

Bringing

Multi-Language Publications Newsletter

the Written Word to the World



Teaching Christian Doctrine in Simple English

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Since its beginning Multi-Language Publications has devoted its efforts to providing Christian literature for the use of men being trained for Christian ministry, for instruction of laypeople and for reaching out to those who do not know Christ their Savior.

While books expounding deep theological knowledge have been produced, it was evident that materials in simple language were needed to teach individuals who had little or no knowledge of Jesus. The desire to produce simple teaching materials prompted Multi-Language Publications to publish a series of books called the Bible Teachings Series in the English language.

The Bible Teachings Series is an adaptation of the Prison Ministries books written and published by the Special Ministries Commission of the WELS. This very successful ministry has published 12 books written especially for people incarcerated in prisons across the United States. This series of books, when examined, seemed to be what could be used to teach individuals outside of a prison setting who had little or no knowledge of the Scriptures. The books would also serve as a review for those who had a greater knowledge of Christian doctrine.

Therefore, about two years ago, Multi-Language Publications embarked on a program to adapt the Prison Ministries books for general use. The language of the books was simplified. Difficult biblical terms were explained. References to being in prison were eliminated. American illustrations were removed. A glossary of more difficult words was included. Hours of time were spent in revising each book. Then new art work provided through Northwestern Publishing House by artist Glenn Myers was added. Finally, Mrs. Michele Pfeifer was the layout expert who produced a finished product to be sent to the publisher. After about a year and a half, the project was completed.

Each book is useable as a guided self-study book. After a couple paragraphs the reader of the book must answer several questions whose answers are included in the previous paragraphs. The answers to these questions are found at the bottom of another page. At the end of each chapter a longer quiz is entered that needs to be completed. The answers to the questions in the quiz are found near the end of each book. At the end of the book a final test is written out that is to be taken by the reader without looking for the answers in the book. Thus the learner has three opportunities in the book to answer questions that will reinforce his or her knowledge of the particular doctrine taught in the book.

Continued on page 2



The Law of God

Teaching Christian Doctrine in Simple English - continued



The staff of Custom Printing in Appleton, Wisconsin working on the Bible Teachings Series.



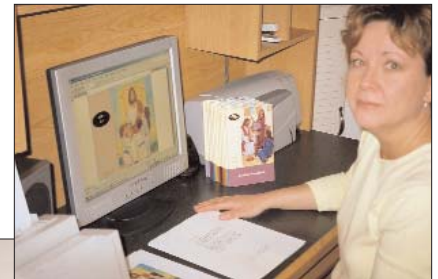
Between 7,500 and 9,000 copies of each book have been distributed in quantity to ten addresses of cross-cultural ministries in the United States as well as 15 world mission fields. These addresses include missions in Nigeria, Cameroon, India, Russia, Malawi and Apacheland amongst others. Pastor Daniel Rautenberg, a missionary in Apacheland, appreciated the books and wrote, "those books have been terrific for us so far...in fact, everything that we've tried from [Multi-Language Publications] in the last 2 years [the time Pastor Rautenberg has been in Apacheland] has been an answer to prayers as far as giving people something they can actually read and understand and then share with their friends and neighbors. For people who do not speak English as a first language and needed something simple to learn and witness their faith these books have been great! For some it's like they're reading Scripture for the first time and understanding it..."

If you desire a copy or copies of these books, please contact our Multi-Language Publications distribution site at 2500 George Dieter, El Paso, Texas 79936.

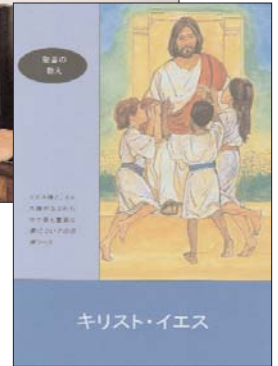


While, at present, this set of Bible Teachings books appears only in the English language, it is the desire of Multi-Language Publications to produce the series in many

other languages. Already it is being translated into Japanese. Other languages contemplated are Spanish and Chinese. The WELS has contacts in Pakistan and Nepal. One volume of the Bible Teachings Series entitled "God's Great Exchange" has been translated into Urdu, the language of Pakistan. Three volumes are being translated into Nepali. Contacts in Pakistan and Nepal have requested 5,000 copies of each volume. Time only will tell if we can provide foreign language versions of the Bible Teaching Series. Lack of funds makes it impossible to provide this series in the language of nations requesting the books. But we are confident the Lord will provide. We pray the Lord will bless the people who read and study the lessons in this Bible Teachings Series.



