

TNIV



The facts that inspired
an updated Scripture text
for today's reader.

Today's New International Version





Early in the 1960s, America was working its way toward the moon—but the language of the Bible was firmly rooted in the 1600s.

It was becoming increasingly difficult for committed Christians to share their faith using a Bible whose

English was out of date at the least, and simply not understandable at the worst.

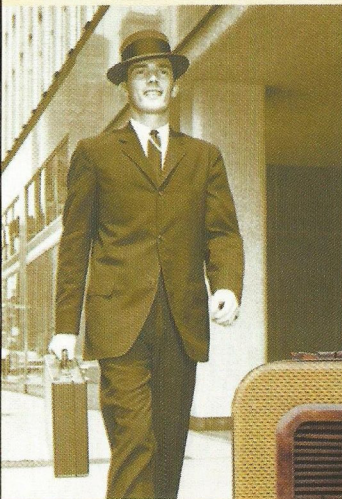
The issue at hand was more than just a preference of style. For a generation that was adopting terms such as “transistor” and “rocket booster,” the antiquated language of the Bible was, for some, a stumbling block to faith.

Clearly, the Church needed God’s eternal and infallible Word translated into “shirt sleeve English” that Americans could understand.

The vision for a contemporary Bible was launched.

Waiting at the launch pad was International Bible Society. In ministry since 1809, the society had distributed Scripture around the world. But nowhere was its passion for evangelism using the Bible more apparent than in the US.

IBS sensed the need for a contemporary translation to connect with contemporary culture. They needed an accurate, modern Bible to lead people to Christ.



In 1967, IBS made a faith-stretching decision to underwrite the work of a new translation by a team of more than 100 respected scholars, editors and linguists. With a solidly evangelical statement of faith and unwavering commitment to the authority of the Word, the Committee on Bible Translation began work

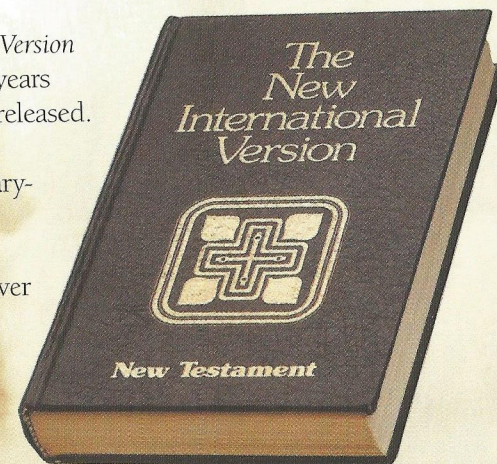
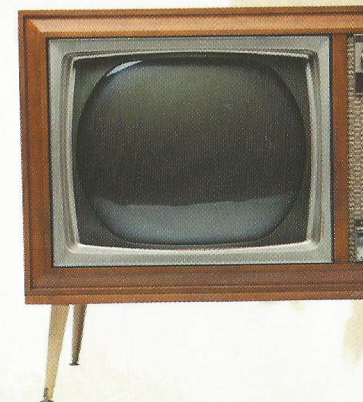
on what was to become the *New International Version* of the Bible.

The intricate process of working from the original Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek languages proved to be lengthy. After 7 years of painstaking translation, checking, double-checking, proofing and evaluating style, the project stretched beyond the society’s fast-dwindling resources.

