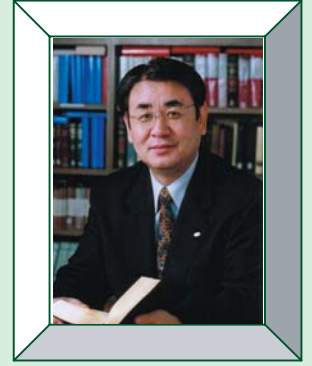




Beautiful Japan

# JBS NEWS INTERNATIONAL

Vol. 2 Oct. 2006



Rev.Watabe, GS

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)

## Warm Greetings from Japan Bible Society

Welcome back to our second issue of the JBS news international!

We hope to inform you of our past activities through this newsletter so that we will be able to remain close to your hearts. This year we have had the International Bible Forum and other events, which we hope will stir the interests of those in Japan so that more people will read the Bible. We hope to continue these events in the future, too.

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.

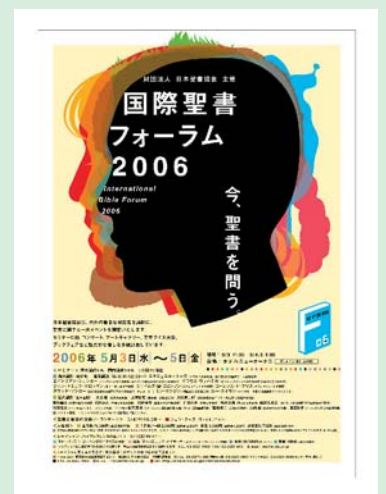
Sincerely in Christ,

Makoto Watabe  
General Secretary

### The Translation Department



In November 2005, the Translation Department was established with four staff: the assistant director Dr Yuko Taniguchi, the librarian Ms Yuko Takahashi, Mr Shuji Miyazaki and Dr Katsuomi Shimasaki. Since then, they have been busy organizing the International Bible Forum and editing the Study Bible, as well as the lecture notes for the forum at the same time. JBS is hoping to continue organizing similar seminars every year.



The Poster of International Bible Forum

# International Bible Forum 2006

## The Symposium



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 Soesilo**

UBS Asia Pacific Area  
Translations Coordinator



**Dr Yu Suee Yan**

UBS Translation Consultant,  
Asia Pacific Area

*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.



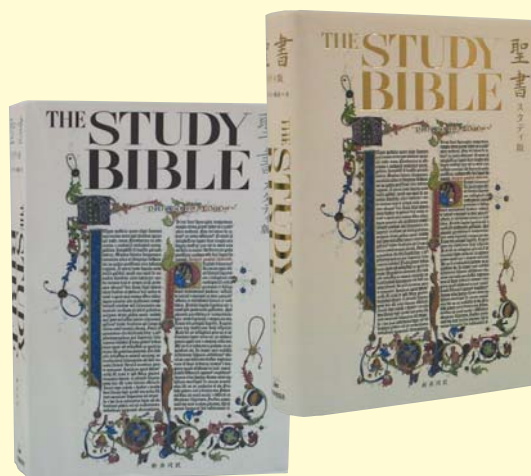
Fringe events included Bible quiz, a violin recital, a hand-copying Bible booth, and a book fair. Pastor of Soai Church, United Church of Christ in Japan lead us in the quiz event and participants enjoyed competing over various prizes.

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.



Size: 182 × 257mm; 2,208pages  
 Domestic Price  
 Hardcover: \$103.14 (NI64 STUDY)  
 Paperback: \$91.11 (NI60 STUDY)

## 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

Size: 105 × 71 × 27mm  
 Weight: 70g, Built in speaker  
 Cat no.: RVRBT-NT



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.



Why don't you try another "GS" product?

Lexus GS

## Greek Learning Software

We are currently developing a software that will assist people in learning the Biblical Greek. It is targeted to seminary students as well as anyone who wants to be able to read Greek. The software comes with a function that reads out the text of the Greek Bible (UBS 4th edition, Nestle-Aland 27th edition) in the Ancient Greek pronunciation.

The characteristics will be: 1) karaoke function, the part that is being read will change its colour; 2) dictionary which will display the meaning and the pronunciation when you click a word; and 3) Greek / Japanese interlinear text. We are hoping to launch it in the fiscal year 2006 - 2007.

## World Council of Churches

Rev. Makoto Watabe, the General Secretary, attended the 9th World Assembly of the World Council of Churches that was held in Porto Alegre, Brazil from the 14th - 23rd February 2006. The social, political, racial, humanitarian and economical issues in the Southern Hemisphere were mainly discussed. An hour

and a half Bible Study was conducted everyday. It is worthy to note that the Orthodox Church was participating as the proper member of the WCC. This time of gathering was beneficial in deepening the fellowship, prayer and deliberation, to enable us to face the various challenges of the ecumenical movement in the 21st century.



Rev. Watabe, also the National Christian Council in Japan, China, Committee Chairperson; preaching in Xian, Sep. 2004

Right: Rev. Watabe GS;  
2<sup>nd</sup> Right: Board Chairperson Rev. Omiya



## Contributor to the Bible Work

Since 1990, JBS has been awarding those who have contributed greatly to the Bible Work; people who played significant roles in the translation, production and distribution of the Bible, for example, those with specialized skills, such as gilding or publishing the Braille Bible.

Last year, this award was presented to the General Director of New Life League, Japan, Mr. Roald Lidal.

The NLL has distributed the Bible to more than 90 countries and printed the Bible in more than 80 languages. The award ceremony is usually held during the Christmas worship service of JBS.



## Come and Visit us!

Tokyo Tower



Our Latest Bullet Train



A kabuki actor

 Japan Bible Society



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