

# **NIGERIAN URANTIA CONFERENCE REPORT**

Emeka Anazodo

# **2023**



**URANTIA PEACE INITIATIVE**  
E 9B MILENNIUM HOUSING ESTATE  
OKE-ELETU  
IKORODU  
LAGOS  
NIGERIA



# URANTIA PEACE INITIATIVE

E, 9B, Millennium Housing Estate, Oke-Eletu, Ikorodu, Lagos State, Nigeria.

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**“LOVE IS ONLY BORN OF THOROUGHGOING UNDERSTANDING OF YOUR NEIGHBOR’S MOTIVES AND SENTIMENTS”**



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## Foreword

I am very happy to present to you the outcome and results of the Urantia Conference '**CONTAGIOUS LOVE**' held in Lagos Nigeria at the Lagos Airport Hotel Ikeja Lagos, on Friday September 1 and Saturday September 2, 2023. This event attracted 63 participants in person and more than 10 viewers of the live stream footage online. It was the most successful Urantia Conference so far conducted in Nigeria in the sense that we were able to meet all our conference objectives.

The three major objectives of the Conference were:

1. To bring together in one place, leaders of Urantia book study groups and long time readers of the book scattered across Nigeria, to get to know one another, disclose their aims and objectives, deliberate on the objectives of the revelators of the Urantia book, and find common grounds to work together in the dissemination of the teachings of the Urantia Book.
2. To bring together Members of the public especially youths, and introduce them to the teachings of the Urantia book through the conference activities.
3. To give away copies of the Urantia book to leaders and new readers.

Additionally, the Conference served as a forum for Urantia book readers to reunite and bond.

Urantia Peace Initiative is particularly grateful for the financial support it received from the Mustard Seed Grants Funds of the **URANTIA FOUNDATION**; and to the International Fellowship Committee (IFC) of the **URANTIA BOOK FELLOWSHIP**, for providing part of the matching funds that made this event possible.

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We are also grateful to Collins Lomo and KhatuKhira Bernard, who came all the way from Ghana and Uganda respectively to be a part of our event. And last, but certainly not least, the UPI wishes to thank wholeheartedly all contributors and participants of this event for making it informative as well as enjoyable!

***Emeka Anazodo***

*UPI Co-ordinator*

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## **SUMMARY & HIGHLIGHTS**

### **Day 1 – 1 September 2023**

#### **PRELIMINARY ADJUSTMENTS**

Khat had arrived on Thursday August 31 one day earlier than schedule, so the hotel management had put him in a budget room on my instruction, as the room reserved for him was for Friday September 1 and Saturday September 2. On Friday we moved the sound engineer's equipment to the venue, set up the conference banners, and sorted out Khat's extra accommodation. Then Collins called announcing a delay in his flight schedule making it impossible for him to be available for the Leadership meeting scheduled for 3 pm on that day. Quick adjustments had to be made to the conference program to accommodate this unforeseen event. The leadership meeting was shifted to Saturday September 2, the date for the main event. All the leaders were accordingly informed of this change. By 10:00 pm Khat and I drove to the Airport to get Collins and bring him to the hotel.

### **Day 2 – 2 September 2023**

#### **LEADERSHIP MEETING**

Saturday September 2 was heralded by a heavy rain that didn't seem to have any plans of stopping soon. But Khat, Collins and I went to the event hall anyways. We set up the registration desk and arranged chairs for the leadership meeting. Soon enough the attendees started trickling in despite the rain. Then the sound engineer arrived and started tinkering with his sound equipment. When it was time to start the meeting, only 8 out of the invited Nigerian leaders were present. And so augmented by Collins from Ghana and Khat from Uganda, we were 10 leaders who deliberated on the way forward and modalities for spreading the Urantia book in our region, and ways we can possibly collaborate and co-operate in doing so.

