

sionally he may be able to write a full-scale article in analysis of the area. More often his finding can be mimeographed and sent to interested parties. In any case, however, the information must be shared. It is too valuable to lose.

“It Ought to Make Sense”

“And God walked in the garden in the wind of the day.” Of course, this sentence doesn’t make much sense in Arabic, not unless one interprets the sentence in a manner quite contrary to the intent of the Hebrew. But despite the fact that people either could not understand or could only misunderstand, the text remained for decades. Of course, the Hebrew expression, of which the Arabic is a literal rendering, does make sense, for in Hebrew ‘the wind of the day’ is ‘the cool of the day’, that period after sundown when the evening breezes refresh the land. The King James translators avoided the mistake of literalism at this point, but did not help the average reader very much with a rendering such as “gird up the loins of your mind.”

“Armored Tanks” or “Creeping Things”

When the Arabic Bible was being translated some years ago, the translators had to form a word to describe “creeping things” (Genesis 1:21). They employed a regular pattern of derivation and ended up with *dabbabah*. However, times have changed and other people formed derivatives from the same root, but for quite different objects. Accordingly, if you ask the average Arabic-speaking person on the streets of Cairo, Amman, Damascus, or Beirut for the meaning of *dabbabah*, without hesitation the reply will be, “armored tanks, of course.” As life changes, so does language—and now the Arabic Bible must be revised, even as scores of others are in process of the same transformations to bring them up to time.