

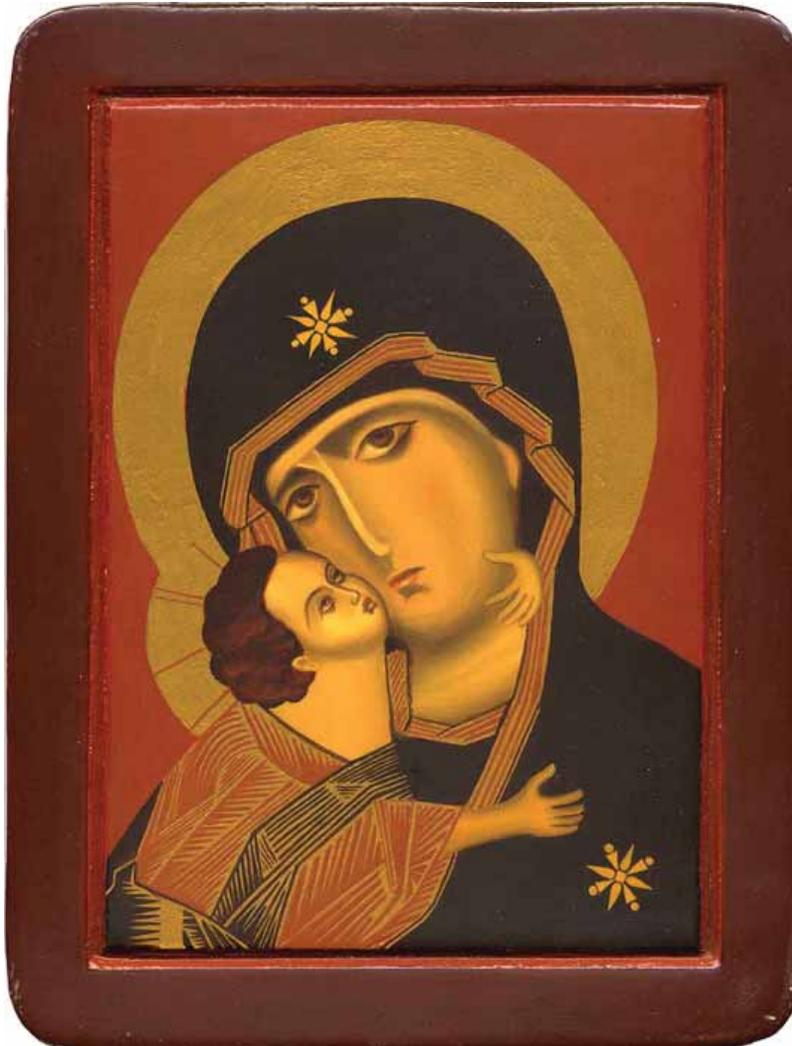


# Tidings

FROM ASSOCIATIONS AROUND URANTIA

URANTIA ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL | [HTTP://URANTIA-UAL.ORG](http://urantia-ual.org)

Nº 15 ■ AUGUST 2006



"The Vladimir Virgin" painting by Maurice Migneault, Ontario, Canada

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## President's Message

*Dear Friends,*

**W**HAT A PLEASURE IT WAS to attend the Australian conference and what marvelous hospitality these people have manifested to all readers coming from everywhere around the world. All this was worth the expenses and the strong jetlag. On behalf of UAI, I want to thank all the organizers and Australian readers who made this beautiful conference an astounding experience of discoveries, friendship and spiritual adventure.



We were blessed to have such presenters as Nigel Nunn with his humour and clarity, William Wentworth with his passionate exploration of difficult concepts, Michael Hanian with his deep reflections, Will Sherwood with his no nonsense approach, Tamara Wood with her inspiring grasp of characters and Mark Bloomfield with his profoundly touching presentation. There was also all those people who prepared workshop and study sessions that kept us exploring the “Deep Water of Discovery.”

This conference was a true success due to the extraordinary work of Merindi Swadling, Kathleen Swadling, her husband Trevor and the remarkable graphic work of Vern Verass.

Thank you every one for a job well done and the gift of your friendship.

On the other side of the world, there has been some changes to the conference schedule. The 2008 UAI International Conference will not happen in Mexico and will probably be postponed to the year 2009. The International Service Board was informed by the president of the Mexican Urantia Association, Mary Tere, that their Board of Directors had decided to withdraw from organizing the conference due to a lack of experience and the relative youth of their organisation.

The news has been announced to the Representative Council and in the following weeks a proposition to correct this situation will be presented to them. In view of the strategic plan being now formulated, it is possible that some changes to the cycles of conferences, if approved by the RC, might be implemented at the same time that a new venue might be voted on. It is the hope of the ISB that the next conference would coincide with the launch of the UAI strategic plan.

