



Tidings

from Associations around Urantia

URANTIA ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL ■ [HTTP://URANTIA-UAI.ORG](http://urantia-uai.org)

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"Africa" illustration

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President's message

Dear Friends of UAI,

LAST MONTH, I TALKED TO YOU about the importance of being a partner with the Supreme and how vital it is for our young soul to be fed with regular exercise of service. Service to others is an essential opportunity for growth while it gives us the benefit of eternal values through the experience it provides. It is always easy to say those things and a little more difficult for most of us to find those occasions which are significant and beneficial to our growth. *The Urantia Book*, with its many challenges, gives us near infinite opportunities to serve in many capacities. In this month's issue of Tidings and the next to come, we will take you on a journey of service in Africa. We will walk in the footsteps of Mark Bloomfield while he is seeding *The Urantia Book* in some of the most dangerous and yet beautiful countries of this continent.

This adventure of service took shape in the mind of Mark many years ago and it is at the Sidney International Conference of UAI in 2006 that I became aware of it. Mark has a very outgoing and dynamic personality that sometimes overwhelms peoples in its intensity. But what I like most about Mark, he is a doer, he gets the job done and that is far from giving credit to everything he does. In his speech at the Sidney Conference, Mark gave us a challenge: "God has revealed himself to us, now it is time we reveal ourselves to him." In a private conversation I had with Mark, he confided in me that when he found *The Urantia Book* he talked about God all the time for many years but one day he got tired of it and decided to stop talking and start doing.

Mark has an incredible history of adventures as varied as they are meaningful, he has seen things that we only hear about and felt the misery of mankind while working with Mother Theresa that would have left us hurting for many years. I like to call him the Indiana Jones of the Urantia movement, which is how I feel about him when I read the report on his work of dissemination in Africa. It is those reports that we will publish every month so you can become part of the adventure and maybe learn of a few things here and there about how to approach people with *The Urantia Book*. I also hope that you will



join many others in supporting Mark financially in his world wide mission of placing *The Urantia Book* in public libraries

Mark will also be training some willing volunteers in this kind of work, so if you are interested, look for the short article written by Merindi Swadling in this issue of Tidings. Dissemination is part of the mission of UAI, this is why we feel that Mark deserves our support. The mission of UAI transcends by far the realm of its membership in dissemination projects and this should also apply to anything having to do with its mission, such as the fostering and support of study groups and the training of leaders and teachers. While we go about disseminating *The Urantia Book*, let us not lose sight that we are ambassadors of a spiritual Revelation. Spiritual light is always accompanied with love; let's strive to be good to others.

This month, the business of the International Service Board and the Representative Council has been perturbed by a breakdown in the means of communication. The discussion lists of the Representative Council, International Service Board and UAI have suffered a shutdown due to an action on the part of the service provider. In order to prevent a similar failure in the future, the Communication Committee, through its Chairman, Vern Verass, has made the decision to move all the web activities of UAI to another provider. This move, commended by Mario Caoile and Oscar Morales, was supported by the International Service Board as an opportunity to improve the management and expenses of our Web based activities.

During the first two weeks of October the International Service Board was able to vote positively on two resolutions that will be presented to the Representative Council as soon as the time allows it. One resolution pertains to the Endowment Fund and the other with the UAI 2008 Budget. In November, certain members of the International Service Board will be busy working on a joint project, the President's handbook. This project is part of the strategic plan and when completed, will provide a necessary tool for every association and their board members to better manage the affairs of the association and pursue the

TIDINGS

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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.

The Urantia Book online:

<http://www.urantia.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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Submissions limited to 700 words (one page) or 1400 words (1½ page) plus one or two photos. Deadline by the 15th of every month.



mission of UAI. This handbook will contain sections dedicated to the work and responsibilities of every board member and help them in the management of their association.

