



# Tidings

FROM ASSOCIATIONS AROUND URANTIA

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

№ 7 ■ DECEMBER 2005

“Concentric circles 60-way” photo: Don Simonds/ concept: Shirley Pelland



Photo by Don Simonds

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# President's message

*Dear friends of UAI,*

IT IS WITH A LOT of anticipation that many of us were waiting for the inauguration of the new UAI Forum Discussion List. Today it is a "fait accompli." Members of UAI from around the world can now participate in the discussions and topics of their choice in the English language without having their e-mail box cluttered by unwanted messages when they go on vacation or are away from their computer for many days at a time. This new way of communication for UAI will benefit anyone that is interested in having in-depth discussion about many topics relevant to the Urantia Book and its mission or various related topics that were outside the regular UAI List.

Being a new tool of communication for most of us and offering many advantages and features, an in-depth exploration of this program is required to appreciate the full extent of its usability



and benefits. It might take some time before the majority of the regular UAI List members migrate to this new list to engage in their favourite topics of discussion, so the regular list will still be there for the ones that those changes make a bit uncomfortable.

This Form List is the result of the remarkable work of Oscar Morales from Barranquilla, Colombia and Mario Caoile from the US. Both of these devoted and talented members have worked hard to give UAI a proven and tested method of communication, available to all of its members that have access to a computer. We all know how important communication is; this is why the members of the Representative Council and the International Service Board are doing their best to be of service to their members by providing this new tool of communication.

This month, on the agenda of the RC, the budget for the year 2006 is being discussed and is scheduled for voting. There is also the creation of a sponsorship fund for the international conference that has been approved by the ISB and will be submitted to the RC for approval very soon. As we move ahead to expand our services and become more autonomous, a revision of the Charter and By-laws concerning our new name is almost ready to be submitted to the RC for approval. The Spanish version of the text will also include some minor word changes that have been made necessary to clarify some misinterpretations of important articles.

As we are approaching the beginning of a new year, I appeal to your generosity to support wholeheartedly the efforts of UAI in providing greater service to its membership in the accomplishment of our common mission. □

—Gaétan Charland  
President, UAI

Note: The UAI Forum is open to all current UAI members worldwide. To join the Forum contact: [forum\\_admin@urantia-uai.org](mailto:forum_admin@urantia-uai.org)

## 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**

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Tidings archives:

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

# December donor challenge!

**DEADLINE**  
**December 31, 2005**

An anonymous donor wants to add his energy to ours in the effort to "create thousands of study groups." He has pledged \$2,500 with a challenge to our members to match that amount, resulting in \$5,000 for UAI operations.

The deadline to meet this challenge is December 31, 2005. Let's step up to this challenge and show the donor and ourselves we can do this! Send your donation to:

**UAI \$5,000 Challenge**  
**P. O. Box 82308**  
**Phoenix, AZ 85071-2308**

To all who accept this challenge with a gift, we say "thank you" in advance. A hearty "thank you" to our challenger!

—Mark Kurtz, CFO  
UAI Fund Raising  
Committee Chair □

For more information call:  
**602-938-9163**



Concentric circles, 60-way. Shirley in the yellow jumpsuit in the middle circle, encircled. High resolution image (1.5MB) at: <http://urantia-uai.org/tidings/images/Concentric-Circles-60-way.jpg>



Aerial photos: Don Simonds

## Flying concentric circles

*“Skydiving is like the UB for me—extreme truth”*  
 —Erol (Smiley) Baybura

SHIRLEY PELLAND  
 Southwest Urantia Readers Family  
 Secretary, Internatinal Service Board



Shirley above Urantia

**F**INDING WAYS TO LIVE our lives to the glory of the Father can often be glorious and sometimes even fun and exhilarating. Ever since I started skydiving eleven years ago, I have wanted to build a skydiving formation of three concentric circles. I had heard it could be done and for my

**Skydiving is a great sport in many ways. One of the most compelling aspects of it is the teamwork.**

60th birthday, sixty of my skydiving friends made it a reality.

