

A photograph of Wartburg Castle in Eisenach, Germany, featuring a prominent stone tower with a cross on top and half-timbered buildings on a hillside.

# The Wartburg Project

## March Report

2017

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 called the *Evangelical Heritage Version*® or *EHV*®.

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## Progress Reports

### TRANSLATION

We have drafts of all OT translations except for two chapters of one book, which we are awaiting from one translator.

### LECTIONARIES

Some congregations are using and evaluating the lessons for the first half of the 2016-2017 church year. They can be downloaded from the *Lectionaries* link on our website (both those lectionaries used in WELS and in the LCMS). Congregations can use them free of charge. Other individuals and groups are testing them in their own private reading. We welcome suggestions for improvements.

Remember that the Old Testament lessons, especially the prophets, have not yet undergone final editing. We can still incorporate changes in them.

We are planning to post readings for Tenebrae and Easter Vigil.

The readings for the second half of the year will be made operative well before the time for their use.

REMINDER: Permission to use the passion history and lectionary lessons includes any congregational use including projection, broadcasts, and posting bulletins and sermons online.

### EDITING

The editing of the poetical books is complete, with a little more proofreading of the Song still coming.

The texts of Isaiah and Jeremiah have been sent out for some final technical and popular reviews. Technical reviews of Ezekiel have all been processed, and the text has been sent for popular review. Finalizing these three books will be our focus over the next couple of months. Lamentations has been sent out for technical review.

Northwestern Publishing House has set-ups ready for about 2/3 of the entire Bible, so we have a steady stream of the printouts for final proofreading.

### 2017 PREVIEW EDITION

The Northwestern Publishing House 2017 preview edition of the New Testament and Psalms is near completion. The paperback preview edition will be available this summer, God willing. Watch for announcements on pre-publication orders and a stream of introductory material.

Thanks to generous support we are in good financial shape for completing the translation, so if you are considering making a donation in the first part of 2017, you might consider using that money to distribute gift copies of the 2017 edition to family and friends.

# Lectionary Discussion

The testing of the lectionaries provides much opportunity for useful discussion. A recent issue that some have noticed is that problems can arise when a section of Scripture is cut out from its context and pasted into its own free-standing context.

One regular occurrence is problems with broken chains of quotation marks. Removing sections from their biblical context may result in the opening or closing quotation marks of a series being left stranded outside the pericope. Our policy in these cases is to adjust the quotation marks to the setting in the lectionary. As a result, the quotation marks in the lesson may not match those in the EHV. Let us know if you notice any needed adjustments that escaped our attention.

Another issue that occasionally occurs is that thought units do not always match up well with the English verse numbers. A thought unit which one translation connects with the words that precede it may be connected with the following words in another translation. When this happens in the last verse of a lesson, the closing words of that verse may no longer fit as the conclusion of the lesson. An illustration of this occurred in a recent lesson ending with Romans 4:17. Here is the EHV text.

<sup>16</sup>For this reason, the promise is by faith, so that it may be according to grace and may be guaranteed to all of Abraham's descendants—not only to the one who is a descendant by law, but also to the one who has the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. <sup>17</sup>As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations."

## *Abraham's Faith Was a Firm Trust in God's Promise*

In the presence of God, Abraham believed him who makes the dead alive and calls non-existing things so that they exist. <sup>18</sup>Hoping beyond what he could ex-

pect, he believed that he would become the father of many nations, just as he was told: "This is how many your descendants will be." <sup>19</sup>He did not weaken in faith, even though he considered his own body as good as dead (because he was about one hundred years old), and even though he considered Sarah's womb to be dead. <sup>20</sup>He did not waver in unbelief with respect to God's promise, but he grew strong in faith, giving glory to God <sup>21</sup>and being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.

This may be one of those relatively rare cases in which it seems that the verse number was not placed in the best spot. The last part of verse 17 is not a full sentence in Greek. It dangles and needs to have something added to make a good English sentence. One solution is to supply something from the preceding context (usually from verse 16) to complete the thought. The other option is to make the final part of verse 17 the start of a new paragraph. The EHV follows the second option. [See David Kuske, *A Commentary on Romans 1-8*, (NPH 2007), p. 225. The Concordia Commentary also breaks the paragraph where EHV does. Also Douglas Moo, *Romans 1-8*, (Moody, 1991), p 284-285, for a list of the options.] Because the EHV connected the last words of verse 17 to the next section, they were not included in the posted lesson.

