

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

September 2004

The Finance Committee has continued forward with the strategies we began in 2003, which included reducing expenses, increasing donations and keeping an eye to improving efficiency. The success of this committee is in proportion to the success of all the other committees in introducing the revelation to the people of our world. It is by this yardstick we measure our efforts. Without funds and resources, the committees of the Fellowship are unable to function.

The Fellowship has had a major increase in the request for financial and other support from reader groups with projects either supporting the spread of the revelation or socializing the revelation. It would be wonderful for the Fellowship to be able to more fully support some of these projects. The readership has shown a resilient ability to fund those projects through a variety of resources outside the Fellowship. The importance of this should be noted and discussed by the Executive Committee of the Fellowship in upcoming meetings.

The Finance Committee's goal for fund raising \$500,000 has proved to be a difficult goal as of September 2004, at least in donations. With four more months of this fiscal year and some promised donations that will help to toward this goal, it is fairly certain we will fall far short of our goal. We have received contributions from 120 individuals so far in 2004, which is comparable to that of the last 4-5 years.

The Finance Committee did help to realize a wonderful gain in the sale of Wrightwood property, with the sale being \$869,000 and with \$221,400 be available for immediate use or for secure investing. \$600,000 is secured by the Wrightwood property with an amortized loan of 5.5% interest, due and payable in 60 months. The sale of the Wrightwood property and continuing virtual offices of the Fellowship, will keep the Fellowships operating expenses lower than in any previous year.

The Finance Committee would rejoice in reaching a goal of \$1,000,000 for the 50th anniversary, in 2005, of the publication of The Urantia Book and the formation of The Urantia Book Fellowship. The committee continues to evaluate short term and long term strategies to accomplish this goal, but realizes that if we continue doing the same thing, we will most likely continue with the same results. We continue to explore the possibilities, which include a more clear purpose the readership can identify with and support.

For long term goals, Ken Raveill and I continue working on strategies to increase fundraising through special bequests and wills. This avenue will be among the largest sources of funds for The Urantia Book Fellowship in the years to come, if the readership understands its importance and the importance of Fellowship continuing its work.

The Finance Committee has, with regrets, recognized the request of Lee Loots resignation due to personal difficulties. We look forward to her returning this committee in the future, as it is a great pleasure to work with her. The Finance Committee now is looking for two new committee members.

I gratefully acknowledge the dedication and hard work of the committee members. Working with such a group makes it an enjoyable process. I continue to be amazed by the dedication of all the volunteers and supporters of this revelation. The experience is like no other in my life.

Sincerely,
The Finance Committee
Robert Burns, Chair
Nick Curto
Lee Loots
Jerry Pando

Outreach Committee Report 2004

Greetings Friends,

In 2004, Outreach Committee welcomed the talents of Bobbie Dreier, Mary Jo Garascia and Maria Downing to our ongoing efforts.

Bobbie Dreier surely needs no introduction. She has served our Fellowship and The Urantia Movement with energetic enthusiasm for 30 years. We are deeply grateful to have Bobbie's help. Bobbie will be managing the Study Group Directory and Study Group correspondence in general.

Mary Jo Garascia, from Denver, fell in love with The Urantia Book 20 years ago as a result of the local society's outreach efforts at the People's Fair there.

Maria Downing, from Boulder, was introduced to the teachings 10 years ago while serving as a hospice nurse.

Both Mary Jo and Maria are passionate in their love of The Urantia Book and dedicated to outreach. Outreach Committee is blessed to have the talents of these two splendid women. They are currently working together on the new Urantia Book Speakers Bureau and are doing a fantastic job.

Outreach Projects

Booth Outreach – Expos

In 2004 we supported the efforts of local readers in having an outreach booth in the following locations:

Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Francisco, Minneapolis, Spokane, Oklahoma City, Kansas City, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts.

Many thanks go out to committee members Jo Ann Wiedman and Mary Jo Garascia for personally traveling to Minneapolis and LA to help with the booth outreach activities in those communities. We also express our deep gratitude to the many volunteers (too numerous to name) in the communities listed above, without whom, outreach with The Urantia Book would be

impossible.

In addition, Outreach Committee sent a booth to the Parliament of the World's Religions in Barcelona, Spain, where we introduced the book and its concepts to hundreds of religionists from around the globe. Outreach Committee was instrumental in getting over 50 Urantia Book readers to attend and participate in the Parliament, including international readers from Mexico, Africa and Pakistan. We also contributed to a scholarship for long-time Urantia Book Reader, and Interfaith Committee member, Steve Rohrbach, to attend the Parliament. Steve was awarded the honor of being the Parliament's official photographer. His images of the Parliament can be viewed at the following URL: <http://www.cpwr.org/2004Parliament/photos/parliament14.htm>

Gift Books

In 2004 Outreach Committee shipped donated books to Palestine, Pakistan, Greece, Newfoundland and Africa.

Study Group Directory

We maintained the online directory of domestic study groups as best we could. However, we are encouraged that now with Bobbie's wonderful help we will be able to make this service more accurate, accessible and accommodating.

The Urantia Book Speakers Bureau

After years of having this project on our wish list, we finally launched the Urantia Book Speakers Bureau. Mary Jo Garascia and Maria Downing have been instrumental in spearheading this project and getting it off the ground. A letter of invitation went out in the Mighty Messenger and we were delighted to get back responses from interesting and uniquely qualified speakers. A website is being created with the help of local web designer and UB reader Kara Blake. The site is a work in progress but can be previewed at <http://www.ubookspeakers.org/>. Our goal is to have qualified speakers available to speak on The Urantia Book and related topics in every state. For more information on this program please contact Mary Jo at: pilgrim_mj@yahoo.com or Maria at: Maridown@aol.com.