It took us three attempts; it is a challenging formation. It was a cloudy fall day in

California but the skies opened up to let us play. We jumped from three airplanes flying in formation from 16,000 feet elevation above the ground. We were above breathable air and we needed to have an oxygen tank in the planes. It

took a team of experienced organizers to plan. The first two jumps were close enough that we were confident going up for the third attempt that we could do it. We did it with one grip a little iffy and one shoe hanging on by a string (two jumpers to the left of me, I'm the one in the yellow helmet on the right, in the middle row).

Only a few of my fellow skydivers knew the significance of three concentric circles in my life and they were willing to let it fly. Some of the rest knew it meant something to me and a few asked about it. I've never been real pushy about it, and I have many times hoped that I would not in any way disgrace the Revelation. But, skydivers are a loving and accepting lot and I call it good fortune to be among them and call them friends.

Skydiving is a great sport in many ways. One of the most compelling aspects of it is the teamwork. You learn very quickly that you must trust others and be trustworthy as well; your life and the lives of others depend on it. I don't think I could be up to such a sport if it were not for the growth I have had as a result of reading the UB teachings. How else would I know that in liaison with God nothing, absolutely nothing, is impossible, even little (old?) me can get along and make great things happen. I want you all to know that I love you all and that I am happy to my very soul that we are all sharing in bringing these great truths to the world. □

## Fall meeting success

RON LAWSON  
President, Washington State  
Urantia Association

(From the UAI List, October 31, 2005)

Note: The UAI discussion list is open to all current UAI members worldwide. To join the list contact [admin@urantia-uai.org](mailto:admin@urantia-uai.org)



Alice and Lew Clark in the middle. This photo was taken at the inauguration of WSUA in June 2001.

**H**ELLO, I'M SO FULL of joy and happiness this morning I cannot resist the temptation to share the events of yesterday's WSUA meeting. As you know, I am blessed with the opportunity to serve as President of this state's Urantia Association. We have had, I suppose, like many other Associations might reveal, a bit of a rocky beginning. Today however we are united in the effort of revelation and dissemination and yesterday we joyfully conducted our fall Governing Board

**Teamwork is so important to the success of any organization ...**

and General Membership meeting in Ellensburg, Washington.

The history of Urantia here in Washington State goes back to the early days of this task we are all committed to. Largely due to the faith and efforts of a remarkable couple of people. I refer to Lewis and Alice Clark, who came upon *The Urantia Book* almost at the very beginning of the astonishing Revelation it brought to our world. They grasped the significance of the Truths revealed to mankind and not only raised their children in that environment but worked tirelessly to spread the word to all who had ears to hear. Today, their daughter,

Janiece, is a wonderful supporter and tireless worker in the continuing effort to make more and more people aware of the fascinating information *The Urantia Book* contains.

Yesterday I had the privilege of presenting a LIFETIME OF SERVICE award to Janiece for her parents. It is an 8" x 12" hardwood in the shape of Washington State with the concentric circles centered over Wenatchee, where Lew and Alice have lived most of their lives, and acknowledged their dedication *The Urantia Book*. Both Lewis and Alice are in poor health and could not attend the meeting, but Janiece was good enough to get them on the phone and as I made the presentation to her the members broke into applause and I'm sure Lew and Alice could hear the emotion in the room. By the way, we did this without letting Janiece or her husband in on the secret so it was a complete surprise to her.

I post this with a purpose. If any of the various associations around the USA, or the world, have such a deserving couple in their history and you have not done something to acknowledge them, try this. The guidelines for such

activity are included in the manual UAI—composed for presidents to work with. So I want to include a very hearty THANK YOU to whoever designed that workbook as it has been a wonderful assist to me as I work to achieve the most out of this opportunity my compatriots here in Washington have bestowed on me.

