



# THE IRVIN FAMILY

AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST: UGANDA, AFRICA

June 2022

*Let thy mercies come also unto me, O LORD, even thy salvation, according to thy word. So shall I have wherewith to answer him that reproacheth me: for I trust in thy word. And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth; for I have hoped in thy judgments. So shall I keep thy law continually for ever and ever. And I will walk at liberty: for I seek thy precepts.*

-- Psalms 119:41-45

Greetings Brethren,

Africa's semi-isolated existence has not shielded us from news abroad. We currently exist in turbulent times wherein the greatest governmental incompetence is manifest. But, as ineptitude exists at the highest levels of government, please don't fail to worship the Son of God.

It is often easy to see our own difficulties, but daily communion with Christ reminds us he was made perfect through sufferings (Hebrews 2:10). Personally, I have a healthy distaste for difficulty, but I am reminded I have not striven against sin as did the Son of God (Hebrews 12:4). Such humbling realizations regarding the life of the Lord help me understand my situation isn't quite so bad.

What's more, our current lot of international difficulty may well be the chastening of the Lord. We know that every home is made better by the chastening hand of a biblically just father. Amid apparent chastening by economic turmoil, Roe Vs. Wade was overturned, public prayer was upheld in schools, and religious freedom continues to be the recognized law of the land. Praise the Lord!

These are not political matters; these are deeply rooted spiritual troubles. Troubles that reveal a malady in the heart of our nation. Spiritual health is not manifested through physical prosperity, but we are comforted by the sweet consolation in Christ Jesus.

Therefore in the strength of Christ, stand fast. Press on knowing we fellowship with the three who are one (1 John 5:7), and they are very near. Although idol shepherds corrupt doctrine and scoffers levy attacks against us, cleave to God's word. God's word is our current focus for the Buganda people. Without an accurate copy of the word of God in the Luganda language, these people are incapable of holding fast scriptural confidence. It must be acknowledged the consolation we have in Christ Jesus is defined within God's word, and without that word, we, potentially, are yet in our sins.

Over the past few months, I have organized people, places, paperwork, and direction. The culmination of this labor will reward us with an early July start date. Please pray as we take on this most necessary task. During preparation, I studied, reviewed, and thought through the rules placed upon the King James Translators. They were given fourteen distinct rules, some of which were very limiting. But, I perceive these limitations to be for good.

When I consider the great assembly of linguistic brilliance brought together to work on the King James Bible, I can only imagine what the Bible could have been if said brilliance were unleashed without restraint. These men were given enough freedom to translate as necessary and limitations to prevent them from running away with this tremendously important task. Thus, their limitations constrained their possible intellectual arrogance and their personal denominational biases.

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- 1. The translators were instructed to use the Bishops' Bible as the foundation of their work.**
  - Our foundation will be the 1896 Luganda Bible.
- 2. The translators were to keep the spelling previously used if it were possible to do so.**
  - We will follow this rule precisely; any spelling changes must be proven necessary.
- 3. The translators were to keep old ecclesiastical words as far as possible.**
  - This rule can assist us in making the Luganda Bible readable to a wider audience; if related extent, Christian-based organizations have developed usable words - we will carefully adapt them when necessary.
- 4. When a single word has multiple meanings, prefer the use of the church fathers, if possible.**
  - For this rule, we will refer to Swahili and Runyankore Bibles for guidance and ideas.

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**5. Divisions into chapters should be altered as little as possible.**

- We will follow this rule as it stands; some exceptions may come into play as we update the grammar, but any changes will need to be proven necessary.

**6. Each man in each company was responsible for reviewing every chapter.**

- Every chapter will be reviewed by Thomas Irvin, Keith Stensaas, Marlin Peterson, Rutabagyisha Gross, Mulyanti Michael, Musumba Paul, and Musumba Ssebanja.

**7. Once a book's final review is complete, it will be sent to all other groups for critical review.**

- To assist with this, we will engage brother Pridgen's church in Kampala and men knowledgeable in English and Luganda who can provide objective feedback.

**8. During the review, any unsatisfactory translation found, will be noted and returned to the company from where it came to be reviewed and corrected as necessary by them again.**

- If problems are found, or suggestions are made during the review - they will be sent back to Gross and Michael for review and change; it will then go back through the review process again.

**9. If any passage presents difficulty beyond the ability or understanding of the translators, letters were to be sent to any man in the country capable of assisting.**

- Michael has contacts with ministers to the king of Buganda; my hope is that we can rely on a few of them for this level of assistance; otherwise, we will need to seek out men who can help with this level of review.

**10. The Bishops were to inform their people of the work presently at hand, and anyone in their congregations who had any information, understanding, knowledge of tongues, etc., were to send a letter explaining all they knew to that particular company.**

- Anyone we can engage who might provide information, context, or any assistance - we will engage them.

**11. Appointed the directors of each company.**

- Thomas Irvin will reserve the right to make all final decisions, but these decisions will be reasoned out under the guidance of Keith Stensaas and Marlin Peterson.

- If we cannot reach an agreeable conclusion, we will first engage Lee Cadenhead in Zimbabwe; an email from all men involved will be written explaining our ideas in full - brother Lee will review our notes objectively and provide helpful feedback.

- If we are still unable to agree, we will engage my Pastor James Knox and brother Keith's pastor Adam Thompson; both men are well versed on KJV issues and can provide great feedback to assist with decision making.

**12. Names five other text's to be used that might agree more with the Greek or Hebrew manuscripts than the Bishops' Bible.**

- In the translation process, we will be required to depend upon languages familiar to Luganda speakers.

- We will consult the following Bibles as needed and either use their words directly or transliterate them.

- King James Bible
- Matt Stensaas Runyankore New Testament
- The Swahili Bible
- The 1968 Luganda Bible

These are the rules we will follow to accomplish this task. Please pray for us as we begin in July. We will start with Genesis and go all the way through to Revelation. We will not release any part of this work for public consumption until all is complete.

God bless,

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