

From: "Saskia Raevouri" <syrrp@earthlink.net>

To: Fellowship Society Administration <socadmin@discussthis.com>

Subject: RE: [socadmin] urantiaboard Re Saskia's Comment on the Fellowship List

Date: Wednesday, February 14, 2007 06:05:14

Hello all,

My comment regarding the Chinese translation was forwarded to the Foundation's list, so I hereby forward Seppo's response back to the Fellowship list, explaining why the Chinese book will take at least another ten years:

----- Original Message -----

From: Seppo Kanerva

To: urantiaboard@justice.urantia.org

Cc: urantiaboard@justice.urantia.org ; Saskia Raevouri ; nealwaldrop@mfire.com

Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2007 1:42 AM

Subject: Re: urantiaboard Re Saskia's Comment on the Fellowship List

Dear Marilyn, Sue, Saskia, and others,

Thank you for your posts and your understanding approach toward any strive for an early completion of our Chinese translation. It simply cannot be done. The work will take at least ten more years, more likely more than ten years to accomplish.

Translating is always very difficult if a translator wants (as he should) to produce a work of high quality, and because of its complexity the revelation is many times more challenging than almost any other text. Even translations into European languages take many years to complete. Just to quote a few examples: The Finnish translation was in the works for some 25 years (with three fresh starts) before it was ready to be published. The German and Italian translations took some 20 years to accomplish; the Swedish translation was commenced in 1993, so it is now into its 14th year. The Portuguese translation has been underway since 1997, and it will require at least six more years before it can be released. The Estonian translation has been underway since 1994, and is into its 13th year. The Spanish translation was completed in only nine years, and that is perhaps the principal reason for the troubles that we are constantly and incessantly facing with regard to that work. If the work is done properly, it takes an incredibly long time to translate the revelation, yet European languages (Finnish, Hungarian, and Estonian included) are grammatically and structurally much alike, and even if there is also a great deal of vocabulary of Greek and Latin origins which the European languages share.

Considering that the Mandarin Chinese language is structurally much different from any of the European languages and considering further that the Mandarin rendering is done into a language with defective vocabulary, especially where it concerns vocabulary that the revelation calls for, it is nothing to wonder that a Chinese translation will require a much longer time before it can be considered to be reasonably well done and ready for release.

The Chinese team have been working at their translation since November 2002, only for some four years.

Extract from my 31 December 2006 report on the Progress of Translations: Neal Waldrop has studied a few short sections of the Chinese translation and written a detailed report on his findings. The report is available on request either from me or from Neal. The reported findings rise grave concerns as to the quality of the Chinese work, which admittedly is just the first draft. The reported findings however seem to disclose alarming failures in the team's comprehension of the English text, along with (among other things) many omissions and failing consistency.

I copy this correspondence also for Neal, who may wish to send you a more profound reply. His analyses, which are summarised in my above report, are available on request either directly from him or from me. Just let me know.

Warmest regards,

Seppo

At 03:41 14.2.2007, Marilyn K wrote:

> Seppo and Neal- Mo's article on the Chinese has inspired urgency in completing the Chinese Translation before the Olympics You might want to respond to Saskia with the issues that are being faced in translating /The Urantia Book/ into Chinese.

> Marilyn

> Hi Ken,

> I wouldn't count on it. Latest word is that it will be another 10 or 12 years before the Foundation has their Chinese book ready!

> Saskia

From: KKRAVEILL@cs.com

To: Fellowship Society Administration <socadmin@discussthis.com>

Subject: RE: [socadmin] David Kantor has sent you an email

Date: Tuesday, February 13, 2007 16:13:03

Hi David:

Thank you for the news report on Christianity in China. We need the U revelation in Chinese and we hope it will be soon, in time for the Olympic games.

Nice to see you again. I will send you additional Sampler books as soon as the snow allows me to drive to the post office. We got home from Phoenix just in time. We received 6 inches of snow overnight. Please keep in touch. God bless.

Best wishes, Ken