



William Wentworth

With Easter just gone it is a good time to reflect on the relationship between Christianity – the religion about Jesus – and the exposition of the religion of Jesus found in *The Urantia Book*.

For Christians, Easter emphasises the crucifixion of Jesus as a sacrifice to his heavenly father in order to effect the salvation of humanity. This “atonement doctrine” is glorified at Easter, and does seem to be part of the very essence of Christian thought.

*The Urantia Book* points out that salvation has nothing much to do with sacrifice and atonement, and that the crucifixion was purely a matter of agreement between Jesus and the Universal Father, together with the machinations of the human actors in the drama. Nevertheless, Easter helps to concentrate our minds on Jesus' life on Urantia, and to reflect on the significance of the religion about him, even as we learn from the revelation how we can improve upon it.

Easter has also helped me to remember Gerhard Neuwiller, a long time reader of the book and member of the Melbourne study group, who died and (I believe) has been resurrected on the Mansion Worlds. Both Regina Williamson and the Melbourne study group have written beautiful memorials for him in this issue.

The Sydney Study Group has begun planning for Annual Conference in September. Their recent meeting was very productive. Very encouraging is the news that they have a number of enthusiastic members wanting to make presentations who have not previously done so, and they will be given opportunities this time. Conference organisers all know how hard it is to find good speakers, and it sounds as though Sydney is producing a promising crop.

The conference will also devote some time to ANZURA's participation in the Parliament of World Religions in December in Melbourne. ANZURA will be co-ordinating

(continued next page...)

### In this issue...

#### UAI News

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <i>President's Report</i> .....  | 1 |
| <i>Remembering Gerhard</i> ..... | 2 |
| <i>National Study Day</i> .....  | 2 |

#### Contributions

|   |    |
|---|----|
| <i>The Ultimate Human Experience</i> .....              | 3  |
| <i>Library placement, Book opportunities</i> .....      | 5  |
| <i>Study Groups, A free courtesy</i> .....              | 6  |
| <i>Parliament of the World's Religions</i> .....        | 8  |
| <i>New Zealand Corner</i> .....                         | 9  |
| <i>Mapping the Urantia Book</i> .....                   | 10 |
| <i>Study Groups in Australia &amp; New Zeland</i> ..... | 12 |



## — Remembering Gerhard —

by Regina Williamson

It is Sunday, 10:28 am. My dog Cindy starts its usual dance. Gerhard is here, of course. Cindy's beloved Gerhard. "Knock, knock"... "Come in, Gerhard!"

Now Cindy starts her song and spinning. Gerhard laughs. She does not calm down. Finally Gerhard sits down in his usual chair and Cindy next to him calms down. Silence at last! The ritual is over. And that's how it was every Sunday for the last few years.

It is Sunday, 4 January 2009, 10:30am. No car is coming down the driveway and no noise in the house. Cindy died about a year ago. Gerhard is not coming either; Gerhard progressed to the mansion worlds on 9 December 2008. He never woke up. My mum did the same number in June the same year. They already started their real lives. It's like being switched on when we are born and switched off when our souls are required of us. All the knowledge Gerhard had about the UB and Bible is gone forever. Amazing. It only shows me how important an individual is. A single unit of personality so to speak. It's interesting how it feels to be there with all the knowledge of UB. I'll know when my time comes, I guess.

I mentioned Cindy my dog because she played a huge role in Gerhard's life. She loved him and he loved her. The all Melbournites know that. It was an exceptional friendship, and lasted so many years. One day Gerhard came to my house, introduced himself as UB reader and

(continued on page 11...)

*President's Report (continued)*

the UAI involvement, and planning is already underway, with both a book booth and workshop presentation being proposed. If time allows, the presentations will be given a trial run at the conference.

International Study Day this year is set for Saturday, 23rd May, and the paper for study is paper 100: "Religion in Human Experience". This is a favourite paper for many readers, and the thought of readers around the world all studying the same paper on the same day is rather exciting. Descriptions of the study by group leaders will be published in the following issue of *Arena*. ■

## National Study Day – 23/24 May 2009

Paper 100

Religion in Human Experience

This year ANZURA's National Study Day is set for the weekend of May 23-24. As a warm-up for our annual conference, we would like to explore the very nature of religion in human experience. In Paper 100, one of Michael's Melchizedeks offers us his insight into this most intimate aspect of our lives. We hope you all have the chance to get together with fellow readers to share this remarkable paper.