And last, but not least, I want to say how much I appreciate the team members who have committed themselves to working with me as we step forward into the future. Vice President Cassandra Discher, Secretary Patrick Irick, Treasurer Leslie Creed, Jesus' Birthday Retreat committee chair Janiece Hoggatt, Membership Committee chair Ellen Gaynor, and our newly designated Program Committee chair Jimmy Mitchell. Teamwork is so important to the success of any organization and it is evident to me that these remarkable people all understand and believe how valuable it is. Thanks everyone for making my day so wonderful and I look forward to continuing the tasks we have set before ourselves. □

# Anatomy of a revelation

JIMMY MITCHELL  
Washington State Urantia Association

*I have recently given a talk to our local association, the Washington State Urantia Association and it is from the notes of that talk that I have prepared this paper.*



Jimmy performing a Spirit Life Theater piece called "This Boat is for Sale"

I FOUND THE URANTIA BOOK in 1999 and most of my life has never been the same. The phenomenon of waking up to my spiritual resources, my Seraphic Guardian, my Thought Adjuster and the Spirit of Truth functioning in my life has changed me forever. Over the last two years I'd say I have concentrated my personal study of the book on the revelation process itself. I did this by doing a comparative study of the five revelations to see if there were any patterns or similarities to get better insights

The one way that *The Urantia Book* revelation differs from the four previous revelations is that it does not immediately degrade.

on how to assist in the revelation process. Papers 99 through 103 were also very helpful to me in getting a better understanding of how personality synthesis grows in human beings.

The one similarity that all five revelations have in common is that their nature is unassuming the "nucleus of the Prince's settlement was a very simple but beautiful city." And without *The Urantia Book* I would've never dreamed that a revelation from our universe government would come in the form of the book like any other book that you could get from a bookstore except for the fact that when you read it, it changes your life.

The one way that *The Urantia Book* revelation differs from the four previous revelations is that it does not immediately degrade. Unfortunately, because of all the previous revelations were done

verbally they began to degrade as soon as the revelator left the scene. Then, as the messengers of the revelation spread out, the message was less and less potent and more mixed with the evolutionary ideas of the time. *The Urantia Book* does not have this characteristic and the message says the same as long as the book holds together—so from the first person to read it to the last person, the message stays the same. In this way this revelation may be the most efficient and probably the most experimental revelation to date.

One curious similarity between the Jesus revelation and the book revelation is that they both required 70 personalities to gain their initial momentum. In the Jesus revelation there were 12 in the contact commission and 70 evangelists. In the book revelation there were five in the contact commission and a 70 member panel that participated with Dr. Sadler that culminated in the book. It was those 70 people and their families that pooled their resources together and created the Urantia Foundation, with the mission to hold the text inviolate, translate, print, and disseminate—"to scatter the seeds" of *The Urantia Book*.

The Jesus revelation and the book revelation have another similarity that I would like to point out. However, I do not want to arouse any resentment in doing so, so be warned. To make my point, I first have to ask a question. Have you ever had the thought—why was John the Baptist's role so vital in the Jesus revelation? I mean—throughout

their whole lives they hardly spoke to one another. They had basically the same message but coming from two directions, two different mindsets. They both had an apostolic corps of 12 and this is where it gets interesting because of the dynamic tension created out of the wrangling of the two groups it aroused the religious fervor in them and made them more determined than ever to get the message out. This could be looked at as a dynamic way of expanding and fortifying potentials. In the book revelation the dynamic is relatively the same but in a different order.

One other thing that the founders of the Foundation wanted to happen was a fraternal organization for the readers of the new revelation, kinda like a club. And as you know, there was some dissention in the ranks and that caused it to split into two, just like the two differing sides of the apostles, and this creates dynamic tension and as you know this has multiplied the number of companies that want to produce the book – two companies on the planet that want to produce the book inviolate. Both sides dug in their heels and put up an enormous fight and from my perspective, both sides seem plumb tuckered out, but still alive and functioning. Where it goes from here, I refuse to speculate, but my hopes are high.

The revelations number two, three, and four have a characteristic that helped their spread enormously and that was why they were funded by a tithing system. The Sethite Priesthood

was the first to employ the method of fund-raising to finance the revelation of their day and I recall even Jesus paid the temple tax and currently most every religion on the planet has some way of gathering funds. The book revelation is very different in this area because there is no church, no priesthood or clergy, no one to administrate the gathering of the tithe. I would like to pose a question – why do you think the history of tithing can be found in *The Urantia Book*? Why

About that time I felt something hit me upside the head about the mass and density of *The Urantia Book* ...

would they include that information?

Recently I have gone through a strange turn of events that has changed my mind on the subject of tithing.

