



## **Annual Report 2007**

**Urantia Book Fellowship**

July 2006 to July 2007

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# Annual President's report

Robert Burns, President

July 22, 2007



Greetings, Fellow Readers of The Urantia Book!

With the 720 days or so left of my term in office I am focusing my energy in two main areas: continuing the improvement of the administrative structure of the Fellowship and energizing the General Council in its responsibility to direct the affairs of the Fellowship.

Over the last year we have been improving the administrative procedures and the Fellowship is experiencing larger degrees of office efficiency. We are continuing to improve our systems through the continuous work of committee groups focused on specific projects like our Information Technology systems, Point of Sale and online transaction processing; enhancing our accounting and general office procedures, improving storage and archiving, back-up and disaster recovery procedures for organizational data; improving communications—and the list goes on.

With all this work in process, we are still going about the day-to-day administration of running the organization with all the duties being completed on schedule. With increased sales of The Urantia Book over any previous years, the office duties are as busy as ever. It is important to note that all this office administration work is being accomplished with only one dedicated employee and the aid of a few dedicated volunteers and the work of our CPA.

While the office is busy keeping things in order, the Fellowship has major projects being worked on by the Standing Committees (see the reports from Outreach, International, Publications, Interfaith, Special Projects, Judicial, Membership, Finance and Education), and the Ad-hoc committees (like Uversa Press, Pipeline of Light, Standardized Reference Text, and the work of our Liaison Chairperson), and let's not forget the immense amount of logistics in planning and managing the yearly conferences, either the Summer Study Sessions or the International Conferences—we have reached the point where we always have conferences in the planning or implementation stage. And we are slowly but surely building relationships with readers and leaders all over the world and, more importantly, maintaining them.

Such a limited snap shot of the administration and committee work hardly tells the story of the accomplishments of the Fellowship. With our extremely limited annual budget, the Fellowship accomplishes much, but does so mainly due to the dedication and devotion of so many volunteers. It is inspiring to be a part of such a group and a privilege as well.

I will continue to work toward improving and evolving our administrative systems in such a manner that they remain flexible while providing the necessary form and structure required to fulfill our short and long term purposes.

Now about our purpose.

This brings me to my second area of focus. The General Council is a body that sets the main policies which direct the Fellowship in fulfilling its Statement of Purpose as contained in our Constitution in meaningful and productive ways.

Let us review our Statement of Purpose, in a somewhat reorganized manner for emphasis. I encourage all General Councilors to read, study, and interpret the Purpose Statement for themselves. Basically, we are mandated:

(The What) We are to be about:

- The study and dissemination of the teachings of The Urantia Book
- The promotion, improvement, and expansion among the peoples of the world
- of the comprehension of Cosmology
- of the relation of the planet on which we live to the Universe
- of the understanding of the genesis and destiny of Man and his relation to God
- of the understanding of the life and teachings of Jesus
- of the realization and appreciation of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man

(The Why) and we are doing this in order:

- To increase and enhance the comfort, happiness, and well-being of Mankind, as an individual and as a member of society, and

(The How) we are to accomplish this:

- by fostering a religion
- by fostering a philosophy
- by fostering a cosmology

(Qualifying How) through the medium of fraternal association:

- in a manner which is commensurate with man's intellectual and cultural development

General Council: It is your duty to keep the Fellowship on track with these stated Purposes in our Constitution. The meaningfulness of the Fellowship to the Fifth Epochal Revelation is in your hands. You are responsible for bringing meaning to the stated purposes (values) of the organization. You make the final determinations if the organization is doing enough to live up to the organizational reason of existence.

It is time to ask ourselves, how are we doing? Are we studying and educating enough? Are we disseminating the teachings to your satisfaction? Are we promoting, improving and expanding the comprehension and understanding of peoples around the world of the life and teachings of Jesus, the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man? Are we comfortable in our efforts to foster a religion, a philosophy and a cosmology? Are we fraternal enough in our associations throughout the world?

Deliberating these types of questions and coming up with meaningful actions is what it means to be a General Councilor. It is what each General Councilor is elected to do—to be a part of an active group in creating the vision and plans to realize our organization's Purpose of Existence.

I ask you as a fellow General Councilor to find the motivation and the collective will to be about this business of the Fifth Epochal Revelation that has been thoughtfully and lovingly given to our planet. With God, anything is possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Burns, President

## Judicial Committee report

**Dr John Lange, MD, Chair**

I will be unable to attend the General Council Meeting this summer. My medical partner is overseas attending the marriage of his son in Croatia. I have not been able to arrange coverage for my practice during this time.

