

THE SWORD OF THE LORD

July 9, 1999

Noteworthy NEWS Notes

Southern Baptists Plan Bible Translation

Broadman & Holman Publishers, an arm of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, is producing a new Bible translation.

[It is] named the Holman Christian Standard Bible, or CSB for short....Kenneth Stephens, president of Broadman & Holman [said]:

"Up until now, every English translation of the Bible has been a tradeoff between accuracy and readability," he said. "The more accurate it was, the harder it was to read, and the more reader-friendly it was, the more it drifted from a precise translation of the original text....We've eliminated the tradeoff."...

General Editor Edwin Blum of Dallas is working with a 78-person team of translators, lexicologists, stylists and other scholars around the world. Team members represent 20 denominations....

Blum said he believes a Bible translation should be accurate to the text but conversational.

—BAPTIST STANDARD, 5/19/99

EDITOR'S COMMENTS: So now the Southern Baptist publishing house has assembled an ecumenical committee of scholars from twenty denominations to produce a new "accurate" and "readable" version of the Bible.

They are admitting apparently that the NIV and the NKJV (which they have promoted heavily), though "reader-friendly," are not "precise translation(s)." About that they are indeed correct!

The news release also says that the "more accurate text" (I assume they mean the King James Version) is "harder...to read." That's a trumped-up charge employed over and over by those who attempt such projects as this!

All of this is strange when you consider that millions of English readers have no complaint at all about their Bible and find it very readable.

Of course they want the public to believe their hand-picked academics are finally going to get everything just right!