

## Interim Pipeline of Light Report

January 2006

Dear Friends;

I'm sorry I missed the meeting in Dallas! Here is your copy of the status report I intended to present. These updated totals for the Pipeline of Light since it has been hosted by the Fellowship: (August 1, 2005 through January 25, 2006):

Donations received since our last meeting (August)	\$6,387
Donations received prior to our last meeting	\$650
Books distributed	179
Thank you notes sent since December	13

Books have been shipped the following countries during the past four months:

Kyrgyzstan  
USA  
Canada  
Bahrain  
Korea  
Australia  
Costa Rica  
Pakistan  
Nigeria  
Myanmar (Burma)  
Malaysia  
Chile  
Argentina  
Guatemala

El Salvador  
Venezuela  
Colombia  
South Africa  
Lithuania

Michelle Klimesh

## Report of the Work of the International Fellowship Committee General Council Meeting/EC Meeting January 2006

A major sea change has taken place in the work of the revelation. We are increasingly needing to respond to needs and opportunities emerging in the field as contrasted with our organization's earlier approach of conceiving of projects in committees and then having a committee execute the project. The proliferation of translations and the increased distribution of The Urantia Book to distant parts of the planet is creating challenging and novel situations.

Most pressing is the need for financial resources for the funding of translations, subsidizing of book sales, and travel expenses. We are evolving a group of experienced people, some polylingual, who can travel, meet with local readers and media, access local and regional situations and provide important feedback about which projects we should be funding. We have been somewhat restricted in our efforts over the past few years due to limited Fellowship budgets. Fortunately outside contributors are now coming forth who are providing funds earmarked for travel and book purchases. The Pipeline of Light project is providing important much-needed funding for books. The addition of these resources effectively triples our operational budget for 2006 but we are still far short of the resources needed to meet the opportunities that are open to us. (In El Salvador, one copy of El Libro de Urantia costs the equivalent of an average person's wages for 15 days of work -- similar numbers exist in many other parts of the world.)

*The present spread of The Urantia Book in the world is limited only by available financial resources.*

A major administrative advance was made this past fall with the setting up of the IntDev group (stands for International Development). This group consists of individuals actively working on or financially supporting international outreach activity. The purpose of creating this group was to do a better job of integrating and coordinating international outreach that was being undertaken by various groups and individuals. At present this group consists Bob Lawson, Barry and Kaye Clark, Bill and Share Beasley, Diane Bishop, JJ Johnson, Ken Raveill, Michelle Klimesh, Robert Burns, Sue Tennant, Susan

Ransbottom, Saskia Raevouri, Paula Thompson, Buck Weimer, Polly Friedman, Dolores Nice, Norman Ingram, and myself. This has turned out to be a very productive group and I am grateful for all that these folks bring to bear on the international work.

The Pipeline of Light project has really gotten off the ground thanks to the work of Michelle Klimesh. We are hopeful that this project will provide an additional \$10,000 in 2006 for subsidizing the international distribution of books. A \$25.00 contribution will purchase a book and pay for shipping to any place on the planet. You can make a contribution online at <http://urantiabook.org/support.htm>. You can also sign up for a repeating auto-debit. Why not contribute a book a month, or have your study group contribute a book or more each month? This can be done for the price of a few lattes.

We have a good working relationship with Tamara Wood at Urantia Foundation and Adrienne Greer at Alliance that has streamlined the shipping of books from the Pipeline. Michelle Klimesh will present details of the Pipeline program at the General Council meeting.

The following report will hit the high points of what is happening on the international front.

### **Misc. Around the World**

One of the most fortuitous circumstances with which we have been blessed is the work of JJ Johnson, an aggressive evangelist of the revelation who constantly travels around the world in his job for the U.S. Department of State. He has placed dozens of books around the world. Here is a sampling from the past few months:

US Department of State

Foggy Bottom

Washington, DC 20520

(JJ writes: Foggy Bottom is in the Basement of the Main State Bldg and has a library where various State Department personnel drop off books and pick some up on their travels around the world. Diplomats of various kinds frequent this place...and....who knows :-))

The State Library of NSW  
Sydney, Australia

Aunt Gee's Residence

Norfolk, VA (where Dr. Condoleezza Rice stays when she is in Washington).

Arlington Public Library

Arlington, VA

The Library Of Busan National University

Burma

NBB Public Library  
Isa Town, Bahrain

Pusan, Korea

## Ottawa Public Library

Ottawa, Canada

(JJ writes: They had two books - One was missing and the other was checked out.)

Residence Inn / Marriott

Rosslyn, VA

(JJ writes: The staff at the front desk asked if I would place a book in their reading section. I agreed. They have a cross section of guests who stay there from a day or so to weeks like I do. They have several shelves of books that get checked out for a day or so.)

The National Library  
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Fat Boys Cafe

(2 Blocks from Hyatt Hotel)

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

## Central and South America

The work in Latin America would simply not be happening if it were not for people like Susan Ransbottom, Agustin Arellano, and Nelida Oliver. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with such dedicated and enthusiastic people.

The work of Agustin Arellano in Central and South America remains the most significant outreach

program the movement has ever seen. Susan Ransbottom will provide detailed information on this work at the General Council meeting. Much of what is being done internationally at this point involves getting leadership people in touch with each other so that an integrated, coordinated effort can be developed at local and regional levels.

We are starting to distribute Spanish copies of the Jesus timeline poster which Ken Raveill created. This has turned out to be a popular item.

Agustin is maintaining a publishing schedule for translated works considered to be of interest to Spanish readers. This is being done through a publishing agency he has set up called "Casa Mek Editores." The publishing schedule for this year includes:

January 2006 The basic teachings of Urantia Book (Mary Ebbens)

March 2006 Life after death (Jesusonian)

May 2006 The book of everything (Michelle K)

July 2006 The Tao and UB (Richard Omura)

Agustin started a program in May 2005 to activate old study groups and open at least one in every main city in Mexico and Latin America. With Fellowship help he is currently able to place well over 50 books each month.

From the Mazatlan conference in May, readers were able to carry more books to Ecuador and to Mexico City. In June books were provided to three groups in Hermosillo. In addition he had meetings in Culiacan, Mexico City, and Queretaro.

In August he visited Tlaxcala, Puebla where there are now two groups. He also visited Hidalgo and

groups in Tula and Pachuca. Books for five groups in Monterrey were sent as well as books to the groups in Nuevo Laredo and Reynosa.

In September he tried to do some presentations in Aguascalientes but ran into problems securing a place for a presentation as oppositional catholic groups are strong there. The same problem was encountered in October in Guanajuato, even though there are quite a few readers in the area.

In November Agustin put together the first national meeting in Bolivia, also visiting with groups in Peru on his way. This was an important trip to Peru -- in the past it has seemed impossible to find readers or groups to develop in Peru. This year he was able to make some very good contacts and some solid foundations are now being developed in Peru. This trip included visits to San Luis Potosi and Zacatecas.

In December he worked on setting up a meeting in Mexico City to celebrate the second anniversary of Grupo Nambia.

This month (January 2006) he participated in the 3rd National Conference in Guatemala, going on to El Salvador for their first National Conference, visiting groups in Honduras and Panama as part of this trip in an effort to get the two groups working together.

Here is a fragment of an email message I received from Agustin which might help you appreciate the context in which he works and the need for a responsive support system:

David, I got back to El Salvador; it was a nightmare. The immigration and narks stopped me at the border and thought I was carrying drugs inside the UBs. Tomorrow I finish here in El Salvador the last presentation. Hopefully this will get the next group going. Aguz. P. S. The money did not show up in my Citibank card and it doesn't work anymore. I'm broke!

On January 21 a regional meeting was held in San Jose, Costa Rica. I have not yet gotten information on how this meeting went. In much of Latin America there is significant social stratification along economic lines. This is particularly problematic in Costa Rica, Colombia, and Chile. Even readers of The Urantia Book are not prone to cross these lines which makes coordinated efforts in these countries very difficult. This is a problem throughout Latin America.

The weekend of January 28 will see a major conference in Guadalajara and a meeting in Tepic on the 30th. It should be noted that for many of these conferences there is advance work being done including radio interviews and presentations in other local mass media.

We are planning a major trip to Chile and Argentina in March. We have more than 450 Argentinian reader names on our Spanish mailing list yet little has been done to organize these readers. This trip will consist of a tour of major towns in Argentina with a series of public introductory talks and presentations to existing readers. Meetings in Chile are currently scheduled for March 6 - 9. These will include meetings with existing readers in Santiago as well as possible visits to nearby towns where there are groups of readers. The Argentina trip will be from March 10 - 21, ending in Buenos Aires.

The planning for this trip is being done by Agustin, Nelida Oliver, and Mario Fereya. A meeting in Buenos Aires is being planned by Carlos Rubinsky, the former rep of Urantia Foundation. We are still experiencing the fallout of Urantia Foundation cutting IUA loose. Last year I had a very productive conversation with Rodrigo Miño, the Foundation's former rep in Ecuador. He seemed genuinely interested in working with the independent groups which are in the process of formation. This was someone who had been very hostile to us just a few years earlier. Carlos Rubinsky is in the same position and it should be very helpful to have a visit with him. In Colombia there is still great hostility on the part of the local IUA leader. Longtime reader, Carlos Zapata, is so fed up that he is determined to start an independent Colombian Urantia organization "free of the influence of the Gringos."

There are also problems with IUA leaders in Bolivia who are forbidding the use of quotes in any written materials and have inculcated considerable fear and timidity in the local readership. These folks remind me of stories I've read of Japanese soldiers fighting on remote islands of the Pacific long after the war had ended -- simply because no one had told them that this had happened.

In May the annual Conference of the Three Americas will be held in Guayaquil, Ecuador. A tour of reader groups and cities in Ecuador and Peru is being planned in conjunction with this conference. This is being organized by Nelida Oliver, Susan Ransbottom, and Agustin Arellano and will include significant media work in conjunction with the conference. Five groups will be visited beginning in Quito and then Otavalao, Rio Bamba, Loja and Guayaquil. Agustin will make a stop in Puebla on his return trip to Mexico.

We desperately need to make a trip to Venezuela to meet with some local leaders and try to catalyze some organization in that country. Venezuela is going through a period of significant social and political development (as is much of Latin America) and it might be good if the revelation could be more a part of that.

In Colombia the building purchased by Jerry Pando is being used for regular meetings by by "Fundacion Exito Verde" headed by Patricia Roza and the "Cordesaes" group led by Jose Mañuel Rodriguez Vargas.

## **Europe**

In April 2006 Agustin and two other readers from Mexico will be going to Europe to conduct some meetings and visit known readers with hopes of catalyzing the formation of some viable Western European study groups. They will be visiting Spain, France, and Italy. There is a group of Mexican ex-pats that they will visit in Vienna and another in Prague with whom they are presently trying to make arrangements. Recall that Agustin is fluent in French and has fostered a number of groups in France -- he will be visiting these groups on this trip.

The Whelan's Spiritual Vitamins have proven very popular and effective in Latin America. The Mexican readers are working on producing quantities in Italian and French for their upcoming outreach trip.

I will be going to Lithuania in early May and will meet with Algimantas and the Lithuanian readers.

The supply of books held by the Lithuanian distributor is currently depleted and we are working to get more books in place. There are some administrative difficulties between the distributor and Urantia Foundation the nature of which is not completely clear to me. But we've been in touch with Tamara on the matter and it seems as if it is in the process of getting resolved.

The Lithuanian website is proving to be very successful with an average of some 460 visitors each day. In June the annual national gathering in Lithuania will take place. In the past this has included readers from neighboring Latvia and Finland. Promotional efforts being made this year should increase attendance substantially.

Matthew and Saskia are moving to Holland this year and have already begun communication with the Dutch representative of Urantia Foundation. Since I intend to be working in Eastern Europe for several months each year, I am hopeful that we will be able to bring about some of the interaction and coordination in Europe that has developed in Latin America. This summer I am planning to visit readers in Kiev, Ukraine, St. Petersburg and Moscow in Russia, and will be visiting with readers with whom I left books in Poland two years ago. In 2009 Vilnius will be the capital city of the European Union and the Lithuanian readers are hopeful of being able to host a regional conference that will bring in readers and leaders from the surrounding countries.

Algimantas Jokubenas reports that on February 18th, the eleven year anniversary of his first lecture to a group in Vilnius will be reached. In Kaunas, the second largest city in the country, an independent group is operating successfully after a six year effort on his part to get it going. This group is now meeting on a weekly basis under its own leadership.

Algimantas has focused on working with the Vilnius group in hopes that members will get more involved in outreach activities such as hosting additional study groups.

He sets up a table on the street nearly every day and talks with passersby about the book.

He writes:

This ministry is extremely important because people do not have any information on the existence of such a unique revelation.

And they tend to pass by without paying much attention to me if I stand just passively without calling their attention to the book. Thus I also undergo a very good training on man's psyche and his reaction to unaccustomed things that he might encounter.

I receive different reactions from being called a satanist to the warmest expressions of sincere gratitude for this ministry. But the absolute majority do not say anything but by their questions put to me I see that so many young people are in a sincere quest of God but they do not know where to find Him since in the current church of rituals they experience some vacuum devoid of life.

I have distributed most probably close to two thousand short introductions to the Urantia Book. Every Friday new people are coming to the Urantia group sessions but each time they are different. That is why we need new copies of the Urantia Book in bookstores and new groups for the beginners. And it is for these new groups that I do my best to train new teachers in the Urantia group in Vilnius.

On the other hand I was also approached even by those who have already read the Urantia Book in Russian and now reading it in Lithuanian but who say that they do not need any group. They prefer staying alone. This is not good for them since all the same they need some activity in service which is best among one's brethren even though one's service might be anywhere.

Sometimes the street audience increases to seven-ten persons at a time. That big interest in the Urantia Book that is being expressed on the street shows that there are great potentials dormant in man that must be turned into his actuals.

To spread the word on the book is half-work done. It is also necessary to interest people in reading the book. For there have been such passers by who were stating with pride that they had

even purchased one but to my question whether they were reading it, the answers were "not, yet." Thus to have a book dormant on the book shelf no good either for the owner or God's creation since there is no enough of spiritual circulation in all the spiritual system by the impediment of one individual whose potential is to be born of the spirit. That is why I think that many more people might be reached directly on the street where there is a chance for a dialogue.

## Asia

I am re-establishing contact with Dr. Rajan and Ivy Chauhan in Jabalpur, India. They have a room in their home set aside for Urantia activities and have between 20 and 30 individuals attending their study group each week. They are interested in becoming more involved in regional outreach activities. I am hopeful that we will find the resources to help support their efforts.