As you may recall, last year we extended an invitation to the worldwide readership to join us in this day of study. From small seeds big things grow—imagine in 100 years each reader setting aside "our day" to join with others and reflect on the refreshing truths poured freely across the world by these Papers.

*"Spiritual growth is mutually stimulated by intimate association with other religionists." [p.1094:2] ■*

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~ The Urantia Book ~***

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## The Ultimate Human Experience

by Julian McGarry

*This is the first in a series of articles that will bring us face to face with the ultimate human experience.*

*I wish to explore what I believe to be the fundamental life questions: How do we become like God?  
How do we do the will of God?*



What is the **ultimate** human experience? We live in a world that is hungry for excitement, for thrills. For many, climbing the highest mountain, circling the earth in the space shuttle, or snorting cocaine constitutes the ultimate human experience. But there is something much greater,

something so profound that no words can adequately describe it. *The Urantia Book* alludes to the answer in the often-repeated theme of the book articulated by the Master, Christ Michael, in these words:

“The ultimate goal of human progress is the reverent recognition of the fatherhood of God and the loving materialization of the brotherhood of man.” – p.1608:1

It is easy to read these words and completely miss their profundity! Did Jesus really mean that **God is our father**? Did he really mean that we could experience a relationship with God every bit as intimate, warm, affectionate, and real as a human father could possibly have with his child?

God is much, much more than a Father, but the Father is man’s highest concept of God. [p.1260:3]

God is the Father; man is his son. Love, the love of a father for his son, becomes the central truth in the universe relations of Creator and creature... [p.2018:0]

Can we get our collective heads around such an extraordinary concept? Is God saying that he not only wants to but has made it possible for us to have a father-son relationship with him? A moment’s contemplation is likely to reveal the staggering enormity of such a notion! But we can easily lose sight of this unimaginable privilege that God is offering us as we hungrily comb through the pages of this revelation. Every page contains the most remarkable truths, truths that excite the intellect, the

imagination, and dare I say, the human ego. But what about the greatest truth of all: God is our Father and he wants to have a fatherly relationship with us **individually**. He wants us to **experience** him and he wants to experience us. Just chew on that thought for a while; let it really sink in.

Our Father is not in hiding; he is not in arbitrary seclusion. He has mobilized the resources of divine wisdom in a never-ending effort to reveal himself to the children of his universal domains. There is an infinite grandeur and an inexpressible generosity connected with the majesty of his love which causes him to yearn for the association of every created being who can comprehend, love, or approach him. [p.62:4]

It is hard to imagine that the First Source and Centre of the universe of universes yearns for our association. But then this is what you would expect from a loving father toward his precious children. Listen to what a Midwayer Commission had to say to us humans:

The great challenge to modern man is to achieve better communication with the divine Monitor that dwells within the human mind. Man’s greatest adventure in the flesh consists in the well-balanced and sane effort to advance the borders of self-consciousness out through the dim realms of embryonic soul-consciousness in a wholehearted effort to reach the borderland of spirit-consciousness-contact with the divine presence. Such an experience constitutes God-consciousness, an experience mightily confirmative of the pre-existent truth of the religious experience of knowing God. Such spirit-consciousness is the equivalent of the knowledge of the actuality of sonship with God. [p.2097:2]

So let’s get this clear: man’s greatest adventure while sojourning in this fleshly body (and there are none greater than this) is to make a sane and well-balanced effort to advance our consciousness from the self, to the soul, to the spirit, that we might make contact with the **divine presence**. So precious is this goal that the author states that it will require “a wholehearted effort”. This must surely constitute the ultimate human experience:



personal contact with the divine! God allows himself to be found by us. And God is constantly trying to find us!!

