



## Which Version is the Right Version?

Ministers get this question a lot. Many people are sincerely interested in making sure they have the “right” version (translation) of the Bible. My response is pretty simple. I usually respond, “*The right version is the one you can read and understand.*” I really believe this. Honestly, using the word *right* to describe a version of the Bible is probably not the best way to describe translations. I do not believe there is a right version. They all have their positives and they all have their negatives.

Translations follow one of two translation methods. On one end of the spectrum there is the formal equivalence method. And on the other end is the dynamic equivalence method. Formal equivalence basically means word-for-word. Dynamic equivalence basically means thought-for-thought. The formal equivalent translations tend to be more choppy and difficult to read aloud because of its attempts to remain true to the original words and their order. The dynamic equivalent translations tend to flow better and are easier to comprehend because they are not as interested in keeping the original wording, but are trying to stay true to the original thoughts being conveyed.

Another way of looking at these two methods is that the formal expects you to be the interpreter of the text, and the dynamic tries its best to interpret the text for you. Neither is necessarily wrong.

At Elmwood we have chosen to put the NIV translation in all the pews. The NIV translators tried their best to be the perfect blend of the two methods. If you were to look at a straight line with dynamic on one end and formal on the other, the NIV would land right in the middle. I have long been a user of the NASB translation because of its dedication to being an accurate word-for-word translation. This makes for great in-depth Bible study. But it does not make for a good public reading translation. It is too choppy. In my preaching I have started to rely heavily on the NLT. It is very committed to the thought-for-thought method and flows extremely well when read publicly.

I believe the key is to have a couple of different versions. Use more of a word-for-word translation for in-depth Bible study. And find a thought-for-thought version that lines up as closely as possible with your own understanding of the text. Use this version for devotional readings. Remember, they are all translations. Even the word-for-word is a translation of a foreign language. There is no *right* version. Find one you can read and understand. -Gilbert

*(Check the translation chart on the back of the calendar.)*

## How Can I Know God?

I must confess: I usually study the New Testament more than the Old. That’s why when I do peer into the dusty pages of texts written before Jesus was born, I often find myself surprised at how valid and important these texts are.

Studying the prophets really reminds me that God shows his love, his mercy, and his grace long before he shows us the ultimate example of those things in Jesus. One such situation where God shows his grace is the story of Jonah.

Jonah is sent to the Ninevites to proclaim their destruction at the hand of God because of their wicked actions. Nineveh was an evil city, and essentially the arch nemesis of Israel at that time. Though Jonah was reluctant to go (as he thought the Ninevites were unworthy of God’s grace, and ran away from his mission), God used him to save thousands.

He first converted the fishermen, who had worshipped many other gods.

After throwing Jonah overboard and seeing the storm end, they worshipped God and made sacrifices to him... with very little effort from Jonah. Then all the people in Nineveh repented, and God spared them.

Though I am more comfortable within the realm of the New Testament, I have found that knowing the Old Testament is vital to learning about this God whom we worship. God’s presence is thick throughout the Old Testament, and it is an excellent place to get to know Him.

-Phil



## Remember in Prayer

**Rick Swensen** had successful surgery on his back on Monday in Indianapolis. He is now at home recuperating ....**David Black** had surgery Wednesday at Home Hospital. Doctors hope it will help his continuous imbalance problems....**Michelle Foor** had successful gall bladder surgery on Monday. She is home recuperating....**Anna Dale** is experiencing problems with her heart....**Hattie Coffel** is now recuperating at Rosewalk Village, 1903 Union St., Lafayette. Her phone is 448-7843.... **Sara Postlethwait** will have surgery at St. Vincent's Hospital in Indianapolis on Friday ...**Addison Smith** (infant daughter of Kristi & Doug) will have ear tubes inserted on July 1....**Kaden Koebcke** is receiving treatment with a new drug for his kidney condition at Riley Children's Hospital....**Kaitlin & Luc Henke** are recovering from T & A surgery....Continue praying for **Amanda Powlen, David Henke** (*final chemo treatment soon*), **Colin Wilson, Phyllis Mow, Lois Powlen, Vickie Sanders, Steven Klint, Barbara Scott, Chris Vice, Kenneth Clubb, Marge Campbell, Eugene Zinn (*will have further tests and surgery at IU Medical Center*), **Alan Dale, Eileen Richardson, Irene Sims, Henrietta Frampton, Marie DeWoody, Paul & Argie Verett, Delpha Allen, Valley Stockton, Eagle Bailey, Minnie Scott, Irene Fox, and Burnell Gulden.****

Serving in our military: **Steve Brady, Mark Wilson, Shawn Wilson, and Ti Draughon.**

Please remember our LST teams now in Panama and Thailand. In Panama are **Jimmy & Susan Huff, Jason Cochran, and Amy Berkshire.** The team in Thailand: **Josh, Gina, Kinley, & Knox Boyd, Farrell Simmerman, Mandy Anderson, and Steve & Lanita Boyd** (Josh's parents). Be praying for God's blessings as they share the gospel with their "readers." An email from Josh & Gina reports they have "lots" of readers already and are very busy. God is good...all the time!

