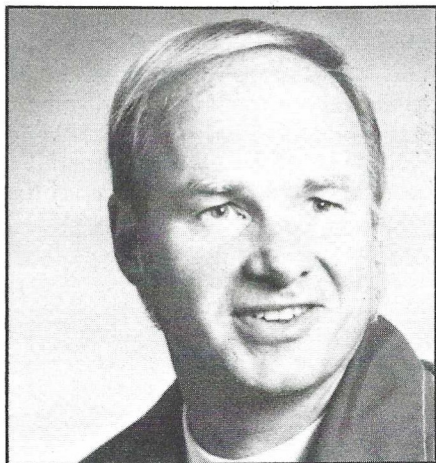


# THE NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION:

Publication of the New International Version of the Bible (NIV) was sponsored by the New York International Bible Society at a cost of \$2.2 million. Published late last year by Zondervan Publishers, the NIV has been heralded by many as the most important publishing event of this century.

In 1966, 300 or more Bible scholars and laymen who believed the Old and New Testaments to be the "inspired and inerrant Word of God" laid the foundation for the NIV translation. Later trans-



**"I welcome the NIV"**  
By JAMIE BUCKINGHAM

**T**he first Bible I ever bought on my own was at the invitation of Dr. James G. Harris, the Southern Baptist pastor who officiated at my ordination 22 years ago.

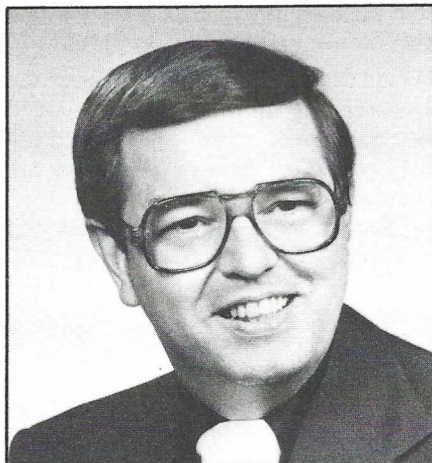
"Go over to the Baptist book store," he said, "and purchase any Bible you want. University Baptist Church will have your name inscribed on it. It is our gift to you."

I was a senior student at Southwestern Baptist Seminary and still studying out of the *KJV* which had been given me when I was promoted out of the Primary Department into the Junior Department in a Sunday school ceremony 12 years before.

This time I purchased another *KJV*. (Back then what choice did you have?) And purchased it on the basis of size (I wanted something small enough to slip into the side pocket of my jacket) and format. (I did not want a center reference Bible but did want a concordance.)

Since then I have purchased many Bibles. And even though that black

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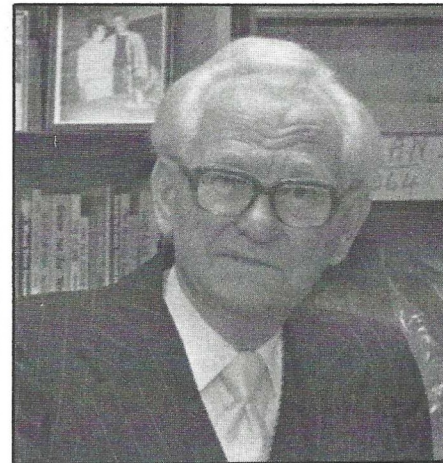
**"A Therapeutic Tool"**  
By RICHARD DOBBINS

**T**he *New International Version* of the Bible is proving to be an invaluable therapeutic tool for me. In my work with believers, I frequently find extremely painful emotional problems are further aggravated by distorted religious ideas. Often, these ideas are rooted in a person's early life. In order to bring lasting relief to such a person, one needs to help him toward a mentally healthy understanding of his faith. In doing this, I rely heavily upon appropriate uses of the Word of God.

It is extremely important for me that the Scriptures' principles of mental health be stated in words easily understood by the people I'm attempting to help. It is also vital that the evangelical scholarship responsible for the translation be academically above reproach so that the person's confidence in the authority of Scripture as the infallible Word of God is supported. *The New International Version* offers me both these assurances.

Although the *King James Version* satisfies the need for scholastic respectability and couches truth in a

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**"Still Prefer The KJV"**  
By DAVID DuPLESSIS

**I** grew up with the *King James Version* of the Bible, and I still prefer it over the newer versions including the *New International Version*. I have examined each new translation. I find each is not merely a translation, but an interpretation of important passages which the translators make based on their own theological backgrounds. This is true not only of English versions. I read Dutch and the new Dutch translation does not improve over the old.

