

THE ARENA

ANZURA

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Christmas 1998

THE MIND ARENA OF CHOICE

"Mind is your ship, the Adjuster is your pilot, the human will is captain." (page 1217)

Editor's Notebook

"They were having their evening meal a little after six o'clock, with Peter sitting on one side of Thomas and Nathaniel on the other, when the doubting apostle said: "I will not believe unless I see the Master with my own eyes and put my finger in the mark of the nails." As they thus sat at supper, and while the doors were securely shut and barred, the morontia Master suddenly appeared inside the curvature of the table and, standing directly in front of Thomas, ..." The URANTIA Book, page 2042,3

What did Thomas gain by this event, when his resistance and last doubts were so forcefully swept away? What did the Supreme lose?

"On Jerusem the ascenders from these isolated worlds occupy a residential sector by themselves and are known as the agondonters, meaning evolutionary will creatures who can believe without seeing, persevere when isolated, and triumph over insuperable difficulties even when alone." The URANTIA Book, page 579

After living for years with the Master, then having his mind and emotions so strongly shaped by this encounter, Thomas must surely have lost the last of his agondonter status—he simply had no choice but to accept the Jesus revelation. Agondonters somehow sidestep the tendencies of mortal mind and exploit that perfect soil and circumstance for soul growth—stress and despair resolved by insight, hope and faith.

The painstaking and drawn-out transformation of Thomas may give us insight into the purpose of the morontia career—that measured and gently forceful sequence that allows our Adjusters extra opportunity to weave and strengthen our souls.

In the early days of a world, especially a troubled one like Urantia, even the most sincere ascenders seem to be unable to find their Adjusters in one brief mortal life. So the rulers of spacetime provide a way which guarantees

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the eventual transformation into spirit of those of us ascending from the darkness, retarded and half-hearted.

The morontia career becomes analogous to a kind of Hollywood production. It provides sufficient awesome illusion and moral stimulus to expand our thoughts and mold our motivations. Our resistance is eventually worn down, allowing us finally to align with our Adjuster and the purposes of eternity.

So what expectations might the Most Highs have for we agondonters who have lived for a decade or more in a mindscape lit by the dawn of the fifth epoch? Might they not expect us to view ourselves as citizens of Jerusem, or even of Salvington, briefly stationed on Urantia as a current assignment?

Or will we demand the evidence and entertainment of 1000 years on the mansion worlds before we will believe? Will we stumble about in a clumsy ballet, or plunge into a passionate Tango with our Adjuster-Lovers?

Engage, and merry Christmas to all!

“The enormous and dense star cloud of Sagittarius”

“The Sagittarius dwarf spheroidal galaxy cannot be seen directly even with hindsight; its stars are jumbled up with those of the Milky Way and must be identified one by one.” **Scientific American**

October 1998 (279:4) pages 28-35

Our Milky Way may be a glorious sight, but it is a constant source of frustration for Urantian astronomers. The disk of the galaxy blocks light from 20 percent of the cosmos. It is so bright that even features of our galaxy are difficult to discern. Thus anyone with an interest in our cosmic back yard will be intrigued by the article in **Scientific American**, October 1998 (279:4) pages 28-35. In it, authors Renee C. Kraan-Korteweg and Ofer Lahav present some recent discoveries about our immediate neighbourhood.

For readers of *The URANTIA Book*, two items will arouse great interest. First is the discovery of what appears to be a small galaxy in the direction of Sagittarius. To the astronomical community this has come as quite a surprise. Initial estimates place it right on the edge of our galaxy, making it by far our closest neighbour. What makes it very interesting to readers is that a slight reinterpretation of the data, together with a revision of the estimated size of the Milky Way galaxy, could place this dense star cloud *inside* our galaxy. We might then understand it to be the “*Sagittarius rotational center*” we have been expecting to find.

“The rotational center of your minor sector is situated far away in the enormous and dense star cloud of Sagittarius, around which your local universe and its associated creations all move, and from opposite sides of the vast Sagittarius subgalactic system you may observe two great streams of star clouds emerging in stupendous stellar coils.” (*The URANTIA Book*, page 168)

The second item of great interest concerns the Isle of Paradise. The **Scientific American** article continues:

“Somewhere behind the disk, for example, are crucial parts of the two biggest structures in the nearby universe: the Perseus-Pisces supercluster of galaxies, and the “Great Attractor”, a gargantuan agglomeration of matter whose existence has been inferred from the motions of thousands of galaxies through space.” *Sci. Am*, Oct 98, p.30

Until recently, we could determine very little about the regions of the galaxy in the direction of the central bulge. The light from billions of stars, blazing at us through lanes of interstellar dust, was just a blinding glare

to our telescopes. Thus most telescope observation time has been spent scanning other parts of the sky. But in the last few years, astronomers have acquired the tools to begin probing what lies along the line of sight through the center of our galaxy. The two discoveries mentioned above indicate that we should expect the unexpected. The article continues:

“Light from other galaxies penetrates the Milky Way to varying degrees, depending on its wavelength. The longest wavelengths, which correspond to radio and far-infrared radiation, are hardly affected, but the shorter wavelengths (such as near-infrared, visible and ultraviolet light) are blocked by the dust and gas clouds within our galaxy. For very short wavelengths, such as the most powerful x-rays, the gas becomes transparent again.” *Sci. Am*, Oct 98, p.30

In the first phase of Urantian astronomy, our observers, like children at play, have pointed their powerful instruments at the skies and delighted in the marvels they saw. From now on, the task for astronomers is more sophisticated and tedious. Our instruments have reached a degree of refinement sufficient to gather the necessary data, so now the problem is interpretation — to make sense of it all. Gaining insight from the light our tools gather is a very tedious and computationally expensive task. But like prospectors searching through mountains of dirt, a handful of nuggets makes the effort worthwhile.

THE ARENA

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ANZURA Year Book, 1998

Well, if that was 1998, we've just had it! As our not-uncharted plunge into the future continues, we take a moment to recall some shared moments from the year just past.

Our two National Study Days were held in May and August. The theme we explored was intended to help prepare our thoughts for the October conference, which shared the same theme: **How Jesus Taught**. In May, we read and discussed many quotes from the Book and in August we reflected upon the Master's adolescent years with a close reading of Paper 127.

This year's conference took us to the Gold Coast and there, among surf and sun, we met again or anew to encourage each other to live sincerely in the footsteps of Jesus. Many thanks go to the Queensland team – Neil Francey, Clyde Duncan, David Regal, Anne Bendall and Ken Glasziou for their organization and presentation.