Mary Jo will also be managing Speakers Bureau meetings at IC05. Please check the message board at the conference if you are interested in attending.

The UB Contact Project

We launched a contact person program via the Mighty Messenger calling for interested persons

from around the country to submit their name if they are willing to be a contact person for The Urantia Book in their area. Our goal is to have a contact person in every state, and especially in those places where there are no study groups as yet. We will be adding this information to the Study Group Directory online.

As always, the members of Outreach Committee are deeply grateful for the blessings of truth given to us by this magnificent revelation and we are ever thankful to be able to serve in sharing it with the world.

The Outreach Committee of The Urantia Book Fellowship

Paula Thompson – Chair

Jo Ann Wiedman

Bobbie Dreier

Mary Jo Garascia

Maria Downing

General Council 2004 Retreat Summary

The following summary is based on reports prepared by three groups of General Councilors that participated in the General Council retreat in February 2004. Culled out of these reports are statements and recommendations that are actionable. The retreat was an informal meeting meant to stimulate brainstorming and creative thinking. No votes were taken and none of the recommendations are binding.

This document is to provide the GC with a tool of its own making which can be put to constructive use in future Council deliberations.

Structure and Organization

- The Fellowship needs a more effective command structure. Consider the creation of an action-focused substructure within the framework of the general constitutional model, fully coordinated with all existing committees; e.g. reporting to the president but with dotted line relationships as necessary
- Develop within the Executive Committee and the General Council a list of Operating Principles and a companion list of Decision standards that will portray the essence of what we are.
- The Fellowship structure may need revision. There needs to be a closer relationship between function and structure. Currently there is a mismatch between our existing structures and our most effective functions.
- Organizations tend towards self-protection – we must beware of this.
- The General Council needs leadership training, like the Boy Scouts.

Actions

1. **Urantia Book Distribution:**

- a. Create a distribution strategy for placement of English language books in bookstores, libraries, and elsewhere (if possible in coordination and partnership with Urantia Foundation and the IUA.)

- b. Do the same for all translations.

2. Website:

- a. Create a website strategy that integrates as fully as possible the common dissemination and outreach goals of The Fellowship, Foundation, and IUA.
- b. The website needs experts who can help design and implement a more user-friendly online presentation targeted to audiences and their needs. It is too much work for one person.

3. Societies and Study Groups:

- a. Systematically work to re-energize and strengthen weak Societies, remove those unable to function, and promote the growth of new Societies.
- b. Develop a plan for stimulating the growth of strong and stable study groups throughout the world, together with effective methods of communication and coordination.

4. Education:

- a. Create a Urantia University, both in physical locations and on the internet, dedicated to training teachers and fostering the development of leaders. Re-activate The Fellowship as an educational institution.
- b. Take more active and systematic steps to develop a Speakers Bureau, perhaps in conjunction with the efforts to get the School going.

5. General Dissemination:

- a. Encourage individuals and groups to explore new ways to bring *quiet* attention to the book through unorthodox methods of placement, etc.
- b. Go through the book and make a list of all the things suggested that would aid the task of global dissemination. Present this to the General Council so that we can decide how much of this we are positioned to undertake.
- c. Develop a plan to attract individuals to the Urantia teachings through special interest Societies or groups (not necessarily contiguous) in areas such as science, philosophy, education, law, etc.

- d. Formulate plans for creative alliances that will help foster the dissemination goals.

6. Communication:

(Ever be aware that communication begins with listening.)

- a. Clarify and articulate our nature and purposes in a way that is concise and consistent in order to present ourselves effectively (*dynamic, driving, inspiring purpose in 10 words or less?*) This brief vivid “marketing self-definition” needs to be well honed. It should be easy for Councilors and other leaders too remember and share in response to inquiries. It should be used in all of our self-presentation, in varied forms adapted to different groups and situations

- b. “Tell our story” in a consistent manner. A public relations person or small committee is needed to develop the “self-definition” described above, and gather our best success stories and coordinate their ongoing effective presentation to our different audiences through newsletters, etc

- a. Vivid Appeal (92:3.5). Presentations must have vivid appeal and ready application to be effective.

- b. Encourage the development of a deep down awareness of and sensitivity to all kinds of cultures – youth culture, national and regional cultures, ethnic cultures, racial cultures, religious cultures, and even the mini-cultures within the Urantia movement. Become aware of social and political constraints, bridging opportunities and the norms of global etiquette. Encourage polylingualism.

- c. Develop a field and/or virtual communication/representation system using regular phone and/or internet (or mail) contacts with Societies, study group leaders, and other active individuals. One of the problems such approaches have encountered in the past is the sluggish response (or no response) from those positioned to act as coordinating centers. Someone suggested last year that, “the organization doesn’t touch anybody’s life at all.” The General Council may want to examine why, and what to do about it.

- d. Poll the general readership on various issues.

7. Appeal to The Youth in Our Movement:

- a. Develop programs designed to enlist our youth in global dissemination.

- b. Communicate the vision however possible, and also to stimulate our younger compatriots to contribute their added richness, then go forward with the vision.

- c. Develop a supportive spiritual environment where spiritual growth is fostered. Families need to network with other families in the community to share ideas.
- d. We need to broaden our search for the resourcefulness of youth through different media such as internet chat rooms, online study groups, and Society functions. We need to promote youth programs at conferences, where networking with other young people can be instituted.

