

Peter's Page

News from Peter Kirk, April 2005

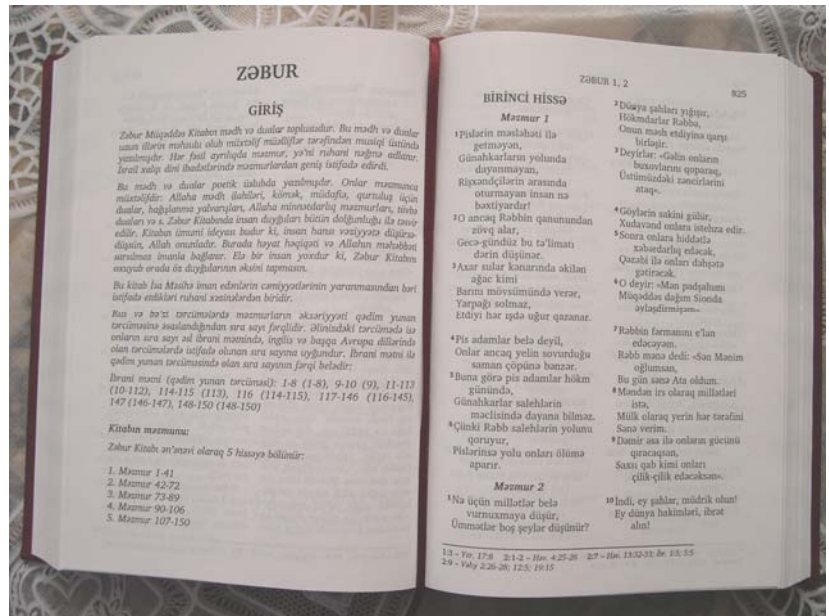
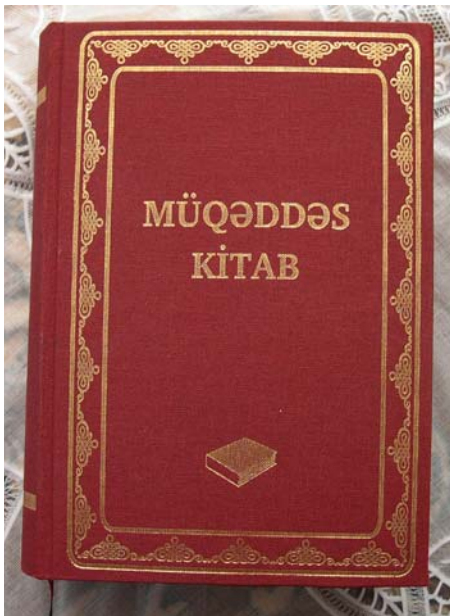
Dear Friends,

As we enjoy spring here in England, I am preparing for my next trip to Baku, Azerbaijan. I fly out there on Wednesday 6th April, and return on Friday 22nd. The journey should be quicker this time, as Azerbaijan Airlines now has a non-stop flight from Gatwick to Baku. And this time I will be staying with an old friend, an American, close to the office in central Baku. I will be glad not to have to take the local buses every morning and evening.

On this trip I expect to check no less than seven New Testament books: Philippians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, and the letters of John. During the last few months I have worked through the drafts of these letters, and in Baku I will work with the translators to revise the text. This is actually less material than I checked on my last visit last October, when I went through the Corinthian letters. But there are some rather difficult passages for me to check this time. So please pray that I am able to get the work done, in a rather short time, and that we can produce an accurate and clear translation. There will also be a session with the Consultant, in which some of my work may be under close scrutiny.

Last October we celebrated the publication of the Old Testament. In fact the first copies had arrived, hand carried from Turkey where they were printed, only on the morning of the celebration day. In the evening we had a gathering of local believers from different churches, and of expats from the many organisations which have contributed to the work. The book was presented to the believers and dedicated in prayer, followed by a meal. Many of the locals were in tears of joy as they celebrated this achievement. It took a few more months for the rest of the print run to arrive, but I hear that they have already nearly sold out.

I cannot put pictures of the celebration in this letter as faces may be recognised, but here are pictures of the book taken on that day – on the right, the introduction to the Psalms and the first two psalms:



I would like to thank you for the response to my appeal for funds to meet my expenses. Generous donations from several individual supporters and from a church in the USA have met my travel expenses for the past year, and I have been promised enough to meet my expenses for the coming year as well. Thank you.

I have had a mostly quiet winter here in Chelmsford. I have been quite busy in my church: I have been raising funds for our youth work; I am in charge of projecting the words for our songs on Sunday mornings; and I help at a club for children aged 6-9. Meanwhile I am continuing to make good friends.

May God bless you all,

Peter Kirk

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