And indirectly and unrecognized the Adjuster is constantly communicating with the human subject, especially during those sublime experiences of the worshipful contact of mind with spirit in the super-consciousness. [p.1203:3]

"...I have come to show you that, while you are seeking to find God, God is likewise seeking to find you." [p.1850:9]

And how they do enjoy communicating with their subjects in more or less direct channels! How they rejoice when they can dispense with symbols and other methods of indirection and flash their messages straight to the intellects of their human partners! [p.1193:6]

This ultimate human experience is not just some fanciful figment of human imagination, some notion of wishful thinking. It is open and available to anyone who hears the sacred invitation and responds wholeheartedly! And how do we respond wholeheartedly? How do we apprehend this ultimate human experience? What did the Solitary Messenger say? Contact with the divine is especially likely to occur when we are in a state of worshipful contact of mind with spirit; when we are *superconscious*!

Jesus taught his followers that, when they had made their prayers to the Father, they should remain for a time in silent receptivity to afford the indwelling spirit the better opportunity to speak to the listening soul. The spirit of the Father speaks best to man when the human mind is in an attitude of true worship. [p.1641:1]

What do we know about worship?

Worship is a personal communion with that which is divinely real, with that which is the very source of reality. Man aspires by worship to be better and thereby eventually attains the best. [p.2095:6]

Worship is the highest privilege and the first duty of all created intelligences. Worship is the conscious and joyous act of recognizing and acknowledging the truth and fact of the intimate and personal relationships of the Creators with their creatures. The quality of worship is determined by the depth of creature perception; and as the knowledge of the infinite character of the Gods progresses, the act of worship becomes increasingly all-encompassing until it eventually attains the glory of the highest experiential delight and the most exquisite pleasure known to created beings. [p.303:5]

Imagine having *personal* communion with the divine! It almost leaves you breathless! It is the act of worship that ultimately leads us to "the highest experiential

delight and the most exquisite pleasure known to created beings."

All mortals who are indwelt by Thought Adjusters are potential worshipers; they have been "lighted by the true light," and they possess capacity for seeking reciprocal contact with divinity. [p.590:3]

So there you have it! As beings indwelt by Adjusters, we are *potential* worshipers and we have the "capacity for seeking reciprocal contact with divinity."

The Father respects our free will; He doesn't impose himself on us. We are "potential" worshipers; we have the "capacity" for seeking divine contact! But whether we do or not depends on what we regard as precious. Listen to what the Perfector of Wisdom says to us: worship is not just some pious religious activity that churchgoers perform every Sunday; it is "the highest privilege and the first duty of all created intelligences".

As a relative new-comer to the Urantia movement, I have noticed a certain degree of hesitation, confusion, lack of confidence, and lack of direction at both the individual and organizational level. Of course, this is quite understandable for a young movement trying to find its place in the midst of accelerated and unprecedented social and cultural changes throughout the planet. We ask ourselves: What are we supposed to be doing at this point of time in human history? Should we be aiming for rapid expansion of the revelation or steady-as-she-goes progress? The watchword of the universe is *progress* (p.54:5) **but how do we progress?** To find reliable answers to all these questions we need divine guidance. We need a spiritual connection! We are exhorted not to rest upon our own understanding (p1445:2)!

Spiritual development depends, first, on the maintenance of a living spiritual connection with true spiritual forces and, second, on the continuous bearing of spiritual fruit: yielding the ministry to one's fellows of that which has been received from one's spiritual benefactors. [p.1095:5]

As individuals and as an organization, we need to maintain a "living spiritual connection with true spiritual forces".

Though you cannot find God by searching, if you will submit to the leading of the indwelling spirit, you will be unerringly guided, step by step, life by life, through universe upon universe, and age by age, until you finally stand in the presence of the Paradise personality of the Universal Father. [p.39:4]

If we are willing to "submit to the leading of the indwelling spirit", we, individually and collectively, will be unerringly guided by our loving Father; He will show us the way!

There is a powerful, all-encompassing truth to be discerned here, one which answers the key questions pertaining to our role as believers at this critical time in human history: Our Father is inviting us, beckoning us to experience his presence, to have “**a religious experience so personal and so sublime that it could be realized and expressed only by "feelings that lie too deep for words."**” [p.1091:8]

The purpose of this ultimate human experience, this state of *superconsciousness*, is that we may *know* our Father and be able to do his will. By establishing and maintaining “a living spiritual connection”, by being “led by the spirit”, we are able to fulfill the supreme mandate, “Be you perfect, even as I am perfect”; we are able to become like him!!

