# Study group mission, a vision

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Dear leaders of the Urantia movement,

Today, nearly 59 years after the publication of The Urantia Book and having been told to create thousand of study groups; we can reference roughly a little more than 500 study groups worldwide. There might be some that we do not know about, but I doubt there is that many more we do not know of. In my last assessment of the number of Study groups, I found those numbers (slide with numbers)

Assessment of study group today (number and quality) Vision

## DISTRIBUTION OF STUDY GROUPS

- Number of study groups registered worldwide: 584
- Groups in North America: 383
- Groups in South America: 117
- Groups in Europe: 50
- Groups in Africa: 17
- Groups in Asia: 9
- Groups in Australia: 8

As you can see we are far from reaching the first milestone of one thousand study groups. Not only did we not yet reach that number, our study groups, not all, are lacking in their mission to expand cosmic consciousness and enhance spiritual perception while they are missing the opportunity to train leaders and teachers. From a survey that was done last year by one reader in Estonia who contacted a majority of study group hosts from the Study group directory, many study groups offer very few opportunities for their members to integrate and practice what they learn. A lot of them have problem increasing the number of participants while they struggle to be a place of learning and sharing the teachings.

Another survey made by the Foundation paints a very sober picture about the number of readers who never participated in a study groups. Not only does the number of groups have stagnated, but also the quality of many is questionable if we listen to what many say about their experience in some of them.

- Let us ask ourselves a few questions:

- What is so important about study groups that the revelators told us to create thousand of them?

- What is their purpose besides offering a place of socialization for readers?

- Can study groups be the leverage or one of the many means at our disposal to spiritually uplift our societies, our religious culture?

- Can study groups do more than just be reading groups or do topical studies?

- Can they be used to train leaders and teachers?

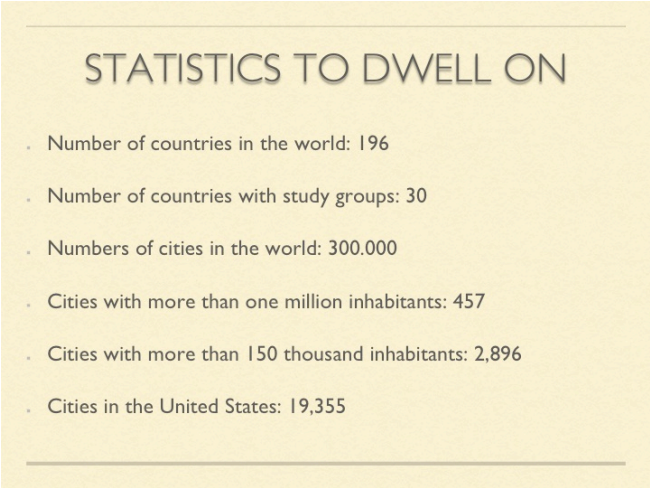
- Can they be use to help participants integrate the teachings in their own lives?

- Can they be use to promote spiritual growth and service oriented activities?

- How do study groups influence society and us?

These are questions we will be exploring during this symposium.

But before we go further, let's have a look at some numbers to give us an idea of what is require of us and how many study groups it might require to change the world. (Slides with numbers of countries and cities)

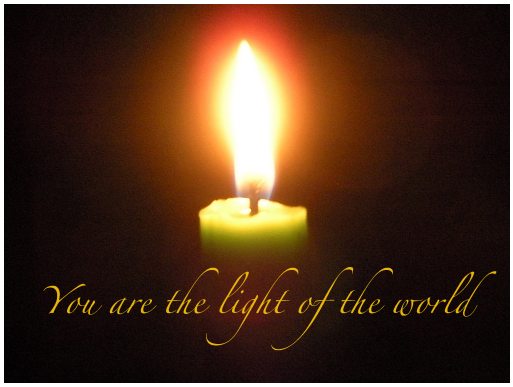



*"The Book belongs to the era immediately to follow the conclusion of the present ideological struggle. That will be the day when men will be willing to seek truth and righteousness. When the chaos of the present confusion has passed, it will be more readily possible to formulate the cosmos of a new and improved era of human relationships. And it is for this better order of affairs on earth that the Book has been made ready." Publication mandate*

