

CC U.F.

Prince

Richard F. Prince, M.D.
1655 Los Altos Road
San Diego, Ca. 92109

February 10, 1982

John Hales, President
URANTIA Brotherhood
533 Diversey Parkway
Chicago, Illinois 60614

Dear John:

I returned last week from an eight day visit to Bogota Colombia. This, as you may remember, was my third trip in the last 2½ years, and therefore allowed me some continuity in observing the process in Colombia and, to a lesser degree, in Latin America.

Cheryl accompanied me, and we stayed at the house of Carlos Zapata. He remains the focal point, more or less, for the spread of news from the states, as well as for meetings and development of new projects for the group.

The group itself has dwindled somewhat in size. Although Carlos has a new home somewhat more distant from the center of the city, I believe the reason for the decrease in size is twofold. First, several devoted members have experienced an increase in their responsibilities at work, have been traveling a great deal, and simply have not been able to participate as they had before. This may, in several cases, be a temporary phenomenon. I believe a more powerful force in reducing attendance has simply been lack of a translation. There are very few readers there with the capacity to read directly from english. It is, quite frankly, boring to them to have to sit and listen to the translators discuss the best rendering of a word or passage, and so they finally just quit coming. Their interest in the book is no less, but since the book, for them, does not yet exist, they are simply waiting.

In order to keep interest alive in potential readers both in Colombia and in other countries in Latin America, the group has published a bulletin, a copy of which is enclosed. I have encouraged Carlos to attempt to create a mailing list of correspondents in Latin America, who would receive the bulletin when it comes out. We all know from our experience here with newsletters from various groups what a powerful instrument such a document can be, and I hope they are able to keep the bulletin going. Such a list could form the nucleus of a group which would receive the first copies of the Spanish translation, whenever it becomes available.

With respect to their translation itself, the work is going very slowly. They have been working four or five years on the book in a systematic fashion, and yet have completed less than half of the fourth part, and have done virtually nothing in the rest of the book. The work they have done is of the highest quality, being the result of a group effort. Still, at their current pace, they are a good many years away from having anything ready to publish.

My own recommendations are unchanged from my report of last year as far as the translation is concerned. I was pleased to read the resolution passed by the last General Council regarding translations, a copy of which arrived just yesterday with the Executive Committee Letter.

An invitation was made to the summer workshops this summer, but the general consensus was that their time would be better spent staying home and translating. They really have very little in common at this point, as far as organizational interests are concerned, with those of us who are already able to buy and read a copy of the book. No doubt in the future, as the issue of translation is resolved, we will see a greater interest in social contact. At this time, however, I do not think such a use of free time is a priority with them.

I hope that this provides you and other members of the Executive Committee with some insight into affairs in the southern hemisphere. I plan on continuing to visit the country from time to time, as well as any other reader in that part of the world who you feel needs a visit. As always, it is a tremendous pleasure to get to know better readers in other parts of the world, and I remain grateful to the Executive Committee for permitting me to continue to serve in this way.

Sincerely,

Dick

Richard F. Prince, M.D.