

MONITOR

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1996

FSLA CELEBRATES 40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO URANTIA

OUTREACH PRO- GRAM GOES TO PERU

— John Mahaffey
& Sandy Varga

On October 24, 1995 six Urantia Book readers from four study groups embarked on a twelve day journey to the South American country of Peru.

Norman Ingram invited Duane Faw, Stella Religa, John Mahaffey, Richard Omura and Sandy Varga to join him in delivering much needed Spanish Urantia books to Study Groups in Peru.

Serendipity is the word that best describes this trip; everywhere we went we met new friends on spiritual quests with whom we shared the book.

We attended two Study Groups in Peru — one in the La Molina suburb of Lima (see Photo #1, page 4) and another in the southern city of Arequipa (see Photo #2).

We held impromptu Study

(see PERU on page 4)

FIRST 151 Members of FSLA

Soon after the URANTIA Book was printed in 1955, several new readers (everyone was a new reader then!) somehow found each other and began the organization that we know as First Society of Los Angeles. We honor these pioneers listed below.

FOUNDERS

1. Julia Fenderson
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4. Arlie Riddleberger
5. Viola Squires
6. F.H. Squires
7. Helen Steen
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147. Paula Parke
148. Gary Reedy
149. Penny Poole Oster
150. Jeff Oster
151. Patricia Benson

Dick MacDonald Graduates to the Mansion Worlds

— Ramon Barbosa

Our dear brother and friend passed through the transition portals into heaven during his sleep on the night of October 9th, 1995.

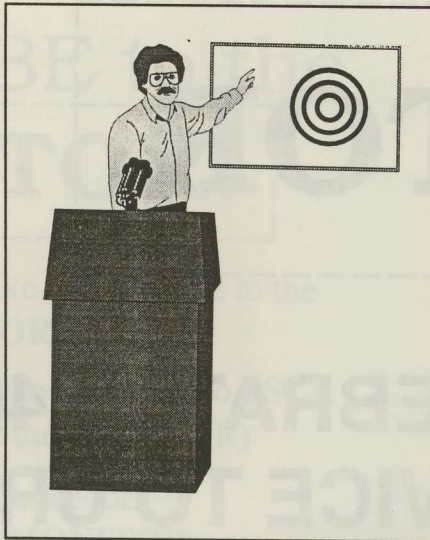
Dick was hampered with several physical challenges over the years, such as progressive blindness, and the most recent malady. Yet those who knew him hardly even noticed, simply by the virtue of the natural dignity and the courage with which he lived his life.

His genuine sense of humor and constant lightheartedness not only served to bouy him through debilitating ailments, but also became a tonic to spiritually uplift all those around him. Such is the courage of the more human personality, and Dick *is* such a person.

Dick was the founder of *The Monitor*, and co-founder of **The Valley Forum** in 1982. He served as coordinator and in photography during the first few years of *The Monitor*, and greatly contributed to its quality with his invaluable feature column, "Portraits."

During a very special moment he and I shared a few weeks before he departed, he said, "You know, the one most important thing that we are on earth to learn is to mature." Dick naturally exuded at once a fatherly kindness and a feeling of parity as a fellow traveller through life's adventures.

His beloved wife, Grace Sims MacDonald, his sons and daughters, and many loving friends will all miss having him among us. Dick, we are all the better for having known you. We'll see you soon.



1996 MEETING SCHEDULE

Mark your calendars today for upcoming FSLA meetings in 1996. And note the fact that this year we will be dividing our time between Santa Monica and Newport Beach with each city scheduled for four meetings each.

JAN 7th Santa Monica
 FEB 4th Santa Monica
 MAR 3rd Newport Beach
 MAY 5th Newport Beach
 JUN 2nd Santa Monica
 AUG 4th Newport Beach
 OCT 6th Santa Monica
 NOV 3rd Newport Beach

Our January meeting will feature Marilyn Alexander speaking on "Angels Part II," a continuation of her excellent talk last year on our seraphic helpers.

Also at the January meeting there will be a Board of Governors meeting at Noon. All FSLA members are welcome to attend.

All meetings will begin at 2:00 PM sharp and usually end by 5:00 or so.

FSLA Folks

1996 Governing Committee

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Bob Burns714 222-1053

Vice President

Richard Omura.....310 306-9789

Secretary

Mike Rayl714 836-4069

Treasurer

Lucile Faw714 470-9653

Hospitality

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Books

Bob Lawson

Publications

Don Roark310 821-6184

Education

Gordon Pipes 310 306-9789

Membership

Dennis Nicomede

A debt of gratitude to the:

1995 Governing Committee:

President Bob Lawson

V.P. Dennis Nicomede

SecretaryLucile Faw

TreasurerRobert Burns

Membership..... Richard Omura

Education Richard Omura

Hospitality Mike Rayl

Books Gordon Pipes

PublicationsDon Roark

THE HAPPINESS AND FULFILLMENT IN LIFE IS OUR CHOICE!

