

# THE BIBLE TRANSLATOR

Published Quarterly  
by the United Bible  
Societies

Vol. 20 No. 1 January 1969

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## EDITORIAL

### 'AN EXCITING TASK'

'With all the developments taking place in Bible translation, editing *The Bible Translator* must be an exciting task', someone remarked to me recently. True, the developments are all very real; Roman Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox translators are beginning to work seriously together; 'new languages' are still being written for the first time; 'old languages' are expressing the truth of the Scriptures in new ways; Helps for readers as well as Helps for translators are multiplying; Translators' Institutes are diffusing technical information into every corner of the earth; technical staff is increasing its services in every continent. You might think with all this that we would be inundated with information. We aren't. Not in the least, we are bone-dry, in need of help.

We have dried up the resources because *The Bible Translator* did not cease to function when the Rev. Wesley Culshaw was forced by ill-health to retire. Fortunately for the rest of us Mr Culshaw and Miss Faulkner planned ahead and we continued to read. We all owe them our deepest thanks.

Now we must turn to you. Many of you have at various times in the past provided this journal with excellent articles. We are certain that since the last time you wrote to *The Bible Translator* you have learned something new, something which would throw new light on your fellow translators' problems. We invite you most heartily to share your information with us.

The readership of *The Bible Translator* is increasing both in numbers and in communication complexity. We are not yet able to give you the detailed picture of those who read this journal, but we are working on it. However, it is a clear fact that as the number of readers for whom academic English is not easily handled increases, we must find satisfactory means of getting information across, both abstract concepts as well as small details.

The field of translation reaches out in every direction. The Translators' Institutes have put *The Bible Translator* in touch with Africans, Asians and others who would not otherwise perhaps have attempted to read it. Cooperative efforts with Roman Catholics have shifted the axis away from the Anglo-

Saxon point of view, and will continue to do so. The greater internationalization of translation opens for *The Bible Translator* new sources of information as well as a new readership. This means more work, for it involves examining materials in other languages, particularly French, and translating articles where these are felt necessary for readers of *TBT*.

But I return to the 'exciting task'; this is an excitement which becomes real only as it is shared. When you write for *The Bible Translator* you are contributing to a world-wide community which possesses a common goal. You share in a great development, one of the greatest in history.

All articles as well as letters to the Editor will be promptly acknowledged and authors will be informed in advance about the appearance of their articles. News of interest to translators, stories in the field of translation are gratefully received and will be published when space and balance permit.

THE EDITOR

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