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File - Concordex



URANTIA

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URANTIA

URANTIA BROTHERHOOD
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July 21, 1986

Adm

Mr. Barrie Bedell
P.O. Box 30571
Santa Barbara CA 93130

Dear Barrie:

Thanks for your letter of June 16; I apologise for the delay in my response--I have been bogged down with the General Council meeting and follow-up and personal travel.

I was able to spend some time with Don Guimond at Lake Forest, did discuss your offer to have headquarters stock and sell the volume on such favorable terms, and did get to see a copy of this new and enlarged edition. In discussion, I mentioned to Don that while the members of the Executive Committee expressed their intention to respond to your offer in the affirmative, it was also our intention to await a review of the material by the Foundation to make sure that they concluded that the book did not infringe on the copyrights. There is one other piece of information for your consideration: the general sense of both the Executive Committee and the General Council is that in our determination to prevent The URANTIA Book from being obscured by secondary and derivative works we need to clearly separate the Brotherhood and its commitment to publish, distribute, and develop/facilitate education, study, personal interaction, etc., among new and old readers from the proliferation of materials which in many ways are second-hand to direct study. That is not to say that the products of personal expression are bad or not useful, because most have tremendous value. Rather, that is to say that URANTIA Brotherhood should not be, centrally at least, too much involved in the production, sale, or distribution of these other works. Because of the nature of the Concordex as a less interpretive form of study aid, there is some real question in the Council as to its proper place in the context noted above. Some of us believe that until our own index is available (we hope sooner than later) that our stocking the Concordex as a service is desirable. Others feel that what is most important is that people can get the Concordex, not where it is carried. Thus, your reprinting has taken care of availability, and we can always suggest to those who write to us where to obtain it, thereby making sure that the service is provided.

Barrie, I would very much like to spend some time with you soon to discuss these matters. We are at somewhat of a crossroads in the direction we plan to take; we are slowly evolving from a wholly centralized mechanism (which was probably necessary in the early days of the work), to a blend of central and decentralized service functions. Our efforts are increasingly being

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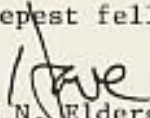
directed toward encouraging the personal efforts and work locally which it would seem are an absolute necessity if we are to be successful in weaving this revelation into planetary consciousness. At the same time, we are honestly questioning the role of the organization in facilitating and serving this activity. We are intent on making sure that the organization serves as scaffolding and does not become an obstacle; however, on balance, until enough individuals become self-motivated, we can utilize the organizational mechanism in a healthy way to provide opportunity for service, education, and to focalize material energies, resources, and foster cooperation. Stocking the Concordex versus making sure readers know where to get it is a question which falls squarely into the context of the discussion surfaced above.

You have a long history with this movement and this work and a perspective which, I believe, would be valuable in this area. While it may be asking too much for you to put aside the Concordex for a moment to consider this question, I would appreciate hearing your views on the general approach we are taking. Specifically, what is your opinion of the Brotherhood's concentrating its energies only on The URANTIA Book and certain limited works related thereto published by the Foundation and Brotherhood, and allowing/encouraging the production of derived works on a more private basis by the authors? Does this approach serve to clearly distinguish the revelation from works "about" the revelation? Is the Brotherhood's job to do everything there is to do, or just to see that it gets done? Are there some works which can and should be sold centrally? Is there a risk that sales of some works through headquarters will give the impression that they are "official" or "approved" in some way? Does the implication of "official approval" seem somewhat inconsistent with the Brotherhood's resistance to the development of any "official" interpretation of The URANTIA Book? And, so on...

Barrie, this is where we are. Until we think through this larger question, and until we hear from the Foundation (who by the way have not yet seen the revised edition), we will not be able to respond to your offer. In the interim, however, we will continue to direct interested purchasers to you for direct purchase. And, if you are so moved, and would be willing to respond, I would very much appreciate a dialogue on this question with you to broaden my thinking.

Thanks for all you are doing. It is a pleasure to be on this road to our common Father with you at this time. I look forward to hearing from you.

In deepest fellowship,


David N. Elders