- Robert Burns, President

The holiday season is a an exquisite time to evaluate our lives, where we have been, where we are and where we are going. We contemplate what we want in life, what is really important to us. I have found some essentials of life that are important to me and would like to share them with you. They may provide you with food for thought and add additional meaning to your holidays.

1. Good physical health.

The body and mind of man are the dwelling place of the gift of God, the spirit of God in a relationship with the essence of man. The health of the body and mind are basically within our control, by our habits of eating, sleeping, and activities. Good physical health allows us to explore life with all the abilities inherent in our makeup.

2. Clear and clean thinking.

It requires intelligence to secure our share of the desirable things of life. To think that just doing our daily work will insure us the rewards of wealth is untrue. Occasionally people acquire wealth by chance, but most of the rewards of life will be found in certain well-organized channels, and only those who have access to these channels may expect to be well rewarded for our efforts. Poverty is often found by those who seek for wealth in isolation. Wise planning, becomes the one thing essential to worldly prosperity. Success requires not only devotion to our work but also that we should function as a part of some one of the channels of wealth. If we are unwise, we bestow little to the future generation. Remember that we are the beneficiaries of those gen-

erations before us. Our science, philosophy, music, art, and religion are due to generation upon generation before us.

3. Ability and skill.

Ability is what we inherit, skill is what we acquire. Life becomes only partially real to those of us who cannot do one thing well, expertly. Skill is one of the real sources of the satisfaction of living. Ability implies the gift of foresight, farseeing vision. Be not deceived by the tempting rewards of dishonest achievement; be willing to toil for the later returns inherent in honest endeavor. The wise man is able to distinguish between means and ends; otherwise, overplanning for the future defeats its own high purpose. As a pleasure seeker you should aim always to be a producer as well as a consumer.

4. Wealth—the goods of life.

Train memory to hold in sacred trust the strength-giving and worthwhile episodes of our life, which we can recall at will for our pleasure and edification. This builds up for our self and in our self a reserve gallery of beauty, goodness, and artistic grandeur. And remember the noblest of all memories are the treasured recollections of the great moments of a superb friendship. All of these memory treasures radiate their most precious and exalting influences under the releasing touch of spiritual worship

5. Ability to withstand defeat.

Life becomes a burden of existence unless we learn how to fail gracefully. There is an art in defeat which noble souls always acquire; we must learn how to lose cheer-

fully; we must be fearless of disappointment. Never hesitate to admit failure. Make no attempt to hide failure under deceptive smiles and beaming optimism. It sounds well always to claim success, but the end results are appalling. Such a technique leads directly to the creation of a world of unreality and to disillusionment.

6. Culture—education and wisdom.

Success may generate courage and promote confidence, but wisdom comes only from the experiences of adjusting to the results of our failures. People who prefer optimistic illusions to reality can never become wise. Only those who face facts and adjust them to ideals can achieve wisdom. Wisdom embraces both the fact and the ideal and therefore saves its devotees from both of those barren extremes of philosophy—the man whose idealism excludes facts and the materialist who is devoid of spiritual outlook. Timid souls can only keep up the struggle of life by the aid of continuous false illusions of success and are doomed to suffer failure and experience defeat as they ultimately awaken from the dream world of their own imaginations.

It is in this business of facing failure and adjusting to defeat that the far-reaching vision of religion exerts its supreme influence. Failure is simply an educational episode—a cultural experiment in the acquirement of wisdom—in the experience of the God-seeking person who has embarked on the eternal adventure of the exploration of a universe. To such people defeat is but a new tool for the achievement of higher levels of uni-

Light and Life

...PERU (from page 1)

Groups in Lima and with our hotel guests in the Sacred Valley town of Pisac (Photo #3). The Pisac group decided to continue meeting using the book left them by the American readers: one more Study Group in Peru!

Our Peruvian friends generously shared their spiritual heritage: the trip included visits to many spiritual sites including Machu Picchu and many inspiring encounters. We spent a day with a Quechua shaman, Don Jesus C'cana, took an unplanned train ride with a fifth grade class, and had a great meeting with Reverend Dr. Michael Beckwith of the Agape Church of Santa Monica who was a keynote speaker for an international conference held in Lima while we were there,

Serendipitous moments continued when missing our train to Machu Picchu spared us a landslide, and again when Intiwatana, the supreme altar of the Sun at Machu Picchu, became a site of a marriage proposal.

