

responsibility of being the main exegete of the team to make sure that the translation into Inuktitut reflects accurately the meaning of the originals.

The language plays a vital role in the home and in the life of the community of the Inuit people. Local newspapers are written in Inuktitut, and there are radio broadcasts all day long in the language. Instruction in government schools takes place in the native language in the first years of elementary school. Even the telephone book is printed in the unique syllabic characters of this language. It is important that the Word of God be prepared in a meaningful and understandable way for this population. The efforts that the translators are putting into this project will result in Scriptures that will speak to the hearts of these people, and bring the Word of God to them in a way that they will be able to understand.

## HOW WAS THAT?

A group of trade union leaders from one country was making a visit to another country in a different part of the world, as the guests of the local trade union organization. During the course of the visit they went to see the working conditions in a factory.

Through an interpreter the local union officials explained that their main task was to make sure the workers achieved the output targets set by the factory. When the visitors asked, "What happens if workers do not reach the target?" the interpreter replied, "They would be shot."

A little while later, when the visitors were arriving back at their hotel, the interpreter from the factory came running up to them. "I've just checked my dictionary" he said. "I meant that the lazy workers would be fired—not shot!"

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Most readers of TBT will be aware of the dangers of taking statements out of their Biblical context and making them apply to other situations. This procedure can also produce some funny results.

One reader has drawn our attention to a statement in the GNB translation of 1 Corinthians 8.8, which seems to be contrary to the experience of most people who are concerned about their weight. It reads: "We shall not lose anything if we do not eat, nor shall we gain anything if we do eat."

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### **The trials of TBT authors!**

"Thanks so much for your reminder of July 30. My promise to write an article for TBT has been on the level of conscious memory nearly all the time. The only problem is that I am constantly persecuted by heavy commitments, which means that numerous important things have to be postponed because of the urgency of other things rightly or wrongly taken as more important. An article for TBT is only one of those numerous important things."

(Extract from a letter to the Editor)