

Annual Report of the Education Committee
July 2001
Lee Smith, Chair

To: The General Council of The Urantia Book Fellowship

From: Lee Smith, Education Committee Chairperson

Subject: Education Committee Annual Report

An annual report gives a snapshot in time of an entity's evolution and progress. Herein, we are given an opportunity to pause and reflect on the purposes, quality of functioning, and future endeavors of our organization and its various committees. As this is my first full year as a committee chair, I am particularly pleased that I am able to present this report during a fascinating period in the evolution of our movement.

Over time the Education Committee has gone through some informal changes. The original, constituted purpose (which I do not believe has ever been formally amended since it was written in 1955), is as follows:

Section 11.14. **The Education Committee:** The Education Committee shall find, prepare, and qualify teachers of The Urantia Book, who shall be persons of high moral character, devoted to the teachings and principles of The Urantia Book; it shall seek to interest such suitable persons in preparing themselves to teach the truths of The Urantia Book and to prepare and qualify such persons to teach The Urantia Book. By and with the approval and consent of the Executive Committee, it shall establish and implement standards of character, conduct, and education for such teachers. Any title or certificate conferred by the Education Committee may be revoked by the Executive Committee for conduct unworthy of the office upon request of the Education Committee and recommendation of the Judicial Committee after a hearing upon notice to show cause.

For whatever reasons, it appears that the Education Committee has never established a formal on-going process that is aimed at fulfilling the task described above.

Our web site descriptive, however, is a both more current and succinct:

Education-- Responsible for many aspects of the triennial International Conferences, the annual summer study sessions and the Wrightwood Series of in-depth studies on topics of contemporary concern.

Nevertheless, I believe that The Fellowship's Constituted Purpose Statement is actually more true to the Education Committee's real mission:

The purposes of THE FELLOWSHIP are the study and dissemination of the teachings of The Urantia Book; the promotion, improvement, and expansion among the peoples of the world of the comprehension and understanding of Cosmology and the relation of the planet on which we live to the Universe, of the genesis and destiny of Man and his relation to God, and of the teachings of Jesus; and the inculcation and encouragement of the realization and appreciation of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man -- in order to increase and enhance the comfort, happiness, and well-being of Man, as an individual and as a member of society, by fostering a religion, a philosophy, and a cosmology which are commensurate with Man's intellectual and cultural development, through the medium of fraternal association, ever obedient and subservient to the laws of this country and of all countries wherein THE FELLOWSHIP may extend.

In this regard though, I am particularly drawn to these words from the Midwayers:

P2090:4, 196:1.3 To "follow Jesus" means to personally share his religious faith and to enter into the spirit of the Master's life of unselfish service for man. One of the most important things in human living is to find out what Jesus believed, to discover his ideals, and to strive for the achievement of his exalted life purpose. Of all human knowledge, that which is of greatest value is to know the religious life of Jesus and how he lived it.

P2086:2, 195:10.16 The great hope of Urantia lies in the possibility of a new revelation of Jesus with a new and enlarged presentation of his saving message which would spiritually unite in loving service the numerous families of his present-day professed followers

P2096:9, 196:3.30 Be not discouraged; human evolution is still in progress, and the revelation of God to the world, in and through Jesus, shall not fail.

I personally believe that The Urantia Book Fellowship and, indeed, the entire Urantia Book readership (movement) has difficulty staying focused on the essential message of the Fifth Epochal Revelation: to foster the renewed and restated gospel of experiencing universal family fellowship with God, a loving Parent. I further believe that the apex of the Urantia Papers (and its subsequent experiential realization as a living revelation) is most powerfully shown in the re-revealed life and teachings of Jesus. The Jesus-mania that the world has been experiencing of late is an indication of the potential readiness of the masses for the teachings found in the FER and particularly in the Jesus papers.

Perhaps it is time for the Education Committee to update its Constitutional purpose and I will ask our committee and the General Council as a whole to consider this.

