

Word In Life Bible

An occasional update on this award winning innovative study Bible

Over Half Million WIL Products In Use

John Eames, Thomas Nelson vice-president of Bibles, reports that over 500,000 *Word In Life* products have been shipped from their warehouse in Nashville. This includes soft cover, hard bound and leather editions of three different Bible translations: the *New King James* (NKJV), the *New Revised Standard Version* (NRSV) and the new *Contemporary English Version* (CEV).

The report also includes several portions or individual books of the Bible like the Gospels of Matthew and John, Romans and 1& 2 Corinthians volume. Two study guide series are also included in the report - the *WIL Bible Discovery* series with four titles and the *WIL Priorities for Living* series which also has four different titles. The second set features topical articles from the *WIL Bible* along with case studies, small group exercises and questions to discuss. The themes are "work," "money," "real people" and "Scripture."

The whole Bible and its helps is also available on a new CD Rom product - *The Nelson Electronic Library*. It also includes over 40 other Scripture study and

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reference volumes.

Several congregations have chosen to use a version for new members [See related story "Churches Use *WIL Bible*."] It has also been featured by several Christian organizations as gifts for donors and helps for their staff members. A growing number of college faculty and chaplains are also using it.

Kiev, Ukraine Conference

This fall the InterVarsity type Christian ministry at universities in this former Communist nation, the CCX, built its annual conference for recent graduates/alumni around five lectures from the *Word In Life Bible*. The *WIL* creative developer Pete Hammond presented eleven articles in over a weekend in November outside the capitol city of Kiev. Seventy college graduates, campus staff members and fifth year students inter-acted with materials on "work," the "church in the world" and "all believers are ministers."

One surprise was that the lectures that were sent in advance for the inter-preter to study had been put into a Russian language booklet for every delegate. Hammond quipped, "I could have died on the spot and the conference would have gone on very well with the material - except for the question and answer sessions which lasted longer than the lectures." The acting General Secretary for the ministry, **Barrett Horne**, was

very pleased with the material and the event. He and his European and CIS campus ministry associates want to explore a translation and adaptation of this Bible for use in these nations. Pete offered to work with publisher Thomas Nelson to see if that would be possible.

Churches Use WIL Bible

Recently, we received reports of three very different congregations using the *WIL Bible* to welcome new members into their life. Pastor **Don Bryant** at Coastal Church, south of Boston, MA says, "We give all new Christians in our church their own copy along with a study guide to basic Christian beliefs that I developed using the study notes in the *WIL*.... The *WIL* is such an inviting format and so practical! This isn't your father's Bible any more!! They love it."

On the west coast, pastor **Ken Uyeda Fong** of Evergreen Baptist Church in the Los Angeles area offers every new member a copy to welcome them. He loves the ethnic sensitivities within the notes and the fresh layout in a computer type format. Ken's congregation has many third generation Asian-Americans.

In the mid-west, PC(USA) pastor **Jon Smoot** was having a discussion with two dozen new member class attendees. He asked, "How many of you have struggled with the Bible and are totally confused when you try to read it?" Almost every

hand went up. He then asked, "Would you like to try a new Bible that feels a lot like 'Windows 98?' After mild dis-belief that one existed, they all expressed interest. Later that week Jon got a call from a class member offering to cover the cost for anyone who could not pay for their copy!

Teens Choose It

A mid-west Young Life staffer (an international ministry among junior & senior high schoolers) recently asked several teenagers, "What they would like to study in their church school class this fall?" She offered six different curriculum resources for them to choose from. They un-animously selected the *Word In Life Discovery* series book on *Experiencing the Word In Your Life*. The class is now working their way through the topics using the case studies and discussion questions.

Some User's Comments

"I could not stop my first reading in the WIL until I got to Genesis 20! I can tell that this is going to be fun. Great piece of work."

(V.P. of Training, Midwest)

A senior marketing executive resigned his high paying fast track job after reading for weeks in the WIL. He said, *"I didn't want to wake up at 50 and realize that I had not integrated family, work and spirituality. I want to live my faith!"*

(Tennessee)

"We have sold more of these study Bibles at our bookstall than any other - ever! It is very well received among our regulars-both the very old

and the young, or newcomers to the faith."

(Conference director, NH)

"We offered it to the college seniors in our winter conference Alumni track 'Following Jesus for A Lifetime.' All 20 that we had pre-ordered were sold that day!"

(Caterpillar executive, IL)

"Other study Bibles tend not to get to the point, or they tell me what to conclude about the text. I want to reach my own conclusions. The WIL-SB avoids all these shortcomings."

(International Financier)

WIL Team News

Managing editor **Bill Hendricks** and his wife Nancy are battling cancer again. It first began in the early 1990s during the development of the *WIL Bible*. Bill continues his communications consulting from his Dallas office and is also working on a major 'social entrepreneurs' project.

Multi-ethnic editor **Neil Rendall** and his wife Jeanie have moved to western PA after almost 30 years in the metro New York area. This is the first step to another relocation in New Mexico to help InterVarsity with its ongoing ministry among Hispanic and Native American collegians.

Creative developer **Pete Hammond** will focus on several writing projects for six months in 1999, including working manuscripts on faith in the marketplace, family life, and several articles. He will also be producing more material for InterVarsity's Marketplace/Ministry In Daily Life website. This can be found at www.ivcf.org/mp.

Pete and Shirley joined the Hendricks in the battle against cancer in May when

Shirley was diagnosed. She has finished chemotherapy and will see her doctors for a checkup in February.

Urban editor **Ray Bakke** has released another book with InterVarsity Press, *A Theology Big Enough for The City*. He continues his mentoring of urban leadership around the world. Part of it is being done as the visiting professor for urban doctoral students at Eastern College near Philadelphia.

Women's theme editor **Sue Cotton** continues her law practice in Madison, WI. Much of her work is representing very needy people who tend to be neglected or even ignored by the legal and judicial industry.

Economic and work editor **Dick Chewing** continues his chaired professorship at Baylor' business school in Texas along with research projects and consulting.

Nat'I IV Board Welcomes It

InterVarsity president **Steve Hayner** presented all his board members and officers with copies of the newly released *CEV Word In Life Bible* this fall. He commented, *"Every other study Bible's helps can be found somewhere else. The WIL Bible has new, unique and very helpful notes that can't be found anywhere."* InterVarsity's board chair **Ginny Viola** says, *"Every friend I have given a copy has thanked me. It is a joy to give the Word of God and have it received freely and used immediately."*

Members also received a brochure that describes why each of the theme editors invested four years in its development. Copies are available from DeAnn Franklin at 608-274-4823, x398 or via e-mail at dfranklin@ivcf.org.