

The Agondonter

"... evolutionary will creatures who can believe without seeing, persevere when isolated, and triumph over insuperable difficulties even when alone." The Urantia Book P.579 - §1

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Urantia Book Readers Gather at IC05

Over 500 readers gathered for a week long celebration and study at The Fellowship's International Conference on the campus of Villanova University in Pennsylvania from July 30 to August 4th.

The new programming featured tracts divided into Science, Philosophy and Experiential and provided diverse workshops and seminars to fit the interests of all the attendees. Being workshop intensive, it did not devote as much time to plenaries and extravagant productions compared to previous conferences.

The evenings were devoted to music at two venues: Club UB where dancing was the focus, and Cafe Terrace where reader musicians displayed their melodic skills and compositions, some with Urantian themes. The last evening was devoted to a gala banquet at Club UB.

Special interest groups such as Inner Life, Truth-seekers, and Common Ground also presented their ongoing outreach efforts.

The youth and the second generation of Urantia Book readers were present in numbers and were energetic in their activities. The younger children took part in the Jerusalem Marketplace which featured costumes, tools and implements in tents much like in a marketplace during the days of Jesus.

All in all, a great time was had by all as we look back with fond memories of reacquainting ourselves with old friends and meeting new ones.

The next Fellowship conference will be the Summer Session in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Agondonter of the Month: Nelson Mandela



"...the first thing is to be honest with yourself. You can never have an impact on society if you have not changed yourself... Great peacemakers are all people of integrity, of honesty, but humility."

UBLA Going Strong!

2005 has been a busy year for us. UBLA has contributed funds and resources to the Conscious Life Expo in which we brought and gave away many books and study materials.

UBLA organized the Scholarship Fund giving a full scholarship to two Zambians, Chita Nonde and Namukale Kaliwanda, to go to the Parliament of World Religions in Barcelona, Spain. We hosted them here in L.A. after the IC05 conference as well as Professor Moussa N'Diaye, a Muslim teacher of The Urantia Book from the University of Dakar, Senegal.

UBLA also sponsored a trip to get Urantia Books into Cuba by supporting Pradhana and Coloro from Chile who visited the National Library of Cuba to place books there. They also toured Puerto Rico and Cancun to meet with readers and to stimulate study groups. UBLA is touching people around the world!

Editorial : The Sifting of the Kingdom—The Importance of Service

By Richard Omura

Urantia Book study groups in Southern California and in the nation seem to be dwindling. Some long time readers no longer attend society meetings and general interest in The Urantia Book seem to be at a standstill. What is wrong? Are we fading away? These are serious and understandable concerns.

The answer is no, we are not fading away. But the sands are sifting, the chafe is being culled from the wheat and the movement is undergoing a vital change in energy and dynamics.

“...It was almost midnight when Joab, the leader of the evangelists, returned and reported that about one third of his associates had deserted the cause...” “...It was a little after midnight when Jesus came down from the upper chamber and stood among the twelve and their associates, numbering about thirty in all. He said: "I recognize that this sifting of the kingdom distresses you, but it is unavoidable...” “...Why is it that you are filled with fear and consternation when you see the kingdom being divested of these lukewarm multitudes and these halfhearted disciples? Why do you grieve when the new day is dawning for the shining forth in new glory of the spiritual teachings of the kingdom of heaven?” The Urantia Book P.1715 - §2

The Urantia Book does not have a set of rules or commandments to follow, which is one of the attractive and liberating qualities of the book, however, there are three important things that The Urantia Book recommends and is a consistent theme throughout the book. These are Service, Prayer and Worship. Service and Prayer are terms that are fairly easy to grasp and is used in the book as it is normally understood. But the term worship as it is most often used in the book does not necessarily mean group worship, such as goes on in church services, but rather is more of a personal approach to God: worshipful meditation. I have found it curious that even among long-time Urantia Book readers, there are many that do not regularly incorporate this conceptual triad of service, prayer and worship into their lives.

Prayer and worship are mainly personal, but we do often have group worship and prayer at our gatherings and they are inspirational and endearing. Service is something that we should also focus on. Without the service efforts of readers, we are like a boat with no rowers, like a car with no engine, an airplane with no wings. Service is good even if it may consist of just showing up at meetings, gatherings and special events, a sign of support. Without service, reading the Urantia Book is almost meaningless. Unless we put into effect the truths we find in the book, of what use is it? There are many avenues of service and participating in the Urantia movement is only one of many, but it is a vital and a worthwhile one. Many of you serve outside our organization and much kudos to you and your efforts, for indeed, we need your energy and selflessness.

Our willingness and abilities to serve is a measure of our spiritual growth, but service cannot be asked of those without the ability to serve efficiently and reliably. In the beginning, service may be easy, but it is only upon satisfactory completion of these duties that one is asked to do higher and more fulfilling service. Attending our gatherings is easy service, but it is service nonetheless and is a good place to start.

