

Whistle Blowing and the NIV 2011 Edition

-- by Les Dennis

Although Atlantic Region Ministries has not put together a formal position on Bible versions, there is one thing of which you can be assured, the Board members all are conservative in their choice of which Bible version to use. The purpose in writing this article is to inform our readers of an issue that arose last year and has had an impact on many churches. I do not intend to suggest that all members of ARM would agree with me. The opinions expressed are strictly my own.

Will the real
NIV please
stand up?

Many churches use the *New International Version*, which until last year was identified as the 1984 edition. Last year Zondervan chose to publish the *New International Version* 2011 under that same name as the 1984 edition and take away the name *New International Version* from the 1984 edition. This has the appearance of trying to change which version some churches use while flying under the radar. I know of at least one church that unknowingly bought a large number of the NIV 2011 edition to give out to its youth without being aware of the change.

Even worse is the fact that the 1984 edition will no longer be printed. This forces churches to either give in and go with the changes or leave the NIV version altogether, which is exactly what I intend to do as soon as I determine which Bible version to adopt. Until I have settled on an acceptable version, I will continue to use my worn-out NIV 1984 edition.

I have reviewed several studies of the individual passages where changes were made. Some of the changes were justified by comparisons with the original languages, but many were not justified. Some of the changes were made to satisfy our modern culture without having reasonable support in the original languages. I will not become tedious by listing the studies here, but you may find them easily by typing NIV 2011 into a search engine.

Why is the *NIV* 2011 so unacceptable? Because the inerrancy of Scripture is a vital doctrine to our faith, we cannot take lightly the changes to make the Bible more gender inclusive so as to become more in step with our culture.

Christianity Today: "The updated *NIV* Bible is being promoted as the first update to the *NIV* in 25 years. In reality, the 2005 TNIV was the first attempt to update the 1984, *NIV* but fallout from the evangelical community over its overt 'gender inclusive' language led to its demise in 2009."

The Southern Baptist Convention was quoted in *The Christian Post* (Monday, Nov 26, 2012) as saying: "This translation alters the meaning of hundreds of verses, most significantly by erasing gender-specific details which appear in the original language."

© 2013 by Rev. Les Dennis, B.A., D.D. Permission is given to copy this article, if it is copied in its entirety and distributed without charge.