I further believe it is an appropriate time for the Education Committee to focus more on "fostering a religion, a philosophy, and a cosmology" by linking our educational focus to the Jesus Papers, even to using *Jesus: A New Revelation* as a teaching tool. Despite our enthusiasm to have a Fellowship-produced copy of *The Urantia Book*, I must remind everyone that *JANR* is published, packaged and ready to go out *now*.

The Committee will gratefully entertain ideas for teaching and training efforts that focus on Jesus' life and teaching. We will continue, of course, with the traditionally broader elements of committee work.

To lend some evidence to what I am stating, I have attached a survey taken by one of our committee members at

the conclusion of IC96. You will note the overview indicates that, even among seasoned UB readers, the desire of experiential process is a paramount theme.

We have been told of Jesus' teachings that:

P2090:5, 196:1.4 The common people heard Jesus gladly, and they will again respond to the presentation of his sincere human life of consecrated religious motivation if such truths shall again be proclaimed to the world. The people heard him gladly because he was one of them, an unpretentious layman; the world's greatest religious teacher was indeed a layman.

I frequently have copies of the UB returned to me with comments that the book is too "detailed," "intellectual," "elitist," etc. My impression from the rap on the street, so to speak, is that Urantia Book readers tend to be seen as a rather insular group in regards to our cosmic knowledge and intellectual self-assuredness.

Yet, in The Last Teaching at Pella, we are reminded that:

P1856:2, 169:4.4 Jesus well knew that God can be known only by the realities of experience; never can he be understood by the mere teaching of the mind. Jesus taught his apostles that, while they never could fully understand God, they could most certainly *know* him, even as they had known the Son of Man. You can know God, not by understanding what Jesus said, but by knowing what Jesus was. Jesus *was* a revelation of God.

P1857:3, 169:4.12 But mark you! never did Jesus say, "Whoso has heard me has heard God." But he did say, "He who has *seen* me has seen the Father." To hear Jesus' teaching is not equivalent to knowing God, but to *see* Jesus is an experience which in itself is a revelation of the Father to the soul. The God of universes rules the far-flung creation, but it is the Father in heaven who sends forth his spirit to dwell within your minds.

If this is important to us, how then do we see Jesus and reveal him ---and thereby the Father --to our fellows?

P2084:1, 195:10.1 Christianity has indeed done a great service for this world, but what is now most needed is Jesus. The world needs to see Jesus living again on earth in the experience of spirit-born mortals who effectively reveal the Master to all men.

I recently came across a gospel CD of African-American heritage wherein one song, "Live in Me, Jesus," particularly struck me. Its refrain is: "let me be the legs for You to walk, let me be the mouth for You to talk... live in me Jesus, have Your way in me, tell the world through me that You love them... because I may be the only Jesus that this generation will ever see."

I submit that we actually do have a unique advantage in doing just that: presenting Jesus again through human eyes. We are blessed with an understanding of Revelation. The only complement we really need then is the action of our faith.

P1111:2, 101:5.9 Evolved religion rests wholly on faith. Revelation has the additional assurance of its expanded presentation of the truths of divinity and reality and the still more valuable testimony of the actual experience

which accumulates in consequence of the practical working union of the faith of evolution and the truth of revelation. Such a working union of human faith and divine truth constitutes the possession of a character well on the road to the actual acquirement of a morontial personality.

Faith is the basis for spiritual growth in a physical universe. As we progress towards Paradise, we are told that the assurance of experiential truth attainment gradually replaces the assurance of faith. In the meantime:

P1113:6, 101:6.10 Through the appropriation of the faith of Jesus, mortal man can foretaste in time the realities of eternity. Jesus made the discovery, in human experience, of the Final Father, and his brothers in the flesh of mortal life can follow him along this same experience of Father discovery. They can even attain, as they are, the same satisfaction in this experience with the Father as did Jesus as he was.

So many of us have had our faith supremely tested recently, that “invigorating faith” quite naturally became this year’s Summer Session theme. At this year’s gathering the Education Committee is attempting to incorporate the spiritual value (faith value) of building relationships—both human and divine—as we learn and share more deeply the ideas and ideals of the Fifth Epochal Revelation. In so doing, we are co-creating another small, but growing, part of the kingdom of heaven on earth.