As a reminder, the election for positions at the ISB level will be held in March 2007. The ISB secretary will announce shortly the positions that will be open and the requirements on the part of the members to be eligible to be nominated as candidates.

Good reading. □

—*Gaetan 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**

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COVER: “The Vladimir Virgin” painting on a pin wood board by Maurice Migneault, Ontario, Canada (based a 12th century Byzantine icon). You may submit images for possible use on the cover to [admin@urantia-uai.org](mailto:admin@urantia-uai.org).

Tidings archives:

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



Gathering for a group picture

## U A I 2006 International Conference *Sydney, Australia*

MERINDI SWADLING

Australia New Zealand Urantia Association (ANZURA)

IN JULY 2004 MY MOTHER, Kathleen, and I were representing our association, ANZURA, at the Representative Council meeting in Chicago. We walked out of this meeting with the daunting task of hosting the International UAI conference in 2006. Our planning thus commenced.

Firstly, we needed to convince our friends and ANZURA family that we were, in fact, capable of holding such an event. Once convinced, we quickly began discussing themes, investigating venues, and confirming dates. We were very conscious that a journey to

Australia is not something one undertakes lightly – thus the need for early planning and early communication.

Our small conference committee team was made up of Kathleen & Trevor Swadling, William Wentworth, Nigel Nunn, Verner Verass, Rita Schaad, Marion Steward, and myself. This core group was assisted by many, many other Australian & New Zealanders – all of which were excited about the prospect of having International visitors to our homeland.

It was with great joy that we observed our teamwork come together

during the weekend of 14-18 July. With approximately 110 fellow Urantia Book readers we learned what it meant to experience the Rewards of Isolation and to be part of many Small Teams in Deep Waters. The fellowship was joyous; the conversations were plentiful – filled with depth and meaning; our cruise of Sydney Harbour was beautiful; Urantia pub-quiz was competitive and enjoyable; the traditional Aussie auction was entertaining; and the bush dancing was something we loved. Conferences are always fun, but the real purpose and the most valuable



2006 International Conference – Sydney, Australia



## UAI International conference

continued from page 3

outcome is the individual's increased understanding of the teachings of *The Urantia Book*.

Nigel Nunn's beautiful portrayal of the grand universe womb enabled many of us to grasp difficult concepts that we often avoid; Will Sherwood carried these concepts into practicality; Will Wentworth delved into the convergence / divergence model of the 7 super universes, providing an enhanced understanding of these somewhat abstract concepts; Tamara Wood then wonderfully introduced us to the many, many heroes of the revelation; Michael Hanian's melodic

voice carried us inward, touching the source; Mark Bloomfield powerfully introduced us to the idea of two halves of the revelation, and our responsibility to share Man with God; and Gaetan Charland wrapped the conference up with an overview of the various small teams around our globe, working for the revelation and making significant differences.

Throughout the 5 days we were able to choose from 29 workshops and 9 study groups – facilitated by 28 wonderful Urantia Book readers. These workshops and study groups contributed to our program magnificently and

we would like to thank the facilitators for their service. Our program would not have been what it was without this team of individuals who so thanklessly shared their understanding of *The Urantia Book* with the conference attendees.

On behalf of ANZURA, I would like to thank you all for your support for this conference. Together, we made it a success. I guess the question now on all of our lips is "what next?"

In loving service  
Merindi Swadling  
For, UAI Conference Committee,  
2006 □

More photos available soon at  
[www.urantia-uai.org/photos/](http://www.urantia-uai.org/photos/)

# The Conference in Sydney

BY OSCAR MORALES  
Urantia Association of Barranquilla  
Colombia



The Swadlings, Oscar on the right

**"Y**OU KNOW HOW you tickle a dog and its hind leg goes out of control?? Well, that's how excited I am!!!!"

That was Andres Restrepo's answer (another young Colombian friend, resident in Australia, who traveled from Melbourne to attend the UAI Conference in Sydney) in response to Merindi Swadling's question: "Australia: are you excited yet?" just few days before the commencement of this long awaited event.

Andres' answer couldn't be more graphic and descriptive of how we all felt. We were all extremely excited. Finally, after months of preparation, the moment had come. For months I had

**... being this was my first International event, the one and only word that comes into my mind when thinking about what we just lived in Sydney is: Perfection!**

exchanged many email messages with Merindi, Kathleen and with other UAI members from around the world who were planning to attend the conference as well. Traveling all the way down under was a huge deal. At least

it was for me. A really huge deal. I can't recall any other event in my life that was source of such tremendous motivation and excitement. Several years ago the idea of attending a major international UAI Conference was a dream for me. And it finally came true.....and you know what?.....it was completely worth it.....it was worth the + 20 hour flights, the jet lag, the financial investment, the application for the visa, the dozens of emails exchanged with the organizers,

the hours of anxiety, the nervousness of diving into unknown waters, a half planet away from our homes.....into the land of Isolation, into a rewarding experience that changed dramatically the lives of many of us.

