

THE URANTIA BOOK FELLOWSHIP
INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT – 2012

*“By the spirit fruits of your lives impel souls to believe the truth that man is a son of God,
and that all men are brethren.” 193:5.2*

The IFC has traveled far and wide in 2012 attempting to fulfill the Masters admonition, and the directive within the Fellowship’s Constitution. We experienced activities on the African continent, Asia, and Latin America; and our personal contacts with readers and truth seekers grew exponentially. The model of book fairs, conferences, and leadership meetings seems to be working well while exposing thousands of individuals to the word Urantia, and The Life and Teachings of Jesus; in personal conversations, Spiritual Vitamins, and the visual display of our booths. Our effort with the translation of secondary materials creates a wonderful introduction in Third World countries.

AFRICA: In May, we traveled to the Lagos University in Nigeria and worked with a most wonderful and diversified Team of dedicated believers (experienced thus far); including: the Nigerian family (Emeka Anazodo, wife Sunshine Akudoand, their 3 children), the Northern Light Society contingent (Ed Harrigan, Barbara Maier and Marilyn Conner), and others from the USA (Charlene Morrow, Arlene Weimer, and me). After a few days of travel, Emmanuel Agbeko and Aikins Oswaldo joined us from Ghana; Julius Taiwo, another Nigerian reader, joined us to complete the Team.

We sold all the Urantia Books we had (and gifted a few), and nearly all of the 180 JANR’s (Jesus, A New Revelation) that we carried with us. *One God, One People* buttons were tremendously popular, as were the Spiritual Vitamins. We held a conference on the last day of the book fair with great attendance and spirited discussion (especially around the Atonement Doctrine); and this was followed by a wedding (Emeka and Sunshine wanted a wedding based on Urantia Book principles of love and mercy – to balance their tribal wedding of goats and farm tools.) The leadership meeting that same evening concluded our gatherings.

Many an eternal relationship was bonded there; and it was here we brainstormed the idea of getting the YaYA involved in international outreach.

In June a Team of three (Tim Hobbs, Charlene Morrow, and I) traveled to Cape Town, South Africa for their book fair. Though more low keyed than the Nigerian Book Fair, we made great connections with local readers – including: George Halliday, Peter Minnaar, Peter Fredericks, Ivan Sedra, and his son Russell. We carried many UB’s, JANAR’s, and 20 sets of CD’s on Part IV (Papers #122 through #154), in both CD and MP3 format. And, while there, we received 100 copies of the recent South African printing (English version)

of Mary Ebben's *"The Urantia Book Basics"* shipped to us by Marthe Muller from Pretoria. We learned a lot about setting up the booth by taking the advice of the local readers. It was a short book fair; but long on loving relationships.

ASIA: Also in June, Tim Hobbs, Arlene Weimer, and I traveled to Seoul for their International Book Fair. Sy Chang again led the way; setting up the booth and organizing events. Jisoo Han (a young 27 year old woman) has begun to play a more prominent role in UB activities; and she immediately bonded with Arlene. Another young person, Kyung-Duk Kim has been very active sharing the UB at the university he attends.

Near the end of the Book Fair, we organized a short conference at the Christian Center – the largest and oldest center for Christian learning in South Korea. Tim, Arlene, and I presented (with a translator) in the morning. In the PM, all presenters were Korean; including Sy, Byung Seo, Lee Whang, and a young minister named C.S. Shin.

Other UB leaders in Seoul only moderately participated in the booth staffing and the conference attendance. The schism remains rather deep between the contending factions. It is our hopes and prayers that 2013 will lead to healing, and a more unified community.

Latin America: In late April and early May Dolores Nice, the SRS (Spanish Readers Services) person, attended the *Asociación Nacional de Colombia* conference in Medellin, Colombia, South America; sponsored by the UAI and the Foundation. She felt it was a great conference – although she heard a small amount of negative language directed toward the Fellowship. Many readers in Latin America continue to believe the Fellowship is responsible for the Foundation's loss of the English copyright.

For the IFC and the Fellowship, the Santiago, Chile International Book Fair was large. It required 161 hours of booth staffing, and by an incredible Team of 14 hard-working Kingdom believers with a beautiful mix of men and women; including those from Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, and the U.S.A. Flor Robles emerged as a great leader; Agustin Arellano needs no accolades; the same with Nelida Oliver, our other SRS person.

By agreement, we chose to not sell books at our booth, and rather redirected potential buyer (after taking their information) to the 3 other booths at the fair selling the book. (In the Santiago book stores, the UB is selling at an average price of \$87.00, and about half that price at the Book Fair.) We had four pieces of secondary works, and handed out several types of introductory brochures, *"Un Dios – Un Pueblo"* buttons, and thousands of Spiritual Vitamins.

Two conferences were held: one at the site of the book fair (lightly attended), and another within our hotel complex (heavily attended) with speakers introducing or elaborating on the UB; and Tim Hobbs did a great job of helping with the power points

and other electronics. Nina Bravo, an elderly reader traveled many hours to make a presentation.

The Chilean Book Fair was our first experiment with having a YaYA person joining an international outreach effort. Janelle Mazza, a college student from the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, left her comfort zone and joined us on the world stage. She quickly adjusted, participated fully in booth activities, and contributed her youthful energy. It is our hope that this project of adding a YaYA person to at least one, or all, of our international missions will continue and grow. For information on how to help, please inquire within the YaYA committee.

Lastly, let it be known that this book fair was a successful cooperative effort between the Foundation, the UAI, and the Fellowship, and all persons directly involved shared in the feeling of a growing sense of unity; despite some individuals not directly involved trying to derail this movement of agreed upon goals.

Conclusion: The events and experiences of this year speak for themselves. With shrinking budgets, we can only hope that 2013 will be as rich and fruitful as the rewards and benefits of 2012. We would like to thank the worldwide community of readers for their energy and support, the members of the Fellowship, the General Council and Executive Committee for their visionary values and energetic cooperation.

Specific reports and pictures available upon request.

Buck Weimer, Chair
International Fellowship Committee

“Remember all I have taught you and the life I have lived among you. My love overshadows you, my spirit will dwell with you, and my peace shall abide upon you.”

193:5.2