

Peter's Page

News from Peter Kirk, December 2006



Dear Friends,

A very happy Christmas to you all, and every blessing from God for the New Year! Thank you for your continuing support and prayers.

Since I last wrote to you all in April I have had a busy but sometimes frustrating time.

On the positive side, the Bible translation project has been making good progress. The gospels of Matthew and John have been published in trial editions of the new version, and a similar edition of Romans and 1 and 2 Corinthians is being prepared.

I visited Baku, Azerbaijan in April and again in October. During these visits the Translation Consultant approved our translations of Acts, 2 Corinthians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus and the letters of John. I also worked with the team of local translators on improving these and other books on the basis of comments from reviewers.

I have also been working hard on the project from home, communicating with the team in Baku by e-mail. In fact since the summer I have been busy with it more or less full time. Among my tasks has been considering and approving various comments received. I have been checking through the whole New Testament for consistent translation of names and key terms. Since my October visit I have started reading through it all in parallel with an English version as well as the Greek, as an additional check for errors and to suggest improvements related to consistency.

There are now awaiting approval only nine letters, mostly short, and Revelation. We hope to be able to approve these books during two more visits of the consultant and myself, planned for February and May next year. During these visits I also need to spend time working with the team on the small changes which I and others are proposing. We intend that by next summer the complete text of the new version of the New Testament will be available. In parallel my Korean colleague is working on corrections and improvements to the Old Testament published in 2004. The intention is to publish these together as a complete Bible, probably in 2008. Meanwhile it is possible that the complete New Testament will be published separately in late 2007.

This means that from next summer I will effectively be looking for new work. At the moment I have little idea what I should be doing. Please pray that I will find clear direction.

My home life, on the other hand, has been rather frustrating. I have been quite busy at Meadgate Church, including working on the new church website, <http://www.meadgatechurch.org.uk/>. But the two major projects which I mentioned in my last letter both fell through. The owners of the Army and Navy pub site decided not to let the church lease it, and so the youth outreach centre project was abandoned. And the ministry trip to Israel had to be abandoned just a week before departure when rockets started to land in Nazareth where we were to be based. Also my vicar was quite seriously ill in the summer. But things are now going well again in the church.

As a result I was left at something of a loose end. I have filled quite a lot of my time with "blogging", keeping a personal log on the Internet. My own "blog" is called Speaker of Truth, and can be found at <http://speakertruth.blogspot.com/>. It is intended for interesting articles about the Christian faith, but sometimes it gets diverted into other discussions. Please have a read!

May God give you great joy at Christmas,
Peter Kirk

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