

Marian

Translations

URANTIA BROTHERHOOD

INTRA-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

FROM John W. Hales, President

DATE November 5, 1982

TO Members of the Executive Committee

SUBJECT:

Translation of The URANTIA Book
-- Letter from URANTIA Foundation
October 25, 1982

Attached you will find a copy of a letter received from Tom Kendall, President, URANTIA Foundation, concerning the above topic. It contains a proposal outlining how the Brotherhood and Foundation might work together to ultimately realize translations of The URANTIA Book. I am getting this material to you well in advance of our December 4 meeting to allow time for thoughtful study. Also the International Fellowship Committee is having a meeting during which it can be discussed.

I appreciate the Foundation's taking this positive step to enlist our help in translation projects. A great service opportunity is at hand.

JWH

JWH/rjm

Attachment

cc: URANTIA Foundation



URANTIA FOUNDATION
533 DIVERSEY PARKWAY CHICAGO ILLINOIS 60614

October 25, 1982

John W. Hales, President
and Members of the Executive Committee
URANTIA Brotherhood
533 Diversey Parkway
Chicago, Illinois 60614

Dear John and Members of the Executive Committee:

Re: Translation of The URANTIA Book

With the reprinting of the French translation of The URANTIA Book, the Trustees have been able not only to continue but also more fully to give their attention to the goal of realizing additional translations of The URANTIA Book into other languages. More particularly, we have further considered your letter of November 24, 1981 which sets out the August 1, 1981 resolution of the General Council concerning the realization of translations in French and Spanish.

Even though English has unquestionably become the international language of business and politics and is more and more the second language learned by many people who have a different native tongue, we believe that translations are nevertheless a highly desirable way of spreading the teachings, notwithstanding translation is an art and not a science and there is always the risk of misinterpretation.

The Trustees have gained a good deal of experience in both the legal and practical considerations involved with any translation effort over a period of more than three decades and believe that now is the time not only more completely to capitalize on this experience, but also to begin the process of more fully involving URANTIA Brotherhood to the extent it is both willing and capable in the actual work of helping to realize appropriate translations.

While it is true that all rights and prerogatives of translations reside in URANTIA Foundation, it is nevertheless also true that URANTIA Foundation and URANTIA Brotherhood share the same goal: the wise dissemination of the teachings of The URANTIA Book to all peoples and cultures, and URANTIA Brotherhood has resources in both talent and organization which URANTIA Foundation would like to enlist.

We believe that a collaborative effort between URANTIA Foundation and URANTIA Brotherhood would greatly augment the production of quality translations. It is important, however, that such a collaborative effort be properly structured in accordance with sound judgment and with the responsibilities of our two different, yet mutually cooperative, organizations.

As you are aware, the Trustees have had under study the feasibility of correcting and otherwise polishing and preparing for publication a Spanish translation of The URANTIA Book prepared a number of years ago in Mexico. Serious legal and procedural errors were unfortunately made which we have determined forever foreclose URANTIA Foundation's ability to correct and publish the translation. It is not URANTIA Foundation's desire or intention to use the translation as it now exists, both for legal and business reasons.

You are also aware that the study group in Bogota, Colombia has been eager for a number of years to have a translation of The URANTIA Book rendered into Spanish and that they have undertaken such translation work without realizing the legal and practical problems. As a result of prior communications with you and discussions with the Executive Committee, we believe that a greater awareness of these problems now exists.

In the meantime, it is appropriate that URANTIA Foundation now enlist the efforts of URANTIA Brotherhood in helping realize a suitable Spanish translation which will, when finished, fully satisfy the legal, business and quality standards and requirements as established by URANTIA Foundation.

The Trustees of URANTIA Foundation wish to request your help in an important project involving both immediate and long-range considerations concerning translations of The URANTIA Book.

Our immediate goal is the development of a plan of how best to actualize the Trustees' guidelines for the realization of a Spanish translation of The URANTIA Book including the required financing. The longer-range goal is how best to proceed with deciding on other target languages and arranging for their translation and financing.