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The leaders that were present in the meeting are:

- **Emeka Anazodo**
- **Charity Charles**
- **Shola Agagu**
- **David Onche**
- **Chike Martins**
- **Daaniels Hussaini**
- **Samuel Benson**
- **Maya Anazodo**
- **Collins Lomo**
- **Khatukhira Samuel**

The leaders deliberated on the following issues:

1. Why are we spreading the Urantia book?
2. Different approaches to spreading the message
3. The use of music in ministry
4. The value of personal experience in ministry.
5. The need for study groups..
6. The Publication Mandate.
7. Urantia Nigeria and the Urantia Peace Initiative.
8. The need for a central Urantia Library in Nigeria

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The forum reached the following decisions:

1. Each one of us got the Urantia book not just because we were spiritually ready for its teachings, but also because someone made the effort to place it in our path. So it is our duty as spiritual students to help others who are ready for these teachings by making ourselves available for Spirit to use us to make these teachings available to others who are ready now, and those who will become ready later.
2. Each person should follow the leadings of their Thought Adjuster on methods and strategies. Our strategies may be different, but we should work with the principle of Spiritual Unity since we have a common goal.
3. Music is a powerful instrument in spreading the message of the Urantia book.
4. As we employ different approaches in our efforts to spread the Urantia book, we encounter varying levels of experiences. And no matter how we interpret these experiences in terms of success or failure, they are valuable experiences that will enrich the qualities of our lives and help guide others' footsteps.
5. Urantia book study groups are like power houses of light. And when there are enough of these light houses, the planet will produce sufficient mortals with enlightened minds and spiritualizes souls, and will be ready for the first stages of Light and Life.
6. Khat shared the Publication Mandate and read aloud from it, and we decided it was a document worth studying for possible adoption.
7. Every Urantia Book reader in Nigeria is by default a member of Urantia Nigeria, but The Urantia Peace Initiative is an NGO with the aims and objectives of fostering peace and unity among all people irrespective of culture, religion, tribe or color.

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8. Every participant volunteered to join forces with the UPI in its effort to spread the teachings of the Urantia book in a non-religious manner, as it was agreed that this method will encounter the least resistance.
9. A central Urantia library project in Nigeria is good, as such a library will cater for the Urantia book needs of all workers in the Father's vineyard. Such a library can also serve as a meeting place for Urantia Book activities.

## INTRODUCTION

The conference proper started with a keynote address by Emeka Anazodo where he gave a brief background of the Urantia book, the meaning of the word Urantia, how the desire to spread the book's message swelled in his heart and the efforts he has made to reach others who have discovered the book and to collaborate with them.

He also briefly explained what the Urantia Book was, what the Urantia Peace Initiative was all about and why the conference was necessary. He spoke about his vision of the UPI and why it was necessary to not create or run it as a religious organization or a church.

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## **NATIONALISM AND HUMAN BROTHERHOOD**

The first presentation was taken by Shola Agagu. Shola who is a visually impaired musician came into contact with the urantia book in 2010 when he was an undergraduate at the University of Lagos,

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**SHOLA AGAGU**

Shola, in his 30 minutes presentation showed the audience that nationhood can be achieved by people who are not necessarily similar in language and color, but that if a group of people have a common purpose, then they can build a culture and become one nation. He said that all the peoples of the Earth can, and will, someday become one nation through the wholehearted dedication to uphold the brotherhood of man above all else.

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## WHAT IS THE URANTIA BOOK

This next presentation was taken by Daniels Hussein.

Daniels is a dental surgeon and digital professional who has been reading the Urantia book since 2019. He has read the entire book, and has participated in UBIS and UUI courses. He leads a study group and has given out copies of the Urantia books to interested persons where he lives in Kaduna State – a Muslim dominated state in Northern Nigeria.



**DANIELS HUSSAINI**

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Daniels spiked the interest of the audience who were mostly teenagers and adolescents, in the Urantia book as he enthusiastically described the four sections of the book and how the information obtainable there can enhance life's meanings for everyone irrespective of their religious affiliations.

## **SHINING THE SPIRITUAL LIGHT IN TODAY'S WORLD**

This presentation was taken by Collins Lomo from Ghana, who also doubled as the MC for the conference.

Collins has been studying the Urantia book since 2011 when he discovered it while surfing the internet. He hosts a study group in Ghana, and presently serves as the African Continental Coordinator for the Urantia Association International (UAI).



**COLLINS LOMO**

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Collins proved to be a friendly and charismatic speaker who had the audience glued to him and laughing with him as he described how each of us can be a channel for spreading divine love in whatever situations and circumstances we find ourselves.

## **CONTAGIOUS LOVE**

The theme presentation CONTAGIOUS LOVE was given by Emeka Anazodo the host of the conference. He has been reading the Urantia Book since 2001 and has been active in Urantia ministry for over 20 years.