The Education committee looks forward to participating with the planning team for IC 2002. The Wrightwood Seminar Series has been temporarily put on hold in order to concentrate on the Summer Session and IC 2002. However, if a seminar could be convened this fall that would contribute significantly to the IC 2002 program, I would consider it useful to impanel a Wrightwood group in liaison with the IC2002 program team.

In any case and in all cases, I pray that Jesus will live and be seen... in each of us.

In Loving Fellowship,

Lee Smith

Education Chair

Annual Report of the Interfaith Committee
2001
Marvin Gawryn, Chair

Interfaith Committee

Annual Report 2001

Several evolutionary developments in the Committee's work have occurred in the past year. Committee members unanimously requested that the chair propose a constitutional amendment to change the Committee's name. Accordingly, with the assistance of the Judicial Committee chair, the General Council considered such an amendment and passed it, changing our name from the original Fraternal Relations Committee to the more appropriate Interfaith Committee.

The Committee's webpage, created by Richard Omura, has evolved to a full-blown website. It can be found at www.interfaithspirit.com. Richard also hosted a Urantia Book booth at the annual Religious Diversity Fair in Orange County, California.

Marvin Gawryn attended the first North American Summit of the United Religions Initiative in Salt Lake City. URI is a rapidly growing global network of more than 60 Cooperation Circles in 40 countries, which work to promote cooperative interfaith relations and resolve religiously motivated conflicts.

The possibility of attending and sponsoring a booth at the upcoming global URI summit is on the Committee's agenda in the coming year. We will also be looking at working cooperatively with the International Fellowship Committee on developing activities involving readers of different faith and national backgrounds at IC 02.

Respectfully submitted,

Marvin Gawryn, Chairman

Interfaith Committee

Annual Report of the Ad Hoc PR Committee
2001
Alison Gardner, Chair

August 2001

Interim Report of the Ad Hoc PR Committee

Since our last report, the pr committee accomplished:

1. Our new brochure, "A brief description of *The Urantia Book*" has been printed and is being distributed. An updated version of our other brochure (Come Serve With Us) was also produced and distributed. Supplies were shipped to John Hales, Paula Thompson, David Kantor, Avi Dogim, and Alison Gardner, in various amounts for their relative needs. A supply of both was also sent to Lee Smith who will include them in the SSS'01 registrants packets. A mailing of this new brochure to the full data base is under consideration which would have a cover letter alerting all readers to its availability for their personal dissemination. At the very least, a notice will be prepared for the next few issues of the *Mighty Messenger*, reminding people that these brochures can be available in quantity upon request.
2. The first phase of design development for new bookmark/s with Paula Thompson is underway. Currently assisting with copywriting, final design, and pre-production. There will be a series of 5 different quotes printed on 2000 bookmarks (minimum), on high grade translucent card stock, with public domain artwork. It has been recommended that the only Fellowship identifiers be the organization name and just two urls (urantia-book.org and ellibro.com), subject to further input from Paula, her cmte, and the exec cmte. We are aiming for production as soon as possible.
3. Assistance to Lee Smith/Ed cmte and John Hales in developing and producing the May promotional mailing for SSS'01.
4. Assistance to the President in crafting the joint Fellowship-Foundation Announcement re the Memo Of Understanding.
5. Assistance to Robert Burns/Finance cmte in crafting their June 2001 solicitation package.
6. Another stationery kit to go to each GC member and Society governing board is being organized. In addition to a supply of letterhead, envelopes, mailing labels, business cards, sample membership cards, and, b+w faux letterhead (for flyers, etc.), a disk will be included this time with a WORD template indicating the usable fields (margins and layouts) to utilize the gray stationery components; and, pdf files of the faux letterhead (with and without the address block, and in black-and-white only) with user specifications, for print or on the web. Because of the designed nature of our logo-identifier, it is not practical or advisable to allow anyone to print our gray and screened letterhead using various quality (who knows!) of printers and paper stock, and without strict registration of the image. We want to encourage every Fellowship member to make use of our gray stationery, and providing a template and ample supplies of stationery seems to be the best and only approach to encourage this. But if they

want to print something on their own it will have to be in b+w only, and now they will have the tools and specifications on hand to do this. Mass mailings of all sizes will continue to be printed on gray letterhead through the The Fellowship office and this ad hoc cmte.

