

Word In Life Report

An occasional report on the feedback about this innovative study Bible.

It's Just Not Another Study Bible!!

Have you been to a Christian book-store lately and looked in the Bible section? Or have you browsed through a Bible catalogue recently? Whew!!

Just how many theme-driven study Bibles would you have to buy to apply faith to all of life? We have specialty Bibles for "men," "women," "grand-parents" and "youth." Then there are others devoted to "charismatics," "doctrine," "relationships," "devotions," "spirituality & renewal," "marriage & family," and "leader-ship"—just to name just a few!

More and more I am convinced of the unique value and design of the *Word In Life Bible*. Every time I see another "specialty" Bible I am reminded of the number of articles devoted to whatever subject it addresses that are covered in the *WIL*. This Bible connects faith with every dimension of life. I celebrate what our team of *WIL* theme editors and the Thomas Nelson Bible division staff accomplished. This Bible really helps seekers, new believers and veteran Bible teachers engage and learn what *whole-life discipleship* is all about. It even presses beyond the popular topics and takes on the neglected issues of "race and reconciliation," "money and poverty," "politics and power," and the almost never addressed intricacies of "urbanization."

Frankly, I long for many more folks to discover this treasure. It stands out from all the rest. So, what are you planning to give for Christmas this year? I'm making my list already.

[Pete Hammond, editor]

WIL On Web!

Watch for selections from the *WIL Bible* on our InterVarsity hosted *Ministry In Daily Life* website soon. Publishers Thomas Nelson has recently agreed to this strategy.

Former InterVarsity Marketplace Ministry Associate Steve Cook is functioning as manager of our site. We have contracted with Vivid Media here in Madison, WI to upgrade and maintain the site. Vivid was founded by former InterVarsity media staff member Barry Sherbeck. Along with a wide variety of marketplace resources, the website will have articles on laity, work, wealth & poverty, ethics, urbanization, witness and more—all from the rich content in the *WIL*.

There are also many links to the growing number of faith-in-the marketplace / ministry in daily life websites.

Our address is www.ivcf.org/mdl.

More Users Comment

[Editor: We still receive letters, e-mails from and have conversations with users of the *WIL*. Here are a few more.]

"My wife just can't put her WIL down. She just loves it and does studies in it every day."

(Black leader, MS)

"I wish we had this Bible years ago when I was just getting into workplace faith issues. It is profound and unique and I want to spread it around among friends and leaders in my country and Europe."

(Ministry Head, Budapest, Hungary)

"I tell my students that this is the only study Bible they should ever use!"

(Professor, New Zealand)

"My students are loving this Bible. It helps them see new implications of faith for all of life. It is the best I've ever used."

(Bible Professor, MS)

"I use my WIL regularly in my training work and I always get rave notices from clients and audiences. It is very beneficial."

(Child Development Trainer, TX)

"I had to buy a CEV with no notes after using the WIL. I love the translation, but I was having a hard time resisting the chain system of helps in the WIL. They are great and I use them lots, but I also wanted to read the text with no other temptations. Thanks for producing this wonderful resource!"

(Camp manager, CO)

"This is just what we need in the former Communist countries like my own. When can we get it in Russian?"

(Pastor in Kiev, Ukraine)

"I just love this Bible—and I haven't even gotten to the 'money' theme yet! I find it hard to stop reading and get to my job. Nice problem."

(Financial Mgr., WI)

International Use Grows

InterVarsity's Ministry In Daily Life Resource Group made copies of the *WIL-CEV* available to campus ministry leaders gathered in Asia this summer. When the 138 national member movements of the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES) met for their quadrennial World congress in Seoul, Korea, several boxes were on hand. Gift copies were given to leaders from Europe, CIS nations, Latin America and both East and Central Asia.

Following this event, at a retreat of thirty East Asia workers with IFES alumni, Pete Hammond did a review of the theology and history of the U.S. Marketplace Ministry movement. Each participant had a *WIL-CEV* to take home for their work among professionals in seven Asian nations.

Conversation about adaptations of the *WIL* were begun for Russian speakers with the Ukrainian movement leaders as well as with Pakistani, Korean and Filipino IFES leaders. Pray for these explorations. It is not a simple matter of translation, but rather an intricate process of cultural adaptation that is being explored.

Church Use Grows

We continue to hear of local congregations using the *WIL* to equip every believer for ministry in the workplace.

A Seventh Day Adventist Church in Arizona is using the *WIL* article on "Success and Prosperity" in the book of Joshua in its development of educational curriculum.

A Wisconsin Presbyterian sermon development team that meets weekly to study the Bible text for future sermons each uses a *WIL-CEV*. The pastors, the worship leader and several members discuss upcoming texts to have a better grasp of its potential.

Park Street Church in Boston has finished two intense years of building a Marketplace Ministry Team. Its leader is deacon Ginny Viola. She has just completed *Thank God Its Monday: Church Based Curriculum for Men and Women* for her seminary mentored ministry writing project. Several articles from the *WIL* are included.

WIL Team Update

Managing editor Bill Hendricks reports that his wife Nancy is having her third bout with cancer. It has spread and her doctor's are trying some new ways to attack it. These are very hard days for Bill, Nancy and their three daughters. Bill's communications company is working on gift and passion discernment in leadership development.

Creative developer Pete Hammond's wife Shirley is completing one year after her onset of breast cancer. She had two clean checkups in 1999. Pete has just finished a

six month research and writing assignment focusing on faith-in-the-workplace and family life.

Urban theme editor and team leader Ray Bakke is transitioning his International Urban Associates group to younger leaders—spread around the world—as he prepares to move more toward writing and mentoring.

Women's theme editor Sue Cotton continues her law practice in Wisconsin. Her eldest daughter is now in college.

Former InterVarsity Marketplace associate director Denyse Stoneman has just finished an intense year as an administrator of a downtown church in Madison, WI. She created a new infrastructure, hired and built a team, and upgraded all their technology.

Neil Rendall, race and ethnicity theme editor, and spouse Jeannie have moved to New Mexico to learn and work among Native Americans.

To order your own copy of the *Word In Life Study Bible* (in New King James or Contemporary English versions), or for Christmas gifts, contact your local bookstore. Or, call Thomas Nelson Publishers at 1-800-251-4000 or visit their website at www.thomasnelson.com.

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