



Tidings

from Associations around Urantia

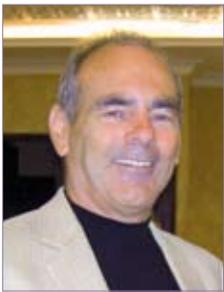
URANTIA ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL ■ [HTTP://URANTIA-UII.ORG](http://URANTIA-UII.ORG)

Nº 31 ■ JAN—FEB 2008

"New Year fireworks" Photo



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President's message

Dear Friends of UAI,

AS YOU WILL HAVE NOTICED, there was no issue of *Tidings* for January. The editing team felt that instead of producing an issue that would be late and overburden some of the volunteers already overloaded with other works during the Holiday seasons, it was best to focus on the February issue and have it out on time. I hope that your Holiday Seasons was very joyful and I take this late opportunity to give you my best wishes for 2008.

As you might recall, the last thing that was happening at the Representative Council was the vote on the 2008 budget, well good news, it passed without any opposition. It is the first time in the young history of UAI that a budget is approved unanimously. I hope that this is a sign of maturity on the part of the ones making the budget and the ones approving it. When it comes to money, a lot of us would rather brush the subject aside as we feel that money is so estranged from anything having to do with spiritual work.

Well if you recall, during Jesus' public life, money was a very important aspect in the organization of his ministry. If it would not have been for the generosity of some of his Apostles and disciples, his mission on earth would probably have failed. The same is true for the mission of UAI, if it is not supported by the generosity of its members and its local, national and international administrators and associations, it will fail. Not every one of us can take an active part in the affairs of UAI and this for many good reasons, but there is always a way for every one of us to participate. By giving an hour or more of our regular work every month in the form of the money it brings us, we can contribute largely to the success of the mission of *the Urantia Book*.

Some of you will have received, and other will shortly receive a letter of appeal to your generosity. This letter is asking for your financial support so we can increase the work we are already doing. More money is



needed to finance the chartering of new associations and the distribution of *Urantia Books* to poor countries. At this time we are supporting a project that is very important to the *Urantia Association of Argentina*. What's more, that project is one of the first enterprises of this sort where three different organizations will have to cooperate to make it a success. I am talking about the Buenos Aires Book fair which will be happening soon.

UAI is growing and expanding in many countries around the world and as we grow there are increase demands on our resources, financial and human. I could draw a list of everything that needs to be done or is required but mostly we need every one of you to get involved at every level possible. In the years to come we will be faced more and more with the challenge of cooperating with our sister organization, the Fellowship and like us they are part of the big plan. How we deal with the situations that will arise from those joint projects will determine the future success of the mission of *the Urantia Book* on our planet.

As president of this organization, I am as concerned as you are about the success of our mission. We should be alike, always looking for ways to better promote harmony and spiritual unity in all of our projects. It is no easy task to make sense of everything when we become increasingly aware of the magnitude of the work that is required from all of us. What can we do when we are witness to the sometimes unnecessary duplication of projects and the lost of valuable human and financial resources in the realm of our organizations? There is so few of us and so much work to accomplish.

I leave you with this quote:

The wise and effective solution of any problem demands that the mind shall be free from bias, passion, and all other purely personal prejudices which might interfere with the disinterested survey of the actual factors that go

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.

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<http://www.uran-tia.org/papers/>

You may submit articles about *The Urantia Book*, news about your association, stories, photos and poems to the editor. All articles are subject to revision.

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to make up the problem presenting itself for solution. The solution of life problems requires courage and sincerity. Only honest and brave individuals are able to follow valiantly through the perplexing and confusing maze of living to where the logic of a fearless mind may lead. And this emancipation of the mind and soul can never be effected without the driving power of an intelligent enthusiasm which borders on religious zeal. It requires the lure of a great ideal to drive man on in the pursuit of a goal which is beset with difficult material problems and manifold intellectual hazards. P.1773 - \$5

Good reading

Gaétan G. Charland ☐
President UAI

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Buenos Aires Book Fair Project



MARIAN HUGHES
 HULA President, Vice President of UAUS,
 and co-chairperson of the BABFP
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Imagine a giant exposition hall measuring 45.000 m²(about 500,000 sq. ft.).

Imagine 1521 exhibitors from 58 different countries.

Imagine the largest book fair in the Spanish-speaking world.

