



The Wartburg Project

Newsletter
June 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 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

A lot is happening, so it is hard to keep up. Some of you have already received the May/June report which was shared with those districts that asked for a report.

Drafts have been received for all books of the New Testament. For many New Testament books technical review is complete. Editors are working on a set schedule with NPH to get the New Testament books reformatted and set up for publication.

Drafts have been completed for 21 Old Testament books, and parts of a large number of additional books, including large parts of Isaiah and Jeremiah. Work is getting started on Job, one of the hardest books. The translator of Job is being helped by two others who have worked on draft translations of Job. There has been some shuffling of assignments. For example, the translator of Job traded his assignment of Joel for Job (talk about an unbalanced trade!). Joel, Lamentations, and Hosea are available for assignment. And though work has begun on these books, parts of Samuel, Chronicles, and Isaiah are also open for more assignments.

We have a lot of popular review opportunities coming up, and a number of OT tech review assignments are on the horizon so if you are ready to begin this for the first time or resume work after being on a break for a while, contact the editors.

We can also use special skills like proofreading and reformatting. We are preparing final editions of NT books, and a number of OT books that were already completed before our agreement with NPH need to be reformatted to NPH specs. We are already getting much appreciated help in these areas, but as more material is moving through the pipeline, we will probably be able to use more.

We have been receiving quite a few nominations for names for our Bible, and we will keep the window open till the end of June. See the appendix at the end of this letter.

We have received enough generous offerings to begin our sabbatical help for editors, and we are anticipating that we will be able to provide some support to the general editor as the position, God willing, becomes a more full-time job. We expect to be able to report on the implementation of these programs by the end of summer.

As always participants are reminded not to let their work for the project interfere with their ministry or family life. Keep us informed when you need either more or less to do. And keep focused on the joy and satisfaction of working together harmoniously on this great opportunity the Lord has given us, whatever your role may be.

PROGRESS CHART

June 12, 2015

Key:
Bold = completed initial draft
Blue = recently completed
*Asterisk = assigned or in progress, draft likely in 2015-2016
<i>Red Italic = not yet assigned</i>

OLD TESTAMENT

Pentateuch	Historical I	Historical II	Poetical	Major Prophets	Minor Prophets
Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy	Joshua * Judges * Ruth <i>1 Samuel</i> <i>2 Samuel</i> * 1 Kings (ch 6-7) * 2 Kings <i>1 Chronicles</i> (ch 1-9, 23-26) <i>2 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 <i>Lamentations</i> Ezekiel Daniel	<i>Hosea</i> <i>Joel</i> * Amos Obadiah * Jonah * Micah Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Haggai * Zechariah Malachi

NEW TESTAMENT

Gospels – Acts	Epistles I	Epistles II & Prophetic
Matthew Mark Luke John Acts Passion History	Romans 1 Corinthians 2 Corinthians Galatians Ephesians Philippians Colossians 1 Thessalonians 2 Thessalonians 1 Timothy 2 Timothy Titus Philemon	Hebrews James 1 Peter 2 Peter 1 John 2 John 3 John Jude Revelation

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) Psalms – Kindle (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.

APPENDIX Bible Naming Contest

Wartburg Project

Bible Naming Contest

The Wartburg Project is inviting suggested names for our Bible translation(s). This may become part of the process of choosing a name for the translation(s). We have two major publications coming up and are considering options for names.

1. We are planning to publish a special promotional edition of the **New Testament and Psalms** in time for the celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation (by October 2017).
2. At a later date, Lord willing, we hope to publish our translation of the entire **Holy Bible**.

If you submit a suggested name, you are granting to *The Wartburg Project* the right to use the name you are submitting. It is possible that there could be one or more winners accepted as nominees. Each winner could receive a free copy of the Bible you helped us name.

Here are the criteria:

1. It clearly needs to be the name of a Bible.
2. It needs to be a name that can be trademarked.
3. It needs to clearly establish a brand name that sets this particular Bible apart in the market.
4. It needs to have good initials, so it doesn'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 sub-title, such as “The Holy Bible: such and such version.” Or, it could be a self-standing name like “The People's Bible.” (Someone already thought of that one.)
7. It would be good for it to carry a meaning that doesn't require too much explanation.
8. The name should work comfortably for a variety of products. For example: The People's Bible, The People's Bible Commentary, The People's Study Bible, The People's Bible Lectionary, The People's Bible Atlas, etc. etc.
9. It should have a personal and grassroots appeal reflecting the nature of our project.
10. It should not be confused with other Bible products.

Submit nominations at our online email.

