

# **The Advantages and Disadvantages of Producing Our Own Bible Translation**

*(WELS WWD Convention, June 2013, Pastor Karl Walther)*

## **Advantages**

- We would end up with a translation less subject to doctrinal misapprehension
- We would end up with a translation that is overall more accurate than any other
- We would own the translation and not need to worry about sudden revisions to it
- We would own the translation and not need to worry about royalties for its use
- We would engage many men in a worthwhile study and translation of Scripture
- The project might unite men even more firmly around the Scriptures
- It would be the WELS' gift to the church at large in the English-speaking world
- Pastors would have more of an opportunity to teach and apply God's Word, without needing to explain contrary translations
- Pastors could recommend a translation of the Bible to the people and not be concerned about false doctrine
- If the translation turned out well, WELS would not need to choose any alternative
- Our Heavenly Father would be pleased with a job well done, our Savior would be well proclaimed as Savior of the world, and the Holy Spirit would have another opportunity to step in and benefit us

## Disadvantages

A lot of WELS people, including a lot of professors, are against a new Bible translation; it would take them time to warm up to the idea, and unless they do, the project would be less useful

This project would involve a large amount of work, which has already been done by some capable people

For it to be the most worthwhile translation, it would necessitate involvement by WELS professors, and they are rightly apprehensive about that

It would require at least some money

Any disagreements that would arise would have us battling one another, in disruption of our fellowship

A new translation project would not answer the translation question currently at hand

The translation would be perceived by some, both in the WELS and outside, as sectarian

Embarking upon a new translation project would require us to persuade a lot of people of its need

For this project truly to be worthwhile, we would need to translate in such a way as to reflect the original language more closely than most translations do—and right now, most of the WELS is not of that mindset

## Responses

If the project is done well, they would be attracted by the benefits of a good translation

If they haven't done it to our satisfaction, it's then necessary for us to do the work

We'd have to set it up so that not too much of the work would fall to them; maybe they'd be more the editors than original translators

We could do the project without a large outlay of money, if we really think it's worthwhile

We would have to trust the Word to foster the unity that it promises

That's true, but it would set us up better for the future

There are a lot of Bibles on the market now, and if a new translation is done well, it would be an excellent resource for any denomination

If we believe it's necessary to the glory of God, the good of others, and our joy, then that's worth a shot

Such a discussion about translation would be a worthwhile one, even if a new translation did not ensue