



The Wartburg Project

May 22, 2014

“The Wartburg Project” is a group of pastors and professors within our fellowship who are working together to produce a new translation of the Bible.

The Plan

Dr. John Brug is serving as the general editor and Old Testament editor and Pastor Brian Keller is serving as the New Testament editor. So far, we have twelve translators working on producing drafts of the Old Testament, and fourteen translators producing drafts of the New Testament. We are blessed with roughly double that number of technical reviewers, who review and examine the text for accuracy on the basis of the original Hebrew and Greek. **One example is Professor-emeritus David Kuske**, who is helping us determine the best N.T. manuscript evidence and serving as a translator/technical reviewer. We are pleased to be working with around 90 participants and counting. They come from the ELS and all 12 districts of the WELS.

The Process

The product to be produced by the Wartburg Project could best be called a translation/revision. Although our translation will be based on the Hebrew and Greek texts, templates are being used as a starting point in the translation process. This will build on the tradition of English and Lutheran Bible translation. The primary resources, of course, are the original Hebrew and Greek texts. We are standing on the shoulders of giants, making use of the World English Bible (WEB), which is a descendant of the King James Version (KJV) and the American Standard Version (ASV). We are also grateful to **CPH and NPH** for making their Lutheran translations available to us, including:

- The Concordia Translation (CPH *Concordia Commentaries*: Old Testament)
- Dr. Siegbert Becker’s translation of Revelation (NPH Commentary)
- Prof. J. P. Meyer’s translation of 2 Corinthians (NPH Commentary)
- Prof. David Kuske’s work on Romans, 1 & 2 Peter, and Jude (NPH commentaries)

Progress Already

Books with completed initial drafts: **Exodus II**, Leviticus, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Psalms, Proverbs, Song of Songs, Ezekiel, Daniel, **Obadiah**, Zephaniah, **Haggai**|| Matthew, Mark, Luke, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, 1, 2 and 3 John.
(27 ½ books so far)

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. (Still Unassigned: 18 ½ books – all OT; All NT books assigned)

Sample books published: Matthew, Psalms – both available on amazon.com on the Kindle format. These are not “final” versions. E.g., Matthew has been revised, based on the input received.

Parasynodical

We are a 501(c)(3) [parasynodical] organization in fellowship with ELS and WELS, with our own EIN#. We have not requested support, but have received numerous generous offers from individuals and groups who would like to donate to support this project. Directions on how to give will soon appear on our new website. <http://wartburgproject.org> It is possible that sufficient donations could speed up the process of producing a translation. We thank all who have offered prayers for this project and its participants.

Purely Positive

The Wartburg Project is a purely positive effort. The Wartburg Project is not about being against something, but for something. We are for working together to produce a Bible that communicates the gospel clearly to today's people. Our approach is to work quietly and harmoniously toward this goal without being distracted by other side issues. **We do not wish to debate whether or not this should be done.** We do not seek to persuade anyone that this is the right way to go or that this will be the best translation. We are simply serving as confessional Lutherans to produce a Bible for anyone who might use it. We think this will be a blessing for Christ's church. **We do not seek resolutions of support that might possibly invite resolutions of opposition elsewhere.** Let's not open old or new debates. Let's just focus on translating God's Word. Let's stay purely positive in this direction. Let's just work together to produce a Bible translation for people who may want to use it.

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<http://wartburgproject.org>