

# MULTI-LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS

ISSUE  
54

## Sharing "The Promise" IN THE UNITED STATES

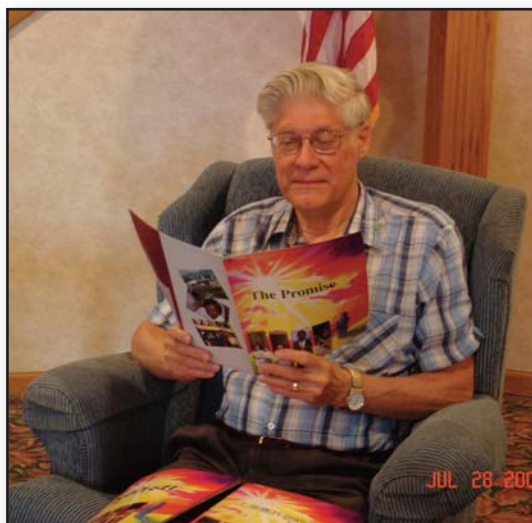
Rev. Paul Hartman, Editor  
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Rev Lloyd Hohenstein, who is a member of the Committee for Outreach to Muslims, has been giving copies of *The Promise* to people from South Asia who live in the United States. Rev Hohenstein writes:

"I gave a copy ... in Nepali to Srijan with good results. I [also] gave a copy in Chinese to the man who seats customers at the China Buffet in Watertown [Wisconsin]. We shall have to see how that turns out. I showed the manager of the Newton Inn Motel in Newton, Iowa, the Nepali version, but he was born in Bombay, India, and would prefer the Hindi version. He said the Nepali version has Hindi and Sanskrit words. When a prospect is bilingual, I think it would be well to give [the booklet] in the mother tongue first so that [he or she] could have the words to share with those in his home environment.

Now that we have a financial crisis, which may be the Lord's way of blessing outreach efforts by individuals, every one of the 311,000 [confirmed] members of Synod should be encouraged to do personal mission work rather than say 'I gave' and not do personal outreach. Encouragement should be given to all to use *The Promise*."

This colorful, sixteen page booklet, tells the story of salvation from Genesis to Revelation in seven short chapters. It is available in the following languages spoken by people from South Asia:



**Hindi** (spoken primarily in India) – 38-7068  
**Nepali** (similar to Hindi, the national language of Nepal) – 38-7396  
**Telugu** (spoken in southeastern India) – 38-7180  
**Urdu** (spoken in Pakistan and northwestern India) - 38-7395

It will soon be available in the USA in **Pashtu**, which is spoken in Western Pakistan and Afghanistan; and it is being translated into **Punjabi**, which is spoken along the border between Pakistan and India.

Consult the MLP Catalog online at <https://www.mlpstore.com> to find other language editions. *The Promise* has been published in 37 languages.

### Languages of *The Promise*

Albanian  
Arabic  
Bemba  
Bulgarian  
Burmese  
Chayahuita  
Chewa/Nyanja  
Chinese-Mandarin  
Chinese-Simplified characters  
Creole  
Czech  
Dutch  
English  
English/Spanish (bilingual)  
Farsi  
Finnish  
French  
German  
Hindi  
Hmong  
Indonesian  
Japanese  
Korean  
Kurdish  
Laotian  
Mizo  
Nepali  
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Portuguese  
Russian  
Spanish  
Swedish  
Telugu  
Thai  
Tonga  
Ukrainian  
Urdu  
Vietnamese

