



NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Diane Morrow, dmorrow@tbbmedia.com or 800.927.1517
<http://CommonEnglishBible.com/CEB/newsroom>

ELCA Biblical Scholars Helped Translate the New Common English Bible

NASHVILLE, TN (August 17, 2011) – Of the 200 biblical scholars and church leaders involved in creating the just released complete [Common English Bible](http://CommonEnglishBible.com) (<http://CommonEnglishBible.com>) translation, eight are members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Nearly four years in the making, with a total of more than 700 people involved and a budget of \$3.5 million, the complete Common English Bible ([@CommonEngBible](https://twitter.com/CommonEngBible) – <http://twitter.com/CommonEngBible>) is in its third printing after only one month in stores and is becoming known for being “built on common ground.”

“When we say ‘built on common ground,’ we mean that the Common English Bible is the result of collaboration between opposites: scholars working with average readers; conservatives working with liberals; teens working with retirees; men working with women; many denominations and many ethnicities coming together around the common goal of creating a vibrant and clear translation for 21st century readers, with the ultimate objective of mutually accomplishing God’s overall work in the world,” says Paul Franklyn, PhD, associate publisher for the Common English Bible.

“Working on this translation has been both challenging and rewarding,” says Craig R. Koester, PhD, professor of New Testament, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN. “Biblical texts were written in the language of the people, and at each step our goal has been to ensure that people continue to hear its message in a way that’s faithful and engaging.”

“The Common English Bible has appeared at a time of epic despair at our apparent inability as a nation to work together for the common good, and it offers resounding proof that genuine collaboration is not only possible but also salutary and beneficial,” says John T. Fitzgerald, PhD, chair of the department of religious studies, University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL. “As a translation, the Common English Bible offers the hope that God’s word will be heard afresh by a wide spectrum of individuals and communities—that it will speak anew to the devout whose familiarity with traditional renderings has dulled their sensitivity to Scripture’s message, and that it will awaken in first-time readers the incredible joy at discovering all of the insights and wisdom that the Bible contains.”

“Having taught Bible translation for over 30 years I was eager to participate in this exciting project,” says Mark A. Throntveit, PhD, professor of Hebrew and Old Testament, Luther Seminary, St Paul, MN. “But now, seeing the fruit of our labors, I’m impressed with its readability, and proud to have been a part of this worthy enterprise.”

Twenty-four denominations are represented by the translators and readers. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America members who helped build the Common English Bible are:

Translators and where they teach:

- John T. Fitzgerald, PhD, University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL
- Craig R. Koester, MDiv, PhD, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN
- Richard D. Nelson, MDiv, PhD, Perkins School of Theology, Dallas, TX
- Mark A. Throntveit, MDiv, PhD, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN
- Walter T. Wilson, PhD, Candler School of Theology, Atlanta, GA

Reading Group Leaders:

- Stacy Kitahata, Synod Staff, Seattle, WA
- Mary Lindberg, Writer, Seattle, WA
- Andrea Walker, Pastor, Summit, NJ

The complete Common English Bible debuted online and on 20 digital platforms in June, and in paperback format in mid-July. Now in its third printing, the Common English Bible totals 500,000 copies in print, including the New Testament-only editions released a year ago. Originally expected this fall, the entire Bible paperback edition already in stores is selling quickly. Six other editions, including one with the Apocrypha, are now releasing.

“Media coverage of the launch of the Common English Bible has been substantial,” says Franklyn. “It includes [TIME magazine](#), [USA TODAY](#), [The Tennessean](#), [Seattle Post Intelligencer](#), [The Toronto Star](#), [Florida Today](#), [Orlando Sentinel](#), [The Christian Post](#), and others, along with reviews by bloggers, our own [website](#), [Twitter stream](#), and [Facebook page](#), and our [video](#).”

Combining scholarly accuracy with vivid language, the Common English Bible is the work of **120** biblical scholars from **24** denominations in American, African, Asian, European, and Latino communities, representing such academic institutions as Asbury Theological Seminary, Azusa Pacific University, Bethel Seminary, Denver Seminary, Princeton Theological Seminary, Seattle Pacific University, Wheaton College, Yale University, and many others. They translated the Bible into English directly from the original Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek texts.

Additionally, more than **500** readers in **77** groups field-tested the translation. Every verse was read aloud in the reading groups, where potentially confusing passages were identified. The translators considered the groups' responses and, where necessary, reworked those passages to clarify in modern English their meaning from the original languages. In total, more than **700** people worked jointly to bring the Common English Bible to fruition; and because of the Internet and today's technology it was completed in less than four years.

Visit CommonEnglishBible.com to see comparison translations, learn about the translators, get free downloads, and more.

The Common English Bible is sponsored by the Common English Bible Committee, an alliance of five publishers that serve the general market, as well as the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) (Chalice Press), Presbyterian Church (USA) (Westminster John Knox Press), Episcopal Church (Church Publishing, Inc.), United Church of Christ (The Pilgrim Press), and The United Methodist Church (Abingdon Press).

For a media review copy of the Common English Bible and to schedule an interview with Paul Franklyn, please contact Diane Morrow, dmorrow@tbbmedia.com or 800.927.1517.

#