The AGM was held on the Sunday evening. After many years of service, it was time for Neil Francey and Vern Verass to vacate their positions. We are grateful for all the seen and unseen efforts made to add to the growth of this reader family. The following officials and committee chairs were elected:

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>Rita Schaad</i> | <i>President</i> |
| <i>Alex King</i> | <i>Vice president</i> |
| <i>Robert Coenraads</i> | <i>Secretary</i> |
| <i>Michael Pither</i> | <i>Treasurer</i> |
| <i>Neville Twist</i> | <i>New Zealand Chairperson</i> |
| <i>Nigel Nunn</i> | <i>Publications Chairperson</i> |
| <i>Bob Reynolds</i> | <i>Conference Chairperson</i> |
| <i>Trevor Swadling</i> | <i>Membership Chairperson</i> |



As Foundation Office Manager, Michael Pither has done a tremendous job in the last two years. We have been so fortunate to have his extraordinary skill and sensitivity (and endurance!) to hold together our Australian UB base. He is the man to call on for all sorts of *inside info*, and of course to purchase books, CD's and whatever is on offer.

[Ph: 02-9913-7893, mpither@ozemail.com.au]



If you want to contact other readers, update your address details, seek more information about ANZURA activities and what's going down where, or even just to suck the lentil or chew the bone—well now there is Val, our ever energetic, capable and friendly ANZURA Office Manager.

[Ph: 02-9862-8749, valeriebill@ozemail.com.au]



The quarterly publication – The Arena has been orchestrated by Nigel Nunn, and Nigel is a bit of a music buff who welcomes “players and soundmakers” of all shapes and sizes. Remember the publication dates of March, June, September and December if you have something you want to contribute – get in there some time before.

[Ph: 02-6214-1465, nnunn@ausport.gov.au]

Concerning publications, there is an issue of the IUA Journal well worth having. It contains all the presentations given at the IUA Conference, Finland 1998. As a set they make tremendous reading, plus give you the feeling you were there amongst those 150 participants, gathered literally from all parts of Urantia. If you are not currently subscribing, and would like a copy, give Val a ring at the ANZURA office and purchase one for AUS\$5.

Our membership is growing slowly but steadily. For all those readers who would like to be in closer contact and active service, there is a new and exciting change to membership requirements: “Friends Of ANZURA”. More information and voting opportunities for the amendment of the Bylaws will be in members' mailboxes early next year.

continued next page

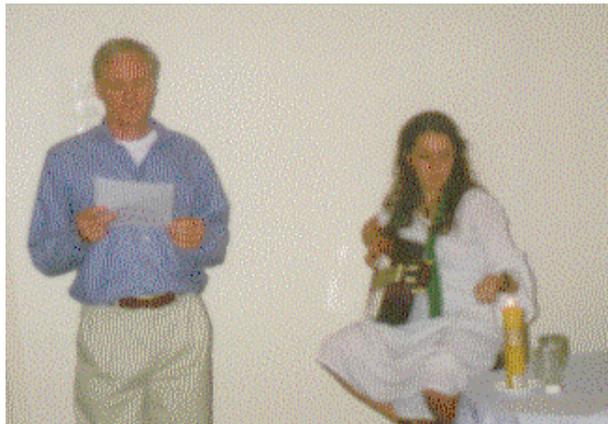
As Spring was coming to our part of Urantia, the function room of the International Beach Resort in Surfers Paradise was buzzing pleasantly, with people greeting each other after years or for the first time. Many stories were told, much news exchanged, pizza nibbled and wine enjoyed.

The musicians set up stage—Trevor Hughes with his keyboard and his own music, Vern and Rita tuned the guitars, Nigel ran his fingers down the silvery flute—and the fans of the UB Allstars sang and moved to the rhythm.

These are first impressions of a conference, then what comes in the following two and a half days is so rich and diverse that it gets somewhat compressed, to be slowly teased apart and explored in the weeks and months that follow. This annual event which most of us await with gladness is always over too quickly.

To Neil Francey, many thanks for preparing such a great time for us all. And to Clyde Duncan, Anne Bendall, David Regal, Ken Glasziou, Will Wentworth, Nigel Nunn and Martin McBurney, once again thanks for leading us through some very interesting, thought provoking, funny and “strenuous” activities and presentations.

Next year's conference will be in Melbourne. Bob Reynolds is taking things in hand and we hope to gather with our Melbourne reader friends in October 1999.



Neil, in the company of angels (Jessica)

In other news, Robert Coenraads has been at the helm steering the Prison Library placement program. This project has become a successful outreach. He tells the story of shipping *URANTIA Books* by the shopping-trolley-fulls, often adding to the rich experience of life of staff at the local Post Office by arriving thus loaded at ten to five... Also, the Resource Library at the Foundation Office is under his wing and as is the want of a true scholar, everything worth keeping is kept (and then some!). Please inquire about what you may borrow, and also about what you might be able to donate.

Those people that are in-tune and on-line have enjoyed the activities on the email ANZURA-List and also on the UB Study-List. In a country like ours, distances become minute when using “the net”. Think about it... being in contact, sharing an insight, right when it is freshly



impressed. And great satisfaction is to be had in knowing that so many of our friends are now instantly in reach right across New Zealand and Australia! For details, send mail to either of the following net-savvy dudes:

Rita Schaad: scharita@castle.net.au
 Ysbrand Oosten: oosteny@waratah.ccsu.nsw.gov.au

Also in Surfers the Annual General Meeting of ANZURA was held on Sunday afternoon. Some Members on the governing board have changed. Many grateful thankyou go to Neil Francey for steering the ship for a number of years, and also to Vern Verass who has occupied almost the full range of positions over recent years. For your time given in service and your friendship, please accept some **VERY BIG HUGS !!**

Details of the new governing board can be found on page 3. Minutes and reports of the meeting will be sent out to ANZURA Members in the near future.

May you enjoy a period of rest in the coming festive season and start 1999 with a new dream. The dreamers of today are the creators of tomorrow.

*Kind regards,
 Rita Schaad
 President, ANZURA
 November, 1998*

The 1998 ANZURA conference had the theme: *How Jesus Taught*. From the presentations and subsequent discussions, we realised: Jesus himself was the revelation; you—not the book—are the revelation, and the book is helpful as a guide for living the teachings of Jesus.

As we explored in detail his teaching methods, we noticed that he accentuated the positive, applied skillful questioning, employed short discourses to groups of all sizes, conducted Question and Answer sessions, evolved parables into a high art, and added to the truth and understanding of others by example. His life, and the way he lived it, embodied his teachings.

The point was made that we stand in danger of embracing the teachings about Jesus (the book) instead of the teachings of Jesus (living it). All teaching must empower the student by the instant recognition of their dignity as a child of God. Each of us is forever enacting the role of student/teacher. The true teachers of the future will be accredited solely by their lives of intelligent service which they bestow on their fellows. We can teach others as we pass by if we look for opportunities to be friendly and demonstrate the love of God as a Father. A quiz session showed that sincerely *seeking* an answer is an interesting part of that answer.

And once again, the conference demonstrated that there is unparalleled joy in meeting brothers and sisters. We all look forward to Melbourne in October, 1999!



Food and friendship always feature!

A couple of snaps from our Study Day held in May, at the home of Joy in Mangerton, NSW.

Notice Lincoln Verass taking control from center stage, and the presence of Sebastian, our South American collaborator, center rear.