A wedding shower is planned for **Suzanne Fournier & Chris Macaluso.** Amy Colon and Becky Pitt are helping Dana Miller host the shower at Dana & Amos' home, 109 Jodiah Pl., Lafayette (south off old U.S. 231), **June 29, 2:00-4:00 PM.** If you would like to contribute to a "money tree" or want gift suggestions, see Amy, Becky, or Dana.



\* \* \* \* \*

Come celebrate the marriage of **Heaven Miller to Matt Welters** on **Sunday, June 29th in A-2 after evening worship.** An ice cream party will be given in their honor. To contribute money to a group gift, see Vicky Martin, Courtney Buss, Mindy Hart, or Kate Kerrigan.

## LUM Meal Providers

Serving dinner at Lafayette Urban Ministry last Monday night, June 23, were **Sherry Scoggin, Marilyn Walters, and Kathy O'Donnell.** Our thanks to those who prepare the meals and participate in this ministry. If you might be interested or have questions about this ministry, call Mandy Anderson or the church office for more information.



## Widow's Peek Service Opportunity

James 1:27 (NIV) "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress..." Calling all "good people": please check the "Widow's Peek" bulletin board in the education wing for opportunities to help with handyman tasks, yardwork, errands, and other items of need. **Widows,** please call Barb Newberry at 474-7231 to have your need put on the "Widow's Peek" list.

## Friday at the Park!

This week **Friday at the Park** will be at Columbian Park. Bring the kids and come join in on the fun and fresh air. Questions? Call **Vicki Vaught or Barb Tilley.**

## Retiring from Teaching

Congratulations to **Lorraine Weckerly,** who has retired from the Delphi Community School Corporation. She taught a total of 26 years as a 4th grade teacher.

**June 22, 2008**

**Class: 147 Worship: 233**

**Contribution: \$4,742**

ELMWOOD CHURCH OF CHRIST newsletter (USPS 758-630) is published weekly, except the week of Christmas, by the Elmwood Church of Christ, 2501 Elmwood Ave., Lafayette 47904. Periodical postage paid at Lafayette, IN. POSTMASTER: send address changes to ELMWOOD CHURCH OF CHRIST, 2501 Elmwood Ave., Lafayette, IN 47904.



## Elmwood's First but not Last Women's Breakfast Hosted by the Men's Ministry



**Mary Bloomingburg** passed away Thursday, June 12, in Henderson, Tennessee, where she and Wendell were on the staff at Freed-Hardeman University for many years and Wendell preached in area churches. Wendell served as Elmwood's 2nd minister from 1950 to 1955. Their two sons, Larry and Randy, were born during their time in Lafayette. Larry and Randy and their families live in Henderson also. Wendell is living at Southern Oaks of Henderson, 558 White Ave., Henderson, TN 38340. His telephone number is 731-989-2401--he enjoys phone calls. Memorial gifts may be sent to The Wendell and Mary Bloomingburg Scholarship Fund at Freed-Hardeman University, 158 E. Main St., Henderson, TN 38340. Ask the university to send the announcement of the gift to Wendell at the above address.



Our sympathies to Lorraine Weckerly on the death of **John Weisler**, husband of her sister, Janet. He died unexpectedly on June 13 in Superior Township, Michigan. Dave and Lorraine were able to travel to Michigan for the funeral last week.

## “Sweet Remembrances”

On **July 3rd Barb Newberry** is going to remember what would have been her and Stan's **50th wedding anniversary**. Calling it “**Sweet Remembrances**,” she invites everyone to drop by her home (1058 Southernview Dr. S., Lafayette) anytime between 5:00 until 9:00 PM. She will serve dessert. Questions? Call Barb at 474-7231.



**June 25, 7 PM....Bible classes**

**June 29, 2:00-4:00 PM....Wedding Shower for Suzanne Fournier & Chris Macaluso at Amos & Dana's home**

**June 29, 6 PM....Joe Ruhl speaking:  
“The Price of Freedom”**

**June 29, 7 PM, A-2....Marriage celebration for Heaven Miller & Matt Welters**