8. Creating/Enhancing Fellowship Opportunities:

- a. Improve our conferences and summer study sessions by programs that stick to basic teachings, especially for new readers
- b. Create opportunities at conferences to allow people to share life skills, and gifts of experience, such as parenting, marriage/relationships, conflict resolution, ethics in the workplace, etc.
- c. Revive children's programs at summer study sessions.
- d. We should show more support for regional conferences such as the ones in Texas, Kansas City, New York, Florida, etc.
- e. Consider holding science symposia or other special events at such regional locations.
- f. Consider enhancing fellowship opportunities at GC meetings through parties, worship, retreats and special presentations.
- g. Encourage societies and study groups to inspire their members to become involved in service projects such as Habitat for Humanity, local volunteer groups, prison visits, etc.
- h. Arrange special events such as cruises, or a trip to the Holy Land, train trips, houseboats, camping, etc. so that readers can enjoy special experiences together.

*Uversa Press Report
August 31, 2004*

1. The Urantia Book—IPG

On July 9, IPG cut a check for the balance of the returns retention fund less returns fees and distribution fees for the six months ending June 30:

Returns Retention Fund \$3,010.50
Returns & Distribution Fees (244.96)
Final Payment \$2,765.54

This payment has not yet been posted to sales, as the check is in mail-forwarding limbo at this time. Until IPG locates the check and forwards it with the attached final sales/returns report, it is impossible to provide actual numbers of books sold/returned over the period following the end of our contract. The books remaining on hand at IPG's warehouse (fewer than 40) will be returned to the Oklahoma City office at the Fellowship's expense.

2. The Urantia Book—Direct sales and consignments

As of August 31, we have shipped 567 softcover copies from Oklahoma City in 2004:

35 charged to Outreach Committee
5 replacement or review copies shipped at no charge
76 to Amazon.com (63 sold/paid)
90 to Baker & Taylor (36 sold/paid prior to August 31)
361 directly to individuals, societies, and independent booksellers (invoices outstanding on 12 copies)

Direct sales, IPG, Amazon and Baker & Taylor receipts to date are \$8565.26. (See note above regarding unposted final payment from IPG.) Approximately 10,900 softcover copies remain in inventory.

*Another 20 sold/paid since September 1, for those interested in how B&T is doing.

3. The Paramony.

As of August 31, we have shipped 64 copies of The Paramony in 2004, of which 60 have been paid. Direct sales and Amazon receipts to date are \$1133.54.

Approximately 2,450 copies remain in inventory.

4.Outstanding A/R for Uversa Press

As of August 31, 83 books that have been shipped and expensed to reflect inventory have not yet been posted to book sales totals. The estimated value of these books, most of which are with Amazon or Baker & Taylor, is approximately \$1,000.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT September 2004

THE PAST YEAR:

Committee Members: Last summer the GC elected Geri Johnson (Singapore) and Jack Kane (Colorado) as Committee members. Other members include Dale Szejnberg (New York), Lenny Cowles (Colorado), and John Causland (Michigan) who serves as the Committee's secretary. Richard Omura serves as an Adjunct committee member.

Membership Structure: The Fellowship's membership structure has not changed. Descriptions and application forms are available for download from the website at <http://www.urantiabook.org> by following the links What Is The Fellowship to Membership Information. Here are the highlights:

- Societies – The standards for Society chartering requires at least ten Founding Members who have read the entire Urantia Book and who adopt a constitution to create an organization which participates in the representative governance of The Fellowship. The Fellowship does not require that a Society's Charter Members and subsequent regular Members to have read the entire Urantia Book as these standards are determined by each Society.
- Members-At-Large – This year the Executive Committee authorized the Membership Committee with the authority to approve individuals to be Members-At-Large. Applicants are not required to have read the entire Urantia Book.
- Affiliate Organizations – The Executive Committee also has the authority to establish an administrative relationship with Affiliate Organizations. MAL applications are made available to the individual participants of Affiliate Organizations who wish to become Fellowship members.

Societies: No inquiries for chartering were received during the past year and no new Societies were installed.

Members-At-Large: During the past year, four applicants were approved to become Members-At-Large of The Fellowship. They are Jack Miller (Florida), Bernie Gingras (Ontario, Canada), Larry Mason (California), and A. Matthew Joy (Nishinomiya City, Japan). We welcome them to our Fellowship.

Affiliate Organizations: No application for becoming a Fellowship Affiliate has been received since the installation of "Centro didático-terapêutico Casa de FAD" on May 6, 2002 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Furthering Society Purposes: This Constitutional task has focused on the following:

- TDA – In 2003, Society Delegates at the TDA voted to discontinue the experiment of meeting annually. The next Triennial Delegate Assembly will be in 2006. The Membership Committee will continue to assist in providing information to new delegates and alternates prior to the Assembly.
- SocAdmin Email List – In January, SocAdmin began its fifth year as a tool for Fellowship communication. In April, the EC agreed that The Fellowship should consider expanding the SocAdmin email list to allow former Society officers to remain on the List. The Membership Committee considered the issue at length and made the following recommendations that were approved by the EC:
 - Ø Each List participant is a current member of The Fellowship.
 - Ø All former Society officers, Society representatives (TDA Delegates and Alternates), and Society committee members are eligible to participate on the List and can be added retroactively when a Society (President or Secretary) provides The Fellowship with the list of names and email addresses.
 - Ø All former General Councilors and Fellowship committee members are eligible to participate on the List and can be added retroactively when the individual contacts The Fellowship.
 - Ø A participant remains on the List indefinitely -- there are no term limits.
 - Ø Any individual can choose to opt out of the List at any time by notifying The Fellowship.
 - Ø Current Society officers can remove a former participant from their society for cause.
 - Ø The Executive Committee can remove a former Councilor or Fellowship committee member for cause.
 - Ø The Membership Committee retains oversight for the List and can remove any participant from the list if he or she is not abiding by the List Guidelines. For example, being abusive to others.

