

Friends,

The Youth and Young Adult committee had an exciting time in 2011. We began the year as an adjunct of the Outreach Committee, was voted a standing committee during our summer General Council meeting, and made that transition to complete the year. I personally wish to thank the members of Outreach for their encouragement, leadership, and guidance throughout this historical journey within the Fellowship. We became the first new standing committee in our 56 year history! This institutional change required a strong and steadfast commitment that came long before my arrival. During the transition period (August 1st to December 31st) the Outreach Committee continued to financially support YaYA. We are grateful for the loving teamwork and will always maintain a close bond. Tom Choquette has been an inspiring leader of the Outreach Committee and a true champion of the YaYA committee.

Our year in review:

We agreed to devote our lives and busy schedules to weekly conference calls. We created a vision statement to help guide us and keep us centered. We started the year by setting a goal to become a standing committee in 2011. We saw our potential in 2010 and realized we were quickly outgrowing the adjunct status. Our committee wanted to become a central and permanent fixture to the health and longevity of The Urantia Book Fellowship. In all matters, we prayed that it would come to pass if it was in keeping with our Father's Will.

We began the year with a committee of four and ended the year with a full committee of six and three adjunct members (listed below). The average age of our committee (minus yours truly) equals 24 years old. All are second generation readers. I've heard them describe their exposure to *The Urantia Book* as not one of "finding" the book, but certainly they point to a time when they personally "discovered" the book.

We created a new website designed by Teuvo Orjala. Our site is called Urantia Now (www.urantianow.com) and it's filled with attractive UB information and current events that encourages the younger readers to stay connected.

We hosted two YaYA Invitationals -- which is our committee's name that replaces the word conference. We feel in time, and with proper marketing, the term 'Invitational' will become synonymous with YaYA. Our first Invitational was held in June in Boulder, CO. Our second Invitational was held in Los Angeles, CA last November. We are working in cooperation with local societies of the Fellowship to provide a balance of the younger readers interacting with the long time readers throughout any given region. By all measures we feel that these two inaugural Invitationals were a success. We've created a program format that can now be more easily implemented for future Invitationals. We are committed to hosting two per calendar year in different regions throughout North America.

As a committee, we were excited and honored to be included in the program planning of IC11. We thank Susan Cook (Chair) and Emilio Coppola (Program) for showing such confidence in our team. We had a great time in Salt Lake City, hosting the opening evening social, presenting a group workshop about YaYA, and promoting workshops that were either designed to attract a younger audience or were presented by younger readers. YaYA hosted the Saturday morning Plenary with Angie Thurston as the MC and Mae Thompson giving a wonderful speech. We also worked well with the Truthseekers in having their large group of teens and young adults stay on the Utah campus for one full day so they could be exposed to these workshops and the good energy of the conference before they went up to Snowbird. We had at least two of our committee members interacting with the Truthseekers at Snowbird and as a result there was a wonderful (and spontaneous) gathering of Truthseekers and YaYA's that met for questions and answers about *The Urantia Book*.

We continued to have conference calls every week. Some of our efforts included working on a new budget that I presented in Chicago during the Executive Committee meeting that will help provide the financial resources for several projects in 2012. Our emphasis is on college campus outreach, two YaYA Invitationals, involvement with the Summer Study Sessions in Chicago, and improving our social

networking capabilities through Urantia Now. We're excited about co-sponsoring an event this summer with Truthseekers. It will be July 16-22 in Taos, NM. YaYA and Truthseekers worked well together last summer in Snow Bird, UT and we look forward advancing this team effort.

We feel blessed to have the talents of Janet Graham (Farrington) to head up an adjunct committee on Family Life. She'll be gathering up existing Urantia related work on this topic from the many contributors and creating an archive that can be accessed on our website. She has plans for putting together a retreat in the near future that focuses on all things family related as viewed through *The Urantia Book* and it's teachings. So needless to say, we're excited to see this take shape as we feel it's connected to the journey of young adults as they enter marriage and their child rearing years.

With great appreciation to the Fellowship and your generous support of the Youth and Young Adult committee.

Tony Finstad - chair

Committee members:

Mae Thompson
Teuvo Orjala
Angie Thurston
Geoff Theiss
Liz Craig

Adjunct members:

Ashlee Pierce
Michael MacIsaac
Janet Graham