



# The Wartburg Project

## Newsletter November 2015

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 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation.

### Progress Report

The main news is that progress continues on all fronts. The updated progress chart at the end of this report summarizes the status of the project.

NT General editing of the New Testament has been completed and now the material is in the hands of NPH. There will still be proof-reading, double checking, etc.

OT Drafts have been completed for 24 Old Testament books, and parts of a large number of additional books, including large parts of Isaiah. Work is underway on Job, one of the hardest books. Technical review of 14 books of the Old Testament is complete. This does not mean these books are finalized since committees will still be proofing, harmonizing, and cross-checking the books. Books are coming in somewhat faster than we projected.

### What Now?

As New Testament reviewing is coming to an end, we are expecting (and already have on hand) a considerable amount of Old Testament material for both technical and popular review. We need to update our Old Testament assignments and scheduling. (We still have plenty of flexibility since it we do not have to get books in a specific order.) To do this we can use the following information.

- If you are working on an Old Testament translation or review and have not given us an update for a while, let us know where you are at in your project.
- If you have completed an Old Testament project and feel you are ready for more, let us know.
- If you have been working on the New Testament and would also like to work on the Old Testament, let us know what type of reviewing you would like to do, including books in which you have a specific interest.
- If you need a breather now but would like to get another assignment down-the-line, let us know.
- If you would like to help with some of the very necessary but unglamorous and somewhat tedious tasks like checking the lists of names in Chronicles for omissions, checking verse numbers, etc., and general proofreading and formatting, let us know.

## Names

We have a list of possible names to discuss with NPH in the near future, so if you have any further thoughts on names get them to us soon.

## Presentations

We have recently been asked to make a number of presentations to groups of pastors and more general audiences. Some of these are posted on our site.

## Spiritual Progress

As we celebrate the Reformation, we are very conscious of the close connection of our work to Luther’s pioneering work in Bible translation. This is reflected in our name, the Wartburg Project. God willing, our first introductory translation will be published as part of the celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation. With Luther we share the emphasis on clearly communicating the evangelical content of Scripture, with a special emphasis on Messianic prophecy. For more on Luther’s approach to translation read the presentation Brian Keller presented at a Reformation “diet.”

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, among our many blessings we thank God for the progress we have made on the project and the joy of working together on the Word.

### October 31, 2015 PROGRESS CHART

**Key:**

- ✓ = submitted to NPH 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
<b>Genesis</b> × Exodus × Leviticus × Numbers × Deuteronomy	× Joshua * Judges * Ruth <i>1 Samuel</i> <i>2 Samuel</i> * 1 Kings (ch 6-7) * 2 Kings	Ezra Nehemiah × Esther	* Job Psalms × Proverbs Ecclesiastes × Song of Songs	Isaiah 1-12 Isaiah 13-39 Isaiah 40-66 <b><u>Jeremiah</u></b> * Lamentations Ezekiel Daniel	<del>Hosea</del> <del>Joel</del> * Amos × Obadiah * Jonah * Micah × Nahum × Habakkuk

	1 Chronicles 2 Chronicles (ch 3-4)				× Zephaniah × Haggai * Zechariah × Malachi
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## NEW TESTAMENT

Gospels – Acts	Epistles I	Epistles II & Prophetic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Matthew</li> <li>✓ Mark</li> <li>✓ Luke</li> <li>✓ John</li> <li>✓ Acts</li>   <li>✓ Passion History</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Romans</li> <li>✓ 1 Corinthians</li> <li>✓ 2 Corinthians</li> <li>✓ Galatians</li> <li>✓ Ephesians</li> <li>✓ Philippians</li> <li>✓ Colossians</li> <li>✓ 1 Thessalonians</li> <li>✓ 2 Thessalonians</li> <li>✓ 1 Timothy</li> <li>✓ 2 Timothy</li> <li>✓ Titus</li> <li>✓ Philemon</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Hebrews</li> <li>✓ James</li> <li>✓ 1 Peter</li> <li>✓ 2 Peter</li> <li>✓ 1 John</li> <li>✓ 2 John</li> <li>✓ 3 John</li> <li>✓ Jude</li> <li>Revelation</li> </ul>

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 schedule to publish a New Testament and Psalms special edition in 2017.**

**Samples Published:**

**Matthew – Kindle ([www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)) Psalms – Kindle ([www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com))**

**Passion History – available from Northwestern Publishing House (<http://online.nph.net/>) **FREE PDF****

Completed Initial Drafts are in various phases of review and editing. The Wartburg Project process is rigorous and will take time. All books are reviewed by three technical reviewers and three popular reviewers and by a sectional editorial committee and by the final editorial board. Many others have the opportunity to provide input to the translation. After all of this input, we seek to produce the most accurate and clear translation we can.

**A significantly updated rubrics incorporating a lot of our work on the Pentateuch has been posted. It has the heading *2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*. Our FAQs elaborate on some of the items in the rubrics.**