There are three issues for consideration:

1. There is a constitutional amendment by which the General Council may propose and adopt an amendment to the Constitution. The essence of the amendment has been approved. Final language still awaits approval. This will be on the agenda at the midyear General Council Meeting.

2. At the last General Council Meeting a motion passed to form an Information Technology standing committee and to eliminate the Special Projects committee. The motion passed with only two dissenting votes. The Executive Council debated this at length. For several reasons Information Technology issues currently facing us are considered an order of magnitude beyond the capability of our current standing committee structure. Therefore, the decision was not to recommend this back to the General Council for consideration as a constitutional amendment. Instead the Information Technology ad hoc committee was resurrected to consider these issues and make recommendations.

3. The Urantia Foundation has offered to license the social and commercial use of the circles. This has a great attraction for many of us as it seeks to consume our deliberative energy. One fact we must take into consideration; to accept this offer means we will be functioning under the aegis of trademark law. This has implications for our identity and autonomy. It is known that the Urantia Foundation consulted with their attorneys before bringing this offer forward. If we as an organization decide to move in a positive direction to accept this offer, it will be my recommendation that we retain legal counsel.

Best wishes for a productive meeting  
I will miss you all

John Lange  
Judicial Chair

## The Interfaith Committee report

**Susan Cook, Chair**

June 14, 2007

### *The Interfaith/International Committee Collaboration*

The International and Interfaith committees will be working together to create position papers introducing the Urantia Book to people of the Country being visited by International. One possibility is China. The paper for China can be written in English as there are more people that speak English in China than in the entire United States.

We're also discussing the possibility of replicating what was done with the Urdu translation. The International Committee will let it be known which country will be visited, the language spoken, and the papers to be translated. Since it takes approximately 10 years for every translation, translating a subset of papers can be very helpful to those people who are working so hard to get the book into other countries.

We will be in planning sessions during the Summer Study Session in Chicago. We will also be participating in a working retreat at the home of Gard Jameson in September. I have asked several people outside the Interfaith Committee, who are passionate about Interfaith, to work with us as adjuncts.

We believe this collaborative work with International could be the very essence of Urantia Interfaith. The Interfaith Committee has been trying to find our way and our worth on the Executive Committee – I believe this work will be fruitful

### *Personal commitment to Interfaith*

As Committee Chair on Interfaith, I have committed myself to learn and participate. I have been nominated and have accepted a position on the Board of Directors for NAIN, North American Interfaith Network, and will be the North American Conference Chair in Kansas City in 2009 and may use the new Unity Conference Center.

I'm co-chair for the Table of Faiths luncheon (a fund raiser) that is sponsored by the Greater Kansas City Interfaith Council. We're expecting close to 1,000 people at this event in November.

Interfaith is growing and I'd like us to be a major part of it.



## International Fellowship Committee report

**David Kantor, Chair**

February 2007

Fellowship President Robert Burns has requested a specific format for reports being submitted for the February, 2007 meeting of the General Council. He has requested reports be formatted in three sections--committee accomplishments during 2006, projected plans for 2007, and a vision statement projecting three to five years into the future. I will attempt to follow this format in the brief overview which follows.

### *Committee Accomplishments During 2006*

2006 saw the development of increasing administrative coordination between the Fellowship's International Fellowship Committee and the Pipeline of Light project. In addition, a good working communication mechanism was developed enabling international workers from various Urantian organizations to share information and avoid the duplication of effort.

During 2006 we enjoyed a productive relationship with JJ Johnson, helping him in his placement of Urantia Books in various countries of the world in conjunction with his professional travels.

The nature of the international work requires a long-term plan in order to evolve an administrative network of interpersonal relationships and to leverage investments of time and money from one year to the next. Our approach has also been to start in one part of the world and slowly expand as relatively self-sustaining local and regional infrastructure develops. Over the past six years we have focused almost primarily on Latin America. Strong regional leadership is emerging and in 2006 we continued to support this project.

An extensive mission to Ecuador and Peru was conducted that involved meeting with reader groups, public presentations, and media

interviews. An extensive book distribution effort covered Mexico, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, and Costa Rica. From a conference in Mazatlan in May, readers were able to carry more books to Ecuador and Mexico City. For more details see the 2006 International Fellowship Committee Annual Report.

2006 was an important year in that it saw a significant increase in efforts applied outside of Latin America. This involved meeting with readers and groups in Spain, France, Czechoslovakia, Italy, Holland, Lithuania, Zambia, Tanzania, and South Africa.

