

Peter's Page

News from Peter Kirk, April 2006



Dear Friends,

Thank you for your continuing support and prayers. I am sorry that it is a whole year since I last wrote to you all. It has been an interesting year for me personally in many ways. But there is not much to say about my translation project except that it is making steady progress.

I visited Baku, Azerbaijan twice last year, in April and in September-October. During these visits my Korean colleague and I completed our main checking of the New Testament books. We also agreed to publish trial editions of Matthew, John and Romans. But it was clear that several of the books required a further look, and the whole Bible needs to be checked for consistency. As the Korean man is now focusing mainly on a new project, these will be my tasks and the translation team's for the next year or so.

And so I fly out to Baku again just after Easter, from 19th April to 3rd May. I will again stay with my American friend in the city centre, and I am hoping for beautiful spring weather like last April's. I will be working with the local translators and the Translation Consultant from Finland, probably on Acts and 2 Corinthians, and perhaps also some of Philippians, 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus. Then I need to get started on consistency checking. This will be a big task, and it may mean that I have to visit Baku twice more this year. But we hope that by a year from now the New Testament text will be finalised and ready for typesetting. The target date for printing and distribution is late 2007.

Most of my activity in the last year, and particularly in the last few months, has been with my church here in Chelmsford, Meadgate Church (<http://www.meadgatechurch.org.uk/>). I am now the church council secretary. Since January I have also been an unofficial administrative assistant to my vicar (pastor). As such I have been very busy through Lent organising for the church the 40 Days of Purpose course, based on Rick Warren's book *The Purpose Driven Life*. This course requires a lot of effort from the church and from each participant, but it is very worthwhile, for we are seeing significant growth in numbers and in depth of commitment.

I am also helping to organise a ministry trip to Israel with about a dozen members of my church. This will be from 23rd July to 7th August. For the first week we will be working with an Arab church in Nazareth, which is my vicar's home town. We are planning to run a children's club and evening meetings for youth and adults, and to lead a training day for Alpha course leaders. We will spend the second week sightseeing, based in Jerusalem.

The most interesting project that I am involved in is effectively to set up a youth church. Many of you will know the infamous Army and Navy roundabout in Chelmsford, and the pub after which it was named which was once well known as a live music venue. The building has been empty for a few years and is set for redevelopment. Meanwhile my church has been offered a short term lease on the property, at a very good price, to open it as an evangelistic outreach centre with a youth focus. We plan to set up a café, and to hold evening events including worship services for young people. But it is complicated and expensive to reopen the building, not least because it needs complete rewiring. For more details see <http://www.7daychurch.org.uk/>, or contact me as below.

The last few months have brought many positive changes in my personal life. This may lead to changes in direction in the future, but I have no idea what changes, so please pray for wisdom!

May God give you great joy at this Easter season,
Peter Kirk

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