

November 2, 2009

## **Report to General Synod 2010**

### **A. Mandate**

The last General Synod, Smithers 2007 appointed the following brothers to the committee:

P. Aasman (2016), M. Jagt (2013), M. Van Luik (convener) (2013). (Acts, Art. 159.7)

It gave the CBT the following mandate:

4.4.1 To receive comments from the churches/members about passages in the NIV which are thought to need improvement.

4.4.2 To evaluate these comments and pass on valid concerns to the NIV Translation Center.

4.4.3 To monitor developments in case significant changes appear in the text of the NIV.

4.4.4 To take up contact with the IBS to confirm that the IBS still stands behind its press release of May 27, 1997.

4.4.5 To request the Liturgical Forms and Confessions Committee to initiate discussions with the URCNA in regard to promoting an agreed upon English translation for use in the liturgical forms and confessions of an eventual common songbook and to be available to assist the Liturgical Forms and Confessions Committee in this regard.

4.4.6 To receive input from the churches regarding Bible translations which the churches through their own careful study have found to be worthy of recommendation for use among the churches.

4.4.7 To serve the next general synod with a report to be sent to the churches at least six months prior to the next synod. (Acts, Art 134 4.4.)

### **B. Activity**

General Synod 2007 appointed Rev. P. Aasman to the committee to facilitate in-person meetings. However, Rev. M. Jagt left shortly for Taber, Alberta. The committee corresponded via email and telephone.

1. The committee thought it helpful to inform the churches of its mandate re 4.4.1 and 4.4.6.

Two churches responded:

A letter was received from the Canadian Reformed Church of Chilliwack. They are “happy with the NIV” and “don’t feel the need for a new translation.”

A letter was also received from the Canadian Reformed Church of Elora. They inform us that in the year 2000 they adopted the NKJV for use in the worship services. They appended a report made to

the local consistory. As the NKJV is on the list of translations recommended to the churches, we received this report for information.

2. A letter was received from Rev. John Van Popta regarding the translation of Matthew 12:44. The NIV appears to omit the possessive personal pronoun *mou* (my) – “I will return to *my* house.” The committee examined this text and found that the NIV translation, while it may not be preferred, is still defensible. (See Zerwick, *Biblical Greek*, sec. 204ff. )

3. As mandated, the committee sent a letter to IBS regarding the text of the NIV to confirm if IBS still stood behind its press release of May 27, 1997. At that time, IBS responded “the text will remain the same now and forever.” (January 16, 2008.) More on this to follow.

4. We requested the Liturgical Forms and Confessions Committee to initiate discussions with the URCNA regarding a common English translation for our liturgical forms and future common song book and expressed our willingness to assist. Our help was not requested.

5. We were mandated to monitor the state of the NIV.

On September 1, 2009, Biblica (formerly IBS-STL Global) announced its plans for a new NIV, to be released in 2011. See [www.nivbible2011.com](http://www.nivbible2011.com) The official press release cites continuing changes of the English language as the primary motivation, although it also mentions the contributions of biblical scholarship. It also appears that the 1984 text of the NIV, currently used within the churches, will no longer be published. The website states “Beginning in 2011, no new products will be developed based on either the 1984 version of the NIV or the TNIV. All new NIV-related products will be based solely on the 2011 update of the NIV.”

They also expressed openness to receive input from both external scholars and regular Bible readers. These were to be received, however, before the end of the calendar year 2009.

Your committee reminded the NIV CBT of past submissions regarding concerns with the NIV, including the matter of gender inclusiveness.

It also notified the churches of these developments. Due to time constraints, it advised churches and members to correspond directly with the NIV CBT.

### **C. Recommendations**

Your committee recommends the following:

1. to reappoint the members of the committee
2. to continue to monitor the NIV. This would include an evaluation of the new NIV when released in 2011.
3. To serve the next general synod with a report to be sent to the churches at least six months prior to the next synod.

Yours in the service of the LORD,

P. Aasman, M. Jagt, M. Van Luik