Our thanks to Joy for a great day!



Heat Without Light: The URANTIA Book and copyright

Ronald L. Besser, USA

The mechanism of copyright may not be ideal for revelatory disclosures, but it does insure prudent and central control while powerful battles involving secular issues swirl around the book. The secular issues I refer to are the means of production, protection from distortion, income sufficiency, dissemination methodology, and the philosophical defense to proprietary information. These controlling methods, and the means to enforce them, are central to preservation and the prevention of dissembling the revelatory text into self contradictions.

One of the priorities of the written epochal disclosure was to insure that its intentional meanings and concepts remain unobstructed. The original words are subject to someone changing the text on purpose or by accident during mass-broadcast. Since textual preservation can not yet depend on morality or goodwill to police purity, there is no agreement without the law about how to represent its words without prejudice to its intention.

Two things ought to happen first before the copyright is unnecessary:

- 1) Men and women of morality and goodwill have finally recognized the underlying principle of territorial peace. Intelligent sharing does not abridge anyone's needs much less anyone's access.
- 2) The text has entered a critical mass in the public consciousness about its meaning. Social reverence and tradition define its sanctity as law which makes it self-enforcing.

These two things are yet unrealized. So the present exists without the benefit of such enlightenment, and antagonistic virtues currently compete for the right to decide textual destiny. While many long-time readers of the revelation are already behaving as though they have evolved these social and mental graces, the opposite is true with the rough-hewn evangelicals within the readership. It is they who enjoy the rough and tumble politics of confrontation and division against neighbors they perceive as far too settled in the status quo.

Evangelicals play their part. They are necessary in balanced numbers to move the dead center to action by their enthusiasm and dedication, but they also need counsel of their friends more tempered for all to enjoy the peace of wars not started. The copyright issue well illustrates how *insufficiently tempered will* can concoct a legal brew that no casual drinker should trifle with. The powerful base to this brew of assertive liberties is that they require their religious expression through someone else's property. To slightly paraphrase Barry Goldwater to describe the evangelicals, "appropriation

in the defense of religious liberty is no vice."

They would also agree wholeheartedly with Roger Bacon (in 1266) who observed, "There are in fact four very significant stumbling-blocks in the way of grasping the truth, . . . the example of weak and unworthy authority, longstanding custom, the feeling of the ignorant crowd, and the hiding of our own ignorance while making a display of our apparent knowledge." (Opus Majus)

The difference between the zealots of principle and the golden-mean moderates is that while both may agree upon the problem, the zealot is emotionally prepared to be burned at the stake to correct them while the moderate finds something else constructive to do while the arrows fly.

Heat without light

Heaven has no copyright on God's knowledge, but heaven does have a moral and ethical approach to that information through the simple ceremony of asking permission to use it. Nor does God have anything against using that which he supplies, but the power of divine information, if misapplied, is often too dangerous not to seek counsel and approval. Our material world recognizes no such obligation except and unless a creative work is copyrighted. It is not unusual to expect, therefore, that if a divine agency reveals powerful new thinking on such a world that such revelations be protected from the otherwise thoughtless philosophies of piratical confiscation operating in the market place.

God, if you think about his manner, does copyright universe essentials in the sense that he requires permission to use that which the Trinity preserves and God creates. This is true from Creator Sons (permission to use certain life patterns) to ascenders (on the intention to make use of divine techniques). Therefore, local universes and revelatory disclosures have their jurisdictions in lawful reality through their divine parentage; and as such, have every right to enjoy existence without life-threatening challenges to their work. This is true regardless of what the challengers use as a banner to gain admittance to the court to undermine proprietary speech.

I suggest this is the moral and ethical precedence to approach that which God gives to different individuals and their organizations for public use and that it is informed behavior to respect the instrument through whom information is prepared. That does not mean one must like the instrument or approve of it, or believe what that instrument does is true or correct. It does mean that challengers have to find other means to disseminate good news without looting.

Because our judicial system is created within the material confines of a secularized government it can be taken advantage of by those who manipulate the courts into interpreting laws beyond their material intent. I rather hope it is mistaken thinking about religious expression than the cynical knowledge of the material law that drives otherwise intelligent people of

compassionate natures to these acts of pointless division in a community just learning to grasp spiritual intent.

It is never the time to diminish that which is naturally great, and our *URANTIA Book* is great even while the unthinking would tear it down to the level of demeaning politics and secular arguments to control its form and influence. We are in danger of praying over an empty shell for its release from this or that black hand of

governance while its life already springs anew in other hearts who listen to its music of intelligence and promise. These new caretakers will not understand our ignorance or behavior over a gift to humanity we seemingly put second to our own peculiar wishes and theories about ownership.

Ron Besser, December 1998

Update from Norm Ingram, spreading *The URANTIA Book* across Africa

To all of you following this adventure!

Dear Friends,

As we pulled into Nouakchott, the capitol of Mauritania, the first thing we noticed was a cyber cafe. Even though we were hot, dusty and dirty, we made an immediate turn around to send you all a post as soon as we could, to update you on our safe, though harrowing desert crossing. After they rotated us around on three different computers and not allowing us to just plug in our laptop, we still after two hours were not successful in sending you our latest post with pictures.

As we entered the cyber cafe we met Diallo Moussa who was recommending to us a clean, safe hotel for us with hot water (ha, ha!). So he began to assist us by watching the car while we were in the cyber cafe, then we went with him to check out this hotel which was actually a private residence which had a private garage for our vehicle. We knew then that we had the Subaru in a safe domain.



Entrance gate to Guelmin, Morocco.

The owner of the hostel was from Spain and had spent many years in Switzerland and spoke excellent English. He served us small glasses of tea four times during our first hours there. Then our guide took us to an Italian restaurant where we were able to get some great pasta at a fairly reasonable cost.

Our friend volunteered to be our guide the next day at the Bibliotheque Nationale and to the university where we met with success. Our guide was very good at



Fishermen along the shore examining the French edition of the book and the French brochure.

translating the introductive narrative to the directors.

By 2:00 p.m. we were gassed up and fed, and we kept our guide with us to his native home town of Rosso, Mauritania on the river border with Senegal. We certainly were glad to have done this because we had several police stops and military guard stations continuously checking our permits, *carnet de passage*, car insurance, international driver's license and passports. Most of the baksheesh (bribes) were paid in either oranges or pens! One wanted Roger's jacket but we finally talked him out of it. Another one wanted one of our camping chairs, but when we explained we had many miles to go he decided to let us keep it.

When we arrived in Rosso it was as native an African village as you could imagine. Our guide did take us to his home where we were invited to spend the night and rest up for the river crossing the next morning. Across the way from our dwelling was a disco-type wedding celebration until the wee hours of the morning. With the native sounds and their dance we got the feeling for the first time that we were now in the heart of Africa.

The evening meal was shared in a very native style with rice and fish in a big bowl and everyone reached in, pinched some rice and ate with their fingers. They did manage to scrounge up two spoons for Roger and Norman to eat in a more familiar style. The taste was quite palatable and with drinking the local water we survived quite well without any ill effects. We are sure it was due to the extra prayers we made as we received this hospitality.