**EMEKA ANAZODO**

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In his presentation Emeka painted a picture of the evolutionary struggles of man to understand himself, his neighbor and his environment, and explained that this is the process of attaining love. He claimed that by the time man rises above tribal and racial sentiments and comes to understand his neighbor's intents and motives, he will realize that he has a lot in common with his fellow man and then will be able to love him like a brother, discarding racial, social and religious differences. He said that this love was contagious and would sweep through the whole planet bringing peace and goodwill to mankind.

## RELIGIOUS GROUPS AND SPIRITUAL UNITY

This presentation was delivered by Khatukhira Bernard from Uganda.

Khat has been reading the Urantia Book since 1997 and has been working with the UBIS as Teacher Facilitator since 2015.



**KHATUKHIRA BENARD**

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Khat used his teaching skills to keep the audience enthusiastic. For more than half an hour he kept the young ones excited as he had them raising their hands to take the mic and answer a question or read out a passage from the Urantia Book at his direction.

## **DINNER AND SOCIAL BREAK**

All the participants were treated to a sumptuous meal. They took the time to socialize, taking selfies and group photos.

## **CLOSE**

At 6 pm, the conference finally came to a close.

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## CONFERENCE PICTURES



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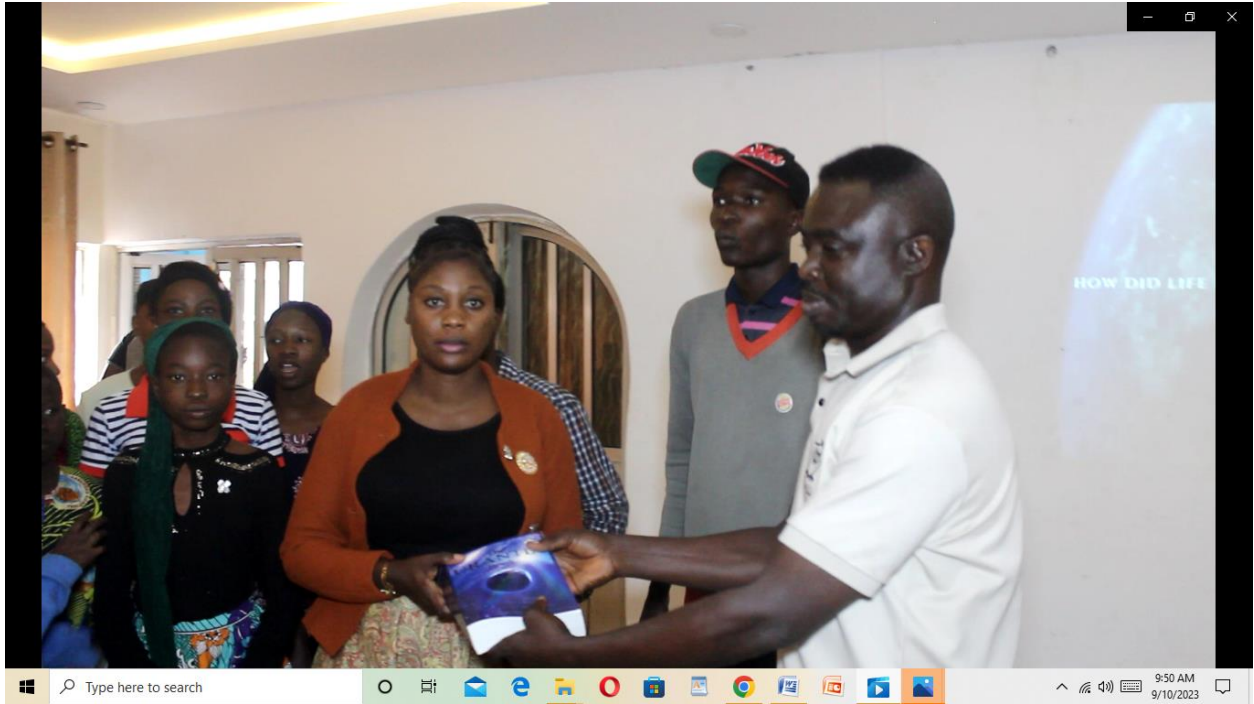


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