These ideas have been incorporated into a revision of the SocAdmin Guidelines which are available on The Fellowship website at: urantiabook.org/admin.

- Society Expectations – Last year the Committee was faced with issues of Society functioning (Aloha Society) and vitality (several Societies did not send representatives to the TDA). Although there was some discussion about updating The Fellowship Constitution, no recommendations were forwarded or acted upon.

NEXT YEAR:

Membership Cards: The Fellowship gives Membership Cards to new MALs and supplies Societies to distribute to their members. However, these all have the Wrightwood office address on them. The Fellowship probably needs updated membership cards since many members enjoy having a tangible symbol of their affiliation. Possibly

this could be accomplished in conjunction with the adoption a new logo and permanent address for The Fellowship.

For the Membership Committee,
Bob Bruyn, Chair

Education Committee Annual Report**September 2004**

Greetings! I am looking forward to working with you all in Kansas City and submit the following to report the progress we are making with our vision.

The constitution states:

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*. Etc.

Excerpts from the retreat summary of the General Council mid-year meeting:

- Create an Urantia University, both in physical locations and on the Internet, dedicated to training teachers and fostering the development of leaders. Re-activate The Fellowship as an educational institution.
- Take more active and systematic steps to develop a Speakers Bureau, perhaps in conjunction with the efforts to get the School going.

The Education Committee is very aware of the paramount task of ahead of us. We have had ongoing dialogue on how we can approach this task effectively.

We have narrowed it down to two main objectives:

1. Create a web site that will be set up for an eventual internet/correspondence school
2. Create a curriculum to train presenters that will be worked into the creation, growth and maintenance of a university or school.

I have met with Bill Rocap who is a professional website designer/educator. We have talked about the basic web design. It will include all the bells and whistles of Flash that benefits people with a broadband connection while including the same informative content with HTML dial up connection. It will include basic facts of the Urantia Book (our local universe/superuniverse etc.) There will also be links set up just for student access, (subject matter etc.) The web has obviously many educational possibilities; it's also a great place to show off what we're doing.

Thomas Orjala is meeting with the committee this weekend to discuss and propose a program for young adults.

As we progress in creating our curriculum, I think it's important to talk about it publicly, be inclusive, for instance, by asking people on Socadmin what they think would be needed (attributes/knowledge) from a teacher/presenter of the UB. Let's create a buzz about it.

We need to truly know what we're presenting and to whom we're presenting it- know our audience. To have this work effectively we will work with experienced individuals in creating a curriculum that would not only encompass the UB, but also the study of subjects that help us better understand, become more aware of and sensitive to our fellows' religious backgrounds and experiences. Subjects that include the tools needed in the presentation/public area such as interfaith studies, public speaking, possibly areas in science & psychology. Some of these studies can be taken outside our organization, i.e., Toastmasters etc... We are also analyzing what has worked and what hasn't worked in the past in looking at present day successful internet/correspondence schools. One of the patterns of revelation is to bring people in. Once the curriculum is in place, the committee will start by inviting a small group to become *certified* presenters/teachers. This will also include an end of the year education conference where participants come together for shared experiences and graduation ceremonies. Once we have presenters, we will concentrate on different venues for them to participate.

We have also found a volunteer to help the committee with on-site responsibilities for summer study seminars. These responsibilities would include rooms, food, registration and the like, so that the committee can concentrate more on the conference itself.

I have also spoken with Polly Friedman who is working with various Urantia organizations to have organizational representatives work as study group leaders in new countries where the revelation is taking off.

Thanks for your attention here, have a safe trip and I'll see you in Kansas City!

Respectively submitted,
Gary Deinstadt

International Activities Report 09/04

This report is a brief overview of some of what is happening internationally. It is only a small portion of a much larger picture which includes work by people such as Norman Ingram, various individuals working under the auspices of Urantia Foundation, and a number of other independent efforts.

Great progress has been made over the past year in the continuing development of a network of leaders outside of the United States who are working to bring the revelation to people in the Middle East, Korea, Latin America, Africa, and Eastern Europe.

Barry and Kaye Clark and the New York Society have continued their fostering of groups arising out of the Korean translation. J.J. Johnson, working for the United States Department of State in Pakistan has laid the foundations for ongoing spread of the revelation in this Muslim country.

Readers in Latin American countries are creating their own independent organizations to provide a legal foundation for their expanding work. Cordesaes in Colombia, Casa de Fad in Brasil, Grupo Orvonton in Mexico -- these new legal entities represents the direction in which reader social development is taking in Latin America.

In Lithuania the readers are preparing to receive a shipment of printed books in their own language by the end of October. They are excited. They have been waiting for more than ten years for this event. Plans have been made for a series of public meetings and for book promotion programs whose purpose is to make the people of Lithuania more aware of the existence of the revelation.

Books recently placed in Poland, contacts being cultivated in Ukraine, as well as contacts with readers in Russia hold the potential for an integrated movement in Eastern Europe. The opportunity to introduce the book to a Christian community of 4,000 young people and their families living communally in central Siberia has been extended to us.

The Fellowship has more opportunities to participate in the spread of this revelation than it has resources to undertake such participation.

A photo album which will be available at the Council meeting accompanies this report. This will provide an opportunity to see the some of the contexts in which we are working and some of the

readers who are taking this revelation into their lives and their communities.

A Philosophic Perspective

Attempting to foster the international spread of The Urantia Book with the limited resources at our disposal requires a focused approach which can be applied consistently over time. Our primary purpose is to get people reading The Urantia Book. Our secondary purpose is to foster the development of social networks which will help in the achievement of the primary objective in various regions of the world.

