



GOOD NEWSletter

Proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout Europe

July 2017

THE BEST BIBLE TRANSLATION

As I prepare for my sermon each week, one of the things I often do is to look up the portion of Scripture I am studying in a number of different translations as well as the original Hebrew and Greek. Probably the most popular translation of the modern era is the King James Version or KJV. That's the version I grew up with. It is the version from which I memorized passages in Sunday School and confirmation. While I now use several different translations, I still favor the KJV when it comes to some of my favorite passages. The account of our Lord's birth as recorded in the gospel of Luke; the familiar, beautiful, and comforting words of Psalm 23; the struggle against sin that Paul describes in Romans seven; and the glorious promises laid out in Romans eight.

I am sure you're aware that there are an abundance of Bible translations available today. Some are better than others; some more faithful to the original Hebrew or Greek, some easier to read, some more difficult. I tend to think most people favor the translation they grew up with and learned as a child.

It reminds me of a story about four clergymen who were discussing the relative merits of the various translations of the Bible. One older pastor spoke nostalgically about his love for the King James Version. It was the Bible translation he knew best and was most comfortable with. Another expressed his preference for the Revised Standard Version. He thought it was more literal and came closest to the original Hebrew and Greek. The third had a strong preference for the New International Version because, as he put it, "It speaks the language of our day."

The fourth pastor remained silent through much of the conversation until asked to express his opinion. He surprised his colleagues with the simple statement, "I like my mother's translation best!"

He made a good point. It's possible for scholars to translate the original languages of the Bible into our modern idiom, but it takes a simple heart of faith captured by the power of the Holy Spirit through the Word to translate the Bible into humble, God-fearing and people-serving actions. People need to hear about the Savior from our lips but they also need to see him in our lives, in the way we live.

This pastor's mother had translated the Scriptures into something which even a little child could read and understand. Her love, her patience, her gentleness, her spirit of joy and forgiveness through Christ were translations of the Word as she put them into practice in her daily life. They were readily understood by others and had an impact on their lives.

So, each of us is a translator of the Bible. As we take what we have learned and put it into practice, people "read and learn" about what it means to be a Christian. They may be a neighbor, a family member, a co-worker, or the person we meet at the supermarket.

Our Savior has in fact called us as his witnesses - to be translators of his message. He says, "So let your light shine before people that they may see the good you do and praise your Father in heaven". KJV Matthew 5:16: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

July Worship Schedule

Northwood, England -

contact Pastor Stuppy for location details

July 2

Worship at 13:00 followed by Bible study, Sunday School, fellowship and potluck dinner.

Wicker, Germany (Frankfurt Area) -

contact Pastor Stuppy for location details

July 9 and July 23

Worship is at 11:00 followed by fellowship, Bible study, and Sunday school.

Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany -
at the Southside Chapel

July 9 and July 23

Worship is at 16:00 followed by Bible study, Sunday school, and fellowship.

Munich, Germany -

contact Pastor Stuppy for location details

July 20

Worship is at 18:30.

Vilseck, Germany -

contact Pastor Stuppy for location details

July 15

Worship is at 11:00.

Zurich (Switzerland Area) -

contact Pastor Stuppy for location details

July 16

Worship is at 11:00 followed by fellowship, Bible study and Sunday School.

Pastor Horn's Visit

Pastor Horn, chairman of the Military Service Committee of the WELS, visit came to an end on June 27th . He and his wife Becky were able to visit five of the locations where we worship and meet many of our members. He's going back to the board with a much better feel for the work being done here. His trip was also very productive.

Fall Retreat – Nurnburg

Many hours have gone in to searching for a site for this October. With the 500th anni-

versary of the Reformation, prices are high and things in Luther Land hard to get. We've ended up back in Nurnburg and back on the last weekend of October. Oct 27-29. Friday night through Sunday morning. We have two meetings rooms but they're smaller than what we had in Rothenburg ODT.

Offerings

As of June 30, 2017 the balance in the church account is €40.661,49. During July we received direct offering equivalent to \$1,039.39. We also received gifts of €1.226,34 in direct bank deposits. We thank the Lord for moving the hearts of his people to make these generous gifts in support of this ministry.

Things to Know – Synod Web Sites

Military Devotions – by Rev. P. Ziemer

<https://wels.net/serving-you/devotions/military-devotions/>

WELS Church Locator

Use when on vacation, business trips, relocation.

<http://welslocator.locatorsearch.com/>

Online Referral – Special Ministries

Special Ministries can supply devotions and other spiritual help and teaching tools to members of the military, prison inmates, special needs individuals. Click on the link below to submit an online referral for someone who can benefit from Special Ministries' materials.

<https://wels.net/serving-you/christian-life/special-ministries/online-referral/>

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