Imagine 2,000,000 visitors viewing the exhibits over the course of three weeks.

Imagine not one Urantia Book or El Libro de Urantia on exhibit.

Now,

Imagine not just talking about unity but unifying to accomplish an important project.



Artists impression of proposed Buenos Aires Book Fair booth

COME BE A PART OF A MULTI-NATIONAL, and multi-organizational team determined to make sure that the El Libro and the upcoming Portuguese translation are a part of the this year's exhibition via the 2008 Buenos Aires Book Fair Project (BABFP).

The BABFP is starting to actualize this dream. Carlos Rubinsky, our fearless leader south of the equator, has been working very hard to bring El Libro to the attention of his countrymen. A few members of the UAI, the UF, and the Fellowship have joined forces to create an alliance (BABFP). Their mission has been to secure the location, create the design for a booth, and staff a team of UB readers to share the Fifth Epochal Revelation to Latin America. The booth design is done, the location is secure, but there is much more to do and your financial support is urgently needed to ensure this event comes to fruition. So far the BABFP has been operating on the

leap of faith that all the necessary financial obligations will be met in a timely manner. We believe "what the Father desires, and the Son wills, is."

What we need:

1. Pay for the booth space rental
2. Pay for the construction of the booth (materials and labor)
3. Design and print brochures to handout at the fair.

The BABFP has the commitment of one UAI member who has pledged to match any funds that are contributed. The treasurer of the Hawaii Urantia Local Association (HULA) (which is the sister association to the Argentina Local Association), will collect and distribute the funds as they are needed. Please consider helping this worthy cause. We can study the book, and we can also spread the good news.

Here is a way to go beyond the normal bounds of your meetings. Reach out and disseminate the book to the world without having to leave the confines of your own location.

For details contact:

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Carlos Rubinsky, Argentina Local Association President, and co-chairperson of the BABFP.

carlosrubinsky@gmail.com □



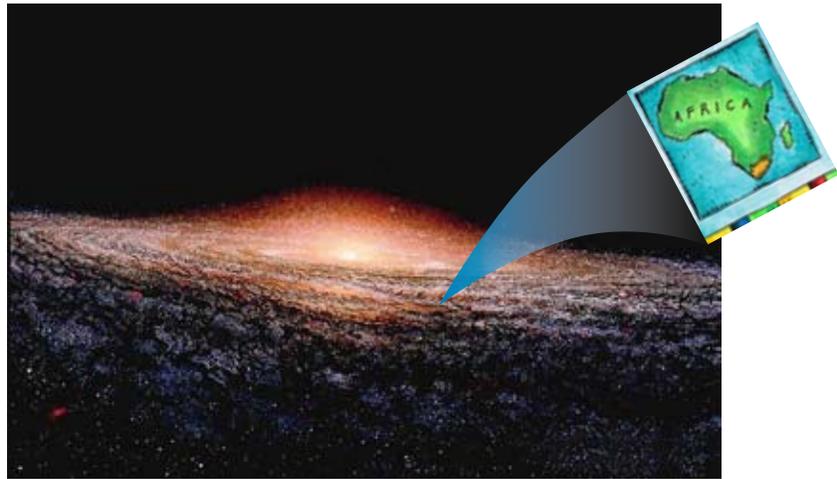
Africa Seeding Mission Update

Space Time Meets African Time



**Mark Philip
Bloomfield**

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ONE BRIGHT SUNNY DAY, AFRICA will doubtless be awash with locally printed native language Urantia Books and abuzz with thriving study groups too numerous to ever bother trying to count.

To reach that day from this however is going to take time, effort, money and the stoic, gritty determination of both fieldworkers and the homefront alike. Just like the early pioneer settlers trudging west across North America, the World Seeding Mission, as relatively quick and cheap as it is, doesn't have as its reason for being the breaking of any speed or cost efficiency records. That kind of task would fall more to those who follow in as much that before maps can be read from they must first be written.

Having seeded the last books of the current shipment into Botswana, the long overland haul to Mombasa, Kenya on the east coast where 300 more books were soon due to arrive from India by sea. The previous update having been written in Lusaka, Zambia, a rickety old chicken bus whisked me four hours north to a tiny outpost village called Kapiri Mposhi that enjoyed that singular redeeming quality of being at the beginning of that useable portion of railway track that extends from Lusaka to Dar Es Salaam on the coast of Tanzania.