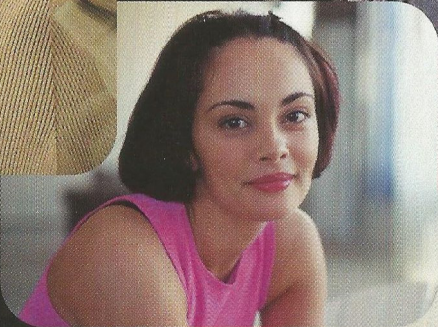
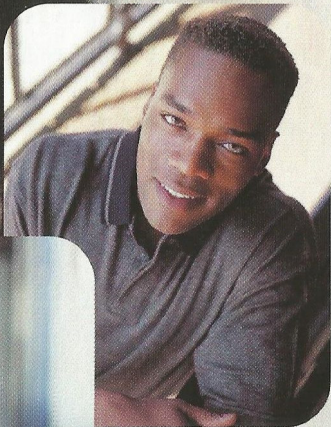
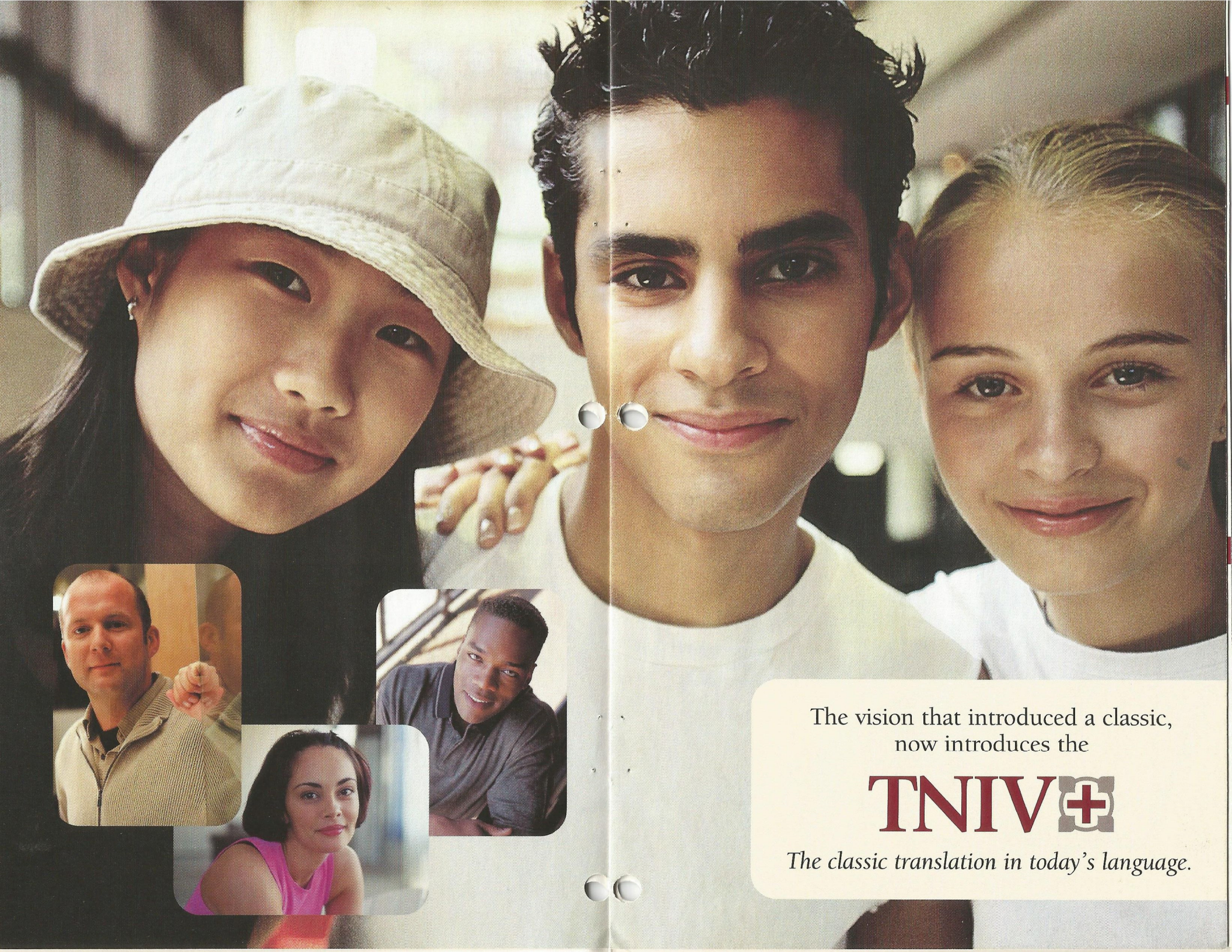
A new partner came alongside. Zondervan, a respected Christian publisher, agreed to underwrite the remaining work.

