
The Global Endeavor

Partnership for Growth

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WELCOME to the fall 2012 edition of the newsletter of the Committee for the Global Endeavor! We appreciate your interest and will do our best to keep you informed as this innovative project attracts additional support and continues to gather momentum.

We believe that our account of recent events will interest and please you, for the committee crossed two important thresholds last summer: the first public presentation on the Global Endeavor by a member of the committee other than the chairman, and the first presentation about the Global Endeavor in a language other than English.

Summer study session in Chicago

During the summer study session that The Urantia Book Fellowship sponsored in the northern suburbs of Chicago (August 3 to 6, 2012), committee vice-chairman Bob Debold and veteran committee member Barbara Newsom collaborated in giving joint presentations on the Global Endeavor and on the work of the master seraphim. These presentations amounted to a significant milestone in the committee's work, for they were the first time that any member of the committee other than the chairman has spoken in public about our plans for the Global Endeavor.

During their Friday evening presentation, Barbara and Bob emphasized that the Global Endeavor is an entirely independent project intended to promote and encourage the process of imagination, innovation, and creativity that will be a pervasive and enduring theme throughout the next thousand years of life on Urantia. It will enable readers to apply their energy and idealism in ways that are intended to foster the progressive growth and development of human society, while seeking to serve others in the spirit of the master seraphim. The approximately twelve participants appeared to understand why evangelizing the teachings of *The Urantia Book* is not and cannot be one of the endeavor's primary purposes, although it is reasonable to believe that some people who receive assistance and service will eventually take an interest in the teachings. This will be an indirect benefit, the outcome of personal cooperation and natural curiosity.

Barbara and Bob explained that just as the master seraphim do not seek public renown or play prominent outward roles in human society, readers of *The Urantia Book* who take part in the work of the Global Endeavor will likewise remain in the background. From this quiet and modest perspective, they will provide information,

assistance, counsel, and support for imaginative and innovative paths that may lead humanity toward the key advances that our current millennium requires. Readers who attended the presentation conducted lively discussion on how specific domains of human interest would match the structure of regional associations that the plan predicates, and on how its regional associations would inter-associate and cooperate on a global basis.

During the separate, Saturday-afternoon presentation that Barbara and Bob gave on the work of the master seraphim, the approximately ten participants took turns in reading section 6 of Paper 114 aloud, then gave close attention to how frequently each of the twelve corps of master seraphim has been rotated during the 2,000 years since Pentecost (as depicted in a table on page 5 of the study guide that is available on the committee's website). Thereafter, the participants divided into three small groups, so that each group could focus on a particular question drawn from the section of the study guide associated with origin, with history, or with destiny.

Although not everyone who attended the Saturday-afternoon session on the master seraphim had previously attended the Friday-evening presentation on the Global Endeavor, those who attended both sessions noticed the overlap and close relationship. After all, the work of the master seraphim is the spiritual model for the Global Endeavor, and both undertakings are aimed at encouraging the process of imagination and innovation that builds on individual initiative and personal insight. As a Solitary Messenger states: "The advances of true civilization are all born in this inner world of mankind. It is only the inner life that is truly creative" [1220:3 / 111:4.4].

Conference in Ireland

From August 24 to 26, 2012, about twenty-five readers of *The Urantia Book* affiliated with Urantia Association International (the UAI) held a regional conference at Caherdaniel, County Kerry, Ireland — a beautiful site on the western coast, immediately overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. Neal Waldrop had been delighted to accept the organizers' invitation to speak, and he was listed on the program. Unfortunately, however, last-minute cancellation of Neal's flight from Washington made it impossible for him to attend the conference. Three volunteers stepped forward to give the presentations in his place, and the Committee for the Global Endeavor commends them for their initiative and cooperation. In addition, Neal extends his particular

appreciation to Christopher Moseley and others who helped copy and assemble the hand-outs, so that each person who attended the conference could receive written material that explained both topics.

— Gary Rawlings, a member of the Committee for the Global Endeavor who lives in the United Kingdom, pointed out that the endeavor is now in its formative stages; therefore it amounts to a carefully crafted plan that we are currently explaining and discussing. On the other hand, the Global Endeavor is also a practical goal, for the committee and other readers of *The Urantia Book* who are committed to the plan firmly intend to bring the endeavor to life in the years to come. He emphasized that the initiative is entirely independent, so that the endeavor will not be part of any existing organization of readers of *The Urantia Book*. On the other hand, Gary also made it clear that there is certainly no conflict, for the personal experience and backgrounds of the various members of the committee include close association with Urantia Foundation, the UAI, or The Urantia Book Fellowship.

