



URANTIA

URANTIA FOUNDATION

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May 27, 1986

Mr. Julio Edwards
2351 Ogden Street
Denver, CO 80205

Dear Julio:

Thank you for your letter of April 22, 1986 to Martin Myers, President of URANTIA Foundation, in which you shared with us some thoughts about the insert, "To New Readers of The URANTIA Book...," that is enclosed with copies of the book and the need for study aids. I have been asked to respond to your letter on behalf of URANTIA Foundation.

We are pleased to learn that you find our newsletter, URANTIAN News... from URANTIA Foundation, to be of value. As you request in your letter, your name and address will be placed on the joint Foundation/Brotherhood mailing list. By being placed on the mailing list, you will automatically receive copies of both the Foundation and Brotherhood newsletters when they are published. In case you have not yet seen them, we will enclose with this letter the most recent issues of both newsletters.

The insert was developed in the mid-1970's in response to suggestions that some effort should be made to welcome new readers of The URANTIA Book into the fellowship of the existing readership, and provide them with a brief introduction to the purposes, functions and activities of URANTIA Foundation and URANTIA Brotherhood. The insert was not intended to provide a definitive description of either organization. Rather, the insert was designed to provide a general depiction of each organization and its activities, but, in such a manner that the expense of frequently revising could be avoided.

In your letter, you correctly quote the insert as stating that the "Foundation also sponsors and publishes foreign language translations of The URANTIA Book..." At the time the above statement was written, URANTIA Foundation was the publisher of the French translation and sponsoring the creation of a Finnish translation. Thus, in our minds, the above quotation was appropriately worded to depict circumstances that prevailed at the time it was written, and, also allowed for future activities, such as the Spanish translation.

With regard to your concern about the paucity of published translations of The URANTIA Book, we can only share with you our experience in this activity. To date, our experience has shown that each translation endeavor is a complex and precise undertaking, requiring considerable time, effort and funding. Further, in order to insure that the concepts of the book are conveyed free of distortion, it is an essential priority and responsibility of the Trustees of URANTIA Foundation to see that the greatest possible accuracy be exercised in the translation process.

As a result of the factors presented above, as well as for legal and business reasons, the Trustees have concluded that the most appropriate process for the creation of a translation of The URANTIA Book is to have the translation produced in the United States by a team of expert professional translators. An integral part of this process will be the review of the work of the professional translators by students of the original text of The URANTIA Book who will possess expertise in English, as well as the concerned target language. This is the process that will be employed in the creation of the Spanish translation.

By the way, we are pleased to report that the actual work of creating the Spanish translation of The URANTIA Book will shortly commence. It is anticipated that if all goes well, the Spanish translation should be available within several years.

Mr. Julio Edwards

- 2 -

May 27, 1986

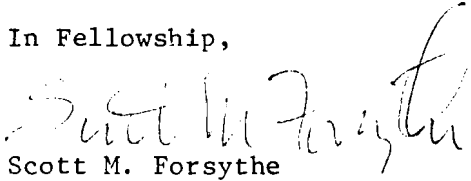
With respect to the matter of study aids, we appreciate your interest in having more of them. Efforts for the encouragement of their creation and dissemination are coordinated on an increasingly large scale through URANTIA Brotherhood, and we would urge you to make your concerns known directly to them, although by copy of this letter, they will be made aware of your comments. There are perhaps many study aids which are available, but, of which you are unaware. URANTIA Brotherhood is coordinating the development of a catalogue of these materials.

While we are not certain, we surmise that the unavailable study aids which you are concerned about were the textbooks developed for the URANTIA Brotherhood School. The School was started shortly after the publication of The URANTIA Book and functioned for more than a decade. However, for lack of students and interest, the School ceased operation. The textbooks were developed for classes given by the School and were published in the late 1950's and early 1960's. Approximately 150 copies of each of the textbooks were printed. Apparently, the usefulness of the textbooks was very limited, even to the students of the School, because they sold at a very slow rate. It took almost two decades for all of the copies of some of the textbooks to be sold. Given the underwhelming response to the textbooks, it was concluded that it would not be cost-effective to make them available again, and that funds would be better employed in producing "An Artist's Conception of the Master Universe."

We understand that The Concordex is to be made available again soon. We have established no deadline for the production of our index, although, the matter has been and is under active consideration by the Trustees.

We hope we have been of assistance. Please do not hesitate to call upon us again whenever you believe we can be of further service.

In Fellowship,


Scott M. Forsythe
Administrative Assistant

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Enclosures: 2