Sometimes, when I ask someone to come to our gatherings, they hesitate because of the driving distance and the time consumed. That is understandable, as we all have our daily lives to work out. However, in this modern age, we are often spoiled. In the 1800s, Thomas Carlyle would often walk 12 miles to have dinner with Ralph Waldo Emerson, and then walk back, an eight hour round trip, as Emerson writes in his *English Notes*. Now, we grumble and moan if we have to drive for two hours in the comfort of our air-conditioned car equipped with a quadraphonic audio system and six cup holders for our lattes and cappuccinos. My sympathies for suggesting such an arduous trip.

Service in doing the Father’s business should be a priority, not something to do when more interesting entertainment is lacking. However, it should not be done under peer pressure or for seeking validation, but because one is genuinely and sincerely attracted to it. It is indeed a labor of love. An appreciation which stems from the regular practice of the three concepts mentioned above: Worship, Prayer and Service.

“In the next world you will be asked to give an account of the endowments and stewardships of this world. Whether inherent talents are few or many, a just and merciful reckoning must be faced. If endowments are used only in selfish pursuits and no thought is bestowed upon the higher duty of obtaining increased yield of the fruits of the spirit, as they are manifested in the ever-expanding service of men and the worship of God, such selfish stewards must accept the consequences of their deliberate choosing.” The Urantia Book P.1918 - §1

SETTLING INTO LIFE & LIGHT

By Deborah Goaldman and Donna D'Ingillo
Association of Light and Life Conference Co-chairs

What does Light & Life look like on Urantia? Come explore, create, and dream with us at the 2006 Association for Light & Life National Conference, July 20-23 at the Mission Renewal Center, Santa Barbara, CA, located in the Queen of Missions. From this historical site, founded by the Spanish Franciscans in 1786, we will launch our vision of "SETTLING INTO LIGHT & LIFE." Reserve this time in your calendar for next year!

During this Correcting Time, we are planting the seeds for our planet to evolve into Light & Life. And while none of us has experienced what living in this elevated state is like, we get to participate in building it now.

What ideas lie in our hearts? How will our culture grow over the years into bringing heaven on earth? What will our social, political, and religious institutions look like? These are the questions we can ask during this conference as we craft our ideals into the growing energy that is moving our planet ever forward.

This conference gives us an opportunity to come together in working "families," each one being assigned an area of cultural development, such as Marriage & Family Life or Health & Life Sciences, etc. We will meet in family groups with the heads of the family leading its members into exercises to bond the family energy, and then to lead the group into presenting a collective vision of how that family envisions Light & Life for their particular cultural area. The conference will culminate with each family presenting its vision.

We see this conference as an opportunity to bring our ideas to life as we offer our visions to the planet. Our beloved celestial friends standing by can then take our ideas and seed them into the vision that is growing on our world. This is a time of great creative possibilities and we are very blessed to be consciously participating in bringing the Father's will and light to our Urantia.

The conference will also have a time for interested presenters to conduct workshops, although this will not be the focus, and the majority of the conference time will be dedicated to building our ideas of Light & Life and sharing them with one another. We will be looking for 10 volunteers as conference time grows closer who will act as the head of the family. There is preliminary information to review so the leader is ready to lead the group into discussion and development of their assigned cultural theme.

Conference activities will also offer music and entertainment, free time to explore the beauty and history of the Santa Barbara area and to fellowship with one another.

Our goal is to stimulate our creative imaginations and to develop those working team models that are such a part of universe life. Come, join us, and participate in bringing our beautiful planet into our Father's magnificence. Together we are powerful creators of Light & Life.

The Association for Light and Life online is at: www.lightandlife.us
(also accessed via www.associationforlightandlife.org)
<http://all.lightandlife.us> www.allspiritworks.com

**THE URANTIA BOOK
FELLOWSHIP**
Cultivating the Spirit of Religion



New Logo for The Urantia Book Fellowship!

To the left is the new logo for the Fellowship. Many thanks to Robert Burns who was instrumental, along with those on the logo committee, in making this wonderful design possible. This logo will appear in many places, such as on website and publications as well as on the new business cards given to all General Council members.

A Publication of the Urantia Book Fellowship Los Angeles Society (ubla.org)

Spirit Jest: Humor as a Loving Ministry

Living a spirit-filled life doesn't mean giving up laughter. On the contrary, humor is sorely needed at our level of experiential material existence. So join us on November 19 at the Whittier Art Museum to explore the ways that humor can help you achieve a happier and healthier spiritual life. Learn about the three kinds of humor listed in The Urantia Book, brainstorm ways to use humor to develop fruits of the spirit, and laugh at yourself – and with others – in this fun and insightful session.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- UBLA Meetings*: 11/19
- Fifty Year Anniversary Celebration of publication of UB. In L.A. (10/29) and Chicago(10/15) (see articles)

(*UBLA meetings are at 8035 So. Painter Ave. Whittier, Ca. 90602 unless otherwise notified.)

UB Study Groups in So. California

- Arcadia (818) 447-1403 (Lucile Kettel)
- Irvine (949) 222-1053 (Robert Burns)
- Laguna Hills (949) 470-9653 (Duane Faw)
- Tujunga (818) 951-2719 (Karen Pike)
- Westminster (714) 894-5417 (Kermit Anderson)

(Note: UBLA has no official affiliation with any study group, nor does UBLA endorse, or have any authority governing their curriculum or practices.)