"Snails move faster" was the exact phrase used by one travel guide in dismissing the oily old locomotive that met my gaze on the track as it quietly burred to itself with cheerfully demented indifference. To their credit however, both proud boasts of the rail authority ultimately proved perfectly true....

Departure time: as per schedule almost to the second.

Arrival time: some time next week.

Oh God I love this job!

The symmetry of it is perfect. A mission of planetary and in a certain sense even super-planetary significance, a model of functional unity and teamwork in loving and unselfish social service, the exotic backdrops

and occasional high thrills of an action movie interspersed with a semi-regular supply of rollicking good laughs!

True to form, exactly 53 hours later the iron snail crawled to a halt at Dar Es Salaam train station and your fieldworker quietly vanished into the Arab quarter of the city he once long ago used to call home. A fifty dollar Kenyan visa the next day then off on a smokey old bus northwards to the town of Tanga for the night. Next morning, another cramped chicken bus across the Tanzania/Kenya border and finally into Mombasa later that day.

(Mombasa. Ah yes. Another colourful memory from way back in my pre-UB seeding days of aimless travel. Only dropping in there for nothing more than a gin, a few days later saw me perched on the bowsprit of a 14,000 ton Russian 'Jadroplov Lines' cargo ship on a two week passage to the mouth of the Suez Canal in Egypt. As we exited the port one evening around dusk, the huge foghorn behind me started bellowing in that intermittent way you'd honk your car horn at an old friend. In reciprocation, all the, er, less than savoury bars shall we say along the headland that sailors tend to frequent to indulge in their respective vices started flashing their bar lights on and off which made me glance back at the ship's bridge with a worldly grin. A quaint nautical custom around these parts I later learned and far too jolly an anecdote to not find a brief mention in these chronicles.)

Linking up with the agent whose details appeared on the shipment's bill of lading, it was explained that although the books had already arrived in port, the consignment had not been sent from the sender in India as a 'door to door' shipment as I had specifically requested but as a normal shipment instead. When simple instructions like this don't get followed in a third world environment, the space-time continuum abruptly ceases, 'Indian time' or 'African time' immediately kicks in and a bureaucratic nightmare usually ensues. Sure

enough, only now am I expecting the final essential original document to arrive from India by courier that should theoretically make the books' final clearance a mere formality though that said, we're now getting uncomfortably close to the Christmas holidays.

All that can be done right now is being done and as and when the books finally clear no time at all will be lost in hand seeding them first to the west as far as blood-spattered little Rwanda then southwards down East Africa to put me back into South Africa so as to collect another shipment of 300 books currently in transit. When those are seeded across what remains of southern Africa that is yet to be covered, that should bring us roughly to the half way stage of the entire African mission and mean around two metric tons of Urantia Books are in place.

A smallish though significant enough portion of a fifth epochal fieldworker's year is usually taken up either in transit or in coaxing books through customs or waiting for someone else to. It comes with the territory at this still early stage of the revelation's evolution. But keep in mind here that all the while such a fieldworker is living out of cheap guest houses and backpacker lodges, feeding himself at cheap eating houses and going straight to bed shortly after it gets dark so no extravagant hotel or travel bills ever get run up.

And as it looks like the holiday season will be weathered here in the bowels of Mombasa, it is from his small room in a little guest house down a relatively quiet backstreet of the inner city that your cheerful co-worker in this big, beautiful and world-uplifting mission of ours sends his warmest and heartiest seasonal greetings to one and all for the holiday season.

My heartfelt thanks as always for your big-hearted support, peace be upon you and God bless you all.

In search of the Father's will,
Mark Philip Bloomfield ☐

Poem for the divine child

DAVID GLASS
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Celebrate the miraculousness of the season!
 Harken as the seraphic hosts chant praises!
 Restore your heart and soul with joy and peace!
 Intuit the truth of the rebirth of the Christ every
 Single time you turn your meditations and
 Thoughts to the presence of the Master everywhere!

I want to wish you the very happiest of holiday
 Seasons and to acknowledge you as one of my

Best friends in the universe; we were born in
 Our time for a reason and have a purpose which was
 Relegated to us for this generation and time.
 Never before or again shall we have service opportunity

! as native mortals on the birth planet of Jesus of
 ! Nazareth; Eternal Son of God and Son of Man!