Ken Raveill's group in Kansas City continues its support of Nadia Gill and her groups in Pakistan. We just sent her a case of hardbacks from Pipeline funds. The hardbacks are good in Pakistan because the dust jacket with its Christian graphics are problematic and can be removed. In addition to supporting her Urantia work, various readers contributed some \$7,000 to her for use by her group for earthquake relief efforts.

In Korea the first printing of the New York Society's Korean translation has sold out and they are preparing to reprint. We were able to contribute a small amount from the International budget to their Korean effort. Barry and Kaye Clark are coordinating the Korean effort along with members of their Korean study group in New York. You can reach Barry and Kay at [barryc00@bellatlantic.net](mailto:barryc00@bellatlantic.net). Barry maintains the translation portal at <http://www.theuniversalfather.org>. During 2005 more than 3,000 copies of The Urantia Book were downloaded from this website. A search engine for all available translations is maintained on the Fellowship website at <http://urantiabook.org:5631/> -- Barry was key to getting this programmed with the Korean language character set.

In late December we sent some books to a Seminary in Burma but they have not arrived yet. I'm

concerned they have been seized in customs. Burma has one of the most repressive governments on the planet. If they do not arrive soon we may try to send them by some means which will enable us to track them. These were being sent to contacts provided by JJ Johnson.

We also have an agreement to provide books for several study groups created by Jorgan Andrews, another State Department employee, in Khazakstan.

## **Africa**

In February Buck and Arlene Weimer will be making a trip to Ndola, Zambia to visit with Chita and Namukale. Chita is lining up some regional presentations at libraries, etc. and the Weimers will be taking a supply of books (as well as a set of guitar strings for Chita). We're also supplying Chita with an LCD projector which he can use with his laptop. Laptops and LCD projectors are emerging as a key outreach tool for use in public presentations and study groups. More resources are needed to enable us to provide these tools to more leaders. At present we can afford to place only one LCD projector each year.

There is an Anglican Bishop in Capetown who is very interested in The Urantia Book and its promotion. We are looking into having Buck and Arlene take a few days to make the trip down to Capetown to visit with him and to meet with other readers in the Area.

One of the things we are doing is looking into ways in which local and regional groups can raise funds for outreach projects locally. Buck and Arlene will be helping Chita and Namukale to assess their situation in Zambia. Chita and Namukale have suggested several business options that could be exploited. This is an emerging frontier in our work as we struggle to find ways of financing the increasing workload resulting from the spread of interest in the book.

There is additional work being done in Africa which is beyond the scope of this report. Additional information may be found on Norman Ingram's website at <http://www.ubla.org/uno/>

We are in very early stages of trying to put African leaders in touch with each other. I have good reason to believe that Africa may become a real beacon for the revelation and I am particularly pleased to see the enthusiasm and dedication that Chita and Namukale have.

**In closing . . .**

Our primary needs are for more financial resources and polylingual workers.

*Then saith He to His disciples, "The harvest indeed is abundant, but the workmen few." Matthew 9:37*

Respectfully submitted,

David Kantor

January 2006

# REPORT ON TRIP TO ZAMBIA & SOUTH AFRICA

February 2006

Buck and Arlene Weimer

**INTRODUCTION:** This is a report to The Urantia Book Fellowship International Committee on the outreach mission to Zambia and South Africa from February 23 – March 12, 2006 made by Buck & Arlene Weimer, Pueblo, Colorado, USA. The primary purpose of the outreach was to establish and enhance a personal relationship with as many readers – and potential readers – as possible. Secondary purposes included: delivery of books and to place them where appropriate, initiate new and support existing study groups, identify probable or actual leaders, elicit a networking of readers, provide information and answer questions. When preparing this report we attempted to include as many facts where appropriate, collaborate on ideas when possible, and, with the help of our unseen friends, enhance spiritual ideals. We are solely responsible for any shortcoming of this report. (If uninterested in background information, skip to parts II and IV.)

**I. THE COUNTRY DESCRIPTION:** Zambia, a developing country in southern Africa, was formerly known as Northern Rhodesia until independence in October 1964. It is a landlocked country just a little larger than Texas surrounded by the countries of: Angola, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe. The population was counted at slightly more than 11 million people (UN, 2005) with the largest percentage residing in the capital of Lusaka and using English as the second language, after a tribal language - primarily, Bemba (the largest), Lozi, Nyanja, and Tonge) – with 1.1% Europeans and 0.2% other. The life expectancy is 39.43 years for men and 39.98 years for women (2005 est.). HIV/AIDS continues to decimate the population with 16.5% of adults diagnosed, and 89,000 annual deaths (2003 est.). Other infectious diseases include: food/water/airborne diseases (bacterial diarrhea, tuberculosis, hepatitis A, and typhoid fever) and animal/insect carried diseases: which include plague, and especially malaria. At 10 to 15 degrees below the equator, the rainy season runs from October to April, with occasional droughts. Politically, Zambia has a constitution with universal suffrage outlining the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government, with the executive tending to be the strongest. The politics have been comparatively stable for the last 12 years.

**A. The Economy:** The monetary unit is the kwacha - 331,000 kwacha equals \$100 USD (approx.). The kwacha can fluctuate wildly, usually dependent on the world market price of copper – their main export accounting for most of Zambia's foreign earnings.

Additionally, and in much smaller amounts, they export minerals (cobalt, zinc, lead, coal, emeralds, gold, silver, uranium, and hydropower), and tobacco. At the time of independence, Zambia went from the world's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest miner of copper (after the U.S. and Russia) and being one of the Africa's richest countries to currently being one of the poorest. In 1974 the world copper prices collapsed, 27 years of one-party rule (multi-party system didn't emerge until the 1990's), the inefficiency of state-owned enterprises, mismanagement, and high debt all added to the downward spiral. In 2002 Anglo-American corporations withdrew from the copper and agriculture sectors, leaving over 2 million people insecure about food and thousands without jobs. In April of 2005, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA) have initiated debt relief from Zambia's creditors. In December 2005 the US government cancelled the Zambian government debt of USD 280 million dollars. And, the current president, Levy Mwanawasa, has a sincere and effective anti-corruption program in place – including bringing in outside auditors. Still the Gross National Income is slightly above \$400, with many living under the UN poverty level of \$1.00 per day. A complaint often heard was: the government gives huge 5 years tax incentives to multi-national corporations who exploit their natural resources, ship the resources to South Africa, where in turn, the resources are made into retail goods, which are then imported to Zambia and sold at inflated prices. The corporations pull out of Zambia after the 5 year incentive – usually returning months or years later under a new name – continuing the same pattern. Zambia hosts thousands of refugees who have fled the fighting in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and, to a smaller degree, Angola.

B. The Culture: Zambians are a mild-mannered, soft-spoken people. They are just emerging from tribalism to nationalism – as most of the rural and country people first identify themselves with their tribe. They shake hands a lot, and men are often seen holding hands while walking down a city street. Sidewalk vendors are omnipresent in most major city street, selling everything from leather goods, to books, and yes, cell phones. The art, sculpture, and craft industry is well developed. We returned home with many pieces of wood, copper, painting, and jewelry art. The music has a wonderful beat and rhythm to it that surely influenced the many Caribbean sounds, and is easily distinguishable from surrounding cultures, such as the Congo music. The staple food in Zambia is *nshima*, a stiff porridge usually made from maize, but sometimes sorghum. *Nshima* is usually served in a communal dish and eaten with the right hand after rolling it into a ball and dipping it into a sauce of meat or vegetables. Zambians are notoriously poor drivers (not their skills, but their tendency to drive with an offensive attitude, instead of a defensive approach). We were witness to 2 serious accidents while there and read of many more in the daily newspapers. President Nwanawasa himself was involved in a near-fatal road accident in 1992 leaving him with slurred speech, which opponents often take advantage of in his slips of the tongue. Taxi cab drivers buy only small amount of gasoline at a time, usually returning to the pump several times daily, due to the fear of carjacking or of having gas

siphoned off. The hotel industry may leave you wanting. However, Zambia is rich in game preserves with most of the famous wild animals associated with Africa. And, of course, there is the incredible experience of Victoria Falls that everyone should see at least once in a lifetime.

C. Religion: The constitution declares Zambia to be a Christian nation. Approximate figures vary greatly, but these figures best reflect our experience: Christians 75% (Catholic 32%, Protestant 27%, Evangelical 12.5%, Other 20.2%), Traditional Animist 23%, Muslim 1%, African Indigenous 8%, Non-religious .5%. Many Zambians continue to believe the spirit of their ancestor's give them power in times of difficulty or need. The belief that spirits indwell the natural elements and live in rivers and stones is especially strong with the Bemba. The power of the village healer is unquestionable and the pervading belief is that this person can solve disputes and cure medical problems because of supernatural powers. (Please view Appendix #1 to read a newspaper article we cut from the Zambia Times, perhaps the most prominent newspapers in Zambia.) However, the strong influence of the many and multifaceted missionaries in the countryside and the rural areas have diminished this influence in recent times. Also, there may be a corollary between Zambia's transition from tribalism to nationalism and their bridging from shamanism to a wise, all-powerful, and loving God (see Paper #70).

II. Fellowship Outreach Activities: In support of our outreach activities, we were supplied with the following: 2 cases of indexed Uversa Press Urantia Books, 1 case of "Jesus, A New Revelation" books, "A Description..." brochures, "Our Christian Heritage" brochures, Urantia Fellowship business cards, 3 dozen T-shirts (see Appendix 2 for logo), "Ascent to Paradise" and the recent "Time Line on the Life of Jesus" posters, copies of Ken Glasziou's "Computer Analysis of Dates in the Urantia Book", and a bag of Spiritual Vitamins. In addition, we carried the following gifts to Chita and Namukale from various persons: power point projector, an HP 700 printer, digital (world's smallest) camera, electrical converter, 3 dictionary-type resource books, a radio/MP3/CD player, speaker & earphone for SKYPE communications, and other odds and ends too numerous to mention here (but must include David's guitar strings).

A. We arrived in the capitol of Lusaka from London early February 25<sup>th</sup>, and through a fortuitous set of circumstances (seraphim assistance?) were able to catch the early flight to Ndola – the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest city, where Chita and Namukale live (Namukale just recently graduated from Copperbelt University in business). After resting, we met with C & N and

prepared for the next days' conference.

B. "The Sunday Conference": We presume this to be a historic first a Urantia Book Conference in Africa. (See Appendix 3 for schedule.) We set up a registration booth in a hall provided by the Savoy Hotel, and presented incoming participants with a schedule, name stickers, and brochures. The two posters were placed on a board, a 3 concentric circles flag hung, and the power point projector brought to life. We met each person as they completed the registration line and made an effort to develop a relationship with each. However, only 10 persons came – all men. With C & N and the two of us, the total was 14 participants – about half of the 30 anticipated (and paid for refreshments and food).

1. After the introductions and prayer, the power point presentations went extremely well, with much interaction, discussions, and readings. During the lunch period there was much discussion about "renting a place for regular study group meetings" – an ongoing problem for them because of being ostracized by family members and others saying: "It's not the Bible, so it must be from the devil." We first were successful in separating the need for a permanent meeting place from having a business and a meeting place combined. The next issue was renting a house versus an apartment. They agreed on renting an apartment because security would be easiest. There was also an eager discussion about forming a Fellowship Society.
2. The afternoon portion of the program went equally as well, with much discussion on the Thought Adjuster, the Soul, and recognizing God's will. We closed with a Remembrance Ceremony using the traditional Hindu Naan bread and South African red wine provided.
3. Even after the closing remarks, most participants stayed for more questions and interaction. Several men had planned to leave early, but were among the last to leave; especially Micky Saili, director of Ndola's libraries and supervisor of Joseph Chanika, another leader in the area (apparently, Joseph had qualified for a scholarship to come to the Philadelphia Conference, but broke a leg in a motorcycle accident prior to leaving). We donated an additional 5 books to Micky and Joseph for the branches of their library.
4. Others were: Alfred Machilica, who at 49 was the oldest reader there (after Arlene & Buck, of course), but seemed to complain about not being able to read real well. We hope to get him a "listening" version of the Book soon. Goliath Kabwe asked very penetrating questions. Leonard Phiri talked little but said a lot. Paul Kamboler seemed to have a wisdom about him that was

attractive. Martin Chifita was bright and eager to learn, and had a good sense of humor. Vance Chifwala was a no-nonsense person with a keen skill for listening. Mortson Bwalya was interested in obtaining more high tech information on our presentation, the Urantia Book, etc. Roy C. Mukupa was a loveable teddy bear type with an open mind. (See Appendix 4 for a complete list of readers – or potential readers - we met while in Zambia.)

5. We donated 2 books and 5 coupons to individuals.

6. C and N deserve a *lot* of credit for all their efforts in planning, organizing, and hard work toward making the Sunday Conference a success.

C. The next day (February 27<sup>th</sup>) we traveled to Kitwe, about 45 minutes by bus from Ndola, where we made a prearranged presentation at the Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation at the Theology School. With us were Chita, Namukale, and Joseph. (Inexplicably, Buck forgot the power point projector, but we were able to show the presentation on a computer monitor.)

1. Present were 34 + (standing room only) students, teachers, and ordained ministers from various seminaries and schools of theology in the region of Central Africa (contact us for a complete list).

2. They grilled us good, sometimes laughing at our certain knowledge of the Father's presence on Paradise, and of Christs' home on Salvington. Most important to them, as religionist of authority, was to know who wrote it and the origins of the Book. After our initial resistance, a learned man in the back of the room convinced us of the importance of sharing what we know about this. Which we did. But, we concluded this part by sharing Ken Glasziou's "Computer Analysis of Dates in the Urantia Book", and this quieted them down and made them more receptive. (This was also a valuable lesson for us: when telling the story of the book's origins – which usually sounds *very* far out – concluded with some science and hard facts - the complete accuracy of the over 100 incidents of combining the date with the day in Part IV. )

3. We were amazed at the number of students coming to us after closing and asking more questions and wanting a book. We left 3 books each and brochures for their library and gave away 6 coupons.

D. The remainder of the day was filled with placing the book in libraries:

1. The Copperbelt University Library, Jambo Drive, Riverside, P.O. Box 21692, Kitwe, Zambia: presented a book to the assistant librarian, Nellie Chiinza. A Foundation hard-bound book was already there and may have been the original book Chita found. It looked well used.
2. The Kitwe City Library, Kauna Square, P. O. Box 20070, Copperbelt Province, Zambia. With the assistant librarian.
3. Another book was placed at the Helen Kaunda Memorial Library, P.O. Box 90233, Launshya, Zambia with the head librarian. They also asked for Bible donations.

