

**STATEMENT: March 2006  
by the Trustees of Urantia Foundation**

A number of readers have asked about the status of the Portuguese translation and about the distribution of El Libro de Urantia in Argentina. We have prepared this statement to answer those questions.

**THE PORTUGUESE TRANSLATION.** In 1997 a team of devoted readers launched the Portuguese translation project with the Foundation's approval and sponsorship. The team was led by a novelist whose books had been published, and over the years the team announced seven or eight times that they had completed their work, and that the Portuguese translation was ready to be published. In each case, however, they withdrew this announcement because they discovered errors or desired to make refinements in the translation. In 2003 the Portuguese translation team informed the Foundation that the Portuguese translation was in reasonably good shape and could be made available in electronic format. After the Urantia Foundation staff obtained independent assessments that were encouraging, even laudatory, the Foundation made the Portuguese translation available on the Foundation's website and released it on CD.

In 2005 the leader of the Portuguese translation team submitted the translation to the Foundation for publication; the staff and volunteers started formatting the text for publication. During this process we found a number of errors in spelling, punctuation, and hyphenation. Therefore the staff organized a small team of Brazilian readers, requesting that they check the work one more time for errors. At about this time the staff began receiving emails from a group of three readers who had downloaded the Portuguese translation from the Foundation's website and had noted omissions and other mistakes in the translation. This group sent the Manager of Translations a detailed analysis of the translation of the Foreword, explaining the errors.

As a result the Trustees decided to stop the formatting of the translation and asked this group to continue their analysis of the translation. If anyone would like to learn more about the translation's current shortcomings, the Manager of Translations would be happy to provide a 14-page analysis of the problems in Paper 1. To receive it, e-mail Seppo Kanerva at [seppo.kanerva@mediakoti.fi](mailto:seppo.kanerva@mediakoti.fi).

**DISTRIBUTION OF EL LIBRO DE URANTIA,** the Spanish translation. Since the Spanish translation was published in 1993, the Foundation has participated in numerous book fairs and has engaged the services of numerous distributors in Spanish-speaking countries. Some distributors went out of business, some lost interest in our book, and some chose not to pay their bills. The Foundation has limited resources and cannot afford to ship books to distributors who do not pay for them. In some recent years we have had to write off invoices of a considerable sums of money as a loss.

Some readers have identified Argentina as a country where El Libro does not seem to be available in bookstores. Distribution in Argentina and many Latin American countries is difficult and complex. Because our invoices to the distributors have not been paid in full, the staff and the Trustees are trying to work out better methods to collecting money owed the Foundation by distributors in Argentina, and are looking for more responsible, dependable, and reliable distributors. We are open to suggestions from readers in Argentina.

**IN CONCLUSION,** we ask readers to bear in mind:

1. Urantia Foundation has a moral and spiritual duty to publish translations of The Urantia Book that are accurate and beautiful — translations that reflect the literary excellence and spiritual inspiration of the original English edition. The translation into Portuguese needs considerably more work, and we ask for your patience as the Foundation cooperates with trusted advisers to correct and refine it. This effort could possibly take a few more years.
2. Commercial realities make it difficult to distribute El Libro de Urantia in Argentina and in a number of other Spanish-speaking countries. The Foundation cannot afford to give books away, and we are doing our best to improve the situation. We welcome your help and practical suggestions.

Sincerely,

The Trustees of Urantia Foundation

Gard Jameson  
Seppo Kanerva  
Richard Keeler  
Georges Michelson-Dupont  
Mo Siegel