UAI International Conference 2006: "Rewards of Isolation – small teams in deep waters". What a fancy title, isn't it? But as many have already commented: It was truly rewarding. More than 13 countries, the five continents on earth represented in one single encounter. An exquisite blend of personalities. And the best of all teams: ANZURA, with the brilliant leadership of Merindi and Kathleen Swadling, in the company of Nigel, Trevor, Rita, Vern, Ben, William, Andrew, Daniel, Robert, and so many other amazing "mates", offered us a splendid conference which was qualified as the best International Conference ever celebrated (not said by me). I don't want to be disrespectful with the organizers of other past conferences, however, being this was my first International event, the one and only word that comes into my mind when thinking about what we just lived in Sydney is: Perfection!

Many participants made it to Sydney days before the opening of the conference. Sydney is one of the most beautiful, charming and impressive cities of the world, so it was just fair to get acquainted with the city before our encounter. The organizers guided us during these prior days. They thought

about everything, and even managed to take time from their busy schedule to join us for an evening snack. It was so nice to meet new and old friends. Our minds and souls were so open to friendship. The emotion of putting faces to names was just amazing. Many of them were already familiar and famous to me by their names: James Woodward, Will Sherwood, Marian Hughes, Richard Keeler, Jay Peregrine, Seppo, Gard, Bill and Share, Derek and Susan, Mike and Anna, Tamara, and so on.....it was so exciting to get to meet them by real, and feel the intimate contact of their spirits. It was something of a spiritual value that is beyond description. You just had to be there to feel the emotion of everybody saying hello to everybody on the first day, hugging and laughing to each other as the brotherhood I always dreamed the International community of UB readers was. And it was. Believe me, it was.

The inauguration night was in charge of Gaetan Charland, President of UAI, whose opening words were "Any of you have goose bumps?" "I do", he answered to himself, after the performance of Sophia Verass, the beautiful daughter of our dear friend Vern Verass. She sang a famous theme that was renamed "We are Urantians". Her performance was just breathtaking. That, the welcome words from Vern on behalf of ANZURA, and the friendly chat afterwards were the perfect introduction for the great moments lived during the following days.



Oscar, Will Sherwood, Intan Nugroho, and Andres Restrepo.

The Conference itself was blessed by the presentation of bright minded spirits as Nigel Nunn in "Personality in Transition – the Individual Blossoms", Will Sherwood in "The Agondonter Story", William Wentworth in "Isolation as an Evolutionary Technique", Tamara Wood in "Heroes of the Revelation – Triumph of Small Teams", Michael Hanian in "Worship in Isolation – Touching the Source", the superb presentation of Mark Bloomfield in "The Mother Of All Missions", and Gaetan Charland in his closure "Small

Teams in Deep Waters Today".

After each plenary session the participants had the opportunity to choose among a variety of workshops and study groups, all exploring the subject of isolation, adversity, experience, faith, small teams, and life. Being myself in charge of a

workshop presentation, I have nothing but gratitude words for Merindi and her team colleagues, for each little detail that was put for the development of the workshop sessions. They took care of everything. If you needed something, you just named it and they managed to get it. In these little details is when one realized how much effort was put into the organization of the entire event. We were really impressed how a small team could accomplish such magnificent venture and succeed in their goals. Besides, each workshop presenter, and each study group leader invested their best. The quality of the different

workshops and study groups was really impressive. At the end of each day, you could feel the satisfaction in the faces of the participants.

We had space for worship and prayer too. Early in the morning, a group of participants gathered for a moment of worship. We had so many things to thank our Heavenly Father. It was so easy to be in touch with The Source, now that we were filled by the love of all of our friends.

And all of this took place in an amazing building called "the Women's College", part of the University of Sydney. If you want to know how the College looked like, just imagine Harry Potter's Hogwards College, and you will get the best picture of it. A main wooden door that opened magically when you walked through it, wooden tables everywhere, polished wooden floors, a spacious and charming dining room, very similar to the space where Harry, Hermione and Ron had their lunch. I am not kidding....it was very similar. We were really lucky to be in Australia when it comes to food. The organizers were really brilliant in the food department. Each meal was a buffet. You could choose among a large variety of food, no matter if it was breakfast, lunch or supper. Everything was so exquisite that the smartest decision was to taste a little bit of everything. Not so little in my case, since I eat a lot!! And believe me, I ate a lot, actually. Australian food was just superb. I was always among the last people to leave the dining room....oops....guilty as charged! Though I wasn't eating all of the time, I was making new friendships too and strengthening the old ones. Did

you know that families are likely to get closer and united during meal time?

