

NEWS RELEASE

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Forum of Bible Agencies Says TNIV Falls Within Established Translation Guidelines
Statement Provides Definitive Voice on Translation Guidelines;
Other Translation Experts Speak Up

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo., GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (June 11, 2002) – The Forum of Bible Agencies (FBA) has issued a statement supporting the TNIV’s adherence to established translation standards.

“It is the consensus of the FBA that the TNIV falls within the Forum’s translation principles and procedures,” the FBA’s statement said.

The FBA represents the world’s leading experts on Bible translation and its members are responsible for 90 percent of all Bible translation work. Members of the FBA are:

The Bible League	Open Doors International
Book of Hope International	Pioneer Bible Translators
Evangel Bible Translators	Scripture Union International
Hosanna Ministries	SIM International
Institute of Bible Translation	Wycliffe Bible Translators
International Bible Society	American Bible Society
The Jesus Film Project	United Bible Society
Lutheran Bible Translators	World Bible Translation Center
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“The FBA is a definitive source on Bible translation,” said Scott Bolinder, executive vice president and publisher for Zondervan. “We hope their announcement will help correct misinformation about *Today’s New International Version*.”

International Bible Society (IBS) officials said criticism of the TNIV does not reflect the opinion of most evangelical Christians.

“We continue to receive support because people know and trust the Committee on Bible Translation, and they understand that the CBT’s sole objective is to faithfully and accurately translate God’s Word,” said Larry Lincoln, director of communications for IBS. “The CBT’s work can’t be influenced by any special interest group or ideology – liberal, conservative or otherwise.”

Well-respected members of the translation community also are coming forward with specific objections to the critics’ attack on the TNIV.

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“Having spent nearly 30 years studying biblical language, translation theory and the history of Bible translation, I am amazed and disturbed by the campaign against the TNIV,” said John Kohlenberger, author of *The Exhaustive Concordance to the Greek New Testament*. “The claims made by CBMW (The Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood) reflect some lack of awareness for the fundamentals of translation and for what has been acceptable throughout the history of Bible translation. Assertions that the TNIV distorts Scripture or caters to a particular agenda are absolutely false.”

Mark Strauss, associate professor of New Testament Bethel Seminary San Diego, added, “No one should make a decision about the TNIV based on information distributed by CBMW. Their claims are not based on sound translational or hermeneutical principles.”

Some biblical scholars also are quick to point out that the critics’ views are not shared by the translation community.

“The group that objects to the TNIV does not reflect a majority of evangelical, New Testament scholars,” said Craig Blomberg, professor of New Testament, Denver Seminary. “In fact, most of these individuals have no translation experience. I honestly believe the critics’ efforts – however well-intentioned – will prove counterproductive to the larger cause of communicating the Gospel effectively in an increasingly post-Christian, English-speaking world.

“I have read every verse of the TNIV,” said Blomberg. “And, I believe the TNIV’s treatment of gender-inclusive language with respect to humanity is in every case defensible. Claims that the gender of God or Jesus is somehow tampered with are simply false.”

Founded in 1809, IBS faithfully translates, publishes and reaches out with God's Word in more than 600 languages for 126 countries. IBS is passionate about meeting the spiritual needs of each generation by offering translations that accurately communicate the timeless truth of God's Word in language they can understand and relate to. IBS currently has more than 60 translations in progress globally.

Founded in 1931, Grand Rapids, Mich.-based Zondervan, a division of HarperCollins Publishers, is the leading international Christian communications company, producing best-selling Bibles, books, new media products, a growing line of gift products from its Inspiro group and award-winning children's products from its Zonderkidz group. The world's largest Bible publisher, Zondervan (www.zondervan.com) holds exclusive North American publishing rights to the New International Version of the Bible 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. Zondervan has received a total of 68 Gold Medallion awards for its books, more than any other publisher.

The Committee on Bible Translation (CBT) is established to be an independent self-perpetuating body of the most renowned English-speaking linguists and scholars in the world. It was formed in 1965 and commissioned to develop the NIV, by far the most read, most trusted English translation worldwide. The CBT has an ongoing commitment to produce additional translations in the same standard of excellence as the NIV.