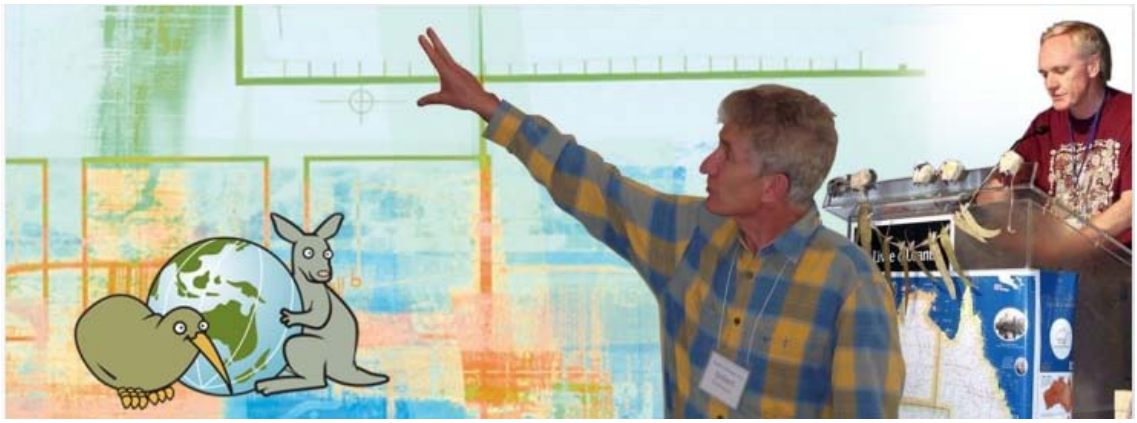
ANZURA
Conference Flashback
30 years of sharing truth



Conference 1983
Sydney, NSW at 7 Walsh St. Narrabeen—*The Kingdom of Heaven*

First conference—meet at Trev and Kathleen's place….

7 come to kick things off



In the Swadling's garden

Conference 1984

Melbourne, VIC—*Introducting The Urantia Book—the discovery of a lifetime*
40 share the good news



First Melbourne Conference attendees

Conference 1985

Sydney, NSW at Narrabeen High School—*The Study Group and its Outreach*
The teachings reach 15



Australians make their mark

Conference 1986

Melbourne, VIC—*Tapestry of Loving Service*

Brotherhood officials, Berkely Elliott and John Hales attend.



John Hales



Berkely Elliot



Group photo

Conference 1987

Sydney, NSW at Elanora—*First live-in conference experience*



Outdoor session at Elanora

Conference 1988

Robertson, NSW at Ranleigh House, Southern Highlands—*Spiritual Unity and Cultural Diversity*



Group photo

Conference 1989

Sunshine Coast, QLD at Noosa—*First attendance by Urantia Foundation trustee, Richard Keeler* *(front left)*



Conference 1990

Warburton, VIC at Warburton House—*Living as we are meant to live*

Urantia Foundation trustees, Richard Keeler & Martin Myers attend



Laughing Richard Keeler wearing hat and glasses (back row) and Martin Myers (second from right, back row)

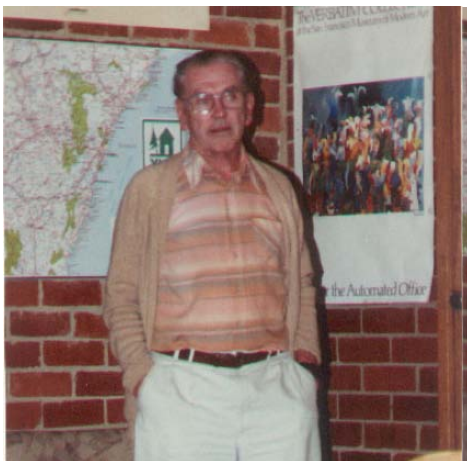


Group photo

Conference 1991

Canberra, ACT at Canberra Youth Hostel—*First ACT conference—What if…?—what if truth was more readily accepted?*





Ken Glaziou



Neil Francey



Group song

Conference 1992
Sydney, NSW at Elanora—*Human Nature and The Twelve Apostles*



Kathleen Swadling introduces The Apostles theme

With the apostles we have fine examples of men at the time Jesus walked our world. In them we can see ourselves. They represent the various personality types we are likely to meet in our own lives. In looking at the character of each of the apostles, the way in which each of them made decisions and interacted with Jesus and each other is very instructive.



Rita Schaad presents



William Wentworth presents

By Showing the thinking and life choices they made we can relate to how we do the same. Choices which transform the person. In the case of the apostles, excepting Judas, taking inherited genetic characteristics to achieve spiritual growth through life with Jesus. Growth resulting from triumph of spirit over the natural material tendencies of animal inheritance. Triumph of love.

The apostles are examples of ordinary men doing extraordinary things.



Group photo

Conference 1993
Surfers Paradise, QLD at Sea World Nara Resort—
Welcome to the shores of Paradise—Adjusting with your Thought Adjuster



"You will be certain of being warmly welcomed when you experience the resurrection into eternity on the everlasting ***shores of Paradise****"* [p. 283]

Jesus developed superlative techniques to achieve better communication with his Thiought Ajuster. He often engaged in solitary communion with the Father—to gather strength, to seek stores of wisdom, to find better ways to subject his total personality to the consciousness of divinity contact.

