

Committee On Bible Translations
appointed by Synod 1983 Acts 115

Rec. Apr. 14/86

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Letter to General Synod of
the Canadian Reformed
Churches 1986,
April 14, 86

Esteemed Brothers in our Lord Jesus Christ; Greetings.

The Committee on Bible Translations is sending a letter instead of a report. From the start the Committee had difficulty getting to work.

To begin with, Synod 1983 failed to notify the convener, Rev. J. Van Rietschoten of his appointment to the Committee and of his task as convener. This finally became known when the Acts were received by the churches.

Secondly, Synod 1983 failed to give the Committee a continued or otherwise a new mandate. The Committee took it that the previous mandate had been continued. Communicating by telephone it was found that we could yet make recommendations to the Standard Bible Committee on the revision of the translation of the Old Testament.

Thirdly, once the convener contacted the other committee members the other members were found too busy to meet in person. Via telephone conversations it was decided to work by means of written correspondence.

Fourthly, The Rev. J. De Jong, having submitted some written material which called for thorough discussion, left for the Netherlands. The Rev. P. Kingma was unable to contribute because of other pressing work. The Rev. Prof. C. Van Dam likewise was unable to submit contributions for similar reasons. Prof. Van Dam did evaluate in writing the submission of Rev. J. De Jong and the submission of Rev. J. Van Rietschoten. His evaluation was appreciated but showed need for personal meetings which was impossible. Whatever work was done was not finalized since the convener hesitated to work on his own.

This letter is submitted to you by the convener to inform Synod of what almost was done and yet was not done. My personal observation is that the work of submitting recommendations to the Standard Bible Committee is time consuming, painstaking work, which only can be done if we find, or give, the time needed for personal study and research sessions at a place where the Committee has the necessary research material at hand. It is understandable that brothers who already have many tasks in the churches simply do not have this needed time available.

Humbly submitted,

J. Van Rietschoten, VDM

