

The EHV at its Fifth Anniversary

After a project covering about seven years (the original estimated timetable was fifteen years), the Wartburg Project has completed the first generation of EHV Bibles. The Wartburg Project is a group of WELS and ELS pastors, professors, teachers, and laypeople who have been working together to pass our evangelical heritage from age to age by producing and distributing a new translation of the Bible called the *Evangelical Heritage Version* ® or *EHV* ®.

The EHV is a grass-roots translation. It made extensive use of parish pastors and lay people in the editing and evaluating of the translation. About 100 people were regular contributors to the process of translating, editing, proofreading, evaluating the translation, and suggesting improvements or clarifications. Other jobs included building and maintaining our websites and online library. A group of about ten guided the project. Many other individuals offered suggestions and provided financial help. Every translation was reviewed by at least 10 people. This helped make the EHV user-friendly.

Perhaps the greatest benefit of the project was the once in a lifetime opportunity to work together with like-minded Christians to translate, edit, evaluate, and share a translation of the Word. Though there were of course differences of opinion on many points, the participants worked together harmoniously without strife. For them this fellowship was as a great a blessing as the resulting products.

The basic suite of EHV Bibles is now complete and circulating world-wide. It includes:

- *the basic, hardcover print Bible*, suitable as a pew or classroom Bible, available from Northwestern Publishing House. This Bible is also available in e-versions from Bible Gateway and a number of e-Bible distributors.
- *the print edition of the EHV Study Bible* from Northwestern Publishing House.
- *the electronic version of the EHV Study Bible from the Microsoft Store*. This works very well on classroom whiteboards. This is available both in a version that toggles between American measurements and metric measurements like meters and liters for readers in other countries.
- *the Faith Life / Logos version of the EHV Study Bible* is suitable also for Apple computers, and most phones
- a condensed Bible, *the Story of God's Love*, from Northwestern Publishing House.

The suite is essentially complete though it will never be finished, since there will be updates and improvements. Planned additions are a *free audio Bible* and a *large-print edition* (though the computer Bibles serve this purpose very well.)

Authors, composers, and artists may use up to 1000 verses of the EHV in each of their derived works without permission. The EHV is available for licensing in works that use more than 1000 verses. Permission for use in works like catechisms, commentaries, and evangelism materials that are intended for free distribution is generally granted free of charge. For example the Project recently granted a mission society permission to distribute free copies of the Gospels of John and Luke in Hong Kong and the UK. A Passion History and copies of the lectionaries commonly used in WELS and the LCMS are among the additional works available for free on the site wartburgproject.org.

Grass withers, flowers fade, but the Word of our God endures forever.
Translators come, translations go, but the Word of our God endures forever.



The Wartburg Project

The Evangelical Heritage Version