E. February 28<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday was a day of personal ministry:

1. On our walk from the hotel to find taxi, we stopped and met another Urantia Book reader – Elijah Chilufya, working at Tyre King Enterprise in Ndola. He was very happy to see us and apologized for not being able to attend the conference. He seemed sincere and knowledgeable about the Book.
2. We walked around the corner and got into a waiting taxi – the driver was Leonard Phiri who attended the Sunday Conference. He first drove us to Natwange Chipulukusu rural school, just a few miles from the border of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It was supervised by 2 Catholic Sisters from the Dominican order, and a small staff of Zambian volunteers. There were 570 students, mostly girls from 1<sup>st</sup> grade to 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Students were using a ball of rags held together with mud to play soccer. Many of the classrooms were *shipping containers* used by transoceanic freighters, with the front ends off and small windows cut from the sides. The cooking was done in large pots on empty truck wheel rims filled with burning charcoal – crude, but ingenious and effective. The children were bright and eager to learn. They sang songs for us, practiced plays, did math problems on the chalk board, and had a debate. The biggest problem the staff had was encouraging the children to stay home when sick. We left them with 4 new soccer balls, over 100 pens, a stack of note books, and 2 chalk board erasers. (Pictures and some video available upon request.)
3. From there we drove to the Ndola Ecumenical Hospice Association Cicetekelo Home. It was supervised by an Iris Catholic Nun and a Zambian

nurse. They showed us two wings of the hospice where we spoke privately to a half dozen patients about the Gospel and salvation. Most patients could do little more than nod their heads in approval. But their eyes said it all! Upon entering the second wing, one young girl of 14 or 15 years, with tears in her eyes, came up to us and said: “Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I’m HIV positive.” Before leaving, we donated over 100 syringes, 3 boxes of rubber gloves, ½ box of alcohol swipes, 15 needle glides, and 4 disc filter tubs for transfusions all obtained from Parkview Medical Center in our hometown of Pueblo, Colorado, USA.

4. After lunch, we continued our taxi excursion. This time we went to the Dag Hammarskjold Crash Site Memorial. For those of us old enough to remember Dag Hammarskjold, he was the Secretary General of the United Nations (historically, the 2<sup>nd</sup>) who died when his plane crash just outside Ndola, Zambia on September 15, 1961. He was on a peace mission attempting to stop the civil war in the Congo – which, ironically, continues. But the controversy remains: was the crashed caused by pilot error or was it intentionally shot down? It was a very serene site, with tall trees, a gazebo on top of a 25’ mound, an actual bronze memorial where the plane first touched the earth, and a building with a bronze bust of him with lots of photographic memorabilia.

F. The next day, Wednesday, Buck became ill with what was later diagnosed as a stomach flu/virus. Arlene spent the evening hours talking with C & M about economics and appeared to clear up the misunderstanding between accountability and distrust. After 12 hours of intermittent vomiting and 12 hours of recovery (too much information?), Buck was ready for the 10+ hours bus ride to Livingstone. It was just the four of us.

G. The first full day in Livingston (the very southern part of Zambia):

1. We first placed 2 books in the Livingston District Council Library, Village Mukuni, Livingstone, Zambia, Mubia S. Chrispin, chief librarian. It was a sorely stocked library, and several people we asked within earshot of it couldn’t tell us where it was located.

2. A person Arlene met on the bus ride to Livingstone directed us to a rural

health clinic where his mother worked – mostly with young children. It was the Maramba Clinic – for prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (Partially funded by the U.S. Presidential Initiative fund). We met the director, Greenford Sibusenga, and left him with the remaining medical supplies we had carried from home – about an equal amount as with the hospice clinic.

#### H. The Reversion Directors take over:

1. For the afternoon and the remainder of the day the four of us visited Victoria Falls – called “The Smoke That Thunders” by the indigenous people. It was an absolutely incredibly wonderful and powerful experience. Chita, having been there previously as a Boy Scout, led the way and showed us around – starting with “The Boiling Pot” at the bottom just downstream. We then moved to the top, walking along the path facing the falls for as far as we could (half of the Falls is shared with Zimbabwe which was off limits due to civil strife). It was fun getting soaked by the mist, walking through rainbows, and feeling the presence of God. (Pictures and some videos available upon request.)
2. The next day we, just the two of us, spent the entire day on a safari at the Chobe National Park in Botswana. (We couldn’t afford to take C & N with our limited personal funds and didn’t feel comfortable using Fellowship funds for this purpose. We also recognized the wisdom in having time for ourselves.) It was breathtaking seeing so much wildlife, first on a flat-bottom boat water safari and then on high seats on the back of a Nissan jeep land safari in one day. For lunch, we had a most delightful world-class luncheon buffet – with all the trimmings. What a treat! We returned to Zambia that evening.
3. An interesting side story: was going back and forth between the two countries we had to literally step into a liquid-soaked sponge for a few seconds as a health inspector watched – to prevent the spread of hoof and mouth disease.

I. The four of us spent the day of Sunday March 5<sup>th</sup> riding a bus from Livingstone to Lusaka, and checked into our hotel, Hotel Lusaka. That evening, while having dinner in the hotel, we meet another Urantia Book reader – Godwin Mulawisha. Godwin is a nursing student doing an internship in the ICU (Intensive Care Unit) at the main Lusaka Teaching

Hospital. He is very bright, energetic, and well versed in the Urantia Book – especially in the Life and Teaching of Jesus. We loved his enthusiasm and identified him as a potential leader.

J. Early the next day, we met two more readers – both women (finally). Chilufya Mumbi and Sharon Kalenga, both students at University of Zambia (UNZA). Actually, Chilufya is a strong reader, but Sharon is a potential reader. She (Sharon) asked many good questions about the Book as we all had a Subway sandwich for brunch.

1. The six of us walked to the nearby Lusaka City Council Library on Katondo Street, P.O. Box 31304, Lusaka, Zambia, and for reasons unclear we were unable to present a book. C & M claimed the director was an interest person in the Urantia Book but when they telephoned him there was no response. His secretary in the library said he was out and not available.
2. Next, we followed C & N in search of a real estate agent in an effort to locate an apartment for rent in Ndola. This too, proved to be unfruitful.
3. After Chilufya and Sharon returned to their classes at the University, C & M bused it with Buck to a local upscale mall to purchase electronic equipment needed by Chita. Most goodies needed to operate electronic devices costs three or four times the cost in the U.S. (Except for an income of 260,00 kwacha -about \$80 US – which Chita receives working with a newspaper in Ndola, neither have a visible means of self-sufficiency.)
4. In a cost-saving suggestion, C & N were asked to return to Ndola a day earlier than planned, and we would complete the unfinished business of placing a book in the UNZA library and getting information from the British Consulate on their annual book fair.

K. We shared hugs and said our goodbyes early the next morning, then set about finishing the two unfinished pieces of work.

1. We visited the British Consulate and obtained the name and email address of the person organizing the book fair (Belinda Mwale), and have since received an emailed promise from her for schedules - as they become available.
2. A bus ride left us at the University of Zambia where we donated a book to Norah Mumba, Collection Development Librarian, P.O. Box 32379, Lusaka,

Zambia. She promised to introduce the University's religious department to the book. We promised to send her 3 more books.

L. Our time in Zambia was about over; except for the one last night in Lusaka on March 10<sup>th</sup> when returning from South Africa and before our flight to London. We were saddened but cheered by our many outreach experiences and the feelings of closeness to the spirit world around us. We achieved the following:

1. Two formal introductory presentations of the Urantia Book.
2. Presented books to 7 libraries.
3. Gifted or left with C & N all but 5 of the 20 Urantia Books and all but 5 of 18 JANR books.
4. Gave away dozens of Fellowship business cards, and pieces of secondary material.
5. Including C & N, we met with and interacted with 16 readers, and identified 3 new potential leaders Godwin Mulawisha, Joseph Chanika, and Alfred Machilica.
6. Began the process of establishing a permanent meeting place for the Morontia Mota Study Group of Ndola.
7. (Whatever success we had could not have been possible without the prior unselfish and fearless work of Norman Ingram.)

III. THE COUNTRY DESCRIPTION: South Africa is nearly twice the size of Texas and at the very southern tip of the continent has the Indian Ocean on its east coast and the Atlantic Ocean on the west coast. Originally inhabited by the San & Khoikhoi it was later settled by the Bantu tribes. The European Dutch began colonizing in the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century, and was passed to England in 1814, which created the Boer War (1899-1902). England won the war (is that an oxymoron?) and went on to create the Union of South Africa in 1910. South Africa declared itself a republic in 1961 and consolidated the apartheid system which was repealed in 1989. White rule ended in 1993 and multiracial elections was held in 1994 making Pretoria the administrative capital, Cape Town the legislative capital (and largest city), and Bloemfontein the judicial capital. The government is a republic with universal suffrage.

Currently the population is slightly more than 44,000,000 and life expectancy is about 43.47 for males and 43.06 for females. However, any estimates of population must take into account the excessive mortality rate resulting from HIV/AIDS, with 21.5% of the adult population, or 5.3 million, and 370,000 deaths – all 2003 estimates.

A. The Economy: The monetary unit is the Rand, and \$100 619.34 Rand. South Africa is an emerging world market with plenty of natural resources: gold, chromium, coal, iron, manganese, nickel, gem diamonds, platinum, copper, tin and natural gas. It has a well-developed financial, legal, communications, energy, and transport sectors with a modern infrastructure to support the distribution of goods to population centers. However, their economic system is not yet strong enough to lower the high unemployment rate (estimated at 25-31% in 2005) and the daunting economic problems remaining from the apartheid era. 50% of the population sustain themselves below the poverty line (2000 est.). South Africa continues to have one of the world's largest income disparities. Women earn 55% less than men.

B. The Culture: South Africans are a unique blend of ethnics groups: blacks are 75.2%, whites 13.6%, Colored 8.6%, and Indian 2.6%. And, like Zambia, English is nearly everyone's second language with English being the first language of 8.2% of the population. The remainder is: IsiZulu at 23.8%, IsiXhosa 17.6% and Afrikaans (similar to Dutch) at 13.3%; with 4 or 5 additional tribal languages. South Africa is without a major arterial river or large lakes and must rely on extensive water conservation, so water is discussed often and openly. Over 86% of the population, both male and female, is literate.

C. Religion: South Africans are mostly Christians, with 75-80% identifying themselves in one denomination or another. Islam represents approximately 2% of religionist, and Hindu about 1.5%. The remainder is animist/indigenous, but a large percent of these remaining identified "none" as their category. Many of the Afrikaans continue to follow the 17<sup>th</sup> Century Calvinistic approach to God, while most of the animist and indigenous believers continue to participate in animal sacrifice during annual crop festivals.

#### IV. Fellowship Outreach Activities:

A. We flew from Lusaka, Zambia to Johannesburg, South Africa, arriving at approximately 3:00 PM local time. After clearing immigrations and customs, we headed for the main terminal. As we walked out we saw this large placard with 3 hand-drawn blue concentric circles being waived in the air by an enthusiastic Afrikaans women. Her name is Simone Cox, and after praying a lot, she had been somehow led to the Book, and knew

immediately it was for her. She drives around in a white van with the sign: “Big Blue Book” painted on it. We got her name from Doreen Heyne, who read Simone’s notice on Meetup.com for anyone wishing to join a Urantia Book Study Group in Johannesburg.

1. We had coffee and tea with Simone and she told us of her many activities. She has a website in development: [www.Bluebook.co.za](http://www.Bluebook.co.za), is interested in placing the books in stores in Johannesburg, and travels around to many spiritual fairs promoting the Book. She is also interested in a booth for large book fairs in the Johannesburg area.
2. We gave her a JANR books, a poster, a 3 circles pin, and some of each of the brochures.
3. She has unbridles energy for promoting the revelation, but we loved her and identified her as a leader in the Johannesburg region.
4. There was another reader, Neville Pallatt, who planned to meet us at the airport, but told Simone he thought we were coming the next day - Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup>.

B. Our time with Simone was much too short, and our flight left on time. We were picked up at the Cape Town Airport by Elizabeth Peterson, director of St. Anne Homes for pregnant, abused and homeless women with children. (More on this below.) She dropped us off at the St. Mark Anglican Church where Rev. John Oliver effortlessly placed us each in one of the several Bible Study Groups discussing the Lent season, Jesus, and his momentous decisions. On the front pew, was a well-used JANR. In closing, Rev. John read a passage from JANR, introduced us, and invited Buck to speak on what the Urantia Book had to say about the subject matter. (Rev. John is also chairperson of the Cape Town Interfaith Initiative, and an involved member of the all-African Interfaith Initiative.) He then drove us to the District Six Guest House where we checked-in at a reduced price because of our affiliation with Rev. John. There was a 24 hours security guard opening and closing the entrance gate and bars on all the windows.

1. After a great breakfast overlooking the Cape Town bay, Rev. John drove us to his Rectory where a “gathering” of Urantia Book readers, or potential readers, was to be held. We spent the remainder of the morning and early afternoon trying to make telephone or email contact with as many of the 29 names given to us by Paula Thompson, Christilyn Biek, Saskia, and others. (The decision to go to Cape Town was made *after* our arrangements had already been made for Zambia. It was the right decision without doubt.

Unfortunately, it left us very little time to organize the event – which could have resulted in 2 or 3 times the number of participants. Many people got a book or heard about it during the Parliament of the World’s Religions conference held there in 1999 at the Urantia Book booth.)

2. We spent the afternoon visiting with Elizabeth Peterson at the St. Anne Homes, touring, and meeting guests and staff. It was a wonderful experience to see this service in action many volunteers working with small children unselfishly doing the fun work as well as the dirty work.

3. We went to the harbor shopping area to buy food for snacks for the event.

4. We laid out the Books on the window sill, with brochures, spiritual vitamins all that remained. Six people attended Rev. John Oliver, who stands as an important “bridge” between organized Christianity the Urantia teachings; Marthe Muller, who is emerging as the real leader in the area; Jen Goebel, a young American working with a Christian Missionary group called: “Bridges of Hope” and whose father, Rick Goebel, is a long time reader living in Castle Rock, CO; Peter Minnar, who gave up the last night with his departing son to attend, and has a deep understanding of the Book; Elizabeth Peterson, who is just beginning to investigate the Book because of her interactions with Rev. John; and Juliet Gosling, attended as a result of hearing of the Urantia Book at the Bible Study groups the previous night.

5. After a prayer, we used a flip chart to do an overview of Parts I, II, & III. Then had a detailed interactive discussion on Part IV. We were surprised and delighted at their depth of knowledge and curiosity. Finally, Rev. John had to whisk everyone out the door due to the lateness of the hour (10:30 PM).

