

## Scholar hopes to see new translation emerge as 'the' Bible for all

By Douglas Todd  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alan Jacobs, an English professor at Wheaton College near Chicago, said the new English Standard Version Bible, whose translation was overseen by Vancouver's J.I. (James) Packer, is the only one with the potential to become the universal Bible of all English-speaking Christians.

Jacobs, a respected professor at Wheaton, a major evangelical university, said he laments the end of the era when most English-speaking Protestants read and quoted from the same Bible — the King James Version, first published in England in 1611. "Everyone who grew up with the (King James Version) feels the loss of a shared language, of particular words and phrases that resonated in the common ear," Jacobs wrote in the recent issue of First Things Magazine, a scholarly Christian journal.

With more than 100 English-language Bible translations now competing against one another, Jacobs called the English Standard Version "the best available English Bible." It was created two years ago by a team of about 100 conservative Protestants led by Packer, of Regent College, an evangelical postgraduate school on the University of British Columbia campus. However, some Bible scholars believe Jacobs' high-profile campaign to champion one common English-language Bible is quixotic and misguided at best and imperialistic at worst. "It sounds like ecclesiastical and scholarly tyranny we shouldn't put up with," said Professor Lloyd Gaston, a veteran Bible scholar at the Vancouver School of Theology. "The more Bible translations we have the better," Gaston said in an interview. "It's good for people of faith to realize, he said, that there are many different ways of interpreting ancient Bible stories, which were first told orally and then written down in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek.

"It seems to me anyone who suggests using just one Bible is simply making a pitch for

their own favorite translation," said Gaston, whose students come from a variety of Christian backgrounds, including Anglican, United Church, Presbyterian and Catholic. "It creates the danger of not truly listening to the Bible in all its complexity, but just listening to one voice. It narrows the range of possibilities, which some Christians might like, but not all," Gaston said.

Although Jacobs had no role in translating the ESV, he is a friend of Packer and a fellow evangelical. The literary chairman of the ESV translation team is Jacobs' English faculty colleague at Wheaton College Leland Ryken, who routinely criticizes modern Bible translations.

In his essay, Jacobs glosses over how Roman Catholics, for instance, have never used the King James Bible, while many have read the Douai-Rheims translation, which reflected similar language.



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I'll never cease to praise and thank my blessed heavenly Father for electing me to salvation in Christ before the foundation of the world. We find that great truth in Ephesians 1A "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:" Get this truth if you can; "every sinner who has ever been saved, or ever will be, saved, was chosen by my heavenly Father and given to the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, before the foundation of the world." That is God's election. Our subject at this time is not election but; "GOD'S REPROBATION, OR GOD REPROBATING A SINNER." I was asked the question some years ago; "is God still reprobating people today?" My frank answer was: "right before my eyes." My friends, these two great truths are taught throughout God's Word. I am not to blame for your ignorance in not seeing them. One day I was blinded and on the road to hell just like you and I could not see them. But when the blessed Holy Spirit opened my heart (Acts 16:14) as He did Lydia's heart, He began to teach me all about my totally depraved and hell-deserving condition. And He taught me the truth of every sinner's salvation, that is; "Christ died for sinners and Christ alone could be my Salvation. And He taught me my vile, helpless, hopeless, rotten and hell-deserving condition, letting me see that if God did not choose to save me, I never would be saved. The trouble with you who argue against the doctrine of God's Reprobation is that you have never seen under Holy Spirit conviction (John 16:71) that God is Sovereign and you, the sinner, are at the disposal of the Sovereign God of the Universe. You'll never learn these truths and that God does not have to save you as long as you go on in Satan's syrup, the religious syrup of "I accepted Jesus as my Saviour." I would you could see these great truths I am setting forth, but I know you never will unless the Holy Spirit awakens you to your lost condition.

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### Obituaries

#### A.L. Jinwright Funeral Service

**Marcus N. Bellinger**, 36, died Jan. 15. Funeral held Jan. 20 at A.L. Jinwright Funeral Service Chapel.

Alexander Funeral Home

**Reatha Bradley** died Jan. 1 at Presbyterian Hospital. Funeral was Jan. 8 at Zechariah Alexander Sr. Memorial Chapel. Burial at Beatties Ford Memorial Gardens.

**Oscar Boyce Jr.** died Jan. 3 at his residence. Visitation and funeral held Jan. 8 at Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church. Burial at VA Cemetery in Salisbury.

**Ebony Horton** died Jan. 3 at Carolinas Medical Center. Visitation and funeral were held Jan. 7 at St. Paul Baptist Church. Burial at Gethsemane Memorial Gardens.

**Virginia Williams** died Jan. 4 at Wesley Care Center. Visitation and funeral were Jan. 9 at Mount Carmel Baptist Church. Burial at Beatties Ford Memorial Gardens.

**James Limbacker Jr.** died Jan. 4 in New York, N.Y. Visitation and funeral were held Jan. 10 at Mission Church of the Lord Jesus Christ. Burial at Beatties Ford Memorial Gardens.

**William Boyd Jr.** died Jan. 3 at his residence. Visitation was Jan. 9 and funeral Jan. 10 at New Zion Baptist Church. Burial at Beatties Ford Memorial Gardens.

**Caven Grier** died Dec. 30, 2003 at residence. Visitation and funeral held Jan. 8, 2004 at St. Paul Baptist Church. Burial at Beatties Ford Memorial Gardens.

**Mary Gary** died Dec. 30, 2003 at Presbyterian Hospital. Visitation and funeral held Jan. 2, 2004 at Zechariah Alexander Sr. Memorial Chapel. Burial at Beatties Ford Memorial Gardens.

**Charlie Taylor** died Jan. 2 at his residence. Visitation and funeral held Jan. 7 at Greater Providence Baptist Church. Burial at Beatties Ford Memorial Gardens.

**Alexander Jackson Sr.** died Dec. 28, 2003 at Carolinas Medical Center. Visitation at funeral held Jan. 3, 2004 at Zechariah Alexander St. Memorial Chapel. Burial at Beatties Ford Memorial Gardens.

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