

INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT – 2010

Continuing the fulfillment of the Constitutionally mandated directives (Section 11.13) to:

- promote the knowledge of and assist in the dissemination of *The Urantia Book*,
- assist in translations,
- foster and cooperate with readers to build societies/study groups; and

the IFC must do this service *in countries other than the United States*. Measuring progress in the many areas on the planet and as a whole is difficult as best, but each Committee member is sincerely dedicated to working with our unseen Seraphim friends while being openly willing to unify efforts with other individuals, committees within the Fellowship, the Urantia Foundation, and the Urantia Association International (UAI) wherever and whenever possible.

On July 20-21, and just prior to the Summer Study Session, the IFC meet and spent the night at 533 Diversey Parkway in Chicago. We had great interaction with the everyday staff and joined in a pot-luck dinner with the local study group. But more importantly, we reviewed our progress up to that time for 2010 and laid the ground work and budget implications for 2011.

To promote the knowledge of and assist in the dissemination of *The Urantia Book* in 2010, the Committee helped to organize and participate in book fairs in South Korea, Ecuador and Brazil. The Second Bilingual Conference was held in Mazatlan, Mexico. **Seoul, South Korea Book Fair:** This was the second consecutive May the IFC participated in this book fair. There was a greater participation at the booth by the local readers than last year. A public presentation on the Urantia Book was made, led by Sy Chang, followed by a lively time of questions and answers. Spiritual Vitamins were a great hit, especially with the younger students, because each one was printed in Korean and English – and of course, everyone wants to learn English. We participated in a study group and shared many meals together.

Guayaquil, Ecuador Book Fair: Nelida Oliver (lives in Ecuador, but originally from Argentina) is a dynamo, and was the organizer and leader of this book fair from July 2 – 11. She had the able assistance of the bubbly Nidia Guzman (from Costa Rica) and a host of local readers; especially Sandra Naranjo and Jaime Rodriguez. The highlights were the public presentation – with over 100 in attendance – and the gifting a book to the mayor of Guayaquil. The Third Bi-Lingual Conference is being planned in Ecuador for the Fall of 2011. Please consider attending.

Brasilia, Brazil Book Fair: The IFC chair and Charlene Morrow flew to Brasilia for the October 8-17 book fair, and, in the process, did ground-breaking cooperative work with the UAI. With the exception of only a handful, most all the readers (42 study groups and 1,300 readers) are members of the UAI led by the young and able Nemias Mol. With the recent printing of the Urantia Book into the Portuguese language (2007), Nemias was most thankful for the books we carried with us for the book fair. And our usual Spiritual Vitamins (in Portuguese and English) were handed out facilitating hundreds of people to read at least one line of this marvelous Revelation. We had spirited conversations with Federico Galvão and Roberto Vieira de Paula, and viewed several secondary works

translated by Lucia Borelli. On our final day most of us shared a lunch prepared by Nemias's helpful wife Luci at their home; as she carried their newborn son (born August 21st) from room to room. We did a short reading in English and Portuguese then shared a Remembrance Supper.

Mazatlan, Mexico Conference: The Second Bilingual Conference was held in Mazatlan from May 7 – 9, and was a joint effort of Grupo Orvonton and the Fellowship. There was pre-conference radio promotion of *El Libro de Urantia* and an ad promoting the conference in the local newspaper. After Dulce Aguirre, chairman of the conference, gave her opening speech, presentations were made by readers from Costa Rica (Dr. Rafael Arias & Guillermo Saenz), Ecuador (Sandra Naranjo & Nelida Oliver), Brazil (Dr. Elyr Silva), and others from Mexico and the USA. Agustin Arellano did most of the translation into English, with some help from Dolores Nice. Mo & Jen Siegel, Jay Peregrine, and 2 Mexico City readers from the UAI were also in attendance. The theme, the Universe Mother was on the minds and lips of all participants.

Subsidizing Strategy: The IFC adopted a strategy of subsidizing the sale of book when necessary, and informally presented this strategy to our Executive Committee and the Foundation for their consideration. Our belief is that the “supply and demand” business model does not work in the early stages of presenting the *Urantia Book* to the world; especially 3rd world countries. We are asking that price not be a barrier seeking to consummate a deal for book distributorship, sales to individual book stores, or individuals wishing to purchase a case of books; as the Pipeline of Light does with individuals. We also understand the importance of the electronic method but this way is not always useful in 3rd world cultures.

[To assist in translations](#) was a watershed for us in 2010 with the translation of 2 books.

First there was the newly printed “*Urantia Book Basics*” by Mary Ebben translated into the Korean language and presented to readers and the public at the Seoul Book Fair in May. Again, Sy Chang took the lead on this project, printing 2,000 copies by the New-Life Book Publishing – owned by the *Urantia Book Korean Institute* (UKI).

Second, and perhaps of a greater immediate significance, was the publishing the Spanish index (*Libro Index de Urantia*) which was ready in time for the Mazatlan conference. The Index was exhaustively compiled over the years by Marcelino Ramirez from Venezuela, and edited by Agustin Arellano. This Index is slowly becoming a hot item among readers in Latin America.

[To foster and cooperate with readers to build societies/study groups](#), the IFC with the approval of the Executive Committee has agreed to reinstate the Spanish Readers Services (SRS) position. Dolores Nice, a General Council members, and Nelida Oliver of Ecuador will be coworkers in this position, and have already begun their plans for building a network of leaders in all or most of the Latin American countries. They will also respond to all Spanish language inquiries on the *Urantia Book*. One of their goals is to instill a study group “vision” for each member of a study group to believe that someday they will initiate their own study group. Many good leaders and strong readers populate the map of *Urantia Book* readers in Latin America, and someday, perhaps soon, Latin America will be the leader of this truth book in the world. Dolores and Nelida will show the way.

Conclusion: There has been much recent discussion about the slow growth of the Revelation – after all it has been available for all of 55 years - and there is constant chatter about what should or should not be on the front cover of the Urantia Book. In countries outside the USA where we have had the good fortune to visit, none of these discussions are heard. Instead we hear a lot of: “Thank you for coming to our country to visit us”; “Will you help us get more books?”; “What is the best way to run a study group?” and “When will you come back?”. As the IFC seek to comply with our Constitutional mandates, having people on the ground in different countries and cultures provides an immensity of growth. These acts of international outreach are important to the raising of the world’s collective consciousness, and at the same time must have a significance that vibrates throughout the Universe and on to the Supreme.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve in this capacity.

The International Fellowship Committee
Buck Weimer & Cristina Seaborn, Co-chairs
Dolores Nice
Charlene Morrow
Our Mighty Adjuncts