C. As we prepared to leave, we left Rev. John a \$100 donation for his great unifying effort and the use of the Rectory. He and Marthe Muller agreed to again have regular Urantia Book study group meetings. Marthe, as she drove us to the airport, said she would use a library book placement program to help unit the readers.

D. On our flight back to Lusaka, Zambia we reflected on all that had been accomplished in South Africa in such a very short period of time at Johannesburg and Cape Town. We felt energized and uplifted by it all.

V. RETURN TO LUSAKA FOR ONE NIGHT AND COMING HOME: Upon checking into the Lusaka Hotel, Buck discovered he left the camera in the taxi on the ride from the airport and with it all the pictures from the second half of our trip. (Oh, well.) Later that evening, we again met with Godwin Mulawisha to give him a conference T-shirt and a pin as suggested by Chita. We had a great discussion about education, the Urantia Book, of trying to get a study group started in Lusaka, and partnering with a US hospital to send outdated medical supplies to the Lusaka Hospital. The flights to London and Denver were uneventful – except, of course, for the incredible people we met and spoke with.

## VI. FUTURE OUTREACH IN AFRICA AND GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

A. As Philip Jenkins says in “The Next Christendom: The Coming of World Christianity”: *“Over the past century, however, the center of gravity in the Christian world has shifted inexorably southward, to Africa, Asia, and Latin American. Already today, the largest Christian communities on the planet are to be found in Africa and Latin America. If we want to visualize a “typical” contemporary Christian, we should think of a woman living in a village in Nigeria or in a Brazilian favela.”*

1. Jenkins goes on to identify the 4 emerging “megacities” in Africa as Lusaka, Zambia; Lagos, Nigeria; Kinshasa, Democratic of Congo; and Kampala, Uganda; and goes on to say, barring a catastrophe, nothing will stop these cities from becoming “goliaths”.
2. We simple cannot wait for readers or potential readers to emerge. We must go there. We must talk with religionists; give public presentations, place books; then return, again, and again in a model of consistency.
3. An all-African leadership conference is needed to show support, give direction, and develop skills for outreach, study group building, and finding “Bridges” in the interfaith community.
4. Develop an on-line African newsletter, by Africans and for Africans to improve and increase the networking between readers from different regions and languages.

### B. Recommendations:

1. As an organization, the Fellowship must be willing to devote more money, time, and energy toward developing and training a large “Outreach Corps” to go out into the world whenever needed. China will be opening its doors to the world on 8-8-08 hosting the Summer Olympics. This could represent a golden opportunity for outreaching the Revelation.

2. As the Pipeline of Light is doing so wonderfully with books, a similar project of “Outreach Response Kits” needs to be in place to send to readers and potential readers after the initial contact is made. Kits could be on several levels potential readers, committed readers, and leadership kits (to include things like: brochures, posters, business cards, and stickers identifying local readers and international websites. to place inside Books on public shelves).
3. Scholarships for international conventions need to have more discussion.
4. Some form of joint statement signaling a united effort of the Fellowship and the Foundation on international outreach would be very helpful.
5. Encourage African countries to have an internal conference to bring readers from remote areas into closer affiliation with the majority.
6. Eventually have an all-African Urantia Book conference.

## VII. SOME PERSONAL REFLECTIONS.

- A. Without doubt, the most impressive experience of the entire mission was observing (and in some small hopeful way, contributing) to the enormous amount of truly unselfish service going on in that part of the world – by Westerners and Africans alike. Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of volunteers of every age provide service in the material, intellectual, and spiritual arenas from levels of government to ordinary people in need. There, service is more than a sentiment, more than an ideal, service is in *action*. It is easy for us now to better understand why people become missionaries and why they devote a large part of their adult lives committed to serving the needy in 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries. Sharing the Gospel and doing service is energizing, allowing the way to self-forgetfulness.
- B. The ease with which ordinary citizens – clerks, taxi drivers, people standing in a line, bus passengers, nearly everyone – were willing to talk about God. It’s as if it is a second nature to them. And because we had a *new* book about God, the vast majority was inquisitive. It was refreshing! No political correctness. No inhibitions. Just straight forward talk about the goodness of God. This lessened as we got closer to larger and more advanced cities that reflected the secular and the material concerns.
- C. One of the biggest lessons we learned from our personal ministries is giving *things* as a one-time gift, such as medical supplies, makes the *giver* feel good but it’s not what the *receiver* needs. What they need is to have a reliable and dependable source of supplies – regardless of the quantity, quality, or time frame. Another lesson is to avoid going into a country with *our* solutions. More important to partner and encourage them toward their own solutions. Even when giving Urantia Books, follow up and consistent interaction in filling their needs in crucial.
- D. The Revelation is alive and well in Zambia and South Africa.

Submitted by Buck and Arlene Weimer

# **Interim Pipeline of Light Report**

February 2006

My dear friends,

The Pipeline of Light project has yielded an unexpected dividend in my life, namely, I am becoming educated in geography and global living conditions.

It fascinates me to study the difference between the economic/political conditions in the United States and those in much of the rest of the world. Understanding the incredible burdens that most of the people on earth live with has increased my sense of purpose in getting the revelation into the hands of truth-seekers everywhere.

I will share an example of interest below. For reference, the figures in parenthesis at the end of each paragraph represent the current

annual total domestic product per person (GDP) according to Wikipedia (wiki) or The Economist magazine's latest survey of worldwide economic conditions (econ). Country descriptions are from Forbes.com.

According to Forbes.com, three of the most corrupt nations on earth this year are places to which we have shipped copies of The Urantia Book:

We have attempted to send four books to Myanmar, but they haven't arrived yet, four months after shipping. This is one of the most savage military dictatorships still in power and one of the most closed societies. Its leadership exists largely to enrich itself by whatever means possible. The simple act of having a telephone installed requires a bribe, and the system appears to be institutionalized, with little interest by the military leadership to change matters, since it also helps perpetuate its hold on power. Smuggling of everything from drugs to jade is rife across the porous borders with China and Thailand. (GDP= \$1,800 wiki, \$700 econ)

A total of five books have been shipped to readers in Nigeria. Under its current president, Nigeria is making a determined effort to clean up its act. President Olusegun Obasanjo has surrounded himself with a dozen senior government officials who are firmly opposed to the corruption that remains rampant. The president has begun issuing a monthly list of the amounts doled out to each of 33 states and more than 600 municipalities, so the funds can be monitored at the grassroots level. So far, it hasn't had much impact. (GDP= \$1,120 wiki, \$470 econ)

A total of twelve books have been sent to our contact in Pakistan. With terrorism going hand in hand with corruption, this frontline nation in the war on terror has become quite committed to attacking corruption, especially since President Pervez Musharraf came to power. Terrorism is still closely linked to corruption since, as one international observer points out, "corruption makes the lives of people like that very much easier." Though Pakistan has suffered from both blights for a very long time, recently some senior government officials and business executives have been convicted as awareness of the problem rises. (GDP \$2567

wiki, \$540 econ)

Incidentally, the Pipeline has also sent six English books and ten French books to a seminary in the Republic of Guinea. (\$2,100/yr wiki, \$2,080 econ) This African nation should not be confused with the tiny country of Equatorial Guinea, which is another African nation on the list of highly corrupt countries, nor with the African country of Guinea-Bissau.

As a comparison, the current annual GDP for the US= \$37,240.

Interested in helping? Donations to the Pipeline of Light can be made online at:

<http://urantiabook.org/support.htm>

Or by mail to:

The Fellowship

PO Box 4583

Grand Central Station

New York, NY 10163

Wishing you all a lovely weekend!

Michelle Klimesh, Pipeline Coordinator

## Interim Report from Agustin Arellano March, 2006

Since last mail I had to change my itinerary and program because of the lack of budget in general and during my trip to central america where more than expected expenses occurred.

With last deposit 02/07/06, I did two trips, one to Guadalajara for a weekend meeting with Jesuits where I gave UB's and posters as well as copies of the DVD with all the material we have done in the last 5 years, powerpoint presentations, posters, translations, etc.

Some of those jesuits are very interested in a follow up so I have already rented a hotel conference room for next June 4th with capacity of 200 pax. we are starting some radios and tv press conferences in order to get most of the readers in the state of Jalisco and invite surrounding states readers for this regional conference.

Last weekend I went to Hermosillo for a talk with some of the new readers at Jaim groups and scholars from the new Multiversity Edgar Morin which is including some spiritual aspects in education from a new paradigm, stayed Friday and Saturday with them, on Sunday a meeting with Jaim readers who are working with music for the study groups. In a couple of months will have some songs to be used during the meetings, maybe show it in June 4th in Guadalajara.

For April we are going to visit five groups in Europe, Madrid 7.8.and 9 getting most of the northern readership, then 10 and 11 Barcelona for the southern readers.

On 12 and 13 Paris staying an extra day for the group in Chaville with our friend Georges Roche whose family are new readers, we have 15 and 16 free so Gabriela and Javier who are helping me carrying the UB's and making these visits know Paris.

On the 17th we visit Prague where there are some readers from Mazatlan who moved 9 years ago and have a small group there

On the 19th we visit Vienne where we' ll have a talk at the Gestalt institute there on spirituality and the psychotherapy

On 21,22,23 we work in Rome having two meeting with readers and one public, we are working on spiritual vitamins in French and Italian but I do not have the Italian version complete.

In May we have the meeting of the CN6 in Guayaquil and the schedule is as follows, May 20 and 22 Quito, May 23 Otavalo, May 24 Riobamba May 25 thru 29 will have the proper conference in Guayaquil.

These couple of months the book has not been available from the distributor so I have had to buy it at regular bookstores in teh regular price so my activities have slow down, they promised

(the distributors)to have it available this month.

Thanks for your support and hopefully by end May will get to the 500 UB's distributed first goal and will have to restate the 1500 UB's goal from the experience in this year.

In Love and Light

Agustin Arellano



## 2006 Annual Fellowship Committee Reports

[FULL TEXT OF  
THE URANTIA BOOK](#)

[SEARCH](#)

[HOME](#)

[WHAT'S NEW?](#)

[SITE INDEX](#)

[INTRODUCTIONS TO  
THE URANTIA BOOK](#)

[TOPICAL ARTICLES](#)

[STUDY AIDS](#)

[ADVANCED STUDIES](#)

[AUDIO ARCHIVE](#)

[STUDY GROUPS,  
SUBSCRIPTIONS,  
ONLINE FORUMS,  
COMMUNITY](#)

[DOWNLOADS](#)

[SPANISH SITE](#)



The Urantia Book  
Fellowship  
PO Box 4583  
Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163  
1-877-288-3772

### Annual Report of the Finance Committee

May 30, 2006

Report of the Finance Committee

The Finance committee is fired up, really fired up! And we are asking for your support as volunteers and financially. We are working on multiple fronts to improve the broad-based support from the readership. Various Finance committee members and adjunct members are heading up specialized tasks and following them through to completion. So expect a friendly phone call asking for your support.

Under the direction of Christilyn Biek, a group composed of finance and adjunct finance members are calling all the members of The Urantia Book Fellowship to find out their willingness to support the Fellowship's efforts to get the revelation out to the world. They are emphasizing the importance of the monthly auto-debit contributions which have grown nicely this year. A new campaign is underway to get 1,000 donors donating \$20 or more a month in the next few years. Sooner if possible.

Besides asking for more support, Don Green, Gerald Pando, Ken Raveill and Lila Dogim have called donors from last year and this year, thanking them for their generous support and hearing what they have to say about furthering the revelation. Don Green is working with John Hay, Treasurer, in sending out a special solicitation letter to all members with a new free DVD that has the complete audio version of The Urantia Book, read by Merritt Horn, with an enclosed solicitation request and return donor envelope.

Ken Raveill has been diligently working on investing a percentage of our cash assets into mutual funds with oversight by the Treasurer. This has resulted in a high rate of return on our investment with a moderate/low risk. The Finance committee worked and recommended an Investment Policy that was passed this year by the EC. This policy gives guidelines and criteria for our investing strategy and a review process.

The Finance committee has worked on various marketing ideas to create a friendlier approach to our solicitation efforts. A revised return donor envelope was created by Ken Raveill and Robert Burns worked on a nicer looking auto response for on-line donations, and various committee members have worked on multiple solicitation requests and articles.

Robert Burns has worked closely with John Hales, Paula Thomson, David Kantor and Gloriann Harris to create an efficient Point of Sale system. This system will integrate into the Fellowship's database and accounting package, allowing for a more effective and efficient approach to our office procedures and protocols. This system will be in effect before the 3rd quarter of 2006. Paula and Robert are working on a procedures manual for all office administration, with an estimated completion by the end of the year.

All these efforts are to support The Fellowship growing financial needs. We need more dedicated volunteers and many more financial supporters as the revelation grows throughout the world. The first 50 years of the revelation has past and we are now in the exciting "next 50 years". The revelation is growing, but we are still but a small band of brothers and sisters serving to get the revelation to the billions of fellow mortals who would benefit by the knowledge of the revelation.

Please feel free to contact me with questions, ideas, hopes, or a donation. I can be reached at [snickburns@aol.com](mailto:snickburns@aol.com), or work number at 949 760- 9335 ext 5303, or at home at 949 222-1053. I am always excited to talk to other readers, hear what you have to say and share your dreams for this epochal revelation.

And think about this...if not us, who?

The Finance Committee

Robert Burns – Chair,

Committee members - Christilyn Biek, Don Green, Gerald Pando, Ken Raveill

Adjunct members - Lila Dogim, Alexandra Horn, Lenny Cowles



## 2006 Annual Fellowship Committee Reports

[FULL TEXT OF  
THE URANTIA BOOK](#)

[SEARCH](#)

[HOME](#)

[WHAT'S NEW?](#)

[SITE INDEX](#)

[INTRODUCTIONS TO  
THE URANTIA BOOK](#)

[TOPICAL ARTICLES](#)

[STUDY AIDS](#)

[ADVANCED STUDIES](#)

[AUDIO ARCHIVE](#)

[STUDY GROUPS,  
SUBSCRIPTIONS,  
ONLINE FORUMS,  
COMMUNITY](#)

[DOWNLOADS](#)

[SPANISH SITE](#)



The Urantia Book  
Fellowship  
PO Box 4583  
Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163  
1-877-288-3772

### Annual Report of the Secretary-General

June 2, 2006

This report is a summary of my sixth year as an officer.

The basic work that I do is scan and forward all mail that comes to the New York address to the appropriate persons, take the minutes for the Executive Committee meetings and conference calls.

There is always a lot of communication with prompt and courteous follow up telephone calls, e-mail correspondence, and when necessary I help support committee work and inquiries from members. Keeping records of all Executive Committee communications is another requirement of this position.