2006 marked our first major effort in Africa. Early in the year, building on some earlier ground-breaking work done by Norman Ingram, Buck and Arlene Weimer made a trip to Zambia and then on to South Africa. Important relationships were fostered during this trip which has resulted in hundreds of books being shipped to South Africa where strong reader groups with good leadership are evolving. Chita and Namukale of Zambia made an additional trip to Tanzania to visit readers and distribute books; they continue with their important work in Zambia.

With the assistance of Ken Raveill, the Fellowship participated with the Heart of America Society and Urantia Foundation in the publication of an "Urdu Sampler"--five selected papers of The Urantia Book translated into Urdu. These are being shipped to Pakistan in small quantities for distribution by readers in Islamabad. These groups were started and fostered by JJ Johnson during the time he spent in Pakistan several years ago.

#### Projected Plans for 2007

The first weekend in January of 2007 the Latin American Working Group of the International Fellowship Committee met in Pueblo, Colorado, to plan Latin American work for 2007 and to develop a proposal for the funding of an International Reader Services support person. A schedule is still being developed for 2007 but as of January, the following represents cities and countries in which an effort will be made to visit existing groups, foster new ones, participate in conferences, and engage in public presentations. 2007 will see our first major efforts in Argentina and Venezuela and a return to Cuba by one of Agustin's groups which has been fostering groups in Cuba for a number of years. Much of the following is Agustin's projected schedule.

January	February	March
1. Colorado	1. Mazatlán	1. Villahermosa
2. Queretaro	2. Colima	2. Durango
3. Tepic	3. Guadalajara	3. Mazatlán
4. Culiacán	4. Ecuador – Quito, Ibarra, Guayaquil	4. Guatemala – El Salvador
5. Zacatecas	5. Perú – Lima, Cusco	5. Tepi
April	May	June
1. Mérida	1. Ixtapa	1. Querétaro
2. Morelia	2. San Cristóbal de las Casas	2. Mexico City
3. Quintana Roo	3. Argentina Mission	3. Venezuela
4. León	4. Veracruz	4. Puebla
		5. Annual Lithuanian Gathering
July	August	September
1. Spain (tentative)	1. France (tentative)	1. Cuernavaca
2. Holland (tentative)		2. Monterrey Forum (tentative)
3. SS07		3. Campeche

October	November	December
1. Monterrey	1. Senguio	1. Mexicali
2. San Luis Potosi	2. Aguascalientes	2. Cuba
3. Coahuila		3. Honduras, Costa Rica, Nicaragua
4. Chihuahua		4. Paraguay (tentative)

The International Fellowship Committee is also developing a proposal which would enable us to take advantage of an offer to create Spanish language Urantia Book programming for a national television station in Ecuador. We have an opportunity to produce up to ten programs of 30 minutes each. We are very concerned about expending resources generating interest in the book when there are none in local bookstores.

Book availability and distribution remain serious problems throughout Latin America. An effort will be made in 2007 to explore alternative shipping methods.

#### A Vision for the Next Three to Five Years

The next few years should see a continuation and further development of present work. As strong leadership continues to emerge in Latin America we can continue to expand our efforts in Africa. There are opportunities in India that we have yet to develop. There is a strong need to foster good relationships with workers and groups in Western Europe as regional translations begin to spread. All projections point to the developing world--primarily Latin America and Africa--as the hotbeds of religious growth over the course of the present century. The Urantia Book must be present as this develops. Readers in the developed world will need to find ways of subsidizing printing and distribution costs in the developing world. Fostering an integrated approach to spreading the book which includes all Urantian reader organizations will be essential.

Another essential element is improved integration of translation, publishing, distribution, and social infrastructure support projects. As noted above, opportunities to promote the book don't have much chance of bearing fruit if books are not available in bookstores.

Most of the major Western European languages now have translations available. This will change the international situation over the next few decades in unpredictable ways if viable distribution mechanisms can be mobilized. This past autumn saw the first conference in Scotland which attracted readers from a number of Western European countries.

A new Korean edition will be published during this time frame and a Chinese translation will be nearing publication. David Aikman, in his recent book, "Jesus in Beijing: How Christianity is Transforming China and Changing the Global Balance of Power," presents important insights implying that China is on the verge of a significant religious renaissance. If the IFC can continue to develop its present program--and given a modicum of global political and economic stability--the next few decades should see the emergence of solid social infrastructure in most regions of the planet capable of supporting an increasing expansion of the revelation. We are moving in the direction of having the revelation emerge as a global, trans-cultural, grass-roots phenomena rather than spreading radially from a geographic center as a function of charismatic leadership. I think this is highly desirable. Continued and expanded application of resources will be necessary to sustain this development.