Up to now I found the whole subject absolutely repugnant but I have changed my mind. A friend of mine, a non-reader sent a book to me in the mail. The subject of the book was prosperity, getting your financial life more in sync with the universe. In the area of tithing it was suggested that even if you don't have a church that you regularly attend you should tithe a portion of your income to something that you feel is spiritually good for you or good for the planet. About that time I felt something hit me upside

the head about the mass and density of *The Urantia Book*, just kidding. I woke up to the fact there is something very important to me that is worthy of my tithe. Can you guess what it is – it's *The Urantia* revelation and does it need funding? Absolutely! In fact, it is crying out to me for help. However, I think this system could use a little tweaking, so my goal is to channel 7% of my income stream on a monthly basis to *The Urantia Book* related efforts. I emphasize goal. I call this my "7 percent 70 program." I look at it this way – Dr. Sadler and the 70 created the initial momentum of the revelation by creating the foundation but that momentum will only last so long and like a baton in a relay, must be handed off from one generation to another as the revelation process continues generation after generation. I'm carrying my baton throughout my life by supporting something very important to me and I think to the world with my 7 percent stream going to Urantia Foundation. This has had an incredible effect on me personally and my purpose in life has become a little bit more defined and I am a bit more prudent in my spending habits.

To write about the anatomy of the revelation is an attempt to write about something that has no ending.

Revelation reaches out into our material future as much as we can imagine so there cannot be a closing statement on the subject. It therefore becomes incredibly important to set goals along the way so that we can measure our progress, otherwise we may lose our sense of direction.

At the meeting where I presented this information we decided to set some fund-raising goals for our association. Our goal is to raise \$3,000 per year, over and above our dues. These funds will be distributed in three ways, \$1,000 will be used to purchase Urantia Books from our retailers which we will seed into our territory like Mark Bloomfield did in India. \$1,000 to the General Fund of Urantia Foundation and the last thousand will be divided - \$500 to UAI and \$500 to UAUS. In this way we hope to pool our resources and help in a more comprehensive way.

To all presidents and vice-presidents out there, I would like to recommend that you consider these points when discussing needs of the Urantia revelation with your association. At our last meeting where I discussed this topic, \$350 in unrestricted funds were raised after the conclusion of my talk. I will keep you posted as things develop. □

## Merry Christmas!

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn

And there were in the same country shepherds, abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

—The Bible  
St. Luke Chapter 2 verses 7-11



From the Tidings staff  
—Cathy, Mario & Olga



- 📍 Brian and Jennean Snowden's ranch in Harper, Texas
- 📅 Lone Star Annual meeting
- 👤 Tamara Wood and Rick Warren

## Lone Star UA meets at Snowdens' ranch

DEBRA GUEVARA  
Presidenta, Lone Star Urantia Association



**T**HE LONE STAR Urantia Association held its annual meeting on October 8, 2005 at Bryan and Jannean Snowden's ranch in Harper, Texas.

Debra Guevara –President, Betty Tarpley – Vice President, Richard Guevara – Secretary, and David Jaggars –

**It was suggested that the groups buy and donate books to libraries, used book stores, hospitals, etc...** Treasurer were in attendance. The Lone Star Urantia Association members present were: Rick Warren, Bryan Snowden, Curtis Tarpley, Suzanne Kelly Ward, Matt Ward, Bruce Brown and David Glass.

We were blessed by the presence of Richard Keeler, Trustee, Jay Peregrine, Director and Tamara Wood, Reader Services of Urantia Foundation, Ralph and Betty Zehr, Presidents, Matthew Project all of whom were in Texas for a special Matthew Project meeting.

We started our day off at 1:00 p.m. with a wonderful barbeque provided by

the members. We enjoyed great food and companionship. At 4:00 p.m. we started our meeting.

We discussed where we want to go with our organization this coming year. Debra asked the group to support a service project to provide aid for three of our fellow Urantia Book readers who lived in Slidell, Louisiana and had lost all their possessions in Hurricane Katrina. She started off by donating \$300 in Home Depot cards. Betty and Ralph Zehr followed suit with a \$100.00 donation. We ask all our members and anyone else interested in donating useful items or money please contact either Debra Guevara at [debraathome@yahoo.com](mailto:debraathome@yahoo.com) or David Jaggars at [djaggars@txcyber.com](mailto:djaggars@txcyber.com)

We would like to thank Mary Michaels for providing and maintaining the Lonestar Light web-site ([www.lonestarlight.com](http://www.lonestarlight.com)). Great job and good luck in your new home.