In 1973, the *New International Version* New Testament debuted. Five years later, the entire *NIV* Bible was released.

A new standard in contemporary-language Bible translation was achieved. And people came to faith in Christ through the power of an accurate, easy-to-read Word of God.



The *NIV* New Testament, released in 1973.



The vision that introduced a classic,
now introduces the

TNIV+

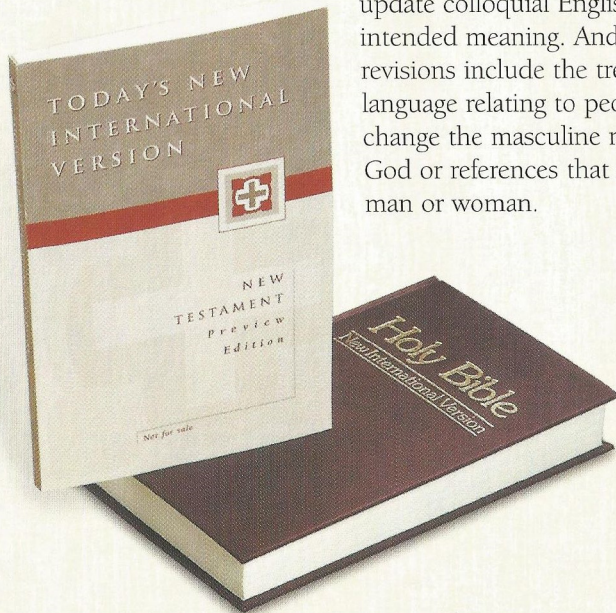
The classic translation in today's language.

The *TNIV*, *Today's New International Version*, is a thoroughly accurate, fully trustworthy Bible text built on the rich heritage of the *NIV*. In fact, this contemporary language edition incorporates the continuing work the translators of the *NIV* have done since its last update in 1984.

The uniqueness of the *TNIV* rests in its ability to speak God's words clearly and accurately in English that has evolved and changed.

The result is a Bible text that reflects the *NIV*, but also clarifies and updates passages and words to provide a more timely, contemporary English rendition for a new generation of Bible readers.

Your review of the *TNIV* will reveal that approximately 93 percent of the New Testament text parallels the *NIV* translation. The remaining 7 percent incorporates new translation treatments in order to better clarify passages or update colloquial English without altering the intended meaning. And while some of these revisions include the treatment of gender language relating to people, they do not change the masculine references to God or references that specifically indicate man or woman.



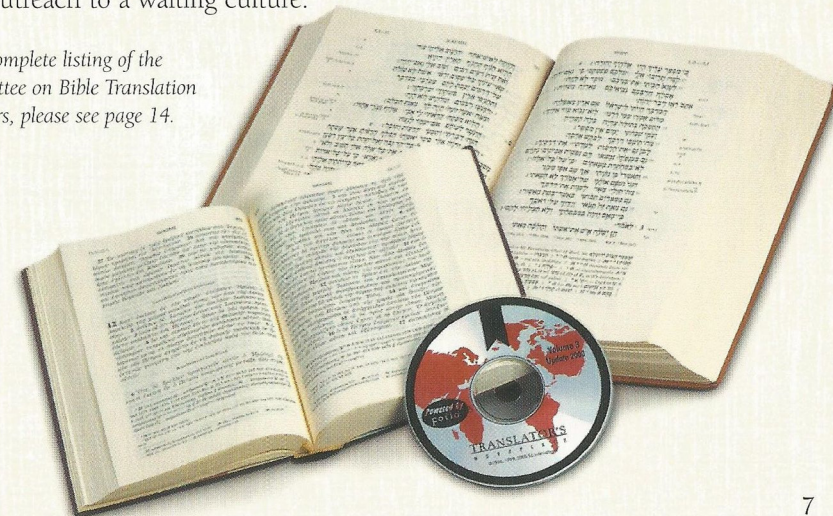
The fully independent body that translated the highly acclaimed *NIV* is the same eminent group that undertook the work on the *TNIV*.