We worship God by the aid of the Father's indwelling spirit and by the illumination of the human mind through the ministry of truth. Worship, taught Jesus, makes one increasingly like the being who is worshiped. Worship is a transforming experience whereby the finite gradually approaches and ultimately attains the presence of the Infinite. [p1641:1]

God-knowing creatures have only one supreme ambition, just one consuming desire, and that is to become, as they are in their spheres, like him as he is in his Paradise perfection of personality and in his universal sphere of righteous supremacy. From the Universal Father who inhabits eternity there has gone forth the supreme mandate, “Be you perfect, even as I am perfect.” [p.21:3]

Obedience to the will of the Father, yielding the fruits of the spirit in one's personal life, is the law of the kingdom. [p.1596:7]

In future articles, I would like to explore in greater detail the role of prayer and worship when we gather together as UB readers and in fulfilling the fundamental mandate: “Be you perfect, even as I am perfect”.

Julian McGarry ■



## New Library Placement Policy

Urantia Foundation recently revised its library placement policy, and UAI just acquired a batch of dissemination books from the Foundation—seeding a revelation has never been easier! Below and over the page are some more details, and here are the links on the web:

<http://www.urantia.org/pub/LibraryPlacement.pdf>

<http://urantia-uai.org/projects.html#library>

### Urantia Foundation Library Placement Policy ~ January 2009

Urantia Foundation is committed to disseminating the teachings of *The Urantia Book* around the world. One way this may be accomplished is by donating free copies of the book to libraries and other places where new readers may discover it. To date, thousands of books have been placed in public libraries around the world. For individuals and groups who want to participate in our library placement program, Urantia Foundation offers the following book sale terms:

English and Spanish hard cover books will sell for \$10.00 each, up to 10 books at a time, plus shipping. Other translations will sell for \$10.00 each, plus shipping, based on availability. Contact Urantia Foundation at 773-525-3319 or [www.urantia.org](http://www.urantia.org) for current information on translation availability.

We ask that you agree to use these books only for placement in libraries and similar environments, and that they not be used for personal or commercial purposes. Suggested placement settings include:

- a. *College and university libraries;*
- b. *Public libraries;*
- c. *Religious libraries (seminaries, churches, ashrams, synagogues, etc.);*
- d. *Hotel, youth hostel, cruise ship, and other libraries provided for travelers;*
- e. *Hospital libraries;*
- f. *Highly trafficked private libraries;*
- g. *Coffee shops with "free book" shelves;*
- h. *Waiting rooms and other places where people may be looking for something to read.*

It is important to obtain permission from the librarian or shop owner before placing the book at a site. If permission is not received the book may be discarded.

In return for the discount we offer on new books, please let us know where you placed them. Any additional information that you consider helpful will be most welcomed. We will publish results of this program from time to time, and if you would like to write about your experiences, we will consider featuring your report in Urantia Foundation News Online or on our website. ■



Greetings to all UAI members and friends!

Due to the introduction of *The Urantia Book* with the new covers, Urantia Foundation has a large quantity of books that cannot be sold through the Foundation. We are very pleased to announce that Urantia Association International has completed an agreement with Urantia Foundation to purchase these books. These are brand new English paperbacks with the blue and white cover. This is a rare opportunity that UAI cannot afford to pass up. We intend to make these books available to all of our local and national associations for their dissemination projects.

One member of the ISB and another reader have made substantial contributions toward the purchase of these books. However, we need to turn to our members for the remainder of the funds required to complete the purchase of these books.

We are asking you to consider contributing to the Urantia Association International Global Seeding Fund so that we can complete this purchase and provide books to our associations as inexpensively as possible so that they can then provide books to readers and study groups in their areas or to areas where books are expensive or hard to find.

You may contribute by credit or debit card by calling the UAI office at 773-572-1180.

You may mail a contribution to:

Urantia Association International  
559 W. Diversey Parkway #351  
Chicago, IL 60614 - 7640

You may also contribute via PayPal through our website [www.urantia-uai.org](http://www.urantia-uai.org).

Please be sure to specify your contribution for our Global Seeding Fund, "GSF". Thank you for helping us with this opportunity. A lot of people will soon have their own copy of *The Urantia Book* thanks to your generosity.

Sincerely,

Rick Lyon

UAI Executive Administrator ■

## Study Groups – a discussion from the web

*During an on-line discussion about the purpose and value of Study Groups, Mark Kurtz wrote:*

Hello friends!