Because of a variety of circumstances we have chosen a strategy of international development which encourages the formation of independent local and regional groups. This is working very well and as of now, readers in Mexico, Brazil, and Colombia have their own legal entities -- similar to our 501(c)3 entities -- which they are using as a foundation upon which they can evolve financial and social structures for use in the work of the revelation.

In Mexico, Grupo Orvonton is operational and is actively pursuing a variety of outreach activities. Over the past few years Agustin Arellano has built a core group of dedicated workers. In Brazil, Dr. Elyr dos Santos Silva has developed Casa de Fad into a good working group. This group has sponsored several large conferences in the past few years and is a solid reader presence in Rio de Janeiro. In Colombia, Cordesaes has been granted full legal status and is the organization behind the newly developing Bogota School for Urantia Book Studies, a project spearheaded by Jerry Pando.

One of the major efforts made by The Fellowship over the past several years has been that of bringing together leaders from these various groups in the context of regional conferences. We have been able to supply scholarships and help local groups with the expenses of running conferences. The result has been extremely positive. Over the past few years we have been able to foster the growth of a strong network of leaders throughout Central and South America. More details on this will be given in my report below on the several regional conferences in which The Fellowship participated and provided resources during the course of this past year.

Monterrey Conference, Mexico -- Grupo Orvonton

In April a conference was held in Monterrey of Nuevo Leon. This conference was for leadership people in Grupo Orvonton to gather for some study of the book and to plan for work in Mexico for this year. A highlight of the meeting was a presentation by philosophy professor Eduardo

Garcia Ramirez of his work in the creation of a "Cosmology and Theology Dictionary of The Urantia Papers." A few pages of this work are included in the photo album accompanying this report. From this you should be able to get a sense of the quality and scope of the work. This is the most significant secondary work to be created in Spanish to this date and one of the most scholarly works produced by any reader.

Grupo Orvonton continues to communicate with readers in Cuba and may be making another trip to the island in 2005 to take books and other materials. This group is already planning the next Mexico National Conference which will be held in Mazatlan in May, 2005.

Internet chat is used extensively by Latin American leaders to communicate with each other and to spread the book. Nelida Oliver in Argentina spends an average of three hours each day in religious chat rooms promoting the book. I have just completed bringing online a chat server which will be used by the Latin American readership. More about this can be found in the website report.

Rio de Janeiro -- Conference of the Three Americas

At the end of June the Casa de Fad group in Rio de Janeiro sponsored the second "Conference of the Three Americas." (The first was last year in Guatemala). This is the group led by Dr. Elyr dos Santos Silva. The three day conference was attended by leaders from a variety of Central and South American countries. Sessions were held in both Spanish and Portuguese languages.

In addition to the papers presented at the conference, there was a great deal of interpersonal communication done. Translated materials, CDs, DVDs, and other study aids were traded amongst the attendees. Each regional group in Latin America seems to have its own emphasis on the development of study aids and services. Some very academic work is being done in Mexico. Nelida Oliver from Argentina has created dozens of PowerPoint presentations, put them on CDs, and made them available to other leaders of Spanish speaking groups. Jose Manuel from Bogota continues with the work related to the development of the Bogota school.

Nelson Fernando Carillo, the Jesuit educator from Quito, Ecuador, has rewritten the catechism for his school utilizing only Urantia Book materials. In addition, he openly discusses Urantia Book teachings in his weekly radio program over the Jesuit's Latin American radio network. Needless to say he is under a great deal of pressure from his bishop. He is a warrior for the revelation and needs your prayers and our continuing support.

He has also created a series of CDs for Urantian educators and group leaders. On this set of CDs he has provided over 120 various study aids written by Spanish readers. There is a directory with over 700 images which can be used in the production of PowerPoint presentations, 20 sample

PowerPoint presentations, and over 100 scanned texts used by various religious and metaphysical study groups in Latin America. He is concerned that Urantian leaders have the resources to become familiar with the teachings studied in other religious and metaphysical groups with which they may have contact.

Among the texts which he has scanned, OCR'd, and put into this set of CDs for educators are the works of Alice Bailey, Annie Besant, Anthony de Mello, the documents of Vatican II and Vatican III, some of the works of Deepak Chopra, the Symbolism of the Masons, the Book of Feng Shui, the apocryphal gospels, the Book of Enoch, various Hindu and Buddhist scriptures, the works of J. Krishnamurti, various metaphysical texts, Darwin's "Origin of Species", the works of Paulo Coelho, various Mapuche sacred texts (texts of the indigenous peoples of the southern Andes), the fundamental Rosicrucian texts, the Tao Te Ching, various writings on Zen Buddhism, and more.

I have never seen a more comprehensive collection of tools and training materials for Urantian leaders.

The Fellowship contributed the first LCD projector to the Latin American project several years ago. It has been gratifying to see the development of resources for this medium. We need to provide or subsidize the purchase of more of this technology as more leaders find themselves in increasingly public venues for the presentation of information about the book. This year we provided Algimantas Jokubenas with an LCD projector for use in his work in Eastern Europe. I spent a little time with him showing him how to use PowerPoint and am confident that he will be able to make very good use of this resource.

Jose Manuel Rodriguez Vargas from the Bogota Cordesaes group provided information on the process they followed in putting together a 501(c)3 equivalent in Colombia. With the help of Jerry Pando the Cordesaes group is pioneering a school project.

Over the years Jose and Myriam Montanez have translated many of the study aids available in English, most notably many of Meredith Sprunger's works, Bill Sadler Jr.'s "Study of the Master Universe", many of Dr. Sadler's study aids, and many documents from the Fellowship history archive. With these books and documents they have a good foundation of materials from which to develop their study programs. In addition, Jose has made many of these materials available on CD for use by other Latin American groups.

