
The Global Endeavor

Partnership for Growth

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WELCOME to the first issue in the year 2011 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.

The committee's plan to continue our patient, low-key efforts

In July 2008, after an extended process of design and development that had lasted over four years, the Committee for the Global Endeavor began public work aimed at explaining our plan. Readers of *The Urantia Book* who live in the United States and who first heard of this ambitious project at or around that time may well have wondered why the committee has not yet made an energetic effort to start organizing the founding convention, in order to bring the endeavor to life.

We understand why this question may puzzle certain readers who have taken an interest in the Global Endeavor. Therefore we would like to explain the reasons why we must continue patient, low-key efforts in countries where English or French is spoken. Please consider the following factors:

1. Every member of the committee that developed the plan for the Global Endeavor (*i.e.*, from 2004 to 2008) was a citizen of the United States, and it is reasonable to believe that U.S. national traits such as ingenuity and flexibility made important contributions.
2. On the other hand, no endeavor can conceivably be global if it is dominated by the attitudes and approaches of human beings who live in only one country or who speak only one language. To say this in another way, the Global Endeavor cannot just be an artifact of U.S. society and culture. In addition, it cannot be exclusively linked to the psychological and social patterns that are usually associated with English. To the contrary, readers of *The Urantia Book* who live in a range of other countries must also play important roles in bringing the endeavor to life, and the psychological atmosphere associated with initial steps must attract and welcome a significant number of people who speak other languages.
3. Because the Global Endeavor is a service project that is deeply rooted in the teachings of the fifth epochal revelation, and because its spiritual model is the work of the master seraphim, people who participate in the endeavor must be committed

to the premises and principles of *The Urantia Book*. On the other hand, the committee is well aware that the plan for the Global Endeavor draws on aspects of the fifth epochal revelation that many current readers have not focused on in depth (mainly the teachings in Part III that describe and promote the progressive growth and development of human society and civilization).

4. When the preceding two sets of factors are considered together, the following conclusions become very clear: (a) the committee's documents must be translated into other languages; and (b) future efforts to arouse strong interest must concentrate on regions of the world that contain a substantial number of readers of *The Urantia Book* (either the original text or one of its translations).

The bottom line. The committee's documents have been translated into French, and we will soon add a page to our website (<http://www.globalendeavor.net>) that will enable readers to download French translations of the same documents that are available in English. On the other hand, current readers of *The Urantia Book* who speak French are neither sufficiently numerous nor sufficiently diverse to meet the full need for diversity and pluralism that is explained in paragraph 2 above. In practice, the crucial point is that efforts to translate the committee's documents into Spanish have not yet been completed, and we estimate that this work will take about another two years. When the completed documents in Spanish have become additional resources, the committee will devise ways to promote the project actively in Mexico, elsewhere in Latin America, and in Spain. At or around the same time, we will do our best to raise our profile in countries where English or French is spoken.

Volunteers in France

On April 22, the committee formally adopted a written framework for cooperation that enables three volunteers who live in France to circulate information about the endeavor in quiet and low-key ways, carrying out these efforts at the pace that they consider appropriate and acting according to their own judgment and discretion.

These three volunteers were among the speakers of French who participated in prior work on the French translation: they suggested corrections to the drafts they received and recommended ways to raise the level of expression. We are delighted that these three volunteers have decided to remain actively involved, on the understanding that they are free to pursue these efforts in the full range of European countries where French is spoken (France, Monaco, part of Belgium, and part of Switzerland).

Study guide on the work of the master seraphim

On March 22, with the active encouragement of other members of the committee, Neal Waldrop completed a detailed study guide on the work of the master seraphim (17 pages). Since we believe that you will find it interesting and perhaps intriguing, we are sending it along as an attachment to this issue of the newsletter.

As you will see, the study guide contains a series of observations and inquiries that are essentially open and that certainly do not have pre-determined answers. Although it is mainly intended as an armchair or desktop document, it can also serve as the framework for a group discussion, provided that the contents are used selectively. On the other hand, the final three pages contain material that is somewhat different:

- Guidelines for an optional role play, explaining how readers of *The Urantia Book* could adopt the roles of a particular corps of master seraphim and then do their best to develop goals and strategies. (*This activity requires at least 12 people and works best in gatherings of 25 to 40.*)
- A description of the Global Endeavor that links it to the work of the master seraphim while encouraging readers to download documents from the committee's website.

NOTE: *The following questions and answers draw 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. In practice, these questions and answers explain why our efforts to bring the Global Endeavor to life must be entirely independent of all existing organizations of readers of The Urantia Book.*

QUESTION. Does the Global Endeavor have anything to do with the organizations of readers of *The Urantia Book* that have operated for many years?

ANSWER. There is a spiritual resemblance, for we are all seeking to understand and act on the goals and ideals that the revelators portray in *The Urantia Book*. On the other hand the practical work is quite different, and there is certainly no connection in an organizational sense. The plan is not a proposal that any social organization should evaluate or consider. It is not addressed to organizations, it is addressed to individuals who may find it challenging, stimulating, and appealing.

The path of idealistic service described in the plan will operate in parallel to study groups and in parallel to social or fraternal organizations. This new path is neither a substitute nor a competitor, and it requires a very different kind of active engagement.

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 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. Participants 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. You could understand them as mentors, but only from behind the scenes. In any case, participants will not advance or advocate their own proposals.

QUESTION. Why do we need another organization?

ANSWER. Let me start with a comparison. Suppose I ask you: "Since each of us has a Thought Adjuster, why do we need a guardian seraphim?" Here is at least part of the answer: The Thought Adjuster and the guardian seraphim minister to us for different reasons; they pursue diverse goals that are entirely compatible and that reinforce each other.

