

KJB or N.R.S.V.

Dear Friends

This year holds an important anniversary for the churches, for 2011 is the 400th anniversary of the production of the King James Bible that was printed in 1611.

In 1604 King James 1st called a big meeting at Hampton Court suggesting that a definitive Bible in the English language should be printed. A Bible in the English language had been around since the 1500s, and by 1604 there were a number of different translations, but for many there was not one that met everyone's needs. When you consider that the scriptures had come down to us through a number of languages - Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek and Latin - the task of translating a new Bible, which would also take into consideration all the other subsequent translations, would be a monumental task of scholarship. But it was done and what was produced stood the test of time and became an integral part of the church's life from those days. Not only that, but so many of the verses and words have passed into everyday language and are so often used without many people knowing where the expression came from. Only today, when I sat down to write this, someone on the radio talked about something 'falling by the wayside' which comes from the Parable of the Sower.

I headed this letter with KJB or NRSV (King James Bible or New Revised Standard Version). As I have explained, in 1611 we had the King James Bible but in our churches in Manuden, Berden, Quendon and Rickling we use the New Revised Standard Version. We could use the New International Version or the Good News Bible or a number of others. This all proves how important it is to make sure you get the true meaning of the power and beauty of the Good News from God that is encapsulated in the life and teachings of Jesus. When translators get together to produce a Bible, they have to take into consideration the original languages and other translations and how best to translate and communicate the content to those who are reading the pages.

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