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Top Section

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Professor Hyun Sik Kim, a North Korean defector, has published ‘Good News from John.’

Prof. Kim has recently published a North Korean Bible, ‘The Promise of God’ that has been translated into Pyongyang Culture Language, the standard language of North Korea.

Prof. Kim has dedicated himself to this translation in order to provide a readable version of the Bible to the North Korean people. His work also hopes to open a way to overcome (reduce) the linguistic gaps between North and South Koreans. The volume Prof. Kim has completed is a translated version of the Book of John, one of the books in the New Testament. His translation is from ‘The NET Bible’®, one of the English Bibles, into the standard North Korean language, and is entitled “Good News from John”. It is the result of a collaborative effort of the last 5 years between Prof. Kim and a number of volunteers.

Good News from John was published by the non-profit organization, Washington Pyongyang Bible Institute. WPBI already has published a series of the Bible volumes, “The Promise of God”. “Good News from John” is the first segment of “The Promise of God.” This volume was also published as a diglot version of English and North Korean. It is expected that Kim’s work will draw the attention of North Korean intellectuals who have serious concerns about English education.

According to Kim, the North Korean government started the “Language Revolution” in the early 1960s and replaced Sino-Korean words and foreign words with the Pyongyang standard language, called ‘Culture Language’, out of their spoken and written forms. They no longer use Sino-Korean words in any publication.” Prof. Kim said, “I’ve seen a great need of the North Koreans for a Bible written in the North Korean language (Pyongyang Culture Language) that can be read and understand with ease”.

WPBI is planning to have a 'Reading-Through Retreat' in August and they will use these two newly published volumes as the main text. WPBI also looks forward to hosting a mission conference during which they will introduce their English education program as a new strategy for missions' work. Along with these events, publications of his next books are on the board. Kim is now working on an English Grammar book, titled "English, South and North Learn Together". That will introduce a new analysis of English grammar, based upon the Russian grammar system. The Professor is also writing a book on Kim Il-Sung and Kim Jung-Il's theory on future education, which has contributed as the foundation of sustaining North Korean regime, as well as a book titled "Would Pyongyang change?" that will reveal Kim's prospective analysis about the regime succession of Kim Jong Un.

Prof. Kim has spent 13 years on studying and researching linguistic gaps between the spoken and written languages of two Koreas, and published "A Dictionary of Reconciled Korean languages, before completing the Bible translation project. He also composed "The Bible stories South and North Koreans Read Together" with the support of International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention and 'Mission Group for Korean Nation.'

Prof. Kim plans to publish a single volume binding the 66 volumes of the Bible story, as soon as he completes the series of the separated volumes of the Old Testament, "Before Jesus", and the New Testament, "After Jesus". Prof. Kim said WPBI will continue the project of the further Bible translations and publications, with an estimated four-year plan for complete.

Any individual or group interested in supporting or participating in these projects should contact WPBI.

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