As for the Representative Council, they have been called to vote on the strategic plan while being supplied with a template and guidelines on how to build one for their own association. This month they will be presented with the UAI 2008 Budget and the resolution for the Endowment Fund. There is also another resolution pending approval and discussion, "The membership fees." Members will also receive an invitation to participate in a fund raising activity for UAI.

The Membership Chair, Gary Rawlings, and I, will be traveling to Africa this month to charter two new associations, one in Malawi and the other in Zambia. We will give you a full report of these activities in the next month issue.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue

Gaétan G. Charland ☐

President UAI

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South Africa Special Report (Part One)

Ghosts in the Machine

Mark Philip Bloomfield

BOOKS, BUCKS, BLOOMFIELD: THE three 'B's.' Wherever, whenever and however these three ingredients come together, results always have and always shall quickly follow.

In this instance, the third 'B' was the shipment of 480 large hardcover Urantia Books from 533 courtesy of an anonymous donor that eventually came into my possession, 380 of which were delivered to my small boarding house room in Port Elizabeth, South Africa on Thursday 7th June 2007 whilst the remaining 100 were kept for me at the shipping agent's warehouse in Durban where they arrived by sea.

Just five weeks later on Wednesday 11th July, 310 books had been seeded across the nation, the story of which is the subject of this special report. By the 16th, another 40 copies had arrived in Windhoek, Namibia with me by bus for the Namibian seeding and the remaining 130 were left at my lodgings in Port Elizabeth to be seeded upon my return to South Africa, both of which will be described in subsequent reports in the coming weeks.

A second shipment of 500 books has been urgently requested in order to do southern Africa any kind of justice, the case for support for which has been included beneath this report (see below).

From the outset I knew I was going to need more books. Five minutes after entering Port Elizabeth (P.E.) Public Library, my first South African seeding target, the lady librarian had put the library's internal distribution network to their other 21 metro branches at my disposal and asked how many copies I could spare. My reply of «22» caused her face to light up. That very same day, visits to the local college and the Greek Orthodox community, among others, confirmed the trend: first world infrastructure, third world openness and approachability.

Perhaps back in the apartheid era things may have been different but as matters stood, the whites have had to embrace change whether they liked it or not whilst the blacks and coloureds have started to create their own

middle class with time on their hands to do more than just try to survive the day.

Living out of cheap boarding houses and backpacker hostels and eating simply as has always been my way when in the field, all the remaining books were stored under the stair well of my boarding house before taking the day bus from P.E. to Durban that weekend to pick up the 100 books waiting for me at the shipping agent's warehouse.

Though South Africa's mostly first world infrastructure helps in terms of a good road system and internal public library distribution networks, life is relatively expensive which increases the need to work quickly. But as this nation's gun crime statistics show its three major cities as the world's most dangerous after Baghdad, whilst taxis are too expensive and city mini-buses usually more hassle than they're worth, seeding cities on a shoestring must therefore be done nearly entirely on foot despite the inherent risks.

Durban was the first major urban hit with 85 books seeded across the greater metro area, once again balancing the block seeding of public library systems with the individual hand seeding of both secular and religious centres of learning. Like the 8000 plus seedings of previous years, a record is being faithfully kept of each and every centre where the revelation has been given, such a record in and of itself occasionally making interesting reading.

An hour from Durban, the town of Pietermaritzburg, capital of the province of Kwa-Zulu Natal, was hand-seeded in a single morning. A visit to both city and provincial library system headquarters there proved that between the two, I could, had I have so desired, block seed the entire shipment of books there even without leaving the province.

After returning to P.E. to finish seeding there, a hundred books went with me on the overnight bus back to Cape Town where I had arrived in the country from my previous assignment in the Far East.

Each morning with a backpack of books on my shoulders, your fieldworker walked

through both well-to-do and slum neighbourhoods to reach the day's targets armed only with a telescopic steel baton in his back pocket to fend off murderous armed street thugs.