In this way Jesus resolved ordinary conflicts of mortal existence and lived his life dedicated to doing his Father's will. Likewise for each of us, the Father indwells our minds and is yearning to make personal contact, all that he requires is our sincere co-operation.

Jane asked, *how do we know we need adjustment?*

Janelle spoke of her experience, *during sleep I receive personal instruction and it's up to me to decide if they are of significance.*

Terry shared his situation, *I seek an answer but I never know how long it will be till I get a reply.*

Valerie spoke of developing a habit of asking for instruction, *I would like to know what I should do to establish a connection with my Thought Adjuster—to be open and positive is my challenge. I want to know about spiritual realities even while I grapple with material necessities.*

Vern spoke of developing spiritual habits, *to walk daily with my Adjuster, my closet companion and dearest, nearest friend. To make prayer a habit, first thing in the morning and last thing at night.*

Tom spoke of prayer, *the way of strengthening my faith.*

Martin spoke of growth, *Father lead me into experiences where I am challenged that I may make decisions of moral significance.*

Through such personal sharing on the ways we can co-operate with the Thought Adjuster it was appreciated that life has more meaning—is enriched. The better the individual the better the society. Adjuster attunement leads to:

General wellbeing—feeling the presence of God is confirmation of sonship

Moral responsibility—ethical awareness, your neighbour is your Adjuster indwelt brother or sister

Improved relationships—friends and family are more loved

Commitment to an ideal—to be perfect as God is perfect

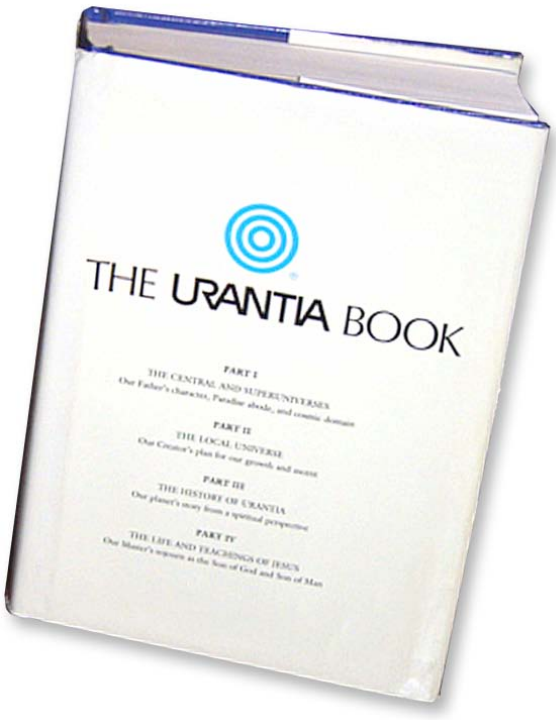
Enlarged perspective—when we seek God we seek everything, when we find God we find everything.

Knowing truth and doing right—the Spirit of Truth ever shows the way the Thought Adjuster reinforces the positive over the negative. Doing right is more compelling than refraining from doing wrong.

Conference 1994

Melbourne, VIC at Sacred Heart retreat and conference centre, Croydon—*Shepherds' Pie*

"You who would be the undershepherds of my father's flock must not only be worthy leaders, but you must also feed the flock with good food; you are not true shepherds unless you lead your flocks into green pastures and beside still waters." [p. 1819:2]



Conference 1995

Auckland, New Zealand at Devonport—*Living with The Urantia Book*

"The religious challenge of this age is to those farseeing and forward-looking men and women of spiritual insight who will dare to construct a new and appealing philosophy of living out of the enlarged and exquisitely integrated modern concepts of cosmic truth, universe beauty and divine goodness" [p. 43]



Meeting with our Kiwi mates

The conference built on bonds of friendship, tolerance and a shared vision of brotherhood under the fatherhood of God made during the first South Pacific Conference.

The vision was expanded further by having a forum where attendees were able to share their respective philosophies of living as they have been enhanced by revelation. Presented their personal experiences in applying the ideas and values gained from the teachings of *The Urantia Book* as applied to the most important task of mortal existence. Experiencing to the full the life you now live.

"…Very important is the work of preparation for the next higher sphere, but nothing equals the importance of the work of the world in which you are actually living…." [p. 555:5]

Conference 1996
Canberra, ACT at Blackfriars—*Evolution, the beat goes on*



Common or garden variety readers, spotted at the 1996 URANTIA Book Readers Conference, Canberra, Australia (October 1996)

Rita remembers

Remember – A carload of eager friends, Joy, Ysbrand, Jessika & me, on a hot October spring day, joy, and how beautiful the country was we drove through, Macquarie Pass, Robertson – the first people we met outside Blackfriars – Christopher and Bridget, the greeting we got from Nigel, Vern and oh, Clyde ready with his first challenge. The pouring rain, just when we wanted to leave for dinner, and how Val and Jess directed us twice around the roundabout, and to the opposite end of Watson – in the darkest and wettest night.

Remember – Saturday, Betty, the introduction to the conference theme – ascenders we are – in an evolutionary Arena, potential seeds, that need to experience – to actualize a universal reality – to become a unified, diversified and supreme creation like the colourful Floriade.

