

Sun, Jul 13, 2008 at 1:40 PM
carolynkendall1400@comcast.net

Dear Friends:

There has been a flurry of reactions to my post, "Tampering With a Good Thing," both on SocAdmin and privately. Some interesting questions have arisen which prompt a follow-up response. Before getting to them, however...

- * First, we as individuals are always to engage in serving our fellow mortals and bringing comfort to those who welcome assurance of the Father's presence and loving care.
- * Second, each of us, as an individual and as part of a group, is dedicated to the mission of bringing the truth of the fifth epochal revelation to a hungry world (even if much of the world doesn't yet realize the book is a love letter from the Sons and Daughters of God).
- * Third, we differ only in how best to do this work. We are divided on which physical version of "the truth" will better achieve the mission. There has always been a rush-right-out attitude among many, with the most alluring book to stand out among competing spiritual and self-help books in the marketplace and electronic media. There's a minority more comfortable with the idea of "each one, reach one"--personal introduction--as the more effective and lasting technique. Then there is a combination of quality product and personal recommendation. While all options have their points, maintaining the integrity of the original message is the highest organizational responsibility.

A couple of people questioned the proofreading process and correction of errors of the original publication. Another raised the issue about what the revelators "insisted" be included in the book, versus what they "approved;" i.e., did the Forum (or contact commission) ask that certain material be in the book? There was an opinion that it was a good thing the front matter was omitted from the electronic version because "it was boring."

I'm sorry about raising these issues at a time the Fellowship leadership is recovering from their successful conference. I've been chairman of two conferences and know what's involved. Nevertheless, three situations converged that account for the timing of my concern: the electronic version revamp, the new Foundation printing and a new condensed version of the book. All three involve issues that vary from traditional understanding about what the revelators directed.

After the first 57 papers came in response to hundreds of questions posed by Forum members in late 1924, it required 10 years for expansion and completion of the first three parts, after which the Jesus Papers arrived. World War II intervened and delayed publication. The rise of Communism further put off publication until it was assured that freedom would endure. Permission was granted for publication in 1955. The six contact commissioners, and the Forum, read and reread the Papers at 533 Diversey, Chicago, between 1935 and 1955. (The Papers could not leave the premises.)

The Papers did not fall from the sky fully formed. Their arrival employed a technique which was never disclosed, after which they went through a process that presented opportunities for human error to creep in. The papers were typed and retyped by Emma Christensen (Christy), from three to five times on a manual upright typewriter. These typewritten pages were the basis the Donnelley typesetter used to put the book into print. Mary Penn (not Flannagan) was the Donnelley employee who proofread the galley

sheets. When she had question about technical issues she consulted with the contact commissioners. Not being a student, she wouldn't have recognized non-mechanical, conceptual errors.

After typesetting Marian Rowley (a professional secretary and scholar of the Papers) and Christy began compiling a list of errors and corrections in the book. When the book was published Bill Sadler, Christy and Dr. Sadler asked everyone to study their books at home and search for errors. They wanted to catch all of the "gremlins" before the second printing, or by the third, at the latest.

Until the death of the last contact commissioner in 1982 correction of errors was either approved or denied by the revelators. The contact commissioners stated, "We cannot make any corrections or changes in the book without permission." They also acknowledged that the format, which included indentation, the spacing between paragraphs within sections, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization, was dictated or approved by the revelatory commission. They did not explain why the spaces were put there, but they were specified. As I said in my earlier post, everything related to the physical book received the approval of the revelators. What they did not approve was a no-go; there was no ambiguity. The humans were responsible in carrying out their trust.

Why didn't the revelators themselves just make the corrections in the final text so that the book would be absolutely perfect on the day of publication? Why didn't they identify the six or seven (major) errors, instead of "watching" Christy and Alvin Kulieke plod through 2097 pages of text; an effort that only picked up four errors? The revelatory commission was consistent: they delegated the typing, typesetting, checking and double-checking of original drafts and galley proofs to humans just as they had invited humans to ask questions in order to create and expand the original 57 papers.

The errors that continue to exist in the book may be insignificant, and could be cited in a separate volume, along with a separate Index, for example. The anticipated scientific discoveries can also be included in an accompanying volume. We don't have the authority to change the content. After the circuits are re-established and the next Paradise Son arrives he can provide any updated information for the book and electronic media.

Carolyn Kendall
First Society, Chicago

P.S.: Concerning the Uversa, versus first edition versions of the Table of Contents and their citing of "The Benediction" on page 53: The so-called benediction was appended at the end of every written communication from the revelators, and was recited by the Forum and First Urantia Society after every meeting, a small nod to ceremony, and a magnificent reminder of true realities:

"God the Father loves men; God the Son serves men; God the Spirit inspires the children of the universe to the ever-ascending adventure of finding God the Father by the ways ordained by God the Son through the ministry of the grace of God the Spirit."