

Homegrown Small Scale Outreach by Thomas Orjala

This year I had the good fortune to travel extensively and share the Urantia Book while meeting many truth seekers at expos and fairs around the country. The best part was working with the local readers and seeing over 175 books find new owners. And that's just the booth's I personally worked at.

This fall I asked our study group members if they would like to participate in a couple local holistic fairs. Our area hosts about a half dozen of these each year. The group was enthusiastic to help so, we booked one in Spokane, Washington and another in Coeur d' Alene, Idaho.

These local fairs are small compared to the big Expo's (as mentioned in Larry Whelan's article) however, they are a ton of fun to do. They are low key, don't involve lots of travel or set up, and since they are local, we often see people we already know. They are also only one day events instead of two days and the booth fee is usually quite reasonable.

We sold 9 books and gifted two at the holistic fair in Spokane. There is usually a raffle basket that the booth holders are asked to contribute something to so I always donate a book. The Coeur, d Alene show was much smaller and we still had many good conversations and sold 5 books and gifted two. The thing I noticed was how visible the UB is becoming in my community. This is directly related to the way we choose to interact with our community – such as putting up literature on bulletin boards, giving out free book cards, attending (and speaking at) holistic organization functions and being visible on Meetup.com.

Study groups that are not reaching out to the public are missing out on great opportunities. Your study group members will thoroughly enjoy working an information table at local fairs and will want to do it again. I can only imagine how much the revelation will grow as more study groups participate in this type of outreach in their own community.

You know where to find the resources (banners, brochures, books, guidance, etc.). If not, contact me at tomo@imaxmail.net or the Fellowship office.

The only thing needed now is a willingness to reach out to your fellows.

The act is ours....