Remember – the trip to "The Club" under a starry sky Jeremy, Bob, Neil – next time it's my shout... then Sunday morning, Kathy to the rescue(!) After breakfast, into a beautiful shiny day we gave thanks to our heavenly Father and remembered Jesus, our Brother and Creator and his teaching to be each other's servant, and how gently the light touched our souls, Remember – Ruth, John, Dennis, Robert, David. Then Ken – I've learned more about atoms and neutrinos through your joyous explanation than I ever will again!

Remember – The music, Trevor, and the "happy hours" we've spent, and the getting through topics in a Forum style on Monday morning – remember the photo session in the outer court and the goodbyes – and how we can live in our corners of Urantia, and daily discern the Father's will, and do it – and because we said goodbye – we can look forward to saying hello again – better sooner than later.

With heaps of affection and thankyous to all.

Rita Schaad

Vern remembers

The culmination of a project undertaken a year previously by the Canberra Study Group was realized at Blackfriar's Retreat in Canberra. With a final flurry of activity the conference kits were ready and the attendees were warmly welcomed.
The Canberra team aimed to provoke thought and discussion in presenting the theme of "Evolution", hoping those present would come away from the conference mentally challenged and spiritually uplifted, inspired to go out and do something.
Four major presentations were made... the Historical overview by Rosemary Miners, an intriguing picture of comparison between the normal progression of events of planetary unfolding and the variation/deviation that has resulted from our chequered history; Ken Glasziou then presented an incisively researched presentation on the revelatory nature of scientific content of the book demonstrating that human knowledge could not have been the source of this information; the next presenter was myself and in this session, *'Where in the World are we now,'* I endeavoured to answer a few questions regarding our present status on the evolutionary ladder and predict action we as a society need to concentrate on to grow spiritually, with particular reference to genetic improvement and racial amalgamation. Bob Sawyer then delivered the evolutionary picture from an individual perspective reminding us that as the individual grows the capacity to love others, society grows; this benign virus infects all society. One message became clear, that we ought to strive to become spiritually fragrant for others to be drawn to seek our company.
We enjoyed a final Monday morning session, which became a culmination and cross-fertilization of ideas as we discussed questions arising from the conference presentations. Various topics were aired, lively debate ensued and the group was uplifted by this opportunity to tease out some of the implications in the conference theme: "**Evolution, the beat goes on**".

This opportunity for readers at large to gather together and focus on spiritually related matters has great potential to enthuse and strengthen our individual commitment regarding the unfolding of a revelation.
Now our sights are set on the future and what changes and challenges 1997 will bring. See you in Sydney, and *"May your wisdom equal your zeal and your love be infectious."*

Verner Verass

Ysbrand remembers

My previous and first conference was in 1992 at Elanora, Sydney. Subsequent to that conference I was moved to facilitate the inaugural Central Coast Study Group which lasted for approximately 12 months, meeting on a monthly basis and averaging 4-7 attendees. Subsequent to the 1996 conference, I found myself as secretary to ANZURA following Kathleen and Trevor Swadling's move to Chicago, USA. Immediately following the 1996 conference again I found myself wrapped up in events which lead to the inauguration of the first Wollongong *Urantia Book* Study Group, which meets weekly at 6:30 pm on Thursdays.
The Canberra conference itself was so uplifting, words fail me to describe the total effect. The "Canberra Mob" did a wonderful job in making this conference a remarkable success. They all have every right to feel proud in their individual contribution to its success. Personally I feel immensely privileged to be involved with ANZURA and to serve the fostering of *The Urantia Book*, and any activity which results in the creation of new study groups. The Canberra conference was a unique springboard to the fostering of the "Kingdom". I look forward to the 1997 conference to

be hosted by the Sydney Study Groups.
In conclusion I ask you all to read *The URANTIA Book*, from page 1739 paragraph 2, to page 1740 paragraph 8.

Ysbrand Oosten


Neil Francey


Ysbrand Oosten


Michael Pither


Ruth Schaad


Nigel Nunn


Trevor Swadling


Kathleen Swadling


Vern Verass



Conference 1997

Sydney, NSW at Ave-Maria Retreat Centre—*Dare to be Godlike—the ultimate challenge—a practical for ascenders*







Life is experience which requires response to changing circumstances…..making choices.

Daring to be Godlike is simply choosing to share life experience with the Father.

- Dare to dream
- Dare to create
- Dare to live.

Why is this an ultimate challenge?

- For an individual
- For all mankind.

Together, through co-operation…..brotherhood…..we'll arrive at a practical for ascenders.

Dare to take up the challenge in the example of the pre-baptismal humanity of Joshua ben Joseph, the greatest of all Urantians. A man living a life of complete trust in the Father—a perfect revelation of life lived to the exhaustion of spiritual values attainable in mortal experience. Jesus dared to be Godlike and in so doing showed the way in which each person can do likewise.



Group photo

Conference 1998
Surfers Paradise, QLD at International Beach Resort—*How Jesus Taught*

A look at all the various methods Jesus used to deliver the gospel message that God is your Father and the kingdom is within you.

Jesus was his Teachings set the tone of the conference, Clyde Duncan in his keynote address said each peron has the opportunity to be a good example for the benefit of our fellows—to teach by example. Ann Bendall emphasised that teaching is more effective than preaching. William Wentworth presented his understanding that *We teach what we are*. *We are the revelation*. Which is another way of saying by our fruits we are known—most effective teachers.