We elected two new officers during our meeting. David Glass was elected to the position of Membership Chairman, and Matt Ward was elected to the position of Communications Officer. We welcome them both.

Debra discussed her vision to bring in younger readers and increase socialization among existing reading groups. She asked that members and nonmembers alike organize get-togethers in their areas two or three times a year. It was suggested that the groups buy and donate books to libraries, used book stores, hospitals, etc. with a stamp or handwritten name of the reading group and a means of contact. Both suggestions were met with unanimous approval.

The group decided that they need a pin for our organization. They are asking that anyone please draw up ideas and e-mail it to Matt Ward.

Our thanks to Bryan and Jannean for their hospitality! □

# How The Urantia Book found me

RHONDA RICHARDS  
Virginia Carolina Readers



**A** LITTLE OVER FIVE years ago, after my mother's death, I started to really question the meaning and purpose of my life. Prior to that, I had been too engrossed in work and distracted by life's obligations to think much about it. I began to feel very lost and alone, so I decided to test the "seek and ye shall find", "knock and it shall open" theory. I asked God to help me to find and understand what was "true". That was a very desperate move for me as an Agnostic. During this period of turmoil, I had a dream that an entity with shoulder length dark hair and a pearly gray robe (that looked at once both male and female) came to me and just touched my hand, and a

**My real fascination comes from the fact that after I asked God to help me find and understand the truth, I have received what appears to me to be an enormous amount of information that does exactly that.**

sense of complete peace overcame me. I woke up feeling a lot better.

During that general period of time I also started reading a number of "new age" books (another first for me—like Brian Weiss, Raymond Moody, Edgar Cayce—people like that) but then one day I was in Barnes and Noble and I saw a copy of "Autobiography of a Yogi". The photo of Yogananda reminded me so much of the entity that I saw in my dream, that I bought the book.

That book led to many others by Yogananda, including his two volume collection called "The Second Coming of Christ". I started to feel that God was actually directing me to find the answer to my request to know and understand "the truth". I wrote to Self Realization Fellowship and started their "lessons" in meditation, and I spoke with one of SRF nuns who was most kind. I believe that

organization is truly devoted to service and to helping people in their quest to find God.

Right around Thanksgiving of 2004, I asked God to help me understand if and why he required Jesus to die in order to forgive his own creations for their sins. Shortly thereafter, I was in a much smaller book store with my daughter waiting for her to find some school materials. I started my usual perusal through the new age and religious sections (to entertain myself during my wait) and I looked up and saw this blue box sitting on a top shelf, in an open area all by itself. Because the blue box caught my eye, I took it down, opened it, and saw what looked like a Bible but was clearly not a Bible.

I took it to a chair and began to scan the pages and noticed right away that the text was very extensive, and I could see that it was a book that blended both scientific and religious ideas. It didn't take but a minute or two for me to turn to the paper entitled "The Meaning of the Death on the Cross" and I knew at once that this book was a gift to me from God. I never believed, even as a child, that a loving God would be in any way associated with human sacrifice. It literally made me start to cry.

After reading the introduction, I immediately became curious about the author. Needless to say, I was so captivated by my first glances through the book, I took it to the register. The cashier tried to scan for the price but couldn't find a price. After several searches into the computer, a price was finally established—I took the book home, and couldn't stop reading it. At home, I went to the internet and found the very interesting story about how the

book came into existence and numerous Urantia related websites.

When I first starting reading, I remained somewhat skeptical about the actual origin of the book. I would think "Why would anyone (or any group) do so much work to create something like this simply to perpetuate a fraud?" Then I would counter that thought with: "Suppose this man (or his group of friends) were religious fanatics, or suppose Dr. Sadler was some sort of ingenious person who wanted to perpetuate his own concept of the nature of God." Still, this book contains some concepts that would seem far outside the box for people living in the 1930's and 40's. Then, I would go back to Yogananda's books and see that he was saying many similar things at approximately the same point in time, and rather quickly I came to the resolution that the book is what it says it is.

