



The Wartburg Project

Newsletter February 2016

The Wartburg Project is a group of WELS and ELS pastors, professors, teachers, and laypeople who are working together to produce a new translation of the Bible in honor of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

Progress Report

NT The editing of the New Testament has been completed and now the material is in the hands of NPH.

PSALMS The edition of Psalms for the 2017 publication is finished, and it will be handed in to NPH this month.

OT Drafts have been completed for 26 Old Testament books, and 6 others are near completion. There is only one book of the Old Testament that is not being worked on currently. There are no books on which nothing has been done. See the chart at the end of this letter.

Administration The administrative board held its annual meeting in January and reviewed reports of last year's work and plan for 2016. If financial support continues at its present level, we are in a good financial position to complete the basic project.

What Now?

As editorial work on the New Testament is wrapping up, and more Old Testament drafts are completed, review work and editorial work on the Old Testament is intensifying. If everything falls into place (good health for our workers, not too many changes of place of service, etc.) work on the historical books will be largely complete this calendar year.

The Passion History set of readings is still available free of charge for congregational use during Lent. An updated version based on the 2017 final version of the gospels will be available for Lent 2017. Changes will be minor—no need to switch from your present print-outs if you save them from year to year.

An updated edition of Matthew will be available soon on Amazon. Look for announcements.

In late spring or summer a study edition of Psalms with more extensive notes than the bare translation will appear.

We hope to have a harmony of the gospels based on our translation available by this fall.

A few composers have asked for permission to use our translation of psalms in their work. We will be ready to grant such permissions beginning in March. We are willing to discuss alterations to the translation made for musical purposes.

We hope to have a lectionary for the 2016-2017 church year available for congregations that want to test it.

What's In a Name?

In evaluating potential names for the products produced by our project among the criteria we used were the following:

1. It needs to be clear that it is the name of a Bible.
2. It should be a name that can be trademarked.
3. It should clearly establish a brand name that sets this particular Bible apart in the market.
4. It needs to have good initials that don't spell something that would not be helpful.
5. It should not be too "narrowly Lutheran" so that non-Lutherans would think it's a Bible only for Lutherans.
6. It could be a title that could be used as a sub-title, such as "The Holy Bible: American Standard Version." Or, it could be a self-standing name, American Standard Bible.
7. It would be desirable for it to carry a meaning that doesn't require too much explanation.
8. The name should work comfortably for a variety of products.
9. It should have a personal and grassroots appeal reflecting the nature of our project.
10. It should sound mainline, a general purpose Bible for all uses in the church, not a niche Bible or a simplified Bible or a Bible mainly for personal use.
11. It should sound main stream, yet be modest in its claims. Not *Intergalactic Super Bible*. Avoid terms like *standard*, etc.
12. It should not be confused with other Bibles.

Field Testing of Names

Testing of names with our prospective users and contest participants focused on and showed the most support for three words: *Evangelical*, *Heritage*, and *Reformation*.

Many of our supporters would also like to include *Wartburg* in the Bible name. However, there was adverse reaction to the connotation *wart* by some reactors and the feeling that this name would not have the same appeal in the wider market that the other three words above do. *Wartburg* can and will be used in the name of the products based on our translation. A schematic drawing of the Wartburg could be used somewhere on the cover (the spine).

The term *Heritage* is popular with our supporters. In fact, it was the most popular term in our testing. *Heritage* has the connotation of something with roots in the past which is cherished in the present and which is to be handed on to the future. *Heritage* will be a popular term in 2017 when our first partial edition appears. The term *Heritage* is widely used and respected in the elements of the Evangelical community that are potential users of our translation. The hymn "God's Word Is Our Great Heritage," could be used in promoting any name with this word in it. The term *Heritage* is forward looking. We have a rich heritage to pass on to future generations.

Evangelical has various definitions, which is both a strength and a weakness. One definition is "Evangelicals take the Bible seriously and believe in Jesus Christ as Savior." That is a very good message to serve as the identifying trait of a translation. Lutherans use *Evangelical* in the names both of their

church bodies and their congregations. Both ELS and WELS include *Evangelical* in their names. Many definitions explain that *Evangelical* means “gospel-centered.”

Reformation also tested well. It seemed especially appropriate for our first edition which is scheduled for 2017. It is widely used and popular among Reformed Evangelicals. It does, however, raise more trademark issues because of existing works.

Conclusion:

Weighing all these issues, we concluded that *Evangelical Heritage Version* (EHV) was the best name for our base translation and related Bible products, and *Wartburg* was the best name for some products which would use the *Evangelical Heritage Version* as their base text.

In addition to our Wartburg Project domain names we now own about a dozen domain names that correlate with these names, including evangelicalheritageversion.com. We have filed the following trademarks with the United States Patent and Trademark Office: *Evangelical Heritage Version*TM—*EHV*TM—*Wartburg Bible*TM.

