
The Global Endeavor

Partnership for Growth

April 2, 2014 (Volume 4, No. 1)

WELCOME to the spring 2014 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 and achievements will interest and please you, for we are reporting on quite a few interesting topics. The highlights are as follows:

- detailed discussion of the study guide on the work of the master seraphim (six Internet radio broadcasts that readers can listen to online or download in MP3 form);
- presentations by committee chairman Neal Waldrop during a regional conference in Wales (July 2013) and during meetings in Quebec (August 2013);
- a workshop that committee vice-chairman Bob Debold and veteran committee member Barbara Newsom gave during the Fellowship's summer study session in Chicago (July 2013); and
- a new working group on symbols that will do its best to develop a logo for the Global Endeavor.

Master seraphim study guide: detailed discussion

At the invitation of the three co-hosts of the weekly Internet radio program "Cosmic Citizen" (i.e., Paula Thompson and Christilyn Biek Larson of Colorado, and André Radatus of Quebec), committee chairman Neal Waldrop served as the moderator of six two-hour broadcasts that were devoted to comprehensive and intriguing discussion of the work of the master seraphim. These six programs thereby covered the entire 14 pages of the study guide that is available on the committee's website.

Along with the four persons identified above, Charles Olivea of New Mexico and/or committee vice-chairman Bob Debold of Maryland participated in most of the six broadcasts. In addition, a number of listeners called in (including Troy Bishop of Florida), and the spontaneous questions they asked proved to be quite interesting. During these six programs, all the participants and callers contributed stimulating comments and insights, in many cases by expressing a range of different opinions.

The Internet radio programs were broadcast as follows:

- Study guide questions 1 through 3: May 25, 2013
- Questions 4 and 5: June 1, 2013
- Questions 6 and 7a: June 8, 2013
- Questions 7a through 7c: June 15, 2013
- Questions 8 and 9: June 22, 2013
- Question 10: June 29, 2013

All six programs were recorded in MP3 format. A link that is available on the committee's website (<http://www.globalendeavor.net>) enables anyone who clicks on that link to listen to any of the recordings directly from the Internet, and/or to download the corresponding MP3 file to his or her computer. For your convenience, here is a copy of the link that provides direct access to the recordings:

http://www.deboldgroup.com/CGE_t13/

We encourage readers of this newsletter to listen to the recordings, download them, or do both, for the work of the master seraphim is the spiritual model for the Global Endeavor. In addition, many readers of *The Urantia Book* who have listened to one or more of the programs have told us that they greatly enjoyed the discussion and considered it highly worthwhile.

Conference in Wales

Neal Waldrop traveled to the United Kingdom in July 2013, in order to attend a regional conference of readers of *The Urantia Book* and give presentations that related to the Global Endeavor (July 5-7, 2013). The UK and Ireland branch of the UAI sponsored the event, which was held at the Trigonos Conference Center in Caernarfon, North Wales — a tranquil and beautiful location offering a clear view of Mount Snowdon, the highest mountain in Wales and the United Kingdom's highest peak outside Scotland.

The conference was organized and convened by committee member Gary Rawlings, who is also the president of the UAI's UK and Ireland branch. A dozen people attended, including one reader from Ireland and Mr. David Kim, the president of the UAI association in South Korea. (After Mr. Kim had completed meetings in London associated with his professional responsibilities, he made a special point of traveling to North Wales to attend the weekend conference. In addition, he wished to meet

with Gary — partly because Gary, in his capacity as the UAI's Membership Chair, had attended the ceremony in Seoul that marked the establishment of the UAI association in South Korea.)

The theme of the conference at Trigonos was, "A passport to greater cosmic consciousness for the time and space traveler." The topics of the various presentations included the evolution of citizenship, the ministry of the Thought Adjusters, the seven cosmic circles, and God the Supreme.

For his part, Neal drew on the study guide on the master seraphim that is available on the committee's website, leading spirited discussion on numerous aspects of their work. (As readers of this newsletter undoubtedly recall, the work of the master seraphim is the spiritual model for the Global Endeavor.) In addition, Neal gave a presentation on the endeavor itself, explaining its key features.

Those who attended the conference were particularly interested in hearing how they could participate in the Global Endeavor during the years to come. Neal explained that for the time being, the committee is maintaining its low-key and relatively quiet efforts in countries where English or French is spoken, while waiting for the Spanish translation of the committee's documents to be completed (which seems likely to occur by the end of 2014). Thereafter, efforts to stimulate interest will intensify.