My real fascination comes from the fact that after I asked God to help me find and understand the truth, I have received what appears to me to be an enormous amount of information that does exactly that. In Spring of 2005, I asked God if I might find other readers (as there were none in my immediate area) and within days my company asked me to attend a meeting in Chicago. While there, I was able to have dinner with several members of the Foundation and attend a Tuesday evening study group.

In August of this year, I was very fortunate to be able to attend the cruise to Mexico and meet a delightful group of readers from all over the world. These experiences have shown me that there is meaning to life, and that there is literal truth in "Seek and ye shall find." □

# How The Urantia Book found me

ED OWEN

Vice President, Southwest Urantia Readers Family



IT WAS 1970 and I was recuperating from an automobile accident. A friend came by who happened to have a copy of the book with him. He was leaving for a few days so I asked if I could have the book while he was gone. After he left, I opened it to page 1096. I was speechless after reading my first paragraph.

*The goal of human self-realization should be spiritual, not material. The only realities worth striving for are divine, spiritual, and eternal. Mortal man is entitled to the enjoyment of physical pleasures and to the satisfaction of human affections; he is benefited by loyalty*

**I had students from Mexico, Burma, Korea, Iran, Viet Nam and many other countries. I sold or gave away books which were well received. One thing I learned; the Asians are ready for the UB.**

*to human associations and temporal institutions; but these are not the eternal foundations upon which to build the immortal personality which must transcend space, vanquish time, and achieve the eternal destiny of divine perfection and finaliter service. [1096:3]*

If it said this much in one small paragraph what will it say in the rest of the book? I have always been an avid reader and have found that just by reading a few lines here and there in a book I can get a feel for what it's all about. With the UB every place I looked seemed to fit into a welcome pattern of truth.

I will now fast forward to 2005 and give an overview of what has transpired over the last three decades. One of my highlights was when I was given the opportunity to be a tutor at the Sacramento reading center. I had previously helped deliver food and clothing which didn't satisfy my expectations

concerning service. Day after day the same people. We should honor those who spend time at this thankless task.

However, the tutoring proved perfect for me. I didn't need to be proficient in English. I just talked and read with students on a basic second grade level. Now and then I would get a student who could read English and was working on getting a degree at a University and needed help with translations. I found out that I could talk about anything I wanted to, so religion became my focal point. If they needed to learn to speak English, I had them tell me about their religion and we worked together to translate their words into proper English. In the process I took opportunities to expand on some of their beliefs with similar UB concepts.

I had students from Mexico, Burma, Korea, Iran, Viet Nam and many other countries. I sold or gave away books which were well received. One thing I learned; the Asians are ready for the UB. Confucianism, Buddhism, Shamanism and other Asian religions practice some form of spirit worship. Since the UB uses the word "spirit" over 2000 times, that in itself created considerable interest. A common question asked by many of my students was, "What does the book say about spirits?"

Another activity I have enjoyed over the past 30 year centers around the future or what I call "Which Way Ahead?" We are the first wave of teachers for the Revelation. Every time we place a book in a library, bookstore, or an individuals hands we make progress. One of my favorite ways of placing a book is to take one to a bookstore and give it to them, only asking that they sell

it for full price and keep all the money. I do this because I have found that just giving someone a book doesn't mean they really want it or value it. However, if one plunks down thirty dollars they seem to take an interested.

I have revisited many stores I had given a book(s) and they are glad to see me coming back. They all confirmed they sold them for full price and some were keeping a copy on their shelves. Perhaps someone reading this has bought one of my donated books. I read a post the other day from a person who found the UB in a bookstore off highway 50 in South Lake Tahoe in 1973. Well there is a good chance that I placed that book. Back then I would go to bookstores in that area and order a book for myself and one for a friend. When the books came in I would pick up mine and leave the second book in the store for someone else to find. I would donate my book to a library in the area. I did this for years, revisiting these bookstores and I'm sure that every book found a good home.

