



URANTIA®

URANTIA BROTHERHOOD  
533 DIVERSEY PARKWAY CHICAGO ILLINOIS 60614

January 2, 1980

Richard F. Prince, M.D.

Dear Dick:

Thanks for your good letter of October 2, 1979.

The whole matter of translations is indeed an important issue to many; some feel there should be none while others believe not only should there be many, but also that they should be done immediately with little attention to the issues of quality and legal considerations. And, as one might expect, there are all manner of opinions in between these two extremes. We shall have some very interesting years ahead.

Your suggestion of possible conflict between my serving as Chairman of the International Fellowship Committee and serving as a Trustee is an interesting one in that it is hard for me to imagine how this could occur unless the Brotherhood chose to act contrary to the legal and moral mandate of URANTIA Foundation--which will most probably never happen. Nevertheless if you have further thoughts or information along this line, please let me know. (We are working on the development of a French translation at this time, as we are a Finnish translation.)

In the meantime, should concern develop over my acting simultaneously in both capacities, the General Council and/or the Triennial Assembly can settle the matter. So far, though, this does not seem to be a problem. Indeed such a dual service might be helpful to serve to lessen the potential problems of conflict which some may think might arise. In any event, I do appreciate your support.

The status of the translation fund for the Spanish translation presently is that the proposal has been referred to the International Fellowship Committee for study and recommendation as to the best way to structure such a fund and whether it is best under the Brotherhood or Foundation. Our committee has not yet taken this matter up for discussion as we have not yet had a meeting. The Trustees believe it is best established as a foundation fund since the Foundation will need control of the funds prior to negotiating the appropriate contracts and it will further obviate any possibility of the Internal Revenue Service's raising objection to any grant from URANTIA Brotherhood Corporation to URANTIA Foundation as adversely affecting the Foundation's support fraction--a mathematical determination made annually to see if URANTIA Foundation is entitled to retain its tax exempt status. The Executive Committee is holding its consideration of the matter in abeyance until our committee and Arthur Andersen & Co., our accountants, have an opportunity to express themselves on the matter.

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Ultimately there will be a fund established. I understand your hope that notwithstanding the Foundation has already set aside monies for a general translation fund that a specific fund for a Spanish translation be established, and I would think that such will be the case. Indeed it is a practical and helpful way wisely to begin to prepare for the future.

However, for the moment what we are concerned about is that the French translation and the Finnish translation have claims of priority over other translations, and these two are going to require major financing and considerable effort.

As a practical matter, we cannot possibly hope to satisfy all the desires for translations in the immediate future. But we can begin to gather the funds and prepare the way as best we can. Hence a fund for a Spanish translation--Spanish being one of the major languages of the world--is a good way to begin and I hope will prove reassuring to the Bogota group.

In the meantime, it is my earnest hope that the issue of translations will not develop as the seeds of contentious dispute drawing various linguistic groups within URANTIA Brotherhood up in array against one another.

Our most trying challenge is going to be to keep patience in working out the proper approach to translations. The Dupont group has worked admirably and faithfully in spite of repeated disappointments.

As you know, our experience with translations has been a hard and sobering one, but we are learning, although it is a slow and frustrating process.

Impatience has already scourged our planet. We hope but cannot guarantee that it will not work again to the disadvantage of epochal revelation. To avoid precipitous and unwise action, we will need everyone's help, restraint and support. We want very much to be able to count on you especially since you are so very interested in the matter of translations.

We have found that events are often--to us--painfully slow with regard to developments in the field. But, after all, the URANTIA Revelation is to be part of the evolutionary growth of religion on our planet and we know that although evolution is slow (according to our mortal vision) it is terribly effective. Epochal revelation involves tens of thousands--even hundreds of thousands--of years, and even though there is no denying that we have much work ahead of us in our short life times, time will be on the side of our mission--so long as we do not short circuit it--of bringing a new light to a frustrated church and a confused world. But we must begin and the commencement of establishing funds for translation is a worthy endeavor. Thank you for your help and support in this.


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We occasionally hear from readers in South America and they can indeed be put in touch with the Bogota group. We are very pleased with your and Lynn's reports concerning this group. The Trustees are especially grateful with the co-operative attitude of the group concerning the copyright.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Chicago soon.

Very best wishes to you and Cheryl.

Sincerely,



Martin W. Myers  
Chairman  
International Fellowship Committee

MWM:kfm

cc: Members of International Fellowship Committee  
URANTIA Brotherhood ✓

Note: Copy of Dr. Richard Prince's letter of October 2, 1979 attached.