If you would like to hear more and see the slides and pictures from this remarkable experience, mark January 21st on your calendar. That's the date our group will present a full report on this trip at 2:00 PM on the second floor at the Agape Annex.



Pisac Library Fund – Sandy Varga & John Mahaffey

A service manifested on the
Agape/Urantia trip to Peru.

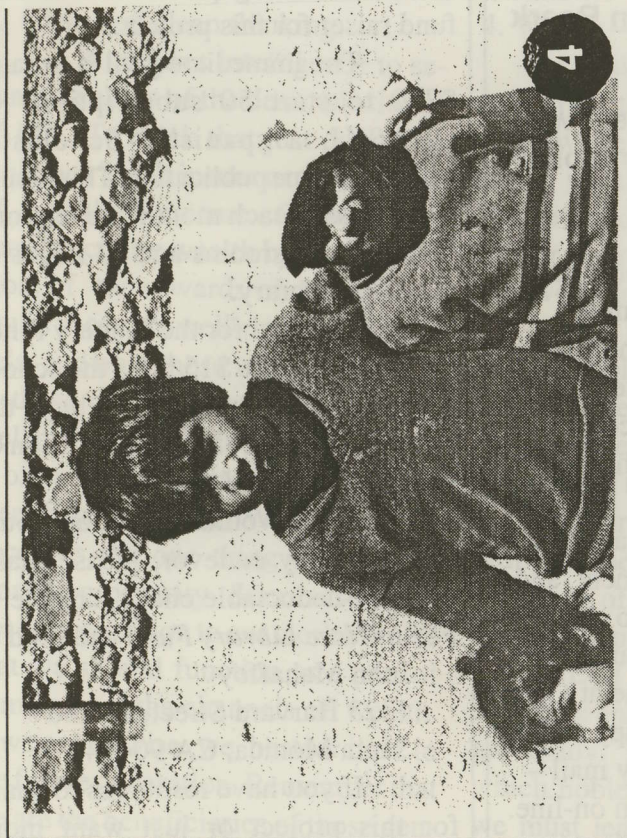
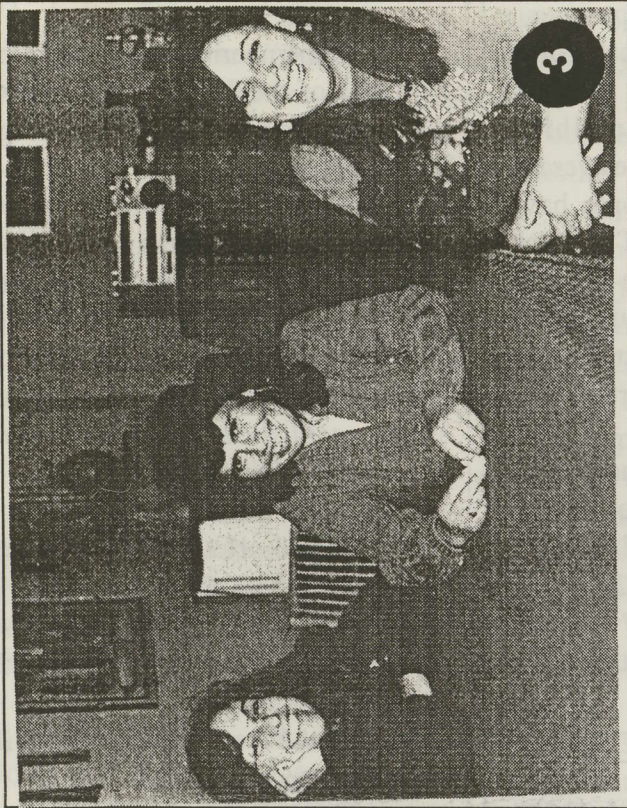
Walking down a cobblestone street in their home base of Pisac, three of our group began questioning the wisdom of handing out chocolate candies to the children that flocked to them. (See Photo #4)

A young Peruvian friend had told us that the Pisac school had no library. This school has 1,000 students in grades 1 through 12, a room set aside as a library, but no funds nor other resources with which to stock the barren library shelves,



(see PISAC on page 6)

in Lima



...President's Message

verse reality.

It is altogether possible that our life may prove to be a great success in the light of eternity, even though the whole temporal-life enterprise may appear as an overwhelming failure, provided each life failure yielded the culture of wisdom and spirit achievement. Do not make the mistake of confusing knowledge, culture, and wisdom. They are related in life, but they represent vastly differing spirit values; wisdom ever dominates knowledge and always glorifies culture.

