

To think of becoming proficient in The URANTIA Book without a Concordex is like attempting to master the English language without a dictionary."

THE NEW CONCORDEX

by Jennifer Pickering

Newly enlarged and revised, the Third Edition of Clyde Bedell's Concordex of The URANTIA Book will soon be available in bookstores. It has been my honored privilege to assist Clyde Bedell in the preparation of the Third Edition of this unique aid to the study of The URANTIA Book since April of 1983. Thus can I testify to the uncompromised dedication of an 86 year-old Urantian to further improve this invaluable gift to the readers of an epochal revelation.

The Concordex (which approximates the combined forms of a concordance and an index) effectively maps the terrain of The URANTIA Book, which is a virtual gold mine of references illuminating both the confusion of our history and the uncertainty of our future; but without an index, the myriad references contained in The URANTIA Book may easily become lost to us in the sheer immensity of the Book itself. The very dimensions and complexity of such a revelation beg the aid of some kind of index — a challenge that the revelators have left to human enterprise and ingenuity. And if it were an easy task, other attempts would have succeeded long ago.

The first edition of The URANTIA Book contained the following notice:
"An exhaustive index of The URANTIA Book is published in a separate volume."

But, as we all know, such a separate volume was never published, perhaps owing to the considerable difficulties involved in attempting to index so vast a document. In any case, where collective and even tax-deductible resources and efforts to produce some kind of index to The URANTIA Book have thus far failed, the persistence of Clyde Bedell has prevailed and succeeded. Moreover, he was determined to perfect the result of so much work insofar as every possible human effort may make possible. How, therefore, could any sincere student of The URANTIA Book not avail themselves of so valuable a resource as The Concordex?

There are features in The Concordex, some old and some new, of which you may not be aware — features helpful as study

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aids or in the preparation of papers, for example. Many have used The Concordex merely to look up the odd entry, without discovering the value of the manner in which The Concordex has been composed; for The Concordex has been designed, above all, to be helpful in the study and use of The URANTIA Book. Thus, for example, when and if you should find yourself short on faith, The Concordex will quickly put you in touch with over 400 entries on the subject of faith within the pages of The URANTIA Book. Even the admonitions of Jesus (direct and indirect) are indexed by The Concordex. Other categories include "Women in The URANTIA Book", "Evangelization", "Jesus Contacts", "Jesus Quotes", as well as new entries under "Ego", and "Reality". An entire article could be written about the many special features of The Concordex; however, in this new and enlightened age you will enjoy discovering them for yourselves.

I believe I speak for all of us who study The URANTIA Book when I say that we owe a great debt to the author of The Concordex. Thank you, Clyde. Generations of us will cherish the gift that you have left behind as a map to the vast and wondrous domain that is this epochal revelation of God to man. •

