
The Global Endeavor

Partnership for Growth

December 12, 2015 (Volume 5, No. 2)

WELCOME to the fall 2015 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.

As an introduction, here are the main topics that we are discussing in this issue:

- Welcoming a new member: Ms. Katharina Becker.
- The new logo design.
- Completing the Spanish translation.
- Recruiting one or more volunteers for website work.

Welcoming a new member: Ms. Katharina Becker

On November 9, the committee welcomed Ms. Katharina Becker of Peña Blanca, New Mexico, U.S.A. as a new alternate member. We are delighted at the diversity and very broad experience that Katharina brings to the committee, for she was raised in Bern, Switzerland and is fluent in German, French, and Italian as well as in English. In addition, Katharina has told us that she has a working knowledge of Spanish, while explaining that her comprehension is good but that she has a limited ability to express herself in that language.

Katharina's broad background in the field of education includes postgraduate studies in Switzerland and the United States, as well as diverse teaching and administrative responsibilities in secondary schools and universities in both countries. In 1980, she immigrated to the State of New Mexico in the U.S.A., a step that had a profound impact on her life. Just over twenty years later, a friend recommended *The Urantia Book*, and she has been a devoted reader ever since. In brief, the other members of the committee are convinced that Katharina will make major contributions, especially by helping ensure that we remain actively attuned to the Global Endeavor's international implications.

The new logo design

The draft logo design that the committee circulated as an attachment to the preceding issue of our newsletter (February 22, 2015) turned out to be highly controversial. On the one hand, quite a few persons expressed support for the basic approach, which featured

a rainbow and the image of a sailing ship from the age of exploration and discovery. These readers appear to have accepted the explanation that the committee offered at the time: We intended aspects of the design associated with the age of exploration and discovery to evoke *the ocean voyages* and the spirit of imagination, innovation, and creativity that the captains and navigators demonstrated during them — their desire to explore the unknown and to discover new realities.

A significant number of other readers, however, told us that for them, these praiseworthy goals and ideals were not the only impressions that came to mind when they viewed the image of the sailing ship from the 16th or 17th century. Unfortunately, they said, they could not entirely separate that particular image from the deplorable events that subsequently occurred on land — events that included systematic and pervasive mistreatment of native inhabitants of the western hemisphere, plus the great sin whereby ships of the next few centuries transported large numbers of innocent persons across the Atlantic Ocean in cruel and miserable conditions, then subjected those fellow human beings of African descent to oppressive chattel slavery that endured for many generations.

This second group of comments sent us back to the drawing board, for reactions along these lines were intensely incompatible with the committee's desire to symbolize the enthralling quest for new realities, meanings, and values that will be invented, discovered, and pursued by myriad pioneers, reformers, and other innovators during our immediate era and throughout the new millennium.

We have attached a revised edition of the document "Symbolism and intent" dated June 12, 2015, and we commend to you the new design. The underlying concept is essentially the same, for the new draft logo still depicts a sailing ship that is heading toward a rainbow. On the other hand, the image of the ship is very general and cannot be associated with any particular era. In a visual sense, the draft logo is clearer and stronger, and the words "THE GLOBAL ENDEAVOR" are larger and much more vivid.

We believe that the new design is a major improvement, and we hope that readers of this newsletter will agree with that. Please send your reactions and comments by means of our collective E-mail address: Info@GlobalEndeavor.Net.

Completing the Spanish translation

We are delighted to inform you that the Spanish translation of the committee's documents is essentially finished (more than 200 pages), although there remains a certain

amount of reformatting so as to reproduce the same general “look” and “feel” as in the original documents in English. After that, the committee will expand our modest website (<http://www.globalendeavor.net>) by adding a new home page in Spanish, and will post the corresponding documents so that readers of Spanish can download them. In the long run, it will be necessary for us to attract and recruit several committed readers of *El Libro de Urantia* who wish to become members of the Committee for the Global Endeavor, so that they will become catalysts and focal points for stimulating interest in their own countries and in nearby areas of Latin America.

These challenging goals are a necessary and crucial part of the path that will eventually lead to the founding convention. When we have been able to attract significant interest and support in many parts of Latin America, the expanded committee will then intensify efforts to stimulate or reinforce active interest in all three language environments (countries where the people speak English, French, or Spanish).