In addition to the usual secular seeding targets, the usual religious ones: bishops and archbishops, Bible colleges and seminaries, Jewish, Hindu, Muslim and Bahai centres of learning. On the 26th of June, even the Cape Town Church of Scientology accepted the revelation for its library after a long and friendly presentation.

After returning once again to P.E., a morning was spent seeding historic Grahamstown nearby before another overnight bus with another hundred books inland this time to Bloemfontain, capital city of the Orange Free State.

Arriving with only a thin sweater and rain mac over my shirt at 3.30 in the morning into exactly minus 6 celsius, I was shivering almost uncontrollably as I tried to guard the books from both predatory fake taxi drivers and the street thugs who had clocked me, all the while carrying every cent I had in the whole world in cash around my waist.

A few days later with 60 books in place I loaded the remaining 40 on to the long haul bus to Windhoek, Namibia that I could seed before returning to S.A. on a new three month visa to enable me to finish seeding the last of the remaining books still stored in P.E.

As the books were being loaded on to the bus, the burly driver in broken Afrikaans-English asked me if I was going to Namibia. Upon my confirmation he said the books would most likely be confiscated by Namibian customs and not to blame him if that happened. I told him I'd take my chances. Having been in a string of similar situations before, Michael was once again petitioned to the effect that I can't help him if he doesn't help me.

Knowing something was going to have to give as I waited >>

"Giving Book" illustration



**"It's the blood of the Druids
that never shall rest..."**
Stan Rogers

Spiritual Adventurers Sought

Merindi Swadling

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"Adventurers" photo

THE ONGOING MISSION TO SEED Urantia Books into nations far and wide represents a remarkable opportunity to profoundly affect the future spiritual economy of our planet.

The mission is currently seeking energetic and resourceful individuals to physically disseminate the revelation into lands where internet access is minimal and where the cost of buying a book may be prohibitive. Candidates for such spiritual seed-planting should possess good health, a desire for service and a spirit of adventure.

Full training in the field is provided by long-time seeding adventurer Mark Bloomfield. After more than 15 years in the

field, winding a trail though over 40 countries and personally seeding close to 10 000 books, Mark has the experience to train you how to effectively plant Urantia Books in just about any environment on earth. Mark is training a new generation of field-workers as part of the ongoing drive to dutifully disseminate fifth epochal truth.

If you would like to know more please contact either:

Ben Bowler - bbowler73@hotmail.com or
 Merindi Swadling - merindi@hotmail.com □



FROM MANILLA

SUZANNE M. KELLY
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Sculptured lotus leaves of light
 Illuminate the people and the lobby of
 the Shangri-La

The massive columns of ancient
 marble hold them aloft as they warm
 the glow of the people who grace this
 moment in time

Nature's elements of finely crafted art
 that became its expression frame my
 experience the world is alive in their
 faces and in this space in their
 reflection is my reality in their eyes

I see my family, I give them all of me in
 the smile from my soul, most return
 it.... others stare in wonder
 as I share their hopes, their desires,
 their dreams, their tears, their love
 and in that.... their immortality
 smk □

Ghosts in the Machine

continued from page 3

in transit from Bloemfontain in the small town of Upington near the border for a scheduled 6.30pm departure for Windhoek, it occurred to me that for some reason the bus had not re-emerged for boarding yet. Six hours later, it finally re-appeared which meant that instead of arriving at the Namibian border in mid-evening, we got there at two in the morning, only to be waved through the customs section by bleary-eyed customs officials who wanted only to go back to sleep.

Having broken down in the middle of the Kalahari Desert later that same morning, we finally limped onwards with only two forward gears arriving in Windhoek some nine hours behind schedule from where this report is now being written. Tomorrow morning seeding in earnest will begin here but that will be covered in the next special report in the near future.

The 'ghost' of revealed truth continues to quietly filter into the machine that is both the religious and secular establishment and all that, on a worldwide scale. The World Seeding Mission ensures that such a benign apparition just keeps appearing and ever more frequently to the end that whereas previously stumbling across fifth epochal truth would have been close to impossible, the time will come when it becomes almost impossible not to.

