



Bringing the Written Word to the World

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A Theological Dictionary for Beginners

Theological Dictionary. Adapted from *Dictionary of Theological Terms* by Debbie Dodd. (EMIS. 2003.) Adapted for use in the Lutheran Church by Gerhardt Haag. Published by permission of the original author. Available from Multi-Language Publications, 2005. 136 pages 8 ½ by 11 inches. Soft cover. Comb bound. Catalog number: 38-3333. \$3.50.

To translate English Lutheran texts into another language the translator needs to understand the theological terminology used by Lutherans who wish to remain faithful to the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. An ideal solution is to train a native-speaker in Lutheran theology, the English language and translation theory to the point that the native-speaking Lutheran theologian can use his or her insights to translate English publications into the target language. In many mission fields, it could take a generation or more of hard and patient work before the ideal solution becomes a reality. It may take even far longer than that in other fields where the thorough training of a national worker is not possible for the foreseeable future.

Another solution is to provide tools at an appropriate level of depth that a native-speaker of another language can use quickly. *The Dictionary of Theological Terms* by Debbie Dodd fills that role for Reformed Christians. Lutheran pastors, who reviewed the book, felt that it is an excellent tool for Reformed Christians. They would love to use the book, but really can't because it defines theological terms according to reformed beliefs. The selection of terms used in the book also reveals a reformed outlook. Ms. Dodd graciously made her manuscript available to pastors of the WELS who would adapt it to reflect our beliefs as confessional Lutherans. To avoid confusion with the original edition, the Lutheran adaptation is entitled *Theological Dictionary*.

That work has now been finished. The result is a comb-bound 136 page, soft-cover book that defines 763 terms in a level of English that might be more readily understood by an international student. While the dictionary does use technical language and a somewhat elevated vocabulary, the original author simplified and abbreviated her definitions so that a person with limited theological training could still find the book helpful. The adapter strove to retain that feature.

Let's look at a few examples. The definition for "altar" was adapted to include the Lutheran practice of placing an "altar" in the chancel on "which the elements for the Lord's Supper are placed to remember Christ's sacrifice."

ALTAR. In Old Testament times the altar was a high place where sacrifices to propitiate* the gods were made. Since Christ has made the only sacrifice that was needed for our sins, no such altar for sacrifice (Hebrews 7:23-28) is needed in the New Testament church. In Lutheran churches the altar is the central table on which the elements for the Lord's Supper are placed to remember Christ's sacrifice, and at which worship and prayer are conducted. (See also Sacrifice.)



A Theological Dictionary for Beginners - continued

The asterisk after “propitiate” tells the reader that he can find the definition for that word at the appropriate location in the same book. Other terms that are related to the item being defined (in this instance, “sacrifice”) are referenced in parentheses at the end of each definition. The reader can refer to those terms to learn more.

Sometimes a bit of information about the origin of certain terms helps the reader appreciate and remember the meaning of those terms. In a simplified way, the etymology of “anthropomorphism” was included in the following definition.

ANTHROPOMORPHISM. (From Greek: anthropos, human, and morphe, form.) Describing God in human ways. It describes him as having human qualities, actions or feelings. It is looking at God from a human viewpoint. For example, the arm of God in Jeremiah 32:17 does not mean a physical arm, but is used to show his power. (See also Accommodation.)

Notice how the definition of “justification, justify” specifically presents the Confessional Lutheran doctrine of subjective and objective justification.

JUSTIFICATION, JUSTIFY. To declare, accept and treat a person as just* or righteous.* That person is no longer to be looked on as guilty,* but as innocent. It is a forensic or legal term. Because of Jesus’ righteous* life and innocent death,* God has declared all sinners to be justified, forgiven* and righteous in his sight (Objective justification; Romans 5:18-19; 2 Corinthians 5:18-19). All those who believe* in Jesus are personally justified before God (Subjective justification; Romans 4:3-5). This is what saves* a sinner.* (See also Atonement; Faith; Forgiveness; Reconciliation; Righteousness; Salvation.)