The river crossing the next morning was another costly ordeal in that we were trying to use up our ouguiyas. We had run short in paying our guide but he readily accepted an American \$20 bill and paid the fees for the crossing.



The river crossing

As we were sitting waiting for the barge at a nearby cafe, we took note of a young man that we commented must be European, and Norman thought that perhaps we would be given the opportunity of describing our purpose in being in Africa. As we were on board the ferry barge, it was not to our surprise that he came up to ask us if we were not going to Dakar and that he could join us. Thank God we did because when we got to the port side of Senegal they would not cash any traveler's checks or take the Visa card. And since he was anxious to get to Dakar, he paid the necessary customs and insurance fees in French francs. We promised we would reimburse him once we got to a bank in Dakar.

Within thirty minutes of our travels to Dakar, we explained our purpose to our new friend Desire, a young man of Mauritania. Norman handed him a French version of the Urantia book and settled back to our trip to Dakar. Norman would occasionally look back to see that he was quite absorbed in the book all along the way. After several hours he gave out a deep sigh and closed the book and said he was tired. We asked him how far he had got and he said that he had read the forward and the first six papers of part one. We found out that he is a student of journalism and attends school in Paris and will be visiting the Paris when he returns to attend his last semester.

After arriving in Dakar and getting in touch with Mary, Moustapha's wife, she took a taxi to where we were to rescue us from the noisy and very hustling and bustling crowd of natives which always crowded around us wherever we stopped. Desire and Moustapha seemed to hit it off quite well and Moustapha brought him to his home.

Moustapha, family and friends have been most kind to us and were anxiously awaiting the arrival of us and the books.



Moustapha, master teacher of the group in Dakar, Senegal and reader of the Urantia book for over 20 years. He met Jacques Weiss in France shortly after the first French translation.

So, Saturday we went to their center where they meet and have a study group every day where they meet from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Meeting Moustapha Sr. who is the master teacher of their spiritual center was truly a delight. The evening session consisted of many phases. The first phase of an hour was the youngest new member of their association where he delivered his first dissertation to the group and elders of what the Spirit that lives within him meant and to what depth he understands the nature of the Spirit.

There was a gentleman in the group who translated his each and every word of this discourse. All 25 students and teachers in the room listened to the discourse very intensely. After the first phase was over the second phase began with eight of the elder teachers making comments on the young man's discourse. They would first compliment him on certain comments of his clear understanding and would give recommendations of correction on other parts of his understanding. We were both totally taken back by the intensity of their studies, teaching and training as something that we had never seen before.



The group of elders listening to an hour long dissertation from the new member of the association.

We will discuss the association and their method of teaching in much greater detail when we finish our learning the lessons as to their methods. It is truly something to behold.

In the third phase the master teacher gave a discourse on the Spirit and your personal relationship and the Thought Adjuster which again was something extraordinary as Norman has never seen such teachings anywhere in the Urantia movements, study groups or summer sessions thus far.

In closing we were taken around the room with a personal introduction to each student and teacher, and they expressed their gratitude for our arrival with the most heartfelt welcome and expressions of love.

Norman has extended the Fellowship's invitation to the IC-99 conference to Moustapha Ndiaye Sr., the leader of the association here in Dakar. He would like the details necessary to perhaps apply and become a Urantia society, so any of you who are in charge of that endeavor could contact him at your earliest convenience. He is also applying to give a workshop on spirituality for this IC-99. Norman told him to fax this application to John Hales direct. He also needs to be sent a form for attendance for the conference.



The URANTIA Book study association in Dakar, listening to the new member's dissertation.



So here we are in Dakar awaiting the shipment of the books from Paris. We couldn't imagine that we would arrive here before the books, but there again the transport ship that is carrying the books could have received a radiogram and been diverted to another port to pick up commodities and could be on its way to Brazil as well as here. Eventually it will show up here. We have to flow with the tide. Patience, patience, and more patience.

In the meantime, we have been processing paperwork and applying for visas for our next countries. We received our visas for Gambia yesterday. According to the Lonely Planet guide, the visa for Gambia would be only \$8, but to our surprise they cost \$30 each. The good news afterward was that our next application for the Ivory Coast, the visas were not required for American citizens. On again, off again. Let's hope it's not a repeat of our experience in Morocco where we had to backtrack to get visas for Mauritania.

From Gambia we may have to bypass Guinea-Bissau, though even the CNN news tells us they have come to a settlement, though the land mines are still in place. They will not be issuing visas for their country until this danger is alleviated. That being the case we will have to drive 250 miles east through the narrow width of Gambia to the national park in eastern Senegal and then drive across 150 miles on a dirt road to reach Guinea and then to the capitol at Conakry.

We will be trying to carry as many of the remaining books with us, especially the French, which should be a maximum of five cases, due to their weight and volume. That should be sufficient to see us through Gambia, Guinea, Sierra Leone (possibly), Liberia, Ivory Coast, and finally Ghana. After the distribution of the books here, and the loading of the vehicle, we will try to ship the remainder of the books to the Living Flame in Accra, Ghana to hold for us until our arrival.

Also, if anyone wants to send anything to us in the form of correspondence it can be sent to us in care of Oblempong Nikoi, Living Flame Fraternity, PO Box 3361, Accra, Ghana, West Africa. It will be a good three weeks before we arrive to this destination. We will try to be there by Christmas.

Last night they had a general assembly of their association here in Dakar with approximately 40 members there to meet us and put in their request for books when they arrive. Thereafter Norman did a presentation of World Outreach for Urantia Nations (WOUN) showing the trips to South American and Asia. After that Norman showed them the video Strange Universe which they all thoroughly enjoyed even though it was in English. The interpreter did a great job explaining to them what it was about. Next, Norman showed the video Adoration made by the Pradhana Fuchs' study group in Santiago, Chile

in which they were all greatly impressed.

After the showing the leader asked when they could get a copy of this video in French. He definitely felt that it would be a great way to attract young Moslems to the truths shared by all of us from *The URANTIA Book*. Thanks again to the Chilean group for this endeavor.

We closed the meeting by asking them to join with us in a remembrance supper, and also expressed to them that in America today was one of our best holidays, Thanksgiving. We told them how the Pilgrims arrived at Plymouth Rock and how they were seeking freedom from the domination of their homeland. The remembrance supper was shared by all and even our Japanese motorcycle friend Kinji partook in the wine and bread. He definitely got his ears full on what we are here for. He had asked previously what our connection was with these people and we expressed to him that these were our brothers. He knew by the end of the evening that we were truly brothers even though we were of different color.

This is our report for now. We will give you a quick and short report before we leave and the distribution of the books which they are all waiting for. One man Norman asked what *The URANTIA Book* meant to him and he said, "It is my life." Norman asked him how long he had had a book and he said he didn't have one. He tried to pick up a copy of the French book but he couldn't afford the \$150 which was the asking price at that time. So soon we will be able to give him a French version of the Urantia book since it his life. Thanks to all of you for making this possible.



