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## Dear Friends of Urantia Association International,

The end of 2006 is very close and we will soon be looking ahead in the New Year with many new projects in mind. As some of you may know, the International Service Board and other invited participants have come together this year to work on a strategic plan to engage UAI more fully in its mission to disseminate the teachings of *The Urantia Book*. When we discuss our mission, it's clear that the participation of every member is key to our success.

In developing this strategic plan we evaluate UAI from many perspectives – the regions of the world where UAI is active, the size of associations, the number of study groups, the communication means available to them, and their economic status. Using the UAI database we can also assess levels of association activity. Through this evaluation process we are determining realistic goals and worthy strategies. One aim is better communications so we are sharing the current issue of Tidings with you. It is published electronically every month on our website and we encourage members to print it out monthly to share with others.

The work on the strategic plan is far from being completed and will require more sessions. What was accomplished during our last two meetings gave us a good idea of the work that lies ahead. Like most projects, there are financial requirements and

at this time of year our budget is presented to the Representative Council.

The budget portrays the projects of the coming year for UAI to progress in its mission. Project financing and our regular administrative needs are not fully funded by the tithe system provided in our By-laws. This is why fund raising appeals are part of our strategies to gather the money so necessary to our mission and day to day administration.

We hope one day that fund raising solicitations are a thing of the past, but meanwhile we require your help. An anonymous donor gave a nice sum of money to UAI and challenged other members of UAI to match his donation. So far two other donors have met that challenge, now it is up to you to give generously.

If we are to succeed in our mission, your help is necessary. Please consider any amount of contribution and have a joyous Christmas season!

In spirit of brotherhood,

—Gaétan Charland President UAI

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