"And it will not be so much by the words you speak as by the lives you live that men will know you have been with me and have learned of the realities of the kingdom." [p. 1566]

With his presentation, *The Art of Teaching Others*, Martin McBurney looked at how Jesus' teaching methods changed as he adapted to the circumstances he and the apostles encountered wherever they went with the gospel message.

Conference 1999

Kallista, VIC at Booth Lodge—*Think globally act locally—how goes the birth of Urantia's fifth age? Are we helping or hindering?*







Held at Booth Lodge, conveniently located at Kallista in the Dandenong Ranges, less than an hour's drive East of the Melbourne CBD. The forest surrounds and the mountain views made it difficult to believe that it was only 45 kms from the heart of the bustling city. Grounds of the complex were simply inspirational and created the perfect environment for a clear thinking conference.
During the conference everyone relaxed in an environment that allowed reflection, socialising, and space to ponder the big picture**: *how goes the birth of Urantia's fifth age? Are we helping or hindering?***



Marion Steward, New Zealand presenter

No matter how difficult it is to get away, or how short of time we are, I think those of us fortunate enough to have attended the last few conferences would agree on something: that our coming together – contributes to the necessary work of widening channels for the river of truth. Integration of this fresh dose of clarification into the main stream is a social task. Effected by groups of individuals, enlightened to whatever degree, but all keen to help.

Conference 2000

Canberra, ACT at Blackfriars—*Lure of the 5th Epoch—ascenders at the brink*



Thinking outside the box—vision of enlarged universe frames of reference

Theme was an examination of the steps required to accelerate from the threshold we presently occupy, to a more rapid rate of learning—a unified planetary culture.
Approach the theme via three core presentations:

1 The present cultural landscape—signs of the times
2 The cosmic viewpoint—big picture
3 The role of personality—how valuable each and every person really is.

To help cast light upon the themes explored, each was framed with brief, illustrative scenes acted out by conference attendees. These scenes involved two or three people taking on the role of some significant and/or colorful personality from the Papers, commenting about some issue pertaining to the presentation.
Each illustrative vignette consisted of 4-7 minutes of amusing, insightful scripted dialogue, criticizing or illustrating the significant points of one of the presentations.
For example, a pair would depict a System Sovereign and a Life Carrier working together on another challenging world, come to see for themselves this much talked about sphere, comparing notes with their local counterparts.
Another, would feature a superuniverse seconaphim, easing the frustrations and tensions of a pair of local universe seraphim struggling with the typical and impossibly obstinate Urantian 3rd circler. *See how she breathes hope and panoramic vision into their tired seraphic minds!*
Another, would be the portrayal of a Vorondadek Most High, seasoned by long experience with troublesome provincial planets, chatting with an enthusiastic student visitor, curious to know how *the Most Highs propose to rule in the kingdoms of men* on a world so damaged—yet so replete with potential for adding experiential wisdom to the evolutionary technique.



Grand entrance, Finaliter (Jessica Shaad) and Divine Counselor (Daniel Swadling)

Those, with leanings towards life in the vacuums and voids of the galactic fringe, may feel up to depicting a Solitary Messenger, the only class of personable spirit able to navigate directly between superuniverses.
Daniel, as a Divine Counselor spent 5 minutes pondering with Jessica, a Finaliter, the ramifications of our Michael's almost excessive application of mercy upon his creation, Nebadon.
Frances, as a true Discerner of Spirits, would be well equipped to gauge the sincerity and true motivation of these Canberrans, who may appear to be overreaching their grasp; while Rex, as Soul of Philosophy, imparted appropriate comments about why wisdom has difficulty following where the mercy of Michael elected to go.



Trevor Swadling presents



William Wentworth, first ANZURA president presents

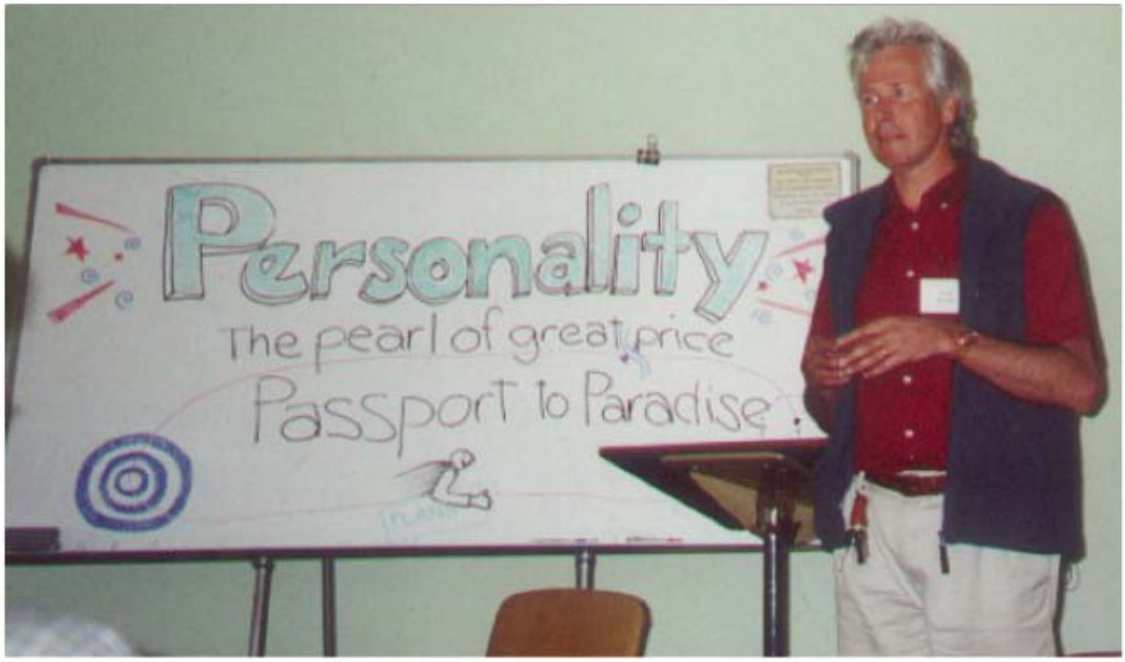
And of course there was a guest appearance by a Melchizedek to help discuss the pros and cons of their proposed extraordinary methods to up-step humanity in preparation for the next inflection in planetary history!
William painted an overview, the how and why of the Fifth Epoch; Nigel embellished with how people and planets progress; Vern uplifted with Personality and Love. And as a special treat, Nigel revealed in multimedia splendor, prototype speculations on how the finite surfs the attributes of the absonite, allowing *reality to personalize*. This was an entertaining and groundbreaking event held at Blackfriars Conference Centre.