By 2012 we should have had a major regional conference in Eastern Europe (currently projected for 2009) as well as a Pan-African conference.

The biggest challenge ahead of us is the penetration of global Christianity with the expanded life and teachings of Jesus and the

supportive theological cosmology contained in the book. This must happen within the Orthodox traditions of the east as well as the Catholic and Protestant divisions in the West and the Far East. This is the real frontier of the fifth epochal revelation--integrating it with the highest developments of the fourth epochal revelation so that it can exert its transforming influence to maximum effectiveness in the lives of the varied peoples of our world. Moving the book from the religious fringes into the mainstream of religious thinking is an essential step in bringing the expanded gospel of the kingdom contained in The Urantia Book to the attention of truth seekers and men and women of faith around the world.

But none of this can happen without resources--financial resources and dedicated revelation workers. Increasing numbers of poly-linguists who have some understanding of the teachings of The Urantia Book will be needed if we are to be successful in evolving an integrated global social infrastructure for further missionary work. The spread of the revelation in our world is limited only by the resources we have available to devote to the task. People are interested. People are excited. More opportunities are before us today than we can possibly develop.

I would like to express my gratitude to Buck and Arlene Weimer, Lynn Chapman, Agustin Arellano, Nelida Oliver, Susan Ransbottom, Lenny Cowles, Paula Thompson and Dolores Nice for their unceasing work and personal sacrifices made to spread the revelation in the Spanish-speaking world; and to Seppo Kanerva for his untiring dedication to the task of fostering the proliferation of translations.

Respectfully submitted,

David Kantor



## Information Technology AdHoc Committee report

**Michelle Klimesh, Chair**

It is the purpose of this report to make recommendations to the Executive Committee on behalf of the Information Technology committee, and to solicit comments and input from the General Council on the Fellowship's website goal statement and Information Technology strategic plan.

During the April 2007 meeting of the Executive Committee, the adhoc Information Technology Committee was reconstituted as follows:

Motion was made (Dreier) and seconded (Lange) that the ad-hoc Information Technology Committee be reactivated for the purpose of conducting a thorough examination of current and anticipated demands on website/information technology resources, leading to specific recommendations to the Executive Committee designed to remedy the various critical problems, current and anticipated, identified by Information Technology/Website manager David Kantor in his

Information Technology/website reports both recently and over the last few years.

This committee will begin its work immediately, and will make recommendations to the Executive Committee at its next quarterly meeting in July 2007 or earlier.

Discussion ensued. Motion passed unanimously. Michelle Klimesh will chair this committee.

Since April, the committee has worked continuously toward the task assigned. We have crafted a statement of purpose and goals for the website to guide the work on that front. We also created a working strategic plan and prioritized the Information Technology tasks in order to focus the allocation of resources and the work of our consultant, staff, and volunteers.

Our most pressing issues surround office systems and support of our office systems, specifically, backup procedures, database protocols, accounting and bookkeeping, and the online point of sale software. The support of Fellowship office systems has been complicated by the transition of the office itself. Together these items are far and away the highest priority work we face this coming year. Alan Goodman, a database consultant, is coming on board this month to begin support and design for these crucial functions.

Other priorities include maintaining a searchable text, committee support, book sales, online translations, access to newsletters and publications, email lists, study group contact information, and an events calendar. Some of these items are functioning well now, others are in process, and some only exist on our wish list.

The lowest priority items include studies, broadcasts, society support, sales of secondary works, and public relations. This is not a recommendation that the Fellowship should NOT do these things; rather, it is a recommendation that we not focus our resources in these areas until the higher priority tasks have been addressed satisfactorily.

At times this chair has felt overwhelmed by the amount of work we face. There is clearly more work than can be done by a single full-time person. The dedication of David Kantor and his team to this gargantuan task should be a source of amazement and gratitude to the officers, committees, and members of the Fellowship.

Some of the work at hand will be time consuming and costly in the short term. Some costs will lower when we move into a maintenance mode. Some Information Technology work will never be complete, as the nature of technology constantly changes. We need to be somewhat nimble to keep up with the possibilities arising before us.

Our general recommendation is that significant financial and human resources should be applied to the issues we face. Specific recommendations and budget requests will be forthcoming prior to the October budget meeting.

It is somewhat intimidating to be working with the brainiacs on the Information Technology committee. It is also a joy and an honor.

Michelle Klimesh, Chair  
Robert Burns  
Michael Challis  
Susan Cook  
Steve Dreier  
David Kantor  
Paula Thompson  
Larry Watkins

## Liaison Committee report

**Marvin Gawryn, Chair**

The Liaison Committee has had an active and fruitful first year of function. The following projects have all been initiated and nurtured along in the last 12 months.

