

THE URANTIA BOOK FELLOWSHIP

INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT – 2011

From an international perspective, the Fifth Epochal Revelation is in a continuous mode of a growing public awareness coupled with an increasing number of personal acceptances. Despite the friction between our contending organizations, personalities, and methodologies – and, perhaps, even the Seraphim of Progress and the Seraphim of Religion – the Urantia Book is gaining traction in places and cultures far distant from its' humble beginning in Chicago, Illinois, USA in 1955.

In the effort to spread the Revelation – and especially the Life and Teachings of Jesus – around the world, the IFC made inroads with the Animism/Evangelist in Africa, Incas/Catholics in South America, Buddhist/Minjung theorist in Asia, and the many paths in the ancient Hindu culture in India. Our threefold approach of making the book available, helping to build a community of readership, and assisting with printing of secondary works has been a growing experience for the Committee member and all contributors.

The first quarter of 2011 saw 3 of us (Charlene Morrow, Arlene Weimer, and I) in Kolkata (Calcutta), India for their International Book Fair. To be in India is to have the mind stimulated and the spirits leaping forward by this variegated culture so full of people and so rich in contrasts. According to conservative calculations, **several million** persons – men, women, and children – passed by our booth and viewed our big, blue THE URANTIA BOOK sign. Thousands read at least one line of the Revelation via the available Spiritual Vitamins. Those guided by their Spirit of Truth and/or Thought Adjuster enjoyed our pictures and posters, and great discussions on the inclusion of science and religion; while pursuing thoughts of a post-karmic existence and viewing the **Journey to Paradise** posters; and, of course, buying books. The JANR's (Jesus, A New Revelation) was a great hit, and we could have had a thousand more of the picture-posters of Christ and Krishna on hand. The constant daily interaction with students, teachers, mystics, artists, musicians, validated Kolkata as the intellectual and cultural center of India.

A short trip to Kathmandu, Nepal and we restocked the Urantia Book in Yuyutsu Sharma's book shop – The White Lotus. He and his wife, Shreejana, arranged for us to stay at the home of a Baptist Missionary couple. They also helped with getting the book placed in the two national libraries in Kathmandu Valley. (A full report is available upon request.)

The second quarter of the year was occupied with the International Seoul Book Fair in South Korea. Dolores Nice and I worked closely with a most wonderful Sy Chang arranging the booth and getting adroit rolling Spiritual Vitamins; as we became more sensitive to cultural habits - i.e. the word "death" is a taboo. We had many in-depth discussions on the translation of the UB into the Korean language because it is a large issue between the competing groups there; i.e. which one is the *right* translation! At least three unique translations are available to the Korean public

(One of the major ideas we've promoted this year throughout the non-English speaking cultures visited was the acceptance of the thinking that more than one translated version of the UB is a positive advent into a culture – for many reasons. But the primarily reason is because translations are an evolutionary, on-going process and there will never be a perfect translation of the Urantia Book into any language!)

Byung Seo was there promoting his new book of essays on his travels and journey to the Urantia Book. This year was also highlighted by young readers (Ji –Soo Han and Kung-Duk Kim), and women leaders (Maria Ahn, Ye-Sook Yoon, and Anna Kim). David Kim and Won-Myung Lee are also an integral part of the devoted UB readership. And again, we could have dispensed with more JANR's than the 5 we arrived with – even though they are printed in English.

There are well over 400 South Koreans registered on their website (www.urantia.or.kr). And many of the readers eagerly await the printing of the UB into the Japanese and Chinese languages; ready to be ambassadors throughout Asia. As stated often, it is our belief that South Korea is, and will grow as, the bedrock of the Revelation in all of Asia. (A full report is available upon request.)

The third quarter of 2011 had Dolores Nice, Agustin Arellano, and I visiting the always-stimulating UB readers in Ecuador, South America for their "INTRODUCTORY CONFERENCE ON EL LIBRO de URANTIA". It was held in Quayaquil – their cultural and financial center – on September 15 - 16 in a large hall provided free by the Central Bank, and hosted by the Salvington Study Group and Nelida Oliver. There was a wide variety of power point presentations and presenters; with much animated discussion following. Dolores, with her well-rounded background in Christianity was especially helpful with bridging the discussion between the Bible and the Urantia Book. Two new young readers, Fernando Delgado and Julio Mero were especially enthusiastically invigorating. Sandra Naranjo is emerging in a leadership role.