Ultimately, the Theological Dictionary is more than a relatively simple, but specialized book for translators. It is also a book about Christian Doctrine, and as such is useful for any international student of theology who is able to read Standard English. The adapter, Rev. Gerhardt Haag, intends to use the book for that purpose in the ACTS program in Apacheland.

We are grateful to Trinity Reprographics for reproducing this book in quantity. In order to get as many copies as possible into the hands of the mission fields of the churches in fellowship with the WELS, we offer those fields and churches as many **FREE** copies as think they would use during the next five years. To request copies, fill out the attached form and send it to:

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Pastor Baerbock Accepts a Call to Mission to the Children



The Director of Spanish Publications, Rev. Ronald Baerbock, has accepted a call to serve as a missionary for Mission to the Children in Mexico. Rev. Baerbock and his wife Karen will live in a small village just south of the Arizona border. The mission has been the special project of various congregations in Arizona for a number of years and is associated with the Confessional Lutheran Church in Mexico. Pastor Baerbock has a special love for evangelism and teaching children, which was evident in his previous ministries in Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic.

Since the fall of 2000 Pastor Baerbock led the development of Spanish publications in El Paso. During that time the translation of the People's

Bible was brought to a successful conclusion. Recently, a series of courses for the training of evangelists was produced in Spanish. These are being used to develop Hispanic leaders for ministry in the United States. Pastor Baerbock also served as the director of the Lutheran Messenger which now has a subscription list of 1,550. He will finish his work for the publications program at the end of this year.

We will miss Pastor Baerbock's faithful and cooperative work, which included many other publications in addition to the ones mentioned above. But we rejoice in the opportunity the Lord has given Ron and Karen to share the gospel in northern Mexico.

On-Line Bookstore Revised!

Check out the new bookstore at www.mlpwels.com . We think it's much easier to use and much improved!

We thank Matt Baerbock from Christian Life Resources and Jan Gamble at our office in El Paso for their fine work on this project!



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***for
multi-language
resources***

A Special Offer from Concordia



Since the birth of the Christian church many Christians have developed special festivals to commemorate the great events of our salvation, such as the nativity, the crucifixion, the resurrection and Pentecost. Over the centuries Christians also developed a church calendar to help them remember and celebrate these events in an organized way.

Concordia Publishing House will soon publish in Spanish a 102 page booklet to help the reader understand the church year and appreciate the story behind it. The book will also help the reader make good use of the church year to worship his Savior. The book is entitled *Calendario Cristiano* (Christian Calendar). The author is a leader of our WELS-affiliated church in Bogotá Colombia, Dr. Fernando Delgadillo López. The retail price is \$6.99. Concordia will offer our synod the booklet for less than half price, if we can purchase at least 500 copies before the book is published.

Multi-Language Publications-WELS (in El Paso, Texas) will purchase a bulk quantity of the booklets from Concordia, based on the response received to this announcement. Should you request copies of this booklet by filling out the response form below, we will send you an invoice at the same time we ship your copies to you. Do not expect to receive the booklet(s) until **2006**. *This is a pre-publication offer*. Copies of this booklet can be reserved and purchased by filling out this form:

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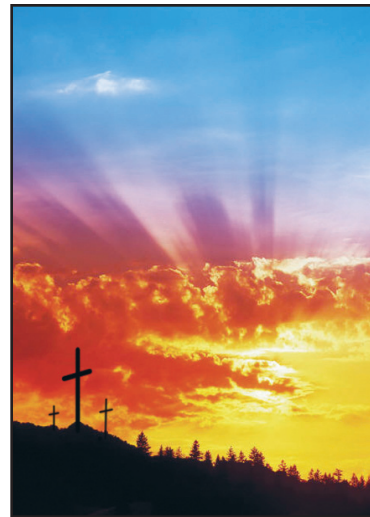
**You may also order this online. It is listed as a news item at:
www.mlpwels.com**

New Catalog

A new catalog of Multi-Language Resources is being developed for the 2006-2007 calendar years.