In August of 2006 Robert Burns and I met with the Urantia Foundation trustees at Silver Springs in order to promote cooperation and explore collaborative possibilities. The Executive Council subsequently met and socialized with the Trustees in Boulder in February 2007.

The Fellowship and Foundation have formed a Committee on a Standardized Reference Text comprised of three participants from each organization. Work has begun on the project and reports of progress will be made to the Executive Council and General Council as the project unfolds.

The Urantia Community Endowment has been established and initially funded by a Board of six Directors comprised equally of leaders active in the Fellowship, Foundation and Urantia Association International. The Endowment is affiliated with the Nevada Community Foundation which administers the assets of many philanthropic endowments.

Personnel from the Fellowship and Foundation have discussed the desirability of hosting the Foundation's translations on the Fellowship's website, thereby allowing a dynamic suite of features to be added to these texts. David Kantor has developed a proposal for the Trustees to consider

The Fellowship and Foundation are engaged in a productive dialogue on use of the concentric circles symbol. Regardless of the end result, the tenor of this interchange is noteworthy for its disciplined and mutually respectful tone.

Perhaps most encouraging, leaders of all the three primary Urantian organizations are beginning to meet and communicate with greater regularity, seeking opportunities for collaborative function. I (and perhaps Robert Burns) will be attending the United States Urantia Association conference in Seattle the week after our Summer Study Session. We have happily begun a process of increased fraternal relations, long overdue, which must be nurtured going forward.

With thanks for the opportunity to serve,

Marvin Gawryn  
Liaison Committee Chair



## Outreach Committee report

**Thomas Orjala, Chair**

### Expo's and Other Events:

Bringing our booth to the Expo's has proven to be a valuable means to share the book, and we will continue with this effort. Thousands of

individuals have been introduced to the revelation thanks to the many volunteers who so tirelessly dedicate their time to this work.

This past year I have been exploring new ways to spread the revelation through the work of the Outreach Committee. I ponder what would be possible if we found other new, and equally valuable, means of sharing the Urantia Book.

In addition to the Expositions in New York, Los Angeles and other cities, we sponsored a booth in Montreal Canada at the 32nd Annual Int'l Conference of the International Institute of Integral Human Sciences (IIHS), a non-governmental organization affiliated with the United Nations Department of Public Information. Their mission is founded on the promotion of global inter-religious and inter-cultural understanding, and for the convergence of science, spirituality and universal human values. Many thanks to Diane Labrecque for manning the booth and sharing with so many at the conference. Her observation that many of the presenters, including Fred Allen Wolf, were readers of the UB was most encouraging. The revelational influences of the Urantia Book are making a difference on the planet and it is not going unnoticed.

We were accepted to speak at the Christian based, Women in Spirituality Conference in Mankato, Minnesota this October. Christina Seaborne and Jo Ann Weidman will be presenting a talk entitled "Discovering the Universe Mother Spirit". It is encouraging to be invited to participate in new venues that we may have been excluded from in the past. For more information about the conference contact Christina at: [seaborn@cloudnet.com](mailto:seaborn@cloudnet.com)

### *Campus Outreach Booth:*

I met with Don Green and his dedicated volunteers in the Boulder area and visited the campus Urantia Book booth at Colorado State University. I enjoyed manning the booth with Don and spoke with many students about their spiritual lives. The booth is set up twice a week. Don also reported that he was invited by a professor to give a 2 hour talk to CSU philosophy students. Chris Halverson presented the talk and did such an impressive job that it looks like new doors may open up including speaking to the entire religious faculty at the university. Great work Don and Chris!

We have been discussing and are open to the possibility of replicating Don's work on other campuses. We will help any interested person or group start a Campus Ministry at a college or university in their area.

### *The Study Group Directory:*

This year Bobbie Drier worked with David Kantor to get the technical details of listing study groups simplified. Instead of a two step process, she can now enter the study group details for a new group, or make other changes, and they go "live" to the website. Be sure to visit the site if you haven't already:

[http://urantiabook.org/study\\_groups/domestic\\_study\\_groups.htm](http://urantiabook.org/study_groups/domestic_study_groups.htm)

Bobbie says: "I get an average of two requests a month for new groups, a few requests for updates to information, and a rare request to be unlisted. Most requests are coming via our website, and my observation is that there is a renewal of interest among formerly disaffected readers. There are approximately 330 North American study groups listed. I have a few committee members who help me with canvassing the states to update the information, but the directory is not completely updated yet."