Page-339

The entire ascendant plan of mortal progression is characterized by the practice of giving out to other beings new truth and experience just as soon as acquired. You work your way through the long school of Paradise attainment by serving as teachers to those pupils just behind you in the scale of progression.

for the achievement of higher levels of universe reality.

It is altogether possible that our life may prove to be a great success in the light of eternity, even though the whole temporal-life enterprise may appear as an overwhelming failure, provided each life failure yielded the culture of wisdom and spirit achievement. Do not make the mistake of confusing knowledge, culture, and wisdom. They are related in life, but they represent vastly differing spirit values; wisdom ever dominates knowledge and always glorifies culture.

Rephrased from The Urantia Book by Robert L. Burns

SANTA MONICA STUDY GROUP

— John Mahaffey

(Each issue we feature a different study group in our Southern California area.)

The Santa Monica Study Group has been meeting in this general area for more than 12 years.

The group used to meet in various homes on different nights of the week up until about seven years ago, when it landed at my place. It has been meeting every Wednesday night ever since then.

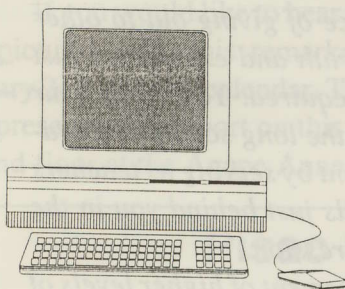
It is my understanding that we have one of the largest groups in Southern California, with an average of 20 readers on any given Wednesday night. One night someone counted 28 people



crammed into my small apartment. And some nights there have only been 12 to 15.

Another unusual thing about this group is that the average length of time that people have been reading the URANTIA Book is 14.6 years. This often leads to some heated debates about certain topics on occasion, but it is all in pursuit of truth, clarity and understanding.

We tend to read and discuss one paper per meeting, sometimes more and sometimes less. We recently finished the 28 Mota lessons on Page 556-557 - it only took seven weeks! But what a worthwhile discussion.



URANTIA ON LINE

— Don Roark

“Reach out and connect with someone”

As more and more Urantia readers discover and acquire personal computers, the need to extend one's self beyond the reach of the keyboard, mouse, and screen sooner or later manifests itself.

I'm talking about communications, reach out and flame someone! Get on-line and read all about it.

How would you like to be able to talk to fellow UB readers anywhere in the world, and listen to what they have to say? For the price of a local phone call?

Well you can, and many of us are doing it several times a week. Your fingers do the talking and your eyes do the listening, of course, but the “doing” costs virtually nothing if you have a computer and a modem.

For more information on this fast-growing movement, and find out how to log-on to our very own interactive chat group, **URANTIAL**, contact me at (310) 821-6184 and I'll be happy to send you exact instructions by mail – snail mail – as it's known on-line.

Pisac Library Fund

(from page 4)

Remembering the passage from page 873 of the Urantia book that we shared with our Pisac friends the night before:

“One hundred and thirty-two of this race (the Andites), embarking in a fleet of small boats from Japan, eventually reached South America and by intermarriage with the natives of the Andes established the ancestry of the later rulers of the Incas.”

we realized that unless these descendants had the opportunity to develop the habit of reading, it was unlikely that they would ever read the Urantia book.

The Pisac Library Service Project was born.

The January 21st presentation at 2:00 PM at Agape Annex will be a fund raiser for this project.

The immediate goal is to raise \$750 to start 50 subscriptions of CHASKI, a Spanish “Scholastic Magazine” type publication. This would put one issue each month in every one of the 23 classrooms and 27 issues in the empty library.

The goal for the January fundraiser is \$10,000. \$15 buys the school one year of CHASKI. \$150 buys the school library a coffee table edition of *Incan Myths and Legends*.

If you would like to contribute to the worthy endeavor, please make your tax-deductible check payable to *FSLA-Pisac Library Fund* and send to

John Mahaffey
1323 Harvard Street, Apt #5
Santa Monica, CA 90404

If you have resources to share for this project or just want more information, call Sandy Varga at

