



INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT JANUARY 2010

On his last free day on earth as a divine Son incarnated in the flesh, Jesus gave an in-depth discourse on **Sonship and Citizenship** to the 11 Apostles and a few loyal and devoted disciples. Among the many important ideas and ideals revealed, he said: “*As faith-enlightened and spirit-liberated sons of the kingdom of heaven, you face a double responsibility of duty to man and duty to God while you voluntarily assume a third and sacred obligation: service to the brotherhood of God-knowing believers.*” 178:1,5.

The Urantia Book is not for everyone at this time in history. However, we on the IFC take to heart the sacredness of this obligation to the brotherhood of God-knowing believers to make them aware of this Revelation. There are few human experiences as thrilling as being present when a truth-seeker finds the truth.

South Africa was the stage for 2 events in February of 2009. A Brotherhood-sponsored conference was held at the High View Garden in Johannesburg entitled “Adventures in Service”. Marthe Muller and Tanja de Wet were the primary leaders of the 14 people attending. There was lots of prayer, meditation, study, and socialization. Charlene Morrow, Arlene Weimer, and I facilitated an overview of the Book with much time being spent on questions and answers; while discussing how to start and maintain a study group seemed to last the longest and was the most intense.

After a little R & R at the Krugersdorp Game Preserve, we arrived in Cape Town airport where a local reader, Peter Minnaar, picked us up and drove us to a hotel. Peter, along with Rev. John Oliver, created a one-night event for local Urantia Book readers – only 6 attended due to the short notice. But an amazing thing happened: the Rev. Oliver had recently experienced a fire in the hall where we gathered, Erin Hall, and all of his 8 first edition Uversa Press Urantia Books had burned beyond use. We had carried enough books with us to replace those lost in the fire.

Other activities in Africa included the good work Wilfred Zeon is doing in the Buduburam Refugee Settlement in Ghana. Also, Fr. Gbilimou Louis and his study group of seminary students have begun the work of translating Mary Ebbens “*Urantia Book Basics*” into French and hope to have the project finished sometime in 2010.

Latin America continues to be a hotbed of activities; and may one day take over the role of leadership for the Fifth Epochal Revelation. In April the 9th National Congress (33rd Regional Gathering, and 7th Three Americas Reunion) of readers of El Libro de Urantia was held in Monterrey, Mexico. It was organized by Agustin Arellano and the Orvonton Society, and titled “Celebrating Life”. Orvonton’s new president is Ricardo G. Van Dyck of Mexico City. There was an impressive line-up of speakers and presenters from Mexico, Costa Rica, Brazil, Ecuador, Costa Rica, and the United States splitting time between the Hotel Ancira and at the Universidad Regiomontana. (Dr. Elyr, from Brazil, has recently translated and printed “*Urantia Book Basics*” into the Portuguese language.) We will all remember for a very long time viewing Jorge Ortega’s mandala video while wearing the 3-D chroma-depth high definition glasses.

The First Latin Bilingual Conference was held in Costa Rica in June at the Double Tree Resort Hotel in Puntarenas with a theme of: “In Time of Changes: Let Us Serve the Light”. Readers came from as far north as Alaska (Ed Harrigan) and as far south as Ecuador (Nelida Oliver), with the Costa Rican community taking the lead; especially Dr. Rafael Arias Rojas. All presentation and most of the literature were in Spanish and English; and the logo of 2 frogs inside 3 concentric circles by Monica Isaza has become a classic. Agustin Arellano did a yeoman’s job doing most of the translating; Arlene & Charlene Morrow organized the registration; and Cristina Seaborn provided the most amazing violin music. In all, 33 persons attended, and most were at the closing dinner in a San Jose restaurant. We all left with the hope of having an annual Latin bilingual conference.

Agustin also interviewed on several radio programs in Ecuador with Nelida Oliver as they organized and were behind an El Libro de Urantia book booth at Guayaquil Book Fair. Nelida continues to do radio spots in Guayaquil. Agustin also did a great job working the Urantia Book booth at the Miami, Florida book fair with Robert Borello; a local reader. And, while doing all of this, Agustin is also translating a Spanish index, and planning the 10th National Congress.

In **Korea**, the IFC participated in the Seoul International Book Fair in the downtown COEX conference center with a Urantia Book booth. It was huge; with over 211 booths. The South Korean primarily responsible for the planning, organizing, and setting up the booth was Sy Chang, a truly humble and intelligent advocate for the Revelation. Assisting Sy was Barry Clark of the UB Society of Greater New York and me. From the beginning, the booth was designed as a joint effort between the Fellowship and the Foundation because of the 2 translated printing into the Korean language. However, for the most part, the Foundation representatives chose not to participate in the booth activities. Spiritual Vitamins were a big hit! Of course Barry and Sy worked on recovering a computer file with over 100 quotes from the Urantia Book in Korean; and as fast as they were printed, we would cut, rolled, and taped them. Handing them out to all the beautiful people with such inquisitive faces was such a joy. We could not keep up with the demand. We also did a scheduled public presentation at the “Book Lovers Corner” on the content of the Urantia Book, and it quickly turned into a question and answer time with many thoughtful ideas being asked; especially by the younger people.

Additionally, Sy has begun the translation and printing of 1,000 “*Urantia Book Basics*” into the Korean language, and will continue his work at the book fair booth in 2010.

The IFC continues to experience friction with some of the Foundation/UAI representative in the international arena because the Fellowship prints the *Urantia Book*. However, this does not prevent our determination to work together to further the Revelation; while at the same time meeting the IFC twin goals of getting the book into the hands of those most needing it, and helping to build a community of readership wherever we go.

We know that there are many God-knowing sisters and brothers in the kingdom out there thirsting for the truths contained in this Fifth Epochal Revelation, and we are willing to do anything, go anywhere, anytime to provide this truth for them.

The International Fellowship Committee would like to thank the Executive Committee and the General Council for their ongoing support for this important service.

Buck Weimer, Chair
International Fellowship Committee