The purpose of Multi-Language Publications is to provide a comprehensive listing and to assist in the production of confessional Christian literature and other mass-media in the languages of countries where our Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod is working and in other areas or language groups where we may never work, so that many more people throughout the world may come to faith in Jesus and know him as their crucified and risen Lord and Savior and thus have the hope of eternal life.

Watch for your copy to be mailed at the end of the year!



Chronological Bible Storying-What Did We Learn? What Will We Do?

About 60 people from a wide variety of ministries in the WELS and ELS attended the Chronological Bible Storying Workshop held at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary from August 6-8. The guest speaker, retired Baptist media missionary J.O.Terry, explained the basics in orality and literacy and the selection of stories based on biblical truths and cultural presuppositions of the targeted audience. If you would like to receive as attached files the notes provided by the speaker, request them from the coordinator of Multi-Language Publications at paulhartman@mlpwels.com .

During the workshop, the attendees divided into eight break-out groups to apply the concepts to their various areas of ministry. Written reports have been received from five of those groups, and we still look forward to receiving reports from those engaged in outreach to Asians, Hispanics and Native-Americans. This issue includes summaries of the reports from the City Ministry and Children's Ministry. Look forward to more reports in the next issue.

The City Ministry Group saw a role for Bible storying in preaching and worship because many people in the city prefer oral communication. Indeed, many people are just learning to speak and read English. Oral communicators, they felt, do not respond well to the written gospel and to logical, deductive approaches. Such people seem to prefer visual aids, audience participation, and a need for mnemonic devices. They felt it is wise not to ask the oral learner to do something new each week in the worship service. Instead a choir, a soloist, a small group, a pastor and so forth should offer new elements each week.

This group felt that Bible storying offers some solutions. Specifically, for worship, preaching and teaching the City Ministry Group felt that oral communicators are likely to appreciate...

- ◆ ritual and familiarity,
- ◆ the stories of Christ's birth, life, death and resurrection during the festival half of the church year,
- ◆ a common thread throughout the service, illustrations and stories (even non-biblical) which stick,
- ◆ classic Bible stories for non-festival half of church year,
- ◆ alternate forms of worship, such as video, dance, drama,
- ◆ visual aids, such as pictures or even powerpoint,
- ◆ the use children's devotion, that are short and to one point ,
- ◆ participation and the use of questions in preaching as well as in teaching,
- ◆ the use of some unique Bible stories that are not in the pericope,
- ◆ vivid word pictures,
- ◆ references to church architecture and church art, and
- ◆ personal testimony.

The group felt that the understanding of an audience's cultural and spiritual worldview is essential for effective outreach because a clear understanding should reveal bridges over which the gospel can be introduced. They felt that a core list of key stories should be used to address worldviews. For example, the Exodus story might be used to address issues posed by African-American culture and slavery.

The group hopes to brainstorm with others in urban ministry to develop a better understanding of the worldview of their fellow citizens and to select a core of Bible stories well-suited to address that cultural view.

The Children's Ministry would create a culture-specific storying approach for ministry to children. The group felt that WELS children's ministry does write and teach good story-telling techniques that can be abbreviated for individual storying applications. Teachers should be encouraged and provided with tools to learn the culture of students and their families. This information can determine adaptations of lesson introductions, applications and other lesson elements. The information may also influence story/lesson choices.

Teachers should also be helped to find the best way to communicate with parents. Lists of appropriate stories should be created and used for outreach with different audiences, such as hurting people, at risk families, and mature Christians. Participants of this break-out group will encourage appropriate agencies to conduct workshops on how to use available curriculum when storying.

The group would use this method specifically to train students and/or parents for personal witnessing in venues such as VBS, SS, or home visits. Storying opportunities and venues should also be identified that are appropriate for witnessing to families whose children do not participate in Lutheran elementary schools and Sunday schools.