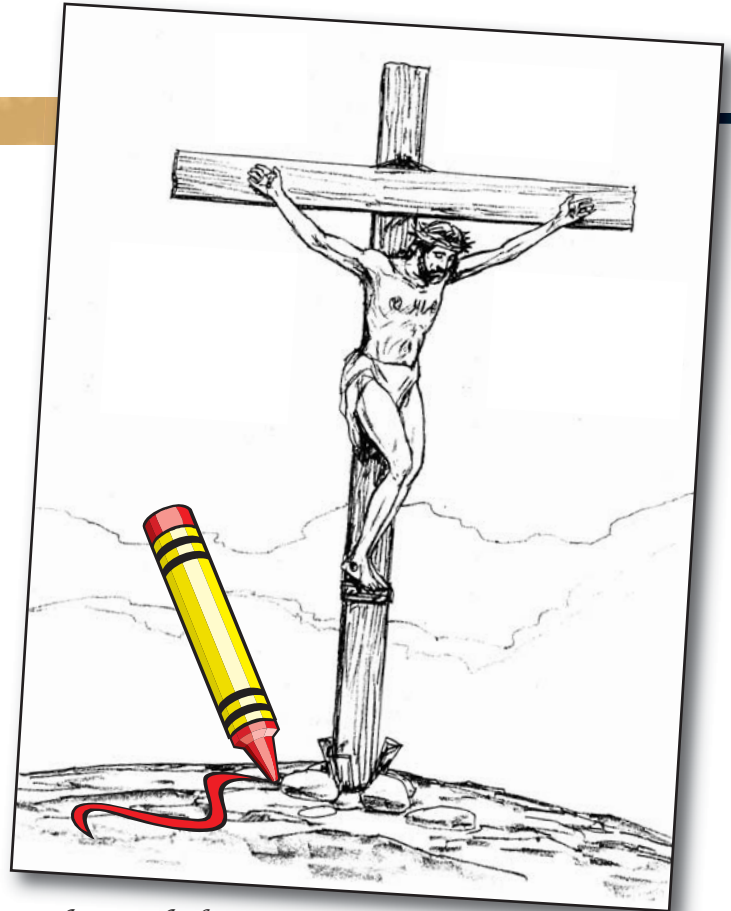


## Coloring book pictures for BIBLE HISTORY ILLUSTRATIONS

Artist Glenn Myers has given Multi-Language Publications permission to produce coloring pictures to accompany **Bible History Illustrations**. The set of 120 illustrated Bible stories, painted by Mr. Myers originally for *ChristLight*, have been used in digital and poster form by many world missions and cross cultural fields in fellowship with the WELS. The pictures illustrate the more than 100 Bible stories used in the Sunday school curriculum created by Beth Flunker and her husband Missionary Charles Flunker for use in Latin America. The curriculum was translated into English and parts of it are being used in Pakistan and Nepal. The thousands of children served by the Bible correspondence program and children's education programs in South Asia will make good use of the coloring pictures as they study the Bible stories.

Mr. Myers is sending his original sketches to layout assistant Michele Pfeifer, who will create in digital form the coloring pictures either from the sketches or the full-color paintings. Once they are finished the coloring pictures will be made available through Multi-Language Publications at our cost to produce them.

## First Impressions OF HONG KONG



by Paul Hartman



As we reported in the last newsletter, my wife Carol and I have relocated to Hong Kong so that I can serve for a time as a consultant to the Chinese publishing program in this city. Here are our first impressions.

The seminary office is well organized, and the orientation the office provided us to a new city was excellent. We were able to settle in quickly and get to work.

We have attended two different congregations to date. Each service has been well attended and well organized. The members are very friendly to each other and to us. The singing is excellent, led by good instrumentalists and vocalists. The choir at the first congregation was outstanding. It is a blessing to attend services in Hong Kong, although even with the help of interpreters we can only understand the content partially. A small English group also meets on Sunday evenings, which we are grateful to attend.

Hong Kong is an amazing city. It is clean, well-organized, and offers conveniences that would compete with any city in the United States. Seven million people live almost entirely in tall apartment buildings. This in turns allows for a surprising

amount of green space—only 20% of the Hong Kong territory is populated. The mass transit system is outstanding. Trains run every few minutes, or less, and take passengers to all areas of the territory. Buses and taxis are also readily available.

The vast majority of the population appears to be using the mass transit system. So people walk—to train stations, bus stops and from one small store to another. People climb steps, walk to parks and use sports centers. Even though it is said that Hong Kong has the most restaurants per capita in the world, the people are trim and in good shape—they walk. We are getting used to walking and we are enjoying it!

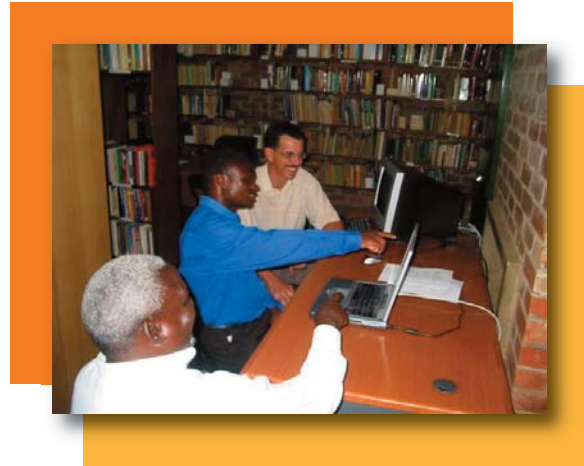
John R. Mott wrote more than a century ago that “the Chinese have the characteristics of the great races of the world: industry, frugality, patience, tenacity, great physical vigor, great intellectual power, independence, and conservatism” (quoted in *Back to Jerusalem* by Paul Hattaway). Chinese Christians may have a major impact on Christianity during the rest of this century. We pray that our stay here will prove useful to the Chinese publishing effort of our fellowship.