The Study Group directory will also list other regular activities where the Urantia Book is presented such as a Cosmic Café discussion group. Send your information to Bobbie at: [bdreier@earthlink.net](mailto:bdreier@earthlink.net)

Again this year, Larry and Donna Whelan helped our outreach efforts with their Spiritual Vitamins. They are available to anyone who wants them for outreach. Spiritual Vitamins 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.

The Cosmic Café continues to grow with an ever increasing interest. This venue provides an excellent opportunity for those who wish to gain experience in sharing the Revelation. Thanks to Aurora Hill at [aurora2810@aol.com](mailto:aurora2810@aol.com) for supplying CC information packets.

Anyone who has skills or an interest in assisting with any of the above projects please contact me or another Outreach Committee member.

In Loving Service,

Thomas Orjala – Chair [tomo@imbris.net](mailto:tomo@imbris.net)  
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## Pipeline of Light report

### Michelle Klimesh, Pipeline Coordinator

June 30, 2007

Dear Friends,

During our second quarter, Pipeline of Light volunteers placed a total of 153 copies of The Urantia Book into seven countries, including Mexico, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Panama, Venezuela, El Salvador, Argentina, and Chile. Most of these books were placed by members of the International Committee during their attendance at regional conferences in South America.

This quarter's placements bring our Pipeline all-time totals to one thousand, ninety-three books placed into fifty-eight countries around the world. If you would like to contribute to this work, donations can be made online at:

[www.urantiabook.org/support.htm](http://www.urantiabook.org/support.htm) or by mail to:

The Urantia Book Fellowship  
9190 West 90th Place  
Westminster, CO 80021

We deeply appreciate your continuing financial help!

Michelle Klimesh, Pipeline Coordinator

## Publications Committee report

Linda Buselli, Chair

This year the Publications Committee has endeavored to cut costs once again. With postal rates rising, the only way to keep costs down was to reduce the size of our publications. The spring edition of the *Mighty Messenger* was only eight pages instead of the usual twelve, and two of those were the registration form for Summer Study Session 2007. By including this form in a publication, The Fellowship is saved the cost of a general mailing.

We are trying something new with the *Herald*. The 2006 edition was 48 pages, but by reducing the size of the type this time, we got the *Herald* into only 40 pages, thereby saving some of the printing costs. The postage rate remained the same. Should we receive complaints that the smaller font size is more difficult to read, we can go back to the larger print.

The *Mighty Messenger* is still underwritten by a generous donor, but The Fellowship funds pay for the *Herald*. This year we were able to provide two issues of the *Mighty Messenger* and one *Herald* for the total cost to The Fellowship of \$1.02, including postage.

Please remember that you write the publications. We need pictures and news items for the *Mighty Messenger* and in-depth articles for the *Herald*. We would also like artwork by our readers for the cover of the *Herald*. If you know an artist that would be willing to let us use something they've done, please let us know.

Linda Buselli, Chair

Publications Committee

## Finance Committee report

John Hay, Chair

Dear Friends:

So far this year we've raised about \$153,000 in donations through June 30, 2007. We presently have 130 active people on the Auto-Debit program, which is bringing in around \$7500 per month. Don Green, one of the committee members, calls auto donors each month, as their credit cards expire, to encourage them to renew their giving.

The Finance Committee coordinates the Fellowships annual budgeting process which takes place in the 4th Qtr. of each year in a coordinated effort to balance and manage the Fellowship's finances. As a 501C3 non profit organization, our longer term goal is to increase our donations each year as well as our donor base. Whereas, in years past approximately 90% of our donations came from 5% of our donors, this year, thanks to the auto-debit program, about 70% of our donations have come from 5% of our donors.

Our next big push for donations will be coming up soon as we seek to raise an additional \$150,000 to pay for the next printing of the Urantia Book coming up by the end of this year.

Sincerely,

John Hay, Chair  
Finance Committee of The Urantia Book Fellowship

# International Fellowship Committee report

Buck Weimer, Chair

## *I. Committee Accomplishments:*

Book Distribution: Book distribution continues to be the committee's biggest challenge. Working with Michelle Klimesh and the Pipeline of Light, individual couriers traveling internationally, and the Coupon postcard system has allowed the Urantia Book revelation to get into the hands of hundreds of hungry souls. Cases of books have gone to Latin America (Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador, Argentina, and Chile), Africa (Zambia, and Tanzania), and many countries in Europe. Tom Choquette graciously donated and quietly shipped 100 books to Simon Cox in Johannesburg, South Africa. Individual books have been distributed in the Middle East and Asia with the great help of the indomitable J.J. Johnson. And George Gordon is working diligently to get Urantia Books and "Jesus, A New Revelation" into Jamaica, and other Caribbean Islands.

