
The Global Endeavor

Partnership for Growth

November 17, 2008 (Volume 1, No. 1)

WELCOME to the first issue 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 gathers momentum.

The Global Endeavor represents a major initiative of readers of *The Urantia Book* who will seek to put the teachings of the revelators into practice in order to benefit all humanity, regardless of the philosophic convictions, spiritual perspectives, and religious beliefs of the other human beings whom participants will serve. We the members of the committee understand that progress will be gradual and slow. After all, the plan is global in design, but in practice the endeavor will start small and will develop bit by bit.

Urantia is the planet where our beloved Creator Son Christ Michael lived his bestowal life in the physical form and personal identity of Jesus of Nazareth. In other words, Urantia is the only planet in Nebadon where Michael has appeared, or will appear, as a mortal of the realm. Thus it is entirely reasonable for us to believe that our sovereign Master Son has planned an extraordinary destiny for Urantia. To be sure, we the people of Urantia have an exceedingly challenging path to pursue before Urantia can become a role model for any other inhabited planet! Nonetheless, it is our role — and our responsibility — to do whatever we can to overcome these difficulties on the planet where we were born.

A Mighty Messenger tells us that our world is “a full dispensation and more behind the average planetary schedule” [593:5 / 52:3.6]. From that perspective, you can look on the Global Endeavor as an effort to help humanity overcome and efface the disastrous consequences of the Lucifer rebellion and Caligastia betrayal. Since the essential objective is to foster higher levels of human civilization, the endeavor embodies spiritual perspectives but is not predominantly religious.

Readers of *The Urantia Book* who decide to participate in the work of the Global Endeavor will seek to serve, assist, and inspire individuals and groups in society who want to upgrade their own pursuits or professions. Participants will operate modestly and quietly, staying well in the background. They will not advance or advocate their own proposals, just as the master seraphim do not descend to earth with flaming swords in order to slice fire stations in half, dig drainage ditches, or build highways. No, the master seraphim never “beam down” to the material plane of our planet.

Instead, they most appropriately leave these matters — and innumerable others that are immensely more important — to the imperfect but evolving discretion and judgment of human beings. We the people of Urantia are responsible for mobilizing our own imagination and creativity in ways that can contribute to the growth of the Supreme, and the master seraphim fully respect the sovereignty of human free will.

The work of the master seraphim is our spiritual model. Therefore participants will show the same respect for the free will, the viewpoints, and the personal inclinations of every human being whom they aspire to assist and serve. After all, "to assist" does not mean to give orders, and "to serve" does not mean to instruct.

Disseminating the teachings of *The Urantia Book* is not the main purpose of the Global Endeavor. On the other hand, it is reasonable to believe that idealistic service and assistance will cause some people to take an interest in the teachings. This will be an indirect benefit, the outcome of personal cooperation and natural curiosity.

The endeavor's independent status

The Global Endeavor will amount to a new option, an additional path that may be attractive to readers of *The Urantia Book* who appreciate the opportunity to act on the teachings to benefit their fellow man. The path of idealistic service that is described in the plan will operate in parallel to study groups and in parallel to social organizations. This new path is neither a substitute nor a competitor, and it requires a very different kind of active engagement. In an organizational sense, it is important to bear in mind that the Global Endeavor is entirely independent. For example, the endeavor is not a project of the Urantia Association International (UAI), nor a project of the Fellowship for Readers of *The Urantia Book*.

Development of the underlying ideas began in January 2004, when the Trustees of Urantia Foundation established an ad hoc committee and asked it to develop a plan for idealistic service to individuals and groups in society who wish to promote progressive growth and development in their own fields of experience, knowledge, or interest. In January 2007, however, the Trustees decided that the project should be independent and encouraged individuals to pursue it.

That is what we are doing. From January 2007 to June 2008, the Committee for the Global Endeavor conducted private consultations, while making a number of refinements to the draft plan that took account of comments and suggestions from individual reviewers. On July 1, 2008, the committee launched the current phase of public discussion, seeking to benefit from further suggestions and stimulate interest in putting the plan into practice.

Logo contest

The Global Endeavor does not yet have a logo, a symbol that will help identify it to readers of *The Urantia Book* and to others who take part in, or benefit from, this program of idealistic and altruistic service. Therefore the committee has decided to conduct a logo contest. For clarity, we have attached a one-page document that describes the two general formats that we would like to consider:

1. A logo that is essentially circular or elliptical (*i.e.*, it does not have square corners).
2. A logo consisting of a central design that is essentially circular or elliptical, with the words "THE GLOBAL ENDEAVOR" arrayed in a clockwise direction above it, and the words "PARTNERSHIP FOR GROWTH" arrayed in a counter-clockwise direction below it.