7. Assistance to the Charter Committee in completing Membership Kit has been provided. This is expected to be ready for use by the end of August, or earlier. It will be translated to Spanish right away for the growing number of requests for affiliation from Latin America.
8. Assistance to the Domestic Extension Committee was provided to complete the Study Group Starter Kit. Please send to Alison a finished kit, for the pr cmte records, or let her know what more she can do to help.
9. Discussed promotional needs for IC'02 with Steve Dreier. Preparation of promotional materials will begin in earnest in September, again through successive issues of the Mighty Messenger, with an emphasis on promotion through the web site. Calendar notices in selected mainstream special-interest publications will be considered as well.

Since we did not produce a graphic "wrapper" or anything like it for the May promotional mailing for SSS'01, we still have in our pr budget approved funds for one or two other graphic pieces, in addition to those referenced above. Since no ideas have forthcoming from the committee chairs, might we invite suggestions from societies of what kinds of materials would be useful to them on a local level, either in fundraising or for dissemination?

Alison/cmte is still looking for a new co-chair and some members. Recommendations would be most welcomed.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison B. Gardner

Alison B. Gardner

Chair, Ad Hoc PR Committee

Annual Report of the Charter Committee
2001
Robert Bruyn, Chair

CHARTER COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

THE PAST YEAR:

Committee Membership: The first year as Charter chair has been rewarding. Last August there were three vacancies on the Committee, due to elections, term expiration, and a resignation. John Causland (Michigan) agreed to serve as secretary and Dale Szejnberg (New York) had a five-year term remaining. Wm. 'Sonny' Schneider (Hawaii) and Charlene Morrow (Oklahoma) agreed to serve and were appointed by the Executive Committee in October 2000. They wait approval by the General Council. At the time of this report we still have one vacancy and would like to have a member from outside the USA. Skills in Spanish or Web development would really help us.

Constitutional Change: The duties and privileges of Charter were expanded at the midyear meeting of the General Council in Florida. *The Urantia Book* Fellowship constitution was modified reassigning responsibility for developing and nurturing Societies from the Domestic Extension (Outreach) Committee to the Charter Committee. As a result, the Committee has tried to help facilitate this year's assembly of Society representatives for the reconvened TDA.

The Urantia Book Aloha Society: One of the great episodes in the career of Charter Committee is to install a new Society. On December 8, 2000 *The Urantia Book* Aloha Society of Hawaii was installed in a ceremony in Captain Cook on the Big Island. This completed a process that started about a year earlier by Bud Kagan of Hawaii. We warmly welcome this 21st Society and look forward to the contribution they bring.

Member-At-Large: Inge Scheumann of Sierra Vista, Arizona was recommended for membership and subsequently approved by the Executive Committee. There are now 284 at large members compared to about 1016 members that belong to Societies and the Korean Association.

Society Chartering Packet: The Committee is currently finalizing a packet of information about Chartering. Included is:

1. **Cover letter** – This standard letter of introduction should welcome inquirers, explain the role of societies in our organization, and emphasize the role of service for the new group. (Borrowed extensively from info in the Welcome Kit.)

2. **Becoming a Chartered Society** – This is a list of requirements and procedures to become a society and is hopefully “user friendly.”
3. **Application for Membership** – This form is completed by each person applying for membership in the new Society.
4. **Standard Constitution** – This document has been pre-approved by Judicial and Charter and can be used as is or amended to fit the group.
5. **Fellowship Constitution** – This must be read and accepted by new members.

Other Activities: The Committee worked with Bud Kagan to provide information about becoming a Society to readers in the Portland, Oregon area. Information was also provided to readers in Ontario, Canada.