And of course, there was time and space for recreation. One of the most enjoyable moments was the Harbour Cruise. The organizers had planned this excursion as part of the Conference activities. We were transported by bus to the CBD (City Business District) or simply "The City", to a place called Circular Quay in the main bay of Sydney (one of many that Sydney has), and went aboard a magnificent "Captain Cook" cruise that took us through an unforgettable trip around Sydney bays, with wonderful and spectacular views of the Opera House, the Harbour Bridge and the city skyscrapers.

Other enjoyable moments took place during nights, right after dinner ("supper" in Australian). The first night was a pub-quiz, a sort of contest where we had to answer questions about *The Urantia Book*. This was preceded by a very hilarious performance of two "Aussie" buddies who reenacted the Wedding at Cana. The second night we had an Auction, and the third night we had a bush-dance. Everyone was taught to dance "Aussie" rhythms, and we really had a wonderful time. That night closed with Richard Keeler playing the Banjo; and Rita, Vern and Ben playing guitar and singing. Memorable, unforgettable times.

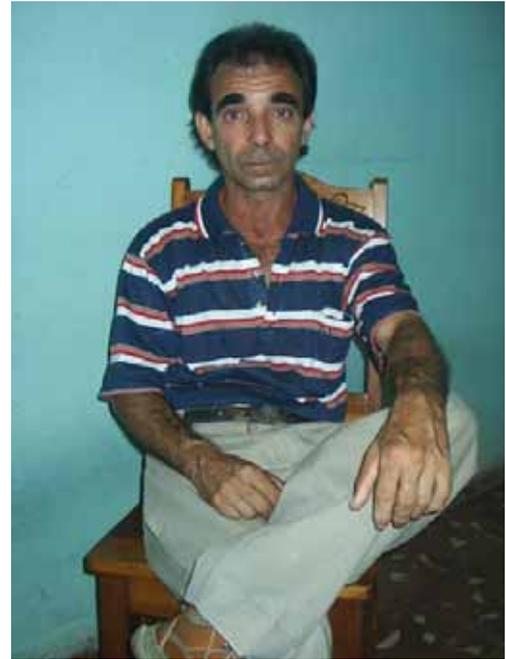
Then it came the last day. I remember I was so happy and sad at the same time. Sad because everything was coming to an end, and nobody wanted to leave. But happy for all the new friendships that I made. All my expectations with the conference were exceeded. I was filled with all the love from all my friends, old and new, young and not so young. I was so satisfied because I accomplished one of the main purposes of an encounter of such nature: to live and enjoy the love of the fellowmen, through a pure and genuine bond of friendship, just the way we did in Sydney. For those of you who are reading and were there, I want to tell you that I feel so fortunate to call you my friends. You represent to me the highest form of love, and I just long for the moment when we can see each other again. And we'll see again..... you bet on it "mate".

With love,  
Oscar. □

**Then it came the last day. I remember I was so happy and sad at the same time. Sad because everything was coming to an end, and nobody wanted to leave. But happy for all the new friendships that I made.**

# How The Urantia Book Found Me

ERNESTO VELOSO  
Sancti Spiritus, Cuba



Ernesto Veloso of Cuba  
[splendon@correodecuba.cu](mailto:splendon@correodecuba.cu)

**E**VERY TIME THAT YOU start a road, if you hold on to it then you must go to the finish, it's no way. No matter how slow your steps were or how many wrong roads you take during the journey, in the end you're convinced that all your quests lead to the first road and that there is no other way. And my road only could lead me to the Christian proposal as it is taught in *The Urantia Book*.

It was at the end of 1996 or early in 1997 when a group of friends met spontaneously to discuss about

**Well, the thing is that, in such magazine, at "Contacts" section, we paid attention to the advert of a Spaniard woman ...**

different topics, but mainly about religion. Meetings took place at the most unlikely places, if two or more got together then, right here, discussion came. Each of us were truth seekers, we came from many different ways,

and that was the reason why there was no defined goal.

At this time a friend of the group (Juan Jose) and me worked at the same place, we were both night watchmen, and this was another of the places of casual meeting. It was one of those nights when a friend came with a Spanish magazine called "Mas Alla de la Ciencia" (Beyond Science). Well, the thing is that, in such magazine, at "Contacts" section, we paid attention

to the advert of a Spaniard woman called Olga Lopez, who was interested in contacting with people who had read *The Urantia Book*. The name of the book attracted our attention, it was the first time that we heard such thing, we copied the address, my friend wrote a letter to her but I didn't because I thought it was one of many frauds that usually appeared at this magazine.