The Trustees believe that a translation into any modern language such as Spanish should be done in the United States of America, both for legal and business reasons. It should be done by qualified professional translators who are U.S. citizens (to avoid legal complications) who have both proper educational credentials and an already

proven track record of quality work recognized as such by their fellow professionals. It is perhaps preferable that two and maybe more translators work together in their production of the ultimate work. It is essential that the finances be considered realizing that the translator or translators will be under contract with URANTIA Foundation and that the effort may last three to five years.

We think it would be desirable that there be a resource team consisting of knowledgeable and experienced readers of The URANTIA Book, some of whom may write, read or speak the target language. They need not be citizens of the U.S. These people suggested by you and ultimately approved by and responsible to URANTIA Foundation would serve as advisors to the Trustees on questions referred to the Trustees by the translators.

This may be one way in which our South American friends could participate in helping create a quality translation.

Undoubtedly, there are many ways one could proceed in order to achieve a quality translation. It is our suggestion that Brotherhood committees be involved in both the planning process and its implementation. Two committees which we would like you to consider for this project and whose help we request are the International Fellowship Committee and the Special Projects Committee which we envision would work in close liaison with the Finance Committee.

The International Fellowship Committee is a logical choice because of its international interests, and the Special Projects Committee because of its already demonstrated ability artfully to deal with a complex subject matter outside the scope of the normal tasks of other committees. It is our thinking that in the first phase of this project the two committees would independently develop a comprehensive written Action Plan which will detail each committee's contemplated approach including but not limited to those translators, schools, translation agencies, etc. which they would propose to contact, translator qualifications, pertinent interview questions and computer considerations.

As part of this process, we anticipate that not only will you investigate the quality of the translators, but that you will also develop the costs, the time frame of the work, and you will also need to determine if the translators could be worked with easily.

Once the respective Action Plans have been finalized, we ask that they be shared with URANTIA Foundation which will give its suggestions and final approval for the second phase: the actual interviewing process which will culminate in your making two or three recommendations to the Trustees for their final choice.

If you elect to follow this procedure, we anticipate that whereas the committees will have acted independently before in the first phase, we will request that they act coordinately in the second phase appointing an Ad Hoc Chairman with the advice and consent of the URANTIA Foundation to coordinate the interviewing and qualification efforts of the IFC, Special Projects Committee and the important support of the Finance Committee. In this way we believe the fullest resources of the Brotherhood can be brought into play in a coordinated, flexible and productive way.

One important point, each committee should feel free to ask the assistance of those advisors whom it deems advantageous to include in its activities. In this way, a number of qualified people, including our South American friends, could participate.

We envision a maximum of approximately six months for the completion of phase one. Because of the nature of phase two, we believe its completion time, when once authorized, is problematic, but bear in mind the desire of many to have a Spanish translation as soon as possible.

The Trustees would appreciate periodic reports on the progress made by the committees and any problems encountered.

As you can easily appreciate, this is an important, difficult and far-reaching project. We have a great deal of confidence in the suggested committees to accomplish this task.

Just as Van sent out research committees to make recommendations for the location of the first Garden of Eden to make way for the reception of the Second Epochal Revelation, Adam and Eve, so are we asking for your help to search out those qualified translators who will make ready the Fifth Epochal Revelation for reception by our truth-seeking, Spanish speaking brethren, seminal groups of whom are already mobilizing.

John W. Hales and Members of
the Executive Committee

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October 25, 1982

To the extent you participate in this project, you will have undertaken a solemn responsibility which will ultimately result in the sharing of this latest Epochal Revelation with a significant portion of mankind, and you will be thus helping URANTIA Brotherhood more completely to realize its high planetary mission.

We look forward to working with you on this project.

Cordially,

URANTIA Foundation

by Thomas A. Kendall
Thomas A. Kendall
as its President

TAK:kfm