NEXT YEAR:

Latin America: Recent inquiries from Latin America have awakened us to the fact that we should have been preparing ourselves to interact with readers who do not speak English. The immediate task at hand is to communicate with our neighbors to the south and to produce materials in their languages. To begin, we should at least translate the materials in the Society Chartering Packet into Spanish. The cost of translation needs to be approved. Portuguese may be needed soon based on the level of activity in Brazil. The challenge for Charter in the coming year is to be of service to groups in Latin America and everywhere that are interested in affiliation with *The Urantia Book* Fellowship.

“A social group of human beings in co-ordinated working harmony stands for a force far greater than the simple sum of its parts.” (133:5.6, p. 1477:1)

For the Charter Committee,

Bob Bruyn, Chair

John Causland, Secretary

Charlene Morrow

Wm Sonny Schneider

Dale Szejnberg

Annual Report of the Outreach Committee
2001
Paula Thompson, Chair

2001 Outreach Committee Report

2000/2001 was a good year for the Outreach Committee. With the help of numerous volunteers we introduced the teachings of The Urantia Book to thousands of individuals, distributed hundreds of gift books, produced the Study Group Directory, and generally worked on creating an awareness of the Fifth Epochal Revelation.

Booth Outreach

In 2000/2001 we did 8 shows in 8 cities, including: Phoenix, Ft. Lauderdale, San Francisco, Spokane, Denver, Allentown, Kansas City, and Los Angeles. We estimate that in these eight shows over 100,000 people became aware of The Urantia Book.

These outreach efforts constitute a tremendous amount of time and effort of the part of Outreach Committee. In addition to the up-front planning and preparation, we typically send a trained facilitator to coordinate volunteers and procedures. This person donates more than 30 working hours just at the show, not to mention their travel time, training meetings, set-up, teardown, accounting and follow-up. It's no snap schlepping the heavy booth around in airports either. For this reason my heartfelt appreciation and gratitude are extended to Robin Jorgensen, LuAnn Harney and Doreen Heyne, all committee members who spent one or more weekends facilitating expos in 2000. A great deal of credit must also be given to our dedicated local liaisons, unsung heroes, who help us coordinate these events at the local level, and the many readers who volunteer in the various cities we go to, without whom these efforts would be impossible.

The following literature was distributed at these shows:

Soft Back UB 103

Hard Back UB 31

Spanish UB 38

Index 3

UB Excerpt Brochures 4,561

Life After Death Magazine 58

When Things Go Wrong 11

Intro to The UB by D. Bradley 10

Universe Art Foldouts 105

M. Sprunger Brochures 128

Fellowship Brochures 400

Study Group Directories 300

In addition, we distributed other great secondary works, made personal contact with hundreds of people who signed our mailing list, provided numerous Urantia Book readers an opportunity to serve as outreach volunteers and exposed the book to thousands of potential seekers.

Uversa Book Distribution

With the help of Jesusonian Foundation, Domestic Extension distributed 340 Uversa Press books for the following purposes:

Youth Book Program 45

International Gifts 112

FLOWERS 50

Societies 20

Prisoners 16

Website 100

Individuals 3

Work With Other Fellowship Committees

Domestic Extension helped IFC distribute the following gift Urantia Books internationally:

Spanish Books 84

38 - Mexico

1 - Argentina

11 - Ecuador

33 - Chile

1 - Peru

English Books 112

10 - South Africa

1 - Romania

20 - Israel

1 - England

40 - West Africa

40 - Canada

The 2001 Study Group Directory

The directory was completed in time to be distributed at the beginning of 2001. This year, in an effort to stimulate study group awareness and growth, in addition to mailing the SGD to every study group listed, we also mailed one to every person on the Fellowship's membership list.

Committee member LuAnn Harney deserves our grateful recognition for her tireless efforts to provide an accurate and useful directory every year for 5 years now.

Creating New Study Groups

Outreach Committee worked on, but did not yet complete, the Study Group Starter Kit.

However, we did include a one-page reference in the 2001 Study Group Directory

called *Twelve Secrets For A successful Study Group*.

