

Newsletter Spring 2021

Introduction

It's quickly that time again for another newsletter from the Foreign Mission Committee. This time around, without further ado, we can launch right into the report from Rev. Kampen on Study Centre happenings since the start of 2021.

A Name Change

By now a regular discussion point in these newsletters is our Living Word project. It's a name that I imagine (and hope!) has become somewhat familiar to you, even if you might not be able to recall precisely what the project entails. (It's our Bible exposition and application tool, whose online, public presence is still coming down the pipeline.) At the risk of some inconvenience, however, we have recently changed the name of the project.

Moving forward, Living Word will now be called Vox Viva, which is Latin for "Living Voice."

Why the change? There are a couple of prominent

reasons. For the first, allow me to quote from an email on the matter from Rev. van der Linden: "We believe that the faithful exposition and application of the Word of God IS the living voice of God today. We believe that this name is very fitting for our project, especially also in guiding those Christians/pastors who would normally answer the question of how we hear the voice of God today very differently." New birth, faith, life in Christ—they all come not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, "through the living and abiding word of God; for 'All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever'" (1 Peter 1:23–24).

The second reason for the change is not so much that we are fond of antiquated languages as it is to give the project a universal name. For, our desire with the project is that in due course it will span multiple languages (at least English and French), and so we thought it ideal if the project has the same name that can be used across all the different languages.

**"The voice of the LORD is powerful;
the voice of the LORD is full of majesty."**

Psalm 29:4 ESV

Why the change *now*? Well, the project has not yet been fully launched, so we can make the change now, with minimal confusion on the matter.

May the Lord bless this decision, for the further promotion of his holy, living voice in this world!

Special Exegetical Issues

Previously I described one of the tasks I have in relation to Vox Viva, namely, the detailed breakdown of discussions on certain passages whose interpretation has been especially divisive. The basic approach is that I spell out the discussion on paper, offering the various interpretations of the passage, their respective arguments, and the strengths and weaknesses of these arguments. This material will eventually be included as part of the sermon outline notes on the respective passages. In the past number of months, I have spent time studying these two issues: 1) what are arguments for and against certain families of New Testament manuscripts; 2) is the warning in Hebrews 6:4–6 meant for the unregenerate or regenerate. Very difficult issues, especially the latter! I have completed #1, and am wrapping up my treatment of #2. May the Lord bless also this work for Vox Viva.

Other Tasks

Allow me to close off with some of the usual statistics regarding work done in connection with the Christian Library:

- Number of article listings uploaded by other theologians that I subsequently edited and published on the site: 102.
- Number of translated articles that workers have edited and of which I have made a final review: 19.
- Number of children's devotions that volunteers have edited: 30. (Reminder: [here](#) are the published devotions to date.)

Conclusion

With that, we wrap up this newsletter. Please continue to uphold the work of the Study Centre in your prayers. Our times are unusual, our tomorrows are unknown, but our Lord is our Rock and Shepherd. May he be our refuge and leader for every new day he gives us!