

# Word In Life Report

An occasional update on the ministry of this innovative study Bible

## Another Gold Medallion Award!

The Evangelical Christian Publishers Association (ECPA) chose the *Word In Life Study Bible* (WILSB) for "best Bible published in 1996." The announcement was made at the annual ECPA 1997 awards banquet which are held each year at the Christian Bookseller's Association (CBA) International Convention.

No other Study Bible has ever won this award twice. The *Word In Life* received it the first time for the 1994 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) New Testament edition. This version was done in partnership with the leaders of the United Methodist Church in Nashville, TN.

Publisher Thomas Nelson's vice-president for Bible publishing Bob Sanford reports that there are over 370,000 copies of the three versions (NKJV-NT, NRSV-NT, and the NKJV Whole Bible) in circulation. This includes domestic and international sales as well as the special edition done by *Guidepost* magazine for its subscribers. This was a seven volume NT paperback set. Nelson leaders are now preparing for the

March, 1998 release of the *WIL* in the new *Contemporary English Version* (CEV). It will also be supported with an extensive marketing program in print and radio. It will be featured at the July, 1998 CBA convention in Dallas, TX.

### Park Street Church & WIL

The historic **Park Street Church** of downtown Boston has chosen the *WILSB* as its text-of-choice for its new "Marketplace Ministry Team."

The forming of this team has been a process for over a year. Elder *Dick Crowell* has been a member of the church for years. He leads a team on men and women who seek to serve the congregation's many professionals, young and old. A new marketplace Sunday School class was launched in September—"Thank God Its Monday." Forty people attended the first meeting while many others declared interest.

Thirty class members have purchased their own copies of the *WILSB*. The class plan identifies specific *WILSB* pages to be read each week in pre-paration for the topics. The leadership team purchased more copies for attendees. They are also underwriting the cost so that each member can get their own copy for just \$10.

### College Faculty Use WILSB

**Belhaven College**, Jackson, MS faculty spent two extended sessions of their annual back-to-school retreat in late August learning how to use the *WILSB* as a textbook. Sessions included a survey of the various types of helps, departmental discussions in each academic area, and a quiz on Biblical laity in their workplace contexts [not even the Bible faculty got 100%.] It was fun to give college faculty a test!

*WILSB* creative developer Pete Hammond led the sessions. He also serves as a board member at the college. Provost *Dan Fredricks* and president *Roger Parrott* sponsored the session and the purchase of *WILSB*'s for all forty-five attendees.

### Charlotte, NC Leaders Use It

A new Christian business leadership program among Charlotte, NC has chosen the *WILSB* as graduation gifts for their first class of twenty-four students. A team of four veteran leaders led by *Bud Carrier* conceived of this training program and launched the **Charlotte Leadership Forum** in 1996. Their first class had to turn away applicants. The

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focus is on applying faith to all areas of life—personal, family, community and career. Guest lecturers, seminars, weekend retreats, and mentoring are utilized in the two year program.

This first class will graduate June 13, 1998. *WILSB* creative developer Pete Hammond will be the graduation speaker. Each mentee will receive their own copy of the *WILSB* from the founders of the program as a graduation gift.

## CD-Rom Now Available!

Thomas Nelson Publishers have released their first major electronic product and it includes the *Word In Life Study Bible* among its many resources! It is called the "Nelson Electronic Library." To get the version with the *WILSB* in it you need to purchase the deluxe edition which retails for \$259.

Early users are delighted with finally having the *WILSB* on their computers. It is in color and it allows the user to chase themes, access the Biblical text, do word studies, along with many other features. After three years of friends asking, "When will I get my *WILSB* on a disk?" we can now declare, "You can now!"

**InterVarsity** featured this electronic version at their tri-ennial national staff conference January 3-7 1998, in a technology demonstration room. The one thousand InterVarsity employees and many of their spouses were able to sit at a monitor and explore this product and many other new Christian resources coming on the market.

## Developer's Travels

*WILSB* creative developer and project team leader Pete Hammond will be presenting fruits of this Bible at several major engagements in 1998. In each of these presentations, he will utilize the work and materials from the seven year development of the *WILSB*. January 15-18 he will speak at the First Baptist Church of Hattiesburg, MS. This includes a bit of a reunion with graduates of the University of Southern Mississippi from the 1960-70s when he was their InterVarsity campus staff worker.

In March Pete will present the annual lectures for new pastors, students, faculty and friends at the Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Fresno, CA. The theme will be "Doing Church Differently—Through and With the Laity Where They Work, Live and Play." In April he will do the annual renewal lectures for the Center for Church Renewal at Northern Baptist Seminary in western Chicago.

## InterVarsity MP Hosts Summits

In May InterVarsity senior staff leader Pete Hammond will join with two other marketplace-focused ministries in calling together leaders in this movement. Attendees will receive gift copies of the *WILSB*'s as thank-you gifts for participating.

On May 1 the ecumenical Coalition For Ministry in Daily Life [CMDL], led by *Bill Diehl*, will gather leaders of other MDL movements in Chicago for a day of brain-storming and exploring collaboration.

On May 7-9, Pete will join with *Dr. Robert Banks*, Professor of Laity and

Director of the new De Pree Center for Leadership at Fuller Theological Seminary, for a second consultation. This will be co-sponsored by the Mockler Center of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. 15-20 leaders of faith-based centers and movements will gather in Chicago.

October 6-8 Pete will present lectures to the Wee Kirk [small church] conference sponsored by Presbyterians for Renewal in Rockford, IL. This is one of five annual conferences of congregations with less than 125 members in the PC(USA).

## Users Say...

*"My mother just loves her copy of the WILSB. It has revitalized her Scripture study."*

Midwest Pastor

*"I have already used my sampler' for my advent series of sermons. My congregation loved the results. I can't wait to get my copy of the whole Bible."*

New England Pastor

*"One member of our seekers Bible group keeps sneaking in material from other pages in her WILSB. She can't resist reading more than is assigned or being discussed."*

Midwest BS Leader

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[ed. We have a new descriptive *WIL SB* brochure available here in our InterVarsity office. It includes comments from all the theme editors and why they committed three years to work on it. Call DeAnn Franklin at 608-274-4823, ext. 398 or E-mail at: dfranklin@ivcf.org for a copy.]