

In Others' Words

Editor's Note: In this department, we point to resources outside of the IJFM: other journals, print resources, DVDs, web sites, blogs, videos, etc. We welcome suggestions, but cannot promise to publish each one. Standard disclaimers on content apply. Due to the length of many web addresses, we sometimes give just the title of the resource, the main web address, or a suggested search phrase.

Please note that, due to production delays, we are reporting in this Winter 2012 issue on events that took place in 2013. We again apologize in advance for such anachronisms and any inconvenience.

World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) Panel Issues Translation Report

In April 2013, the independent WEA Global Review Panel issued its highly anticipated recommendations concerning the translation of divine familial terms. The announcement was made on the WEA's website (worldevangelicals.org/translation-review, which contains links to the full report and other related news):

In the light of various controversies about Bible translation Wycliffe Global Alliance and SIL International approached the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) in March 2012 to independently review their best practice in the translation of "God the Father" and the "Son of God." The WEA formed an independent Panel that has now concluded its work and issued its report with recommendations for Wycliffe and SIL. The independent Panel's mandate was to "review SIL's translation practices, setting boundaries for theologically acceptable translation methodology particularly in Muslim contexts, and suggesting how to practically implement these recommendations.

The panel's decision has had an immediate impact. On June 7, after the unanimous decision of its executive committee, Assemblies of God World Missions officially went public and said that they are now able to continue their long-standing working relationship with SIL/Wycliffe. (For more, search for "AGWM to Continue Partnership with Wycliffe Bible Translators").

Specifically, it was recommendation #1 in the final report that seemed to allay the concerns of different mission and church organizations. The recommendation of the panel was to use "the directly equivalent" familial term for "father" and "son," and where there are multiple words used in a language, the "most suitable" term should be selected. In recommendation #2 and #3 the panel recognized the "significant potential for misunderstanding of the word for "father" and "son" when

applied to God... in languages shaped by Islamic cultures." So, in recommendation #2, the panel suggested "the addition of qualifying words or phrases to the directly-translatable terms." And in recommendation #3 they suggest that any nuance in the familial terms be handled in paratextual material.

All parties seem gratified and impressed with SIL's willingness to comply with the WEA panel's decision, but also recognize the complexity of implementing these guidelines across their global organization.

New Report on the Changing Demographics of Christianity in Its Global Context

While we here at IJFM are working hard to catch up to 2013, Todd Johnson and the other researchers at the Center for the Study of Global Christianity (Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary) have produced a 92-page "overview of the changing demographics of Christianity and Christians' activities over the past 40 years," reaching back to 1970 while seeking to look ahead to 2020. As the report, entitled *Christianity in its Global Context, 1970–2020: Society, Religion and Missions*, states,

Since 1970, many societies have experienced dramatic social upheavals and severe environmental catastrophes, yet the period from 1970 to 2010 was also a time of great technological advancement and increased connections between people around the world. Such changes challenge Christians to think differently about the people among whom they live and work, the ways in which they interact with them, and the potential for future cooperation.

To obtain this impressive report, see gordonconwell.edu/resources//Global-Context-of-Christianity.cfm.

Speed Listening (and Watching) Made Easier

You Tube Ever wish you could speed watch a YouTube video? Now you can. Simply go to youtube.com/html5 and scroll down until you see the "Join the HTML5 Trial" button. As long as your browser is supported, clicking on this button will force YouTube to play videos in HTML5 (instead of Flash), causing some useful new options to appear on the control bar. Not only can you now speed up your favorite video by 1.5/2.0 times, you can slow it down by 0.5/0.25 times as well. Thanks to apologetics315.com (which has an amazing amount of fascinating material, by the way) for this suggestion. **IJFM**