We produced our first video presentation for international audiences in conjunction with the Rio conference. Earlier in the year I videotaped messages of greeting for the conference attendees from Avi, Marvin, Paula, and Linda Buselli. I combined these with video clips from the Estes Park conference, children's activities, small study groups, and clips from conferences held in a

variety of countries. The purpose was to give conference attendees a better overview of the activities of the Fellowship, the contexts in which Urantia activities take place, and a look at how other readers are socializing their experience with the book. It was only a 20 minute tape but it was a big hit -- the attendees really appreciated it and copies were provided for inclusion on CDs. We need to do more of this in the future. It is a good way to help relatively isolated reader groups get a glimpse of what is happening elsewhere in the world.

The Casa de Fad group contributed 100 gold concentric-circle pins to us for distribution to other international groups -- many of which have been given to readers in Lithuania. Grupo Orvonton in Mexico sent T-shirts and Urantia backpacks to the Lithuanian readers as well. This cross-fertilization of groups needs to continue.

There is an important second group in Rio de Janeiro with which we spent some time. This is a group of about forty persons led by another physician, Dr. Sergio Braga. This group consists of readers who are more interested in the metaphysics and cosmology of the book than the readers in Dr. Silva's group. Dr. Braga's group meets each Saturday from 2:00 PM until 10:00 PM and splits up their study between The Urantia Book and The Keys of Enoch. They have a number of polylingual people in this group and use English, Spanish, and French texts in their study.

A Portuguese translation has recently been completed by Urantia Foundation but it is available only on CD. Dr. Silva pleaded with me with tears in his eyes before I left to do everything I possibly could to get a Portuguese translation in print and into distribution in Brasil. He also pleaded with me to do whatever I could to get Spanish books available in bookstores in the Rio de Janeiro/Sao Paulo metropolitan region.

While we were in Brasil, Agustin arranged for us to meet with the Lama of a Tibetan Buddhist monastery about an hour's drive outside of Rio. The Lama is somewhat like a bishop for the Rio de Janeiro region. We met with him for the purpose of introducing him to The Urantia Book and had a delightful time with him, sharing tea, observations about life, and The Urantia Book. Agustin is particularly adept at finding interesting soil for the planting of seeds.

Lithuania

In early June about thirty people attended the Second National Gathering of Lithuanian Readers of The Urantia Book. This conference brought together readers from Lithuania, Finland, and Latvia for a weekend of study, fellowship, and worship. Under the very capable and tireless work of Algimantas Jokubenas, a sizable core of readers has been developed in Lithuania.

In the two biggest cities of Lithuania he has groups which meet regularly for study and which meet separately for worship on a regular basis. A joint service project is evolving between some

Lithuanian and Finnish readers. This is a ministry to a gypsy camp which is just outside of Vilnius. They are visiting people in the camp, taking in clothing and other supplies, and having teaching and prayer services.

The Lithuanians will receive their translation in late October of this year -- 1,500 copies have been printed. I was able to spend some very good time with Algimantas Jokubenas, who translated the book into Lithuanian. He is very excited to be receiving the completed translation and we talked about his plans for public promotion of the book.

Lithuania presents a very interesting situation for the spread of the book, unlike that encountered in any other milieu so far. The country is small with a population equal to that of our state of Colorado. It is heavily Catholic. Algimantas is a nationally known media commentator, having been a leading analyst of international economic and political trends during the Soviet period. With its recent entrance to the European Economic Union as well as NATO, Lithuania is in a state of great political and economic turbulence.

With Algimantas we visited a city in the north of the country near the Latvian border. Here was a group of more than thirty people -- primarily young people -- with whom we met for some study. But the meeting turned into a question and answer session which lasted for nearly eight hours. In addition to discussions about the book and its message, there was a lot of good discussion about the spiritual life in general. The group was somewhat polarized between an older staunch Catholic and the many young people who were eager to simply ask questions and comment on the spiritual life.

This town is a three hour drive from Vilnius and Algimantas is only able to make this trip a few times during the year. With gasoline costing nearly \$5.00 a gallon it costs more than \$60.00 to fill the tank. This places serious limits on Algimantas' ability to meet with groups outside of Vilnius and Kaunas. We should look at expanding our Flowers grants program to help subsidize such expenses for people who are doing this work.

In addition to the significant development in Lithuania, we are beginning to cultivate contacts in Ukraine, Poland, and continuing to keep in touch with people in Russia. I am hopeful that over the next few years we will be able to create a productive network of leaders and related groups that can foster growth in Eastern Europe. In contrast to Latin America, Eastern Europe consists of many different linguistic and cultural groups. While Russian is widely spoken, it is something of a business language and most people do not have a level of mastery suited for serious philosophic reading. A German text will likely be available very soon. The Polish text is complete but apparently on indefinite hold in terms of publication.

The Parliament of the World's Religions

I was fortunate enough to be able to attend the Parliament of the World's Religions in Barcelona. I was particularly helped by sessions I attended of a symposium on Media and Religion which ran concurrently with the Parliament. A high point of the Parliament was the opportunity to meet readers from Africa and Pakistan, as well as some young people from America. Since the booth was an important presence at the Parliament I'm going to assume that a report on these activities will be given elsewhere.

Some Observations

In introductory meetings wherever I have gone, people have expressed deep interest in the spiritual life. The Urantia Book itself seems to be of secondary interest and of interest only to the degree that it help them with their inner lives.

Young people are the most open and most interested. We know the importance of reaching out to young people but have not really mobilized much in this area. In Latin America many countries have populations in which 70+ % of the population is under the age of 25. This has interesting implications for the work in those countries.

