



# The Wartburg Project

## February News

2/11/2014

A lot is happening. We have a dozen or so new translators and reviewers coming on board. Some of them were already working on translation projects of their own, which they now are bringing into the Wartburg Project. They have brought with them some translations that are compatible with our rubrics and can be used as our drafts with some revisions. In other cases, they will supply us with more technical reviewers who have already worked on translating the books that will need to be reviewed. We have 13 books of various lengths ready or nearly ready to begin technical review. (See the Progress of Books list.) Assignments will be made soon. A number of other books are expected in late spring. We expect a slowdown of activity during Lent, but an upturn of translation activity in summer, so we need to get a jump-start on technical review.

On the business/financial front we have received our EIN number from the federal government, and we have completed our application for tax exempt status under the umbrella coverage for WELS-affiliated organizations. When that is completely processed, we will begin looking at drafting a constitution and organizing an administrative structure for financial and publishing operations.

We have not yet had a chance to evaluate the various computer programs that have been suggested for the project. We are still receiving suggestions.

If you have not yet given a reply to an invitation to participate in the project, please do so soon. Remember you can decide to participate, but to do so at a later time, not right now. Also you can submit a profile if you have not yet done so.

Attached is an updating of the brief profiles of translators and reviewers. The bios that follow the blue line are new since last time.

### Translation or Revision

We are sometimes asked, “Are you doing a translation or a revision?” That is not an easy question to answer as the following statement adopted from Holman’s book on their translation philosophy indicates.

What is the greatest English Bible translation? If you are part of the majority who would say “the King James,” you would be wrong. Not because the King James was not great, but because it was not a translation. The KJV, strictly speaking, was not a translation but a revision. In fact, it is a revision of a

revision (Bishop's Bible) of a revision (Great Bible) of a revision (Matthew's Bible) of a revision (Coverdale's Bible) of Tyndale's translation. "A great deal of praise, therefore, that is given to KJV belongs to its predecessors. For the idiom and vocabulary, Tyndale deserves the greatest credit; for the melody and harmony, Coverdale; for scholarship and accuracy, the Geneva version." Our Wartburg project is a revision of a revision (WEB) of a revision (ASV) of a revision (KJV) of a revision (Bishop's Bible) of a revision (Great Bible) of a revision (Matthew's Bible) of a revision (Coverdale's Bible) of Tyndale's translation. If Tyndale/Coverdale is counted as one (Tyndale was martyred before he could publish his complete translation), our revision/translation is an eighth generation in the tradition of English Bible translation. Actually, there are a few more generations than that, since the KJV itself was revised considerably between the 1611 edition and the ASV. We own something to every generation of English Bible translation, and they owed a good bit to Luther, who owed a lot to the Vulgate, which owed a lot to the Septuagint. Maybe the Septuagint was the only pure translation ever done, which did not rest on a predecessor.

Watch for the notice for the free distribution of Matthew at the end of February.