Nigel Nunn presenting



Neil Francy presenting



Vern presents "Personality, the pearl of great price"

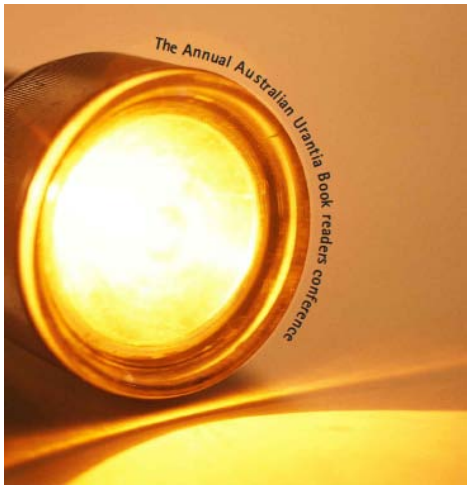


Group photo

Conference 2001

Sydney, NSW at Sydney Lakeside Narrabeen Park—

Organising the Soul for Dynamic Service



"Religion is not a technique for attaining a static and blissful peace of mind; it is an impulse for ***organising the soul for dynamic service****. It is the enlistment of the totallity of selfhood in the loyal service of loving God and serving man."—Urantia Book p1096*



The Sydney group, asked themselves: *"OK, what theme would be appropriate for this year's conference that would follow on the heels of last year's amazing discussions and presentations?"* While 2000's conference looked at the wider implications of the revelation to our planet and for our ascension careers, 2001's took a 2-pronged approach and explored some of the more fundamental, practical day-to-day issues of how we can bring an awareness of the revelation to the world at large.
The first prong was to look at how individual believers get to that point where they are inwardly motivated to begin to "organise their souls for dynamic service."
What was Jesus' secret?
The second prong was to look at what avenues of service we can utilize, both on individual and group levels, to help bring the teachings into the lives of spiritually hungry people. Presentations, workshops, study and brainstorm sessions were some of the activities at this conference, as well as socialising with one another and enjoying our surroundings.



Robert Coenraads presents



The conference was held at the Sydney Lakeside Narrabeen Park, which is located on beautiful Narrabeen Lake and just minutes from North Narrabeen beach. A number of luxury 2-bedroom villas were booked, all fully self-contained with bathroom, kitchen, living room, and verandah. The conference centre faced the lake-front, just a short stroll from the villas.
Readers took time to treat themselves to a weekend filled with meaningful and valuable exchanges with fellow believers to help kick-start the next phase of Urantia's fifth epoch.

Conference 2002
Sunshine Coast, QLD at Dicky Beach—*Being and Doing according to The Urantia Book*

Held in Queensland at Dicky Beach on the beautiful Sunshine Coast north of Brisbane. The Brisbane and Sunshine Coast study groups hosted this inspiring seaside conference on being and doing—walking the talk.

Conference 2003
Dandenong, VIC at Mountain Valley Centre—*The Eternal Adventure*



Eternal adventure in a friendly universe



Your short sojourn on Urantia, on this sphere of mortal infancy, is only a single link, the very first in the long chain that is to stretch across universes and through the eternal ages. [*The Urantia Book* p.435:6]

The adventure of divinity attainment lies before you! The race for perfection is on! [p.365:4]

"…but rather shall your religion become the fact of real experience which testifies that God has found you, idealized, ennobled, and spiritualized you, and that you have enlisted in ***the eternal adventure*** *of finding the God who has thus found and sonshipped you."* [p.1733:6]

You have just started on the Eternal Adventure.
What has been your adventure so far?
What lies ahead?
Where will your eternal adventure take you…?
During the course of the weekend we explored various aspects of our eternal adventure such as the beginnings of the adventure, the destination of the adventure, steppingstones of the adventure, the physical realms of the adventure, the destination of finaliters, and the physical life in relation to the kingdom of heaven.





