

Foundation Copy  
May 22, 1978

Mr. Clyde Bedell  
2390 via Mariposa W. 3E  
Laguna Hills, CA 92653

Dear Clyde:

The Trustees have had an opportunity to give detailed consideration to the Concordex as we indicated we would in our letter of March 10, 1978. We also have had the benefit of comments of many interested Brotherhood members.

First, let us clearly state that the body of references, starting at page 51 of the second edition, is useful to readers of The URANTIA Book. The many concerns that have been expressed about the Concordex, those of both the Trustees and other readers of the book, are not, for the most part, related to the body of the Concordex--this tool for the study of The URANTIA Book--but to other material which we feel is not directly related to the essential purpose of the Concordex.

The actual value of the body of the Concordex, the list of references, is not the principal issue. What is of concern, not just to the Trustees, but to many, are a number of things which we believe you are already aware of and are working to correct. We understand you have already indicated that the dust-jacket is to be redone so as to make it more in keeping with the dignity of The URANTIA Book itself and the function of the Concordex as a reference work. We believe this could be accomplished by the removal of the testimonials, the redesign of the entire dust-jacket to make it less flamboyant, and the elimination of the editorial and promotional comments, including the questions.

Also there is the thought that for the Concordex to achieve its function as a reference work designed to serve readers interested in studying The URANTIA Book the introductory material should be limited to that which is necessary to the efficient use of the Concordex as a study aid. While we all have our own personal philosophy and understanding of the URANTIA teachings, we believe The URANTIA Book speaks effectively without the necessity of interpretive material, some of which in the Concordex is only a paraphrasing of The URANTIA Book.

The URANTIA Book is to have a universal appeal. Some of the statements in the introductory part of the Concordex delimit this universal appeal. The URANTIA Book is to build upon that which is already here. Many of the statements in the introduction to the Concordex, when reviewed a generation hence, will seem dated, which may detract from the reader's respect for the Concordex, if not from The URANTIA Book.

Mr. Clyde Bedell  
Laguna Hills, CA

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If the body of the Concordax is inherently worthy as a study aid (and we believe it has value in this respect), then it should not need to be bolstered by personal opinion, even that of the author.

The real value of the Concordax, it would seem, is the extent to which it will contribute to one's direct appreciation of The URANTIA Book's message and, inasmuch as the revisitors gave us The URANTIA Book as a complete work able to stand by itself without the need of interpretive aids, the Concordax should be aimed toward helping people to develop their own philosophy through study of The URANTIA Book while at the same time keeping the URANTIA teachings free from the well-meaning but inappropriate urging of one's own personal philosophy in conjunction with a work so closely allied with The URANTIA Book.

Therefore, it is the Trustees' considered conclusion that any future printings, reprintings, or editions of the Concordax should be strictly limited to the technical material essential for its use by readers in developing their own appreciation of the URANTIA teachings through personal study of The URANTIA Book itself.

What we have in mind for inclusion in the introductory material of a new edition or reprinting of the Concordax is generally illustrated by that material beginning in the middle of page 30 running through page 34, and running from page 41 through to the end of the introductory material. In addition, it would seem that editorial comments such as those on pages 176, 271, 393 and 402--just as a matter of illustration--should be used elsewhere than in the Concordax, as should such prejudicial listings such as the reference to "beatniks" in connection with "anti-socially minded."

This is not to say, Clyde, that each of us is not entitled to express our own understanding of the concepts of The URANTIA Book--even the book's place in the world. We do, however, believe that there are more appropriate means one can use rather than grafting one's own opinions onto a work that is so closely associated with The URANTIA Book as a study aid. The author should be extremely careful in respecting the dignity of the reader's own free will. We think we should encourage others to discover directly for themselves the expense of truth and beauty of The URANTIA Book and the exhilaration of the experience of personal discovery.

If the Concordax is to serve its purpose, we believe it will achieve that purpose inversely proportional to the amount of promotional and interpretive material contained. You indeed have achieved a creation of a useful work and we too would like to see you maximize whatever potentials it holds for helping readers to study The URANTIA Book.

Mr. Clyde Badell  
Laguna Hills, CA

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We want very much to work with you to make the Concordax a continually valuable aid, and we look forward to receiving the final draft of any reprinting of the second edition as it may have been modified in accordance with our above expressed opinions, or receiving a draft of the third edition as it reflects our above conclusions.

Clyde, there are other points (many of them mechanical) which are probably best raised when we shall have received the complete manuscript of and the dust-jacket for any further proposed printings, reprintings, or editions for our comment and final approval prior to publication. Also at that time the Trustees will consider the appropriateness of the continued inclusion of certain quotations from The BRANNIA Book (which the Trustees have heretofore given you permission to use) in any further printings, reprintings or editions of the Concordax.

We look forward to seeing you and Florence at the summer conference.

Cordially,

Thomas A. Kendall  
President

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bcc: Mr. Thomas A. Kendall  
Mr. Martin W. Myers  
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