Work is progressing on the Japanese version of the Bible Teachings Series.



WELS Prison Ministry

By David Nack

Throughout the history of the church, the Lord has opened and continues to open doors of opportunity for us as Christians to share the love of Christ. As these doors are opened, what joy it is to see that the He also provides the means to carry out His work.

The door of opportunity to share the love of Christ with those serving time in a jail or prison came to WELS Special Ministries in the early 1990's. After some research was done, it appeared that there were just a few organizations that did a prison ministry. Thousands of inmates had nowhere to go to hear about the love of Jesus.

The Institutional Ministries Committee (IMC) looked at different ways a prison ministry might begin. Since we wanted our ministry to cover all of the United States, it was decided to do a mail ministry. The Organization of Wisconsin Lutheran Seniors (OWLS) volunteered to assist the IMC in this ministry.

Our ministry operates out of an office in New Ulm, MN, while storage of our Bibles and Bible study booklets is located in St. Paul, MN.

In producing our Bible study booklets we wanted to feature basic Law-Gospel material. We wanted each booklet to have clearly stated goals with review questions and answers to each question. Since our ministry is a mail ministry it

was important to present the message in a self-study format, with simplified language.

Our first Bible study booklet was Jesus the Christ. This self-study course shared with the reader Jesus and what He did for us. Several additional booklets have been written on Jesus and His work of redemption. Other booklets have been written explaining the Bible, the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, the Apostle's Creed, addiction, the work of the Holy Spirit, understanding Christian freedom, a booklet on the book of Jonah, and one on the book of James.

Presently we have 13 bible study booklets. Our next booklet based on the sixth commandment, will be finished sometime this summer. As time and funds become available, additional booklets will be written.

Our ministry has been blessed to have qualified people who have had experience working with inmates write our booklets. Each writer follows a format developed by the IMC. This gives uniformity to our booklets.

When the inmate completes the booklet, a final test appears at the end of it. The answers are not given to the inmate for this test. If they have difficulty answering a question, they are encouraged to look back in the booklet for the answer.

Presently we are receiving approximately 500 final tests on a weekly basis. When these tests are received, they are mailed to volunteer test correctors. Each corrector is given two weeks to get his/her set of tests corrected and mailed back to us. In addition to having the test corrected, each corrector is asked to write 3-4 sentences of positive encouragement on each test.

When the corrected tests are returned to our New Ulm office, the information is placed on our database. Every week more than 25 volunteers come into the office and the corrected test, a certificate of achievement, and the next booklet are mailed to the inmate.

Inmates often thank us for providing them with God's Word. Following are just a few.

I will soon be released. I want to continue my studies, since it was WELS Ministries that has been with me from the first week in jail 1 year ago to my release. Without every one of you I would not have found my Lord and would not have worked hand in hand with Jesus through the good and bad times of my year. As I go home I am very proud to take Jesus and WELS ministry with me. God Bless every one of you.

The lesson on Jonah has surely shown me how deceptive we can be in this world, not only to each other but to God as well. The running from God

almost destroyed my whole life, and some of the people around me. I didn't know it then but I thank God each day for being merciful and giving me this second chance. Thank you for this lesson. Please send me the next lesson. May God be with you all.

I did enjoy this course. I found out things I didn't know and I've opened my heart to others also so they may see Jesus Christ living in me. Yes, I must tell at least one prisoner a day about Jesus. In 900 days I can tell all that are here about Jesus! Thank you my family in Christ Jesus. I love you all in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus.



Volunteers working for the WELS Prison Ministry

Since our beginning we have printed over 850,000 Bible study booklets. Besides inmates writing us for our material, many prison chaplains throughout the United States continue to order our booklets and use them in their ministry. Because of limited funds we only provide Bibles for inmates who write us and ask for one.

