

# CHRISTIANS FOR ARMENIA

## REFORMED FAITH AND LIFE

### A Broadcast and Literature Ministry



#### NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2015



#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**Necessity of NT translation project 1**

**Other ministry work 2**

**Funding 2**

***“This new translation of the NT and the Psalms aims at providing the contemporary Eastern-Armenian reader with an accurate source oriented translation of the Greek and Hebrew texts in a comprehensible and elegant style.”***

Dear friends,

This summer, Rev. Eric Kayayan traveled to Armenia for an intensive one-week work session in order to organize the logistical aspects needed for the much-anticipated translation of the New Testament and Psalms into Eastern Armenian. This visit allowed to connect the various people involved in the NT & Psalms translation project, as well as other interested parties (the Evangelical Bible league for one), and we now have a reliable team in place as well as a project plan to follow which is outlined below. In addition, several meetings with different groups of Evangelical pastors confirmed the popularity of our literature and the need to continue publishing relevant topics for the Armenian public.

#### **Necessity of NT translation project**

The absence in contemporary Eastern-Armenian of a faithful translation of the Bible produced directly from the source texts in Hebrew and Greek according to up to date scientific editions has rendered access to Holy Scripture difficult to users of this language.

#### **Source texts**

For the OT, the fourth edition of the Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia (BHS, Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft Stuttgart, 1990) has been selected, seeing that the fifth edition (Quinta) has not yet been released (it is due for 2020). Although several fascicles are already available, they do not include the book of Psalms. The BHS is based on the Codex Leningradensis - B 19A (L) - which is the oldest dated manuscript of the complete Hebrew Bible, (copied in Cairo, A.D. 1008).

For the NT, the 28th edition of the Nestle-Aland Greek-English New Testament (with the ESV in parallel) serves as final reference, while the entire NT translated in Western Armenian by Rev. A.R. Kayayan from the Greek text of the Third Edition of the United Bible Societies (edited by K. Aland, M. Black, M. Martini, B. Metzger, A. Wikgren), is to be translated from Western into Eastern-Armenian, following a word for word control alongside the Nestle-Aland 28th edition.

#### **Additional sources**

Translators are provided by RFL-CFA with solid exegetical dictionaries in Hebrew and Greek as well as standard Bible commentaries which have not been made available in Armenia until now. In addition, they benefit from the advice of competent specialists outside of Armenia in case they would need additional help.

#### **Objectives of translation**

This new translation of the NT and the Psalms (before undertaking the rest of the OT) aims at providing the contemporary Eastern-Armenian reader with an accurate source oriented translation of the above mentioned Greek and Hebrew texts, in a comprehensible and elegant style which does justice to the original meaning of the words and expressions. It should avoid any kind of paraphrase. Translators will be in regular contact with the general Eastern-Armenian language editor in order to ensure the appropriateness of their word choices in Eastern-Armenian, and consider all acceptable alternatives within the set objective of a source oriented translation.

As a guideline, translators have been provided with the joint statement on basic principles and procedures for Bible translation which was unanimously agreed by all member organizations of the Forum of Bible Agencies, Translation section, at their meeting on April 21, 1999.

Having obtained from Ligonier ministries the permission to translate into Eastern-Armenian the introductions and footnotes of its Reformation Study Bible (ESV, R.C. Sproul general editor, 2005), Reformed Faith and Life-Christians for Armenia also intends to provide the reader with a theologically substantiated commentary which will lead him/her to grasp better the thrust of each passage in its closer and wider canonical context, focusing on a revelational-historical

understanding of Holy Scripture. These explanatory notes will supplement translator footnotes aiming at informing the reader about specific translation issues in the Eastern-Armenian language.

### **Estimated schedule**

A limited print of selected NT books/Psalms (Gospel of John-Acts-Romans/ about 80 to 90 psalms) with the accompanying explanatory notes should be ready to be released around July or August 2016. A mere 300 to 400 copies should be printed and submitted to a panel of informed readers for comments and suggestions.

Following this provisional release, the estimated projection for the completion of the translation is another two to three years.

### **Other ministry work**

Earlier this month, our committee met during our annual meeting to discuss not only the New Testament translation project, but also to map out the rest of our work for the coming year.

We anticipate shortly the publication of Rev. Vander Hart's Bible Study on Genesis any day, in a print run of 3,000 copies to be made available as widely as possible.

We also approved the translation and publication of the book Darwin's God by biophysicist Cornelius Hunter. This exceptional book takes Evolution to task by analyzing Darwin's motivation in writing The Origin of Species, arguing that those were both metaphysical and derived from biased scientific observation. This topic is extremely relevant in post-Soviet Armenia still influenced by Marxist materialism, Darwinism being central to that ideology.

It is crucial that we maintain our publications in Armenian, but because of budget constraints—partly due to a very poor exchange rate between the Canadian dollar and the U.S. dollar—we will need to limit our publication schedule to just one or two titles per year. We have had to put on hold the creation of a cd-Rom containing our last five books, but we hope to have them in downloadable form on an Armenian website for Christians for Armenia. This would make our books accessible to everyone and also can help us to decrease our print-runs to a minimum. The radio broadcast schedule will remain unchanged if we can make up the 25% loss in income that we experienced this past year.

### **Funding**

We greatly rejoice that thanks to the vision and generosity of a church from Michigan, we have received the funds necessary to undertake the translation of the New Testament and the Psalms. This truly has been a project pursued in faith, but God has provided the means to undertake it and we feel humbled and encouraged by this.

We will still need additional funds for the printing and distribution of the New Testament and Psalms, and continue to appeal to you, our co-workers, for donations but also prayers that we may be found faithful in every task we undertake. As a side note, our Christians for Armenia website now includes a PayPal option for donations.

We thank you for your continued support and generosity and rejoice in being co-workers with you in God's service.

In Christ, The Committee for Christians for Armenia



Rev Eric Kayayan leads a seminar with evangelical pastors and church members in the Endanik Centre of the city Gyumri



The translation team meets with Rev Kayayan at the Endanik Centre in Gyumri.

***“Our Christians for Armenia website now includes a PayPal option for donations.”***

Please send your donations to the following address:

**REFORMED FAITH AND LIFE  
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