These evangelical scholars of the Committee on Bible Translation maintain an unswerving commitment to the authority of God's Word, its inspiration and infallibility. They represent a wide variety of denominations and geographic regions. Each member brings impeccable credentials and unparalleled expertise in evangelical scholarship and translation.

The widely respected translation methodology that drove the scholarship of the *NIV* was maintained in the development of the *TNIV*. Revisions were checked for accuracy against the original languages and reviewed one by one for faithfulness, communication and style. Only when a revision in English matched the accuracy of the original languages did it make its way into the *TNIV*.

What's more, just as the scholarship of the *NIV* was enthusiastically presented to the Church for her review and acceptance, so too, the Committee on Bible Translation presents the *TNIV* for study, personal devotion, teaching and outreach to a waiting culture.

For a complete listing of the Committee on Bible Translation members, please see page 14.



Clarity in contemporary English

The art and science of Bible translation is one of the most demanding—and humbling of all ministry professions. Perhaps Martin Luther said it best when he opined that he was glad he became a Bible translator, “...otherwise I might have died someday imagining that I was a learned man.”

The challenge of beginning with the original Bible languages, syntax and cultures and translating them into the receptor language, replete with its own idioms and cultural understandings, is massive. It can never be a work of personal preferences or accommodation to special interests. Textual revisions result when a better understanding of ancient languages and cultures, new archeological findings and developments in biblical scholarship create the need for translation changes.

As a result, readers of the *TNIV* will experience:

Increased clarity: Word updates

Some of the improvements reflected in the *TNIV* text are simple word changes that reflect contemporary English terms. For example,

- The “sixth hour” is accurately translated as “noon” in the modern understanding of time. Mark 15:33.
- A “tunic” is a “shirt.” Matthew 5:40.
- “With child” means to be “pregnant.” Matthew 1:18

Increased clarity: Gender

Without exception, the *TNIV* retains gender-accurate, masculine terminology for references to God. This is a

theological understanding and commitment that the Committee on Bible Translation, standing in concert with the Church throughout the ages, considers inviolable.

There are passages in the *TNIV*, however, in which the contemporary English rendition used to refer to men and women has been translated to accurately reflect the original language, context and understanding. Where the *NIV* previously used “he,” “man,” or “men” to indicate all people, the *TNIV*, in many cases, renders these passages as “person,” “people” or other terminology that reflects the meaning of the original language. In other words, where the original language indicates that both men and women were being addressed, the *TNIV* reflects that understanding in contemporary English.

For example, in Paul’s letter to Titus, referring to God’s saving grace, the *TNIV*, renders 2:11 this way: “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all *people*.”

And in Matthew 5:16, Jesus’ call for all believers to live a life of moral excellence before a watching world reads, “In the same way, let your light shine before *others*, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”

The *TNIV* sometimes uses a generic plural pronoun in the place of a masculine singular pronoun, making it more consistent with contemporary English.

As a case in point, Paul’s admonition in 1 Corinthians 11:28 for each believer to prepare for communion is translated, “*We* ought to examine *ourselves* before we eat of the bread and drink of the cup.”

All of these *TNIV* revisions from its predecessor, the *NIV*, reflect a better rendition of clear gender language for the modern reader. In no cases do these updates impose upon or change the doctrinal impact of Scripture.

Increased understanding: Christ and Messiah

Two terms that declare Jesus as the “anointed one” are employed in the New Testament. The Greek *Cristos* and the Hebrew *Messiah* received careful evaluation. When used as the Messianic title for Jesus, especially in Matthew, John and Acts, the translators used the title of “Messiah.” In other passages, where the title does not reflect a particularly Messianic overtone, translators utilized the Greek “Christ.”