In addition, the Study Group Directory includes a category called "Will Host." This category represents individuals in a given area who have no study group but are willing to host one. In every area where we have a "Will Host" listing, we have sent out letters to other readers we know of in that area to let them know that a study group opportunity exists.

Annual Meeting

The members of Outreach Committee have initiated their own Internet discussion list to allow us to discuss current projects and new possibilities on an ongoing basis. So far in 2001 we have done some interesting new outreach with various Urantia Societies, including an ad campaign on the Art Bell radio show. But you will have to wait until next year to hear all the details of this.

We lost the talents and dedication of Doreen Heyne this year as she is now serving in the capacity of Secretary General for our Fellowship, but we happily gained the enthusiastic participation of Bob Buselli. Welcome aboard Bob!

As always, it is an honor to be able to do this work on behalf of The Urantia Book Fellowship and The Fifth Epochal Revelation. We look forward to increased opportunities to serve.

The Fellowship's Outreach Committee:

LuAnn Harney

Robin Jorgensen

Brian Smith

Bob Buscelli

Maria Downing (ad hoc)

Les Jameson (ad hoc)

In faith and friendship,

Paula Thompson, Chair

Domestic Extension Committee

Annual Report of the International Fellowship Committee
2001
David Kantor, Chair

International Fellowship Committee
August 2001

The committee has been very busy over the past year, particularly in the Latin American effort. Lila Dogim continues her work with the checking of the Russian translation. She and Avi, along with several other readers, will be making a trip to Russia later this year to meet with Russian readers.

Rosey Lieske, Susan Ransbottom, and Agustin Arellano have been tireless workers on Latin American issues over the past year and I am very grateful to them for their sacrifices and their accomplishments. Without the incredible amount of work being done by these three readers, the Latin American explosion would not likely be happening.

Last year it was decided that the Fellowship would not hire a Spanish reader services coordinator. This did not make the work disappear. In fact, the work has increased tremendously. The current approach is one of triage and a lot of important work is not being done simply because we don't have the staffing or the financial resources to handle the demand. In some cases revelation workers are of necessity financing their outreach efforts from their own limited resources. Our organization should be able to better support its key workers and indeed must do so if we are to realize any significant growth in our ability to foster the development of the emerging readership.

The second week in April we participated in the first National Conference in Mexico. Fellowship members and societies contributed a total of \$2,310.00 which purchased 14 scholarships for readers who would otherwise not have been able to attend. The conference was well attended and was a significant event for the Mexican readership. Urantia Foundation sent representatives who collected names and addresses and then later sent letters to attendees seeking support of Urantia Foundation's political agenda.

The International Fellowship Committee also contributed money to two scholarships offered by Sue and Derrick Tenant for readers from Mexico to attend a leadership training seminar at the Silver Springs retreat center. An additional 11 scholarships were provided for readers in Colombia to attend the upcoming Reader Congress in Bogotá.

Foundation issues

The International Fellowship Committee has desired to foster the growth and development of

independent reader groups around the world. It has been felt that the strongest international social organization will result from regional groups which have their own economic and political structures but which collaborate with each other on issues of mutual concern and interact socially. To this end the committee has worked to identify emerging leaders in various countries. Communication is established with these readers and when possible we have worked to facilitate their coming together at regional conferences. The thinking behind this is that we can foster the growth of these groups and of international networks of revelation workers by making it possible for regional leaders to meet and establish working relationships with each other.

There have been troublesome problems with Urantia Foundation exploiting regional meetings and conferences for aggressive recruiting and propaganda efforts. There is a combination of direct harrassment of individuals who choose to remain independent along with continual enticements to support the Foundation's political program. Needless to say, this creates a very difficult situation for honest and sincere revelation workers in other countries who, because of differences in culture and language, are unable to fully understand the issues involved.