I have assisted Robert Burns in researching and writing the Financial Investment policy and a Consultant Agreement. The goal is to put in writing a clear cut set of objectives for what we hope to accomplish in each area.

I have tried to seek for opportunities to further friendly relationships with members of our and other organizations in the reader community while listening to better ways that might reflect a higher spiritual direction.

Only with the support of our readership in partnership with our purpose can we accomplish the vision and achieve the greater goal of a universal spiritual brotherhood.

I hope I have satisfied the criteria that is required of me and brought to the position an independent point of view that reflects the teachings of The Urantia Book. It has been a gratifying experience to serve in this capacity.

Lastly, it has been an honor for me to serve under the leadership of Avi Dogim, who has represented a model of courageous perseverance and integrity.

Doreen Heyne, Chair



## 2006 Annual Fellowship Committee Reports

[FULL TEXT OF  
THE URANTIA BOOK](#)

[SEARCH](#)

[HOME](#)

[WHAT'S NEW?](#)

[SITE INDEX](#)

[INTRODUCTIONS TO  
THE URANTIA BOOK](#)

[TOPICAL ARTICLES](#)

[STUDY AIDS](#)

[ADVANCED STUDIES](#)

[AUDIO ARCHIVE](#)

[STUDY GROUPS,  
SUBSCRIPTIONS,  
ONLINE FORUMS,  
COMMUNITY](#)

[DOWNLOADS](#)

[SPANISH SITE](#)



The Urantia Book  
Fellowship  
PO Box 4583  
Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163  
1-877-288-3772

### Publications Committee Annual Report

June 15, 2006

Things are moving along much the same as ever for Publications. The Herald went to press yesterday, after a delay at the printer's. This is one of our largest issues, 48 pages, and has articles on a number of different subjects, including youth, angels, prophecy, and science in The Urantia Book. The pdf file has been sent to David to post on the website.

We have issued one Mighty Messenger so far this year, and will have another as soon after the Summer Study Session as the articles and pictures can be collected. I rely on all of you to submit pictures and information about your societies, study groups, projects, etc. as soon after this meeting as you can. In fact, if you can bring the information to the Summer Study Session, that will be even better.

The focus on this next issue of the Mighty Messenger will be on international activities. I realize this is a sensitive subject in many respects. However, the more news we give our readers about what is going on and what is needed out there, the more donations we are likely to get.

I would also like to publish another issue of the Mighty Messenger by the end of the year. We will have room for some articles on subjects of your choice. Due to space limitations, the length should be kept to approximately 750 words.

Our publications don't write themselves. We need your input in the form of articles, pictures, news items, etc. If you have a special project to promote, or your committee or study group needs some volunteer help, let us make that known.

We're looking forward to another good year.

Linda Buselli, Chair  
Publications Committee



## 2006 Annual Fellowship Committee Reports

FULL TEXT OF  
THE URANTIA BOOK

SEARCH

HOME

WHAT'S NEW?

SITE INDEX

INTRODUCTIONS TO  
THE URANTIA BOOK

TOPICAL ARTICLES

STUDY AIDS

ADVANCED STUDIES

AUDIO ARCHIVE

STUDY GROUPS,  
SUBSCRIPTIONS,  
ONLINE FORUMS,  
COMMUNITY

DOWNLOADS

SPANISH SITE



The Urantia Book  
Fellowship  
PO Box 4583  
Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163  
1-877-288-3772

### Annual Report of the Family Life Committee

July 2006

The Family Life Committee has not been active this past year since last summer's conference. We participated in helping with the youth program at the conference under the guidance and participation of Karen Franklin, Wendy Anderson, Bill Rocap and Fred Harris. I heard many good reports on the youth activities of the conference and the Jerusalem Marketplace set up by Wendy and her husband.

Most of the Family Life Budget for this year is going to help Wendy set up Jerusalem Marketplaces in Alaska. Both Karen and Wendy have expressed an interest in working on/with the Family Life Committee. I am looking to mentor this interest, and to help revision the mission of the Family Life Committee.

Even though I have resigned from the council due to my job demands and those of taking care of my mother, I still have a major interest in continuing the Family Life Committee, but it needs to be revisioned. If there are any on the council who are especially interested, please contact me so we can reform a viable ad hoc committee dedicated to working with parents who read The Urantia Book to guide their children in the truths of the revelation.

If you are interested in working to revision/reformulate Family Life please contact me at [blackstocksara@yahoo.com](mailto:blackstocksara@yahoo.com). If there is anyone you know who is interested in the intertwined realm of families and our revelation, please have them contact me. If there is anyone on the council who would like to become coordinator of this area, I would willingly give way to new energy and new ideas. I feel so used up by my demanding job, that there is little in me, even for an area I love and feel devoted to.

The Young Adults have not been part of the Family Life Committee. There needs to be a separate Young Adult organization perhaps. I had hoped this would have come about through SOAP, and perhaps it will. I do not know the status of the organization formed after SOAP. Perhaps Thomas Orjala can fill the council in if there is anything happening with the Young Adult realm. I know he has established a very successful Cosmic Cafe hosting many young adults in Idaho.

Thank you again for all of the years of support you have given me as I have been encouraged to pursue my interest in family. I am far from being done with this realm, just taking a different tack in beginning to compile my 40 years of experience working with children, which I hope will be of service to families of our revelation.

I do hope to hear from one or more of you regarding interest in helping me revision and reformulate the Family Life Committee.

God bless each of you for your ongoing dedication.

In the work of the kingdom,

Sara Blackstock  
Chair, Family Life Committee





## 2006 Annual Fellowship Committee Reports

[FULL TEXT OF  
THE URANTIA BOOK](#)

[SEARCH](#)

[HOME](#)

[WHAT'S NEW?](#)

[SITE INDEX](#)

[INTRODUCTIONS TO  
THE URANTIA BOOK](#)

[TOPICAL ARTICLES](#)

[STUDY AIDS](#)

[ADVANCED STUDIES](#)

[AUDIO ARCHIVE](#)

[STUDY GROUPS,  
SUBSCRIPTIONS,  
ONLINE FORUMS,  
COMMUNITY](#)

[DOWNLOADS](#)

[SPANISH SITE](#)



The Urantia Book  
Fellowship  
PO Box 4583  
Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163  
1-877-288-3772

### Annual Report of the Membership Committee

July 2006

#### The Past Year

**Committee Members:** Last year the GC re-elected Dale Szejnberg (New York) to serve a 6 year term on Membership. Other members include Tom Allen (Oklahoma), Geri Johnson (Singapore), John Causland (Michigan) who serves as the Committee's secretary, and Lenny Cowles (Colorado). Richard Omura (California) serves as an Adjunct committee member. The Chair's term expires this year and I feel strongly that we need to try to involve new people at all levels of The Fellowship, including Membership Committee Chair.

**Societies:** Although no new group has applied for chartering during the past year, activity has increased in societies that have been organizationally inactive. The Orvonton Society has regrouped under the leadership of Bob & Linda Buselli and Michael Painter of Indianapolis. Members held elections for officers, elected delegates to the upcoming TDA, and are planning to revise of their society constitution. Similarly, Northern Light Society of Alaska has been revived by long-time study group members in the Anchorage area, including Tony Finstad and Jacquelyn Koury. They also held elections for officers and elected delegates to the upcoming TDA. These are healthy signs for the functioning of The Fellowship.

#### Members-At-Large

During the past year, there have been increased requests for applications to become Members-At-Large of The Fellowship. Some were already members of a society but had been inactive for some time. So far, two applications have been received and unanimously approved by the Committee. They are Phil Taylor (Vermont) and Jamie Ortega (Massachusetts). We eagerly welcome them to our Fellowship.

#### Affiliate Organizations

No new groups have inquired about for becoming a Fellowship Affiliate. This is not surprising since The Fellowship has little to provide international organizations other than what they are already receiving through our Internet services and the International Fellowship Committee. Thank you to David Kantor and the many others working in these areas. Yet so much more can be done by providing introductory materials and study aides to The Urantia Book that can be translated into many languages.

### Furthering Society Purposes

#### Constitutional Amendments

In response to the General Council's request that The Fellowship devise a mechanism for dealing with inactive societies, the Membership Committee worked with the Judicial Committee to develop the wording for amendments 1a and 1b to be voted on by the GC this July, 2006. The first requires each society to provide The Fellowship with a current copy of its constitution and the second creates an inactive status for societies that do not comply with requirements in the Fellowship's Constitution.

#### TDA

The Assembly scheduled to begin July 5th is the first meeting of Society representatives since the 2003 TDA. These meetings are special experiences in democracy and group process for all who participate and they make the

Fellowship a stronger organization.

### **SocAdmin Email List**

In January, SocAdmin began its seventh year as a tool for Fellowship communication. The List now includes former officers of Societies and of The Fellowship. SocAdmin Guidelines are available on The Fellowship website at: [urantiabook.org/admin](http://urantiabook.org/admin).

### **Next Year**

**Membership Benefits:** The Committee has discussed the idea of new membership cards but the consensus is that they provide little of value to either new or long-time members. Instead, there is sentiment to expand the information available to members on the web site and to provide new members with an automated email contact of information about The Urantia Book and The Fellowship. These ideas will be discussed at the Committee's annual meeting during SSS06.

For the Membership Committee,

Bob Bruyn, Chair



## 2006 Annual Fellowship Committee Reports

FULL TEXT OF  
THE URANTIA BOOK

SEARCH

HOME

WHAT'S NEW?

SITE INDEX

INTRODUCTIONS TO  
THE URANTIA BOOK

TOPICAL ARTICLES

STUDY AIDS

ADVANCED STUDIES

AUDIO ARCHIVE

STUDY GROUPS,  
SUBSCRIPTIONS,  
ONLINE FORUMS,  
COMMUNITY

DOWNLOADS

SPANISH SITE



The Urantia Book  
Fellowship  
PO Box 4583  
Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163  
1-877-288-3772

### Outreach Committee Report 2005/2006

#### Contents of this document:

[Expos](#)

[The Speaker's Bureau](#)

[The Study Group Directory](#)

[Study Groups](#)

[Other Projects](#)

The past year has been interesting and fun for the Outreach Committee. Many thanks go to the work of dedicated committee members and all those who give of their time and talent to reach out with The Urantia Book.

#### Expos

In the past year we have done expos and sponsored expos in the following cities: New York, Minneapolis, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Denver, Pueblo, and Coeur d'Alene.

Public outreach at expos, utilizing our beautiful exhibit booth, great brochures, media presentations, lectures and other great outreach tools created by Urantia Book readers has proven to be consistently effective. Typically an expo will place at least ten books, plant seeds in thousands of people's minds about the book and add a page of names to our mailing list.

If your group is interested in doing public outreach with The Urantia Book, please write to me at [ubooksrus@aol.com](mailto:ubooksrus@aol.com).

The Outreach Committee has access to many great tools and resources to help you.

Outreach Kudos go to Larry and Donna Whelan for their terrific efforts in creating Spiritual Vitamins. Larry and Donna painstakingly take gems of wisdom from the UB, hand roll them into little scrolls of paper in multiple colors and hand them out liberally at outreach functions. They also make them available to anyone who wants them for outreach. They are an effective and fun way to get a conversation started or just plant a seed of truth. Please contact Larry at [lwhelan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lwhelan@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

Many thanks go to Mary Jo Garascia and Jo Ann Wiedman for traveling to one or more cities to help out.

#### The Speaker's Bureau

Mary Jo Garascia worked hard on getting the Speaker's Bureau website up and operational with the help of a local UB reader and website designer, Kara Blake. Sadly, we have had a very difficult time getting the speakers who are featured on the site to submit their bios and pictures, and without these, the site is not effective. If you are a speaker listed at the site please send us a short bio and headshot to publish there. The world will not take us seriously unless we take ourselves seriously.

If you would like to participate in the Speakers Bureau please contact Mary Jo at: [pilgrim\\_mj@yahoo.com](mailto:pilgrim_mj@yahoo.com) or Maria at: [Maridown@aol.com](mailto:Maridown@aol.com).

To see the Speakers Bureau site go to: <http://ubookspeakers.org>.

### **The Study Group Directory**

Bobbie Dreier is doing a fantastic job managing the online Study Group Directory. She has worked so hard to get it and keep it up to date. If you have a study group, are willing to have a group, would like to be listed as a contact person, or know of a group that is not listed, please notify Bobbie at [bdreier@earthlink.net](mailto:bdreier@earthlink.net). The Study Group Directory takes a tremendous amount of work and bringing readers together is a vital service of The Urantia Book Fellowship. Many thanks to Bobbie for this splendid effort! [Click here to visit the Study Group Directory](#).

### **Study Groups**

Outreach Committee has been proactive in getting readers together and in getting study groups going. When a request comes in from a reader who would like to meet with other readers but there are no groups or contact people listed in their area, we send out a letter to the readers there to see if they too are interested in Urantia Book socialization and study. Several groups now exist that did not before because of these efforts. If you would like to meet readers in your area, or be a contact person, please let us know.

### **Other Projects**

We are still hoping to get our Outreach Web Page up and functional. We hope to have a variety of outreach tools available, things like excerpt brochures and introductory brochures in PDF format that can just be downloaded and printed out, suggestions and procedures on how to do public outreach with the book, etc.

Richard Omura has agreed to help us with this. Thanks Richard, we are confident that with your help we can finally make this important service available to everyone who wishes to do outreach with The Urantia Book.

In Faith and Friendship,

The Outreach Committee  
Paula Thompson – Chair  
Jo Ann Wiedman – Secretary  
Maria Downing – Member  
Bobbie Dreier – Member  
Richard Omura – Adjunct Member



## 2006 Annual Fellowship Committee Reports

### Annual Report of the President

July 9, 2006

The Urantia Book Fellowship continued its outreach and dissemination activities over the past year through the media of print and the Internet, through social gatherings, interfaith activities, expos, book donations and book marketing. The enthusiasm and energy among the people who coordinate and participate in these various activities is high and can be matched only by their dedication to the mission of making the fifth epochal revelation available to all our fellow residents on this planet. Some of these activities have been carried out as part of the work of the Fellowship's standing committees and some have been carried out by extra-organizational groups of volunteers coordinated by The Fellowship. Detailed accounts of these activities are available in the annual reports of The Fellowship's standing as well as ad hoc committees.