Epochal revelations markedly change a planet's history and the fifth shall be no exception so long as its followers do what needs to be done to continue its worldwide dissemination and right now that means among other things another 500 books to your fieldworker at the earliest possible convenience.

In search of the Father's will
 Mark Philip Bloomfield. □

How *THE URANTIA BOOK* found me

HEALTH FOOD FOR THE SOUL

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NORTHWEST ONTARIO, CANADA CAN be a cold place, even in the spring. This particular spring of 1974, found me in a small apartment in Thunder Bay, Ontario. Living in town is not a normal thing for me but, for reasons beyond the scope of this story, I was there, and other than practicing the Banjo, had little to do. During one of my frequent treks into the snow lined streets of the mostly blue collar neighborhood

I was surprised to discover that not far from where I lived was a small organic food store. One frosty mid-morning I waded through the blackened disappearing snow to see what they had to offer, little realizing what wonders I would find there.

I entered the small shop walled with shelves and bins of nuts and dried fruit, bags of beans and grains and all sorts of healthy appetizing delicacies. And behind the counter, opposite the door was the main attraction, a beautiful soft haired dark eyed, angelically smiling woman. On this cold morning, I was one of a few souls who had ventured in the cold damp to this out-of-the-way nook, so I was the only customer. It had been a while since I had talked to anyone, much less an angel, so a conversation ensued. Since this was a health food store, the conversation was mostly about good food, with a spicing of other deeper topics. We talked for about two hours. Toward the end of the conversation, as I was about to drag myself from the warmth of the exchange—not because I was weary of it but because I didn't want to wear out my welcome—I said, "What I really love is piñon nuts, but I bet there aren't any within a hundred miles." The angel smiled, reached under the counter, and handed me a bulging bag of already shelled piñons. I was impressed! We passed a few more minutes in pleasant chat then I reluctantly excused myself and went about my day.

Not wanting to be too forward, several days passed before I stopped by the shop again. Once again I was greeted by the angelic smile. Again we talked about food, but also organic farming, living in warmer places—a common regional topic—and some of life's higher concerns. Somewhere in the conversation I talked about my teen years in central Florida and mentioned my love for mangos, again musing that there were probably none in the area—that was before they were available in most stores, especially in Northwest Ontario. She again smiled, reached under her magic counter, and handed me a beautifully red-gold, ripe, luscious

mango! I was beginning to wonder if I was in a fairy tale, if the door to this shop was really a doorway to another dimension. The way time passed while I was there seemed to support that theory.

The next time I approached that door, about a week later, my responsibilities in Thunder Bay were nearing an end, and my tolerance for such civilized living was reaching its limit. At that time of my life, spring set my feet itching for new places. I sometimes hitchhiked more miles in a year than most people drive—the previous year I had hitched over 30,000 miles. City life was weighing on me, and the road was calling. The friend I had found in the health food store was my solace and, at that blink in time, my only anchor. That day, again, we talked for hours, this time of distant places, our dreams, our philosophies of life, of God. Later as the conversation was lapsing into long periods of silence, her eyes searching mine, she offered another surprise. "There is an organic farm and commune near Tampa Florida I have been wanting to see, but I don't have anyone to travel with."

I could see by the widening smile and the light in her eyes that mine had answered her question, even before I spoke. "You do now," I said without a second thought. "When? The smile softened, her eyes lowered and, for a moment she seemed to be in deep thought. Then looking up, eyes bright with challenge, from under that magic counter that had produced those mundane delicacies, she lifted a great blue book. "And you should read this" she said.

In November of '75 I warmed myself in front of the wood stove in the health food coop just at the north end of Taos, New Mexico. I had just hitched in from the San Luis Valley in Southern Colorado. The woman behind the counter signaled that she wanted to talk to me. I hefted the pack to one shoulder. It was heavy with cold weather gear and that big blue book that I still carried. I had tried to read it from time to time but just couldn't get my mind to accept the universe as one giant and complicated bureaucracy. But neither could I part with the book. I smiled and nodded to the woman behind the counter and couldn't help but wonder what magic that counter concealed. She said "Are you looking for a place to stay?"