From my own perspective, I would sum up the existing social organizations by saying that they mainly help their members understand, appreciate, and disseminate the truths of *The Urantia Book*, while seeking to comfort, encourage, and inspire each other. All these tasks are praiseworthy and admirable, but they do not exhaust God's purposes on our planet Urantia.

Quite to the contrary. The Father also has a plan for humanity's progressive growth and development, as summarized in Paper 52, "Planetary Mortal Epochs." Further, there are twelve corps of master seraphim who labor unceasingly for the advancement of human society and civilization, as the Chief of Seraphim explains on pages 1254 through 1256 of *The Urantia Book* [114:6].

Participants in the endeavor will serve other human beings in the same spirit as the master seraphim. The endeavor is not only a global undertaking that fosters cooperation among human beings, it is also a partnership with God and with his angels who encourage men and women to act on our highest insights of our own free will, not from any form of compulsion or constraint.

NOTE: The following biographic information about the committee's vice-chairman is the second in a series of articles that are serving to introduce the members of the committee to the readers of this newsletter.

Robert "Bob" Debold

Bob Debold was born in September 1947, the first of seven siblings who grew up in Bloomfield, New Jersey, U.S.A. His early interests were associated with mathematics (bachelor's degree, 1969) and group dynamics (master's degree in organizational management, 1999). He worked for ten years as a high school mathematics teacher and baseball coach (1969-1979), while also serving as the treasurer of the New Jersey State Teachers Association from 1970 to 1974. These activities enabled him to gain many new skills, such as curriculum development and speaking in front of audiences that were varied and often not interested in the topic. Nonetheless, Bob left the teaching profession in the summer of 1979, in order to seek employment opportunities in the rapidly expanding field of computers, new roles that would help him to implement his business horizons and provide more challenging avenues for personal growth through experience in the work of large corporations.

Bob's work as a program manager for the Federal Systems Division of Honeywell (1979-1992) was the first of a series of roles that have given him a wealth of experience in the field of organizational management and in providing other types of services that enable government organizations and private enterprises to operate efficiently and effectively. Since March 2002, he has worked for Future Technologies, Inc., a small company that provides services to various organizations of the U.S. government. He volunteered for his most recent assignment, which required him to turn around a contract that seemed to be failing. Its subsequent success has not only generated a highly profitable source of revenue for the company, but has also created a stable base of operations for the U.S. Navy organization that is receiving support. In addition, Bob's direct staff have been able to enhance their skills and participate in solidifying a long-term relationship that benefits both the customer and the company. This business project of Bob's may well be the sunset of his professional career, but in any case it has culminated forty years of experience during when he constantly met the challenges that life and business placed in his path, in large part by making decisions, decisions, and more decisions.

A highly personal touch

In addition to the dozens of management and technical workshops that Bob gave while he was working for Honeywell, his professional responsibilities required considerable travel that put him actively in touch with a wide range of individuals and groups with a variety of interests and needs. He believes that while he was working for Primus Knowledge Solutions from 1996 to 2001, he logged nearly one-half million miles in the air, including multiple business engagements in Ireland, England, and Sweden. In 1998 he delivered a presentation at the Northern Texas University Center for Advanced Team Performance that was subsequently published in the *World Business Journal* and the *Team Performance Management Reference Guide*. He believes that this particular effort, when linked with his personal commitment to *The Urantia Book*, led him to undertake a wide-ranging study of the Supreme Being.

Ever since a fellow teacher introduced Bob to *The Urantia Book* in the mid-1970s, he has devoted considerable effort and attention to studying the teachings. Soon after he started with Honeywell, a casual conversation with a colleague about the Melchizedek who is mentioned in the Bible caused this friend to focus on *The Urantia Book* too and, in the process, sparked a lifelong friendship that both of them have treasured.

Bob has often thought about one highly unexpected event that occurred during his period of frequent travel in the late 1990s. At the time, he had just finished a four-month assignment during which he was required to travel every week from his home in the Maryland suburbs of Washington, DC to a factory in the Chicago area and spend a full five days there. Shortly thereafter, he received a highly unusual message from one of the male managers whom he had worked with at that factory. This manager spent nearly three pages telling Bob how his disposition and approach to life had affected his own thinking and how he should react to his own children and the employees whom he supervised. Since nothing in that message dealt with *business* or *technology*, Bob was deeply affected. He now concludes that by implication, he had somehow added meanings of cosmic significance to this man's life and to the lives of others whom he most cared about — entirely without intending to do this or being aware that he had. "Since then," he says, "I have often reflected that living the expanded values that are portrayed in *The Urantia Book* — and especially in the stories about Jesus' encounters with total strangers — eventually becomes a way of life. You hardly know you are having any effect until you experience something small but nonetheless imbued with true cosmic meaning."

In another context, Bob has stated that he constantly reflects on “how the master seraphim provide opportunities — by so associating circumstances as favorably to influence the sphere of human activity, by functioning as ideational clearinghouses, mind focalizers, and project promoters, and by acting to intensify some higher ideal which has already appeared within a human intellect — thereby encouraging us to make meaningful value decisions.” In addition, he commented: “The spiritual model of the Global Endeavor is what attracted me, for quiet, unassuming service in the background is what I have attempted to provide throughout most of my life. Now I have a vehicle that can help put this model into practice so as to benefit not just the individuals whom I happen ‘to walk by,’ but potentially the entire society of Urantia's humans and angels ... and perhaps even beyond that.”

Family background & personal interests

Along with his wife Dorothy, Bob has raised a daughter (Ash'Leigh) and a nephew (James) who are currently 24 and 29 respectively. His personal interests include reading, jogging, running marathons, golf, and writing topical papers associated with the teachings of *The Urantia Book*.

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