



The Wartburg Project

July 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*®.

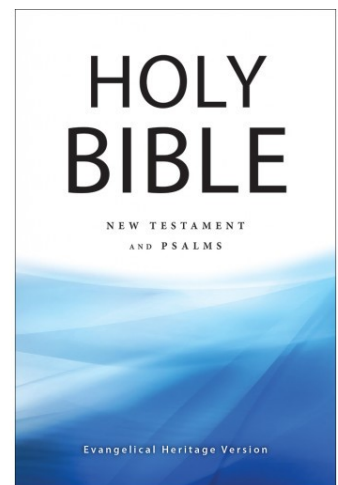
*Grass withers, flowers fade, but the Word of our God endures forever.
Translators come, translations go, but the Word of our God endures forever.*

June and July were busy months in spite of the summer lull. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel have been handed in to the publishing house. The proofreading of the NPH printouts of the Old Testament has reached Esther and will soon be moving on to the poetical books. All of the minor prophets except Zechariah are in some stage of review.

2017 Preview Edition

The 2017 Reformation Anniversary Edition of the EHV New Testament and Psalms has been on sale for about a month now and distribution is going well. In addition to individual orders, a number of volume orders have been made for congregations and other groups, many of them sponsored by donors who are making gifts of the EHV to others. In addition to orders directly from Northwestern Publishing House, the EHV was available at the worship conference and will be available at the synod convention. Kindle and Nook versions are available from Amazon and Barnes and Noble. From the table of contents of these electronic versions, users can jump to any chapter of the New Testament and Psalms. We will soon step up delivery of review copies to various periodicals, schools, and organizations.

We have received the signed contract back from Bible Gateway. How soon the EHV appears on their site depends on how long it takes to move through their pipeline.



The EHV Study Bible

Planning and initial work on the EHV Study Bible is underway, including the gathering of maps and charts. This work will step up later this fall. Our current idea concerning the initial format is for an electronic Bible in landscape format, with the left side of the screen Biblical text and the right side of the screen scrolling notes. Maps and charts will be links to pop-ups. If you have suggestions for software or programming to implement this plan or if you have better ideas, we will be happy to hear them.

Derived Works

The harmony of the Four Gospels is at the publisher.

A pastor is working on a 21st century edition of the Schwan Synodical Conference catechism using the EHV text. This catechism will be field tested this school year and, God willing, available in summer of 2018. This catechism is not produced by the Wartburg Project. We simply grant a license to use the EHV to the author.

If you are working on a project for which you would like to use the EHV, no permission is needed to use up to 1000 verses, unless the selection includes whole books of the Bible. For all other uses, licenses are available on favorable terms.

If you would like to see a product based on the EHV, contact WP if we would be the expected publisher of the product, but if the expected publisher would be a publishing house, or a producer of Bible software, express your interest in the product to the potential producer (for example, to LOGOS). The more market interest there is, the sooner a product appears.

Lectionaries Update

With the completion of the EHV translation coming closer, we will be able to update the Old Testament readings in the lectionaries to their final form. The lectionaries for 2016-2017 will be updated to the latest OT translations for use when they reappear in the cycle. The lectionaries for the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 church years will again be made available to congregations free of charge. The lectionaries produced by WP include all the lectionaries commonly used in WELS and the LCMS. WP is willing to grant permission to use EHV to the producers of other lectionary systems.

Thanks for the Month

Our special thanks for the month go out to the wives and children of our translators and technical reviewers. One of the conditions for participants in the project is having approval from their wives and their church councils, because participants give their time above and beyond their usual ministerial duties and their time with their family. We hope that someday the wives and children of participants will be able to say with the right kind of Christian pride, “That’s the Bible my husband worked on” or “That’s the Bible my dad worked on.” And congregations that gave their permission or even their encouragement to their pastor to work on the project will be happy to say, “This is the Bible our pastor worked on.” Or maybe if they are too modest to say it out loud, they will just quietly enjoy it in their hearts, knowing that through the support they gave their husbands, fathers, and pastors they were a part of the project too.

All of our translators and technical reviewers are professors or pastors. Many of our other popular reviewers and readers are laypeople, men and women, married couples working together, and single people. In giving a special nod of recognition to the wives and children of translators and reviewers, we are not forgetting about all the other contributors who were thanked in last month’s report. We are just, for a moment, shining the spotlight on the otherwise unsung heroes, who might escape the notice of many, but not of the Lord or the men they support.

The Irrelevant but Interesting Department

The general editor of the project, Professor Brug, was randomly selected by the Survey of Doctorate Recipients of the National Science Foundation to participate in a survey of how recipients of scientific doctorates are using their degrees and their satisfaction or lack of satisfaction with their current situation. (Archaeology is classified as a science by the NSF. Theology, I would guess, is not. It is also my guess that the NSF neither knows nor cares anything about WP or EHV. Nevertheless, all the 45 minutes or so of questions were based on Professor Brug's work for the WP between February 2015 and February 2017.) Though it sounds pretty boring, the interview actually provided an interesting opportunity to reflect on what is involved in the work of the project. There were questions like, "How much time do you spend on research, human services, licensing and contracts, supervising, finance, etc., etc.?" "How satisfied are you with various aspects of your work?" And there were the necessary questions about race, health, handicaps, eyesight, hearing, memory loss, etc. And last but not least "Why are you doing this?" To advance your career? No. The salary and benefits? No. And finally, to make a contribution to society? Yes. Those being interviewed can also add Other to the responses. Professor Brug added "Fun." The interviewer said, "That's pretty cool." There will be a follow-up interview in 2019.

The reason this report is actually not totally irrelevant to participants in the project is that it reminds them to occasionally take stock of why they are doing it. We hope their answers would be pretty much the same. "Why are you doing it?" "To make a contribution and for the joy of doing it."

Studies for This Month

Found attached to the email, on the website, or by request.

1. A technical study of gender issues in translation.
2. New and recent FAQs:
 - FAQ 33 The term "communion."
 - FAQ 34 What does it mean to bless God?
 - FAQ 35 The "form of God" in Philippians 2.
 - FAQ 36 The prepositions "through" and "by" used of Jesus as the Creator.

Coming Studies

1. A preview translation of 1 Kings.
2. Those Pesky Prepositions.
3. A Comparison of the EHV and Other Translations.

Website

See our website (wartburgproject.org) for more information relating to the EHV. See FAQ #15 on the Bible name. Sign up on the "Contact" page to receive free e-reports. Like us on Facebook to receive the latest updates posted there.

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!

The address of our financial office is: **The Wartburg Project, 907 Mattes Road, Midland, Michigan 48642.** Send all contributions to this address.