The Urantia Book tell us that the present chaos will last another thousand years, does that mean that this era the revelators refer to in the Publication mandate will come in about one thousand years? If so, it make sense that we would need all that time to create many thousand of study groups and train many leaders and teachers. Usually in society significant changes take hundredth and thousands of years to be achieved. If we look at how many years before Jesus Melchizedek appeared, we can have a small appreciative

idea of how long it might take for spiritual changes to happen. By social standards, it takes years and many generations for any significant changes ot for a Revelation to be integrated in the evolutionary religious cultures of the world. We are at the beginning, but we need to make every effort counts by establishing a culture of good quality study groups. How we do this, is what this symposium is all about.

## 1-You are the light of the world




There are no doubts in my mind that you and I, the hosts of study groups are the most important leaders of our movement. Without us, the revelation would certainly fail in its mission to enlighten our world. Jesus said to his Apostles "**You are the light of the world"** and so I am asking you, are we the light of this world?

Who is, if not us?

What is this light that Jesus was talking about? Could it be the values of truth, beauty and goodness that should be expressed in our live as fruits of the spirit .

*"By their fruits you shall know them, said Jesus. As host of study groups are we manifesting those fruits in our live?*

*"We are admonished to let our light so shine that our fellows will be guided into new and godly paths of enhanced living." (140:4.5)*

As hosts of study groups we need to fully endorse the responsibilities that such a role is placing on our shoulders. We need to become the examples that we so desire this world to become.

## 2- You are the salt of the earth.



*"You are the salt of the earth, salt with a saving savor. But if this salt has lost its savor, wherewith shall it be salted? It is henceforth good for nothing but to be cast out and trodden under foot of men." (140:4.2)*

What is the nature or flavor of the salt that we should be?

Is not love the principal ingredient of service?

Without love, nothing is of any value in this life, if we do not do what we do with love, than everything we do has lost its true value, its flavor and should henceforth be good for nothing but to be cast out and trodden under foot of men.

As hosts of study groups, the love of our father, of Michael and our fellow men should be the prime element and motivation of our service to this revelation.

## 3-We are the leaders of this revelation.



**Are we not as host of study groups the leaders of this revelation?**

Will we accept this important role?

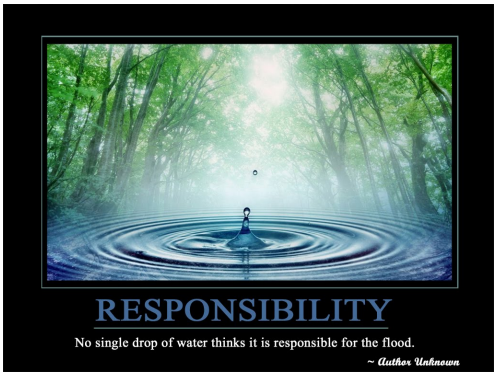
Will we be ready to learn and do everything we can to become very efficient ambassadors of this revelation by becoming better host of our study group?

Or will we let the opportunity past?

Today, tomorrow, the day after tomorrow and after we go back home, will we be thinking about those questions that will be asked of us during this symposium?

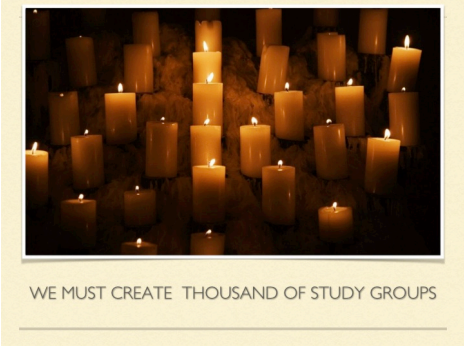
What will be our answers?