Gary answered a number of questions about the endeavor's organizational structure, which will mainly consist of regional associations composed of twelve working groups. In addition, two global bodies will ensure overall cooperation and harmony. Conference participants welcomed the endeavor's imaginative and innovative character, while commending the fact that the diverse roles and responsibilities that are described in the plan implicitly include some suitable opportunity for every committed reader of *The Urantia Book* who wishes to take part. In brief, the curiosity and active interest that participants displayed gives good reason to believe that when *The Urantia Book* has attracted the attention of a considerably larger number of readers who live in the United Kingdom and Ireland, quite a few of them will decide to establish a regional association in order to help promote the progressive growth of society and civilization in their two countries.

— Christopher Moseley of the United Kingdom and Sandra Burga-Cisneros of Switzerland gave a presentation on the work of the master seraphim, drawing on selected aspects of the 17-page study guide that each person received. Their presentation harmonized very closely with the conference's overall theme, "Be you perfect even as I am perfect." They led lively discussion of the fact that the master seraphim are actively operating in the world around us, while noting that their activities have important implications in our personal lives as well as in global affairs. In addition, Christopher and Sandra pointed out that the work of the master seraphim is the spiritual model for the Global Endeavor.

Meeting in Marseilles

On August 31, Neal Waldrop described the plan for the Global Endeavor to nine readers of *Le Livre d'Urantia* (the French translation of *The Urantia Book*) who assembled at the home of Johanna Beukers and Max Masotti in Marseilles. The fact that this meeting occurred was a milestone in itself, for Neal's presentation that day was the first group setting during which anyone had explained the Global Endeavor in any language other than English.

Participants commended and strongly supported the committee's desire to make sure that participation in the work of the Global Endeavor is as international as possible, so that even early activities will not be dominated by readers who reside in only one country. Vigorous discussion included questions and answers in which the participants examined:

- How the work of the Global Endeavor will compare with the ideals of social growth and development that the revelators enshrined in Part III of *The Urantia Book*.
- How the members of a substantive working group will relate to individuals and groups in society who pursue a particular discipline or profession.
- How devoted readers of *The Urantia Book* will be able to participate in the work of the Global Endeavor even if they do not have extensive education or experience in a field that a substantive working group addresses.
- Whether it is reasonable to believe that some people who benefit from the service and assistance provided by a particular working group will eventually take an interest in the teachings of the fifth epochal revelation, even though this outcome is only an indirect benefit (whereas the primary goal of the endeavor is to stimulate and promote the progressive growth and development of human society, while serving and assisting others in the spirit of the master seraphim).

Many of the participants expressed confidence that interest in the Global Endeavor will eventually lead to establishing a regional association for France and other European countries where French is spoken (Monaco, part of Belgium, and part of Switzerland). They believed, however, that this is not likely to occur during the endeavor's first few years and that the prospect will not be realistic until there are considerably more active readers of *Le Livre d'Urantia* than there are at present.

The Spanish translation

Since the French translation of the committee's documents was completed in 2011, Neal was able to distribute about ten pages of explanatory material during the meeting that occurred on August 31 in Marseilles. There has been considerable progress in translating the committee's documents into Spanish, and it is reasonable to believe that these efforts will conclude in late 2013 or during the first half of 2014.

Completion of the Spanish translation will be the gateway to a more intensive phase of the committee's efforts to promote interest in the Global Endeavor. This is because the committee will then be able to proceed in the environments where three different languages are spoken (English, French, and Spanish). Therefore the committee will need to devise ways to promote the project actively in Mexico, elsewhere in Latin America, and in Spain. In addition, the committee will seek to intensify its efforts in countries where readers of the fifth epochal revelation speak English or French.

NOTE: *The following question and answer draws on wording that the members of the Committee for the Global Endeavor have prepared for our own use — material that helps us answer personal inquiries. This particular answer makes it clear that patience and persistence are, and must be, the cornerstones and hallmarks of the plan for the Global Endeavor. In the final analysis, the endeavor is a framework for idealistic and altruistic service aimed at encouraging **the process of creativity and imagination** that will propel humanity throughout the current millennium of ceaseless changes, adjustments, and readjustments. At any given moment, initiatives and innovations that are constructive and helpful in one region may be premature or counterproductive elsewhere.*

QUESTION. The revelators who wrote Part III of *The Urantia Book* devoted quite a bit of effort to their portrayal of the evolution of human society up to now. In addition, they left us a range of inspirational ideals that human beings should act on. I assume that the main point of the substantive working groups is to assemble these inspiring thoughts and instruct human beings who are active in the corresponding fields how to carry them out.