Although Neal could not predict the exact timing of the founding convention that will bring the Global Endeavor to life, he thought it reasonable to believe that that this momentous event will occur about five to seven years from now. After the founding convention, he explained, readers of *The Urantia Book* who live in the United Kingdom will have the opportunity to found their own regional association composed of twelve working groups.

Summer study session in Chicago

The Fellowship's summer study session at Techny Towers in Chicago (July 10 - 14, 2013) centered on the theme "Our Gift to God the Father: Service to the Supreme." Committee vice-chairman Bob Debold and veteran committee member Barbara Newsom gave a workshop that was closely related: "Supreme Service: Idealistic Service to Society Inspired by the Seraphim." They focused on two main elements: (1) the methods that the seraphim use to stimulate individuals and groups, while seeking to promote the

progressive growth and development of human society, and (2) the plan for the Global Endeavor that the committee has prepared, a new service opportunity for readers of *The Urantia Book* that is modeled on and inspired by the work of the master seraphim.

Workshop participants discussed the obligations that we have as faith-sons of God the Supreme to demonstrate cosmic citizenship by serving others. As a Mighty Messenger tells us, "With God the Supreme ... one must do something as well as be something" (*a Mighty Messenger, 1260:1 / 115:0.1*). Participants also considered how relationships that contribute to the growth of the Supreme embrace personal aspects (the work of the guardian seraphim) and the progress of society as a whole (the work of the master seraphim). In this regard, Barbara and Bob drew on the study guide on the work of the master seraphim that is available on the committee's website and that was discussed in depth during broadcasts of the Internet radio program "Cosmic Citizen" (as explained in the initial article of this newsletter). These efforts of theirs led to vigorous discussion of many of the study guide's open-ended questions pertaining to the master seraphim and to the Supreme.

Barbara and Bob also joined in presenting a set of PowerPoint slides that introduce the plan for Global Endeavor. These slides depict the endeavor's origin as a concept, describe the efforts undertaken thus far, and explain how the endeavor will feature idealistic and altruistic service — an option that will provide an organized and disciplined framework for the active involvement of individual readers of *The Urantia Book* who wish to do all they can to promote the progressive growth of society and civilization on our planet Urantia. As Barbara and Bob emphasized, those who participate in the Global Endeavor will seek to serve, assist, and inspire individuals and groups in society who wish to propose or promote initiatives, innovations, or reforms that relate to their own fields of experience, knowledge, or interest.

Workshop participants subsequently divided into small groups in which they read section 6 of Paper 114 of *The Urantia Book*, just as if they were conducting the meeting of a study group. The facilitators of these small groups then asked them to focus on one of the PowerPoint slides, a bar chart showing how frequently the personnel of the twelve corps of master seraphim have been recalled and replaced by new groups of angels who succeeded them. Participants grappled with these patterns of assignment and sought to explain them, offering numerous interpretations and theories about what they imply for how humanity lives, works, and advances on our planet Urantia.

Many participants emerged from this stimulating discussion with stronger and deeper convictions about the mission and work of the master seraphim. In other words, participants reinforced their understanding that the work of the master seraphim plays a key role in the ongoing campaign of the human race to upgrade social contexts on our planet — patterns of progressive development that contribute to the evolving growth of the Supreme. Thus the inhabitants of Urantia live locally but pursue growth in global terms, not only as individual families, communities, and nations, but also as the entire human race.

Barbara and Bob expressed their own personal understanding of how and why the Global Endeavor constitutes a highly relevant project that, in the long run, can help individuals and groups on Urantia become increasingly attuned to the need for human beings to upgrade and refine the social structures in which they live and evolve. Thus the Global Endeavor will be a framework enabling future participants to promote more advanced meanings and values that will propel humanity onward throughout the entire millennium of constant innovation, adjustment, and readjustment.

During the workshop's final thirty minutes, three small groups focused on specific questions excerpted from the study guide. These groups used the various questions as a catalyst for creative thinking, seeking to formulate strategies as if they actually were master seraphim. Spokespersons subsequently delivered intriguing summaries of the group deliberations, thereby stimulating further reflection on and study of many key aspects of the fifth epochal revelation.

Meetings in Quebec

In August 2013, Neal traveled to Quebec, benefiting from the gracious hospitality of committee member François Brunet and his wife Anne. During this visit, Neal met with readers of *Le Livre d'Urantia* in Quebec City (August 10) and in Montreal (August 11).

The meeting in Quebec City was held at the home of Gilles and Louise Bertrand, and discussion there was especially spirited. In part, the readers who attended sought to understand exactly how the members and associates of the future working groups on substantive topics will contribute to progressive growth and development.