## 4- Responsibilities of Hosts




- ✓ We can Learn to be a more effective host by:
- ✓ Fixing ourselves some objectives and share them with the group.
- ✓ Acquiring new techniques of learning and teachings.
- ✓ Introducing new ways of studying The Urantia Book
- ✓ Helping students become involved in service projects.
- ✓ Focusing on spiritual and intellectual growth.
- ✓ Doing and encouraging participants of our group in making presentations in study groups.

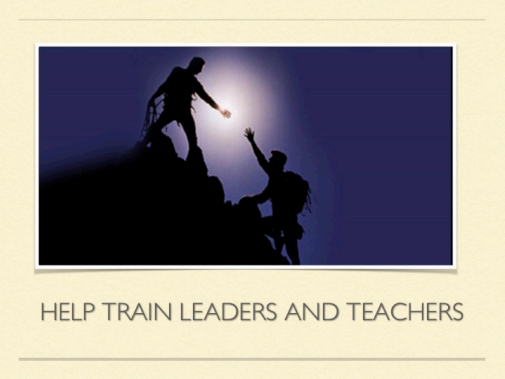
## 5- Help create thousand of study groups.




- ✓ Use the resources of the association close to us to help with names of readers who are interested in participating or hosting a study groups.

- ✓ If the numbers of participants in our group is more that 12, train someone as a host to start their own study group.
- ✓ Encourage members of our group to start their own study group.
- ✓ Participate in the creation of new study groups by supporting them with our presence.
- ✓ Register our groups on the Directory for study groups

## 6- Help train leaders and teachers.




- ✓ Introduce UBIS courses in our study groups.
- ✓ Encourage the members of our groups to take UBIS courses
- ✓ Use presentations or study aids to foster teaching skills.
- ✓ Nurture natural leaders and teachers in our groups by sharing responsibilities.
- ✓ Make our study group more dynamics by changing the format.
- ✓ Keep the focus on the real goal of study groups

## 7- We are the sowers




Help the dissemination of the book and its teachings

« (1705.3) 152:6.3 “You see, my children, the appeal to human feelings is transitory and utterly disappointing; the exclusive appeal to the intellect of man is likewise empty and barren; it is only by making your appeal to the spirit which lives within the human mind that you can hope to achieve lasting success and accomplish those marvelous transformations of human character that are presently shown in the abundant yielding of the genuine fruits of the spirit in the daily lives of all who are thus delivered from the darkness of doubt by the birth of the spirit into the light of faith — the kingdom of heaven. »

- ✓ Introduce ways of dissemination or outreach in our group so each reader share in the responsibility of disseminating the revelation.
- ✓ Use material already available to help and teach readers of our groups on how to share the UB and its teachings.
- ✓ Initiate book placement in our area.
- ✓ Nurture new seeds around us like Jesus did during his tour of the Mediterranean Sea.
- ✓ Study the life of Jesus in our groups to learn how Jesus was spreading the truth.
- ✓ Nurture new seeds




## 8- The journey has just begun




According to The Urantia Book and the publication mandate, the next era will follow the conclusion of the present ideological struggle. That will be the day when men will be willing to seek truth and righteousness. We are still far away from that time, the book was given to us to prepare the world for that era, there is no time to lose but we must be careful on how we proceed. "(You) must learn to possess (your) souls in patience. (You) are in association with a revelation of truth, which is a part of the natural evolution of religion on this world. Over rapid growth would be suicidal. The book is being given to those who are ready for it long before the day of its world-wide mission." Publication mandate

The creation of thousand of study groups all around the world will ensure an effective and progressive way to introduce expended truths in the current religious cultures of the world. By not attracting undue attention, we will be able to progress in our mission without any major hindrance or resistance from the organized religions and the media.

## 9- The expression of love to future generations.




What are we ready to give and do for this revelation?

Jesus gave his life and so did the Apostles and many of his disciples, let's not be part of those who will say when it is to late

**"I should have done more for the Revelation."**

"(You) who have dedicated (your) lives to the service of the Book and the Brotherhood can little realize the import of (your) doings. (You) will doubtless live and die without fully realizing that (you) are participating in the birth of a new age of religion on this world.

**May the Father bless us all in our efforts to uplift our world spiritually.**