About two months after, Juan Jose came to my house and showed me a letter sent by Olga Lopez from Spain with some information about *The Urantia Book* and we started to study it. At the beginning I must declare that it sounded very strange and even a bit speculative; on the other hand, the book used a terminology that was completely unknown to us.

But, before going on, I want to clarify that I had to do a long way before that. First, I knew about Jesus at a Charismatic Church. When I found that group I didn't have more religious information than a very vague family tradition about Afro-Catholicism. I stayed in this Pentecostal Church for about 9 years.

I've always had the necessity of answers and I discovered that faith has to be reasoned within human limits. At least we have to get a base, independently that it was said by a book or a tradition. Faith needs a pillar where

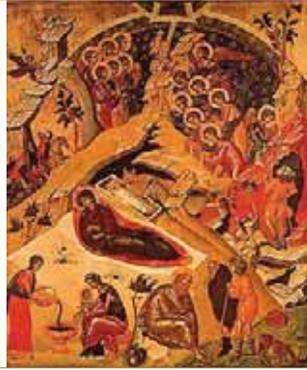
the believer can lean on, and there is no pillar bigger than truth. Jesus said: "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." And to be free is the only way of being happy. Happiness is not more than self-discovery, and we only can discover ourselves when we will be able to recognize that inside every human being dwells a fragment of the divinity.

For a long time, after my abandon of Pentecostalism, I visited many places as Theosophy, Hinduism, Scienciology until I got to the Quaker movement, which with its doctrine of inner light and search of inner truth, took me to feel that I had found what I had been looking for. Disappointment came soon, first because modern Quakerism is nothing to do with founder theologians. Moreover, groups in Latin America were almost charismatic, and English ones are Buddhist and they don't like hearing about Jesus very often.

Thus, under all these influences, I got to *The Urantia Book*. At the beginning, as I told earlier, reading was difficult to me, terminology was unknown to me, but on the other hand, and surprisingly, all the doctrines and theories and ideas which I have been

*Continued on page 8*

Happy Birthday  
Michael



August 21,  
2006

## How *The Urantia Book* Found Me

*continued from page 7*

pondering were just there and, of course, the answer to many questions that were chasing me all my life.

So that's the way we got started and, for a long time, we didn't have more than some articles and brochures and, later, only one book that we shared, until a friend and UB reader, a woman from Brazil, gave away one copy to me.

We contacted Mr. Robert Solone through phone, and he offered his cooperation. At this time our group was

dispersed. We only left Juan and me as readers.

**I've never considered the idea of forming a group, and much less to be the host of such group, when one day I realized that we've been doing meetings for almost two months.**

But I knew well my friend and realized that his interest was only temporary. So one night he came to me when I was at work, he put the UB in front of me and told me: it's yours, it's for sale. I got happy then, because I

didn't have the book yet and I had to borrow it all the time. A week later, when I got to his house, he told me that he had sold all the articles to a book seller. So I ran in hope that it was not too late and was able to recover most of them.

I've never intended to create a group, I only was looking for an answer according to my spiritual interests. Moreover, I had little knowledge and, on the other hand, I was considering to focus Urantia contributions in a very individual way. But in the meantime some material

from Brazil was getting to me and, in having two copies, it was then when I started lending some material to some close friends from time to time.

I've never considered the idea of forming a group, and much less to be the host of such group, when one day I realized that we've been doing meetings for almost two months. The old group met for discussions again but, unlike before, now I had a clear way and a clear goal.

Little by little, we have been making progress all these years. It's true that we only remain three from the start, but others have come with sincere wishes of search and hunger of spiritual truths.

It was a big challenge, I only had some contact with two women, readers from Brazil, two books and some articles, but the Heavenly Father and our Creator Son always answer our requests. I had the opportunity of having an e-mail address. Thus I made my first contacts, first with Mr. Agustin Arellano who, through a reader who came to Cuba for working, gave enough books for our group needs.

Later I contacted Mr. Victor Garcia, a great friend of mine. I'm very grateful to him for getting us in touch with the Spaniard reader who let us knowing the existence of TUB. I consider she is the true precursor of TUB in my country.

