

*A World
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**UBS Translation Report
For 2007 Meeting of the
Forum of Bible Agencies International
Fort Worth, TX April 16, 2007**

by Phil Towner

I. Highlights of the Past Year

1. Current translation activity

Active projects: 688
Proposed projects: 98
Completed projects: 379

TOTAL NUMBER OF LANGUAGES IN TMS [ALL PROJECTS] =
955

TOTAL NUMBER OF COUNTRIES = 158

2. UBS Translation Priorities and Strategy

In fulfilment of the translation priorities and strategy initiative (see UBS Translation Report for FOBAI 2006), Stage One, a thorough Translation Needs Assessment, has been carried out by the Area Translation Coordinators and their staff.

Area Boards will endorse the prioritization of projects in April 2007. The four TNAs will be collated and presented to the UBS Global Board in May 2007. This planning exercise will determine the main thrust of UBS translations for the next period of years.

3. Revision Guidelines Implementation (update)

A workshop has been planned for Cairo, Egypt for July of 2007. The goal will be to train a specialized team responsible for ensuring that the Revision Guidelines (see report 2006) are implemented in all revision projects.

4. Translation Training Materials (update)

Subsequent to last year's report under this heading, the following three items should be revised:

- The manual which has been in preparation, “Scripture Frames and Framing: A Pedagogical Manual,” will be published in S. Africa on a print-on-demand basis. This Manual was the subject of some testing at TTW by Dr. Lourens de Vries. For information, please contact Dr. Ernst Wendland.
- The “Bible Lands” DVD series (plus pedagogical CD entitled “The Bible Lands as Classroom”; and the additional DVD on the History of the Bible) has been completed. It is now available from, and pricing has been set in consultation with, the Canadian Bible Society in Kitchener. The Spanish and Russian versions are complete (production of French versions is under consideration). Contact CBS/Kitchener or Kees de Blois for further information.
- Paratext 6.1 was demonstrated at TTW 2006. Release expected for summer 2007.

II. Concerns and Initiatives

1. UBS Translation Priorities

This initiative has identified several areas for focused research which UBS Study Groups are taking up (in cooperation with other organizations and research groups where possible): Orality and Storytelling; Sign Language and Translation; Principles for the Production of Interlinears.

2. Partnerships and MOUs

With changes taking place in a variety of national contexts (agencies withdrawing from former fields of ministry or desiring to partner in translation and production), a number of partnership agreements and MOUs are at various stages of negotiation.

3. Paratext Licensing and Pricing Changes

It was announced last year that UBS initiated a new set of procedures for obtaining Paratext licenses, which involves Bible agencies entering into a separate agreement with UBS. Budget realities and costs of ongoing developing have also necessitated reconfiguring the pricing scale for Paratext licensing and annual subscription. Further information about this can be requested from Kees de Blois.

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III. Plans for the Future

1. Development of UBS Greek New Testament 5 is proceeding with input from UBS and the Münster Institute. The text will follow that of NA28 (now in process), and will present a revised apparatus (textual and segmentation) that is simplified and shaped more for the needs of translators.
2. Developments in future versions of ParaText will include the apparatuses of UBSGNT4/5 and BHS. The electronic files have been obtained and are being prepared for inclusion.
3. Society of New Testament Studies. The joint SNTS/UBS seminar on Orality and Oral Culture featured Prof David Rhoads in last summer's meetings. At SNTS 2007, in Romania, James Maxey will lay the groundwork for Performance Theory in relation to the matter of orality. The UBS concern has been to bring research in these contexts to bear on the production of Scripture products in which orality will play a part.
4. German Bible Society is currently producing a Readers' Greek New Testament with vocabulary helps; a Greek-English Interlinear project is also getting underway.

UBS Translations continues to value the fellowship with and cooperation of the Agencies represented in the FOBAI. We seek to cooperate in bringing our respective and complementary missions forward in ways that emphasize collaboration, partnership, integrity and the best use of resources and practices.

Respectfully submitted,

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