Translations

A number of translations are in process of development, some of which should be ready for printing within the next year or so. At least four are in the final editing stage. It is urgent that the Fellowship provide some sort of legal support for readers doing this work so that they have something with which to counter the threats, intimidation and harrassment received from Urantia Foundation once the Foundation discovers work in progress which they do not control. At minimum, this should take the form of a statement regarding the copyright status and the implications for publication of translations. If the Fellowship cannot provide direct legal help, we should at least provide background information on the status of the U.S. copyright and any other information which would facilitate the acquiring of sound legal opinions within the countries in which publication will take place.

Book Distribution

Over the past year committee funds have been used to provide approximately 200 Spanish books to readers in Latin America. This is in addition to the nearly 1,000 books distributed by Guetza, the Mexican reader organization.

The weekend of June 29 Urantia Foundation held a meeting in Chicago to discuss issues related to the Spanish translation. The Foundation flew in key readers from various Latin American countries, in many cases leadership people who had been identified by the Fellowship. The meeting also was a very well orchestrated recruitment effort.

There is a great deal of indignation among Spanish readers with the poor quality of the Foundation's translation -- both of the translation itself as well as the lack of careful proof reading. Because of internal political problems with Georges, Seppo and their Spanish translator in Spain (who does not

know English but is using George's French translation as the source document), the Foundation initially stated that it would produce two Spanish translations, one for readers in Spain, and one for readers in Latin America. The attendees at the Foundation's meeting were unanimous in their desire to have only one high quality translation. A petition was delivered to the trustees who said they would produce only one translation. However, by the next morning Seppo was backstepping, saying that they would do this "if it turned out to be possible." The attendees were told that they would be informed in several months of the Foundation's course of action.

Other problems

It is difficult for us to publicize readership events or to acknowledge the work of regional leaders in Latin America because the Foundation picks this up and then approaches these leaders or groups with high-pressure recruitment tactics. In some cases these consist of legal threats and intimidation leveled at readers who wish to remain independent from North American political organizations. The Foundation recently got a copy of Agustin's mailing list (by less than ethical means) of readers in Mexico. This was followed by Bob Solone making personal phone calls to persons on the list, seeking to inform them about the revelator's plans for Urantia Foundation to control the revelation, and seeking their support for the Foundation's political agenda (as well as rejection of any efforts to establish independent reader groups in Mexico -- "independent" being related to "rebellious" in a Caligastian sense.)

The problem is compounded by the fact that the Foundation selects as representatives individuals who pledge to support the Foundation politically. In nearly all cases these have been new readers who have had no previous experience with The Urantia Book and no experience with study groups. In several cases these individuals are seriously lacking in basic social skills. So the harrassment becomes very aggressive and these individuals become psychologically consumed in their newly bestowed social identities as protectors of an epochal revelation, representatives of a powerful American organization. These individuals are doing a great deal of damage -- including some serious damage to Urantia Foundation's reputation. Unfortunately, and loaded with serious long-term problems, is the fact that the Foundation's approach -- the revelation must be protected from the riff-raff -- is mapping religious conflict over existing class divisions in Latin America. The long term social problems potential in this unfortunate situation should not be underestimated.

However, the revelation speaks for itself and by far the greatest majority of readers seem to be far more interested in the spiritual work of the revelation as contrasted with the political objectives of Urantia Foundation.

The Foundation's representative to Argentina told us this past year that the Foundation's objective in Latin America is simply to leave the Fellowship with no supporters.

There are tremendous opportunities in Africa for readership development but we are utterly lacking in staff to handle the potentials which exist there. Norman Ingram has done a good job of establishing a base of readers. We need to foster this base through facilitating communication and regional

conferences the same we we're doing in Latin America. We need money and people who will be dedicated to this task, preferably people who are fluent in French.

Affiliates

There are at present three major groups in Latin America who are seeking formal affiliation with the Fellowship. Charter needs to aggressively work on this and to communicate with these folks in a timely manner. In two cases these are groups who are being pounded by Urantia Foundation and they are hopeful that by establishing a formal affiliation with the Fellowship, the Foundation will leave them alone.