Conference 2004
Canberra, ACT at Goolabri Country Resort—*Echoes of Eden*



The spiritual ripple effect

"Think what it would mean on your world if somewhere in the Levant there were a world center of civilization, a great planetary university of culture, which had functioned uninterruptedly for 37,000 years. And again, pause to consider how the moral authority of even such an ancient center would be reinforced were there situated not far-distant still another and older headquarters of celestial ministry whose traditions would exert a cumulative force of 500,000 years of integrated evolutionary influence. It is custom which eventually spreads the ideals of Eden to a whole world."
[p.587]

What would it mean if superhumans and giants featured in Urantian politics and education?
What if the concepts of Eden and ideals of Dalamatia were the traditional beliefs of all people on our world?
What if all humanity took for granted that Jerusem was their next stop, and that soul growth was the accepted indicator of temporal success?

It would likely mean that humankind would be sharing a frame of reference.
The inner worlds of children would be consistent, and decorated with interplanetary wonders and desires to emulate the doings of celestial heroes.
The inner worlds of their parents would be studded with gleaming opportunities, not hedged about by anxieties and pain.
Their personal arenas of choice would be warmed by meaning and lit by bright values.

"Meanings and values are only perceived in the inner or supermaterial spheres of human experience. The advances of true civilization are all born in this inner world of mankind." *[p.1220]*

Given the cultural momentum imparted by Eden and Dalamatia, it is not hard to imagine that planet-fulls of evolutionary mortals DO arrive at Light and Life. But Urantia is not like this, and cultures take ages to change.

On the level of individual experience, when viewed from our personal arena of choice, what's really so different about Urantia?

Is the difference not so much the absence of Eden and Dalamatia, but the absence of their framework of belief and motivation?

If so, what would it take to establish/restore such a mindscape?

Adam and Eve had a slim chance at restoring a celestial worldview to the planet. This could have been as valuable as their material donation. But while their biologic mission met with partial success, their priceless perspective, their shared personal frame of reference, was utterly lost.

Which brings us to the Urantia Papers.

While our world may have lost so much in the way of cultural foundations and conceptual vocabulary, the Urantia Papers make available a potential replacement.

And this time, it is being planted in the inner worlds of agondonters, rather than being imposed by superhumans or giants.

Attendees explored these themes more deeply, while enjoying a few days with wonderful friends, at Goolabri Country Resort just 15 minutes from Canberra city. Luxury country living on 160 hectares of beautiful bushland away from everyday pressures and routines.

Peace and tranquility in a friendly atmosphere with accommodation in twelve spacious units all with separate bedrooms, lounge, cooking facilities, colour TV and gas heating. Much of Goolabri is unspoilt bushland, we saw kangaroos and a variety of bird life as we strolled the grounds.

No Conference in 2005

ANZURA as host country for the Urantia Association International Conference 2006, needed to plan for this event and voted to cancel the 2005 Conference

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International Conference 2006

Sydney, NSW at Women's College Sydney University—

Rewards of Isolation—small teams in deep waters



Rewards of Isolation

small teams in deep waters

Urantia 2006

International Conference > Sydney, Australia

…you belong to a well-nigh infinite family of worlds, but your sphere is just as precisely administered and just as lovingly fostered as if it were the only inhabited world in all existence. [p 183]

Our mortal struggles and experience reflect a theme playing at all levels of the current grand universe age: small groups of persons, high and low, finding themselves in unfamiliar circumstances, facing tasks that initially seem too big and too hard, but which somehow they eventually come to master. Like small teams placed in deep waters, and allowed to learn to swim.

Often these struggles involve isolation, and for mortals, they always involve faith. But there is a priceless result: each cycle of struggle and success ripens each person involved by a few more degrees.

And once each context is mastered, this cycle repeats, in waters that are deeper, more marvelous and ever more complex. In this way the Father unfolds the potentials of all his experiential children.

But a deep question remains. Why bother with such elaborate evolution? What needs of the future motivate the Father to set up the entire grand universe, and devote this entire age, to experience and education? What is it about us finite evolving persons that could possibly contribute to the Father's long-term plan? How on earth might humans make a difference in the universe of universes?

Well, the papers tell of the magnificent perfection of persons populating the central universe, but imply that while such perfection makes for a fine foundation, it is inappropriate, or insufficient, to confront the vastness of the Father's eternal infinity.

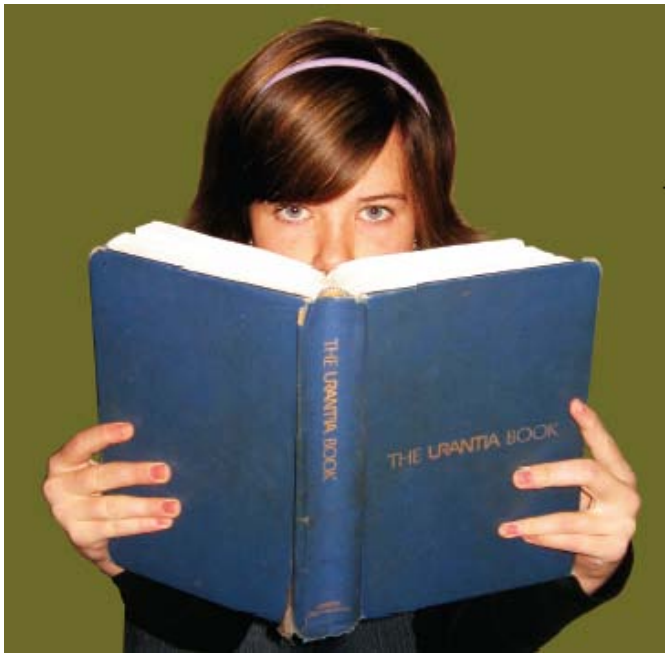
They then contrast such static completion with the main phenomenon of this transitional universe age: trillions of new persons, engaged with evolving themselves. Created as near nothing, then given struggles and troubles and the time to master them—a sequence that allows the full potentials of each person to unfold.

