



A.L.L.

August 2010 Newsletter *From the Association for Light and Life*

“Welcome to change!” The August Issue of the Light and Life Newsletter will be delivered to the ALL website for the on-line membership *and* to your mailbox *personally* for the many members that are not subscribed to the members list. Having Members-at-Large provides ALL the freedom to expand and grow, which is necessary and vital for any organization or social organism. Check your spam filters to be assured that the ALL newsletter will be delivered to your mailbox on the first of each month. If you have photos or news items you wish to submit for publication and distribution, or if at any time you want to stop receiving the ALL Newsletter, contact the ALL Newsletter Editor, Gerdean O’Dell at www.Gerdean@cableone.net. Enjoy!

The ALL Council

is composed of Dolores Nice (Presiding Officer); Eugenia Bryan; Rick Giles (Treasurer and Secretary); Jael Regis; Marty Greenhut; Angus Bowen; and Judy Langston

ALL Beneficiaries:

Ron Besser, for TMArchives and Starbridge Trust; **Bob Devine** for Common Ground, with **Lily Frasier, Mark Turnbull and Mark Austin;** **Norman Ingram** to get the UB into Peru and Cuba; **Judy Langston** on behalf of Inter-faith Fellowship; **Harp of God** on behalf of *Lessons on Prayer*; **Gerdean O’Dell** to kick start Canossian Retreat

ALL Gatherings:

Bogus Basin, UT, 2004
Canossian, NM, 2005
Canossian, NM, 2006
Santa Barbara, CA, 2007
Unity Village, MO, 2008
Taos, NM, 2009
Dayspring, FL, 2010

Mission Receivers

By Richard Omura

The Second Coming. An Avonal Son visitation. The Urantia Book says these things will happen. Not a question of if, but when. There are many readers who believe that it may happen soon. Wishful thinking? Or a premonition of things to come?

Do I take this claim from The Urantia Book on faith or do I have any other evidence that a mission will happen? The only other evidence I have is internal. During my worshipful meditations I frequently get this feeling that something big is going to happen. In fact, I’ve had this feeling all my life that I am going to be a part of something huge and extraordinary.

I am getting leadings from within that tell me that whether it’s going to happen in my lifetime or thereafter, we should prepare for it now. In truth, I feel that after I made the decision to dedicate my will to do the Father’s will, I have been led into fields of endeavors that would facilitate helping such a celestial teacher upon his/her advent on Earth. I have been following my inner guidance which has been leading me toward writing books and screenplays, making presentations and workshops, researching into publicity, appearing in the media, door to door canvassing, public speaking and performing, networking and more. I often wondered why I was being guided towards these things. Am I being trained for something?

I am wondering if others have had the same experiences. Do you feel sometimes as if you are being trained for something really big?

In the past Epochal Revelations, there usually were people on Earth that the celestial teachers could count on to help with earthly matters; groups of people with the necessary experiences which the celestials could use to facilitate their mission. Jesus had John the Baptist as well as his own family and a community rich in religious tradition and hungry for new truth. Melchizedek had Abraham and a strong military/economic/social infrastructure to work with. Adam and Eve had the foundations of an Earthly civilization laid down by Caligastia (although the rebellion degraded it) and Caligastia had the benefit of the existing races made possible by the Life Carriers. As civilization progressed, it seems the celestials needed more participation from the natives. Even The Urantia Book needed a group of people to make possible the printing and publication of the book, plus it was necessary to use concepts in the book that were written by humans first before new concepts were introduced. Some people think The Urantia Book is only half the revelation, that it will be followed soon by a celestial personage. My inner leadings point heavily towards that idea.

It is my thought that if and when a celestial teacher visits us, he or she is going to need help from humans. The teacher is not going to miraculously zap people and enlighten them. They are going to teach like Jesus taught, organically, using the medium that is commonly used in that society. In Jesus' times this meant walking around talking with people one to one or in front of a group. In modern times, this could mean everything from personal face to face

meetings to large gatherings to presentations and appearances on television, film, internet, etc., with all the problems and difficulties that entails.