Neal explained that each working group will operate modestly and quietly, offering encouragement and practical support (e.g., information about recent initiatives in the fields it covers, assistance in making contacts with like-minded individuals and groups,

and, upon request, personal advice in private). Innovators and creative thinkers who are active in the corresponding disciplines will be able to benefit from these kinds of support, but only insofar as they wish and desire. For their part, the substantive working groups will have to operate by attraction, for no one will be obliged to seek their help.

One of the readers who attended the meeting called attention to circumstances in which different individuals and groups operating in society are proposing changes or reforms that do not harmonize and that may even be contradictory. In such a case, this reader asked, would a working group seek to intercede, endeavoring to create harmony or, at least, mutual respect?

Neal replied that the substantive workings groups will not operate as some kind of mediator or arbitrator who would seek to resolve contentions or contradictions. After all, nothing in the plan for the Global Endeavor entitles any participant to intervene actively in society, nor to tell any other human being what to do or what to believe. Individuals and groups who are promoting initiatives or reforms will and must remain responsible for pursuing them as they think best.

In effect, the working groups will be resources that individuals and groups in society will be able to draw on if they wish. By means of these modest and indirect methods, the working groups will endeavor to promote, encourage, and foster *a process of imagination and innovation* that is destined to endure throughout the next thousand years — a period during which humanity will be compelled to make myriad changes, adjustments, and readjustments.

New working group on symbols

On January 4, 2014, committee chairman Neal Waldrop established the committee's working group on symbols. In doing so, he asked the working group to remain focused on its essential task: developing a logo, and perhaps other symbols, that will be able to attract the interest of readers of *The Urantia Book* and of many individuals and groups in society as a whole, in order to arouse as much enthusiasm and commitment as possible.

The new working group on symbols is composed of four members and two special advisers:

Members

- Ms. Katharina Becker of Peña Blanca, New Mexico, U.S.A.
- Mr. François Brunet of Saint-Léonard de Portneuf, Quebec, Canada
- Ms. Barbara Newsom of Glen Ellyn, Illinois, U.S.A.
- Mr. Neal Waldrop of Derwood, Maryland, U.S.A. (chairman)

Special advisers

- Mr. Federico Folchi of Vicente Lopez, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Ms. Jill Karlin of Lake Worth, Florida, U.S.A.

The working group reports to the committee and will operate until it submits its final report or until December 31, 2014, whichever comes first. If the members of the working group believe that a longer period of activity would be likely to lead to complete agreement in substance, the working group may wish to ask the committee to grant an extension.

The Spanish translation

Work on the Spanish translation of the committee's documents continues to progress, and it is reasonable to believe that these efforts will conclude in late 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.

Resignation of Robert Kalk

On December 9, 2012, Mr. Robert H. Kalk resigned as a member of the Committee for the Global Endeavor. The chairman accepted his resignation with regret at the circumstances, while expressing his earnest hope that ongoing medical treatment would return Bob to complete health, as well as his best wishes for the success of Bob's other undertakings.

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. The plan you have prepared has noble humanitarian motives, and many aspects of it seem to be helpful and inspiring. On the other hand, I am puzzled that you do not seem to be making any effort at all to promote and explain the teachings of *The Urantia Book*. Any project based on the fifth epochal revelation should seek to make the revelatory truths real and uplifting for the people of the world. That is not one of your goals, and the explanatory papers you have given to me say that participants may not evangelize. I do not understand.

ANSWER. We agree with you that the *ideas* contained in *The Urantia Book* are important, and we fully understand that many readers may wish to participate in activities aimed at disseminating the teachings. That, however, is not the only possibility. Participants in the Global Endeavor will be acting on the *ideals* that the revelators have described. They will be *living* the revelation, not preaching it.

The Global Endeavor is closely related to God's goals and objectives for individual human beings and for our planet Urantia. The first two epochal revelations addressed the full spectrum of human life and experience, but the third and fourth mainly concentrated on spiritual aspects. In these regards the authors of *The Urantia Book* went back to the broader pattern that applied to the first and second epochal revelations. In practice *The Urantia Book* is the most recent, the most inspiring, and the most detailed restatement of the Father's fundamental intent, and it really does address the full range of human life and experience.