And then the Father plays a wild card—fusing such surprising persons with a fragment of himself. He makes us sufficient to penetrate the place where he dwells, and to begin unimagined work by his side.



Audience in the main hall

Conference 2007
Lower Plenty, VIC at ‘Amberley’ Edmund Rice Centre—*The Book and I*



For most of us, the finding, reading and interpretation of the meanings of *The Urantia Book* is a very personal experience, and a moving one.

Presentations were made on *“The Book and I”* with each speaker expanding on their favourite part which had deep meaning for them or of which they never tire of exploring. In addition to the keynote sessions, everyone took part in the workshop — a short talk on how they found the book, what the book changed for them or what parts of the book have a special meaning for them.

Attendees got their imaginations into overdrive! Saturday night was fancy dress night and attendees dressed in costume as a person, place, time, or thing from *The Urantia Book*.



Included trip to “Monsalvat” artist retreat and country garden not far from the venue.

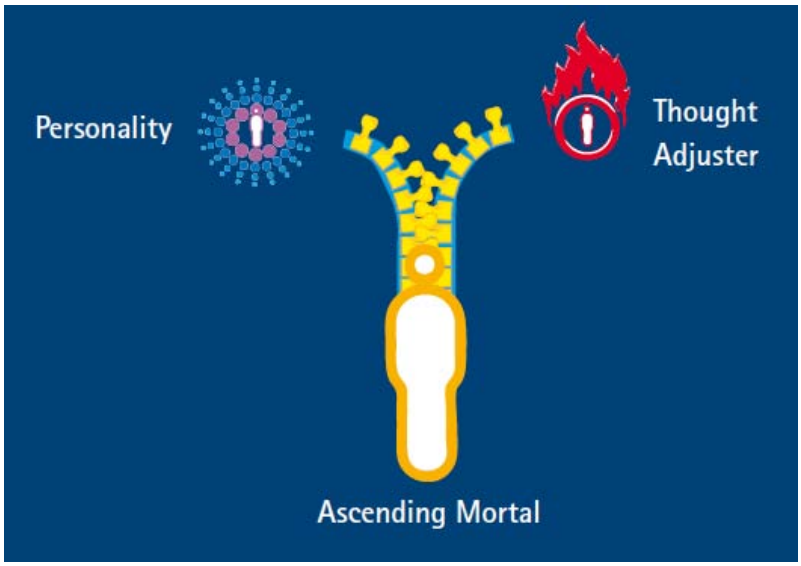


Group photo

Conference 2008

Canberra, ACT at Goolabri Country Resort— *A Moment of Opportunity—when Thought Adjusters seek us out*

The Adjuster is an absolute essence of an infinite being... [p. 1176:6]



Zipping a person together

Thought Adjusters the theme.
What do the Urantia Papers reveal about these mysterious monitors?
Why does such divinity—an absolute essence of an infinite being—seek us out?
Is it possible that we might miss our moment of opportunity to become engaged with them?

Large parts of the Urantia Papers are designed to coordinate our knowledge about more or less familiar things. They expand our understanding in a logical way. But the Papers also contain highlights of pure revelation. For mankind of today, perhaps the most interesting—*and intimate*—are the revelations about the nature and function of Thought Adjusters, truths that finally explain, and make sense of, the phenomenon of man.

The Papers reveal that we are a moment of opportunity, to be or not to be that child for whom the Father yearns—that moment where our Father tries, in us, to zip together two fragments of Himself. As humans we cannot hope to understand what this really means, but we are invited, via the Urantia Papers, to "taste and see", to illuminate our experience of the Father with TRUTH from beyond the full philosophic limit of our previous, 4th epochal frame.

What is man that you are mindful of him? [Psalm 8:4]



Group photo

Conference 2009
Sydney, NSW at Sydney Lakeside Holiday Park, Narrabeen— *Happy are the Peacemakers—religion—property of the human race*

"Happy are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God.…" [p.1575:3]



World famous Narrabeen Beach and scenes of Sydney Lakeside Holiday Park

We explored the many facets of the term "Religion" as portrayed in the Urantia Papers with an aim to develop a clear understanding of the real nature of religion. We contemplated how individuals who wholeheartedly embrace true religion become peacemakers and find lasting happiness.

Jesus' peace is not of the pacific and negative kind. In the face of trials and persecutions he said, *"My peace I leave with you." "Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."*

This is the peace that prevents ruinous conflicts.

Personal peace integrates personality.

Social peace prevents fear, greed, and anger. Political peace prevents race antagonisms, national suspicions, and war.

Peacemaking is the cure of distrust and suspicion.

And what do we make of this statement?

…religion is the property of the human race… [p1119:6]

This took us on an exploration of the pivotal role religion plays when fully embraced in an individual's life; how such transformed and enlightened individuals can actually change the world.