Various break-out groups brought up the subject of published materials, whether in printed or audio-visual form, to support outreach to oral communicators. The Multi-Language Publications program is eager to work with them and other ministries to develop materials that can be translated or adapted for use in cross-cultural outreach. Many analytical and deductive publications for literate communicators have been placed in the World Mission Collection through the assistance of Multi-Language Publications. We encourage the various ministries of our synod to produce Bible storying material suitable for cross-cultural outreach. We believe that appropriate materials of this sort can also be placed in the World Mission Collection.

Impact of the Printed Word in Pakistan

The letters were adapted for clarity and style. Because of variations in the way Arabic script is transliterated into English, the spellings of words like “madrasa” in Arabic and related languages vary in English.

A Visit to an Islamic School

Recently, our correspondent from Pakistan reported that visits were made to several schools where Islam is taught. The Schools are called madrasas. Surprisingly, in these schools he was allowed to share the Word of God. He writes:

“The madrasa we will visit has 160 students. They get up early in the morning at 4:00 and start the class between 4:30 and 5:00. These are breeding places where fundamentalist religious training is given to the students.

“I am very thankful to my Lord who is using me as a tool to preach the Word of God in madrasas, which have not ever seen or read the Word of God. It is the grace of God, which has chosen me to do this thankful job that I don’t deserve. The principal and the only teacher of this madrasa came this morning to visit us and invited us to visit the madrasa and preach the Word of God this week whenever we could come. Please pray for all my co-workers and me, since we will visit that area around 6:00 in the morning.

“I have located two more madrasas that we will soon visit. We need a teacher who can instruct them and keep a record of his activity.

“Please pray that the Holy Spirit would guide us and that he would provide safety in a dark world where the light is needed the most.”

A Teacher Reads The Promise

The wife of our contact in Pakistan writes:

“Samina is a teacher in city school of Sahiwal. She has a Master of Arts in Urdu. After she learned that I translated a book, she asked me to give it to her to read. The book is *The Promise*. She was very happy to read it and said, ‘I have a great desire to know about Jesus Christ, and I am thankful to God that I have found Christian literature.’ She has a great desire to read Urdu literature about Jesus’ life and to learn about Christianity. Please keep her in your prayers. The seed has been planted in her heart.”

Books that Touch the Heart

Our contact in Pakistan wrote the following about a long-time patient who appears to be finding hope and joy in the printed Word.

“Fourteen years ago a young girl named Sakina visited our hospital because she needed pelvic surgery. She was operated and a tumor was removed. Because she was young and needed to be able to have babies she was very happy to meet all of us. Later we operated on her mother and relatives. They became our good, regular patients.

“Six months ago she came and brought a long page of questions and observations. They were the kind of issues often raised by Muslims, for example: “Why you say that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that he is God? This is wrong. The Bible has been changed.” Most of the time they assert that their religion is right and the Christian religion is wrong.

“She left the paper with me and told me that she would come back sometime and that in the mean time I should get ready to answer her questions. After a month, she came back and asked for my response. Since I am a doctor and don’t have much time and don’t have a very deep knowledge to answer those questions, I told her that I was not able to respond to her satisfaction. I asked her to pray to God that the Holy Spirit might lead her in the right direction. I gave her *The Promise*.

“Two weeks later she came back and she told me that, since she was on summer vacation from the school where she teaches, she had time to read. She was very open, positive and excited to read more Christian literature. I gave her two books, *God’s Great Exchange* and *God’s Plan For The World*.

“Today she came back very happy after reading those books. She also wrote the answers to the questions. She asked for more books. I gave her the newly printed book, *What Christians Believe*, and two more books we have in Urdu, *The Words Jesus Taught* and *The Death And Rising Of Jesus Christ*. Please pray for her as the seed has been planted in her heart. She is very interested in reading these books.

“Thank you very much for sending precious material to us. It really touches the heart of many people.”