Southern California URANTIA Study Groups

AREA	MEETING INFO	CONTACT	PHONE
ANAHEIM	(Call for Information)	Pierre & Marlene Chicoine	(714) 229-9658
ARCADIA	Mondays @ 7:30 PM	Hal & Lucille Kettell	(818) 447-1403
BAKERSFIELD	Mondays @ 6:30 PM	Debra Goaldman	(805) 871-9578
CULVER CITY	Fridays @ 7:30 PM	Ramon Barbosa	(310) 838-9085
DANA POINT	Thursdays @ 8:00 PM	John & Jane Roper	(714) 496-4543
ENCINITA	Call for schedule	Paulette Suzanne	(619) 634-0840
HUNTINGTON BEACH	Thursdays @ 7:30 PM	Kermit & Jackie Anderson	(714) 894-5417
IRVINE	Tuesdays @ 8:00 PM	Robert Burns	(714) 724-1050
LAGUNA NIGUEL	(Call for Information)	Duane & Lucile Faw	(714) 470-9653
LOMPOC	Wednesdays @ 7:00 PM	George Fledge	(805) 736-0320
HOLLYWOOD	Mondays @ 8:00 PM	Thomas Blancato	(213) 294-8900
MARINA del REY	Fridays @ 8:00 PM (Topical Study Group)	Richard Omura or Don Roark	(310) 306-9789 (310) 821-6184
NORTHRIDGE	2nd & 4th Wed. @ 7:30 PM Tuesdays @ 7:30 PM	Don Morton Jean Painter	(818) 769-2490 (818) 885-5554
OJAI	Mondays @ 7:00 – 9:00 PM	Catherine Hart	(805) 649-2448
PALM DESERT	Mondays @ 7:00 PM	Ed & Susan Owen	(619) 346-5384
PALMDALE	Wednesdays @ 7:30 PM	Mark & Kate Thornbury	(805) 272-9241
POWAY	Mondays @ 8:00 PM	Bob & Mara Gallo	(619) 679-7160
SAN DIEGO	1st & 3rd Tue @ 7:30 PM	Phil Calabrese	(619) 270-6558 (619) 483-0135
SANTA BARBARA	Sunday @ 7:00 PM (Potluck & meeting to follow) Wednesdays @ 7:45 PM	Barrie Bedell K. Brendi Poppel	(805) 969-1565 (805) 967-9788
SANTA CLARITA	Fridays @ 6:30 PM	Will Sherwood	(805) 259-5077
SANTA MONICA SANTA MONICA-AGAPE	Wednesdays @ 8:00 PM Sundays @ 2:00 PM	John Mahaffey Don Roark	(310) 829-2592 (310) 821-6184
SAUGUS	Saturdays 2:00 – 4:00 PM (Welcome as early as 1:00 & stay after 4:00 for pool & potluck)	Saskia & Andy Raevouri	(805) 297-0749
SIMI VALLEY	Tuesdays @ 7:30 PM	Matt Haines	(805) 581-1488
TORRANCE	Sundays @ 5:00 – 7:00 PM	Dianne Bishop	(310) 542-1673
VISTA	Wednesdays @ 7:30 PM	John & Jane Ploetz	(619) 727-5268
WHITTIER	1st & 3rd Fridays @ 7:30 PM	Stella Religa	(310) 698-2122

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Enclosed is my check or money order for:

\$ 8⁰⁰ for 6 issues of the **MONITOR**

\$30⁰⁰ for 12 month's membership in **FSLA**

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Don Roark, Editor
707 Palms Blvd.
Venice, CA 90291

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Assistant Editor: Richard Omura
Associate Editor: Gordan Pipes

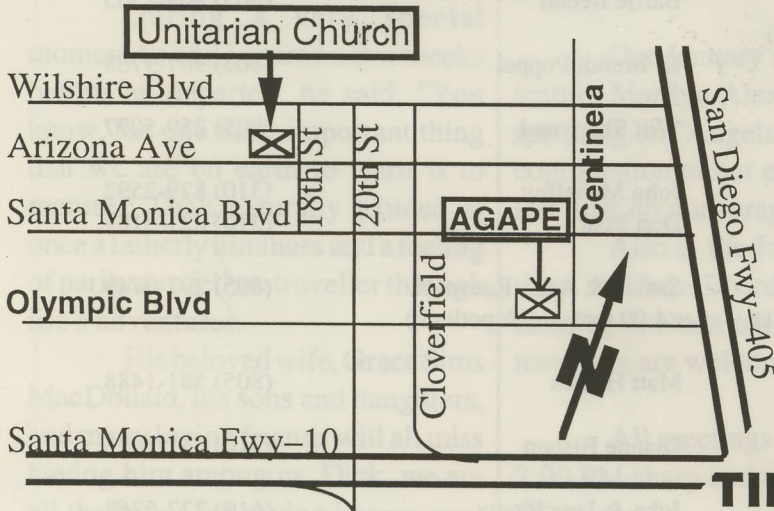
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Directions to AGAPE



TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL!