



December 2024

Bible Revisions

Dear friend,

What version of the Bible do you most often read? Has it been revised?

Sooner or later every translation needs to be revised. Every translator and translation team has thousands of decisions, which impact the words printed on the page. Their understanding of the passage and their thoughts of the audience impact the text. They do the best they can, following translation principles that are always established prior to starting the project. Their goal is an accurate, clear and acceptable translation.

If you read the NIV (New International Version) translation, did you know that there is a 1984 version and also a 2011 version? Listed here are just a few examples of differences.

This is how the birth of Jesus *Christ* came about (©1984)

This is how the birth of Jesus *the Messiah* came about (©2011)

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the *desert*, (©1984)

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the *wilderness*, (©2011)

Even *Psalms* 23 has slightly different wording:

The Lord is my shepherd, I *shall not be in want*. (©1984)

The Lord is my shepherd, I *lack nothing*. (©2011)

...Even though I walk through the valley *of the shadow of death*,

...Even though I walk through the *darkest* valley,

Surely goodness and love will follow me

Surely *your* goodness and love will follow me

When I was in Uganda a few months ago, one of the projects I worked with was a revision project. The language is Lango and their first Bible was published in 1978. These pictures below of Benjamin and his Lango Bible give evidence to the fact that he used it often. He should—he is a pastor. To my surprise, one morning Benjamin shared that he had stopped using the Lango Bible a number of years ago. Why would he stop using and preaching from a Bible in his own language? Sadly, he said that the translation

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had too many errors. Over the years, Benjamin documented issues. In time, they decided that a revision of the Lango Bible was necessary.



Thankfully, today there is a well-equipped (and highly educated) team to work on fixing the errors and together improve the translation. Thankfully, they have computers that can help with quality and consistency. Revisions are often required because everyone deserves an acceptable, beautiful and accurate Bible.



Your partners in mission,
Brian and Donna Renes

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