Recruiting one or more volunteers for website work

As the committee’s efforts continue to expand and diversify, our website — which is currently modest and basic — will have to embody additional features and capabilities. Therefore we hope that one or more readers with experience in website design and management will volunteer to help, on the understanding that the circumstances and conditions will be flexible. If this possibility attracts you, please send an E-mail message to Info@GlobalEndeavor.Net that contains the following elements:

- Locator information (your name, address, and your telephone number or numbers).
- Information about your background and experience related to website work (not necessarily in great detail).
- How you relate to the teachings of *The Urantia Book* and, if possible, your reactions to the ideals and goals that are associated with the Global Endeavor.

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.*

QUESTION. I have read quite a few pages you gave me, and the more I read the more I am puzzled. You have depicted a structure that seems to make sense, but you have not described any specific goals that the working groups should pursue during the first year, during the first ten years, or even at some point during the first thirty years. Since the revelators gave us many interesting ideas about how society needs to be upgraded and improved, you should bring all this down to earth. In very specific terms, what is it that you want each of the ten substantive working groups to achieve?

ANSWER. I am glad you asked this question, for it shows that I need to explain our basic purpose and intent. The Global Endeavor cannot possibly be aimed at achieving particular results in specific fields, for any specific initiative or proposal is appropriate and worthwhile if and only if it suits the circumstances at a particular time in a particular place. The endeavor is intended to encourage a *process* of creativity and imagination that will be needed in every region of the world throughout the entire millennium. Over the coming generations and centuries, new measures that embody major improvements in one field or another will eventually yield to further steps that no one could possibly foresee right now. A Melchizedek tells us:

Mechanical inventions and the dissemination of knowledge are modifying civilization; certain economic adjustments and social changes are imperative if cultural disaster is to be avoided. This new and oncoming social order will not settle down complacently for a millennium. The human race must become reconciled to a procession of changes, adjustments, and readjustments. Mankind is on the march toward a new and unrevealed planetary destiny. [A Melchizedek, 1086:4 / 99:1.1]

If I go back to the question you asked and consider the underlying psychology, your question seems to reflect the perspective of an “alpha male.” I say that without any desire to be dismissive or critical, for the viewpoints of an alpha

male make very substantial contributions to many human activities. On the other hand, these viewpoints are antithetical to this plan and to the psychological premises it embodies. On page 419 of *The Urantia Book*, a Melchizedek tells us:

Though seraphim are very affectionate and sympathetic beings, they are not sex-emotion creatures. They are much as you will be on the mansion worlds, where you will “neither marry nor be given in marriage but will be as the angels of heaven.” For all who “shall be accounted worthy to attain the mansion worlds neither marry nor are given in marriage; neither do they die any more, for they are equal to the angels.” Nevertheless, in dealing with sex creatures it is our custom to speak of those beings of more direct descent from the Father and the Son as the sons of God, while referring to the children of the Spirit as the daughters of God. Angels are, therefore, commonly designated by feminine pronouns on the sex planets. [*A Melchizedek, 419:2 / 38:2.2*]

This paragraph is interesting in itself, but I have called it to your attention because it has a practical meaning for us. Here are three points that make the logical connection:

1. In speaking of a master seraphim or of any other angel, we must say “she” or “her,” not “he” or “him.”
2. As previously noted, the endeavor’s spiritual model is the work of the master seraphim.
3. Therefore a predominantly female perspective is an integral part of the endeavor, a key feature that all of us should understand.

Here is the bottom line for our purposes: The work of the endeavor, like the work of the master seraphim, is best understood from perspectives that have traditionally been considered feminine — a disposition to serve, assist, and support without manifesting an active effort to direct, dominate, or control.

NOTE: *This is the fifth in a series of articles that are introducing the members of the Committee for the Global Endeavor to the readers of this newsletter.* In November 2009, Gary Rawlings (the person whose biographic information appears below) became the first member of the committee who resides in a country outside North America. He has served with dedication and great energy every since.*

Gary Rawlings

Gary Rawlings was born in March 1947 in Monmouthshire, South Wales, the United Kingdom. He descends from Huguenot ancestors (French Protestants) who left France starting in 1658, in the context of an official policy of discrimination against Protestants that sometimes amounted to persecution. His mother was deeply religious. Although his father attended regular services, his interest was not as intense. In a philosophic sense, however, his father was quite troubled by the spiritual implications of World War II: Why had God allowed such catastrophic destruction to occur?

Gary attended a secondary school in South Wales and received the certificate of education. Thereafter, he studied at Newport Technical College in Newport, South Wales, obtaining a full technological certificate in Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Production.