Your phrase "make the revelatory truths real and uplifting" is far from complete. It does not include the net implications and meaning of the teachings in relation to the larger pattern of human growth and development. In other words, your phrase overlooks the fact that many aspects of the revelation are *an epochal contribution to efforts that will lead human beings to higher and more advanced levels of society and civilization.*

Your phrase “make the revelatory truths real and uplifting” also tends to imply a rather narrow view of God’s interests and concerns. In contrast, the revelators make it clear that God’s active interests are not confined to the fields of morality, religion, and theology. To the contrary, God also devotes considerable attention to the harmonization and equilibrium of matter and energy, efforts to foster biological evolution and the improvement of species, and the whole process of social and cultural development on the inhabited planets. In practice, God actively fosters the ascent of society and civilization, extending his love and concern to all human beings without distinguishing among them because of their beliefs.

Over generations and centuries, the spirit and overtones of the work of the Global Endeavor will contribute to, foster, or enhance this awareness on the part of many human beings. That in turn will tend to give these brothers and sisters a very different impression of the gentle, compassionate, and exceedingly versatile God who is truly the Father of all. These more accurate impressions of the nature of God will be an indirect benefit of the endeavor.

Just as the seraphim help human beings without asking what they think or believe, so also will participants in the endeavor minister to the needs and interests of others without even inquiring into their religious beliefs or philosophic convictions. *Participants may not evangelize*, for the endeavor’s main goal is to foster humanity’s overall growth and development. On the other hand, spiritual attraction will cause some people who receive assistance and service to take an interest in the teachings, and participants will be alert to opportunities to provide information and encouragement.

NOTE: *This is the fourth in a series of articles that are introducing the members of the Committee for the Global Endeavor to the readers of this newsletter. In August 2009, François Brunet (the person whose biographic information appears below) became the first member of the committee who resides in a country other than the United States. He has served with energy and distinction ever since.*

François Brunet

François Brunet was born in April 1955 in a small town in Quebec. He was the second of five children, receiving a Catholic education during a period when the religious orders of this faith exerted authoritative influence over all aspects of society. Thus at the time, religious instruction, as well as the practice of the mass and the sacraments, were an integral part of daily life. His initial concerns about these matters arose when he was around 12 years old, and by the age of 14 his lack of interest in religious observances was already quite clear — even though the study of the Catholic religion was required through the end of high school, at least in the context of classical education at the time.

The succeeding years were marked by a period of spiritual hibernation, although François nonetheless always believe in a supreme presence and in life after death. He was absorbed by his studies and his friends, and finally by love, marriage, and the job market in the early 1980s. Since he was a doctor and since his spouse Anne was a pharmacist, work and career matters rapidly occupied a large share of their lives. It was not until the end of the 1980s that questions about the purpose of life and destiny became increasingly frequent — first for Anne, who recorded a television program on the subject and purchased several books. By “contagion,” François rapidly became interested. Thereafter he went through a period of intense interest in everything related to spirituality, passing through esoteric topics and New Age matters. In each case, however, his initial enthusiasm soon yielded to a feeling of emptiness. Several years later, he and his spouse smiled at the analogy with Fonta, whom the spirit of worship made contact with initially, a bit before connecting with Andon.

The couple discovered *The Urantia Book* in 1992. During a discussion about spirituality, Anne’s brother Michel mentioned that he possessed the first two volumes of *La Cosmogonie d’Urantia (The Origin and Development of Urantia)*, the first French translation by Jacques Weiss of the original *Urantia Book*, and he offered to lend them these

volumes. Not long prior to that, on the cover of an old edition of *The Life of the Masters* by Baird T. Spalding, François had read an invitation to read *La Cosmogonie d'Urantia* in order to learn more about the spiritual hierarchy, but he did not pay much attention. At the time, he did not come close to suspecting that Louis Colombelle, the translator of *The Life of the Masters*, was actually just Jacques Weiss operating under a pseudonym.

The couple then discovered that *Le Livre d'Urantia* was available at a bookstore, published in a single volume. Thus, on the basis of the new edition and the two old volumes, Anne and François began their joint adventure of reading *Le Livre d'Urantia*. They have never grown tired of that, whether reading on a systematic or thematic basis, or in a group with others. They still continue to read together today, doing that in cooperation.

Their first association with other readers occurred in 1993. When the first reading of *Le Livre d'Urantia* had concluded, a television program about it attracted their attention. While they were seeking additional information, they were put in contact with other readers in Quebec — readers who were involved in organizing the Fellowship's international conference that was scheduled to occur at Saint-Hyacinthe several weeks later. This conference was not only very stimulating, it also created numerous contacts: they were no longer isolated readers.