Last summer my wife and I toured Amish country in Ohio. I placed a book in two libraries and hopefully next year I will return to check to make sure they are still there. Over the years, I've had the best success in getting a book into a library by being soft spoken, interested, and patient with no hint of being pushy. I would also mention none of the last 10 or 15 libraries we visited had ever heard of the book. It's sad that we have spent so much time and money on lawsuits and so little on libraries. □

## Study group in Cameroon, Africa

PAUL TSEKAR  
Yaounde, Cameroon



Left to right: Mbaso Alphons, Maggi Mvede, Paul Tsekar, Kesita Nana Bertine, Anthony Mbela. Front row: Chia Tsekar Emmanuel, Yonta Brenda, Ngo Debora Tsekar, Tina Tsekar Joshua.

WAS BORN OF A PEASANT farmer in the south-West of Cameroon/Nigerian Border around 1958. I used to go to the Protestant Church alongside my parents. After my elementary studies, my Father decided it was enough education for me. But if there was anything on Earth that my heart desired at that time, it was to go to college. My Father could not be persuaded into sending me to college. So I made a childish prayer that, "God you are the only one that I have. Please help me find the money on the ground so I can go to college". That happened six months later. I picked a good sum of money up off the ground in a busy market and was

**Our group meets at 12 noon each Saturday at my home at Ngoussou quarters in Yaounde. We do the studying like this; A paper is opened and we read for one hour...**

able to pay my way into college the first year. This left my Father no choice but to carry on from there.

Now, during my youth and having studied the Protestant doctrines more profoundly, I became rather confused and started asking questions which no one was able to answer for me. Instead, they would brush them over. Here are some of them: Why is it that God should punish Man so severely for eating only a fruit from a tree? Why not punish only Adam and Eve instead of punishing even those who were not there at the time? Why the massive destruction of the Egyptians in the Red sea? As God, why did he not solve the problem in another way? Why this partisan attitude of choosing only

Israel out all the people of the Earth? And most of all this Hell-fire business, where non-believers are going to be born everlastingly.

I decided to quit the Church for good. To me either the Bible might have been manipulated or Christianity is just a trade like other trading companies. Yet I continue to believe in this God who answered my prayer to pick money off the ground to go to college. Though I had stopped going to Church, I continued to search for this God. The search took me to Jehovah Witness for three years. The Golden Rosy Cross for three and a half years. I tried Sahaja-Yoga for one and a half years and "Born Again" for six years, but without satisfactions.

Then one day I decided to go on the Internet. I went to Google and typed, "Spiritual organisations in USA". Pages and pages came up. All were the stuff I have been familiar with. Some difficult exercises to attain something or some kind of life to live, or laws to keep. Don't do that or this. Some forbidding fruit not to be eaten. Some with God spreading traps everywhere for you to fall in to so that he can punish you. You know I hate Gods that punish. Then I came to this one "Urantia Foundation". I clicked on it and the brief note I read was interesting so I subscribed to Daily Thoughts. They were very inspiring. That was late 2003.

I later received my Blue Book in early 2004, but started reading it only around the first of January, 2005. Since then my life has changed for the good. God is no

longer to me this pompous wicked old bearded personality, honor hungry, that tempts people so that they will fall into sin so that he can judge them and put those who do not believe in him into everlasting hell fire. But he is rather a loving Father who created all of us out of love and whose love, no human language has words enough to describe.

There are many other realities depending on the environment where a study group is found and the realities concerning the study group leader. Take my case for example, for my group to function well I need to rent a small hall, for I personally live in three rooms which cannot contain visitors since we are a family of eight. I also need a computer and funds to pay for the Internet connection fees along with other materials. All these I cannot afford alone since my income is very low. I think you know of our financial difficulties in Africa. As a matter of fact, some of us in Africa will need a bit of financial help to get started. As the groups grow and people come to know more about the Book, membership will be increase and they will be able to take care of their own problems.

The newly established study group in Yaounde Cameroon needs your help to meet our requirements as follows:

- Registration of the Cameroon Urantia Study Group as the Cameroon Laws require. With the Ministry of Territorial Administrations; estimated at about \$950 UDS.

- A Computer set, estimated at about \$750 USD.
- Connection on Internet estimated at about \$1000 USD.
- A stable place for the study group to meet: estimated at about \$800 USD.