Dakar Urantia Book Association members gathered to view Norman's presentation on the trips to South America and the Far East and the Adoration video from Santiago, Chile.

We told the group the story of "How I Found *The URANTIA Book*" came about and its purpose of donations for the book was buying the gas to bring us here. We requested that when each of them received a copy of the book that they would write their story of how the book has meaning in their lives. Their stories will be included in the next printing of how they found the Urantia book. The donations of these sales will bring more books to readers in China and India. They are truly joyful that we are here. Their leader had told them that over two years ago he had a vision that two Americans would be coming to visit them here. And here we are.

In the faith,

Norman and Rev. Roj

For more on the adventures of these stout souls, visit the World Outreach for Urantia Nations web site at:

<http://WOUN.hypermart.net/>

Following is an impression of the weekend in Chicago, November 6-8. Lee Armstrong is the chairperson of the Human resources committee of IUA's Coordinating Committee.

A view on the Chicago event

Lee Armstrong
armstrong@UNXINC.COM

Good morning sisters & brothers in IUA,

Last weekend's event in Chicago was a good experience for me. It was so good to see many of you that I had not seen in a while, reacquaint myself with faces I had not seen for many years, and meet people new to me. Even though we are spread out by distances, we do have a sense of community which comes from the shared devotion to the Urantia teachings.

Our organizational unity is alive and well and has a broader effect on the readership than any of us may fully realize. Supporting URANTIA Foundation through membership in IUA associations does help the Foundation tremendously. It adds clout in the eyes of those who would wish to discount the Foundation; and I believe we also help the Foundation to maintain connection with readership needs and concerns. And, of course, I am so grateful to have our IUA structure in which I feel I can contribute to the efforts for successful dissemination of the revelation. It's a great feeling being in a mutual admiration society with the trustees and staff of the Foundation who do such important work.

I have great appreciation for the wonderful job Tonia Baney is doing as the Executive Director. This event glowed with her presence and influence. It reflected taste, class befitting the eloquence of this revelation, and clarity of commitment to the revelation's success. It was highly effective in addition to being well-done. The Dewes Mansion was an eloquent setting for this focusing event.

I also believe I see Richard Keeler blooming as the Foundation's president. Observing this brother, there is great growth of leadership. He's finding the right balance in what and how much to say. As president, he is assuming a needed role of positive and hopeful leader who is able to focus our attention on where we are going and how we can get there. The era of negativity, fault-finding, and suspicion fades as the emphasis is on the positive work to which we all can contribute. For all Richard has already done personally, monetarily, and in the darkest moments of the revelation, I see his real and lasting contributions to this revelation in the era immediately ahead as a leader who is positively articulating the Foundation's vision. Of course, he is assisted in all of this with an amazingly strong team of Georges, Kwan, Gard & Mo as trustees, UF staff, and each of our members in IUA. It is such a pleasure for me to see this personal growth occurring in him. And the revelation will ultimately be the beneficiary of this personal success.

It was thrilling to listen to Rosendo and Nick Scalzo talk of their efforts to plan our next international conference in 2000. Not to eclipse the United States conference in Nashville or the ones of which I'm aware that will occur in Finland and Australia in 1999, but I think we are going to be in for a real treat for our next international conference.

Jeff Wattles gave what seemed to me to be about 7 talks rolled into one on Saturday morning. I wish my brain were bigger so I could pour more in faster!

I really appreciated meeting Mike Wood from our Missouri-Kansas Association and hear about his experiences from the last ten years. I think one could well write a Urantian version of "Profiles In Courage" associated with the challenges of remaining loyal to the revelation in the darkest hours. It has been a long and hard walk through this time for many of us.

I appreciated seeing the prototype for the new zipper book for which orders are now being taken. Small enough and thin enough to accommodate travel, this is an excellent job of Foundation craftsmanship. If I remember correctly, there were 500 books which will arrive before the holidays and be offered during this period for just under \$40. The Foundation also included a price sheet with holiday discounts on its products; so 1998 will again be an excellent season to share the revelation.

Other highlights were: Bob Solone's wonderful music. His operatic friend who sent many hearts fluttering on Saturday night. Seeing the marvelous little book of quotes from *The URANTIA Book* which SURF has put out and Jane Ploetz brought. Those who were present also got to give feedback to the trustees on proposals for a new dust jacket for *The URANTIA Book*. The prototypes were displayed and ballots provided for an advisory vote.

For me, personally, one of the greatest pleasures was getting to work with Nancy Shaffer on our presentation on the role of service groups. What a talented and perceptive presentation partner the Foundation gave me to work with! Thanks to them as well as to Nancy.

There were so many people whose presence was so meaningful to me. After being internet buddies on the Forum, it was a pleasure to meet Nancy Bigelow and get to speak with her. Marian Hughes from HULA is so clear on the vision of our organization, it is always an honor to be able to speak with her. I enjoyed my brief conversations with Mike MacIssac whose dedication and intelligence indicates we have an emerging leader in our younger generation. Also on the youthful side, I enjoyed speaking with Chris Wood from Missouri who is busy as a sophomore Theatre/Philosophy major. Jim & Sue Wanlass were great to see. Sue's flower arrangements graced our Saturday night tables, and Jim's success personally and professionally is heartening. Will Sherwood's designs for the cover were excellent; and it was great to see him. Trevor & Kathleen Swadling labor so selflessly, but so effectively. We are greatly blessed by being able to have one more year of service in Chicago before they return to their home in Australia. I enjoyed seeing Marilyn Woods

and her brother Mark. Sandy from Utah, Cathy from Arizona, Nathan from Canada, Steve Sycamore from New Hampshire, Jo Anne and Eddie from Nashville, Travis from Belt Buckle, Sioux from Beverly Hills, Burt Cobb, Phil Taylor from Chapel Hill, Claude from Wisconsin, Seppo from Finland, Jay Peregrine, Michael our Russian translator, the couple from the Netherlands, and on and on... Mentioning these people seems to leave out others who are no less important. We are so blessed to have each other in this work.

It was also great to see readers associated with the Fellowship come and share with us as friends. The adversarial climate is fading. It's not gone and will take time, but it's great to feel it lessening. Lyn Lear, Steve Dreier, David Elders, Charlene Morrow, Lorrie Krasny, Byron Belistos (my creative spelling), Matthew Block, Scott Forsythe and John Hales are folks I recall. I detect that our thinking still has many differences, but it so nice to be able to look into their eyes and know that first and foremost we are brothers and sisters.

My thanks to the Foundation and staff for all their hard work on this event.