## A Study Bible for the Citonga-Speaking People IN CENTRAL AFRICA

The Lutheran Church in Central Africa, which serves tens of thousands of people in Zambia and Malawi, is leading the development of a study Bible for the Citonga-speaking people. According to Wikipedia, more than one and one half million people speak Tonga, primarily in Zambia. Along with Bemba, Lozi and Chichewa, Citonga is one of the languages the multi-lingual people of Central Africa use to communicate with others who do not share a mother tongue.

Like the *Concordia Study Bible*, the Tonga Study Bible will help people understand the intended message in Scripture by explaining references to names, places and events and by pointing readers to other passages related to a particular doctrine or issue. The director of the project, Rev. Salimo Hachibamba, made the draft of the notes for the entire New Testament. His notes "mainly focused on some of the cultural difficulties in understanding the intent of the original writer and how original recipients may have understood the message."

Rev Hachibamba is part of the Lutheran Church in Central Africa and a professor of its seminary. Because the study Bible is intended for anyone who wishes to read the Scriptures in the Tonga language, he has asked other denominations, such as the Roman Catholic Church, the Church of Christ and the Seventh Day Adventists, to review the notes. This helps to insure that the notes are fair and objective.



The lion's share of the work, nevertheless, is being done by the Lutheran Church, which is a sister church of the WELS. Rev. Hachibamba writes: "We have, as an LCCA, remained faithful to the true teaching of God's Word. We also have, among us, people who are not first speakers of Citonga. So we have been concerned about user friendliness of our Study notes. We did not want [to omit] some important teaching. We know also that outsiders see things that we could not think about as first language speakers. To take care of our concerns we engaged two missionaries who work among the Citonga speaking people. These missionaries are pastors John Hartmann and Peter Martin, [who is] a scholar. John Hartmann worked through Matthew. Peter Martin has completed Matthew through Romans. He is now working on Galatians. He has been called [from Zambia] to Malawi but has said that he will continue helping us from there. We thank him for that."

The time has come to offer a small portion of the study Bible, such as the synoptic gospels, to the Tonga-speaking public. This would increase awareness about the project and generate feedback for the editors. It is also hoped that once he retires from his seminary duties next year, Rev. Hachibamba will have more time to dedicate to this project which may serve many Christians for many generations.

Through Multi-Language Publications, the WELS has contributed \$30,000 toward this project during the past five years. May the Lord bless the project and bring it to a successful conclusion!



# Teaching the *Road to Emmaus* IN HONG KONG

by Paul Hartman



We are using the newly released *Road to Emmaus* video in a Bible Institute course for the Lutheran church of our fellowship (SALEM) in Hong Kong. The class introduces the Five Books of Moses. Staged on a path from Jerusalem to Emmaus the afternoon of Easter Sunday, the video depicts Jesus explaining to some confused and disillusioned disciples how the Old Testament—and Moses specifically—predicted that the coming Savior would have to suffer and then enter into his glory. When we began the class, we asked the eleven students why they were taking this particular course. Various students mentioned a desire to learn how the Old Testament relates to their lives. The video provides an excellent answer to their question even as it also provides a fine beginning to a class about the books of Moses.

During subsequent sessions we have been teaching the Bible stories referenced in the video, reminding the students each time how the stories relate to Jesus Christ. The appropriate **Bible History Illustrations** in digital form are incorporated into a PowerPoint presentation so that the Bible references and story notes can be provided to the students. The Bible Institute course also presents introductory information about the books of Moses.

This class is helping us to advance the *Road to Emmaus* project in two ways: the video script has been translated into Chinese (for students who have limited ability in English), and we are developing course material to teach the video in other venues.

The thirty minute video was described in the May-June issue of this newsletter. Copies will soon be available from Northwestern Publishing House.

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