In a very few cases, it is necessary to move parts of a verse into a neighboring verse to get an English word order that works. In such cases EHV normally provides a footnote about the shift.

Another potential tech glitch might occur when you paste the lesson into another program in order to project it onto a screen. If you don't choose the right paste option, the all-caps version of LORD might lose its small caps and become Lord, even though the text printed LORD in your bulletin.

# Contacts

Recently we received a request for an interview about the EHV from *the Christian Post*, said to be the largest circulation Christian newspaper in the world. On the basis of that interview, they published an article about the EHV that received wide circulation.

We also received mention in the *Patheos* blog, the blog of an online media company which provides information and commentary from various religious and nonreligious perspectives.

Most important, we also received an invitation from *BibleGateway* to place the EHV on their website, a very important website for sharing Bible translations, and we have begun the process for doing so. They prefer texts in the epub format, so if there is a volunteer with experience in making these conversions and the desire to do so, we would be happy to have a volunteer to help with the process.

Also we have begun to receive requests from professors or editors who want to review EHV and we will provide copies for those who wish to do so.



Here is why I am excited about the Evangelical Heritage Version: At the [Christian Standard Bible post](#), I complained about how so many contemporary translations get rid of the Bible's ambiguities and figures of speech in their zeal to explain what the verse "really means." I want what the text *says*. That includes the poetic and stylistic features of the original.

According to these Rubrics, the translators of the Evangelical Heritage Version agree with me! I put the Rubrics that show the translators' literary sensitivity in bold.

*A New Bible Translation from Lutherans*. By Gene Veith. 3/6/2017.  
<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/geneveith/2017/03/a-new-bible-translation-from-lutherans-draft/#more-27362>

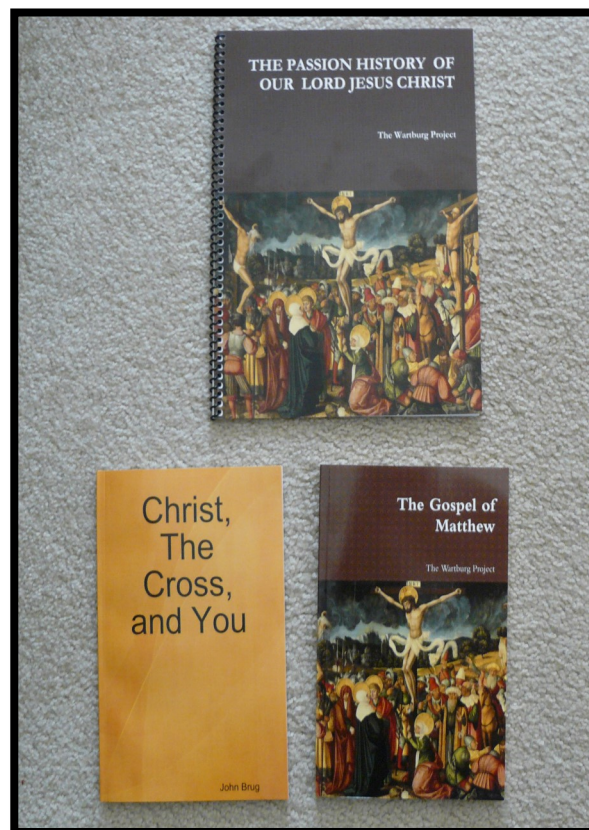
# Derived Works

We have published print editions of three derived works in the Wartburg Bible series:

- 1) A spiral-bound edition of *The Passion History of Our Lord Jesus Christ*. We expect that most congregations will want to print their own weekly readings from the free online files, but this book is available for those who want a bound edition for the lectern.
- 2) *The Gospel of Matthew—The Wartburg Project*. This book is already available in a Kindle version, but this print version is for those who want to distribute copies in evangelism programs.
- 3) An evangelism pamphlet *Christ, the Cross, and You*. This is a pamphlet that summarizes the basics of law and gospel, especially for people who are not familiar with the Bible. It is available in print and electronic versions. A free copy of an electronic sample version is attached to this report. You are permitted to give away free copies of the electronic version, but not to print and sell copies or post it online without permission from the Wartburg Project. This booklet has a blank page on which evangelism groups, including congregations, can print their own contact information. Contact us if you are interested in producing such a version.

