



Wartburg Project Annual Report < 2020/2021 >

The annual meeting for the Wartburg Project and the Evangelical Heritage Version was held in late January 2021. The meeting looked back over the activities of 2020 and ahead to plans and hopes for 2021. At the Wartburg Project we are thankful for these blessings in 2020:

- The *print edition of the basic EHV Bible*, which appeared in July of 2019 is now in its fourth printing. Print or electronic copies may be purchased from Northwestern Publishing House. A *deluxe, leather gift edition* of the Bible is also available.
- The first edition of *the EHV Study Bible*, namely, the regular, non-metric version, has been available for a year now from the Microsoft Store. Many high schools and college religion departments have received promotional copies. This electronic study Bible displays the biblical text on the left half of the computer screen and scrolling pictures, maps, charts, and notes on the right half of the computer screen.
- The *metric version of the EHV study Bible*, which uses meters and liters instead of American measurements and is intended to be used around the world, is now available from the Microsoft Store. The metric text of the EHV has been entered into the Digital Bible Library (DBL) of the United Bible Societies for free use by translators of non-English Bibles from around the world. For this purpose, the Wartburg Project has been accepted by the United Bible Societies as intellectual property providers for the DBL. The metric EHV is available for commercial and non-commercial licensing to publishers in other countries. WELS Multi-Language Productions has received permission to include the metric EHV in a virtual reality program of the land of Israel that it is developing.
- *The LOGOS computer version of the EHV study Bible* is a notes-only module that links with the LOGOS EHV text module published by Northwestern Publishing House. It can be linked with other Faithlife resources in the LOGOS Bible software system. It is available in both the metric and non-metric versions. Faithlife plans to give the metric version for free to owners of the regular version. The LOGOS software is part of an extensive system of Bible resources, but the EHV modules can be used by themselves on Apple and Android phones with a free LOGOS phone app. The EHV text and the EHV study Bible modules must be purchased separately from LOGOS/Faithlife. The text is an NPH product; the study notes are a Wartburg Project product..

- An EHV version of the WELS Catechism is now available from Northwestern Publishing House. An EHV version of the ELS catechism is also available.

Coming attractions for 2021:

- The Wartburg Project has finished its work for the preparation of *the NPH print edition of the EHV Study Bible*, and the manuscript is in the hands of NPH for publication. We hope it will be available for the 2021-2022 school year.
- *The Story of God's Love*, a “condensed Bible” that provides a summary of the whole Bible, using only the words of the biblical text has been prepared. It will be suitable as a textbook for Bible survey classes for upper grades and high school, for general reading, and for distribution for outreach and to institutional ministries. It is now in the editorial and prepublication process at NPH. We hope it will be ready for the 2021-2022 school year.

More detailed information for ordering these works is available on the opening page of the Wartburg Project website and in the attachments accompanying this news letter.

Other News

The Covid crisis has not had any significant effect on our ability to carry on our Wartburg Project production work since this work is done electronically from home.

We believe Covid restrictions contributed to slower sales of the print Bible for fall 2020, since churches and schools may not have been buying new pew or desk Bibles because of attendance restrictions. We hope this ordering will return to normal for the 2021-2022 school year.

A related issue is how many EHV users are content to use free online sources of the EHV like Bible Gateway without buying their own Bible text. We hope all users realize that such resources intended for quick look-up of passages is not a substitute for your own copy of the full biblical text and notes, whether the reader prefers a print or electronic Bible.

Incidentally, Bible Gateway has included the EHV in its chart of Bibles. This chart includes only a few of the many Bibles that appear on the Bible Gateway site. They rated us right where we want to be rated on their scale, in the middle but a bit toward the more literal end of the spectrum.

BIBLE TRANSLATIONS

TWO APPROACHES

Two main philosophies behind translating the Bible range on a continuum between:

▶ WORD-FOR-WORD

Adhering to the words and structure of the original language without sacrificing clarity.

▶ THOUGHT-FOR-THOUGHT

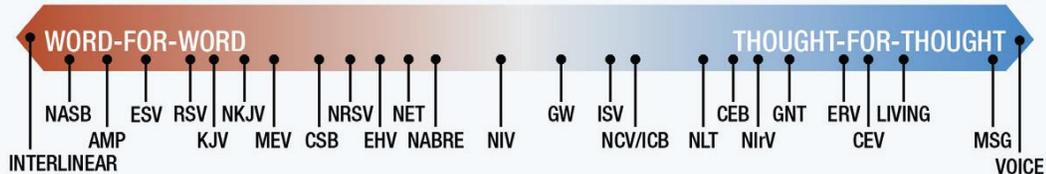
Prioritizing clarity and understanding of the meaning of the original language without sacrificing accuracy.

