The Wartburg Project
April News 2014

Here is the monthly progress report on what's happening.

Progress of Books

Here is the update on books in progress. Blue is update.

Books with completed initial drafts: Leviticus, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Psalms, Proverbs, Song of Songs, Ezekiel, Daniel, Zephaniah; Matthew, Mark, Luke, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, 1, 2 and 3 John.   25

Books in progress: (Test translations already submitted):Exodus II, Judges, Obadiah, John, Acts, Hebrews, 5

Books are assigned and for which initial drafts are expected to be in progress or completed in 2014:, Numbers, Ruth, Ezra, Ecclesiastes, Amos, Jonah, Micah, 1 Corinthians, Colossians, James, 1 and 2 Peter, Jude, Revelation, and others.   14

Books ready for or in Technical Review: Joshua, Psalms, Proverbs, Song of Songs, Ezekiel, Daniel, Zephaniah; Matthew, Mark, Luke, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Philemon, 1, 2 and 3 John (21)

Unassigned: 22 all OT   About 40% of Bible

Phase II: Tech Reviews

As you see, we have almost twenty books in technical review. The first completed technical reviews have come in. Each book will have three technical reviewers, each working independently at first. This stage of the project is as important and challenging as making the initial drafts. Now we will have to start making the hard decisions and harmonizing from book to book.

Because technical reviewers of the same book may be working on quite different schedules, there may be a significant time lapse from when you submit your technical review of a given book or a part of it till the time when all three reviews for that book have been consolidated and discussions are set up on issues which have significant difference of opinion. Initially I (jfb) am going to be collating each review as it comes in. Later we may find it is more efficient to wait till all three reviews of a given book are done and then collate them simultaneously. *Be sure to keep archived copies of all the stages of your reviews until the whole process is done.*

We will, of course, for a considerable time still be in Phase 1: preparing base translations.

Format

There is no one file format that is best for all purposes. Both Amazon and print publishers prefer to receive the files in Word.docx so that will be our base format. It is also a format with which pretty much everyone is familiar. Here are the directions we received from a well-known Lutheran publishing house with input both from their editorial department and from the file management department (don't read too much into this).

> We prefer for the Word document NOT to have a lot of special formatting.
> The less formatting, the better, for the initial process.
> When we receive a manuscript with a lot of special formatting, we usually have to strip it all out before we can proceed with our publication process.
> Most publishers would apply special formatting in their in-house process.
> Each publisher probably would have a quite different special format.
> But that is something best done by the particular publishing house.

So in all future work use minimal formatting. Do not even indent prose paragraphs. Use one return and one blank line after paragraphs.

You should format poetic texts and quotations as you want them to look, but consider how convertible your formatting will be.

You do not have to reformat work you have already done. Since we need different formats for different uses, in addition to translators and reviewers, we may also need formatters converting texts to various formats, but this will be done when the editorial process is done. Let us know if you have feedback, on how to implement the various formats.

Rubrics

Rubrics typically will be updated about once a month. In the attached update, new items since the last edition are highlighted in blue. *There are quite a few additions this month.* As we are entering phase II, now might be a good time for you to review the whole document. Take special note of general principles 8 to 10. *Remember we are trying to maintain the level of the original. If the original is lofty in style or vocabulary, attempt to maintain that level.* We are not always looking for the simplest word or the common word, but for the one that reflects the level of the text. Also remember the model of the first translation of the gospels. If tradition is correct, Matthew wrote in Aramaic. Jesus spoke Aramaic. When the Spirit carried the gospel over into Greek, the Semitic flavor of the speech is still apparent. Jesus does not sound Athenian. The way in which Matthew and the other gospels carry Aramaic to Greek is a model for us in the way we carry Greek and Hebrew into English. Use good, clear English, but don't take away the color and tone of the text.

42. Rubric of the month: Include the verse number in all footnotes, like this:
    [a] 6 This is note[a]. It refers to verse 6.   [b] 11 Note[b] refers to verse 10.

Topic for the Month

The most sensitive issue in Bible translation today is so-called gender neutral or gender accurate language. Brothers are brothers, but when are *adolphoi* "brothers and sisters" or "members of the church" or "members of God's family" or "fellow Christians," or in other cases "relatives"? The sons of Israel are Reuben, Simeon, Levi, etc. but when are the *bnei Israel* "children of Israel" and when are they "people of Israel" or "Israelites"? Review our rubrics on gender language (no. 87-105) and send any general thoughts or specific examples you have to the editors.

Next month's topics will be the language of law (shalls and shoulds and musts) and sexual language, considered on the basis of Ezekiel. Every newsletter we will have a topic for feedback. The next paragraph gives us an introduction to next month's topic.

Contest of the Month

One of Ezekiel's favorite words for idols is *gilul. A gilul* is a round thing that comes out of the east end of a west-bound horse. In a graduate class I took in translating Ezekiel, my professor insisted that the only acceptable translation was "Go worship your horsesh** idols," though he admitted he could not say that in the synagogue any more than I could say it in the Lutheran church. He was openly derisive of Gesenius' suggestion that the idols were called *gilul* because they were round like logs, and he sent me to rabbinic dictionaries which led to the translation "dung-ball deities." The translation "idols" seems to be a cop-out. Is "filthy idols" still a cop-out? The Concordia Commentaries' "fecal deities" hardly catches Ezekiel's tone—too academic. The term is clearly meant to be derisive (more on Ezekiel's shocking language next month). So how would you translate the expression?

Closely related, of course, is what we are going to call the substance itself. If it is "dung," elsewhere, should that be the term here also?

More Reviewers

More reviewers have come on-board, but there are some invitees from whom we have not received a response. If you received an invitation but did not respond, please do so. Since email guardians sometimes trash group messages, we will soon send individual messages to those we have not heard from.

Meet the Brothers

Attached is the fourth edition of Meet the Brothers, which provides profiles of participants in the project. Only one new profile came in this month (below the blue line) but since quite a few new participants have come onboard the whole list is included in the mailing.

This is only a partial list of participants. Submission of a profile is optional. You can still submit a profile is you wish to.

Web Site Update

Work is progressing on our web site. Expect an update with the May news.

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Attachments; Rubrics, Brothers, This letter.