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Japan Bible Society
Since 1875 (131st anniversary)
Public Relations Dept.
30 September 2006
5-1, Ginza 4-chome, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan 145-0061
Phone: +81-(0)3-3567-1988
Fax: +81-(0)3-3567-4451
E-mail:info@bible.or.jp
http://www.bible.or.jp/e/index.html

JBS NEWS INTERNATIONAL
Vol. 2 Oct. 2006

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I tell you for certain that if you have faith in me, you will do the same things that I am doing. You will do even greater things, now that I am going back to the Father. John 14:12 (CEV)

Beautiful Japan

We ask you to remember us in your prayers so that His work will spread. May God’s abundant life and blessing be with you all.

Sincerely in Christ,

makoto watabe
General Secretary

The Poster of International Bible Forum
International Bible Forum 2006

International Bible Forum was held from May 3rd to 5th, 2006 at Hotel New Otani in Tokyo. A keynote lecture and symposium, along with 27 lectures aroused the interest of the attendees in the Word of God. Also, other activities such as concerts and art exhibition were held. Nine lecturers from abroad and 14 from Japan were invited to conduct the lectures and over 2,000 people from various backgrounds including scholars, clerics and lay people attended the lectures that gave us the total of 5,000 participants.

Our lectures were divided into 3 themes: “Biblical theology,” “Bible translation,” and “church and the society.” The lecturers were the following:

Non-Japanese Lecturers

- Dr Emanuel Tov
  The Professor of the Hebrew University
  The Editor-in-Chief of the Dead Sea Scrolls Publication Project

- Dr James Robinson
  The Professor Emeritus of Claremont Graduate University

- Dr Adrian Schenker
  The Professor Emeritus of University of Fribourg
  President of the Editorial Committee of BHQ

- Dr Klaus Wachtel
  The Institute for New Testament Textual Research,
  University of Munster

- Dr John Dominic Crossan
  The Professor Emeritus of De Paul University

- Dr Lourence de Vries
  The Professor of Free University of Amsterdam
  UBS Honorary Translation Consultant

- Dr Young Jin Min
  General Secretary of Korean Bible Society

- Dr Daud Soesillo
  UBS Asia Pacific Area Translations Coordinator

- Dr Yu Suee Yan
  UBS Translation Consultant, Asia Pacific Area

The Symposium

God’s Unchanging Word for a changing World is the slogan for the United Bible Societies, which was taken up in 2004. However, human words / languages change as time changes but God’s words never does. The symposium held under the theme of “Revisiting the Bible from the original text to modern translations: how to convey the Bible to the modern society?” challenged the participants to explore further into the world of Bible translation and distribution.

The aim of the forum was to re-discuss the Bible so that we can re-learn the Word as the main theme of the forum, “Revisiting the Bible, Today” testifies. It gave us all a great opportunity to reconsider our activities of spreading God’s Word here in Japan.

Fringe events included Bible quiz, a violin recital, a hand-copying Bible booth, and a book fair. Pastor of Soai Church, United Church of Christ in Japan lead us in the quiz event and participants enjoyed competing over various prizes.

At the violin recital, a Korean violinist, Mr. Jung Chanwoo, played beautiful music, which included repertoires such as “Zigeunerweisen.” He also shared his testimony with us and afterwards the promotion video of the JBS was shown.

The Study Bible

This is the Full Study Bible, which includes both the New Testament and the Old Testament texts with explanation notes. This is the first of its kind in Japan. As it was the case with the New Testament Study Bible which was published in 2004, some notes are translated from the CEV Learning Bible published by the American Bible Society, but we have added notes for enrichment in order to deepen the readers’ understanding of the Bible and its history.

The book is made in such a way as to correspond with the New Interconfessional Translation Bible page number, thus making it easier to look up the part the reader is looking for. The size of the book and the fonts are also bigger. The actual heaviness of the Study Bible reminds us that the Bible is the Word of God, which we can strive to learn and understand with the help of God.

Bible Talk Spanish Version

In 2004, JBS produced the “Bible Talk - New Testament” in Japanese and in English. This year, we launched the Spanish Reina Valera 1960 (known as RVR 1960) version. Reina Valera is a very popular version in Spanish speaking countries. The recording used is narrated by Samuel Montoya. Bible Talk is small in size and uses the digital sound format. We are currently developing other languages also and hope that it will be used to reach out to the furthest corners of the world. If you are interested in distributing Bible Talk in your own country, please contact Japan Bible Society.
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