

Supplemental Report to the Twelve Districts From the WELS Translation Liaison Committee (TLC)

May 27, 2014

Recommendations on “Global Issues” for HCSB

When members of the TLC visited with overseers of the Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB) in Nashville in January 2014, we were informed about the upcoming revision that is planned for the HCSB. We were invited to submit recommendations immediately concerning the “global issues” that are under consideration in connection with the translation, with recommendations on individual passages to follow later.

From January to May 2014, the TLC worked feverishly on eight recommendations. These recommendations are now posted on the TLC website at www.wels.net/tlc. The TLC would be happy to receive feedback on these recommendations. They cover the following topics:

- The Plan of Salvation Page
- Key Sacramental Verses
- The Tetragrammaton
- Slave or Servant?
- The Use of “Should” and “Must” in the Translation of the New Testament
- Christ/Messiah in the New Testament
- The Capitalization of Pronouns for God
- “Man” and “Men” in Contexts Where Women are Included

Visit with HCSB leaders

On May 21, 2014, three members of the TLC (Brauer, Kieta, Nass) shared our recommendations in person with HCSB leaders in Nashville. The HCSB leaders were gracious enough to spend five hours with us, and they welcomed our recommendations warmly. The HCSB leaders were Dr. Micah Carter, Dr. Ray Clendenen, and Dr. Jeremy Howard.

It will be interesting to see what decisions are made by the HCSB Oversight Committee. In our meeting we were consistently told that Broadman & Holman Publishing would like the HCSB to find widespread acceptance among evangelical Christians of many denominations. They would like to remove whatever barriers they can that are making people hesitant to use the HCSB. The HCSB overseers have been gathering input from many sources, both in the Southern Baptist Convention and among others, and the recommendations we are giving to a large degree have been offered also by others. In the mix as well is the fact that the two of the nine members of the HCSB Oversight Committee are confessional Lutherans, as noted in our RTTD report.

All of this leads us on the TLC to have some optimism about the future direction of the HCSB and its prospects for possible use in WELS. But time will tell. Though the exact date of publication for the revision has not been released, we know that it is coming sometime in the next few years.

Input welcome on individual passages

Now that we have finished our recommendations on the “global issues” connected with the HCSB, the TLC is planning to submit recommendations on individual passages throughout the entire Bible. The deadline for these recommendations to be received in Nashville is April 30, 2015. WELS members who have suggestions about the HCSB are invited to share them with any member of the TLC. We also invite prayers for the work of the TLC and the HCSB Oversight Committee.

Prof. Thomas Nass, chairman

Rev. Glenn Schwanke, secretary

Rev. Brett Brauer

Prof. Kenneth Cherney, Jr.

Prof. Joel Fredrich

Rev. Geoffrey Kieta

Prof. Paul Zell