The Fellowship recognizes the important work done for the advancement of the revelation by individuals and groups who are not formally affiliated with it. It stands ready to collaborate with any group on any project that is consistent with the stated purpose of The Fellowship to disseminate The Urantia Book and its teachings to the peoples of the world. Efforts have been made over the past few years to identify specific areas of common interest between The Fellowship and Urantia Foundation and to explore possible joint projects between the two organizations. I met privately with Seppo Kanerva, the Foundation President, on the campus of Villanova University during IC '05 as part of these efforts. The meeting was friendly; we drew up a list of possible areas of cooperation; we agreed to continue to communicate; but we haven't as yet begun a joint project. The Fellowship involved members of the UAI as well as a number of individuals unaffiliated with any organization in the IC '05 conference planning and execution. It also reached out to the UAI in order to explore the possibility of running a joint Fellowship/UAI IC '08 conference. That last overture was rebuffed by the UAI. The Fellowship will continue to keep its door open to such possibilities in the future.

With impetus given by Joe Liszka, a long time reader, originally from Chicago, now in Key West, several members of The Fellowship and the UAI helped organize a "non-organizational" 50th Anniversary celebration of the publication of The Urantia Book in Chicago in October of 2005. Among those in attendance were Foundation Trustees, most of The Fellowship's Executive Committee and other Fellowship members, UAI members and a number of readers from Chicago, some of whom remembered well the day the books first rolled off the press. The good will among all who were there was palpable and ought to be savored.

Over the past year, The Fellowship took responsibility for coordinating the Pipeline of Light project, the purpose of which is to send Urantia Books to individuals or to groups all over the world who cannot afford to buy them. Both Fellowship members and people who are not affiliated with The Fellowship support and participate in this project.

Over the past three years The Fellowship has continued the process of virtualizing its administrative operation that began during the preceding three years. By "virtualizing" I mean increasing the utilization of internet based communications and data transfer operations and reducing our dependency on brick and mortar. This process went into high gear with the sale of our office at 529 Wrightwood Ave in Chicago.

To help deal with a myriad issues related to this process, we formed an administrative team, a five

[FULL TEXT OF  
THE URANTIA BOOK](#)

[SEARCH](#)

[HOME](#)

[WHAT'S NEW?](#)

[SITE INDEX](#)

[INTRODUCTIONS TO  
THE URANTIA BOOK](#)

[TOPICAL ARTICLES](#)

[STUDY AIDS](#)

[ADVANCED STUDIES](#)

[AUDIO ARCHIVE](#)

[STUDY GROUPS,  
SUBSCRIPTIONS,  
ONLINE FORUMS,  
COMMUNITY](#)

[DOWNLOADS](#)

[SPANISH SITE](#)



The Urantia Book  
Fellowship  
PO Box 4583  
Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163  
1-877-288-3772

member sub group of the Executive Committee, that conferred regularly by phone. We also formed an ad hoc information technology (IT) committee comprising an Executive Committee member, Steve Dreier, as its chair and a number of other Fellowship volunteers with expertise in various IT areas.

Less than a year ago, we formed a website content group, initially chaired by David Holt and currently chaired by Peter Laurence. This group was formed largely in response to recommendations made by the General Council that the content of The Fellowship's website should be overseen by a group rather than by any single individual. The process whereby the group will interact with the Executive Committee, the Fellowship office and the Fellowship's webmaster has been defined. Initial recommendations from this group have already been made and we look forward to some meaningful progress in the appearance and organization of and the ease of navigation through our website.

An important milestone was reached by The Fellowship recently with the retirement of John Hales who served as our Resident Director for over 30 years. John passed the baton to Paula Thompson who was hired as Administrative Director on April 1st. All of us who have worked with John and have benefited from his service are thankful for all his has done for the organization and for the readership over these many years. We are also thankful for all his efforts to ensure that the transition of responsibilities between himself and Paula are as seamless as can be.

A great deal of work has been done on the formulation of administrative procedures that help facilitate the day to day operations of The Fellowship and clarify the work flow among the members of the Executive Committee and The Fellowship staff. It is recognized by all concerned that these procedures are and must remain a work in progress that needs periodic review and updating in order to satisfy the ever growing needs of The Fellowship and the changing material reality that impinges on its work. Much of this effort is mundane and painstakingly detailed. It is not always easy to see the connection between doing this work and advancing a spiritual cause. Yet the connection is there and its recognition by the minds of those who do the work is what sustains them and keeps their vision alive.

Now, I'd like to share with you some of my thoughts regarding this organization and the direction in which I think it should be moving. When I first became involved in Fellowship organizational activities in the late eighties, my assumption was that, as human organizations go, the then Brotherhood must be operating on a very high ethical plane. Having had some familiarity with the book and what it had to say about ideal group behavior, this assumption seemed perfectly reasonable to me then and does not seem unreasonable to me now. The reality, however, is quite another matter and it didn't take me long to realize that this group behaves essentially like any other human group and is not exempt from political infighting and manipulation. When I commented about this to some of my friends who had been around this organization a lot longer than I, they reassured me that "things used to be a lot worse."

We should not be discouraged by this. We should stare this reality in the face and know that we can do something about it. I know it without a doubt and with all my being that if we, as an organization, have something unique to offer, it is our own transformation from a human group like any other group into one that will be a living testament to some of the possibilities inherent in The Supreme. This, I propose to you, should become our unstated mission. While we continue to focus on our organizational purpose, as stated in our constitution, we should learn to conduct ourselves in such a way that will help us become the kind of group we aspire to be. Let that become our "masterful mystery"; let the transcendent, post political human group become our "worthful unattainable".

It has been said that we need clearer rules and procedures in order to improve the way we operate. Indeed, clear rules and procedures are necessary to the smooth functioning of any organization. But in themselves they are insufficient to the fostering of a human organization that might be envisioned with the aid of revelation. It is not merely for the sake of imparting esoteric knowledge that The Urantia Book tells us that "the highest course of training in universe administration" is given by the Melchizedeks in the "College of High Ethics...presided over by the original Father Melchizedek." (35-3-15) and that "the higher you ascend in the scale of life, the more attention must

be paid to universe ethics.” (27-3-1). Do we wait till we get to the Edentia Training worlds where our “sojourn...will be chiefly occupied with the mastery of group ethics...”? (43-8-2)

I think not. I think it is our supreme responsibility to foster an organizational culture that strives for the highest attainment in individual and group ethics possible in the flesh. And we won't get there simply by being “nice” to each other. Each of us has a responsibility to always act in a manner that advances the good of the group. It can sometimes mean having to confront or question the actions of a particular member of the group. It can mean casting a vote that goes against a personal loyalty. It can mean taking personal risks by voicing unpopular opinions or questioning entrenched traditions. Painful as it might be, this is what we must do in order to be true to ourselves and to our mission. I know there is enough love and mutual respect among us so that not one of us need ever fear to speak his or her mind.

Since the inception of the Brotherhood in 1955, the Executive Committee has run the organization with the rest of the General Council serving as an interested bystander. Some of this is structural – if you read the constitution you'll notice that the Executive Committee is vested with most of the power as well as the responsibility for running the organization – and some of it is a matter of tradition. Perhaps there were good reasons for why things were set up this way. But there is nothing that says that this cannot change.

While structural changes can take time and need to be given careful consideration and deliberation, this council need not wait – indeed it should not wait to begin to give real direction to this organization. It certainly should not wait for the Executive Committee to provide the moral or ethical guidance for the group. That guidance must come from the council itself. The Executive Committee numbers fourteen people who work hard to conduct the day-to-day affairs of The Fellowship. It meets four times a year and communicates internally on the phone and by email on a regular basis, as it must. Bonds of friendship and personal loyalties form among its members who serve together in some cases for more than a decade. Expediency rather than principle sometimes hold sway in reaching important decisions. This is human, understandable and forgivable. This council holds the intellectual, moral and, indeed loving spiritual potential to move us forward.

“The temporal relation of man to the Supreme is the foundation for cosmic morality, the universal sensitivity to, and acceptance of, duty. This is a morality which transcends the temporal sense of relative right and wrong; it is a morality directly predicated on the self-conscious creature's appreciation of experiential obligation to experiential Deity. Mortal man and all other finite creatures are created out of the living potential of energy, mind, and spirit existent in the Supreme. It is upon the Supreme that the Adjuster-mortal ascender draws for the creation of the immortal and divine character of a finaliter. It is out of the very reality of the Supreme that the Adjuster, with the consent of the human will, weaves the patterns of the eternal nature of an ascending son of God.” (117-4-8)

The work begins here and now.

Thank you,

Avi Dogim



## 2006 Annual Fellowship Committee Reports

### Annual Report of the Education Committee

[FULL TEXT OF  
THE URANTIA BOOK](#)

[SEARCH](#)

[HOME](#)

[WHAT'S NEW?](#)

[SITE INDEX](#)

[INTRODUCTIONS TO  
THE URANTIA BOOK](#)

[TOPICAL ARTICLES](#)

[STUDY AIDS](#)

[ADVANCED STUDIES](#)

[AUDIO ARCHIVE](#)

[STUDY GROUPS,  
SUBSCRIPTIONS,  
ONLINE FORUMS,  
COMMUNITY](#)

[DOWNLOADS](#)

[SPANISH SITE](#)

The Education Committee presently has a website up and running at <http://www.urantia-education.org/index.htm>.

This is the skeletal frame work of our future internet school that will be training the future presenters of the Urantia Book. We are busy putting together the curriculum that will make this a reality. Dr. Peter Laurence has completed a course on interfaith/ religious dialogue studies. This course has been taken by members of the Interfaith committee. A course is being developed by Dr. Marta Elders using examples described in the training of Teachers and Believers paper. A meeting is being organized to include past education chairs, people from the Foundations internet school, the education committee to brainstorm on internet school content.

Early in the fall, the University of Santa Fe cancelled the Summer Study Seminar 06'. We quickly looked at different venue possibilities. Finally we found the Dominican University in River Forest, Illinois (a suburb of Chicago) Charles Olivea is our program chair. Our topic is Celestial Ministry: Seen and Unseen. We are presently looking into having next years Summer Study Seminar at St. Johns University in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Respectfully submitted,

The Education Committee:

Gary Deinstadt- Chair

Stephen Zendt

Charles Olivea

Dolores Nice

Nick Stefaro

David Holt



The Urantia Book  
Fellowship  
PO Box 4583  
Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163  
1-877-288-3772



## 2006 Annual Fellowship Committee Reports

[FULL TEXT OF  
THE URANTIA BOOK](#)

[SEARCH](#)

[HOME](#)

[WHAT'S NEW?](#)

[SITE INDEX](#)

[INTRODUCTIONS TO  
THE URANTIA BOOK](#)

[TOPICAL ARTICLES](#)

[STUDY AIDS](#)

[ADVANCED STUDIES](#)

[AUDIO ARCHIVE](#)

[STUDY GROUPS,  
SUBSCRIPTIONS,  
ONLINE FORUMS,  
COMMUNITY](#)

[DOWNLOADS](#)

[SPANISH SITE](#)



The Urantia Book  
Fellowship  
PO Box 4583  
Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163  
1-877-288-3772

### Annual Report of the Special Projects Committee

Larry Geis, Chairman Members: Larry Watkins, Chick Montgomery, Barbara Newsom  
Meredith Tenney and Thomas Orjala

This committee continues to be an association of members who are actively involved with various projects on an individual basis. The committee as a whole is not currently undertaking any significant endeavor, but is evolving into a supportive vehicle for assisting the work of other committees. The members are continuing to provide liaison functions with several groups and organizations with similar goals of dissemination and socialization of the revelation.

Meredith Tenney and Thomas Orjala are continuing their leadership roles in the InnerLife International organization. The Cosmic Café concept, pioneered by Thomas and his partner Aurora Hill has had success in their local area of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, as well as Edmonton and Montreal in Canada. For more information on other programs and activities under this umbrella, consult [www.innerlifeinternational.org](http://www.innerlifeinternational.org).

Barbara Newsom maintains a close working relationship with key individuals in the Chicago area. She is especially active in assisting with events involving cooperation between the Greater Lake Michigan Urantia Association and the First Society.

Larry Watkins, in connection with his involvement with the Fellowship Website, has pioneered an ambitious undertaking: creating a digital historical archive of all documents generated since the inception of the Urantia revelation. This endeavor has led to the formation of another specialized non-profit entity, The Urantia Book Historical Society. More details concerning this topic are available in other reports being submitted at this time.

Our committee has agreed to some supportive functions in regard to future endeavors of the Fellowship. The next International Conference in 2008 will be held in San Diego. Special Projects has agreed to handle various logistical functions as assigned by coordinator Susan Cook. We will also cooperate with members of the Finance Committee in their campaign to make personal contact with each "official" member of our organization.

As our Triennial Delegate Assembly is meeting for the fifteenth time to elect members of the General Council, we have prepared introductory packets for those who are taking their seats for the first time.

We have compiled a listing of all individuals who have served as volunteer members of the 36 member General Council since its inception in 1955. The original founding members were self-appointed for initial nine year terms. Twenty-five of them completed the full nine years and seventeen were re-elected by the first Triennial Delegate Assembly in 1964. The average length of service for these pioneers was just short of 25 years. Five original councilors sat for 30 years or more.

As of this writing, 171 individuals have been on the roster, and only eleven of them were selected by the council itself to temporarily fill vacancies. All others were elected at least once by the TDA process. As the current cycle ends, more than 100 will have completed at least nine years of faithful participation.

Larry Geis, Chair



## 2006 Annual Fellowship Committee Reports

[FULL TEXT OF  
THE URANTIA BOOK](#)

[SEARCH](#)

[HOME](#)

[WHAT'S NEW?](#)

[SITE INDEX](#)

[INTRODUCTIONS TO  
THE URANTIA BOOK](#)

[TOPICAL ARTICLES](#)

[STUDY AIDS](#)

[ADVANCED STUDIES](#)

[AUDIO ARCHIVE](#)

[STUDY GROUPS,  
SUBSCRIPTIONS,  
ONLINE FORUMS,  
COMMUNITY](#)

[DOWNLOADS](#)

[SPANISH SITE](#)



The Urantia Book  
Fellowship  
PO Box 4583  
Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163  
1-877-288-3772

### Report on the 2006 Body, Mind, and Spirit Expo

Hello members of the UB Fellowship,

I wanted to report on our experiences at the Spokane, Washington Body, Mind, and Spirit Expo held on June 3rd & 4th 2006.

We have been doing a booth at the Expo for most of the 16 years it has been going. What was different this year was that we were gifted a large number of Urantia books to give away at no charge. I communicated with Paula about this as I had a concern that free books could be ineffective. Paula mentioned her thoughts were to the affect that people might not read the book if there is nothing given in exchange. I agreed that this was possible.