I nodded again. "There is a place in Las Tablas if you would want to stay there?"



Jerry Prentice, 2007

Las Tablas is an isolated, mountain shadowed, village in the Tusas River valley connected by unpaved roads to US 285 just south of Tres Piedras, NM. At that time, and perhaps still, "gringos" were not welcome there. So the California owner of a few acres and a 10' X 20' adobe house was having trouble finding a caretaker. I was alone, armed, and feeling antisocial, I had years and miles of practice at both allowing and enforcing peaceful coexistence. So I agreed to stay there.

The villagers and I peacefully arrived at a place of mutual respect, even guarded affection in some cases. The conditions were Spartan. Water came from the creek, heat from collected dead wood, and food was packed it. All I had to do was carry water, gather wood, cook now and then, and read; and there was that big blue book. I had read the foreword several times but got lost in what came next. I decided to start with the history of Urantia. That I could relate to. Once I got started in that section, I had trouble tearing myself away to feed the other fire. I read through to the end and then was able to go back and read it through from the beginning. Aside from two trips to Taos, venturing out to get firewood and water, and one day of replacing the head gasket on a neighbor's truck, I ate slept, and read.

By the middle of January, 1976, I had finished reading the book through from beginning to end. Spring found me on the road again, my outlook as fresh as the crisp Rocky Mountain air, an outlook that has continued to be refreshed. Like other readers, as I read, re-read, and matured, I would transit through various stages of understanding of the revelation and of technique and zeal concerning its dissemination. With Carrie in 1992, while attending an NCA conference in Chicago, we visited 533, and for the first time I came in contact with the organization of readers. We have been involved in various capacities with the Foundation and the UAI ever since. We now work at the University of South Dakota and live on a few acres near Vermillion. We still feel the call of the road in the spring but I have forsaken hitchhiking for more suitable—though perhaps less educational—means of travel. Now, to disseminate the teachings of that big blue book, I love my students, teach them, and help them in whatever way I can. Occasionally the opportunity to speak directly of philosophy, religion, God, will arise. But only very rarely do their needs call me to extend *The Urantia Book* and say, "and you should read this." □

The Revelation Within Us

RICK LYON

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ON SEPTEMBER 29TH AND 30TH THE GREATER Lake Michigan Urantia Association hosted a regional conference in Chesterton, Indiana. Several people traveled quite a distance to participate in our conference and we appreciate that. "Participate" is the key word as we tried to make the presentations as interactive as possible. Our unofficial motto for GLMUA seems to be "Joyful Active Participation" so we try to encourage that in everything we do.

The theme for our conference was "**The Revelation Within Us**". Our goal was to illuminate the importance of the individual – you and me – in our Fathers Divine Plan of Perfection and the coming mortal epochs of man; Our origin, history, and destiny. Our theme was based upon this quote:

"P.1088 - §4 *"The religionist is not unsympathetic with social suffering, not unmindful of civil injustice, not insulated from economic thinking, neither insensible to political tyranny. Religion influences social reconstruction directly because it spiritualizes and idealizes the individual citizen. Indirectly, cultural civilization is influenced by the attitude of these individual religionists as they become active and influential members of various social, moral, economic, and political groups."*

The group of 24 attendees group was large enough to create several lively discussion groups yet small enough that everyone got to meet everyone else and spend time chatting. Friday evening began with dinner at a local Italian restaurant called "Lucrezia's" followed by an informal social reception back at the hotel. We had a great time and I think this helped everyone to get comfortable with sharing and preparing for the interaction to follow.

