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# The Global Endeavor

## Partnership for Growth

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WELCOME to the first issue in the year 2010 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.

### Three new members of the committee

The committee's most significant events during the past year have been internal. Specifically, the committee has admitted three new members and is now composed of the following seven persons:

- Mr. François Brunet of Saint-Léonard de Portneuf, Quebec, Canada  
*[ since August 2009 ]*
- Mr. Robert Debold of Fort Washington, Maryland, U.S.A. (Vice-Chairman)  
*[ since February 2007 ]*
- Mr. István Hargitai of North Olmsted, Ohio, U.S.A.  
*[ alternate member since February 2010 ]*
- Mr. Robert Kalk of Silver Spring, Maryland, U.S.A.  
*[ since March 2008 ]*
- Ms. Barbara Newsom of Glen Ellyn, Illinois, U.S.A.  
*[ since September 2004 ]*
- Mr. Gary Rawlings of Caerphilly, South Wales, the United Kingdom  
*[ since November 2009 ]*
- Mr. Neal Waldrop of Derwood, Maryland, U.S.A. (Chairman)  
*[ since January 2004 ]*

All seven of us are well aware that the committee will continue to work intensively for at least another several years, until we have aroused sufficiently broad interest to be able to turn over the work to the provisional staff that will organize the founding convention. Until then we must orient our efforts toward pluralism and diversity, seeking to develop and sustain strong interest among readers of *The Urantia Book* on at least two continents, and preferably on three or four. After all, the *Global Endeavor* could not possibly live up to its name if we simply sought to foster interest inside the United States!

As shown above, the committee now has five members from the United States, one from Canada, and one from the United Kingdom. We are very pleased that by admitting Mr. Brunet, we crossed “the language barrier.” (Mr. Brunet is a native speaker of French.) At or around the time that completion of the Spanish translation of the committee’s documents makes it possible for the committee to begin stimulating interest among readers of *El Libro de Urantia* in Latin America and Spain, it would probably be appropriate for us to seek to strengthen our ranks by admitting one or more members who are native speakers of Spanish. Nonetheless, we are very proud of the experience, diversity, and dedication of the committee’s current members, and have decided to introduce them to you one by one. In other words, the biographic information about Neal Waldrop that appears in the final pages of this issue is the first installment of a series of biographic articles.

[ NOTE: When Mr. Hargitai completes the internal training that the committee’s procedures require, he will become a regular (voting) member. ]

## The French and Spanish translations

The French translation is essentially finished: the only work left is the final review of the full set of documents.

Approximately one-fourth of the committee’s documents have been translated into Spanish, and we estimate that it will take about another 18 months for the task to be finished. If this turns out to be an accurate estimate, then the committee will be able to begin stimulating interest in Spanish-speaking countries by the end of 2011.

### Background: What the work of translation implies

The committee's introductory documents total 42 pages. (The original texts in English can be downloaded from the committee's website, <http://www.globalendeavor.net>.)

The draft plan for the Global Endeavor consists of seven chapters. Taken together, they consist of 70 pages. (*Copies are available upon request.*)

The condensed version of the draft plan totals 49 pages, but only 21 amount to new text — abbreviated versions of the four chapters that are essentially organizational and procedural. (*The remaining 28 pages correspond to the three chapters that are inspirational and substantive — material that the committee did not abbreviate when it prepared the condensed version.*)

(explanation continued on the next page)

In addition, the committee's documents include another 41 pages of private texts that help us explain the plan and answer questions.

Thus we are talking about an overall total of 174 pages that need to be translated (42 + 70 + 21 + 41). Since precision is required and since the translators and reviewers are all volunteers, this is an extended and arduous task.

*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. We believe that this particular question and answer harmonizes with a general theme that we have endeavored to emphasize in this edition of the newsletter: the crucial importance of a truly global approach and the need for diligence and patience in seeking to achieve it.*

QUESTION. Your project is extremely ambitious, and you seem to be assuming that everything will work out just as you foresee. Why not start by establishing one or two substantive working groups in the United States, so you could see how they operate? That way you could draw on practical experience and could improve the design as you go along.

ANSWER. Someone who is designing a house cannot just toss off a sketch that shows only the kitchen. No builder would even bother to assemble a construction crew, and no prospective buyer would make a down payment.

For the same reason, our plan for the Global Endeavor is and must be complete, at least in terms of the broad framework that it envisions. The plan is like a constitution: It describes a carefully balanced structure, so that those who participate in the Global Endeavor will be able to experiment in ways that promote diversity and mutual respect. On the other hand, the framework does not settle every specific question for every participant, and it certainly does not tell them what they should do in each practical circumstance that they encounter.

As a regional association grows and develops, each new substantive working group will have to find its own path. For example, the specific pattern of activities that suits working group 8 (the working group on health) almost certainly will not suit working group 11 (the working group on literature, the arts, and entertainment). Therefore imagination and creativity will be essential ingredients!

In every regional association, the two managerial working groups — working group 1 and working group 12 — will operate in partnership with each substantive working group. This arrangement has many benefits.

In brief, working group 1 will exert managerial and financial oversight, and working group 12 will monitor activities from spiritual, philosophic, moral, ethical, and psychological perspectives. Thus working group 1 will ensure that integrity and efficiency prevail throughout the entire regional association, and working group 12 will ensure that the spirit of the teachings of *The Urantia Book* pervades all efforts to serve individuals and groups in society.