Presently we have nearly 31,000 inmates on our database. By the grace of God our ministry grows by approximately 6,500 new inmates per year. Much of this growth comes from a number of inmates sharing the love of Christ with other inmates.

Over 1,500 volunteers serve us in this ministry. Some serve as a test corrector, while others write inmates and share with them the love of Christ through our Pen Pal Program. A number of schools and organizations share the gospel by making cards and bookmarks. A small group serves our ministry in St. Paul, MN, by mailing out bulk orders to chaplains. Many volunteers in New Ulm handle the day to day requests.

Yes, our Lord has richly blessed this ministry. Daily inmates thank us for sharing with them the 'one thing needful'. May the love of Christ fill our hearts with a Christ-like love - a love that shares, and a love that cares.

Thank you, John! ... Welcome, John!

Professor John Hartwig is stepping down from the Multi-Language Publications Committee after serving as a faithful member since the committee's inception in 1996. Besides serving as the secretary for the last two and half years, John was a key participant in the development of the World Mission Collection, which is housed in the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Library. John, we will miss your knowledge and cooperative spirit! May the Lord continue to bless your ministry at the seminary!

We are delighted to report that God has graciously provided a willing and highly skilled worker to replace Professor Hartwig in the person of Dr. John Kolander. Welcome, John, to the committee! The following tells us a little about Dr. Kolander's experience as a teacher in the WELS.



*MLP Committee members.
Left to right, Rev. Paul Hartman, Mr. Mark Brunner,
Prof. John Hartwig, and Rev. Harold Essmann.*

Meet the Committee



John D. Kolander is a 1981 graduate of Dr. Martin Luther College. He has served as elementary principal at Samuel Lutheran School in Marshall, MN and Immanuel Lutheran School in Waupaca, WI. He currently is the assistant principal at Fox Valley Lutheran High School in Appleton, WI.

In 1989 he received his Masters Degree from the University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh in the area of curriculum and instruction. In 2003 he completed his doctoral work for the University of Wisconsin - Madison in the area of educational administration. His dissertation examined the characteristics of

quality found in the schools of the Wisconsin Ev. Lutheran Synod.

In addition to his call at FVL, he serves the synod as a member of the Northwestern Publishing House Board of Directors and as a consultant for Parish Services.

John and his wife, Anna (Hoenecke), have been married for 22 years. They are blessed with four children: Kurt, a sophomore at Wisconsin Lutheran College; Paul, a senior at Fox Valley Lutheran High School; Meta, a freshman at FVL; and Sarah, a 5th grade student at Mt. Olive, Appleton.

John's love for world missions has grown during his years of ministry. He and his wife spent many evenings discussing world missions with Anna's grandparents. Edgar and Meta's love for the Lord, his Word, foreign mission fields, and each other serve as an inspiration and model for all who knew them.

Multi-Language Publications - Seven Years of Grace

God has richly blessed the efforts of the churches in fellowship with the WELS to bring the printed word to the world. Many publications such as the Kuske Catechism have been published with financial assistance from the MLP in Scandinavia, Russia, Bulgaria, Latvia, Indonesia, Brazil and Hispanic America. The following are some of the milestones reached under God's grace.

September 24, 1996	Committee holds its first meeting. Committee members: Mr. Mark Brunner (chairman), Pastor Paul Hartman (secretary), Professor John Hartwig, Pastor Harold Essmann (ex-officio, program coordinator), Pastor Duane Tomhave (ex-officio, BWM Administrator)
Winter 1997	Pastor Ken Fisher engaged to develop the World Mission Collection 50,000 copies of The Promise distributed in five languages
July 1997	Workshop on translation into Spanish held in El Paso, Texas Workshop on the principles of translation held in Milwaukee
August 1997	Colloquium on "Moving ESL Forward in the WELS" held in Milwaukee
September 1, 1997	Copyright policy to use NPH products in foreign fields implemented
April 1998	Pastor Ken Fisher finishes work to launch World Mission Collection and website

