



# The Wartburg Project

## September News 2014

### 1st Anniversary Report

Here is our progress report after the completion of the first year of the Wartburg Project. As the following summary shows we have draft translations for 39 books of the Bible. There are only about 10 books on which work has not yet begun. We are at the point where we can begin to do the necessary coordination between books that have a lot of cross connections and common terms. For example we have an editorial board in place for comparing and coordinating the four gospels. As a result of this work we plan to have a Passion History based on the Wartburg Project Gospels available to pastors for testing during Lent 2015. We soon will be a position to begin this kind of cross check between Exodus through Deuteronomy (with Joshua and Judges hopefully not too far behind). We also will begin harmonizing the translations on special topics, such as the tabernacle, Solomon's temple, and Ezekiel's temple even before those books are complete. As more books are ready for popular review, we hope that everyone who has volunteered will be able to become involved in reviewing.

We have a team of editors, translators, and reviewers in place, who are finding their comfort level in translating and editing and getting a feel for the amount of time that they can devote to the project without interfering with their other duties. We are able to maintain a steady flow of material in the pipeline in spite of the flexibility of scheduling that is necessary because of changes in participants' ministry such as building projects, taking a new call, etc. All participants are reminded to keep your regular ministry and your family as your first priorities and be careful not to let the project interfere with those priorities.

Our priorities for the coming year are to push ahead with the New Testament, having drafts for the whole New Testament by the end of this school year and getting a good start on the review and editing of these books. The technical review for some of the longer, more difficult books of the Old Testament will be more time consuming, but we already have three of the most difficult books (Ezekiel, Proverbs, and Leviticus) under way. This school year may be somewhat of a consolidation year for the Old Testament as we wait for technical reviews to come in, even while the translation of more OT books is underway. We can use more help with Old Testament technical review, so if you have friends and colleagues who might have the aptitude and desire to participate, talk to them about it or pass their names on to us.

We are hopeful that the editorial pace will pick up in the 2015-2016 school year when God willing, we hope to have editors who can devote significantly more time to the project.

## Progress of Books

<b>Key:</b>
<b>Bold = completed initial draft</b>
<b>Blue = recently completed</b>
*Asterisk = assigned or in progress, draft likely in 2014-15
<i>Red Italic = not yet assigned</i>

## OLD TESTAMENT

Pentateuch	Historical I	Historical II	Poetical	Major Prophets	Minor Prophets
<i>Genesis</i> * Exodus I <b>Exodus II</b> <b>Leviticus</b> <b>Numbers</b> <b>Deuteronomy</b>	<b>Joshua</b> * Judges * Ruth <i>1 Samuel</i> <i>2 Samuel</i> <i>1 Kings</i> <b>(ch 6-7)</b> <i>2 Kings</i> <i>1 Chronicles</i> <b>(ch 1-9, 23-26)</b> <i>2 Chronicles</i> <b>(ch 3-4)</b>	<b>Ezra</b> * Nehemiah <i>Esther</i>	<i>Job</i> <b>Psalms</b> <b>Proverbs</b> * Ecclesiastes <b>Song of Songs</b>	* Isaiah <b>(ch 1-12)</b> * Jeremiah <i>Lamentations</i> <b>Ezekiel</b> <b>Daniel</b>	<i>Hosea</i> * Joel * Amos <b>Obadiah</b> * Jonah * Micah <b>Nahum</b> <b>Habakkuk</b> <b>Zephaniah</b> <b>Haggai</b> <i>Zechariah</i> <b>Malachi</b>

## NEW TESTAMENT

Gospels – Acts	Epistles I	Epistles II & Prophetic
<b>Matthew</b> <b>Mark</b> <b>Luke</b> <b>John</b> <b>Acts</b>  <b>Passion History</b>	<b>Romans</b> * 1 Corinthians (2015) <b>2 Corinthians</b> <b>Galatians</b> <b>Ephesians</b> <b>Philippians</b> <b>Colossians</b> <b>1 Thessalonians</b> <b>2 Thessalonians</b>	<b>Hebrews</b> <b>James</b> <b>1 Peter</b> * 2 Peter <b>1 John</b> <b>2 John</b> <b>3 John</b> * Jude * Revelation

	<b>1 Timothy</b> <b>2 Timothy</b> <b>Titus</b> <b>Philemon</b>	
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## Topic of the Month

As we reach the final stages of review for biblical books, in most cases a few passages will emerge for which we do not yet seem to have a translation that hits all of the right notes. Here are a couple of examples from the Song for you to weigh in on.

1<sup>2</sup> Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth.

Yes, your **dodim** are better than wine.

*Dodim* is not an abstract word for love like *ahavah*, but plural, most likely referring to physical expressions of love (Ezk 16:8; 23:17; Prv 7:18). There is general consensus that “love” is too abstract and fails to differentiate from the root *ahav*, but “love making” is perhaps too direct. There is nothing impure about the word, but it is not ethereal either. “Caresses” seems to convey the element of the physical expression of love without being too overt, but is it too narrow? How about “the way you show your love?” Kind of wordy. What do you have that is better?

Here are some other occurrences of *dodim*:

1<sup>4</sup> We rejoice and are happy because of you.

We celebrate **the way you show love** more than wine. **your loving? your display of love? your caresses?**

4<sup>10</sup> How delightful is your **way of showing love**,  
my sister, my bride!

How much better is your **love making** than wine,  
and the fragrance of your perfume than any spice!

Another elusive translation issue:

2<sup>4</sup> He has brought me to the **banquet hall**,  
and his banner over me is love.

The word translated “banquet hall” is literally: “house of wine,” so we need a word that speaks of drinking more than of eating: reception hall? wine cellar? (right idea, wrong place). The Greek *symposium* and *salon* are perfect but not well known in everyday English. “Drinking party” is correct but perhaps too frank or blunt a description of what was going on there. Maybe the literal “house of wine” is as well as we can do. Your solutions?

## Widening Circles

We have begun sharing our Old Testament draft translations with the editors of the Swedish *Folkbibel* to exchange ideas on the meaning of difficult passages. We hope that this sharing with our sister church the LBK will be helpful to both projects.

## Offerings

For some time now people have been asking when they can give financial support to the project. We now have status as a 501 c 3 tax exempt group. We have our own EIN. Our incorporation is in process. We

have a treasurer and a financial secretary. Bank accounts and methods for giving are being set up. More complete information on giving donations will appear in the public section of the web site.

At present our operating expenses are very modest (domain names, web site maintenance, incorporation, etc.). Our editors and translators are working as unpaid volunteers. If we receive sufficient offerings, we may be able to speed up the project by providing relief time for some participants by paying for preaching help, etc.

#### **LAST LETTER**

If you want to receive future updates, register at the link on our website marked by this logo.

[wartburgproject.org](http://wartburgproject.org)



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