Increased understanding: Jews versus Jewish leaders

Similar insight is achieved in the translators’ treatment of the term “Jew.” The Greek word *Ioudaios*, based on the context, can be used to refer to a more precisely identifiable group within the whole of Judaism. In some instances, such a change accurately dispels anti-Semitic misinterpretations of the New Testament. So, the *TNIV* translates the term *Ioudaios* in John 5:16 to read “...the *Jewish leaders* began to persecute [Jesus]” in order to accurately implicate those directly responsible.

Increased understanding: Saints

The *TNIV* presents an updated translation of the Greek term for *hagios*, traditionally translated as “saints.” The *TNIV* translators were concerned to reflect the original sense of the term and avoid confusion with the process of canonization within religious tradition. Therefore, the *TNIV* replaces

the word “saint” with terms such as “God’s people,” “people of God” and “believers.” (A notable exception will be found in Romans 1:7).

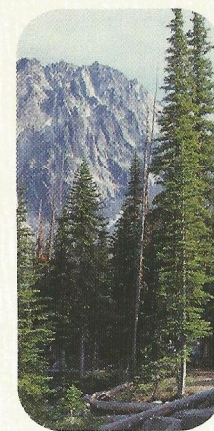
Other textual updates in the *TNIV* reflect simple revisions in punctuation, copy editing details and treatment of footnotes. For a more thorough review of *TNIV* translation examples, please access www.TNIV.info.

The *TNIV*—an “evergreen translation”

The commitment to superb evangelical scholarship that produced the *TNIV* is a pledge that will be ongoing. As Dr. Ronald F. Youngblood, translator and member of the Committee on Bible Translation put it, “Responsible translation work never ends.”

In order to ensure that the *TNIV* remains clear, accurate and extremely readable for future generations, the independent work of the Committee on Bible Translation will continue in the decades to come. As new understandings of ancient language and culture, new archeological findings and developments in biblical scholarship emerge, the *TNIV* will be reviewed and revised to reflect these advancements in accepted, contemporary English.

In essence, the *TNIV* will be an “evergreen translation”—a Bible that you can trust to reach your children, your grandchildren and the generations to come.



The NIV—an ever-present classic

The introduction of the *TNIV* does not erode the commitment of International Bible Society, or its publishing partner, Zondervan, to the *New International Version*. The *NIV* will continue to be published without change. Nor will it be diminished. The *NIV* will continue to be published in fresh formats and with the same high-quality study helps and notes that have made it the world's most popular modern-language English Bible.

Advance praise for the *TNIV*

“As the editor of the Student Bible, I’ve spent thousands of hours trying to help readers understand the *NIV* Bible. I’m thrilled to hear about the *TNIV* and its ability to help add clarity and impact to the study of God’s Word.”

Philip Yancey
Author

“I have a passion for making sure today’s generation hears God’s Word in its most clear and accurate form. The *TNIV* assures that today’s English reader will get the message, understand it, and be able to apply its transforming power to their lives.”

Pastor Ted Haggard
New Life Church
Colorado Springs, Colorado

“I am thrilled with *Today’s New International Version*. The *TNIV* offers significant improvements in scholarship and in its use of English idiom. Without question, the *TNIV* is the finest English translation available at the beginning of this new millennium.”

John Kohlenberger
Biblical scholar

Available in April

Ministry-priced editions of the *TNIV* will be available beginning in April from its translation sponsor, International Bible Society. New Testaments and the Gospel of Mark will be followed later in 2002 by specialty editions of the *TNIV* specifically designed for evangelism.

You may purchase these editions in April by logging on to www.IBSDirect.com or calling 1-800-524-1588 to receive a catalog.

Both print and electronic editions of the *TNIV* will be available in your local Christian bookstore from our publishing partner, Zondervan. For information on these editions as they become available, go to www.zondervan.com.