Thank you for the interesting exchange in the past 10 days or so! The discussion about curiosity about what people are thinking and doing resulted in a morphed exchange of varying philosophy about lists and forums and more. And learned new details too.

Now, I want to ask you if you are aware of any study groups within one mile (or kilometer) of your home. Are you aware of any group within 10 miles/kilometers? Are there one or more groups within 100 miles/kilometers?

I understand the Revelators intend for us to establish thousands of study groups and to train teachers. Are there study groups formed for teacher training?

And what is their purpose in telling us to study and teach? Would this question get at the deeper meaning of why *The Urantia Book* exists? And to what degree, within our souls and selves are we willing to help the Revelators? What would be the result of all of us figuratively placing ourselves in the middle of the three concentric circles, surrounding ourselves with the Father, Eternal Son, and Infinite Spirit and imagining Michael as being pleased when we so honestly dedicate ourselves to helping him upgrade Urantia?

It's the number of study groups that you are aware of near you that I humbly request of you, in curiosity about our UB movement health. Right now I only know of one, maybe two, within 100 miles.

With hat in hand,

Mark

*In response to Mark's comments and question, Scott Brooks replied:*

Mark's thoughtful message about study groups has prompted me to tell you about our study group here in Columbus, Ohio. I feel so blessed to have this valuable spiritual resource at my disposal.

The study group was started in 1976 shortly after Fr. Rob Schuer discovered *The Urantia Book* and was passively encouraged by his Bishop to "look into it." Fr. Bob call Urantia Foundation and got some names of people in Columbus and Cincinnati who were known readers.

He called them and started meeting regularly with both the Cincinnati and the Columbus folks (for over twenty years Fr. Bob commuted weekly to Cincinnati to meet with them.) Father Bob later went on to start a study group in Las Vegas and visits them a couple times a year when he vacations there.

The Columbus group thrived and has been meeting continuously since then. It has weathered the "storms" of schism, TM and apathy and you might even say we have "invigorated in the presence of difficulties" over the years.

Currently, about 6 to 8 readers show up weekly and our active group of readers includes 15 to 20. Our email list reaches about 30 folks. We have alumni and visitors spread around the country and we encourage any traveling Urantia Book readers to schedule a stop in Ohio on Tuesday evening so you can join our family.

Most of the readers are long-time readers and we have read through the book many times. This year, rather than reading the book serially we are reading from one of Dr. Sadler's workbooks where he condenses *The Urantia Book* by pulling key paragraphs from each paper. Every meeting is peppered with lively discussions as people get the chance to express themselves fully and openly.

To me, it is the ideal of what a study group should be. I only wish more people had the chance to experience this kind of long-term, in-depth study in the fellowship of other readers.

Father Bob just celebrated his 86th birthday and earlier this year we threw a party in honor of his 60th year as a priest. He has been the glue that has held our group together and he has been a great influence on me personally. I'm sure others feel the same way.

Cheers, Scott Brooks ■

## A Free Courtesy For Visitors To Jerusalem

*Disseminator extraordinaire Mark Bloomfield is currently based in Jerusalem. To any and all readers who might be planning a stay in that ancient city, Mark is extending a friendly gesture and free courtesy:*

*from Mark Philip Bloomfield:*

If any of you good people out there have ever been planning a visit to Jerusalem, your long time fieldworker from England, recently returned there from the African Seeding Mission would happily give whatever assistance he can to all comers.

As a fellow reader for the last 25 years plus once again a temporary resident of Jerusalem's old city, if you were to take my unofficial guided tour, such might not of course end up being exactly the standard one. As for what's on offer, from my tiny rooftop room near the center of the 'center of the world', there isn't a single key attraction listed beneath that would take more than ten minutes or so to walk to:

The Garden of Gethsemane, The Mount of Olives, the Kidron Valley where Judas met his end, Golgotha (the real one), the underground probable location of the last supper, the Wailing Wall, the Dome of the Rock, Mount Zion, the Temple Mount, the Pool of Siloam, the Pool of Bethesda, David's tomb, the City of David, Mary's tomb, the Damascus Gate that Jesus carried his crossbeam through, and the sealed Golden Gate that is supposedly going to miraculously open upon the arrival of the Messiah. And if a mischievous young boy were to catapult a small pebble north from my roof, it would *per-tin*g off the dome of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

Even the internet cafe where I check my mail most mornings is on the narrow 'Via Dolorosa' along which Jesus is said to have walked to his crucifixion. Scarcely a day passes when some group of chanting pilgrims aren't to be seen shuffling along it bearing their own replica cross.