ANSWER. Yes, the revelators left us a wide range of inspirational ideals, and participants in the endeavor will pay close attention to them all. On the other hand, this does not mean that participants will mine the teachings for practical insights that apply to specific fields of human activity and then seek to persuade individuals and groups who are active in those fields to proceed accordingly.

In the simplest terms, the Global Endeavor is not a framework for directing or instructing others, it is a framework for assisting and serving others. Participants in the Global Endeavor will foster the advance of society and civilization by seeking to stimulate and encourage an innovative and creative *process*, not by proposing or promoting specific actions. Yes, this ongoing process will conform to the general patterns that a Mighty Messenger explains in Paper 52, “Planetary Mortal Epochs,” and section 6 of that paper (“Urantia’s Post-Bestowal Age”) provides many insights that are particularly valuable.

On the other hand, no one can predict the specific steps that will be appropriate and necessary in each field of human life while society repeatedly regenerates itself over the next thousand years. Actions and measures will come and go, and

a particular step that is appropriate and useful in one region may be premature or disadvantageous in another. In contrast, the process of creativity and innovation must and will persist, and that will be the case in every region of the world throughout the entire millennium.

Within each region, the initiative to upgrade and uplift society must rest with those individuals and groups who are operating in any given field and who desire to improve it. These are the people whom a substantive working group should strive to serve and assist.

NOTE: This is the third in a series of articles that are introducing the members of the Committee for the Global Endeavor to the readers of this newsletter. Barbara Newsom, the person whose biographic information appears below, has served with energy and distinction since September 2004, longer than any member of the committee other than the chairman.

Barbara Newsom

Barbara Newsom resides in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, U.S.A., a western suburb of Chicago. She was born in August 1947 in Topeka, Kansas, U.S.A., the first of two children (one younger sister). She grew up in Kansas and mainly received her higher education at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kansas: B.A. in English, 1969 and M.A. in speech communications and human relations, 1973. In addition, she studied at the Spanish Language Institute in Barcelona, Spain (1968) and took a number of advanced courses in education at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, U.S.A. (1983-1984).

Barbara's extensive and diverse professional experiences have mainly consisted in imparting knowledge to others or in training them so as to augment their skills and capabilities. During her service as an instructor in the Department of Speech and Drama at the University of Kansas (1969-1974), she taught courses on beginning and advanced communications, human relations, and organizational development. She received the university's outstanding new instructor award in 1970, and in the same year began two years of service as a researcher and research director. These efforts were associated with the university's contract with the U.S. Department of Defense on disaster preparedness, especially in relation to potential disasters related to nuclear matters. These responsibilities included supervising a staff of five and travel in order to conduct research and give briefings.

In August 1974, Barbara moved to Berkeley, California, U.S.A., where she worked as a free-lance consultant on communications and management matters for most of the next four years. Her clients included training programs for various branches of the U.S. Government, and some of these professional relationships have continued to the present. In relation to the U.S. Navy, she expanded her interest in nuclear science and technology to include submarines; this led to her subsequent interest in commercial nuclear reactors and in nuclear quality assurance and safety. Her other clients also tended to be technical, including aviation, medical facilities in the private and public sectors, and financial institutions. For about six months of this four-year period, however, Barbara worked full time on the staff of Urantia Brotherhood at its headquarters in Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A., carrying out various analytical and administrative projects (August 1975 to early 1976).

Barbara and her former husband Mark Kulieke were married in 1977, and they subsequently settled in Evanston, Illinois, U.S.A. From August 1978 to August 1983, Barbara worked in the Chicago branch of the U.S. Government's Office of Personnel Management, where she served as a training manager but frequently functioned on teams that included personnel specialists and investigators. Barbara's work in directing the public relations curriculum increased her knowledge of radio, television, and print journalism. She supervised twelve program managers in a variety of disciplines, as well as administrative staff and individuals working on personal contracts. Another highlight of her activities during these years was to provide management training and consultant services to the space shuttle program at the Houston, Texas office of the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

Barbara's second period of work as a free-lance consultant on training and development matters began in September 1983 and continues to the present. Her first new client as a consultant was the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), a relationship that has now endured for 29 years. In part, Barbara developed customized training for NRC inspectors; the resulting courses were added to training programs for the inspection program throughout the United States, and Barbara still teaches these courses.

In May 1990, she began a long-term consulting assignment with the Commonwealth Edison Nuclear Division in the western suburbs of Chicago (an organization that is now called Exelon Nuclear). This included cooperation with a team of engineers while designing and giving beginning and advanced courses in quality assurance for the organization's internal auditors, causing Barbara to travel frequently to the organization's six nuclear power plants in the state of Illinois.