This idealism, this altruism, this loving spirit of modest, generous, and unselfish service, is and must be the endeavor's hallmark. There would be no way to maintain that kind and loving spirit if we were to establish one or more substantive working groups as the first step. In addition, a substantive working group formed on a free-standing basis would be essentially indistinguishable from the many professional and functional organizations that already exist, and that pursue one or more causes that are associated with social renewal.

Starting from the top down also ensures that the endeavor will be global from the beginning, at least global in concept. If we were to begin the process by establishing one or more substantive working groups in the United States, that would cause the whole project to be dominated by attitudes and outlooks that are characteristic of the society and people of the United States of America.

Now we can all agree that the people of the United States of America are entitled to their own attitudes and outlooks, and I do not mean to criticize these views of theirs. On the other hand, this comparatively narrow geographic and cultural focus would not harmonize with the worldwide mission of the fifth epochal revelation. We know that the entire human race has begun an age of imagination and innovation, not just the people of the United States.

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NOTE: *The following biographic information about the chairman is the first in a series of articles that will introduce the members of the committee to the readers of this newsletter.*

## Neal Waldrop

### Spiritual journey

I was born in June 1947, the first child of a Roman Catholic mother and a Protestant father. My father, an attorney, used his skills in cross-examination to challenge me in religious matters and compel me to defend the precepts of the Roman Catholic Church that I was learning in school. Nonetheless, I was quite devout. I served as an altar boy and, during my first two years of university studies, as a lay reader of scriptures during services at the Roman Catholic chapel. In the fall of 1966, however, I succumbed to a crisis of faith, suspending belief and becoming an agnostic. Six years later I began an intensive program of exploratory reading, just after I returned to the Washington area from my U.S. Navy assignment in Morocco. These explorations led me through astrology, rajah yoga meditation, Hindu mysticism, and so on to *The Urantia Book* (November 1973), after which the rest rapidly fell away.

During the late 1970s and early 1980s, I helped to organize a series of regional conferences for readers of *The Urantia Book* that were held in the Washington, DC area. I served as a Trustee of Urantia Foundation for a tempestuous three years (August 1989 – August 1992), but the practical circumstances of that era made it necessary for me to resign when my family and I were transferred to Canberra, Australia.

In September 2003, the Trustees appointed me as a Trustee Emeritus and asked me to participate actively in the work of the Board for a period of four years. This active involvement ended in August 2007, but I remain a Trustee Emeritus (essentially an honorary title) and am a member of the Foundation's Translation Committee, in part because I retain a strong personal interest in the Chinese translation in progress.

### The Global Endeavor

In retrospect, "Futurity" (July 1998) may have been the most important speech that I have ever given at a conference of readers of *The Urantia Book*, not because of what it said, but because of what it signified. In practice, this presentation marked the beginning of my active search for methods that would enable readers to contribute to the progressive growth and development of human society and civilization, pursuant to the patterns and goals that the revelators have portrayed in Part III. In November 2003, I suddenly realized that we should

adopt the same basic approach as the master seraphim and should use their work as our spiritual model.

In January 2004, the Trustees of Urantia Foundation appointed me as the chairman of an ad hoc committee tasked with developing 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. During the next three years, the ad hoc committee developed the plan, but in January 2007 the Trustees decided that the Foundation should not sponsor it. Instead, they encouraged individuals to pursue the initiative independently. At first I was intensely disappointed, but after a while I came to understand that an entirely independent approach has very substantial advantages.

The Committee for the Global Endeavor now has seven members (five from the United States, one from Canada, and one from the United Kingdom). Our fundamental goal is to promote the progressive growth of human society and civilization, while seeking to serve others in the spirit of the master seraphim. The plan we are pursuing is indeed global, but the endeavor will start small and will develop bit by bit.

Even though we are still in the formative stages, the French translation of the committee's documents is almost finished, and work on the Spanish translation began in late 2009. We welcome and encourage active interest and hope that readers of *The Urantia Book* will take a close look. For further information, please see the committee's modest website (<http://www.globalendeavor.net>).

## Professional background

After graduating from college in June 1969 with a B.A. in history, I worked for the U.S. Department of Defense for just over one year. In September 1970, I entered the U.S. Navy. For the next five years, I performed various duties that related to naval communications, while assigned to Newport, Rhode Island; Sidi Yahia du Rharb, Morocco; and Washington, DC.

In January 1976, I reported to the U.S. Department of State in Washington, in order to begin work as a Foreign Service Officer (career diplomat). From that moment until I retired in September 2003, I performed various diplomatic or official duties in Washington, in New York City, and in four overseas locations (Taipei, Taiwan; Hong Kong; Canberra, Australia; and Geneva, Switzerland).

As I look back on my career in the Foreign Service, I consider it an apprenticeship during which I learned how to understand and influence people from many countries who had a wide range of cultural and social backgrounds. Two intervals were particularly important: (1) my 1988-1991 assignment at the U.S. Mission to the U.N. in New York, during which I worked on human rights and other social topics; and (2) my 1998-2002 assignment in Geneva, Switzerland, during which I participated in active discussion of a wide range of multilateral issues associated with arms control and disarmament. In addition, I benefited

immeasurably from almost two years of full-time training in Mandarin Chinese (September 1978 – June 1980).

Since November 2006, I have been working as a translator from French to English and from English to French, carrying out these tasks for a branch of the U.S. Department of Justice.

## Personal background

In February 1982, I married the former Vanessa Wong, whom I met while assigned to the U.S. Consulate General in Hong Kong. We have two children: our daughter Charmaine (b. June 1984), and our son Kirk (b. February 1988).

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## 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](mailto: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, Robert Kalk, Barbara Newsom, Gary Rawlings, and István Hargitai (alternate member)