The second half of the 1990s was filled with varied experiences and with human contacts that were often unexpected: study group meetings, workshops, and several book fairs on behalf of Urantia Foundation. In 2001, the "Living Faith" conference in Lennoxville, Quebec was the first opportunity for François to make a presentation before a wider audience. The topic was, "The reality of religious experience."

He remembers that during the evening before his talk, while he was feeling a certain feverishness that was close to anxiety, he shared his concerns with an experienced colleague who had previously spoken at the Fellowship's international conference in 1993, and who was also scheduled to make a presentation on the next day. His companion told him: "Don't be concerned. Do you think that all this is resting on your shoulders alone? Just imagine all the superhuman beings who will work to ensure that your words reach the minds and hearts of the people who attend your presentation. All you have to do is to describe your topic while focusing on the present moment, and your invisible helpers will do the most important part of the work." This made François' stress fall away immediately; in addition, he greatly enjoyed giving his presentation. Even to this day, this unexpected revelation enables him to remain aware that our efforts are multiplied and maximized by benevolent and capable beings.

In terms of his personal life, François has been married to Anne ever since 1980. They have a son, Eric, who was born in November 1994.

Professional information

Ever since 1980, François has worked as a family doctor. The first seven years were very busy because of an intense hospital practice in the region of Trois-Rivières (emergency care, hospitalization, and obstetrics), while at the same time maintaining a medical practice in the community that was no less intense (seeing patients in the office and making visits to homes). From 1987 to 1996, he mainly devoted himself to his community practice in a medical clinic of which he was a co-owner, while continuing to provide institutional care only to the aged. At the beginning of this second period of medical work, Anne became the owner of a pharmacy in which she was in charge of 25 employees. Therefore work occupied a great deal of the couple's lives. During the period of their spiritual awakening near the end of the 1980s (which was well before their child was born), they were already wondering about the possibility of slowing down this furious pace, but no concrete solution seemed to appear on the horizon.

In 1996, when their son was one year old, Anne and François made a drastic decision to regain control of their lives. They sold everything, their home and their part ownership in the medical clinic and pharmacy, and then took a sabbatical leave during which they settled in a rural area on a wooded lot. (This land had previously belonged to Anne's grandfather; the couple had purchased it several years previously, supposedly for their "senior years.")

In the spring of 1997, François resumed his medical practice, in this case focusing on emergency care for the next nine years — during several of which he was involved in hospital administration as the president of the hospital's Council of Doctors, Dentists, and Pharmacists. Since he initially could not obtain the certification that would enable him to practice in his new region, for several months he worked as a temporary substitute in distant hospitals that were very short staffed. His family went with François on these work-related trips, and this enabled them to visit distant regions.

Near the end of the first year, an unexpected shortage of doctors (because of departures and resignations) enabled him to work in his home area, first on a temporary basis and then permanently. As for Anne, she had much to do to harmonize the requirements of family life with the disjointed schedule that stemmed from François' medical practice,

work of his that she made possible. In spite of many offers for her to return to work, either as a community pharmacist or as a pharmacist in a hospital, she preferred to devote herself to her son's education and to keeping their household in good order.

In the fall of 2006, while François was in his early fifties and because of increasing difficulty in accommodating the disjointed schedule that included several night shifts, he set aside his emergency room practice and increasingly concentrated on other tasks. At present, he is working as an examining physician for the Ministry of Veterans Affairs; he is in charge of a clinic on respiratory illnesses that is located in his hospital; and he carries out various tasks related to regional administration, serving as the coordinator of access to a family doctor and as a member of the executive committee of the Regional Office of General Medicine.

The Global Endeavor

Contact with Neal Waldrop originated in March 2008, because of their common associate Gaétan Charland (who was then the President of the UAI). After an exchange of E-mail messages, many telephone conversations, and finally a face-to-face meeting in August 2009 while vacationing in South Carolina, François became an alternate member of the Committee for the Global Endeavor and then, in October 2009, a regular member.

He was attracted by this new opportunity to serve without judging, to become an example to others without evangelizing, and to provide information without attempting to convince – doing all this in ways that are modest and unassuming, in the spirit of the master seraphim. François can testify to the analogy between the personal path that he has traveled and the general philosophy of the Global Endeavor. Although for several years he was used to working in the foreground, he has found himself (especially since 2006) operating in several work contexts that relate to improving medical care and services, as well as recruitment, all of this based on unofficial instructions or carried out behind the scenes. Thus he can make an accurate estimate of how effective it can be to work in the background, often in ways that those who benefit are not even aware of.

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, Barbara Newsom, and Gary Rawlings