There are no known trademark problems, concerns, or issues with other users, but the trademarks are still under USPTO review, and this is a rather slow process. We can in the meanwhile use the names in interstate commerce.

Rationale for the Name *The Holy Bible: Evangelical Heritage Version* (EHV)TM

The Holy Bible

The Bible cover will include the name, “The Holy Bible.” The Holy Bible is the inspired and inerrant Word of God. The EHV is a careful English translation of God’s Word from the original languages of Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. We are not inventing anything new. That part of the name, of course, cannot be trademarked.

Evangelical

Evangelical is included in the name of most of our congregations. It is also in the names of WELS and ELS. Our pastors and people can use the same explanations that are used to explain the names of our synods and churches to explain the name of the translation. *Evangel* (from the Greek term for gospel) refers to the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ. *Evangelical* means gospel-centered. The Lutheran Reformation was *Evangelical*. *Evangelical* was the name that Martin Luther preferred for the reformed church. Luther often wrote to defend the name and clarify it (*LW* 24 & 26, e.g.).

Heritage

Heritage was suggested by quite a few participants in our contest, especially from some of our youngest supporters. They often linked it with the hymn, “God’s Word Is Our Great Heritage.” The words of that familiar hymn fit our translation’s purpose very well.

Our translation is called *Heritage* because this word looks to the past, the present, and the future. *Heritage* expresses our respect for the generations of Christians and for the faithful translators who have passed the Bible down to us. We are very conscious that we are building on the foundation which they have laid. As the old saying goes: We can see so far because we are standing on the shoulders of giants.

The term *Heritage* also looks to the future. The gospel is a precious inheritance that is to be passed from generation to generation until Christ returns. It is our prayer that this translation will have a part in that great mission which the Lord has left for his church. Our goal and motto is expressed in the hymn verse:

God’s Word is our great heritage

And shall be ours forever.
 To spread its light from age to age
 Shall be our chief endeavor.
 Through life it guides our way.
 In death it is our stay.
 Lord, grant while worlds endure
 We keep its teaching pure
 Throughout all generations.

The rationale and the way in which we will promote the name are explained further in FAQ 15 and the paper “Evangelical Heritage Version: What’s in a Name?”

Spiritual Progress

Many of our workers have to take a bit of a break from their translation work during the busy season of Lent, but we are confident that the remembrance of our Savior’s passion and the joy of Easter will give us all energy and strength for all our work for the Lord.

February 8, 2016 PROGRESS CHART

Key:

- ✓ = completed for publishing
- × = Tech review complete
- Bold** = completed initial draft
- Blue underlined** = recently completed
- *Asterisk = assigned or in progress
- Red Italic strikethrough* = not yet assigned

OLD TESTAMENT

| Pentateuch | Historical I | Historical II | Poetical | Major Prophets | Minor Prophets |
|---|--|--|--|---|---|
| Genesis ✓ Exodus ✓ Leviticus ✓ Numbers × Deuteronomy | × Joshua * Judges * Ruth 1 Samuel 2 Samuel * 1 Kings (ch 6-7) * 2 Kings 1 Chronicles 2 <i>Chronicles</i> (ch 3-4) | Ezra Nehemiah × Esther | * Job ✓ Psalms × Proverbs × Ecclesiastes ✓ Song of Songs | Isaiah 1-12 * Isaiah 13-39 Isaiah 40-66 Jeremiah * Lamentations Ezekiel Daniel | <i>Hosea</i> Joel * Amos × Obadiah * Jonah * Micah × Nahum × Habakkuk × Zephaniah × Haggai * Zechariah × Malachi |

NEW TESTAMENT

| Gospels – Acts | Epistles I | Epistles II & Prophetic |
|-------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| ✓ Matthew ✓ Mark ✓ Luke | ✓ Romans ✓ 1 Corinthians ✓ 2 Corinthians | ✓ Hebrews ✓ James ✓ 1 Peter |

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|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ John ✓ Acts ✓ Passion History | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Galatians ✓ Ephesians ✓ Philippians ✓ Colossians ✓ 1 Thessalonians ✓ 2 Thessalonians ✓ 1 Timothy ✓ 2 Timothy ✓ Titus ✓ Philemon | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 2 Peter ✓ 1 John ✓ 2 John ✓ 3 John ✓ Jude ✓ Revelation |
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Completed Initial Drafts are in various phases of review and editing. The Wartburg Project process is rigorous and will take time. Some books are being carefully checked by “technical reviewers.” Other books are being read by “popular reviewers.” After all of this input, we seek to produce the most accurate and clear translation we can.

We are on track to publish a New Testament and Psalms preview edition in 2017.