Professional background

Ever since 1990, Gary has been the Managing Director of Nataim UK Ltd. or of its organizational predecessor. This enterprise provides engineering services associated with a wide range of capabilities benefiting the public (*e.g.*, housing, water, sanitation, sewage, solar power, and facilities associated with education or sports), or that relate to public infrastructure such as the London Underground. These capabilities and interests have enabled Gary and his company to undertake numerous projects, both in the UK and in a wide range of other countries. Before 1990, he worked in various project management positions, including assignments in the Middle East that yielded considerable practical experience (*e.g.*, in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Oman).

* The previous biographic articles appeared in the issues dated June 6, 2010 (Neal Waldrop), May 28, 2011 (Robert "Bob" Debold), November 12, 2012 (Barbara Newsom), and April 2, 2014 (François Brunet).

Gary's work experience has given him broad and deep insight into the most effective and most productive methods for interacting with people of different nationalities and different social and cultural backgrounds. In Gary's view, the key ingredients are integrity, reliability, and mutual respect — traits and resources that make it possible to cooperate with a wide range of other human beings so as to serve their needs and benefit everyone concerned.

Finding *The Urantia Book*

In 2002, while Gary was working on a project pertaining to the London Underground, he attended an exhibition and met an optometrist who was a U.S. citizen — an entrepreneur who was marketing sunglasses featuring lenses that could be rotated up or down. This new friend pushed a copy of *The Urantia Book* across the table toward Gary and told him that he needed to buy it for 16 British pounds so that he could proceed to read it. Gary's first reaction was to reply that he normally does not have the time to read books, but the man persisted: "You need to buy this one, and you need to read it too. If you sample it for a while and find that you really do not want to keep it, I will take it back and will give you a full refund."

Gary decided to take a chance. When he had read about 100 pages, however, he telephoned the man and asked him for a refund, as he had promised. The optometrist, however, urged Gary to keep reading for a while; he was confident that Gary would soon encounter some passage that would ring true and make excellent sense. This prediction proved to be accurate, for Gary reacted that way when he reached the data page outlining how the superuniverses are composed of local universes and an enormous number of inhabited planets (*i.e.*, on page 167 of the single-column edition, which falls within section 2 of Paper 15). Thereafter Gary read ten to twenty pages per day until he finished.

In 2003, Gary met Chris Moseley at a book fair in London. He made arrangements with Chris to sell copies of *The Urantia Book* himself, drawing on a stock that Chris maintained by a standing arrangement with Urantia Foundation. In 2006, however, Gary bought his own supply of 200 copies, after which he arranged to meet with a person on the staff of the UK prison association. Gary then followed up by sending a copy of *The Urantia Book* to 42 prisons located in the UK.

Ongoing active effort

Gary attends study group meetings in London and in Reading. Ever since 2003, he has been the President of the Urantia Association of the United Kingdom and Ireland. In that capacity, he has organized summer conferences and has funded booths at public events where more than 500 copies of *The Urantia Book* were sold.

In addition, Gary has been an active member of the Urantia Association International (UAI) since 2003. For the period of ten years that ended in June 2015, he served as the UAI's Membership Chair. In part, he participated in chartering local UAI associations in Belgium, the Dominican Republic, Malawi, the Netherlands, South Korea, Sweden, Ukraine, and Zambia.

Gary met Neal Waldrop in July 2008 at a conference held in Leavenworth, Kansas and sponsored by the U.S. branch of the UAI. Neal's presentation explaining the key premises and features of the Global Endeavor clearly captured Gary's attention. During dinner, while sitting across from Neal at a large round table, Gary told him that he would like to do whatever he could to promote the work of the Global Endeavor. Neal initially interpreted that as a polite and casual remark, but followed up with Gary and discovered that Gary's interest in the Global Endeavor was quite serious indeed. In November 2009, after completing intensive training and a personal interview conducted in a hotel adjacent to one of the airports that serves Washington, DC, Gary became a dedicated and energetic member of the Committee for the Global Endeavor.

The philosophy and premises of the Global Endeavor harmonize very well with Gary's basic approach to the ideas and insights that the revelators have shared with us: slow and methodical efforts aimed at acting on the teachings instead of just reading them.

Personal background

Gary and his very supportive wife Elizabeth were married in 1971; they have two daughters and four grandchildren. When time and circumstances permit, Gary and Elizabeth enjoy taking vacations together, especially in Egypt.

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, Barbara Newsom, Gary Rawlings, and Katharina Becker (alternate member)