loves to come

**Keep** us where the light is<sup>2</sup>



—SHERRY LAYTON  
Virginia Carolina Readers

<sup>1</sup> Taken from "The Long and Winding Road," by The Beatles

<sup>2</sup> Taken from "Gravity," by John Mayer

## Estonia readers celebrate *The Urantia Book* 50th anniversary

**T**WENTY-FIVE READERS in Estonia gathered in Tallinn on the 12th of October to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the publication of *The Urantia Book*. Peep Sõber had an one-hour talk about the history of *The Urantia Book* and Urantia movement in the world and in Estonia. Professional musician Peeter Paemurru played some pieces by Bach on cello and our association president Veikko Raagmets gave a talk about our plans for the next few years, when the Estonian translation will be ready and published by Urantia Foundation. Several new readers joined with our association and study groups. Atmosphere was very humorous and positive.

—Peep Sõber



Veikko Raagmets, new president of Eesti Urantia Assotsiatsioon talks about the next few years. More photos of this event at: <http://www.urantia-iaa.org/photos/estonia2005/index.htm>



Cellist Peeter Paemurru plays Bach.

## 50th anniversary dinner-dance

CHICAGO, OCTOBER 16, 2005

*A few pictures ...*



Bill Martin, Gaétan Charland, Jay Peregrine and Benet Rutenberg



Dorothy Elder



Patricia Mundelius and Cathy Jones

Josh Snyder, Mary Lou Hales and Richard Keeler



James Woodward and Rick Lyon



Seppo Kanerva



Some of the people that were present at the 2005 Urantia Conference in Colombia.



## The Colombia Conference in San Jose

GAÉTAN CHARLAND  
Quebec, Canada

**T**HIS SUMMER WAS FILLED with great activities in which keen *Urantia Book* students could participate. My wife and I traveled and participated to a few of these events and came back home enchanted with the organisational, social and spiritual progress that has occurred in our movement and that is still happening in many parts of North and South America. There is no doubt in my mind that this situation is experienced worldwide in the Urantia movement. I also

**The previous and the current mayor are both readers of *The Urantia Book* and practically the whole medical staff of their small hospital are readers.**

witnessed growing desires among the members of the UAI as well as among other readers of the UB to speak more openly about *The Urantia Book* in their own community or abroad. Some have even manifested the desire to use wider spectrum of communications to share their beliefs.

While we move ahead in an uncharted era of economic, social, religious and spiritual values we have to remind ourselves that evolution is slow but very effective. We are

often tempted to engage ourselves in revolutionary techniques to promote social and spiritual truths. The acquirement of lasting changes whether it is material, social, religious or spiritual requires patience and wisdom. The two conferences that my wife and I attended this summer had to do with evolution, starting at the material level and ending at the spiritual one. Both stressed the fact that time was the one element that is required in astronomical quantity to achieve stable and lasting changes.

Let me share with you what we have seen in Colombia, South America. In San Jose where the national Urantia conference of Colombia was held, the whole village of five thousand inhabitants was welcoming the readers of *The Urantia Book*. The previous and the current mayor are both readers of *The Urantia Book* and practically the whole medical staff of their small hospital are readers. Everywhere we went in the village, we were welcomed with open and friendly smiles. On that Sunday a religious service was happening at the local Catholic Church and a few readers attended

the service; I could not go, but my wife did and she reported that the priest was overjoyed by the presence of *Urantia Book* readers and welcomed them openly.

This is not a temporary situation that lasted only a weekend; it is the results of a wise and harmonious integration of the teachings of *The Urantia Book* by enlightened readers. They patiently exemplified the teachings of *The Urantia Book* by integrating fully their community, by helping the local people organize their social life, by helping build facilities that would promote growth, understanding and positive leisure activities for the youth. They use loving service in their daily life as a tool to promote and disseminate the teachings of *The Urantia Book*. They did not speak of *The Urantia Book* unless they felt that the demanding souls were ready. No wonder my wife and I fell in love with the people of that country; as I mentioned, we came back enchanted from our stay in Colombia.

For me, this demonstrates clearly the value of wise and patient techniques of dissemination. It exemplifies very well the lessons taught to us by the Master in the fourth part of the Book. It also is a reminder to us about the needs to share our positive experiences with others if we want to succeed in our common mission to elevate this world in new levels of spiritual awareness and consciousness.

The means are there. We can through study groups learn how to understand and integrate the teachings of *The Urantia Book*. It is how we integrate our own society and exemplifies the spiritual truths in our life that our actions will have lasting influences around us and it is through the Supreme that the consequences will manifest themselves. So let us become the light of this world! □

# The Last Page

In the beginning is a word.  
The word is and is written.  
A second follows the first.  
A history begins.  
Personalities are named, correlated,  
Facts given,  
Meanings attributed.  
Actions ensue.

Placed in time, located somewhere,  
The account unfolds  
With the imprint of the Author.  
By way of word appeals,  
The story is given:  
Words of attractive information,  
Artistically arranged.  
Chosen words.  
Coherent.

From the beginning  
Vivid details capture our imaginations.  
Plots are fastened by acts,  
By antagonisms of personal interests,  
By loves, family rivalries, greeds, gods,  
By loyalties, sophistries,  
By wars and rumors of wars,  
By courage, by truths,  
By revelations.

Chapter by chapter meanings evolve.  
They are roiled by misunderstandings,  
By divisions and fabrications,  
By additions and distractions,  
By confusions and complications  
Of what is known, of what is knowable,  
Unseen or secret,  
To get to the truth:  
The whole truth.

Of these matters,  
The Author knows.  
But how much can we know?  
How much is unseen?  
How much worse or better  
Will the last page be?  
No matter.  
One page at a time  
Line after line,  
Word after word,  
History is revealed.  
And when all is said and done,  
The last page shall be the first.

—MEREDITH VAN WOERT  
Southwest Urantia Readers Family