Peace, blessings, and joy,
 David Glass ■

Happy Holidays 2007

BENET RUTENBERG
 President UAUS
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HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ONE AND
 to all.

It is in this season of each year that we give thanks for a life that was but a mustard seed in the longing of our forbears and remains a beginning in the hopes and prayers of our celestial directors. We are fast in this season of gift giving and sharing time with our families and friends. It matters little where a day falls on our calendar. We symbolize in our giving that which has first been given to us.

It does not end with the recognition and acceptance of the Love, the Humility, the Courage, the Trust, the Faith, the Sincerity or the Universal Pathfinding Revelation which we have been given in our Father-Brother's life. There and then it begins. It begins with this gift of living and the invitation to Follow; ever upward ever inward. And what is the true gift? Yes it is so many things...

The Design, the Plan, the Act, the Understanding Acceptance and the Freewill

Choice to love, and live the gift as it is intended.

Reality comes on as the Director calls "Action." The Great Stage comes to life and the actors engage in the story they cannot often know as they might a play set to words which can be read and remembered – No – it must be lived and progressively uncovered. The gift is the stage with the actors upon it.

There is but one infinite script worked out in conflict against and in harmony with the One Writer. Above all and before all it is written, "I give you all I am and all I have because I love you." The wise and loving actor knows this is everything and that to share in everything this actor is choosing to go and do likewise.

This gift is whole. And this gift is most true, beautiful and good. It is made, offered and shared in Love. Herein lies its Holiness. We are in the Father and the Father is in us. In this season we say Happy Holidays...In our living reality may we choose a joyous Holy Day, each and every day. ■

How *THE URANTIA BOOK* found me

Presentation to ANZURA Annual Conference—
Melbourne 2007



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Julian McGarry telling his story at the ANZURA Conference in Melbourne, October 2007

MY VERY FIRST CONTACT WITH *The Urantia Book* was in 1993 when I walked into my local public library in Perth, Western Australia and, as was my custom, went straight to the “Religion” section. There staring me in the face was this enormous hard-covered blue volume with an intriguing name but no author. I quickly thumbed through it and, drawn by the fascinating chapter headings, immediately decided to borrow it. I ended up borrowing it three times in a row.

At this point I need to explain why I always looked for books on religion when I went to the library. My search for spiritual truth started when I was only a young boy of 10. My mother, who was raised a Catholic, was also a spiritual seeker and had looked into a variety of religions including Christian Spiritualism and Tibetan Buddhism. I used to read anything that she brought home and would often accompany her to meetings and would attend groups held at our house.

In my teen years, we were door-knocked by a very kind man from the Jehovah’s Witnesses organization and at the age of 16, I began studying the Bible with him. I raised every conceivable objection to what he was teaching but over a period of two years I became convinced that these people had The Truth. Within a short time, I became a ‘pioneer’ which meant that I door-knocked for at least 100 hours per month.

At the age of 21, I met my first wife who had been born and bred as a Jehovah’s Witness. We had three delightful children

which eventually meant that I had to do less doorknocking and more paid work. I remained a devoted member of this organization for the next 8 years. It was then, however, that I began to find inconsistencies and incongruences in their dogma, which led me to approach the elders of my local church as well as write a comprehensive letter outlining my ‘discoveries’ to the Governing Body of the organization in New York. I was warned not to discuss my doubts with anyone, including my wife, which put an enormous strain on our marriage. My doubts quickly turned into strong convictions and the situation became very serious.

I was given an ultimatum by the elders that I could not breathe a word of my beliefs to anyone otherwise I would be excommunicated from the organization. In my conscience, I could not agree to this and so in September 1983, I was formerly disfellowshipped from “The Truth”. My wife continued as a Jehovah’s Witness and under these difficult circumstances, it was impossible to maintain the viability of our relationship. We divorced several years later and I began to explore what other Christian churches had to say; my God was becoming bigger! However, I was soon to be disillusioned by the attitudes to truth that I discovered.... everyone had their own ‘ism’ and looked askance at anyone who was different.

In 1990, I went through a rough patch, a kind of ‘nervous breakdown’ during which I became very angry with God and fed up with the narrow-mindedness of organized religion.

I put God and religion on the ‘backburner’ and decided to start having some fun. It was then that I met my second wife. I also decided to go back to university and study psychology and history. Despite all that had happened to me, however, I couldn’t get God out of my system. It was just before I started uni that I discovered *The Urantia Book* in my local library. I went to university full-time for 6 years which left little time for religious pursuits. Nevertheless, I came in contact with spiritual people who were not Christian and this made me realize that God was much bigger than I ever imagined.