By far the biggest problem I see is the unavailability of books -- in much of Latin America they simply are not available. When they are, they are very expensive. I've received reports of \$85.00 per copy prices in Costa Rica, \$75.00 in Chile, and \$100.00 for a copy of the Russian text in Lithuania. Working to get books into distribution should be a high priority for us.

We need to continue finding and cultivating leaders internationally. Bringing these folks into contact with each other by helping them get to regional conferences, facilitating their work and interaction with other leaders, helps to stabilize their efforts and leads to important economies in the sharing of work.

We also need to be cultivating individuals who work at what I call "entry points" to Christian culture. Nelson Fernando Carillo is a good example of a dedicated worker who lives in the world of the revelation as well as the world of the institution. If we are to uplift Christian culture it is essential that we support folks like him who are on the front lines of this effort. Algimantas Jokubenas is another front-lines worker who is confronting a fairly entrenched Catholic culture in Lithuania.

A New Paradigm for the Fellowship -- a Brief Overview

Work over the past few years suggests that a new paradigm is needed within which the Fellowship could become far more effective than it is today in terms of spreading the revelation.

The 19th century Protestant social structure embodied in our constitution and the associated assumptions and expectations about effective group functioning derived from 20th century industrial culture are not sufficient for the task at hand. They are not sufficient because they represent understandings about reality which were popular in Western culture prior to the receipt of the revelation.

There are three major insights provided by The Urantia Book about the nature of the socio-spiritual reality in which we live as personalities which we should consider. The most significant is the revelation about the nature of Supremacy. Monitoring emergent conditions and situations, fostering and supporting new realities which have promise for our task -- this paradigm must replace that of the industrial model in which a group conceives of a goal and then mobilizes a body of workers to achieve that goal. Respecting the processes of Supremacy, we need to admit that we cannot know the future -- there are too many unforeseen developments and novel repercussions related to the introduction of the book into the planet's thought stream for such an approach. Even the Seraphim appear to work on the basis of statistical probabilities rather than any sure knowledge of the future. We need to be able to adapt and exploit novel situations as they arise. The SOAP project, the Sarmast project, the Barcelona Parliament -- these may all be examples of the kind of situations which we can leverage for more effectiveness.

We need to appreciate the workings of the Seraphim. The book provides enough information about how they work to enable us to develop a partnership approach. I have written extensively about this process elsewhere. This is not rocket science or esoteric metaphysics -- the process is relatively straight forward, can be known, and can be engaged in by any one of us.

Lastly we must consider the nature of the Spirit of Truth which has been provided to facilitate a planetary transition to a culture based on the teachings of Jesus and the discovery of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Our understanding of these three major aspects of the revelation should be integrated into a new operational paradigm for our organization. We don't need to change the constitution -- we just need to change our orientation to our work, our planning, and our priorities.

In addition to these insights, we must recognize that the primary mission of the book on a cultural level is the salvage, reinforcement, and uplifting of Christian civilization during a period of significant planetary turbulence and transition. Elsewhere I have listed the tasks which the revelators indicate need to be undertaken. I would be glad to provide this list to anyone who is interested. It could be summarized as, "Do everything you can to promote the religion of Jesus."

Think of civilization as consisting of layers. The topmost layers, the ones most visible and most frequently encountered in daily life, consist of economic and political relationships. Beneath

these are the layers of religion and spiritual experience which provide the ethical and moral bases from which persons function in the higher layers and in their relationships with each other. (By "higher" and "lower" here I am referring to levels within the collective consciousness -- not an heirarchy of values).

It has been argued that capitalism -- and the subsequent development of a global free market economy -- is a repercussion of Christianity, more particularly, of Protestantism as it developed in North America over the past few centuries. Capitalism works here because it operates in association with ethical and moral values derived from the Christian story. In places lacking a foundation in this story, capitalism is brutal in its utter disregard for people and for the earth.

But time and events are eroding the power of the Christian story and along with this the strength of the ethical and moral basis upon which civilization rests. This basis needs reinforcing and strengthening so that it can provide guidance to humanity over the coming decades and centuries.

The driving force of economics and politics over the coming decades and centuries will be the depletion of fossil fuels, the end of cheap energy, and the transition from a global industrial civilization to whatever will follow. This will entail a great deal of turbulence on the political and economic levels of life. How strong will the underlying Christian mythology prove to be during this great challenge?

I maintain that now is the time to be spreading the book around the planet. Now is the time to be finding ways of introducing the book into the Christian context. Now is the time to stem the slide of Christianity in the direction of irrelevance. Now is the time to be shoring up the foundations of the collective unconscious -- note how The Urantia Book revitalizes all of the archetypes of Judeo-Christian culture, re-empowering the old stories while at the same time expanding and elevating their meanings.

The book needs to be understood as a complex package of information, not all of which is likely to be of interest to very many people. The book tells us that, "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." These are not likely to be folks who are interested in understanding the relationship between the Triodities and their role in the development of the present universe age. The book needs to be understood as containing both a message for the common people as well as contextual background information for teachers and leaders -- and it needs to be marketed as such. Translations of Part IV need to be completed in as many languages as possible and books need to be put into distribution.

I firmly believe that we need to change our fundamental orientation to our task in ways consistent with what I have outlined above. This present report is not a context in which I can elaborate on

this, but I feel it is important to provide this outline in conjunction with this report and with the meeting we are having in Kansas City.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this report. Let me close by once again recognizing the untiring work of Susan Ransbottom and Agustin Arellano in the international promotion of this revelation. In addition to them we have tireless workers such as Algimantas Jokubenas, Nelson Fernando Carillo, Jose Manuel Rodriguez Vargas, Ricardo Van Dyke, Angelica Talamantes, Dulce Aguirre, Nelida Oliver, Yolanda Silva, Dr. Elyr dos Santos Silva, and many more. These folks are warriors for this revelation and I have a great deal of admiration and appreciation for each of them.