And if a full five miles isn't out of your range, there's a large brass star on the floor of an underground chamber beneath the altar of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem that tends to get kissed rather a lot.

If I actually had to engage my brain (a first time for everything some would say :-), I could probably triple or even quadruple that little list with lesser known but equally fascinating nooks and crannies of historical interest in the immediate vicinity... the 'secret places of the stairs' as I think some psalmist might have once referred to them as.

Or perhaps, with your own itinerary already planned, you might just like to know that a fellow reader is in the area should you need any help, advice, hints and tips to help make your visit all the more memorable, hassle-free and pleasant.

Either way, feel free to pass and post this message far and wide, and feel welcome to contact me on mpblmfd@yahoo.co.uk even just to say hi if you're planning to swing by this way.

Shalom.

MPB. ■

## Parliament of the World's Religions

Melbourne, December 3–9, 2009

### *Make a World of Difference: Hearing each other, Healing the earth*

*“Unless we desire to make a difference, to help, to hear and to heal, we won’t. But from where comes such a desire? How does one move beyond old attitudes and narrow motivations? How do we get to that place where we become truly interested in each other? How does this interest become friendship, and ripen into Love? If we can answer this, we have found the key; for once we love someone, the desire wells up to help, to hear and to heal.*

*But from where comes this desire to love one another? It appears naturally among family and friends; it builds between neighbours who work together; and it begins between strangers once trust is won. And why is Love so powerful, so efficient at resolving the knots in our relationships? To understand this we need to know more about what and who we are.*

*The Urantia Papers, which we would like to introduce, offer new answers to these old questions. As well as providing a larger frame in which to think—one that may satisfy scientists, philosophers and religionists alike—the Urantia Papers reveal a fresh perspective on Personality. They trace for us the rise and role of Love, from the eternal core of the Absolute directly into the human heart.”*

The above paragraphs introduce ANZURA’s presentation to be made to the “Parliament of the World’s Religions” in December. From the Parliament’s program overview:

*“... the world’s largest global interreligious event, held once every 5 years in a different city. The Melbourne Parliament will bring together more than 8,000 people from around Australia and across the world including renowned spiritual, religious, civic, academic, and political leaders, along with grassroots participants.”*

Urantia Book readers have attended the last three parliaments—in Chicago, Barcelona (Spain) and Cape Town (South Africa). Anecdotal feedback from these participants is very positive and inspiring. There is little doubt that the Parliament represents a unique opportunity to share the teachings of *The Urantia Book* with truth seekers and other religionists.

The Parliament is organised by the Global Interfaith movement—encouraging “cooperative and positive interaction between people of different religious traditions (i.e., “faiths”) and spiritual or humanistic beliefs, at both the individual and institutional level with the aim of deriving a common ground in belief through a concentration on similarities between faiths, understanding of values, and commitment to the world.” (source: Wikipedia, “Interfaith”)

The theme of the 2009 Parliament is:

### *Make a World of Difference: Hearing each other, Healing the earth*

We would like to invite you to get involved in this gathering of religionists—an amazing opportunity to disseminate the teachings of *The Urantia Book*, and to meet and socialise with other truth-seekers. We expect a large international group of Urantia Book readers to travel down under for the Parliament. We need readers in Australia to play host to these visitors in our country, and share the Parliament experience with them.

### What has already been organised?

– An exhibition booth has been booked for the entire Parliament, which will display and sell *The Urantia Book* to interested parliament attendees. We need volunteers to man the booth throughout the Parliament.

– A pre-conference ½ day workshop, followed by a social dinner, is being organised for Wednesday 2nd December. This will be a great opportunity for Australian and International readers to gather together and meet before the Parliament begins.

– We have applied to Parliament organisers to present a workshop on: ***The Urantia Papers – What’s Love got to do with it?*** Speakers will be Nigel Nunn and William Wentworth.