As many as 50 coupons were distributed in Argentina and Chile; with requests going to individuals in the Philippines, Ghana, and Morocco. And a hearty recognition goes out to the many individuals who volunteer to physically carry books – singles and cases – with them when flying to destinations outside the United States.

Known library placements have been in: Cairo, Egypt; Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; Capilla del Monte, Argentina; Piedras Negras and Guadalajara, Mexico.

Outreach: Public presentations were carried out at the Navajoa, public library, in Guadalajara, and at the Expo Esoterica MTY Mexico City, Mexico by Agustin Arellano. He also made a public presentation at the LDS (Latter Day Saints) Church entitled: "UB and The Book of Mormon". In Ecuador, presentations were made in Quito, Ibarra, Ambato, and Guayaquil by Agustin and Nelida Oliver. In May, a major outreach campaign happened in Argentina with Nelida, Agustin, Dr. Arias, Dolores Nice, and Jorge Ortega making presentation in Buenos Aires, Cordoba, and Capilla del Monte. Three public presentations were made in Santiago, Chile by Dr. Rafael Arias Rojas, his wife Nidia, and Agustin in June.

In late July, Agustin manned an El Libro de Urantia booth at the Expo Cosmic Consciousness in Tijuana, Mexico. Chita and Namukale made a bold thrust into Tanzania distributing books, and made an important contact with the chief librarian in the capitol.

Algimantas Jokubenas in Lithuania continues to be relentless in his public speaking as he travels from village to village; usually sleeping in a tent. David Kantor and Svetlana Braziene are a major force in bringing together readers and leaders in Russia, Lithuania, and the Netherlands; and throughout Europe. David is also working very closely with an emerging leader in India. Study Group coordination was established at nearly every presentation.

Conferences: Two major conferences were enjoyed. The Fifth Annual Lithuanian Gathering of Urantia Book readers happened on June 9th and 10th with the theme "The Father within Us" and attended by nearly 50 people. On July 21, the Costa Rican Association of the Creators of Nebadon held a conference entitled: "Quality Levels of Life in Our Evolutionary Experiential Development" spearheaded by Dr. Rafael Arias Rojas. It was held in the facilities of the School of Doctors in San Jose. Speakers were from Costa Rica, Mexico, and Brazil. A Workshop was held by the Mazatlan, Mexico group in February, assisted by Agustin and attended by Micah Kruger (with assistance from Susan Ransbottom) representing the International Fellowship Committee of the Fellowship.

Media: Radio talk shows have presented an excellent medium for outreach in Latin America. During the mission to Argentina, team members (Rafael Arias, Dolores Nice, Nelida, and Agustin) were on two talk shows: one in Capella del Monte, the other in Buenos Aires.

And, judging by the feedback from call-ins, the discussions were very popular with the audiences and satisfying to the station managers. Nelida is negotiating with a radio station in Buenos Aires to do a regular once-per-month one-hour radio show on El Libro de Urantia. Agustin also did radio shows in Hermosillo and Monterrey, Mexico. Two Spanish websites are maintained and regularly updated by Agustin: www.orvonton.org and www.aguzgestalt.org where hundreds of hits are recorded weekly. He also publishes the Casa Mek Newsletter.

We've made generous use of posters, thanks to the efforts of Ken Raveill's Spanish version of the "Jesus, A Timeline", and Charles "Chick" Montgomery's "Ascent to Paradise" poster. The animated Spanish version "El Ascenso al Paraíso" on Saskia Raevouri's SquareCircles.com site was made into CD's and shipped to the conference in Costa Rica. Thousands of Spanish Spiritual Vitamins made by Larry and Donna Whelan were handed out during this years outreach efforts.

DVD copies of the J.J. Benitez television series "Planeta Encantado" were made and sent to many study groups in Latin America; especially in Ecuador and Argentina.

Many copies of Pat Banton's CD "The Words of Christ" were made and distributed with Urantia Books to Jamaica.

Translations: Agustin has just finished a full translation of Mary Eben's "The Basic Teaching of the Urantia Book", and is seeking estimates for publication from a printer in Monterrey and Guadalajara, Mexico. He is also making steady progress on Michelle Klimesh's *A History of Everything*. An audio of El Libro de Urantia is completed, but using an automated-voice. Several Latin's have auditioned to do the human-voice version. And, a joint project between Urantia Foundation, The Urantia Book Fellowship, and the Heart of America Society produced a Urantia Book "Sampler" in the Urdu (Arabic) language. It contains completed copies of 5 Papers (#1, 56, 100, 112, and 196) in English and the same in Urdu and was shepherded to fruition by Ken Raveill. Copies have already gone out to seekers in Pakistan and India.