I had almost forgotten about *The Urantia Book* when in November 2003, I ‘stumbled’ across a brand new copy in a book shop a few years after graduating. I bought the book and started reading voraciously even, vociferously. I then moved with my wife and our two children to Tasmania where I began my own private clinical psychology practice. I started a Urantia Book readers group with another couple living close by and made contact with ANZURA. I have just attended my second Urantia Conference and have met some truly inspiring people. I can say with total conviction that *The Urantia Book* has in a truly breathtaking way, broadened and enlarged my concept of God. I feel so blessed that God has rewarded my ongoing quest for truth.

Julian McGarry, 27th October 2007 □

SURF Holds Annual Christmas Party

SUSAN OWEN

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SURF HELD ITS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY at the home of Dorothy Elder in Santa Monica. Members came from as far as 2.5 hours away to enjoy each others company and Dorothy's superb hospitality. We had a scrumptious potluck of Honey Baked Ham, amazing sweet potato casserole, green beans, fruit and yummy baked goods including Jane's persimmon bars.

Jane Ploetz and Larry Neff treated us to a lovely Christmas concert on piano and guitar followed by lots of lively caroling by all. After the revelers exhausted themselves with song, we were treated to a presentation by Dorothy Elder on "The Challenge, The Message and The Way" which was thought provoking for all of us and perfect for our gathering. We followed with our annual Yankee Swap which was highlighted by the annual return of a very special glass angel gift which ended up in the possession of Meredith VanWoert this year.

Dorothy treated us to a wonderful piano concert and Jane finished off the evening with a background of soft piano carols. It was such a special time together, we all hated to leave and all look forward to next year's celebration ☐



Left to right: Marilyn Alexander, Karen Sullivan, Patti Snyder and Dorothy Elder at the piano

Young and Adult People, Together for *The Urantia Book*



GISELLE RAMOS

Urantia Association of Barranquilla, Colombia
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THE LOCAL URANTIA ASSOCIATION OF Barranquilla is one of the new associations belonging to the Urantia movement. However, it's one of the most organized regarding the way of reading *The Urantia Book*. What follows is a summary about how we met, how we started a study group, how we get associated and how we're still here along the years, despite differences, using a bond difficult to break and forget – friendship.

In 2000, two groups of readers of *The Urantia Book* had the opportunity of meeting each other. Since then we were reading *The Urantia Book* separately. The first group was headed by Franklin Marrugo (who was president of our Local Association) and was composed of people older than 30. They organized and gave publicity to a lecture about *The Urantia Book* conducted by Carlos Zapata (then president of the National Association of Colombia). That lecture was attended by many interested people – among them, the group of readers which I belong, composed of 7 people younger than 20, and where Fabian Herrera stood out as its leader.

As a result of that lecture, both groups got together, creating the first study group in our town, recognized by our National Association. At the beginning, we met each Monday for two hours (from 7 to 9 pm), hosted by Semedeth, one of its members, who left the group before our Local Association was created.

We started our reading from the Foreword, making a sequential and consecutive group reading. However, each member did their personal reading on their own way. All of us contributed much to the analysis of Papers because it was a very interdisciplinary group. Young members studied a wide variety of degrees at the university – Medicine, Biology, Engineering, Psychology, Mathematics and Physics- and the adults, being professionals - Laws, Theology and their life experience. In the course of time the group was growing in number, most of its members being young people.



Left to right, seated are: Juan Villa (our Vicepresident), Juan Petro (President of the Association in Colombia), Ivan Villareal (our Treasurer, Nubia's husband) and Nubia Aldana (our President). Left to right, behind are: Franklin Marrugo, Giselle Ramos, Fabian Herrera, Carlos Mario Hernandez, Carolina Gomez and Nestor Vasquez.

Concerning meetings, each month we volunteered as facilitators for next meeting, so everybody felt a responsible for the meetings. In the meetings *The Urantia Book* study was merged with other topics. For us as a group, it was important that each member was able to express, not only their understandings about TUB, but also what they enjoyed and knew about life .. was this life long or short?