Michael Tanesky, serving as our Master of Ceremonies, started things off Saturday morning by introducing Benet Rutenberg. Benet began our program by offering quotes and insight related to our topic. This developed the focus of our time together and set the tone for the event. Daryl Barry, one of several guests from Ohio, finished our morning with a period of meditation that was both educational

and experiential. This helped us to leave the hustle and bustle of our week behind and prepared us for joyful active participation in the presentations to follow.

After lunch, Susan Grzeskowiak began our study with a presentation of Paper 52: *The Planetary Mortal Epochs*. While the format planned for all the presentations was the same, the each took on a flavor of the personality of the presenter. Her style of presentation was taken from her experience in training co-workers for her employer. This was a brain storming session that encouraged everyone to participate. Everyone got involved and had a lot of fun with this.

Our next presentation was by Anne Lyon. This was Anne's first experience at giving a presentation but she did very well. She offered some valuable insights and we enjoyed the many points of her presentation concerning Paper 99: *The Social Problems of Religion*, that was both enlightening and light-hearted. I know that she was very nervous about her presentation but it went well and we hope to see her doing more of these in the future. It is difficult to overcome our fear of public speaking but it is something that all of us should try to do. There is no better place to give your first public presentation than in front of a group of like-minded friends from the Urantia community.

Our day wrapped up with Benet Rutenberg's presentation about Paper 103: *The Reality of Religious Experience*. He began with a brief planned presentation, but then he did what he does best – just speaking from his heart and mind. This was indeed an interesting study not only of religious experience but of our Father Himself.

You would think that after an entire day of study and participation, the group would be exhausted and numb from the experience. However, the group instead seemed to be energized and cheered by the day. The hotel served a wonderful dinner that evening and there was plenty of lively conversation. Of course, no GLMUA event is complete without an evening of music that always involves James Woodward on the guitar. Scott Brooks, another of our Ohio guests, joined in with his mandolin.

Our program started a little earlier on Sunday morning but no less enthusiastically. Once again Michael did a great job of keeping the program on track and making seamless transitions between the program segments. James Woodward opened with a unique prayer that extended our love and appreciation from our indwelling spirit up to our Father and to all the entities, beings, and personalities in between.

Rick Lyon gave a presentation titled "The Revelation Within Us" based on Paper 110: *Relations of Adjusters to Individual Mortals*. He



Rick Lyon and other presenters at the regional conference; Anne Lyon, Linda Elum, Benet Rutenberg, Michael Tanesky

encouraged people to get involved not only in our Urantia organizations but to also become involved in the social, moral, economic, and political groups in their area.

Linda Elum had given a presentation at our 2004 international conference in Chicago and we have never forgotten her energy and inspiration. Linda finished our presentations on this Sunday morning with Paper 195: *After Pentecost*. One of our goals for this event was to bring the teachings alive and Linda certainly did that. Linda's presentation was video taped. Gary Rawlings, membership chair for UAI from Wales who also attended, will be taking this recording to show to potential new groups in Africa. What an inspiration that will be to our brothers and sisters there!

We are so glad that everyone enjoyed the conference. We certainly enjoyed having everyone there. No matter how well an event may be planned, it is the participants (seen and unseen) that make it a success. Urantia events are wonderful because people we see only at these events perhaps every year or two seem like friends that live down the street when we get together. We encourage all of our local associations to consider hosting a small event of their own. It takes some planning and work but it really isn't that difficult. If you pick a good venue, such as ours at the Hilton Garden Inn, they will make things easy for you. Never hesitate to negotiate the costs as most are usually pretty flexible. Choose an interesting and well conceived topic that appeals to your group and then get the word out. You too can enjoy the spiritual satisfaction that comes from serving our fellows and the excitement of group participation. Even individual study groups can host similar events in their area. We encourage everyone to put together your own event for readers in your area. □

Experimentation and Dissemination: An Inventory



JIMMIE MITCHELL
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TWO GENERATIONS AFTER PUBLICATION, DISSEMINATION of the revelation continues apace. Sincere and creative believers ever find new and unique ways to assist in this most important work. They give presentations at book fairs, ceaselessly offer Books to friends and family, when and as appropriate. They host Study Groups and create beautiful reader conferences. But that is not all readers do.