After the conference the leaders came together for future plans. Among the many activities to be acted upon include a series of weekly radio shows and placement of *El Libros* in all public libraries – to include follow-up. Of great significance was their proposal to form a national organization of readers call *Urantia Ecuador*; with leaders from Quito (Ecuador's capitol city) and other areas being represented. Our hopes and dreams are with these fervent readers as they forge an organization that could represent a self-sustaining model for all of Latin America. Having a national (unified) and legal organization will help the Fellowship in the needy process of making *El Libros* available and into the hands Ecuadorans at an affordable price; something desperately needed throughout Latin America. (A full report on the Ecuador Conference is available upon request.)

And then there was Accra, Ghana in West Africa for the last quarter of 2011. It was a wild and wooly ride from beginning to end! First, we had a team of 7 (Charlene Morrow, Joan Evans, Ed Harrigan, Tim Hobbs, Emeka Anazodo, Arlene Weimer, and I); and we experienced the epitome of *teamwork* throughout the entire 10 day stay. Fortunately, we carried a large quantity of JANR'R (Jesus, A New Revelation) with us – 6 cases in call (X 18 = 108). And, for the equivalent of \$1.85 USD, they sold like hotcakes in a lumberjack camp; to go with the full complement of full Urantia Books, Spiritual Vitamins, sets of CD's on the Life of Jesus, posters, pins and buttons.

We began each morning at our hotel with breakfast, starting with a prayer and discussing daily plans or strategy; and during the evening meals shared our experiences of the day with the many inquisitive Ghanaians stopping at our booth.

We agreed to hold a short one evening conference on the last day of the Book Fair in one of the Book Fair conference rooms. Navigating through the bureaucracy to secure the room would not have been possible without the able assistance of Sam Sifa (remember Sam from IC11?). But over 50 people attended, with several Christian faiths coming in groups. After the opening prayer by Ed Harrigan, each of us (including Emeka) did a power point presentation – thanks to the great skills of Tim Hobbs (who had already departed for South Africa by this time). This was followed by a panel discussion of questions and answers. Sam Sifa's son, Pastor Samuel Okwanpah, enlisted Marfo Peter as translator for the local Akan language. As leadership was emerging, Arlene had the great idea of having a follow-up leadership meeting. And we did.

After much hassle, we finally rented a lovely meeting room, and, along with our Team, 5 Ghanaian leaders attended (Pastor Samuel Okwanpah, Pastor Laud M. Fianu, Aikins Oswaldo, Marfo Peter, and Emmanuel Agbeko). We discussed establishing study groups and translated brochures. Ed Harrigan facilitated a study group among us by handing out Paper 182 (*In Gethsemane*), section 3 (*Alone in Gethsemane*) and leading the discussion. Joan Evans, with her 10 years' experience of living in Ghana as a nurse-teacher, was very effective. Before separating, we exchanged contact information and agreed to send them more JANR's.

By the end of our Ghana outreach we all felt as if we had achieved a new model for international outreach of: (a) public outreach (via a book booth); (b) small group gathering (via a short conference); and (c) personal training (via a leadership conference). And, we discovered a new and spirit-filled brother in Emeka Anazodo from Lagos, Nigeria. (A full report on Ghana is available upon request.)

A last thought on Africa: Father Louis Gbilimou has completed the French translation of Mary Ebben Livingston's "*Urantia Book Basic*". It is now available online for reading, and will be available in print sometime this coming year.

In all, we can say it was a great year for the Revelation on the international stage; India, Asia, South America, and Africa. The IFC worked diligently this year at fulfilling its mandated mission of getting the book out, building community, and facilitating translations. We hope the Seraphim of Progress and the Seraphim of Religion will steer us on their chosen direction for this fabulous Fifth Epochal Revelation in 2012. Until then, we wish to thank our many unseen friends who guarded us, the many readers who prayed for us, and the Urantia Book Fellowship for their unswerving support.

And good day to Tabamantia, wherever you are.

The International Fellowship Committee:

Charlene Morrow
Tim Hobbs
Dolores Nice
Cristina Seaborn
Buck Weimer, Chair

and the many Adjuncts:

Arlene Weimer
Ed Harrigan
Nelida Oliver
Emeka Anazodo