Yet, I arrived at the Expo with 60 books to hand out. We put out the for-sale books as usual with small signs next to them stating the price. We also placed a sign saying "Ask how to receive a free Urantia Book". A couple people ignored the sign and purchased a book anyway. Our common experience was to speak with people for awhile to find out their interest in the book and then, when they showed an interest in getting one, we offered them a free copy. I think what we didn't expect was the look of delight in their eyes when they knew they were going to have their own copy. Many thanked us over and over and were delighted to have a book.

We gave out 47 hard cover, 9 soft cover, and sold a soft and large hard cover for a total of 58 Urantia books distributed! We also sold two JANR copies. Sixty books in two days!

Today, what I thought about is how money is not really the main factor of determining if people will read the book or not. Their spiritual hunger and the indwelling leading are the major factors. My only job was to get the book into their hands. Spirit will do the rest. I have a sitar I paid \$1000.00 for 3 years ago. I have played it twice since I got it. If money were the determining factor, I would be playing it twice a week. I think most of us have bought things that we do not use or intend to use. We have also been given something we cherish dearly.

I am rethinking my beliefs around giving the book out when I am generously given the opportunity to do so. If someone would have given me the book when I was seeking, I would have gladly read it. Normally we sell between 12 and 20 books. I suspect we will reach more hungry souls giving out nearly 60 books than we will by selling 15.

The talk on Saturday had 14 people and was well received. The booth was swamped after the talk was over. Lots of genuine enthusiasm for the Urantia Book.

The other factor I didn't expect is how much fun we had in handing out books instead of selling the books. It has always been a little stressful working to help the public see the value of paying money for a book they know little about. People are generally distrusting of salespeople at shows. The thought in my head all weekend was "this is as easy as falling off a log". The lack of need to sell created a fun atmosphere in which we felt delighted to be in service to those we handed books to. It made their day. It made our day. Another interesting thing was the people coming by to find out what this book was as they had seen so many others at the show carrying one.

Our experience was a positive one. I pray that the recipients of the books find what they need as they

read the pages we have all so enjoyed.

My thanks to all who helped in this effort.... our book angels – Paul and Joyce, Paula for her ever-generous guidance, the Fellowship for the show fees, Robert for sending up the booth, Aurora Hill, my Partner in Higher Purposes, who inspired many with her words of wisdom, and Mark Rogers who's passion for the revelation was enjoyed by those stopping by the booth.

It was our delight to share the light of truth to such an open and willing group of humans.

Thomas Orjala

General Councilor  
The Urantia Book Fellowship



## 2006 Annual Fellowship Committee Reports

### Annual Report of the Interfaith Committee

[FULL TEXT OF  
THE URANTIA BOOK](#)

[SEARCH](#)

[HOME](#)

[WHAT'S NEW?](#)

[SITE INDEX](#)

[INTRODUCTIONS TO  
THE URANTIA BOOK](#)

[TOPICAL ARTICLES](#)

[STUDY AIDS](#)

[ADVANCED STUDIES](#)

[AUDIO ARCHIVE](#)

[STUDY GROUPS,  
SUBSCRIPTIONS,  
ONLINE FORUMS,  
COMMUNITY](#)

[DOWNLOADS](#)

[SPANISH SITE](#)



The Urantia Book  
Fellowship  
PO Box 4583  
Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163  
1-877-288-3772

### Committee Work & Accomplishments

Our committee has been working on a survey strategy which we distributed mid-June. The survey was sent from the Interfaith committee to our entire mailing list. Everyone reading this should have received the survey. The survey asked various questions but targeted interest in interfaith education.

We are providing our on-line course which teaches the essential understandings and skills of Interfaith Dialogue. To date, we've received 21 respondents who wish to take the course via the Internet or during a two day workshop. For those interested in the Internet course, we'll be setting up two separate on-line courses to begin in September and end in November with a comprehensive retreat at the end. Both groups will meet together for the two-day retreat.

We are also working to develop workshops that can be given in a Urantia or Interfaith conference setting. Details are still being ironed out.

Because this committee is redefining itself, we are meeting four times a year in a city in which a committee member or adjunct resides. In some cases, we'll meet at conference such as this one.

In February 2006 we met at the home of Gard and Florence Jameson. The committee went through an interfaith dialogue skills training and discussed future plans. The weekend included a visit to a local mosque for a religious service and discussion with several of the leaders.

In May Tamara Wood hosted the committee at the Foundation. Our work included:

- Strategy Survey
- Committee Education
- Vision for our committee work
- Visit to the Baha'i House of Worship in Wilmette

In September we'll be meeting at the home of Peter and Eileen Laurence.

Gene Narducy has resigned from our committee and Bernie Gingras has agreed to take his place. Bernie in from Ottawa, Canada, is a member of the Fellowship, and has a keen interest and experience in our work. We are all delighted to have him.



# THE URANTIA BOOK FELLOWSHIP

Cultivating the Spirit of Religion

## 2006 Annual Fellowship Committee Reports

FULL TEXT OF  
THE URANTIA BOOK

SEARCH

HOME

WHAT'S NEW?

SITE INDEX

INTRODUCTIONS TO  
THE URANTIA BOOK

TOPICAL ARTICLES

STUDY AIDS

ADVANCED STUDIES

AUDIO ARCHIVE

STUDY GROUPS,  
SUBSCRIPTIONS,  
ONLINE FORUMS,  
COMMUNITY

DOWNLOADS

SPANISH SITE

### Contents of this Report:

[Strategy Being Employed in International Outreach](#)

[Korea](#)

[Africa](#)

[Europe](#)

[Lithuania](#)

[The Netherlands](#)

[Spain, France, Italy](#)

[South America](#)

[Ecuador and Peru](#)

[Some important considerations](#)

[Mexico and Central America](#)

[Central Asia](#)

[What we need to be doing](#)



The Urantia Book  
Fellowship  
PO Box 4583  
Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163  
1-877-288-3772

The pace of international work has increased substantially over the past few years. At present we are going through a significant period of development which, if successful, will lay a foundation able to support and guide international work over the next few decades.

The spread of The Urantia Book in our world is a project of great importance. The financial and people resources available for this task are extremely limited. Therefore it is essential that we have a working strategy to guide our choices. Several years ago, the International Fellowship Committee selected Latin America as an environment in which we could develop, implement, and test a strategy. If successful, it might be feasible to use that strategy in other regions of the planet. This environment was chosen because there were already many potentials in the region including the publication of the Spanish text, groups in Colombia and Chile which were involved with the development of the Spanish translation, work which was being done by Rosey Lieske, and the presence of Agustin Arellano with his complete dedication to the spread of the book.

### Strategy

Our strategy is strongly influenced by The Urantia Book itself. It is a strategy which seeks to work in conjunction with primary spiritual forces presently working on the planet. These are the Thought Adjusters, the Seraphim, the Spirit of Truth -- all working within the context of the evolving Supreme during the present dispensation of the Spirit of Truth. This means that instead of trying to promote a particular spiritual or philosophical ideology, we attempt to work in ways which are responsive to emerging developments in the world. We attempt to work in ways which support, reinforce, foster, encourage, and inspire rather than by attempting to recruit new readers into particular organizations or even to organize them into particular social structures.

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. This is particularly true in cases where we can see emergent leadership.

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 -- 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 emergence of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Our understanding of these three major features of the superhuman environment is being integrated into a new operational paradigm for international outreach. On a practical level this means attempting to identify leaders and enthusiasts who have emerged in different regions, getting to know them, and putting them in touch with each other. Using this approach we are able to create situations -- conferences, meetings, etc. -- in which revelation workers can meet for purposes of getting to know each other and forming working partnerships on a local and regional level. Such gatherings provide an environment in which unseen spiritual forces can work to catalyze working relationships among the persons involved. We cannot create this social infrastructure but we can create situations which stimulate the organic development of this infrastructure from potentials already in existence.

One of the major efforts made by The Fellowship over the past several years has been that of bringing together leaders from various groups in other countries 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. We are hopeful that this process can be implemented in Africa and elsewhere during the next few years. It is basically the approach used by Barry and Kaye Clark in their work with the Korean group. We are currently working to identify emerging leaders in central Asia in hopes of being able to initiate this process in that region as well.

It is important to note the sequence of steps which appear to lead to greater development. At the beginning there are one-on-one contacts made by individuals such as Norman Ingram, JJ Johnson, Mark Bloomfield, work done by people such as Sue Tennant, and various Internet services such as UBRON, Saskia Raevouri's site, Truthbook and others. These contacts result in books being placed. Interest begins to evolve around these initial book placements.

After a period of time a more structured visit can stimulate the development of additional social infrastructure as well as relationships with individuals who are motivated to work on local levels for the spread and promotion of the book.

I am confident that if we can sustain this process for a few more years, we will find that we are evolving good administrative structures which will be able to support an emerging international readership.

It is important to appreciate that our approach aims at creating an international readership which evolves its own local and regional social and financial infrastructure. We are not trying to develop an international organization or get folks to join North American organizations. If we can move quickly and efficiently we should be able to lay the groundwork enabling the influence of the revelation to emerge spontaneously from the grass roots as an international phenomena, rather than being an ideology exported from a central bureaucratic agency.

Our approach accomplishes several things:

1. It fosters local and regional social development rather than recruiting membership for North American reader organizations.
2. It encourages the development of local and regional financial support.
3. It attempts to facilitate the work of unseen spiritual forces.
4. It allows us to focus financial and people resources on a small area until self-sustaining growth can occur, enabling us to then shift the focus to a different region.

5. It places us in the mainstream of organizational purpose -- spreading the revelation internationally ". . . through the medium of fraternal association . . ."
6. It focuses on identifying leaders and enthusiasts for the revelation and then supporting and reinforcing their efforts; it seeks naturally occurring opportunities to exploit rather than attempting to implement plans conceived in the abstract.
7. It accepts local and regional expressions of religiosity and does not attempt to change them to conform to some preconceived ideal; it views dedicated religionists as the most effective promoters of the revelation.
8. It focuses on developing opportunities likely to result in greater book distribution and more involved readership.

There have been two important developments this past year of an administrative nature related to international outreach. The first is the mobilization of the Pipeline of Light project which provides funds to subsidize books primarily for readers in the developing world. This project is under the direction of Michelle Klimesh and has broad readership participation.

The second is the International Development Group which consists of key international workers from across the spectrum of reader organizations. This group was set up primarily to make sure that duplication of effort is minimized and that all groups and supportive individuals are kept informed of what is happening. It has also turned out to be a very good consulting group for the making of decisions regarding allocation of resources for international work.

It is extremely important to understand that the spread of the revelation in the world is limited only by available workers and financial support. Every place in the world that we have been able to visit we have found receptive enthusiasm for the revelation as well as requests for help which greatly exceed our ability to meet.

Following is a brief overview of what is happening at present.

### **Korea**

Barry and Kaye Clark report:

Money has been raised for the first formal printing of 1,000 copies of the Korean translation. Negotiations are currently underway with 3 printers in Korea. Final formatting is nearing completion. A plan to advertise/promote the work is in the final stages.

Over 2000 copies of the complete text have already been downloaded via the internet as well as tens of thousands of individual papers. It is estimated that there are at least 300 active readers in Korea, based on bulletin board and study group activity.

### **Africa**

Scholars of religion cite Africa and Latin America as the most fertile regions in today's world for the growth of religion. Earlier this year Buck and Arlene Weimer made a trip into Africa. They visited Zambia and then went down to South Africa to meet with readers resulting in the continuing evolution of liaison contacts in these regions. These are individuals who are interested in supporting the spread of the book and active in fostering local reader groups.

Some notes from Buck Weimer:

As Philip Jenkins says in *The Next Christendom: The Coming of World Christianity*, "Over the past century, however, the center of gravity in the Christian world has shifted inexorably southward, to Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Already today, the largest Christian communities on the planet are to be found in Africa and Latin America. If we want to visualize a "typical" contemporary

Christian, we should think of a woman living in a village in Nigeria or in a Brazilian favela.”

Jenkins goes on to identify the 4 emerging “megacities” in Africa as Lusaka, Zambia; Lagos, Nigeria; Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo; and Kampala, Uganda; and goes on to say, barring a catastrophe, nothing will stop these cities from becoming “goliaths”.

We simply cannot wait for readers or potential readers to emerge. We must go there. We must talk with religionists, give public presentations, place books; then return, again and again, in a model of consistency.

#### Recommendations:

1. As an organization, the Fellowship must be willing to devote more money, time, and energy toward developing and training a large “Outreach Corps” to go out into the world whenever needed. China will be opening its doors to the world on 8-8-08 hosting the Summer Olympics. This could represent a golden opportunity for revelation outreach -- particularly if the Mandarin translation is ready for distribution by then.
2. An all-African leadership conference is needed to show support, give direction, and develop skills for outreach, study group building, and finding “bridges” in the interfaith community.
3. Develop an on-line African newsletter, by Africans and for Africans, to improve and increase the networking between readers from different regions and languages on the continent.
4. As the Pipeline of Light is doing so wonderfully with books, a similar project of “Outreach Response Kits” needs to be in place to send to readers and potential readers after the initial contact is made. Kits could be on several levels -- potential readers, committed readers, and leadership kits (to include things like: brochures, posters, business cards, and stickers identifying local readers and international websites. to place inside books on public shelves), and special materials developed for professionals working within religious institutions.
5. More funds need to be available to facilitate travel to regional conferences.
6. Some form of joint statement signaling a united effort of the Fellowship and the Foundation on international outreach would be very helpful.
7. Encourage African countries to have an internal conference to bring readers from remote areas into closer affiliation.
8. Eventually have an all-African Urantia Book conference.

Without doubt, the most impressive experience of the entire mission was observing (and in some small hopeful way, contributing) to the enormous amount of truly unselfish service going on in that part of the world – by Westerners and Africans alike. Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of volunteers of every age provide service in the material, intellectual, and spiritual arenas from levels of government to ordinary people in need. There, service is more than a sentiment, more than an ideal -- service is an action. It is easy for us now to better understand why people become missionaries and why they devote a large part of their adult lives committed to serving the needy in third world countries. Sharing the Gospel and doing service is spiritually and psychologically energizing.

In Africa, ordinary citizens – clerks, taxi drivers, people standing in a line, bus passengers, nearly everyone – were willing to talk about God. It’s as if it is a second nature to them. And because we had a new book about God, the vast majority were inquisitive. It was refreshing! No political correctness. No inhibitions. Just straight-forward talk about the goodness of God. This lessened as we got closer to larger and more advanced cities that reflected secular and material concerns.

One of the biggest lessons we learned from our personal ministries is that giving things as a one-time gift -- such as medical supplies -- makes the giver feel good but it’s not what the receiver needs. What they need is a reliable and dependable source of supplies, regardless of the quantity, quality, or time frame. Another lesson is to avoid

going into a country with our solutions. It is more important to partner and encourage them toward their own solutions. Even when giving Urantia Books, follow-up and consistent interaction in helping them to meet their needs is crucial.