This, when realized, will help spread the good news in Cameroon and beyond. All this can not be shouldered by our group leader alone and the group is made up of members most of who have no income at all. No doubt the group shall soon be able to take care of their problems without seeking outside helps as the membership grows. Our Group address: P.O.Box 15987, Yaounde, Cameroon.

Our group meets at 12 Noon each Saturday at my home at Ngouso quarters in Yaounde. We do the studying like this; A paper is opened and we read for one hour, each person reading from his book from that same paper. After one hour the stage is opened for comments. We avoid having somebody to stand in front as a teacher. We sit in a semicircle.

At first, we started studying the Book from the first paper, but later found out that some of the papers were too difficult to be understood by everyone. So we now choose a paper together. At the moment, we are studying the 'Life and Teaching of Jesus'. This is what everyone of us has studied in Church and this has more

details that everybody is interested in and eager to learn more about.

The oldest Person in our group at the moment is Mr. Mbasso Alponse about 55 years old. The youngest person is Tsekar Joushua. Some of these members have to travel a distance of about three km. to come for study. We started the study in March of this year. Like the Master said, "*You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*" [page 1796 :4]. □

Yours;

Paul Tsekar, Youunde - Cameroon

## Have you registered for the 2006 IUA Conference yet?

**T**IME IS SLIPPING away and before you know it the next IUA Conference that's being held in Sydney, Australia **July 14 to 18, 2006** will be upon us.

If you are planning to attend and have not registered yet, please get your registrations in as soon as possible to help the organisers. If you haven't made up your mind yet, then please don't delay too much longer.

Some preliminary checks have been made on airfares from the West Coast of the USA to Sydney and you should be able to get a flight for around \$1600 (US\$). James Woodward is in the process of working out a charter flight deal with a travel agent to see if we can get some concessions on group bookings. Stay tuned on that one. James will let us know when he has something concrete to report.

For more information on the program, venue, visas, registration, holiday ideas etc. check out the website link to the right.

Spread the word! Cheers.

—IUA Conference 2006 Committee



AUQ holds first annual bazaar

## Quebec raises funds for Portuguese printing

**I**t is a pleasure to inform you that the AUQ held its first annual bazaar in view of raising funds for our international needs

Under the supervision of Line St-Pierre, small objects of all sorts were collected from donations among our membership and were offered on sale in a church basement in Montreal where a non-profit organisation rented tables to the participants. Four tables

were needed to present the many items generously offered and the proceeds of this one day event held on Nov. 5 amount to 655.\$ (Can.).

The money has been transferred to the Urantia Foundation to support the printing of the UB in the Portuguese language. □

—Alain Cyr, president  
Association Urantia du Québec

2006 International Conference information:

<http://urantia.org/au/anzura/iuaconference2006>

Registration Form — Go to BACK PAGE

## coming soon

God is coming to my house

I must sweep the floors,  
The vacuum, broom and dust mop  
Passing near the doors.  
Dust mop first to grab the fuzz,  
Vacuum to suck it away,  
A broom to sweep the crumbs  
In preparation for this day.

Today God comes to my house,  
I must dust the table,  
Feathers first to loose the dust  
On all things as I'm able.  
Hand on cloth to rub away  
With oil - to feed the wood -  
Soft polish to make it bright  
If the rubbing really could.

God is coming to my house  
The windows I must do,  
The walls and corners wiped  
And the pictures too.  
The pillows must be fluffed,  
The rugs they must be shaken.  
In every nook and cranny  
An assessment must be taken.



God is coming to my house  
The cookies must be baked  
With bits of nuts and raisins  
And maybe coconut flaked.  
The tea it must be brewed  
Of oolong or of mint,  
And chilled within the icebox,  
Two hours for a stint.

God is on his way  
And flowers must be found  
In the front yard garden,  
If flowers there abound.  
The full, the rich, the beautiful,  
The finest are for Him,  
In a vase are gathered  
Leaping forth beyond the rim.

God is coming to my house,  
He has traveled from afar  
In shorter than an instant,  
From farther than a star.  
He comes by invitation  
Without fanfare is still.  
In my house as His hostess,  
I long to do His will.

—MEREDITH VAN WOERT  
6/16/04, Southwest Urantia  
Readers Family (SURF)