Many blessings,
Lee Armstrong
North Carolina

The Gold Finch and the Caterpillar

Robert Hyry robert@LAGNAF.COM

There was a caterpillar that lived in Bellingham. The caterpillar crawled on the ground and was the lowest of the creatures. It was so low to the ground that that is all the caterpillar ever knew existed. One day the caterpillar heard that there was a far away place called Mt. Vernon. It was 25 miles away. The caterpillar heard that if it made it to Mt. Vernon that it would turn into a beautiful creature called a butterfly. Well the caterpillar didn't know what a butterfly really was, but this sounded like something that the caterpillar really would like to do. The caterpillar knew that there was a road to Mt. Vernon, but it knew that the distance was too great for it to travel for the road was curvy and treacherous and the caterpillar traveled very slowly for such a great distance.

One day the caterpillar heard of another creature called a gold finch. The gold finch was a beautiful creature that was rumored to go to and fro from Bellingham to Mt. Vernon, even in three days. They said that the gold finch moved much faster than the caterpillar when it walked on the ground. They said they had observed the gold finch and measured its speed. Though the gold finch moved faster than anything else they had heard of, the measurements of its speed were far too slow to make it in three days down that curvy road

to Mt. Vernon, 25 miles away. They did not think it was possible that the gold finch truly walked that curvy road. The caterpillar studied this and declared that the gold finch could never make it to Mt. Vernon. One strange thing though, sometimes in observing the gold finch, it would simply disappear. None of the caterpillars truly knew what happened to the gold finch when it disappeared. This caterpillar thought that if it befriended a gold finch maybe it could find out.

It was a long hard process, and the caterpillar was growing old and weary when it finally befriended a gold finch. It told the gold finch that it always wanted to go to Mt. Vernon to become a beautiful creature like the gold finch. But lo and behold as soon as it spoke to the beautiful gold finch it felt so tired and it could not keep its eyes open.

The next thing the caterpillar knew it looked up and the gold finch was still standing over it. The caterpillar looked around and saw nothing familiar. It was in a new and wondrous place. It asked the gold finch "how did I get here and how long have I been asleep?" The gold finch said "I carried you to Mt. Vernon in three days and that is how long you have been asleep; now come over here and look in the water." The caterpillar crawled over to the edge of the water and looked into the depths. Staring back at it was a beautiful creature! The gold finch said "you have turned into a beautiful butterfly." The butterfly asked "how did we get down that long curvy road, it must have taken you much longer than three days to carry me here." The gold finch said "While you crawled on the ground and sometimes chanced to see me walking on the ground, you did not know that I could fly. For that is how I made it so many times from Mt. Vernon to Bellingham.

Though I can walk much faster than a caterpillar on the ground, even I could not walk such a great distance over the ground. But traveling in the air I can fly to and fro quickly and do not have to take the long and curvy road that caterpillars are limited to. Now you have wings and can experience this for yourself. Come spread your wings and we will fly together." The butterfly did and soared from the ground with the gold finch at its side. And the butterfly had never been happier to experience such wonderful things and places where many other beautiful creatures abound.



Customer Service Call

Yet another customer service phone call . . .

Service Rep: Hello, you have reached the Heart Systems Software Company help desk. How may I help you?

Customer: I just received your latest program, LOVEv4.0... you know... the freeware. I don't understand it. Can tell me how to install it?

Service Rep: Sure thing ma'am. Do you have the installation disk and instructions with you?

Customer: Yes I do, but first can you tell me what the program does?

Service Rep: Sure thing ma'am. LOVE is a unique program, there is no other like it in the world. LOVE attaches to your operating system and runs silently in the background, you will never see LOVE on your monitor or your toolbar, but you will notice its affect on every application you may have. It makes the good programs run smoother and greatly restricts and/or deletes the bad ones.

Customer: Wow! That sounds great. How does LOVE make my machine run smoother?

Service Rep: Well, good sound files, like COMPLIMENT.WAV, ENCOURAGEMENT.WAV, and KINDWORD.WAV will play frequently. Also, FORGIVENESS.EXE will be invoked every time there is an external violation, including the ever-popular syntax errors. Also, all those aggravating errors that say "unable to connect" will be avoided. LOVE allows for a smooth connection with external devices, regardless of what country it is manufactured in, the brand name, or the age of the model.

Customer: That's exactly what I need, my machine has been isolated for too long. But what about the bad programs?

CS Rep: Good question. LOVE searches your memory for programs like HATE.COM, BITTERNESS.EXE, SELFISH.COM, and SPITE.EXE. These programs can't be entirely deleted off your hard drive, but LOVE overpowers those programs. LOVE stops their commands from being executed and runs its own instructions. You will no longer hear INSULT.WAV and you wont be able to write with the fonts "BADWORDS12" or "HARSHNESS10".

Customer: That's a fantastic program you have. Are the upgrades free too?

CS Rep: They sure are ma'am.

Customer: How do I get the upgrades?

CS Rep: That's easy. Once you have LOVE installed and running, it automatically copies a module, or a piece of itself, to every external Harddrive Email And Remote Terminal (HEART) that it comes in contact with. In turn, those external devices run whatever version of LOVE they have and return a module to your HEART. You will be upgraded with each and every module that you receive. But you have to remember, to receive the upgrades you have to be running LOVE and you have to come into contact with other computers while it is running.

Customer: I can do that. I'm not very technical, but I think I am ready to install now. What do I do first?

CS Rep: The first step is to open your HEART. Have you located your HEART ma'am?

Customer: Yes I have, but there are several programs running right now. Is it okay to install while they are running?

CS Rep: What programs are running ma'am?

Customer: Let me see...I have PASTHURT.EXE, LOWESTEEM.EXE, GRUDGE.EXE, and RESENTMENT.COM running right now.

CS Rep: No problem. LOVE will automatically erase PASTHURT.EXE from your current operating system. It may remain in your permanent memory, but it will no longer disrupt other programs. LOVE will eventually overwrite LOWESTEEM.EXE with a module of its own called HIGHESTEEM.EXE. However, you have to completely turn off GRUDGE.EXE and RESENTMENT.COM. Those programs prevent LOVE from being properly installed. Can you turn those off ma'am?

Customer: I don't know how to turn them off. Can you tell me how?

CS Rep: My pleasure. Go to your Start menu and invoke FORGIVENESS.EXE. Do this as many times as necessary until GRUDGE.EXE and RESENTMENT.COM have been completely erased.

Customer: Okay, I'm done. LOVE has started installing itself automatically. Is that normal?

CS Rep: Yes it is. You should receive a message that says it will reinstall for the life of your HEART. Do you see that message?

Customer: Yes I do. Is it completely installed?

CS Rep: Yes, but remember that you have only the base program. You need to begin connecting to other HEART's in order to get the upgrades.

Customer: Oops...I have an error message already. What should I do?

CS Rep: What does the message say?

Customer: It says "ERROR 412 - PROGRAM NOT RUN ON INTERNAL COMPONENTS". What does that mean?

CS Rep: Don't worry ma'am. That's a common problem. It means that the LOVE program is set up to run on external HEARTS but has not yet been run on your HEART. It is one of those complicated programming things, but In non-technical terms it means you have to "LOVE" your own machine before it can "LOVE" others.

Customer: So what should I do?