You should be able to find any of these books online by searching the titles listed above, but if you have trouble, add the name LULU, the name of the publisher/printer, to the search. Shipping costs make the ordering of both single copies and volume sales not very cost efficient, so if you become interested in larger or personalized orders, contact us about an effective way of doing this. Some items, like the Passion History for example, we will try to make available at conferences, etc.

The final text of Psalms will soon be available for musicians who want to base compositions on the EHV text.



# Logo Contest

We are developing logos for EHV, WP (Wartburg Project, and WB (Wartburg Bible). The WP and WB logos can be the same design. The logos may consist of just the letters or the letters plus some other visual element. If you would like to design and submit a logo for consideration, you may send it to the response form of the website or perhaps it would be better to submit the logos as attachments to [wpbrugj@gmail.com](mailto:wpbrugj@gmail.com).

We have received quite a few submissions and may let you react to some of them next month.

Below is a collection of various logos for popular Bible translations.



**CHRISTIAN  
STANDARD  
BIBLE**  
*Faithful and True*



# Articles for this Month

Articles for this month are distributed separately from the report, available in the email and on the website:

- 1) A 27-page pamphlet collecting four articles about the EHV. Since chapter four is a new item, it is also posted separately. You are encouraged to share the pamphlet with friends who may be interested in learning more about the EHV.
  - a. Why should I try the EHV?
  - b. What were the greatest difficulties encountered in producing the EHV?
  - c. What are some of the features that distinguish the EHV from other translations?
  - d. Getting used to a new Bible translation.
  
- 2) A comparison of Psalm 23 in five translations.

## Coming Studies

1. The issue of sexual language in the Bible has been dealt with in our online course, “Between a Rock and a Hard Place,” which is available in the library resources section of our website. This problem is especially difficult in Ezekiel. In April we will post a more detailed study of the issue so that readers have an opportunity to give input before we finalize Ezekiel in May.
2. An in-depth 40-page technical study of the issue of prophecy in translation, probably coming in May.
3. A comparison of key doctrinal passages on the basis of more than a dozen translations, probably coming in June.

## Website

See our website ([wartburgproject.org](http://wartburgproject.org)) for more information relating to the EHV. See FAQ #15 on the Bible name. A paper explaining our name is posted in the “Library” section.

Sign up on the “Contact” page to receive free e-reports. Like us on Facebook to receive the latest updates posted there. (The purpose of our Facebook posting is not debate, but we’ve been able to share information with many people very quickly that way (sometimes close to 10,000).

We continue to be a “purely positive” effort, avoiding debates and controversy. We are just quietly trying our best to translate the Bible “to spread its light from age to age.” So far, so good! God has richly blessed us. To God be the glory and praise for all of his blessings!

# March 2017

## PROGRESS CHART

Key
✓ Completed for publishing
● Tech review complete
○ Completed initial draft
+ Assigned or in progress
➤ Updated this month

### OLD TESTAMENT

Pentateuch	Historical I	Historical II	Poetical	Major Prophets	Minor Prophets
✓ Genesis	✓ Joshua	✓ Ezra	✓ Job	● Isaiah	○ Hosea
✓ Exodus	✓ Judges	✓ Nehemiah	✓ Psalms	● Jeremiah	○ Joel
✓ Leviticus	✓ Ruth	✓ Esther	✓ Proverbs	○ Lamentations	○ Amos
✓ Numbers	✓ 1 Samuel		✓ Ecclesiastes	● Ezekiel	● Obadiah
✓ Deuteronomy	✓ 2 Samuel		✓ Song of Songs ➤	● Daniel	○ Jonah
	✓ 1 Kings				○ Micah
	✓ 2 Kings				● Nahum
	✓ 1 Chronicles				● Habakkuk
	✓ 2 Chronicles				● Zephaniah
					● Haggai
					+ Zechariah
					● Malachi

### NEW TESTAMENT

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

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.