The *TNIV* in full Bible form is expected to be released in 2005.

The organizations behind the *TNIV*

International Bible Society

Founded in 1809, International Bible Society (IBS) faithfully translates, publishes and reaches out with God’s Word so that people around the world may become disciples of Jesus Christ and members of His Body. Today, IBS also provides specialized Scriptures to minister to the spiritual needs of those in difficult circumstances, including prisoners, women in crisis pregnancies, the homeless, and adults and children suffering in the aftermath of disasters. Our passion is to reach today’s generation of young people with the life-transforming Word of God.

The Committee on Bible Translation

The Committee on Bible Translation is composed of:

Professor John Stek, Chairman of the Committee on Bible Translation
Calvin Theological Seminary, Part-time Professor of Old Testament
Denominational Affiliation: Christian Reformed Church

Dr. Donald H. Madvig, Vice-Chairman of the Committee
on Bible Translation
Retired Pastor and Professor of Biblical Studies
Denominational Affiliation: Evangelical Covenant

Dr. Kenneth L. Barker, Secretary of the Committee on
Bible Translation
Dallas Theological Seminary, Adjunct Professor of Hebrew
and Old Testament Studies
Denominational Affiliation: Southern Baptist

Dr. Gordon Fee
Regent College, Professor of New Testament Studies
Denominational Affiliation: Assemblies of God

Dr. Richard T. France
Parish Minister, England and Wales
Denominational Affiliation: Church of England

Dr. Karen H. Jobes
Westmont College, Associate Professor of New Testament
Denominational Affiliation: Presbyterian Church of America

Dr. Walter Liefeld
Tyndale Theological Seminary, The Netherlands, Interim President
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Distinguished Professor
Emeritus of New Testament
Denominational Affiliation: Independent

Dr. Douglas Moo
Wheaton College Graduate School (Blanchard Professor of
New Testament)
Wheaton College, PhD Coordinator in Biblical and Theological Studies
Denominational Affiliation: Independent

Dr. Martin J. Selman
Spurgeon's College, London, Deputy Principal
Denominational Affiliation: Baptist

Dr. Larry L. Walker
Beeson Divinity School of Samford University, Visiting Professor
Denominational Affiliation: Southern Baptist

Dr. Bruce K. Waltke
Regent College, Professor Emeritus of Old Testament Studies
Reformed Theological Seminary, Professor of Old Testament
Denominational Affiliation: Baptist

Dr. Herbert M. Wolf
Wheaton College Graduate School
Denominational Affiliation: Independent Baptist

Dr. Ronald F. Youngblood
Chairman of the Board of Directors, International Bible Society
Bethel Seminary San Diego, Professor Emeritus of Old Testament
and Hebrew
Denominational Affiliation: Baptist General Conference

Zondervan

Founded in 1931, Zondervan is the leading international Christian communications company. From its headquarters in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Zondervan produces best-selling Bibles, books, new media products, a growing line of gift products from its Inspirio group and award-winning children's products from its Zonderkidz group. The world's largest Bible publisher, Zondervan (www.zondervan.com) holds exclusive publishing rights to the *New International Version* of the Bible—a translation with more than 150 million copies distributed worldwide. It is also one of the top Christian publishers in the world, selling its award-winning books through Christian retailers, general market bookstores, mass merchandisers, specialty retailers and the Internet.

www.TNIV.info

Tell us how you will use the *TNIV*

After you have reviewed your personal Preview Edition of *Today's New International Version*, we'd like to hear your thoughts.

How can the *TNIV* support your ministry? Your evangelism outreach? Your youth or Sunday school programs?

Indeed, we'd like to hear what aspects of the *TNIV* will prove to be particularly beneficial to you.

Simply visit www.TNIV.info. You'll find more information on the *TNIV* and an opportunity to provide direct feedback to International Bible Society, the Committee on Bible Translation and Zondervan.



TODAY'S NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION | **TNIV+**

The classic translation in today's language.

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ISBN 0-310-95593-9