Collaborations: The International Fellowship Committee has collaborated with the Outreach Committee – they sent a "Urantia Book" banner to Chita and Namukale for their upcoming bookfair in September. And meetings are underway with the Interfaith Committee to develop and print "position papers" with compatible thoughts and teachings with the Urantia Book and most of the world's religions. And, of course, we work hand-in-hand with Michelle and the Pipeline of Light and Tamara Wood at the Foundation to get books out.

Additionally, during the Argentina mission, several members of the IFC meet with Carlos Rubinsky, the Foundation representative in that area. We agreed to "get out" the good news of the new cooperation between the Foundation and Fellowship, and, as an outward gesture, agreed to co-manage an *El Libro de Urantia* booth at next year's National Bookfair; to include sharing the sizeable cost. For the first time, study groups were attended by both sides. This was viewed by most as a huge step forward to a unified Latin America. Amen.

Organization assistance: Mexico and three countries in Central America (El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica) have taken initial steps toward a formal tax-exempt, non-profit organization; with several countries in South America talking about it. This is one of our primary goals in Latin America – to assist study groups to grow until they have their own financially self-perpetuating organizations. This way, the Fellowship can interact on an organizational to organization level.

On the organization of the Urantia Book Fellowship, David Kantor resigned as chairman of the International Fellowship Committee and Buck Weimer was elected in his place for a seamless transition of energy and activities.

## *II. Projected Plans for 2008:*

Planning for a conference in Chile is underway, and conferences by the Foundation in Colombia and Venezuela will have IFC attendance. We will have an IFC booth at IC08 at UCLA in California, and hope to have a large contingent of international readers. Another foray into Africa is

needed, and a trip to India will be necessary. More translated materials are needed, but will be best printed in local countries. A "Sampler" book in Spanish is needed. An English printing of the Urantia Book in South Africa looms as a possibility. Discussion is underway for more "Sampler" book in other languages. The first (and perhaps second and third) tax-exempt, non-profit organization in Central South America is likely to happen. Development of the Companion Study Group project will continue.

It seems that there is an over all concern that various groups, organizations etc are duplicating efforts. Hopefully the outcome of this meeting will provide improved ways of working together.

Respectively submitted,

Gary Deinstadt

### *III. A Vision for the Next Three to Five Years:*

In 2009 we are planning the largest ever conference in Latin America. It will be in Costa Rica and totally bilingual; every class and every workshop will have Spanish-English translations or translators available. We anticipate drawing hundreds of North Americans together with the Central and South Americans for a true display of brotherhood and sisterhood on Urantia.

Within five years, we envision Africa emerging in a similar model as has Latin America; with Asia following. A special look at China is needed and how the unfolding of the Revelation will happen there. A majority of the evangelical Christians in China have an innate sense of rebuilding the Silk Road westward – to Jerusalem. This could be exciting if they have the Revelation because with this drive also comes the desire to "convert" Moslems; with whom they have a much better affinity than Westerners. Is this the seraphic plan?

Respectfully submitted,

Buck Weimer, Chair (with Dolores Nice, Susan Ransbottom, and David Kantor)

"As faith-enlightened and spirit-liberated sons of the kingdom of heaven, you face a double responsibility of duty to man and duty to God while you voluntarily assume a third obligation: service to the brotherhood of God-knowing believers." 178:1,

## **Education Committee Report**

**Gary Deinstadt, Chair**

We are busily preparing for the Summer Study Session 07' that will be held at the Dominican University in River Forest Illinois, on the weekend of July 20th through the 22nd. The TDA is reconvening and a spiritual retreat is scheduled for Thursday, July 19th. General Council/Executive Council meeting will meet on the afternoon of the 22nd through the 23rd. Avi and Lila Dogim are in charge of programs. The topic is Cosmic Citizenship. As of this date, all presenters have been picked. The registration form will be forwarded to publications before next Mighty Messenger printing.

I'm also attending an Urantia education summit that Gard Jameson and others are putting together on the weekend of June 8th -10th. It will consist of approximately 30 people from various Urantia organizations, educational professionals etc. Participants will submit topics that are of interest. A few that have been recommended are:

- 1) How can we make a repository or library of secondary works available to all readers?
- 2) How can we best train teachers and leaders? What models work best?
- 3) What are some methods for revitalizing study groups that work well?
- 4) How can we integrate the teachings into the culture of the planet?