Nowadays the group is formed by seven readers, two women and five men: Claudia, Marlenes, Emmanuel, Eric, Joel, Oscar and me. We're all together not only because faith and TUB, but also because the spirit of fellowship and brotherhood. We're all friends and keep a close relationship. I

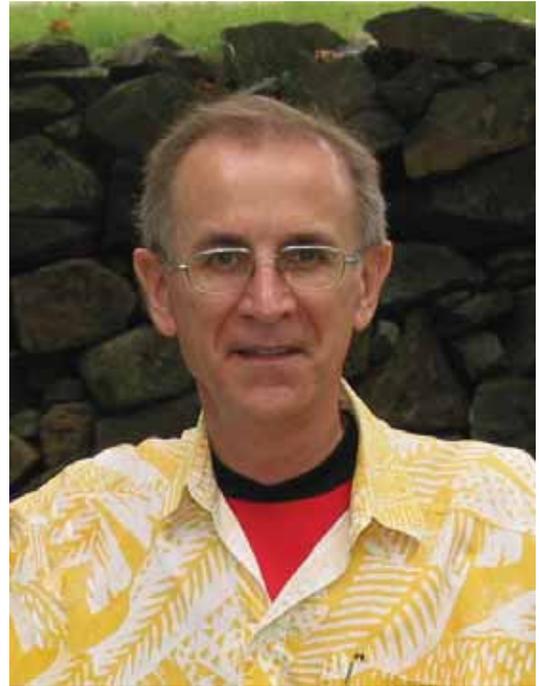
would like to express my gratefulness to many people that gave their support to us through all this time. So I would like to mention Liza Palm, Angel Sanchez-Escobar, Wanda Ribeiro, Maria Ilaria Dias da Silva but, above all, it was decisive to us the visit of two Chilean brothers, Gustavo Pradhana and Anselmo Magana, with whom we had the opportunity of sharing. They gave new books to us, and four were donated to public libraries of my country.

With this modest writing I wanted to explain how I found TUB and how the group was created. We want to say that here, in this wonderful country, there are Urantians as well, and we're not the only ones. That many people in other places of Cuba are showing their interest. That, thanks to our modest efforts TUB is not totally unknown. We have great challenges waiting for us, we have good conditions but we need the cooperation and fraternal support of other brothers. Personal contact is fundamental, we are a big family, sons of the same Father, our energy is focused on demonstrating it. We hope that this will be a motivation to you for knowing more about us, and since now we are very grateful for that. With a big and Urantian greeting from Sancti Spiritus, Cuba. □

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# How *The Urantia Book* Found Me

MAURICE MIGNEAULT  
Urantia Association of Quebec



The painting on the cover of this issue was painted by Maurice in 1976

**M**Y DISCOVERY OF *The Urantia Book* occurred thanks to a friend who was already an assiduous reader for a long time. He perceived a search for the truth through my questionings on the meaning of life. Perhaps, he even had the gentleness to suggest to me the questions which should be raised. In any event, he told me he knew of a large book in which I would find many answers.

**After this first attempt at reading the book, I started again from the beginning. But it is always the Life of Jesus who mostly captures my interest.**

My first concern was then of knowing how many pages this famous book had; perhaps this was because I am most inclined with deep reflections and not so much with reading. Moreover, I am always wary of people who use more words than necessary, to say more things than they actually know. Ah! he saw me coming from very far, that fox. "I do not remember exactly how much it has pages he said, but I have already read it twice." Then I felt reassured and I asked him to bring it to me.

At our next meeting, he brought me the book. But it is when I saw the jewel!!! "Never will I be able to read all that!" I told him. "Take all your time, there is no rush; take one year, two years

or even three, it is not important. And, please, keep it, it is yours. I have another copy at home."

I take this opportunity here to say that I believe it is important for each reader to always have an extra copy of the book in reserve to lend or give. There are communication opportunities which arise very rarely. It is necessary to be ready to seize them.

My reading started, as it should be, with the introduction. At the second page, I felt like an oyster trying to follow a fourth grade course of philosophy. I passed from page 3 to page 21 in one shot, that is called reading as the bird flies without a stopover.

In the fourth part, the oyster passed from fourth grade to third grade. Me, who already has difficulty in following a play when there is more than three characters, then you can imagine how I felt! Hop! Another small bird flight and I shift in second gear. I swim from left to right, and I successfully read approximately one quarter of it. I start to have an idea of what awaits me on "the other side" and my belief grows.

With the third part, the history of Urantia, I had already reached my reading cruising speed. It should be said that I travel on foot and often rests myself. After having read three

quarters of the Book, I must say that the texts concerning the Thought Adjuster particularly upset me. For a long time I had questioned myself on the mechanisms of communication of God with man and how he could respect our freedom of choice while showing us the way to follow. But, as usual, the dessert was for the end.