The revelation is alive and spreading in Zambia and South Africa!

There is an interesting story from a Zambian newspaper about a witch crash-landing near Endola at [http://urantiabook.org/admin/international/zambia\\_flying\\_witch\\_story.htm](http://urantiabook.org/admin/international/zambia_flying_witch_story.htm)

## **Europe**

Important developments are taking place in both Eastern and Western Europe.

### **Lithuania**

Algimantas Jokubenas has just returned from a 10 day tour of 32 towns in Lithuania where he did public presentations on the book. He distributed some 700 brochures describing the book and had personal conversations about the book with some 500 individuals.

The biggest problem in Lithuania is that there are no books available anywhere in the country. This is partially compensated for through the use of the Lithuanian readers website at <http://www.urantia.lt> which has a substantial amount of traffic as well as a public forum which is maintained by readers in the city of Kaunas.

### **The Netherlands**

The weekend of June 19 saw the first gathering of Dutch readers in Utrecht in the Netherlands. Hosted by Saskia Raevouri and René Hagenaars, the event drew some 35 individuals and resulted in the determination to have at least a quarterly meeting of local readers. This conference was attended by David Quinn who works in the international marketing of Russian television programs. He commutes back and forth between Moscow and London and is very interested in promoting the book in the UK.

René Hagenaars, a Dutch citizen living in Paris, has formed a Dutch corporation, Urantia Europe, which is intended to act as a book distribution mechanism for countries of the European Union. Books can be economically shipped to Holland where they will be warehoused and from there can be sent to any member country of the European Union free of customs duties and for a reduced shipping rate of approximately 3.2 euros each. Initially translations will be handled in Lithuania, Dutch, German and French. An ebay store is being set up for direct sales from websites.

As more European languages come online, they will be included as well. Saskia Raevouri is currently formatting the Italian translation. In addition, work is being done to create an economical paperback Dutch edition which will likely be ready for printing within the next year. This will be followed up with promotional work in the Netherlands.

We also discussed the need to get some Dutch books to South Africa and René is following up on this.

The readers attending the Dutch gathering were drawn together primarily through the Internet and the Dutch website which is maintained by René Hagenaars at <http://www.urantia.nl>.

In starting a conversation with a reader at the Utrecht gathering I asked if he attended a study group in the area. He replied no, that prior to this gathering he was not aware of other Dutch readers. I asked him how he found out about the gathering and he said that a personal friend who lives in Costa Rica had read about the gathering on the Internet and had sent him an email message encouraging him to attend.

### **Spain, France, and Italy**

Agustin Arellano and a small group of readers from Mexico visited groups in Spain, France, and Italy earlier this year. The groups in Mexico had spent considerable time putting together Spanish, French, and Italian versions of

the Whelan's spiritual vitamins, which were a great hit. Agustin's work has resulted in some important cross-cultural working relationships between readers in these countries and his groups in Mexico. As a result, readers from both Spain and Italy will be attending and participating in a Mexico conference later this year. These growing friendships and working relationships between groups in various parts of the world are important. Agustin has been very active in promoting a sister study group program with his groups in Mexico.

Agustin writes:

We arrived in Madrid to visit with some of the individuals we had interested in the book during the Barcelona Parliament in 2004. These readers now meet on a monthly basis for topical discussions. We received a lot of follow-up email after our visit to Spain from readers interested in starting more groups. The fostering of study groups is our chief concern because these groups provide contexts for personal development as well as a stimulus to promote more reading of the book.

Our present need is for a reader in Spain who will visit and promote study groups in Spain. A group of readers from Madrid will be traveling to Mexico this fall to participate in the annual conference at the Ahuatapac monastery.

Arriving in Paris we were met by a Mr. Rosec who was on his way home after some days in a hospital. He was very interested in the book but had been unable to find one so we gave him one of the books we were carrying with us. We visited the EPG (École Parisienne de Gestalt), and left a French edition for their library. We had very productive meetings with several groups in Paris and one in Clermont Ferrand.

Dr. Ana Ravenna who is the director of the Firenze Gestalt Institute in Rome will be coming to the Mexico conference this fall along with some of the members of her group. We did not have Italian books to distribute but had a supply of Italian language spiritual vitamins which were a great hit. We were very warmly welcomed by the Italian readers. We laid important foundations for continuing communication and joint efforts with groups in both Spain and Italy.

The Italian readers were the most warm welcomers in the whole trip and we really enjoyed the time among them.

## South America

### **The Ecuador/Peru Trip**

Recently a group of readers consisting of Susan Ransbottom, Dolores Nice, Lynn Chapman, Arlene and Buck Weimer made a major presentation tour of Ecuador and Peru. These folks share the following concerns:

We simply must have more people (polylingual if possible), books, and resources on the ground in Latin America. Failing to do this may create a missed opportunity for the Fellowship of historic significance.

There is a tremendous desire for an alternative to the Jesus of Catholic and Christian organizations in Central and South America; as witnessed by their huge interest in the writings of J.J. Benitez which are taken directly from The Urantia Book. To continue to identify and support emerging Latin American leaders is crucial to ongoing development of their fledgling infrastructure of revelation workers.

It would be very beneficial if Latin American representatives were active participants of the General Council to share first-hand their activities and needs. A well-organized system for distribution as well as translations of brochures, flyers, and secondary materials will greatly assist the spread of the Revelation.

Building relationships, fostering communities of believers, helping to create situations in which they can communicate with each other, and sharing resources with our Latin brothers and sisters is

necessary to overcome lingering USA social centrism, and will better prepare us for that time when the mantle of global revelation leadership may be passed to Latin Americans.

### **Some Important Considerations**

Participants were asked to list three or four of the most important things we need to communicate about the emerging Latin American readership. Here is the list:

1. **BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS, and more BOOKS.** It's not a big secret that our most important immediate task is getting books into the hands of readers in various parts of the world who are aware of the revelation but unable, for whatever reason, to get a copy. Part of this process includes solving the problems of international shipping, especially to bookstores wanting to carry *The Urantia Book*, allowing the costs of the book to be within financial reach of ordinary citizens. Of course, the Pipeline of Lights is a great start.
  
2. Identifying leaders is also very important. However, supporting their leadership is equally important. We can do more to help "connect" the present and emerging leadership to the leadership in the Fellowship and the Societies and study groups in the USA through more widespread implementation of the sister study group program being pioneered by Agustin Arellano and enjoyed by groups such as the Pueblo and Guayaquil groups, and Ken Raviell's group with the Pakistan readership. We need to build solid working relationships and communications between third world and first world readers and leadership. Part of this can be providing them with a "to do" kit of things necessary for effective leadership in their language. Some of this leadership packet can be literature that will describe how to initiate study groups and help them grow, promote projects like library book placement and public presentations, to join or develop a system of networking with readers in their own area, region, country, and the world. Supporting leadership conferences is essential for the evolving of strong and viable regional networks of revelation workers.
  
3. It could be of benefit to have the different regions of the world "blanketed" by the International Committee; and other volunteers as needed. For instance, have one person primarily (not exclusively) responsible for sub-Sahara Africa, one person responsible for Central America, one person for South America, another for Eastern Europe, Asia, etc. (I understand this can become a rigid and paternalistic system, but sometimes trying to assess the whole world is a little daunting.) With David working in Eastern Europe we have begun to use a program called Skype for our business calls -- it is free and works very well. It includes a video component so with an inexpensive webcam it is possible for us to have video conferences.
  
4. An area not before discussed, is our activities in "bridge building" to the individual Christian ministers. My experience with Rev. John Oliver in Cape Town, South Africa helped me formulate these thoughts. Although he couldn't/wouldn't declare himself a card-carrying member of the *Urantia Book* movement, he identified himself as a "bridge" between the old and the new. It would be useful to prepare introductory materials for individuals working inside the various Christian denominations. Some of the material which Meredith Sprunger has developed could be adapted and used. We need to provide these folks with literature which describe our activities so that they know we are not a sect trying to penetrate their organization. They need to know about our study groups, library book placement, programs, reader conferences, etc. We might consider a special program to offer them literature (*JANR*, *El Libro*) for personal reading and/or for placement in their church libraries. Yes, there will be many rejections. But we must think in terms of partnering with the Christian religions -- not as an institution, but with individual ministers.

Susan Ransbottom shares a personal story from this trip:

In Ibarra, I watched as one young man (early 20s) listened intensely to the presentations. He asked me several times if he could have one of the books on the front table. He showed me papers he had downloaded (quite well used) and said he had limited access to computers to print or study the book. I gave him the "join the study group" answer. I told him that I would let Nelida know that he was sincerely interested in having a book.

I watched him as Nelida handed out the 3 books left. His face fell to the floor in disappointment when Neli handed the last book to an older gentleman sitting in front of him. I watched as he talked to his two friends who seemed to be consoling him. At that point I couldn't stand it, went back to the suitcase and pulled out one more book (one less book for the next stop!), and asked our local host and study group leader, Carlos, to talk to this young man and if he thought it appropriate, to give him the book. Carlos sat down and talked to him for a few minutes, I saw them exchange information, and Carlos gave him the book.

I cannot begin to describe the look of joy on that young man's face. I went back to talk to him afterwards and he thanked me profusely. He explained that he was driven to learn about Jesus and listed many older and new age books he had read. His limited contact with the Urantia Book led him to believe this was the book he needed. I suggested that this book would indeed satisfy his yearnings, and that I hoped to hear through Carlos about his studies and participation in future events. He left the room walking on air, arm in arm with his two friends, they practically stumbled leaving because they were trying to read as they walked.

### **Mexico and Central America**

The work of Agustin Arellano in Central and South America has catalyzed the most significant outreach program the movement has yet developed. I urge you to talk with Susan Ransbottom, Dolores Nice, or Buck and Arlene for more insight into this matter.

With funding provided by a grant from the Northern Light Foundation, Agustin has been able to place 500 books over the past year in libraries as well as with individuals. These books were distributed extensively in Mexico as well as in Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, and Costa Rica -- all countries in which meetings and conferences were held during the past year.

We are starting to distribute Spanish copies of the Jesus timeline poster which Ken Raveill created. This has turned out to be a popular item. Another very popular item has been the Spanish spiritual vitamins. Thanks again to the Whelan's who pioneered the use of this popular device.

From the Mazatlan conference in May, readers were able to carry more books to Ecuador and to Mexico City. In June books were provided to three groups in Hermosillo. In addition, Agustin had meetings in Culiacan, Mexico City, and Queretaro.

In August he visited Tlaxcala, Puebla where there are now two groups. He also visited Hidalgo and groups in Tula and Pachuca. Books for five groups in Monterrey were sent as well as books to the groups in Nuevo Laredo and Reynosa.

In September he tried to do some presentations in Aguascalientes but ran into problems securing a place for a presentation as oppositional catholic groups are strong there. The same problem was encountered in October in Guanajuato, even though there are quite a few readers in the area.

In November he put together the first national meeting in Bolivia, also visiting with groups in Peru on his way. This was an important trip to Peru -- in the past it has seemed impossible to find readers or groups to develop in Peru. This year he was able to make some very good contacts and some solid foundations are now being developed in Peru. This trip included visits to San Luis Potosi and Zacatecas.

In December he worked on setting up a meeting in Mexico City to celebrate the second anniversary of Grupo Nambia.

In January he participated in the 3rd National Conference in Guatemala, going on to El Salvador for their first National Conference, visiting groups in Honduras and Panama as part of this trip in an effort to get the two groups working together.

On January 21 a regional meeting was held in San Jose, Costa Rica under the able direction of Dr. Arias and his family. Dr. Arias and his group are working to provide books for all of the libraries in Costa Rica. He and his family also participated in the recent Ecuador/Peru outreach trip.

## Central Asia -- Pakistan, India, Kazakhstan

We are in the early stages of meeting readers and attempting to network them in the Central Asian countries of India, Pakistan, and Kazakhstan. Visits to readers in Pakistan and India are being planned for later this year. We have been fortunate to have preliminary work done in the form of book placement and startup study groups by both JJ Johnson and Jorgan Andrews who travel extensively in their professional work. Trying to keep JJ supplied with books and names of local contacts in places where he travels has become an important part of the overall effort.

### What we Need to be Doing

Here is a list of critical things which need to be done in terms of the international spread of The Urantia Book:

1. Book distribution and pricing remain major problems.
2. Far more funding for travel is needed than is available today. Our community spends some \$70,000 each year for travel to General Council and Executive Committee meetings. This is more than twice the annual budget for international outreach to the entire rest of the planet.
3. We need a Spanish speaking reader services coordinator. If the Fellowship is going to be an international organization it needs to start expanding significantly its services to the growing international readership. Susan Ransbottom is currently working well beyond what is reasonable simply to make it possible for us to respond in some small way to the many opportunities we have. It is extremely important that we do a better job of providing administrative support for key workers and stop pushing them to the point of burnout.
4. Creation and translation of introductory materials.
5. Continued networking of leaders and support for emerging readership social infrastructure.
6. There is a need for much greater logistical support for international outreach trips. These trips are very demanding and require financial resources in addition to printed materials, travel arrangements, money transfers, at-home on-call logistics support for crises which emerge in the field, and much more.
7. Long term planning: We seem to be operating in a mode which only takes action when things break. We should be doing more long-term business planning so that we can finance and respond as opportunities emerge. This includes the health of revelation workers who often push themselves beyond reasonable limits simply because the opportunities so far exceed our ability to respond.
8. More detailed logistical planning. The Argentina trip was cancelled because we could not get a good idea of the costs before proceeding. These trips need to be carefully budgeted to keep costs from getting out of hand. The sad fact of the matter is that we simply do not have the resources to respond to all the opportunities that present themselves.
9. We need to evolve our working group so that there are specific individuals overseeing work on each of the major continents. As the work grows, this group should be expanded so that specific regions on each continent have someone overseeing and coordinating work. These individuals must have appropriate language skills and cultural background.
10. Coordination amongst international workers from various reader organizations (and independents) needs to continue so that we optimize the use of our limited resources, avoid duplication of effort, and evolve a coherent strategy for continued growth.
11. It is important to recognize that effective revelation propagators may not be competent administrators. Tolerant teamwork and appreciation for significant diversity is essential for success.

The world is beginning to open up for the reception of The Urantia Book. How can we better organize ourselves to respond?

"There is but one law to obey--that is the command to go forth proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom." [192:2.11 (2049,2)]

Report prepared by David Kantor, Buck and Arlene Weimer, Dolores Nice, Susan Ransbottom, Lynn Chapman, and Agustin Arellano