As noted in the document that we have attached, the committee will give preference to a central design that can be used in both formats (*i.e.*, with or without words).

“The fine print”

- a. There is no prize, except that the committee will announce the name(s) of the person(s) who submitted the winning design(s). He, she, or they will have the satisfaction of making a significant contribution to a program of idealistic and altruistic service that is based on the teachings of *The Urantia Book*.
 - b. If you enter the contest, you give the Committee for the Global Endeavor full rights to the design(s) that you submit. This includes the right to modify any design as the committee may see fit, at its sole discretion.
 - c. If the committee decides that it does not wish to adopt any of the designs that have been submitted, it will be free to circulate the most appealing entries as a stimulus to further creativity (*i.e.*, in order to spark a second round). In addition, the committee will in any case remain free to proceed by other means, perhaps by preparing and adopting one or more logo designs of its own — including a possible logo that may amount to an adaptation of, or an adjustment to, a design that was entered in the contest.
 - d. The committee prefers that entries be submitted in a common computer format (*e.g.*, TIF, JPG, WMF, *etc.*). If you are able to follow this approach, please send your ideas to the following E-mail address: <Info@GlobalEndeavor.net>.
 - e. If, on the other hand, you wish to submit a design that you have drawn on paper, please send us a preliminary inquiry (*i.e.*, writing to <Info@GlobalEndeavor.net>), so that we can give you an appropriate mailing address.
 - f. The committee believes that the documents that are available on our website (*i.e.*, <<http://www.globalendeavor.net>>) are a source of ideas that will assist anyone who is developing a logo design. In other words, we recommend a close look at these documents.
 - g. The committee requests that those who wish to enter the contest submit their ideas by January 31, 2009.
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Speeches last summer

Neal Waldrop, the chairman of the Committee for the Global Endeavor, spoke at two major conferences last summer:

- a. "Urantia's Unrevealed Destiny" (12 pages), as delivered on July 2 in Los Angeles, at the Fellowship's international conference.
- b. "Global Destinies, Revealed & Unrevealed" (9 pages), as delivered on July 26 in Leavenworth, Kansas, at the national conference of the Urantia Association of the United States.

These two presentations were similar but not identical. At your request, we would be happy to send you a copy of either or both of them.

NOTE: "Global Destinies, Revealed & Unrevealed" will be published in the next issue of the UAI Journal.

Translations

The committee's papers are currently being translated into French. The process is slow, for Neal Waldrop is the primary translator but not a native speaker of French. (Four reviewers in France and Switzerland are making suggestions for correction and improvement.) Neal believes that it will take about one more year to complete the French translation.

The committee wants to ensure that our papers are also translated into Spanish. Two native speakers have volunteered to serve as translators, but it is not yet clear that they have sufficient time and energy available to do the work. If it turns out that they do not, the committee will have to explore other options.

Time line

Although no one can be certain, we are inclined to believe that it will take three to five years of active effort before it will be appropriate for the Committee for the Global Endeavor to implement the draft plan by turning over further work to the future provisional staff. The plan is global in concept, and we doubt that it would be appropriate to proceed until North America is not the sole continent where readers of *The Urantia Book* have shown substantial interest in the Global Endeavor.

In addition, we will have to attract a fairly sizable number of people who wish to be actively involved. After all, the main task of the provisional staff will be to organize the founding convention, a gathering during which those who attend — and those who vote by absentee ballot — will elect 14 people who will be responsible for bringing the endeavor to life. *(These 14 people will be the Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners of the Coordinating Commission, plus the Counselors and Alternate Counselors of the Consultative Forum. For a more detailed explanation, see the first two pages of the second set of diagrams, and/or Chapter 7 of the draft plan.)*

The Global Endeavor will certainly serve humanity for generations, and perhaps for the full thousand years that a Melchizedek of Nebadon describes in Paper 99 of *The Urantia Book*:

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 — emphasis added: words in bold type*]

Given this understanding — and given the fact that the endeavor's essential goal is to help the people of Urantia work through the accumulated backlog of unachieved tasks that the Lucifer rebellion and the Caligastia betrayal left us — we should not be in a hurry.

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 encourage you to bring the endeavor to the attention of other readers of *The Urantia Book*, in part by recommending that they 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, Barbara Newsom, and Robert Kalk (alternate member)