We pondered the plausibility that world's problem can actually be thought of as being the individual's problem and that true religion has the awesome power of being the forerunner to the actuality of the Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God and thus, eventually, world peace.

"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]



Group photo

Conference 2010
Blackmans Bay, TAS at Maryknoll House of Prayer and Retreat— *Attaining the highest levels of self-realization*



View of Hobart with snowcovered Mt Wellington behind

Conference attendees explored the themes of Worship — *the highest privilege and the first duty of all created intelligences* [P.303:5] , and Service — *the goal of time and the destination of space* [P.316:4] , and how together they can lead us to ultimate selfrealization.

The Urantia Book has much to say about these dual major components of God's will. They are inter-related and interdependent and they hold the key to our personal salvation and the future transformation of our world.



Bernie entertaining the masses

We discovered that worship supplies us with the energy and the motivating power that enables us to produce a service ministry to God and man *…which is filled with mercy and motivated by love* [P.1175:1] .

We explored how worship and service become progressively more critical aspects of the supernal adventure that lies before us.



Maryknoll House, a charming place with extensive views over the bay





The girls *the guys*

Conference 2011

Myrniong, VIC at Lake Dewar Lodge, YMCA— *The Treasure Chest—purpose of life and goal of existence—heaven and earth revealed*



Daylesford Lake, excursion destination

In exploring the treasure chest of revealed truth to be found in *The Urantia Book* we uncovered our own precious pearls of wisdom and jewels of self-discovery. Treasures of love and understanding, insight and life-changing knowledge, unlocked from its pages.

Shared these gems with each other:

An interactive show and tell.
Brief presentations from participants
Experiences of living which gave substance to the transformative power of truth discovered in *The Urantria Book.*

Discovered how to *…embrace thought* **gems** *and superior concepts of Jesus' teachings…* [p. 1343:2]

In all that we humans experience on a planet whirling through infinite space—all our dreams, resultant joy and success, to all the horrors that mankind can inflict on himself, other species and the earth itself—in all our wandering, squandering, aimless waste and wanton destruction, to all that we can grasp, hold in our hands, hang on to and possess, to the noble, uplifting efforts of those who inspire and are inspired to create and live a wholesome and better life—there is a meaning and purpose in all we do.

There is an over-arching and merciful love that penetrates to the core of our existence, life is an eternal adventure transcending into an awe-inspiring life to come.

The answer to who we are and where we are going, why we are here and what yet we are to become, is within us—truly the treasure of the ages. *The Urantia Book*, holds within its pages, pearls of wisdom, gems of understanding, seeds of love. This Conference was a special time for fellow travelers to share that which is precious—living experience.



A passionate music session



Group photo

Conference 2012

Alexandra Headland, QLD at Alexandra Park Conference Centre— *More things in heaven and earth—adapting to an expanded description of reality*



"There are more things in Heaven and Earth, Horatio than are dreamt of in your philosophy" [Hamlet Act I, Scene V.]

This is a thought which has surely inspired many individuals down the centuries and most probably a few group conferences as well. It also makes a good theme for our own conference because surely all of us would like to add "more things" to our own respective philosophies, especially high minded ones, as may be found in *The Urantia Book*.

Even as we begin to read *The Urantia Book* for the first time we are treated to a steady stream of depictions of worlds, persons, personalities and realities and so on. It is apparent, for example that we must go from shallow thoughts about the Universe to much deeper thoughts about a Universe of Universes.

Right at the beginning, the stated purpose of the foreword has to do with establishing definitions, but its first order of business is to add more "things" to our awareness, so many things in fact that our ability to discern and classify simply must improve. And with that improvement comes the necessary improvement in our ability to comprehend at least some of the definitions. This is good teaching—it is apparent right away that the teaching agenda of the book is taken seriously by those who wrote it. On the receiving end—the serious student, having uncovered one of the teacher's methods, is all the better prepared.

The theme is primarily invented to suggest some benefit that can be taken away from the conference, but so much the better if it echoes some of the teaching style of the book as well.



Group photo

Conference 2013

Canberra, ACT at Forrest Hotel and Apartments—*The Spirit of Truth—experience the willingness to go wherever it leads*



Parliament house with concentric circles Aboriginal artwork mosaic in foreground

When a great truth seeker and a great truth giver meet, the result is a great and liberating enlightenment born of the experience of new truth. [p. 1428:01]



Nigel Nunn delivering his presentation

Responding to the leadings of “The Spirit of Truth” to guide us onward.

Taking a closer look at the significance of this spirit influence on which each of us can surely depend.

When truth seekers gather there is great opportunity for enlightenment.

We enjoyed special encounters with close friends, new friends, friends young and old, to shared truth—that sprang so inexhaustibly from mind—friends comfortable and at ease with each other, openly sharing newly discovered truth.

A program true to the theme, drawing gems of truth from all four parts of the book accompanied by at least one opportunity to study “truth” more deeply in small groups. Space for thinking and recreation, a short walk away to parks and gardens that surround Parliament House. The Spirit of Truth always speaks saying…

“This is the way.”

We were gladly shown.



Listening for gems of truth



Beautiful blooms of Floriade

Conference 2014

Auckland, New Zealand—*Bravely go where spirit leads—take the faith adventure*

