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Tom Kendall, President  
URANTIA Foundation  
533 Diversey Parkway  
Chicago, Illinois 60614

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URANTIA

Dear Tom:

Greetings from San Diego. I understand that we may be seeing one another in Makapala, and I certainly hope that we have an opportunity to be together for a time. But I know it is often difficult to visit and exchange all the information one wishes to at such an event, so I am taking the time now to tell you and the other trustees of an event which occurred last month which I think you will find interesting.

You may remember that in my letter to you of May 12th, I mentioned that I was hoping to meet Douglas Fraser of Bogota, Colombia, who is now living in Fresno, Ca. I think I even sent you a copy of my letter to him. Beautiful things have happened since then which I want to share with you.

To begin with, I went to Fresno last month to meet Douglas and his family. It was when my sister Carol Kostic and her husband Pierre were in San Diego visiting, and they went with me. The three of us had a wonderful time with the Frasers. It was particularly good for Douglas to be able to talk with Carol since she had had experience with the "experimental" translation team in Paris. She told him of the ways the group there had tried to solve various linguistic and conceptual problems, and he was fascinated by what he heard.

Douglas and his family are wonderful people. They are among the most gracious and hospitable people I have ever met. Douglas himself has a fascinating background. He was born in Colombia and educated there and in the United States. In fact, he went to college in San Francisco. He is, in other words, quite fluent in English. He and his family vacation in the United States annually and he is now in Fresno for "at least" a year so that his children can have the experience of part of their education in the states. They are enrolled in a very good private school in Fresno.

If we were to sit down and make a list of characteristics which would be of benefit for someone in South America to have who we would want to come to know, and then hand the list to a social architect and ask her to find such a person, I can scarcely imagine anyone she could find better equipped experientially than Douglas. Let me tell you why.

He worked for a number of years for the large Dutch firm, Phillips, initially in charge of their industrial electronics division in Colombia. When he left them a number of years later to set up his own electronics company in Bogota, he was in charge of their electronics program for all of South America. He then developed his own company to the point where it now functions with a minimum of direction from him, the day-to-day management being by his brother-in-law, though Douglas still owns the company. When the electronics business was running smoothly he was approached by a publishing company from Boston, Mass. and asked to take responsibility for their line of medical textbooks in South America. Thus he came to know intimately the problems of translation, as well as sales and promotion of book written and copyrighted in the United States which were to be sold in South America. They knew of him because his wife had worked for this company for a number of years herself. He traveled extensively all over spanish-speaking South America for three years, working for this company. During this time he became very familiar with the various national laws regarding copyright as well as the "moral right" of a translator, which is present in Latin America as well as in France, and which has caused some difficulty in France, or so I understand. Douglas has intimate working knowledge of all these problems, and has overseen the translation of more than a dozen books, copyrighted originally in english and published first in the United States, into spanish.

He is an intensely creative man, in his early 40's, who has already achieved a degree of material success few men reach in a lifetime. He is completely devoted to the URANTIA teachings, and wishes to do whatever he can to help bring its uplifting message to the 700,000,000 spanish-speaking persons in Latin America. He has been doing some translating simply for his own personal benefit, and, I understand, has sent you copies of all that he has done. He has single-handedly put together a study group of 20 or so enthusiastic students in Bogota. He corresponds weekly with them by cassette tape, and they in turn send him messages of their progress and ask for help in translating a particularly difficult passage. He longs to work with others in the translation of the book, and realizes, from his previous experience in the publishing business, that it cannot be an individual effort, but must be done by a group, and even then must have outside copy editing. From all I have been told of Jacques Weiss, I would say that Douglas reflects an attitude which is virtually a complete antithesis to that of Weiss.

I realize that you and the other trustees have many issues confronting you. I also realize that, while it would be nice to begin now on a translation in Spanish, the problems in France are crucial, and require a solution which will include a new translation. I am not suggesting that anything be done now with respect to Douglas, only that you be made aware of him and his tremendous talents. I consider myself to be not that easily

impressed by a man, but believe me this guy is impressive!  
And so warm and friendly as well. He has already told his group  
of our visit last month, and called the house the other day to  
let us know that, when we visit Bogota, members of his group  
have already extended an invitation for us to stay in their  
homes. I speak spanish well and am looking forward to a visit  
to Bogota, perhaps next year, and will, of course, continue to  
keep in close contact with the Frasers. I look forward to the  
day when you and the other trustees have an opportunity to  
meet him and his beautiful family.

Much love to you and all our friends at 533.

Sincerely,

*Rich*

Richard F. Prince