So a celestial visitation, whether it is the return of Jesus or an Avonal Son, is going to need a team of capable, determined, and service oriented human beings to facilitate his/her mission, to provide information on using the media, to weave through the laws and protocols, to pound the pavement, to organize other humans, and to act as supporters necessary for such a large undertaking. What I envision is a corps of human "Mission Receivers."

I am getting inner leadings that tell me it is time we should gather and organize such a corps of loyal receivers so that when the celestial teacher arrives, he/she can hit the ground running, so to speak.

Who would comprise this corps? We need doers. People who have a track record of doing service and have an ongoing and regular connection with the Father. People who have a personal religion of experience rather than followers of a religion of authority. People who have used their understanding of high spiritual concepts and their dedication to doing the Father's business to further their own work – whether it is in business, the arts, law and government, health and medicine, religion, science, economics, etc., because the celestial teacher would need assistance from humans that are conversant in all human fields of endeavor in order to spread the new message, whatever that may be, to all levels of human society. But I think it is important that these people have real life experiences in being an instrument of God.

I am guessing that there are such people, people who have an inner connection and

have been led to being trained for just such a mission. Maybe some have heard the call but did not follow through. Others have heard the call and are answering it. If you feel that you are the latter, please let me know what you think of this idea.

How would it be organized and what would we do in the meantime to prepare for an advent of such a celestial personality?

It would be organized very loosely, with little or no bureaucratic structure, like a loving family. For the most part the individuals in the group would go about their daily lives following their inner leadings, but possibly once a year we would host a gathering. This gathering (or conference) would be not only to fellowship and to share notes and experiences in our common goal of gaining experience in spreading the message, but also to have us all in one place at least once a year, so that if a celestial wants to contact us, we would all be accessible immediately.

I can't do this all by myself. If this vision is more than a fantasy and I am not just having delusions of grandeur, there should be others who have been similarly led. If you are one of those, please follow your inner guidance and get back to me with your thoughts on how you can help.

I am being led from within to write this proposal. I am only sending this out to a select few, people whom I know personally and feel that they may have the requisite interest and qualifications. If this speaks to you, please let me know and we will proceed as the spirit leads.

Thanks for your time.

In loving service,
Richard Omura

Hello Friends and UB Family,

I am looking for a list of readers/Study Group (SG) in Ohio, and especially in the Cincinnati area. Can anyone help me? Another reader relocated there from a large Metropolitan area and is looking for others in a SG or interested in starting a new one.

Plus any and all who are interested in starting SGs in their areas, please let me know since we are all agreeing to work together to help create as many new groups as possible for the 1000 study group initiative starting this summer. There will be support from various leaders and the Study Group Leaders Network to help anyone who wants to start a group in their area. At The United Urantia Family Festival, we agreed to three things: First one is to pray for each other. The second was to create a list of Study Groups that was accessible to readers regardless of what organization they are connected with currently. And lastly, to refuse to bad mouth any of the organizations publically anymore. Even if you were not part of that group voting, I hope that you will honor these three agreements also.

The Zebedee Messenger E-News letter will be posting all the new groups we hear about this year - if they are willing to let others know about their whereabouts. I would like to ask everyone to please support us in this effort. If you are not receiving emails from me at circles606@gmail.com and want to be in the know, please send me an email with your name, email, city and state, or province and country. Phone numbers are always welcomed as well. Our database currently is at around 5000 persons. Please let us include you. Or, you can just drop me a Facebook message as well.

Thanks,
Christilyn Larson

Judgement or Observation?

A commentary by
Neale Donald Walsch

My dear friends..

I've decided that I have to stop confusing the simple act of observation with negativity.

Some people, in an effort to not "put any negative energy into the space," refuse to say anything about anybody or anything that could be construed as being negative in any way. And if anyone else says anything about any person, place, or thing that is not wholly positive, many people will criticize the speaker for "spreading negative energy."

Soon, a certain dogmatism springs up around all this, and suddenly it becomes unacceptable in some "new age" circles to do anything but smile 16 hours a day and say nothing but positive things about everything. In these circles, when someone offers the least little comment, prediction, or description that is less than totally positive, someone else is sure to say, "Are you wanting to create that?", or "Why are you creating that?"

(Example: "Gosh, I have a real headache this morning." "Well, why are you creating that?")

After a while, people feel so hogtied, they feel so straight-jacketed, that they're afraid to say anything about *anythinganything* unless they can glow from head to toe with positivity.

I call this a New Age Bypass. It's psychic surgery, on the psyche itself. It can also turn into a game of "make-crazy," where people can't even objectively describe something they're seeing right in front of their face without running the risk of being labeled a "downer," or a "negative thinker."

("The stock market certainly had a bad day."
"Well, aren't you the downer...")

Yet an Observation is not a Judgment, and a Description is not a Condemnation. We would benefit a great deal from noticing the difference.

It is perfectly okay to say "The rain is coming" when, in fact, you can smell it in the air. I remember a day a few years ago where I was at a huge picnic, with about 40 or 50 people attending, when one of the guests happened to say, "Looks like it's going to rain." His wife nearly had a conniption fit. "Don't SAY that!" she snapped. "Are you trying to MAKE it rain?"

Now I understand perfectly well that we create our own reality, and I have read all the messages of *Conversations with God* and virtually every other New Spirituality text that is out there that says we do so with the triplet tools of thought, word, and deed. I know all about the As-You-Speak-It, So-*Shall-It-Be* school of thought on this subject. I *belong* to that school. But does that mean that we cannot even offer a simple observation, bereft of any judgment or announcement of preference, about what we are experiencing in our lives?

Of course not. Saying "oh-oh, it looks like rain" does not mean that you are at cause-and thus, at fault-when the rains come. It simply means that you are observing what is going on around you. It means that you are aware. And awareness is one of the greatest attributes that any person could develop.

The message here is: do not substitute passivity for discernment; do not--in the name of "positivity"--insert total blindness where once there was keen observation. Covering your ears does not make the wind howl any less, and putting your head in the sand does not make danger disappear.

The ability to observe the environment around us, the ability to discern one thing from another, is what comes with evolving to a higher level of consciousness. Observation is the act of seeing something; it is the simple act of witnessing without assessing. Discernment is the act of differentiation; it is the simple act of telling one thing from another.

Observation is a statement that says "what's so." Judgment is a statement that says "so what"? As sentient beings, humans have a desire to notice what is going on around them. Indeed, they have a *responsibility* to do so.

When you consciously and deliberately stop noticing something because you "don't want to put negative energy into the space," you forfeit your most precious gift as a creative being: the gift of *deciding*. You cannot decide what you want, you cannot consciously choose your own future, if you are refusing to look at what is true so far.

I'm going to keep on working to remove judgment and condemnation from my experience, but I shall never remove observation and discernment. The teaching is, "Judge not, and neither condemn," it is not, "Observe not, and neither discern."

Love and Hugs,
Neale.

“Urantia is now quivering on the very brink of one of its most amazing and enthralling epochs of social readjustment, moral quickening, and spiritual enlightenment.”

Urantia Paper 194, §9, ¶2, Pg. 2082

IF IT BE YOUR WILL

By Leonard Cohen

If it be your will
That I speak no more
And my voice be still
As it was before
I will speak no more
I shall abide until
I am spoken for
If it be your will

If it be your will
That a voice be true
From this broken hill
I will sing to you
From this broken hill
All your praises they shall ring
If it be your will
To let me sing
From this broken hill
All your praises they shall ring
If it be your will
To let me sing

If it be your will
If there is a choice
Let the rivers fill
Let the hills rejoice
Let your mercy spill
On all these burning hearts in hell
If it be your will
To make us well

And draw us near
And bind us tight
All your children here
In their rags of light
In our rags of light
All dressed to kill
And end this night
If it be your will

If it be your will.

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The Fellowship Herald

Published by the Urantia Fellowship, in its Summer 2010 issue, lead article, The World is NOT Coming to an End, aka Leadership and the Revelators' Plans, Carolyn Kendall and Barbara Newsom, highlight seven principles, digested here as follows:

1. The Urantia Book “is probably not a finished revelation – an end in itself; but rather a precursor – the first stage of an on-going revelatory process that will continue to unfold in future years.”
2. “The book is the joint effort of a vast range of authors, from Paradise-origin beings down to midwayers native to our world.”
3. The text was communicated to a *human Contact Commission* through an unnamed *human Contact Personality*.” The process began in 1925 and was published in 1955.
4. This section discusses planetary dispensations and is quite lengthy. It will best be served by your own study, but it seems to point to the fact that the circuits could be poised to open very soon.
5. Indeed, “the next visitation” is the fifth point. We can expect somebody to show up sooner or later. It will happen.
6. This section is quite exciting. It excerpts selections delivered by the Revelatory Commission that puts the Urantia Papers in perspective and goes on to talk about the “small groups of spirit-led men and women throughout the world – among all nations” having “to do with the rehabilitation of the world following the ending of the present distressing conflicts” and inviting complete commitment, dedicated intention, resolute purpose and refusal to compromise.

7. The authors assume that The Urantia Book is the first phase of a two-stage epochal revelation and that we must be ready for the advent of a Magisterial Son and the possibility of a return visit by Michael.

The Forum was directed to “train leaders and teachers” and to “establish thousands of study groups” so that the supernal teachings can be assimilated. The authors construe the admonition that the next “demonstration of righteousness” to be a visitation, visible to our eyes, and confirming the lessons of The Urantia Book.

This stimulating article coincides with the 1000 study group initiative starting this summer through the Study Group Readers Network on Facebook, as referenced by Christilyn Larson (article on Page 3). It is encouraging to see how closely the UB Fellowship and the Team coincide in their overall philosophies. Perhaps they are an example of the regent’s earlier notice:

- a. “For five hundred years, from February 11, 1935, the overall welfare and direction of The Urantia Book is placed in the hands of the Seraphim of Progress.”
- b. “The immediate fostering of the Urantia revelation – from decade to decade – (at least for the next one hundred years) will be entrusted to the Seraphim of the Churches. I have instructed this group to create a special commission to carry on this work.”

No Badmouthing Other Groups

It is tempting to join in the fray of jeering and ridiculing those who are different from us, but we could go so far, such a long way, toward social harmony if we could break the habit of badmouthing others.

FINDING YOUR LIFE'S MEANING

Rev. Leland Stewart, B.S.E., B.T.
Unity-and-Diversity World Fellowship

We live in a time of rapid change, serious economic challenges, and identity crises for many people. We are also witnessing countless individuals in some other countries and in our own who seem bent on destroying our existing society rather than creating a new and better one. What kind of God, called by any name or no name, can help us move through these tremendous challenges?

If we are one of the fortunate ones who has either maintained our present vocation or found a new one with which to manage our lives and pay our bills, is that all we are asked to do at this time? If we cannot find work, then what does that tell us about life and how we are to proceed in the immediate future?

The time in which we live is asking us to simplify our lives, to live according to the highest ethical standards possible, and to come to terms with the Source of All Life, called by any name or no name. In seeking work, look for something that expresses our passion. Do not be satisfied with anything that drags us down but listen to our inner voice and seek to express our true Beingness. At the same time, tune into our capacity to be alive, creative, and human in the best sense of the term. Instead of complaining about what we have or what we are asked to do, look for the best in each moment and turn it into an expression of our highest selves.

If you feel that you have been wronged, express yourself in a creative way that will turn antagonism into positive response and

meaningful change. Be the change that you would like to see in the world, as Mahatma Gandhi has said. Instead of blaming someone for what is happening, look at what you can do to improve the situation. If people see that you do care and want to see things working out for the better, they will tend to be on your side and to help you succeed in your endeavor.

Yesterday I took part in an interfaith Peace Pilgrimage to Mount Baldy, which is just north of Claremont, California. I discovered that, even though I had ridden the two ski lifts to get as close as possible to where the meetings were being held, there was still a considerable distance to go, much of which was steep and with danger lurking along the often narrow path. The longer I walked, the more I found that I was reaching the limit of my capacity to travel to the top safely and with the energy I had left. Noticing my age and limited capacity to handle this situation, a fellow climber decided to stay with me in whatever direction I needed to go and to see that I made it back to our starting point without injury. He was not asked to render this service, but he chose to do so of his own freewill. What could have been a cause for injury or possible loss of life became a rewarding time of sharing and developing friendship.

My point is that we all have the opportunity to turn challenge into opportunity. What seems like a hardship can be turned into a chance to enrich life and perhaps to find a new kind of energetic for the future of our own life. We need to be sensitive to these opportunities and to be willing to change in order for them to happen. In this world of many difficulties, we can find the path to personal enrichment and peace with the world.

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THE SEVENTH BESTOWAL COMMISSION

Every year on August 21, Urantia Book readers around the world acknowledge the birth of the Creator Son. The circumstances of his birth are often highlighted during the Christmas season, but it behooves us to also know something of the pre-bestowal charge of Immanuel to the universe ruler who subsequently became Jesus of Nazareth (Christ Michael) on Urantia, which follows:

120:1.1 "My Creator brother, I am about to witness your seventh and final universe bestowal. Most faithfully and perfectly have you executed the six previous commissions, and I entertain no thought but that you will be equally triumphant on this, your terminal sovereignty bestowal. Heretofore you have appeared on your bestowal spheres as a fully developed being of the order of your choosing. Now you are about to appear upon Urantia, the disordered and disturbed planet of your choice, not as a fully developed mortal, but as a helpless babe. This, my comrade, will be a new and untried experience for you. You are about to pay the full price of bestowal and to experience the complete enlightenment of the incarnation of a Creator in the likeness of a creature.

120:1.2 "Throughout each of your former bestowals you have voluntarily chosen to subject yourself to the will of the three Paradise Deities and their divine inter-associations. Of the seven phases of the will of the Supreme you have in your previous bestowals been subject to all but the personal will of your Paradise Father. Now that you have elected to be wholly subject to your Father's will throughout your seventh bestowal, I, as the personal representative of our Father, assume the unqualified jurisdiction of your universe for the time of your incarnation.

120:1.3 "In entering upon the Urantia bestowal, you have voluntarily divested yourself of all extra-planetary support and special assistance such as might be rendered by any creature of your own creation. As your created sons of Nebadon are wholly dependent upon you for safe conduct throughout their universe careers, so now must you become wholly and unreservedly dependent upon your Paradise Father for safe conduct throughout the unrevealed vicissitudes of your ensuing mortal career. And when you shall have finished this bestowal experience, you will know in very truth the full meaning and the rich significance of that faith-trust which you so unvaryingly require all your creatures to master as a part of their intimate relationship with you as their local universe Creator and Father.

120:1.4 "Throughout your Urantia bestowal you need be concerned with but one thing, the unbroken communion between you and your Paradise Father; and it will be by the perfection of such a relationship that the world of your bestowal, even all the universe of your creation, will behold a new and more understandable revelation of your Father and my Father, the Universal Father of all. Your concern, therefore, has only to do with your personal life on Urantia. I will be fully and efficiently responsible for the security and unbroken administration of your universe from the moment of your voluntary relinquishment of authority until you return to us as Universe Sovereign, confirmed by Paradise, and receive back from my hands, not the vicegerent authority which you now surrender to me, but, instead, the supreme power over, and jurisdiction of, your universe.

120:1.5 "And that you may know with assurance that I am empowered to do all that

I am now promising (knowing full well that I am the assurance of all Paradise for the faithful performance of my word), I announce to you that there has just been communicated to me a mandate of the Ancients of Days on Uversa which will prevent all spiritual jeopardy in Nebadon throughout the period of your voluntary bestowal. From the moment you surrender consciousness, upon the beginning of the mortal incarnation, until you return to us as supreme and unconditional sovereign of this universe of your own creation and organization, nothing of serious import can happen in all Nebadon. In this interim of your incarnation, I hold the orders of the Ancients of Days which unqualifiedly mandate the instantaneous and automatic extinction of any being guilty of rebellion or presuming to instigate insurrection in the universe of Nebadon while you are absent on this bestowal. My brother, in view of the authority of Paradise inherent in my presence and augmented by the judicial mandate of Uversa, your universe and all its loyal creatures will be secure during your bestowal. You may proceed upon your mission with but a single thought—the enhanced revelation of our Father to the intelligent beings of your universe.

120:1.6 "As in each of your previous bestowals, I would remind you that I am recipient of your universe jurisdiction as brother-trustee. I exercise all authority and wield all power in your name. I function as would our Paradise Father and in accordance with your explicit request that I thus act in your stead. And such being the fact, all this delegated authority is yours again to exercise at any moment you may see fit to requisition its return. Your bestowal is, throughout, wholly voluntary. As a mortal incarnate in the realm you are without celestial endowments, but all your relinquished power may be had at any time

you may choose to reinvest yourself with universe authority. If you should choose to reinstate yourself in power and authority, remember, it will be wholly for *personal* reasons since I am the living and supreme pledge whose presence and promise guarantee the safe administration of your universe in accordance with your Father's will. Rebellion, such as has three times occurred in Nebadon, cannot occur during your absence from Salvington on this bestowal. For the period of the Urantia bestowal the Ancients of Days have decreed that rebellion in Nebadon shall be invested with the automatic seed of its own annihilation.

120:1.7 "As long as you are absent on this final and extraordinary bestowal, I pledge (with Gabriel's co-operation) the faithful administration of your universe; and as I commission you to undertake this ministry of divine revelation and to undergo this experience of perfected human understanding, I act in behalf of my Father and your Father and offer you the following counsel, which should guide you in the living of your earth life as you become progressively self-conscious regarding the divine mission of your continued sojourn in the flesh:

Immanuel outlines the bestowal limitations, and offers further counsel and advice.

“Then immediately, in the presence of all Salvington assembled, Michael removed himself from our midst, and we saw him no more in his accustomed place until his return as the supreme and personal ruler of the universe, subsequent to the completion of his bestowal career on Urantia.”

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Thanks for coming, Michael. Come again!

Principles

There is a principle of survival of the fittest which operates in the social and spiritual sphere as certainly as it does in the biological.

Ideas and ideals are severely tested by the processes of history and they are sifted and sorted in the mighty winnowings of the ages.

It is so, too, with religious sects. They meet great days of judgment. No archangel's trumpet is blown. No visible assizes are set up in the sky.

But the day of judgment moves on none the less in its siftings, and lo, the sect that has no significant mission for humanity disappears. Its crown is removed and its name is forgotten.

The process is a long, slow one, but it is irresistible, far more so than inquisitions and heresy tribunals.

It can be taken for granted that all useless and petty sects with their infallible certainties about airy nothings will be weeded out by laws which execute themselves, if men can be patient to let these laws work.

~Rufus M. Jones
an American Quaker, author of a 1931 book,
A Preface for Christian Faith in a New Age

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There is a principle which is a bar against all information, which is proof against all arguments and which cannot fail to keep a man in everlasting ignorance – that principle is contempt prior to investigation.”

~ Herbert Spencer
19th Century Philosopher

Potpourri

- ✓ Byron Belitsos' reprint of Donna D'Ingillo's book *Teach Us to Love* is now available at www.originpress.com.
- ✓ Angus and Gerdean O'Dell Bowen's book *Spirits of Promise* is available at www.HarpofGod.org/bookstore.htm.
- ✓ Work is proceeding with Jena Pittmon on the redesign of the Association for Light and Life website. It will include a photo array of ALL retreats and conferences; an archive of the ALL newsletters; and links to ALL members and associates' web services.
- ✓ The Teaching Mission Network moves ahead with uncommon vigor towards a 501©3 status under the guidance of Jim Cleveland, with Marty Risacher, Karen Roberts, Mark and Mary Rogers, Henry Zeringue, Deborah Goldman, Gerdean O'Dell and Mary Livingston, as co-administrators and contacts that include Peri Best and Sonny Schneider in British Columbia; Barry Bartlett in New Zealand, JoiLin and Eric Johnson in North Carolina, Donna D'Ingillo and Patijie Mills in Florida, David and Susan Butterfield, and Oliver Duex in Costa Rica, Gerald Dalton and Byron Belitsos in California. More are anticipated. Plans for a website with audio and visual broadcasts are pending.

This is your newsletter. Use it to develop your service projects by letting the Editor know what you are involved in so it can be featured. You can copy the newsletter and use it to market your work. The Association for Light and Life serves people who serve others in the ways they are best suited.

That's ALL folks!