More recent career highlights included developing media training for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. When terrorists attacked the United States on September 11, 2001, Barbara was piloting the course at the Commission's headquarters in Rockville, Maryland, U.S.A. She spent the ensuing week advising managers and staff during the crisis, then traveled to the Commission's regional office in Texas to carry out additional efforts there.

Barbara also serves on the faculty of The Graduate School, a training institution of the U.S. Government that has operated for almost 90 years and that has assumed various training functions that were formerly carried out by the Office of Personnel Management. In 2005, Barbara received The Graduate School's Outstanding Faculty Award, a distinction that is presented annually to 15 persons out of its 1,500 instructors throughout the world.

Spiritual journey

Barbara's religious roots trace back to her upbringing in the Episcopal Church, a commitment that she has maintained throughout her life. During her senior year in high school, her mother invited her to attend a meeting with a woman who introduced them to *The Urantia Book*. Barbara's father also started attending a local study group along with them, thereby initiating a stimulating process of spiritual and intellectual growth that has inspired Barbara ever since. She visited the headquarters of Urantia Foundation and Urantia Brotherhood during the winter of 1971, while attending a meeting at the University of Chicago that pertained to an organizational internship. After she returned to her graduate studies at the University of Kansas, she helped start the study groups that became the Heart of America Society of The Urantia Book Fellowship and subsequently the Kansas City Association of Urantia Association International. As previously stated, Barbara worked for about six months on the staff of Urantia Brotherhood in Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A., in order to carry out analytical and administrative projects (August 1975 to early 1976). Later she worked for Urantia Foundation on tasks related to its history and archives, both as a volunteer and an employee (1976-1977).

While Barbara was married to Mark Kulieke (1977-1991), she and Mark pursued their interest in domestic and international travel, while visiting readers of *The Urantia Book* on every opportunity (including readers in the United Kingdom, Norway, Sweden, and Spain). In addition, Barbara became active in the First Society of Urantia Brotherhood and in its Executive Committee. During the mid-1980s, she was very uncomfortable with the internal conflicts that arose among readers and organizations associated with *The Urantia Book*, and she was glad that she

was living in Wisconsin when the crisis erupted in the summer of 1989. She and Mark decided that their role was to serve all readers cooperatively, to the extent that they could.

At various times, Barbara has served on the General Council of The Urantia Book Fellowship and as an active member of its committees on publications, special projects, and education, while planning for and helping to organize a number of study sessions and other special gatherings. In addition, Barbara serves as a founding director of The Urantia Book Historical Society. She has been an active member of the Greater Lake Michigan Urantia Association (GLMUA) since 2001, and she served on the planning committee for the 2011 Leadership Symposium sponsored by the UAI (the Urantia Association International).

Barbara met Neal Waldrop in March 2000, during a gathering in Chicago to celebrate Urantia Foundation's 50th anniversary, at which Neal spoke. Although their memories of that initial conversation are rather hazy now, Neal clearly formed a very favorable opinion of Barbara's insight and judgment. In August 2004, he invited her to join the drafting committee that was then developing and refining the initial ideas that formed the basis for the Global Endeavor. After Barbara familiarized herself with the underlying concept and the committee's initial work, she was very pleased to agree. Neal appointed her to the committee during the following month, and Barbara has served with distinction ever since.

Barbara has stated that because of her life-long interest in Urantia's planetary government, she is delighted to be serving the cause of the Global Endeavor, thereby helping the committee and other volunteers seek to model our efforts on the work of the master seraphim, while doing our best to help upgrade and improve society on our planet Urantia. During the summer 2012 study session that The Urantia Book Fellowship held at Techny Towers in the northern suburbs of Chicago, she and Robert "Bob" Debold (the committee's vice-chairman) gave joint presentations on the work of the master seraphim and on the committee's plans for the Global Endeavor. *(For details, see the article on pages 1 and 2 of this issue of the newsletter.)*

Comments are welcome

The Committee for the Global Endeavor welcomes your comments and suggestions, and we will be glad to respond to any questions that you may have. We recommend that you send your inquiries to the following E-mail address: info@globalendeavor.net .

We encourage you to bring the endeavor to the attention of other readers of *The Urantia Book*, in part by recommending that they read and reflect on the documents that are available on our website (*i.e.*, <http://www.globalendeavor.net>).

In spiritual friendship,

The Committee for the Global Endeavor

Neal Waldrop (chairman), Robert Debold (vice-chairman), François Brunet, István Hargitai, Robert Kalk, Barbara Newsom, and Gary Rawlings