Multi-Language Publications - Seven Years of Grace - Continued

June 1998	First MLP Catalog issued (350 items in 28 languages) Publications for Latin America office building dedicated in El Paso Texas (this would become the office building of Multi-Language Publications when the two programs merged) Distribution center established at office building in El Paso
July 1998	First summer session classes about teaching ESL offered at Martin Luther College. Scholarships provided by Multi-Language Publications
August 1998	ESL-EFL workshop held in Waukesha, Wisconsin
October 1998	Pastor Walter Westphal joins committee (ex-officio, BWM Associate Administrator)
April 1999	Grant received from WELS Kingdom Workers to publish the People's Bible in foreign languages
March 1999	190,000 copies of The Promise printed in 22 languages Grant from the Publications Coordinating Commission to finish the Spanish People's Bible (Other grants were also received from AAL/LB and LWMS)
August 1999	Clarify English written by Pastor Pieter Ried.
March 2000	Second issue of the MLP Catalog published Bible Stories in Pictures - 7 booklets printed in English Promotional campaign to sell the Spanish People's Bible initiated
April 2000	Translation workshop for the Spanish People's Bible conducted in El Paso
August 2000	Translation workshop held in Guntur, India
September 2000	12,000 copies of the book Bible Stories in Pictures printed
November 2000	Pastor Ron Baerbock begins work to finish the Spanish People's Bible (17 volumes printed, many other volumes in development)
January 2001	Publications for Latin America merged with Multi-Language Publications, Pastor Paul Hartman replaces Pastor Harold Essmann as coordinator
June 2001	World Mission Sunday School Conference held in Milwaukee. Primary result is need for full-color portrait-sized Bible history illustrations
Winter 2002	Third edition of the MLP Catalog published (460 items in 30 languages)
April 2002	268,026 copies of The Promise in print in 24 languages 93,912 copies of What the Bible and Lutherans Teach in print in 12 languages
June 2002	Bible Stories in Pictures published in Spanish
August 2002	New edition of the Lutheran hymnal in Chewa completed
September 2002	Bible History Illustrations by Glenn Myers initiated
December 2002	Bible Teachings Series completed in English First publication of The Promise for the Middle East (in Farsi) El Mensajero Luterano completes ten years of publication
January 2003	Last of the People's Bibles received from NPH, translation into Spanish begun (39 of projected 41 volumes in print by summer of 2003). Translation into Indonesian virtually complete Whole Bible study guide based on People's Bible - Spanish edition begun Simplified Bible History in four languages begun
March 2003	Bible Stories in Pictures published in Albanian Praise the Lord devotional book printed in English Storage space at MLP office expanded
June 2003	Prof. John Hartwig steps down from the MLP committee, replaced by Dr. John Kolander Los Pentecostales y los Carismáticos published through CPH First volume of Bible Teachings Series in Japanese completed The Promise printed in Nepali (289,000 copies in 28 languages)



VISIT US ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB AT:

www.multilanguagepublications.com

New Publications

English

Freedom for the Middle East - no charge - new publicity tract for the MLP

Spanish

People's Bible: *1 Chronicles* - 38N5033 - \$3.50

People's Bible: *Revelation* - 38N5032 - \$3.50

People's Bible: *1 & 2 Kings* - 38N5037 - \$3.50 (being printed by NPH)

Peoples' Bible: *Isaiah 1* - 38N5037 - \$3.50 (being printed by NPH)

(Correction: the volume reported in the December issue of the MLP Newsletter should have been listed as 2 Chronicles. The catalog number reported, 38N5034, was correct.)

The Pentecostals and the Charismatics (This NPH/MLP product is being printed & distributed through CPH)

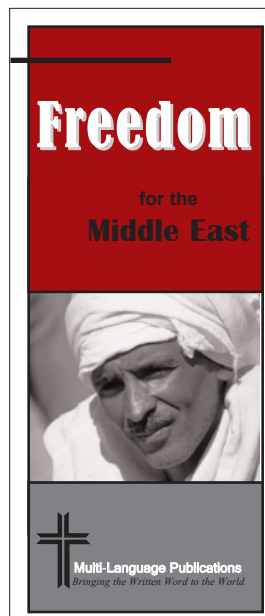
The following Spanish books were produced in Colombia by Missionary Cordes. They are based on a catechism course written by Forrest Bivens and David Valleskey. The books will be distributed through the MLP.