It is very effective to spread the 'virus of love', in fact dissemination of the benign virus is at least as effective in spreading real revelation as having the Book in every nook. But if readers wish to assist in spreading the text as well as Father's love, and need advice or help based in experience, UAI's Dissemination Committee was created for this purpose. The DC offers UAI members several long established methods to seed the text of the revelation in Urantia's cultural soil. These are listed with details on [UAI Projects Page](#), they are:

- Global Seeding (becoming and/or supporting a seed sower)
- Translations (supporting and/or seeding new versions)
- Book Fairs (presenting the revelation to a selected audience)
- Books for Inmates (prison placement in conjunction with Urantia Foundation)

Every realized son or daughter spreads Father's love naturally. Establishing the text in the planetary culture is the other side of the coin of dissemination of this grand revelation. The Dissemination Committee hears from readers around the planet who are experimenting with various dissemination techniques besides those listed above. The following is a short list of experiments reported lately. The DC does not endorse or forbid any of these, rather is it gathering these experiences and their results that we might all become wiser in rendering this delicate

service on which planetary enlightenment rests in some large measure.

- [Google Maps](#) has the ability to pinpoint libraries, universities, any type of business or service in a given region. Readers use this info to place books, post brochures, and convey contact information.
- Some readers make an industry of collecting and selling used Urantia Books to bookstores that they might remain in circulation and eventually be found by another truth seeker.
- Traveling readers can place Urantia Books in airport chapels in the pile of other revered texts (permission may be required for it to remain).
- Some leave copies of the UAI Journal in doctor/dentists waiting rooms.
- Readers, with talent for it, are constantly weaving concepts from the revelation into plays, books, articles, song and art.
- Student readers have placed Foundation brochures on university bulletin boards, MySpace etc. Those wishing to become local contacts write their name and email on the back of the brochure.
- A Canadian member prints book markers with potent Urantia Book quotes and places them in related library books.
- Certain readers have adopted a Study Group in an impoverished land. They buy and ship books to indigent readers who have contacted the Foundation or UAI seeking assistance. These readers are then offered Books to place locally in universities, seminaries and college libraries.
- In South America, where the name Urantia has been popularized in a series of best selling fictional novels, there are readers experimenting with invitational presentations, both private and public, and now introducing the revelation on radio and television.
- Editorial writers, in their own words, will insert timely and relevant concepts from the Papers into the cultural mix via newspapers, blogs and other outlets of conversation.

The DC wants to know of your dissemination project(s), what you have discovered, whether your experiments proved to be effective dissemination, or not. To know what does NOT work is as important as the reverse. No one method of dissemination is suited for all applications. To be effective in the long term, dissemination has to be adapted for each region, for each situation by the readers living there. Sharing your personal ideas on dissemination, your local successes and failures, will inform others how best to employ the infinity of possible variations in rendering this crucial service, offering an epochal revelation

to a whole planet. We can 'go to school on one another'.

The DC wishes to create more opportunities for enlightened service from your input, your plans and methods of implementation. The DC is set up to collect, examine and exchange dissemination philosophy, a place to discuss technique and receive feedback from peers, our fellow reader/believers servicing the revelation in well high every corner of Urantia now.

Send us anything relevant to this topic, ask questions, or initiate new threads to add to this evolving tapestry. [UAI Forum](#) is an open chatroom for reader/believers, and there you will find a Dissemination sub-forum designed especially for discussing and recording your experiences, measuring and learning ways to make this new revelation available to all who seek truth.

Present day readers are the second and third generations to know and offer this astonishing and grand revelation. The Foundation now supplies the Book in 12 languages. Readers have already seeded it across North America and throughout the English speaking realm. Those seeds have germinated and set down roots in the hearts and minds of thousands upon thousands of sincere seekers since 1955. Now seeds have also sprouted in South and Central America, Europe, Asia and Africa, all because readers crave to share this revelation, in love and service.