The Bible was originally written in: **HEBREW, ARAMAIC, and GREEK.**

Freely read the Bible on Bible Gateway in more than 200 versions and more than 70 languages including:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Amplified Bible | The Message |
| Christian Standard Bible | Modern English Version |
| Common English Bible | New American Bible (Revised Edition) |
| Contemporary English Version | New American Standard Bible |
| Easy-to-Read Version | New Century Version |
| Evangelical Heritage Version | New English Translation |
| English Standard Version | New International Reader's Version |
| God's Word | New International Version |
| Good News Translation | New King James Version |
| International Children's Bible | New Living Translation |
| International Standard Version | New Revised Standard Version |
| King James Version | Revised Standard Version |
| The Living Bible | The Voice |

Bible translations represented in this spectrum by their abbreviations are available for reading on Bible Gateway



As Covid recedes, we hope to return to the pre-Covid level of *presentations to congregations and conferences*. A 15-page handout for a three-hour presentation or for electronic distribution to groups is available. It is attached to this mailing. You are encouraged to share it.

WP “Book Store”

Our current “book store” list of products is attached to this mailing. Our “book store” does not sell products, but provides listings and links for obtaining the Bibles, e-bibles, study Bibles, catechisms, the Harmony of the Gospels, the Passion History, and other derived works.

Academia and DBL

To some degree our current publicity has been focused on trying to get our international versions launched. We are using two main channels for doing this besides our regular website and Facebook efforts.

One outlet is *Academia*, a site to which academics go to publish and promote their works and to find postings on topics of interest to them. The main way users access the site is by searching for a topic they are interested in. Someone who searches for “Bible translations,” for example, would be directed to articles about the EHV. The primary interest that draws users to our *Academia* site is a search for academic topics that we have posted, but they will also see references to our EHV editions. Our academic postings are the magnets that draw people to the site, that will hopefully then lead them to take a look at the EHV. We have received hits from

about 50 countries around the world. We also receive views from *country unknown*. These are from countries which are not open to unhindered use of the internet for certain topics. This method is designed to protect readers from those countries in which contact with us could put them at risk.

A *view* is not the same as a *read*. Some viewers simply look at the topic and move on; some read part of the paper; some read all of it, a few download it. Nevertheless, our posting is drawing attention to the EHV in academic circles around the world.

Our second outlet is the *Digital Bible Library* of the United Bible Societies, headquartered in the UK. We work through the Miami office. The text of our metric study Bible has been entered into the DBL in a type of formatting that can be used by publishers. The formatting is called USFM (United Standard Format Markers) and was entered with the Paratext program.

Library card holders of the DBL (Bible societies and publishers) can make free use of our metric translation to help them in their own non-English translations. They can request a license to make free, non-commercial use of our translation in a manner similar to Bible Gateway. They can also obtain licenses to make commercial use of the metric EHV in digital and print formats.

At present both these operations are “sowing the seed broadly,” but we hope that with time some of them will lead to some useful outlets for the EHV.

We will continue to seek appearances on broadcasts and pods. One ten-page article about the EHV has appeared in the journal of the International Society of Bible Collectors, and another article will appear in next year’s edition. The first article was about the EHV in general. Another article titled “Measurements: Ancient, American, or Metric?” will appear in this year’s volume and will draw attention to our metric version.

Permissions

Authors and publishers can use up to 1000 verses of the EHV in a work without permission. Publishing the whole Bible or entire books of the Bible requires permission. We freely give permission for musical compositions, greeting cards, artworks, devotions, and similar works. We generally give free permission for works like catechisms, commentaries, etc, because the product being sold is really the catechism or the comments which the author has created, not the EHV text. (Next year NPH will publish a commentary on Mark by Daniel Deutschlander using the EHV.) If a church body asked to use the EHV as the text of their lectionary, we would give them permission since it would encourage wider use of the EHV in that body. An Anglican group in the UK, for example, uses the EHV in their Bible reading lists.

Security

We are aware of two types of misappropriation (piracy) of the EHV. The nastier type intercepts searches for *Wartburg Project* or *EHV* and redirects the searcher to their drug ads. This type we have to undo. We hope better security will prevent this, but no security is absolute so we have to keep our eyes open for these things. If you run into such a problem, please notify us.

The second, seemingly less harmful, misappropriation of EHV, is apps in Google Play. The creators seem to be taking the free use of the EHV from Bible Gateway and putting it into their app. They give away the app for free, but they hope to make money from the ads on their site. This type is hard to stop, but does not seem to hurt us directly since they are taking what is already free and offering it on their site.

Audio Bible

We have received a lot of requests for an EHV audio Bible. We are exploring this, but no active program is in place for production. We are still considering whether we should produce a program that would be sold or we should encourage groups to produce free online readings.

Conclusion

2020 was a year in which we largely completed the production phase of our major EHV products. In 2021 we will be beginning the transition to the maintenance phase of our project which will focus on improving and broadcasting our products and encouraging and helping the producers of supplemental products which use the EHV. We thank our gracious God for all the blessings he has showered upon us during this process, and we thank everyone who has made the project possible by their participation, support, and prayers.



Attachments to this mailing:

Our Book Store Listings

Detailed Description of the Microsoft EHV Study Bible

Notes for an EHV Seminar Presentation