This is going to be a once in a lifetime opportunity to share the teachings of *The Urantia Book* with truth seekers from around the globe. Not to mention a unique opportunity to learn more about the faiths of our brothers and sisters.

I’m excited about this event, and encourage you to do what you can to be there. Registrations are being taken now – register online at [www.cpwr.org](http://www.cpwr.org). Please contact me if you’d like more information, or would like to volunteer to man the booth.

In loving service,

Merindi Belarski ([merindi@hotmail.com](mailto:merindi@hotmail.com)) ■



## New Zealand Corner

Neville Twist

### Easter in New Zealand

It's Friday the 10th of April, 2009 – Yes, Good Friday, that most sacred of all the Christian celebrations. From 7:00AM onwards I scan the radio station of the government operated Radio New Zealand – National (equivalent to the ABC in Australia), hoping to tune into some religious program to commemorate this momentous occasion – maybe a hymn program, maybe a broadcast from a church Easter service, maybe a BBC documentary on the subject, anything to reflect upon this day's events that occurred some 2000 years ago, but no nothing, absolutely nothing about the Easter story. Not one reference to Jesus or the significance of this most important occasion. I check the TV guide. Surely there'll be at least one program with an Easter message. Maybe an old movie with an Easter theme, maybe a live broadcast from a Christian church, maybe a discussion panel of religious leaders, anything. But no, not a single item listed with anything to do with Easter and the significance of this epochal event. Nothing, absolutely nothing!

In desperation I scour through some old vinyl LP's I have and pick out one by Billy Graham. Yes, that great American evangelist and one of the world's last true great orators. I listen to a sermon entitled 'The Frontiers of Tomorrow'. This would have been recorded at least 40 years ago, and yet one would think it was produced yesterday. So powerful and awe-inspiring are his words on how the western world has turned its back on God and has instead perused the gods of materialism, money, self-gratification and pleasure. Billy preaches from the Bible book of Jeremiah and tells how the prophet warned the people of Israel that if they didn't turn from their idolitise ways, their civilization was doomed. And about how Jeremiah witnessed the destruction of Jerusalem. He tells how they (and we of today) have never had it so good in a material sense, but are so dissatisfied with life and possess an emptiness that can't be filled. What a shame we don't have a religious leader or an orator of Billy Graham's, Charles Finney's, C.H. Spurgeon's, or for that matter, William Sadler junior's caliber today.



Little wonder so many people, especially young people, are stumbling through life today without even the most basic concept of God or of spiritual meanings and values in their lives. Recently, an intelligent 27 year old couldn't even tell me what happened on Good Friday. Try and get someone to recite two or more of the Ten Commandments. Surely, it's a sad indictment on western civilization that things of spiritual nature have been relegated to the position of no importance. That the Source and Destination of all life in the universe should be discarded in favour of the pursuit of money, careers, material possessions, self indulgence, prestige and pleasure. At least this is the case here in New Zealand where society has been almost completely secularized. This is a country where some 4% of the population, attend church on regular basis and where ANZAC day has become the new secular religion, more important than even Easter.

So what for the gospel of *The Urantia Book*? How can these superb teachings be conveyed to a lost and confused generation? Surely we Urantia Book students have an awesome responsibility to share the gospel message of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of man with our fellow man. But how can we achieve this in this modern age? I don't really know the answers, but looking at how Jesus achieved this is a great place to begin. Perhaps we could start with honestly living these precious truths so that our fellow man is naturally drawn to us, to enquire the source of our happiness and contentment with life. Let's bait and encourage our fellows to seek the truth and to find the true meaning of life. Once their curiosity is aroused, we can explain the joy of our faith sonship with the Universal Farther and the wonderful hope we have of eternal life. Maybe, just maybe, the economic turmoil the planet is currently facing will steer people's attention away from the material, secular world of discontentment to those higher plains of spiritual values and to that peace that passes all understanding.

Neville Twist ■





(Regina remembers Gerhard, continued from page 2)

became a member of the UB family. We live about two minutes drive from one another. After a very short time Gerhard was accepted as a member of my family. As UB readers, we were meeting regularly for study, but I was reading the book on my own on Saturdays and Sundays from 5-9 am to know the whole story. Gerhard was always dropping in after church on Sundays, we talked for a few moments, then he was going home at 12:30 pm for lunch. ALWAYS! One day I mentioned my wish to take the UB and go on holidays somewhere to be able to read it as much as possible as quickly as possible and Gerhard said: "How about if I come here at 10:30am each Sunday and we read the book together?"