In 2002, thanks to Patricia Ramirez (then president of the National Association of Colombia), we met Oscar Morales, who had read *The Urantia Book* for many years and was eager to share with other readers in town. In so little time Cathy Jones got to Barranquilla and licensed our Local Association. Thanks go to the efforts of Oscar, Patricia and Carlos Zapata, and being the first president. Franklin Marrugo. But the visit of Cathy is another story; this angel – as everyone says- came to Barranquilla for a weekend and she is still with us in our hearts.

In 2003 Fabian Herrera Acevedo was elected as President. We had the same meeting methods and we were studying Part III of TUB. In 2004 I was elected as President of our Local Association, and this coincided with the visit of Gaetan Charland to Colombia. His visit to Barranquilla, as it was with Cathy's visit, is another story. We consider him as the father of our Association, always attentive and concerned about our lives, not only as members of the Association, but also as human beings.

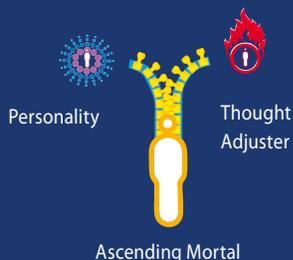
Some months after, we met Jairo Franco (then president of

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What is man that GOD should be mindful of him?

Announcing the
2008 ANZURA
Annual Conference
in the national capital,
Canberra, Australia

17 to 20 October 2008



Young and Adult People, Together for *The Urantia Book* *continued from page 7*

the National Association), who proposed the idea of organizing the National Conference in the "Eje Cafetero" area. We were very pleased with that idea and started working as a team to collect funds and did many activities to that purpose. At the end of 2005 we were so absorbed by our life activities that we gave up our meetings.

In 2006, and little by little, we started again our meetings but this time with a different methodology. We chose one Paper and, as long as we read a paragraph, we gave our opinion on the subject. This way we gave many remarks about our life experiences. We did not follow any order in our readings and spoke about subjects as long as new questions arose. We discussed topics such as civilizations, the ages of Light and Life, the learning process of man in his mortal stage and the Part IV of *The Urantia Book*. From time to time, we discussed a free topic to escape from routine.

New members were added to our group, some leaving. However Nubia Aldana, a lonely reader, was so integrated with the group that she is now the president of our Local Association. She is very interested in sharing the revelation of *The Urantia Book* with other people, and was willing not only to attend meetings but hosting two study groups at home. In the first group they discussed about the life of Jesus and, in the second group, a consecutive reading of the book is made. Nowadays we are reading Part II of the book.

"Ancient" readers—as we, the members of our Association, called them tenderly, because the vast majority of readers in the group have not read *The Urantia Book* in its entirety and by the moment they are only study group members—get together each Monday of each month, varying the meeting place and time. We are reading separate subjects of *The Urantia Book* and at the moment we are focused on the subject of ego. In addition, we are very enthusiastic about the dissemination of *The Urantia Book*, and buy copies at a reasonable price to offer to interested people.

As time passes by, we hope to be together and look for more people to get interested in *The Urantia Book*, not only to take part in groups of readers but also in our Association. All this with the blessings of our Heavenly Father, the merciful intervention of Michael of Nebadon and the eternal wisdom of the Divine Minister. □



Named are those who continue to attend, left to right, seated are: Martha Aldana (Nubia's sister, they are twins), Ivan Villareal and Nubia Aldana.

Some, left to right, those who are behind are: Rossana cantillo (Ivan Villareal's niece, Next to the girl with cap), Nancy Aldana (Nubia's sister. Behind Rossana, she wears a pale blue blouse), Emma Cure (Nubia's cousin, she wears a cream blouse), Giselle Ramos (behind Emma, glasses on head).

IN MEMORIUM



It is with regret that I announce the passing of Brian King on 15 October, 2007. Brian died of a sudden illness and is survived by his wife, Lynn, who shares his devotion to *The Urantia Book*.

Brian was the first president and the pivotal person in organizing the Northern Light Urantia Association of Canada.

It was a bitter cold day on January 26, 1997 when Patricia Mundelius and I made the trip to license the association and were so warmly received by Lynn and Brian and the great readers in Toronto. He will be missed.

Cathy Jones

Editor's Note:

In response to the article "ElanVital" in the December, 2007 *Tidings* issue 30, we have had inquiries regarding how to find Suzanne's book. Her website is www.elanvital.net and her e-mail is skelly@wtmi.net