Should you need brochures today, these links will take you to free downloads of Urantia Foundation brochures in English. French, Spanish and Russian are available also on order from the [Foundation webstore](#) for a very reasonable price:

- Selected Excerpts <http://mercy.urantia.org/brochures/excerpts.pdf>
- Suggestions for Beginning a Study Group <http://mercy.urantia.org/brochures/study.pdf>
- *The Urantia Book* ~ A Description <http://mercy.urantia.org/brochures/description.pdf>
- Introduction to Urantia Foundation <http://mercy.urantia.org/brochures/intro.pdf>

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More Information about the 2009 Conference

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Dear friends,

THE 2009 UAI INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE Committee has resolved that the theme for the Conference will be the following:

Bridging The Gap: From Disharmony Toward Universal Unity

Below you can find a brief description of ideas the Committee would like the conference presentations and workshops to develop. Of course, every proposal for a presentation or workshop related to the ideas following will be very welcome.

In friendship,
 Olga Lopez
 President, Urantia Association of Spain

Ideas developing the theme of the conference – A First Approach

In the course of history, the Iberian Peninsula has acted as a convergence point for many diverse peoples and cultures. Circumstances occasioned it to be a meeting place of:

- Africa and Europe: Favored by its unique geographical location, the Iberian Peninsula was invaded by Arabian people during 8th century, and later by peoples of northern Africa.
- Islam and Christianity: From the 8th century to the end of 15th century, the Iberian Peninsula experienced the (more or less peaceful) coexistence of the three main monotheistic religions: Christianity, Judaism, and Mohammedanism.
- America and Europe: Columbus' discovery provoked a long period of colonization from the Iberian Peninsula, which gave rise to the Latin American culture.

Such circumstances, which largely determined Spaniard culture and character, have been the inspiration to the concept of "bridging the gap" as a potential conference theme. But how is this theme related to the teachings of *The Urantia Book*?

As readers of *The Urantia Book*, we must take care of disseminating its teachings. The

best way to carry out this dissemination is by bridging the gap between our fellow siblings, affording every opportunity to those who want to profit from it. Moreover, dissemination also consists of bridging the gap between other cultures and religions, for thus the idea of a shared sonship is fostered, i.e., that we all are the sons of God, and therefore brothers and sisters.

Everything that fosters mutual understanding and comprehension leads to knowing one another better and therefore to loving one another more. It is normal to fear what we do not know. Therefore, we should strive to

know one another better. To that end, this Conference should focus on how the teachings are disseminated in diverse world cultures, on how to set up relationships with the various world religions, and on how to coexist with individuals of different cultures and religions in light of the teachings of *The Urantia Book*.

Moving toward universal brotherhood is part of practicing the religion of Jesus.

We could, for example, try to analyze throughout the Papers of Part IV the main characteristics of the life and religion of Jesus (we have a Father, then we are brothers/sisters), and its capacity of transforming the society and leading us toward universal brotherhood. We should also explore how Jesus lived his life and passed on his message.

Another possible application of the theme could be a discussion on overall globalization (not only an economic one), on the Global Village from the point of view of *The Urantia Book*, i.e., bridging the gap toward a better future, toward a higher civilization. To set up a meeting place for all races and cultures. We must set up a meeting place for all religions. In addition, this meeting place of all religions and ideologies must be based in a welcoming atmosphere that excludes no one.

Since we have an extensive variety of individuals on this planet, "unity" must be pursued from our own diversity, not from uniformity. In addition, we should pay some tribute or recognition to the beings that we don't see, but who we know are continuously bridging the gaps between us and offering us their hands, searching to iron out differences and gently leaning us toward the direction that is good for us. In some way, we have to bridge the gap between us and them in order to facilitate their task. All in all, it's for our benefit. □