Immediate needs

The committee is soliciting funds to provide scholarships for IC02. This is felt to be extremely important in that attending such a conference provides an opportunity for serious revelation workers to meet each other, to experience a larger community of readers, and to establish the kind of working relationships with other revelation workers which will facilitate the spread of the revelation in other parts of the world. I know of no other area in which an investment of funds holds such great potential for returns in terms of solid gains for the presence of the revelation in our world. We have received a \$10,000 contribution to be used as a matching fund for this purpose. Our goal is to have \$20,000 available by the end of this year to use for international scholarships to IC02. Please help us with this effort by contributing what you can and by making other readers aware of this opportunity.

There is much more going on in the work of this committee -- this has been a brief overview. Our greatest strength is the enthusiasm and dedication of a network of revelation workers developing across many countries. Our greatest problem is the continuous assault by Urantia Foundation on any revelation work which they do not control, and their persecution of evangelists of the kingdom who do not agree to support their political agenda. Our greatest need is for dedicated bilingual workers.

Such a life on such a planet!

Respectfully submitted by David Kantor for the International Fellowship Committee

Susan Ransbottom
Lila Dogim
Rosey Lieske
Adrienne Jarnagin
Stephanie Shaeffer

Annual Report of the Website Committee

2001

David Kantor

Website Development

August 2001

Growth in website traffic continued to accelerate during the past year. Between January 1, 2001 and mid-May we served out over 1,000,000 page views. During calendar year 2000 it was the end of the third quarter before we reached 1,000,000 page views for the year.

Along with this growth has come a proportionate increase in email and the need for other services. To meet these emerging needs, the website is being restructured technically in order to provide a more stable platform to support significant additional growth. This is in conjunction with moving the equipment and the network to the Sebastopol site. It is estimated that the transition to the new platform will be complete by the end of October of this year.

A great deal of time was spent during this past year attempting to meet Foundation demands regarding what was displayed on the website and how it was displayed. Much of this was diffused by the negotiations held in March. The trustees never did agree to meet with the Executive Committee to discuss their concerns, preferring instead to work through their lawyers in attempting to wrest compliance from the Fellowship.

At present we've been able to restore many of the services to the international readership which existed before the losses of the negotiating session. The Foundation required us to give them the domain name which we've used for the past three years to provide services to the Spanish readership -- librourantia.org. There is also pressure being applied to remove the Spanish translation from our website. We are no longer able to display the French text.

A major advance coming to the website is the content of The Urantia Book existing as a database. A reader has been working on this project for the past year or so and has created a database in which each word in the book is a single record in the database. These records have formatting and location attributes -- such as whether or not the word is italicized -- as well as attributes which link to external documents such as source materials. Having the text in this database format will allow us to stream it out into various software programs such as text formatting for print media publication or to Internet devices such as text readers for visually impaired persons or handheld devices such as cellphones and Palm Pilots. A new generation of translator's tools will become available with this database as it will be possible to pour any translation into similar tables and easily do cross-translation comparisons on a

paragraph-by-paragraph or sentence-by-sentence basis.

A significant need in terms of the website is for additional technical help, either reader volunteers or paid staffing. These are not small individual tasks which need to be done, but ongoing work of a technical nature.

An additional need is for a statement which we can publish for the international readership community regarding what is legal and what is not legal in terms of website publication. Urantia Foundation continues to harrass readers in other countries who want to publish their own materials on the Internet when the Foundation feels that these materials violate their commercial rights. This past year the Foundation actually shut down two websites run by young people outside the United States because of alleged trademark infringements. In such situations we receive email from the people who are being harrassed wanting to know about their legal situation. At present we are unable to provide any sound advice. I feel that we should be able to respond in such situations with clear guidelines as to how these readers can proceed with their evangelistic efforts.

It should be appreciated that approximately half of the website traffic consists of Spanish readers. There are Spanish readers in various countries continually providing content for the website. A major contribution this past year was a Spanish translation of Bill Sadler's "A Study of the Master Universe" along with the Appendices to the study. This was done as a joint project by The Church of the New Revelation and Cordesaes, two evangelistic groups working in Latin America.

Respectfully submitted,

David Kantor