"But what about your church?"

"I will not go there any more."

And that's how it all started. Every Sunday with a few exceptions for so many years we met. Sometimes we had some people with us, but mostly we didn't. Lately Dennis joined us on regular basis (after the swimming pool). Gerhard was exactly my father's age (who died in 1981) and I considered him to be almost a grandfather to my sons. We did not spend a lot of time together as such but we were the "Back-up team". Whenever I had a question of any sort I could always ring and ask. I could discuss anything and especially the UB. We take a lot for granted and only realize what is lost when it is lost.

It is 2 months later, so how do I feel? The first reaction after hearing the news was "Gerhard started his real life. Wow, it happened!"

No tears at all. Gerhard for me is not dead, he certainly is gone. He went where I am going but later.

In my son's college there is a creek and a bridge over it. The Middle School is on one side of it and the Senior School on the other. There is a big ceremony in year 9 of "crossing the bridge". Gerhard crossed the bridge and now he is on the other side. Bye Gerhard, we love you! See you whenever that will be! It was a privilege to know you and share life with you. ■



## To Gerhard Neuwiller

(Gerhard of the New Will)

by the Melbourne Readers Group

We miss you: - you who loved *The Urantia Book* and always turned up early for each meeting and every other occasion as well (except when Bevan was driving).

Your fascination for and knowledge of *The Urantia Book* was an example to others and we had the benefit of asking an obscure question and you telling us which page the answer was located on.

Like us, you were frustrated with the fact that *The Urantia Book* was not more popular and you put home-made advertisements on the back window of your Volvo as you travelled around the local suburbs. And like many of us you also had the difficulty of getting your family to embrace your love of it.

You attended the Baptist church and you attempted to encourage the Minister to read *The Urantia Book*. You left the church feeling a bit disheartened and preferred to attend Regina's home on Sunday mornings to read *The Urantia Book* with her, later to be joined by Dennis. You knew all about the Good Book (the Bible) and you knew much more about the extension of the Good Book, *The Urantia Book*.

You were an adventurer, a researcher and a discoverer. Over the years we followed your many different and varied interests in other books and ideas and your exploration of diets and colloidal silver and the benefits to general health and the body.

You enthusiastically attended the national conferences and we had the benefit of your excellent narration of some rather dubious skits that at times inadvertently defamed *The Urantia Book*.

Bob first met you when you rang him out of the blue and you came round to Bob's place to say hello and meet another Urantia Book reader. Thereafter the group grew and regular meetings were held mostly at Regina's and you became a surrogate grandfather to Regina's two children and a mate of Cindy the black kelpie-cross family pet. You and Cindy had a special bond as she wagged her tail every time she heard your name.

We remember that you gave a talk at the Melbourne conference on the Mansion Worlds of which you became an expert and we have faith that you are continuing your research, discovery and adventure on those Worlds.

We love you and thank you for your unique enthusiasm - an example for all octogenarians eager to discover more about life and the mystery of who we are.

God bless you and no doubt we'll see you soon. ■

**HAPPY ARE THE PEACEMAKERS**  
**Religion—the Property of the Human Race**

25-28  
 Sept 2009

ANZURA  
 CONFERENCE 2009

The Australian and New Zealand  
 Urantia Book Readers' Annual Conference  
 Sydney, 25-28 September 2009

**Annual National Conference  
 Sydney 25-28 September 2009**

*\* Happy are the Peace Makers \**

With pleasure and anticipation we look forward to the major event in ANZURA's calendar year – *The Urantia Book Reader's conference*. We hope that again many of you can make the trip to the lovely Lakeside Park in Narrabeen to join others to discern and find out more about: *RELIGION – the Property of the Human Race*.

If anyone has not yet received a brochure, please contact the office and we will send one your way!

*Jesus replied: "God is your Father, and religion—my gospel—is nothing more nor less than the believing recognition of the truth that you are his son."* [p.1590:5] ■

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**New website at [urantia-anzura.org](http://urantia-anzura.org)**