Submitted with gratitude for the opportunity to serve,

David Kantor

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL SEPTEMBER 2004

As Secretary General, I have participated in four meetings, conference calls, as well as taken minutes of the proceedings. I scan all correspondence that is sent to The Fellowship and redirect it to the appropriate Officer, Committee Chair and Resident Director, John Hales.

The work on I.C.05, which I co-chair with Lila Dogim, is on-going and progressing in a timely manner. On the weekend of June 25th at Villanova University, over twenty members of our team participated in a meeting to work out the vast details of responsibilities entrusted to them. As a result, many things were accomplished: relationships were formed, ideas were expanded, decisions were made and recommendations suggested. We created a timeline for the stages of planning and implementing our objective.

I am aware of my fiduciary responsibilities to be prudent while continuously improving our services without diminishing our resources.

In 2004, the Executive Committee had two resignations: Rebecca Kantor, Interfaith Chair and Lee Smith, Education Chair. Bill Rocap, General Councilor was nominated to temporarily chair the Interfaith Committee and Gary Deinstadt, General Councilor was nominated to temporarily chair the Education Committee, until the next election at the General Council meeting in September.

This past year of service has been one of extraordinary significance. I have always been motivated to personally experience what spiritual unification in our movement can be like; to understand how to be transformed from adult thinking into childlike freshness by the leading influence of the spirit.

Some of these efforts have been fostered as I attended numerous conferences, retreats, society meetings at national, regional, international, affiliated, non-affiliated and independent communities as well as The Parliament of World Religions.*

The affects of these experiences have aided me with a better perspective of the work that must be supported and my commitment to our Creator Father, Michael, for the gift that was given to me and how I reflect its teachings.

My duty in becoming a cosmic citizen is not only to perform at my given tasks, but to strive towards exploring and developing techniques that reinforce those acts that have value, that

seamlessly nourish our movement and to act in the best interest of the revelation to the planet.

My goal is to direct our attention toward building stronger relationships within our community and sowing seeds outside our community that reflect a vibrant spiritual organization which is a joy not a burden to serve.

In conclusion, what became crystal clear to me in becoming an effective participant in the process of this work is to condition my mind to become more “love dominated”.

Doreen Heyne,
Secretary General

*Conferences: Pennsylvania S.S.S., Quebec I.U.A., Kansas City Regional,
Urmia, Conn., Chicago I.U.A.

Retreats: Florida FSUB, Silver Springs, Canada

Society: Greater New York, Connecticut

E.C. Meetings: Pennsylvania, Chicago, Oklahoma, California, Chicago

Annual Report of the President September 18, 2004

The Fellowship took a giant step in its decentralization process this year and sold the building that had served as its “headquarters” since 1989. In addition to this being an important cost saving measure, it is expected, along with other operational adjustments and greater reliance on web based technologies, to increase the organization’s efficiency and improve the quality of its services.

Unity among readers across any and all organizational lines continues to be an important goal for many Fellowship members as well as other “Urantians”. The yearning for unity is almost palpable as one walks amongst a gathering such as the one we are having this weekend. The frustration with the persisting rift that still exists between The Fellowship and the Foundation/IUA is deep. But yearning and frustration alone will not heal this rift. We must act. The past year has seen increasing efforts on the part of Fellowship members to participate in events and activities sponsored by or involving other groups. To name just a few - a number of Fellowship members attended an IUA conference in Quebec last summer; another group attended the recent UAUS conference in Chicago; Fellowship members enjoyed working alongside Foundation, IUA and unaffiliated individuals on dissemination activities at the World Parliament of Religions in Barcelona this summer. There was no “us” and “them” in that picture. The Fellowship’s International Conference, IC 05, organizers are involving IUA members as well as “unaffiliated” readers in the planning and execution of what I am sure is going to be a very exciting and uplifting conference celebrating the 50th anniversary of the publication of *The Urantia Book*. As long as we continue to create opportunities for cooperation and for plain-old fellowshipping among all readers on local, regional, national and international levels, in time the old ideological demons and the lingering animosities will recede into the shadows and eventually disappear completely.

The General Council held a planning retreat during its last mid-year meeting. The process generated many creative ideas about how The Fellowship could better fulfill its mission, how it could provide for fellowshipping opportunities and how it could improve its communication. These ideas may well contain the seeds of positive change. In order to bring about this change, the General Council will need to develop some of these ideas into specific policies, which the Executive Committee will then be responsible for implementing. All of you, the 36 unique personalities sitting around this table, have the power to chart the overall course of the organization, to make course corrections and, when necessary, to make constitutional changes in order to improve the way the organization functions.

As you know, organizational service opportunities exist beyond the General Council. The Standing Committees are the primary working teams that carry out various tasks in accordance

with their constitutional mandates and direction from the Executive Committee. We have had some discussion lately about the way these committees should function. It is critical to our continued growth as an organization and to our ability to disseminate *The Urantia Book*, that we get these committees to work in the most effective way possible. Together we should find the way to help each working team reach a level of functioning consistent with the highest ideals of group work expressed in *The Urantia Book*. As we endeavor to do that, should we find that our current constitutional provisions are useful to that end, we should continue to use them with increased diligence. Should we find that they are not, we should amend the constitution.

Nothing binds us but our energy and imagination. Let us use these gifts and get on with our work.

In friendship,

Avi Dogim