THE BIBLE TRANSLATOR

A QUARTERLY PUBLISHED BY THE UNITED BIBLE SOCIETIES

Editor
John J. Kijne

Assistant Editor
David H. Wallington

Editorial Board
Wilfred J. Bradnock
Fidel P. Galang
Age Holter
Eugene A. Nida

VOL. 11, No. 1, JANUARY 1960

Editorial

This issue of *The Bible Translator* marks in more than one respect a new stage in its career. Firstly, it begins its eleventh year, which means that ten complete volumes of this quarterly have now appeared; undertaken as a rather hazardous experiment, the journal has proved, through the grace of God, to be a real help to Bible translators throughout the world, as many of them have testified in their letters to us.

Secondly, a new editor now takes over. This is in itself nothing unusual since there have already been two changes in the editorship: in 1953 the Rev. W. J. Bradnock took over from Dr. E. A. Nida, who in turn resumed the task in 1957. There is, however, a difference: up till now the chief editorship has always been in the hands of one whose mother tongue was English; now the translations secretary of the Netherlands Bible Society has the main responsibility. This has its good side, since it demonstrates that *The Bible Translator* is not the hobby of one or two societies but the common responsibility of the United Bible Societies—as is also evidenced by the presence of Dr. Age Holter of the Norwegian Bible Society on the Editorial Board. On the other hand there are obvious drawbacks, so that the editor counts himself happy not only to have Mr. David H. Wallington as his English assistant, but also to be able to depend on the continued help of the other members of the Editorial Board in obtaining articles.

However, even that is not enough. *The Bible Translator* is not the organ of the Editorial Board, but of its readers. In the introduction to the first number ever issued, we read:

> "The success of this quarterly will depend very largely upon the response of translators as they contribute articles and submit to the editors their questions and comments about various problems."

On this score matters could be improved. Many translators have indeed submitted articles, mostly at the request of one of the editors, and we are very grateful for their cooperation. Still we are convinced that there are many others who could make a valuable contribution but who have not yet put pen to paper. To such we would make an earnest appeal to write something, if only for the sake of colleagues who may be wrestling with the same sort of problem as that which you have already overcome.

To cite another earlier editorial:

> "The strength of this journal is directly proportionate to the efforts made by those who are translating and revising the Scriptures to share with others their successes and failures, their problems and solutions."

They do not always need to be long articles; the editor also needs short pieces of varying length to serve as 'fillers'. These are eminently suitable for passing on some particular experience, perhaps one of the 'failures' referred to above, often not lacking in humour, from which others can sometimes learn more than from 'successes'. One thing, however, please do not be discouraged if your contribution takes a long time to appear. Obviously the planning and production of an international quarterly of this kind takes much time, and for six months or a year to elapse between acceptance and publication must be regarded as normal. Or again, there may be many who, instead of themselves writing an article would like to see a particular subject handled. We would greatly value such suggestions, although we cannot always guarantee, of course, that such an article will appear.

The new editor will not take up his task without expressing his, and we are sure, your appreciation for the way Dr. E. A. Nida and Dr. W. A. Smalley have guided *The Bible Translator* during the last three years. We are honoured to be their successor, but it will be no easy task to maintain the high standard that they and Rev. Bradnock have set. There are also some changes in the Editorial Board. Dr. J. L. Swellengrebel, who has been the one field translator on the Board since 1953, has now withdrawn from it as he returned to the homeland in 1959. The Editorial Board express their thanks to him for all that he has done for *The Bible Translator* and are happy to know that through his close connections with the new editor he will continue to render valuable assistance, albeit in the background. In his place we are very glad to welcome Dr. Fidel Galang of the Philippines. He was the basic translator in the Pampango N. T. Revision and is now Associate Translations Consultant of the Philippine Bible House. We are certain that his own experience as a Bible translator and his contact with many translation projects in the Philippines will stamp him as a valuable member of the Board.

The Bible Translator is in the very first place the organ of and for Bible translators, although there are many others who receive it, and the U.B.S. is happy to grant it to them free. However, as the cost is of course high we seek to avoid the wastage of copies being sent where they are not used. For this reason we have sent all individuals who receive a free copy direct from Amsterdam an airmail letter, in which they are asked to inform the Business Manager if they wish to continue receiving the journal, and it is stated, in case they would like to make some contribution to the costs, that such should be sent to the appropriate Bible Society as indicated on the back cover of each issue, clearly marked *Gift for The Bible Translator.* (We would here like to record our gratitude to all those who have already responded so generously; it is unfortunately impossible for us to do this individually.) Finally they were asked if they would like a copy of the *Ten Year Index* which is now in preparation. Many have already replied and we hope the rest will do so shortly.

However, should there be someone in this category who for some reason has not received such a letter, we would request him to inform us as speedily as possible if he still wishes to receive the journal, and if so whether he wants a copy of the *Ten Year Index*, otherwise he is in great danger of having his name removed from the list. Those who receive the journal via another channel are advised to inform the Bible Society, Mission or Linguistic Institute concerned if they want a copy of the *Index*.

More than 3000 copies of *The Bible Translator* are sent to free recipients including many theological colleges and libraries; not all the rest are translators, but a very large number are. Many work in languages in which no portion of the Bible has ever been published. It appears that there is sometimes uncertainty which Bible Society should be approached in such cases, either with regard to a completed translation, or at an earlier stage. In this connection we would refer translators to the important statement which follows this editorial. Moreover the Bible Societies wish to intensify their efforts to aid those who have dedicated themselves to the translation of the Scriptures. In seeking new means to this end, the U.B.S. Sub-Committee on Translation hopes to have found one in making 'Helps for Translators' available on so great a scale possible. These are partly publications provided by individual Societies and partly the result of their combined efforts. From now on you will find on the last page of each issue of *The Bible Translator* a list of such 'Helps' which are, or will shortly be published. Details are also given as to how translators may obtain such materials.

Thus *The Bible Translator* enters on its second decade. God has graciously blessed both you and us through this journal in the past ten years; He has been pleased to use it in the service of his Word, the Gospel of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. We pray for the help of the Holy Spirit during the coming years as well, for without his aid all our labour is in vain. We ask also your prayer, that we may be enabled to render our service to you ever more effectually.

The Bible Society to which the Manuscript should be Sent

From time to time translators have enquired to which Bible Society they can or should submit manuscripts in new languages. For many years it has been the policy of the Bible Societies to grant to translators complete freedom to choose the Bible Society to which they wished to submit their manuscripts in new languages. However, once a translator or responsible person has become related to a particular society by virtue of having submitted a manuscript which is accepted and published by the society in question, it is understood that the society doing the first publishing will continue to be responsible for further translation efforts and will guide in any subsequent revisions. Translators should also know that they can, through the society to which they are related, obtain technical help on linguistic and translational problems from any other society.