

# Committee on Bible Translations

## Report to Synod Chatham 2004

### Introduction

General Synod Neerlandia 2001 gave our Committee the mandate to:

1. To receive comments from churches and/or members about passages in the NIV in need of improvements;
2. To scrutinize these comments, and pass on valid concerns to the NIV Translation Center;
3. To monitor developments in case significant changes appear in the text of the NIV;
4. To monitor developments in the field of Bible translation;
5. To serve the next General Synod with a report to be sent to the churches at least six months prior to the beginning of Synod.

In the two and half years that the committee had to fulfill its mandate, it met three times.

### 2. Comments from churches and/or members

We received no comments from the churches and/or members about passages in the NIV in need of improvement.

### 3. Monitoring Developments in the Text of the NIV

3.1 Letters were received from several members with concerns about the Today's New International Version (TNIV) and what impact that translation would have upon the future availability of the NIV. The question was raised, "If the TNIV became popular would that eventually phase out the NIV?" We brought that question to the attention of the NIV Translation Center. A summary response was published in Clarion LI, no.14 (July 5, 2002): "Many have been wondering whether the publication of the NIV will be phased out of the market should the TNIV become popular. The Committee on Bible Translation has corresponded on this point with Dr. J. Stek, chairman of the NIV Committee on Bible Translation. He assured us that both US publishers (Zondervan and the International Bible Society) do not plan to phase out the NIV as long as there is any public demand for it." The same News Report was emailed to ministers@canrc.org with the request that it be published in the church bulletins.

3.2. In the Report of the Committee on Bible Translation to Synod Neerlandia 2001 it was noted that a response had not been received to the correspondence sent to Mr. S. Johnson, Director of Communication for the International Bible Society. He was asked two things: a. whether the inclusive-language NIV was still being published by Hodder and Stoughton Publishing House, and b.

whether a non-inclusive language NIV text with Canadian (or British) spelling had been published. We were given an affirmative answer to both of those inquiries. The NIV text with British spelling, however, is not published by Zondervan. The U.K.edition would have to be mail/phone-ordered directly from Hodder.

#### **4. Monitoring Developments in the Field of Bible Translation**

- 4.1 The committee received letters from a consistory and a member encouraging us to investigate the English Standard Version (ESV). The committee felt that an "investigation" of the pros and cons of this new translation, or even a comparison with the NIV, would go beyond our mandate to "monitor" developments in the field of Bible Translation

#### **5. Recommendations**

The committee recommends to Synod Chatham 2004 that synod

- 4.1 reappoint a CBT with the same mandate as given by synod 2001
- 4.2 appoint a replacement for Rev. J. Louwerse whose term is over

Respectfully submitted by your committee,

Rev. J. Louwerse

Rev. J. Ludwig

Rev. G. Nederveen