Confirmed in the Faith - Book 1 - Student Edition - Spiral Bound - 38-7418 - \$15

Confirmed in the Faith - Book 1 - Teacher's Edition - Spiral Bound - 38-7419 - \$15

Confirmed in the Faith - Book 1 - Student Edition - PDF Files on CD - 38-7420 - \$2

Confirmed in the Faith - Book 1 - Teacher's Edition - PDF Files on CD - 38-7421 - \$2



They Also Serve

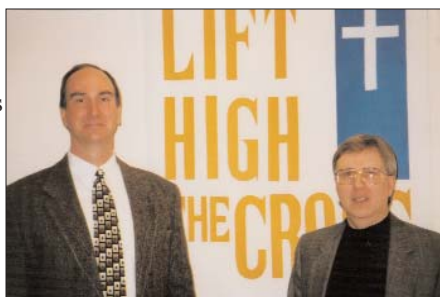
Where are the materials that Multi-Language Publications produces printed? Well, many of them are printed in the countries where the materials are used. Therefore, Multi-Language Publications covers the cost of printing many books and booklets in such countries as Russia, India, Norway (for Norway and Sweden), Latvia, Finland, Bulgaria, and Malawi among other countries. However, a large number of publications are printed in the United States.

Northwestern Publishing House publishes the Spanish version of the People's Bible. Over the years Northwestern has printed nearly 40,000 copies of this series of books. Yet there are other publications that are printed in Appleton, Wisconsin.

That's right. Appleton, in the Fox River Valley, is the center of the paper industry in the United States and possibly of the world. Huge paper mills are found in the valley that supply publishing houses around the world. Two of these publishing establishments are Custom Printing of Appleton and Winnebago Color Press in Menasha, which is a city attached to Appleton. Almost all of the printing done by Multi-Language Publications is accomplished by these two publishing concerns. And that brings us to two men in these publishing establishments who are of great help to us.

These men are James Vandenberg and Rob Glassel. Both are members of the WELS. In fact, both are members of the same congregation, Riverview Ev. Lutheran Church in Appleton. Their work in publishing our Multi-Language materials is a world-wide ministry.

Jim Vandenberg is the owner of Custom Printing. He took over the business that was started by his father many years ago. He and his staff at Custom Printing serve the Lord well in providing fine printed materials. Some of the major printing projects carried out by Jim and Custom



Jim Vandenberg and Rob Glassel

Printing include WHAT THE BIBLE AND LUTHERANS TEACH in 13 languages with more versions to come in the future. Over 127,000 copies of this publication have been printed to-date. In addition, the recently completed BIBLE TEACHINGS SERIES of 12 volumes (90,000 copies in all) as well as PRAISE THE LORD (a meditations book) were printed in English. ESL materials, such as THE LIFE OF CHRIST ACCORDING TO THE GOSPEL OF MARK, have been printed and THE MONK WHO CONQUERED ROME, in Spanish, were the work of Custom Printing.

Rob Glassel is the Special Markets Manager for Winnebago Color Press. This publishing house has been in business for 50 years. Many of the Monopoly games are printed here. Our association with Rob and this company started with the printing of THE PROMISE in 1997. Since that time 289,000 copies of this colorful booklet have been printed by Winnebago Color Press in 28 different languages with several other versions planned for the immediate future. Most recently a major, difficult and complicated project completed by Rob and his company has been the printing of BIBLE STORIES IN PICTURES in English, Spanish, Albanian and soon in Swedish. The expertise of the workers at Winnebago Color Press is greatly appreciated.

These two dedicated Lutheran men, Rob Glassel and Jim Vandenberg, are a tremendous help in providing printed materials for our world mission fields and cross-cultural ministries in the United States. Many of these materials are also used by other non-Lutheran Christians throughout the world. We thank the Lord for blessing his church with such faithful lay persons. Their efforts assist us as a committee and as missionaries to proclaim the gospel in all the world.