CS Rep: Can you find the directory called "SELF-ACCEPTANCE"?

Customer: Yes, I have it.

CS Rep: Excellent, you are getting good at this.

Customer: Thank you.

CS Rep: You're welcome. Click on the following files and then copy them to the "MYHEART" directory: FORGIVESELF.DOC, SELFESTEEM.TXT, REALIZEWORTH.TXT, and GOODNESS.DOC. The system will overwrite any conflicting files and begin patching any faulty programming. Also, you need to delete SELFCRITIC.EXE from all directories, and then empty your recycle bin afterwards to make sure it is completely gone and never comes back.

Customer: Got it. Hey! My HEART is filling up with really neat files. SMILE.MPG is playing on my monitor right now and it shows that WARMTH.COM, PEACE.EXE, and CONTENTMENT.COM are copying themselves all over my HEART!

CS Rep: Then LOVE is installed and running. You should be able to handle it from here. One more thing before I go...

Customer: Yes?

CS Rep: LOVE is freeware. Be sure to give it and its various modules to everybody you meet. They will in turn share it with other people and they will return some really neat modules back to you.

Customer: I will. Thank you for your help.

Report on the Hong Kong Book Fair 22-27 July 1998

Robert Coenraads & Ronald Louie

Far East Media Ltd was contracted to distribute *The URANTIA Book* in Hong Kong (exclusive rights for 1 year, 55% discount from recommended retail price on consignment). Their first order for 300 soft cover, 50 hard cover, 30 CDROMs and 10 leather bound 6"x8" books has been filled via the Urantia Foundation Chicago Office. A number of Hong Kong book chains, including Bookazine Ltd (owned by Far East Media), will carry the book. The main library in Central already has two hard cover copies of *The URANTIA Book* in their reference section. A hard cover copy was left with Kowloon Library. A firm capable of printing *The URANTIA Book* could not be found in Hong Kong, the problem being the uncommon, thin grade of paper on which the book is printed. No UB readers were known in Hong Kong prior to the book fair, however four people in Hong Kong and a further two in China now have the book and these were listed to be contacted next year. During the fair, only one book, a hard cover version, was sold.

Hong Kong Bookstores and chains

Bookazine are owned by Far East Media Ltd. and have their head office in the same building. They have eight retail outlets and plan to make a small display of *The URANTIA Book* products in each of their stores.

Cosmos Books booth at the Book Fair was visited and we spoke to Mr. Larry Wong who was interested in *The URANTIA Book*.

Swindon Book Co. Ltd has four branches. Their booth was visited but time did not permit us to visit Ms. Jai at the main store.

Hong Kong Distributors

Mr Johnny Low of APA Publications noticed our booth and came up and spoke to us. He was the Singapore distributor for the Uversa Press version of *The URANTIA Book*. He had ordered 300 copies of this book for the major Singapore retail book chains, and 200 of these had been sold when he was requested to return the remainder after the copyright court case decision was handed down. He said that he would look into the market situation in Singapore and contact us if he wanted to commence distributing the Foundation book there. He could be a useful contact for us in the case that Lincoln James does not perform up to expectations. With regard to the Hong Kong Market, he recommended that we try and visit the offices of Bookazine (Far East Media Ltd.), who are both distributors and retailers.

A contract was signed with Far East Media (H.K.) Ltd, a distributor that has been operating in Hong Kong

for 25 years and also owns Bookazine, the largest bookstore retail chain in Hong Kong. They distribute in the Chinese Territories of Hong Kong, Macau and Shanzen. Like most distributors they order on a consignment basis and a discount of 55% of the recommended retail price was agreed upon. The contract was signed for an initial period of one year to allow both parties to determine if the terms were satisfactory. The contact persons are Ms. Imelda P. Talens (Purchasing and Sales Manager) and Mr Mohan G. Mirchandani (Director). The contract was signed for an initial period of one year to allow both parties to determine if the terms were satisfactory.

The first order placed was for the following *URANTIA Book* versions:

- 300 Soft Cover versions
- 50 Hard Cover versions
- 30 CD Rom versions
- 10 Leather Bound (6"x8" gold leaf) versions

German Distributors and Wholesalers

A chance meeting with Mr Johannes M. Scherer, the Executive Director of the Association of Publishers and Booksellers has prompted the inclusion of this section in the report. He recommended that we contact "Koch, Neff, Oefinger (Stuttgart) and LIBRI (Lingenbruik, Hamburg) which are the largest wholesalers/distributors in Germany (including Austria and Switzerland). They would be able to handle *The URANTIA Book* (English) and the German translation when it is ready.

(Note: A wholesaler actually purchases books from publishers and thereafter assumes responsibility for them and their sale to retailers; a distributor takes the books from publishers on consignment and therefore has less risk as any books not sold by retailers can be returned to the publisher.)

The Hong Kong Book Fair, 1998

The *URANTIA* Booth AA13 was situated in the "International Copyright Exchange" section of the Book Fair and is not accessible to the general public. The hardcover version of the book was visible to the general public, professionally displayed in a glass cabinet together with a brief description.

Interested members of the general public could, if interested, come to our booth for more information. This generated very few responses over the six days of the fair, even when a "special sale" sign was posted on the book, advertising it at an "amazingly low price". The services provided by the Fair organizers were of an unparalleled standard, with the staff always most willing to assist in every way possible. An IBM compatible computer with email facility, a free local phone, local fax facility, photocopier and comfortable meeting areas for clients with tea and coffee facilities were provided.

Recommendations for Future Book Fairs

URANTIA Foundation must decide where it should have its booth at the next Hong Kong Book Fair. We must ask ourselves if the "Copyright Exchange Section" is the most appropriate section of the Fair in which we want to be in the future, especially as we now have a Hong Kong based distributor organized. We also have sufficient contacts in China should we wish to publish the Chinese translation in China via a copyright exchange agreement. Do we want to concentrate more on public outreach next time, i.e. should we therefore be in the public section of the Fair? Or do we even want a booth at all?

Printing of *The URANTIA Book* in Hong Kong

Many printers normally dealing in books cannot handle *The URANTIA Book*, primarily because of the thin paper (Bible paper) necessary to keep a volume of 2097 pages to a manageable size. The problems occur in the actual handling of the thin sheets by the machinery and also in the inking of the thin paper as the ink is more prone to flow through to the back of the page. Several printers were asked to quote on printing the soft cover, hard cover and 6"x8" leather bound versions for various numbers of copies. Midas Printing Ltd. sent Ms. Carol Ann Ho, Marketing Executive, to our booth at the Fair to see the books. We gave her a soft cover as an example. She later reported back that they were unable to print the book and that she will try to find other contacts for us.

Contacting UB Readers in Hong Kong

URANTIA Book samples and gifts were given to the following people, who need to be contacted during next year's Fair to see if they have taken an interest:

Yuri V. Denisov of the Russian company Sojuzkarta-Impex. This company was directly opposite ours and they displayed an interest on the Russian Translation and said that they will be attending the Australian Fair next year. We gave them a soft cover English, so it will be interesting to follow them up and see how their interest has developed.