Before undertaking the Life and the Teachings of Jesus, I was intimately convinced that a work of this magnitude could not come from one man, or even from a group of men. It had to have a celestial origin. In this last part, any trace of existential anguish was dissipated. Little by little I became aware of the magnitude of Jesus' love for man. This testimony transformed me. I understood then, that even through doubt and imperfection, love is expressed by the gift of oneself. I also understood at that time that, except for God, everything is transitory. One should not stop anywhere before reaching Paradise and eternity is not measured in time, but in degree of wisdom.

After this first attempt at reading the book, I started again from

*Continued on page 10*

## Chilean readers annual meeting

Dear friends,

IT'S WITH PLEASURE that we announce the Annual Meeting of readers of *The Urantia Book*. This meeting will take place from the 3rd November (Friday) at 6:30 PM, to the 5th November (Sunday) at 6:30 PM.

Place: Hosteria Millahue, Camino al Volcan 27.724, El Melocoton, Cajon del Maipo, 46 km far from Santiago de Chile.

Hosted by: Urantia Association of Chile, associated to the Urantia Association International and licensed by the Urantia Foundation.

These are the subjects of lectures:

1. *The Urantia Book*.
2. Human races.
3. Machiventa Melchizedek.
4. The Religion of the Spirit.



The price per person before the 15th September 2006 is 50,000 pesos (about 93 USD) including room, breakfast, lunch, dinner (with one drink) and coffee break in the morning and in the afternoon (Wine and alcoholic drinks not included). Hosteria Millahue (<http://www.hosteriamillahue.com>) has many things for your comfort: meeting rooms, game rooms, tennis courts, baby soccer, volleyball,

entertainment, big swimming pool and "ecothermal" indoor swimming pool at 34° Celsius. Wood cabins with carpets and two rooms each. Room service. Healthy and tasty meals.

So places are limited, if you are interested in participating you have to make your reservations through bank transfer to this account of Banco de Chile: 159-02219-03, checking account holder Rene Roman. You have to notify your transfer by sending an e-mail to [fedalezi@yahoo.es](mailto:fedalezi@yahoo.es), with copy to [andreadevaux@yahoo.fr](mailto:andreadevaux@yahoo.fr) or by fax at (56-2) 2318228.

Contact phone numbers in Santiago de Chile:

- René Román: (56-2) 2318228, cellular 08-5962592
- Oscar Giménez (56-2) 6071281
- Horacio Gamboa cellular 08-7855913
- Yolanda Silva (56-2) 3199183

We hope this meeting will be graced with your valuable presence.

Fraternally,  
URANTIA ASSOCIATION OF CHILE ■

## How *The Urantia Book* Found Me

continued from page 9

the beginning. But it is always the Life of Jesus who mostly captures my interest.

The study of the Book is important, but it will always be in second place. For me, the need for acting as sons of God remains the absolute priority. It is the sum of our actions which forms the tympanum which can enable us to hear the Voice of God.

Now, the message that I would have for the "indifferent ones" would be to try to live as long as possible in order to increase their chance to see, one day, a little rain moisten their desiccated ground. It is not because a ground is

arid that it cannot contain seeds, and an "awakening" can always occur, even at the last second.

As regards the sceptics, I will say to them that doubt enables us to be selective in our beliefs and that is good. If somebody placed in your hand a seed by asking you what will its fruits be like, it is wise to preserve a reasonable doubt. But, when one finally tastes the fruit of the tree, then there are no more places for doubt towards the one who gave us the seed.

And I finish with a confession: at twenty years old, love disappointed me because my confidence had been misled.

But love was not guilty. It was only the fault of a dream-merchant.

At twenty years old, I refused God because the Church had misled my confidence and my hopes. But God was not guilty. It was only the fault of the merchants of prayers.

One day, a guide in heaven made me discover *The Urantia Book*. I put my confidence in life again and I have since, in my heart, a light which protects me from the darkness and is used as a beacon for those who are in the shade.

I chose Paradise and God offered to me eternity for going there. ■

# News on Translations

RICK WARREN  
Chair, Dissemination Committee



**T**HE ORIGINAL *URANTIA BOOK* IS well established in English speaking nations and *El Libro de Urantia* is quickly spreading throughout the Spanish-speaking realm. But the revelation must be translated into all the major languages before the work of material dissemination is complete.

The positive and expansive influence of *Urantia Book* translations on dissemination is immense. No finer tool exists for disseminating the text than translations. Great progress has been made in the translation arena during the last two decades, and there is a great deal more to do. There have been no endeavors more successful in establishing the revelation outside its

**The need for quality translations is so great and so far reaching ....**

birthplace than translations. Their effect is wide, high and deep.