Imelda Talens is the manager of Bookazine Ltd., the largest Hong Kong bookstore chain. During the presentation at the offices of Far East Media she displayed a great interest in the spiritual content of the book. It is to our great advantage if the distributors become conversant with, or even adherents of *The URANTIA Book*.

Winsome Chan is Assistant Manager of Research and Development (Exhibitions) with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council. During the Fair, Winsome made every effort to bring interested people to our booth, worked efficiently and showed great interest in *The URANTIA Book*.

Lucas Chang is Marketing Assistant (Exhibitions) with Hong Kong Trade Development Council. During the Fair, Lucas was most helpful, worked efficiently and

showed great interest in the book. He bought a hard cover (the only book sold during the fair) for his friend.

Ms. Sun Yan, Department Manager, Beijing Library, will evaluate the suitability of *The URANTIA Book* for acceptance into the libraries of Beijing Province. She will stay in contact with Ron Louie.

Ms Fei Xiaoin, Senior Editor, China Renmin University Press, came to the booth and showed interest in the Book. She asked for a copy on behalf of her company.

Ms Carol Ann Ho, Marketing Executive, Midas Printing Co Ltd, took the book on behalf of her printing company. Although unable to print the book for us, it will be interesting to follow up on the whereabouts of this copy.

The Chinese *URANTIA Book* on the Web

A growing and very important means of gaining access to information are the "virtual libraries". Several of these exist in China and Hong Kong and the contacts gained during this Fair will be useful at such time when the Chinese translation of *The URANTIA Book* is ready.

Chinese Translation

The Hong Kong Book Fair provided an opportunity to meet many involved in different facets of the book publishing industry including those that have made a business of providing translation services. As the Chinese translation efforts are still in their formative stages it was felt necessary to gather information and explore all potentials for its eventuality.

- Comments were received that translation skills were generally better in Taiwan & China (PRC) than in HK for a number of reasons.
- A translation quotation was obtained from DNP (Dai Nippon Printing Co. Ltd.)

It was mentioned to us that if the Chinese translation of *The URANTIA Book* were published and printed from within China, it would avoid the need to pay high import duties and other taxes and tariffs and hence keep the price of the final product down.

The Computer Laptop

Based on recommendations following the Singapore Book Fair 1997, a Macintosh PowerBook 3400c was rented for use at the Hong Kong Fair.

Summary comments:

- (1) The ability to present the slide show "Powerpoint" presentation, both at our booth and elsewhere as required. The laptop provided the versatility of refining the presentation "on the fly" adapting it to the situation at hand. The graphic imagery was effective in conveying many of the UB concepts.

- (2) The ability to display the CD Rom version of *The URANTIA Book* and use its search engine. It should be noted that the Foundation's CD PC version could not be used on the MacIntosh platform.
- (3) The ability to prepare our report on site and print out material such as contracts.
- (4) Disadvantages noted were the weight of the printer and computer, and the possibility of its theft.

Accommodation

We would like to recommend that future book fair attendees try the Shamrock Hotel (223 Nathan Rd, Kowloon, Ph:2735 2271, Fax 2736 7354). The rooms were much larger and more reasonably priced than those at the Wesley in Wan Chai, and the front desk services very good. Local calls are free from the room phones. The MRT (light rail) station is next door to the hotel and provides a fast, direct connection with the Convention Centre. The hotel is in close proximity to attractions such as Kowloon Park, Aquatic Centre and Stanley Street Markets (cheap, good food).

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank The URANTIA Foundation for the opportunity to attend the Hong Kong Book Fair, 1998, and serve in the dissemination of the teachings of *The URANTIA Book*. The reward can only be fully understood by those that serve.

*Robert Coenraads,
August 1998*

“... the rapid course of which is called happiness, ...”

“Finally, the same thing shows itself in human endeavors and desires, which always delude us by presenting their satisfaction as the final end of will. As soon as we attain to them they no longer appear the same, and therefore they soon grow stale, are forgotten, and though not openly disowned, are yet always thrown aside as vanished illusions. We are fortunate enough if there still remains something to wish for and to strive after, that the game may be kept up of constant transition from desire to satisfaction, and from satisfaction to a new desire, the rapid course of which is called happiness, and the slow course sorrow, and does not sink into that stagnation that shows itself in fearful ennui that paralyzes life, vain yearning without a definite object, deadening languor. According to all this, when the will is enlightened by knowledge, it always knows what it wills now and here, never what it wills in general; every particular act of will has its end, the whole will has none; just as every particular phenomenon of nature is determined by a sufficient cause so far as concerns its appearance in this place at this time, but the force which manifests itself in it has no general cause, for it belongs to the thing-in-itself, to the groundless will. The single example of self-knowledge of the will as a whole is the ideas as a whole, the whole world of perception. It is the objectification, the revelation, the mirror of the will.”

From an essay by Arthur Schopenhauer (1788-1860)

When my oldest daughter was about eight I remember trying to tell her about God's love for us. We were in her room and the shade was drawn. I remember telling her that God's love was like the sunlight on the shade. It was there whether we opened the shade or not. But if we want to see the light, we have to do something. We have to get up and open the shade. Prayer is like opening the shade... we can see the light that never stops coming.

I know that I was following my Father's will when I told my daughter that story because He was leading me to that truth which I had never thought of before that very moment. I am not sure if the story was meant for my daughter, but I know it was meant for me. After I am past this life, I know this is one of the memories of this life I will still have. I know it surely has survival value for me.

Mike Kubik, USA

Sacred Child of God

*Lean back and rest awhile.
Lay down your heavy burden.
Allow me to enfold you and
cradle your very being.
You are an inspiration.
Created from a divine spark, you have
blazed forth.
I am in awe of your magnificence.
Your uniqueness is stunning.
Unfurrow your brow.
You are heard and supported.
Can you not feel my presence?
I dwell within your core.
You are a sacred child of God.
Rest here awhile.
Rest here.
Jill Nelson c 1997*

Study Groups in Australia and New Zealand

If you would like your study group listed here, or if details have changed, please contact the Editor.

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Science lives by the mathematics of the mind; music expresses the tempo of the emotions. Religion is the spiritual rhythm of the soul in time-space harmony with the higher and eternal melody measurements of Infinity. Religious experience is something in human life which is truly supermathematical.

In language, an alphabet represents the mechanism of materialism, while the words expressive of the meaning of a thousand thoughts, grand ideas, and noble ideals—of love and hate, of cowardice and courage—represent the performances of mind within the scope defined by both material and spiritual law, directed by the assertion of the will of personality, and limited by the inherent situational endowment.

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1999 ANZURA URANTIA Book Conference

Our next conference will be held in Melbourne during the first week of October, 1999.

If you would like to present a session, or have bright ideas about contributions and things to do, contact Bob Reynolds, (03) 9562-0111

More information next issue.

We all look forward to seeing your wonderful faces and lovely souls!