Translation support is an area where all readers can serve as individuals, or on a

team. There are several vehicles of support for translations. Impressing upon the reader community their overarching relevance is foremost. Communicating the importance of translations and raising their profile fosters interest and support for this quintessential phase of dissemination.

Next is the need for talented linguists, the actual work of translating. Coordinating the complex work of translating this epochal revelation and assuring its quality is Urantia Foundation's responsibility. Translators are usually dedicated readers and UAI members who are also professional translators. They have read the English version and crave to have it in their mother tongue. They recognize the unmatched advantage of offering it to

their fellows in their own language. This service requires very specialized skill. Applying this skill takes considerable time and money. To produce one quality translation usually requires a decade or more of teamwork, and a small fortune.

Throughout the process there is a continuous need for financial support. What readers may lack in translation skill they can make up by supporting the various translation funds. Urantia Foundation accepts and restricts the use of donations to the translation fund designated by the donor. These special funds are held in trust and drawn upon when the need arises.

Another crucial part of the dissemination of translations is ensuring distribution channels are in place. Urantia Foundation takes great care to establish new translations in their native retail marketplaces and in wholesale book seller's inventories. UAI members help disseminate the revelation by supporting Urantia Foundation when the Trustees undertake to print and distribute the revelation in another language. Members help also when they buy and give copies of new translations to native speakers, especially when they are purchased through local booksellers. Booksellers will keep books in stock which sell well. UAI and Urantia Foundation are interdependent when it comes to production and dissemination of translations, on several levels.

The need for quality translations is so great and so far reaching that expanding global organizations like ours are required to help support their creation and distribution. Decades, if not centuries, will pass before readers can rest assured the revelation is available to each member of the human

family in a form comprehensible to that sibling.

At this time translations in print are the Spanish, French, Finnish, Russian, Dutch, Korean, Lithuanian, German, Portuguese (CD only) and Romanian (CD only). The translation closest to being printed and published, due out this year, is the Italian. Currently being created and in varying degrees of completion are the Chinese, Japanese, Arabic, Bulgarian, Estonian, Farsi (Persian), Greek, Polish, and the Swedish.

When these translations are completed and published, approximately two thirds of the people of Urantia will have *The Urantia Book* available in their idiom. Readers are to be congratulated on what the first and second generations have accomplished regarding translation. This work ensures the revelational graft will be highly successful. Translations are projects that UAI and Urantia Foundation can do side by side, as a team. Through constant attention, determined focus and coordinated service between organizations, the revealed facts that inspired us can be found by other truth seekers, no matter the language used to convey them.

RELATED LINKS:

- [TRANSLATIONS REPORT](#)
- [TRANSLATION HISTORIES, ITALIAN AND LITHUANIAN](#)
- [PORTUGUESE TRANSLATION](#)
- [LE LIVRE D'URANTIA IN QUEBEC](#)
- [STATUS OF THE CHINESE TRANSLATION](#)
- [THE DUTCH TRANSLATION](#)
- [THE KOREAN TRANSLATION](#)
- [TRANSLATION CONTRIBUTIONS](#)

## Horse Work



"Arabian Horses Fighting in a Stable"  
Eugène Delacroix, 1860

Still those stampeding horses running loose in your brain!  
 Put a pen around them or drive them off a cliff into the ocean.  
 Build a fence behind you!  
 Corral them!  
 Take away their food, their water.  
 Let not their neighing and braying distract you!  
 By what authority speaks the outrageous leader?  
 The one neighing and braying the loudest,  
 The one snorting and stamping, blowing and pawing,  
 And those lesser ones nipping at its withers,  
 Nipping at its flanks, braying, and vying for authority,  
 Vying for recognition, vying for all the mares?  
 Let not their vying and whining disturb your course!  
 Dare you go in among them where they are?  
 Hoofing and stomping and kicking up such a cloud of dust  
 Into the stratosphere seen from space?  
 Seen from the center of the universe?  
 Seen by God whose very eyes see all, read all?  
 Go there, then, into that confusion and anxiety.  
 Go there with a rope and shield, if you must.  
 Capture their leader whose name is fear.  
 Hobble its legs and muzzle it.  
 Take away its range.  
 Neutralize its lead.  
 Subdue it behind an extra fence.  
 Make it submissive as a pet trained to stay put.  
 Yet, even wild horses are a part of the universe economy.  
 When domesticated they are useful and intelligent.  
 They are companions and assistants in the labors of man.  
 Yet, they require grooming,  
 A clean environment, pasturage,  
 Proper food and water, exercise,  
 And training.  
 And mostly training.  
 It's horse work.

—Meredith Van Woert  
 Southwest Urantia Readers Family