The main problem I have with *The New International Version* is the way it treats passages dealing with the Holy Spirit. For example, in Acts 1 and throughout the rest of the New Testament, the *NIV* reads that people are baptized "with" the Holy Spirit. A footnote indicates the translation might read "in" the Holy Spirit. I maintain that you cannot baptize "with;" you must always baptize "in."

How can men without the Holy Spirit perceive the things of the Spirit? I believe that they translate these passages to line up with what we have

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## BUCKINGHAM

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leather bound Bible remains the one I take in the pulpit Sunday after Sunday, I have learned to love and appreciate all the other versions as well.

Of course there were horror stories. First it was the *RSV* had removed all references to the virgin birth. That's not true, of course, but a lot of people refused to buy the *RSV* because of it. Later the story was preached that the *Good News Bible (TEV)* had removed all references to the blood of Jesus. That's not true either. The real flap, of course, was that we were departing

from the *King James* -- and that was tantamount to fulfilling Revelation 22:19 literally. ("If anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city ...")

But somehow, across the years, I have never been led astray by these so-called "false versions." In fact, all of them have blessed me. I still recall Corrie ten Boom's little exclamation when told by a learned theologian that she could not put any credence in Mark 16:9-20 since most scholars considered it spurious and not in the earliest manuscripts.

"That's interesting!" the legendary old Dutch woman exclaimed, "Why God is honoring passages that aren't even in the Bible since people are still being healed and delivered in the mighty name of Jesus -- and men are still speaking in tongues."

As I look back over these controversial years, with all the flack which has been fired at the new versions -- and sometimes it seems like we have a new one almost every year -- I have never known a man to lose his salvation by any of them. Nor have I heard of a single soul who has been damaged theologically.

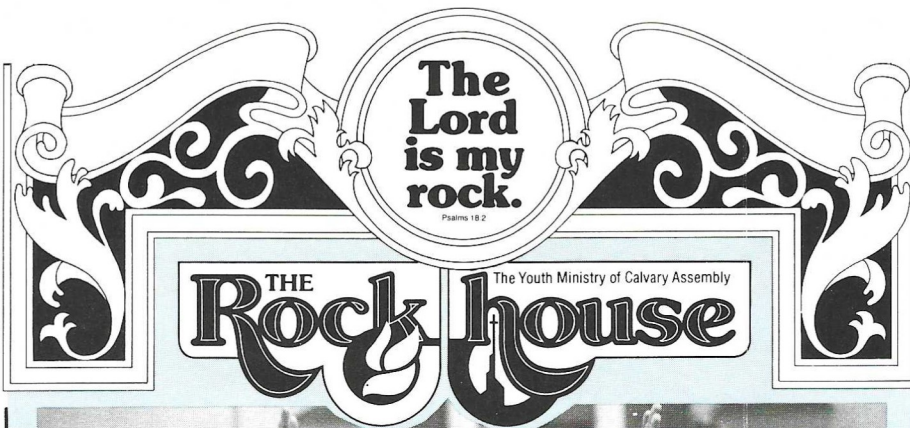
Only the theologians, it seems, raise the questions. The rest of us read -- and are blessed.

When I picked up my copy of the *New International Version* I did what I do when I pick up any new version. I turn to that "heart verse" of the Bible -- John 3:16. And would you believe, it reads almost identical in the *NIV* as it does in the ancient *KJV*. In fact, all the versions read the same way. And I sit back, relax and read for enjoyment, knowledge and growth.

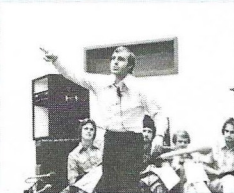
I welcome the *NIV*. I welcome its new insights into the nature and character of God. But I don't expect it to change my life or my preaching. The Holy Spirit has guided me and the angels have protected me. And this Bible, like all the others, helps me better understand my heavenly Father.

After all, how can you improve on "God so loved the world he gave ..."

Jamie Buckingham



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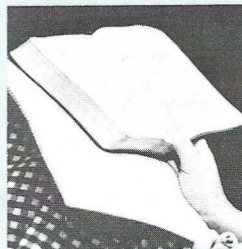


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## DOBBINS

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beautiful traditional expression, some of its vocabulary is antiquated; and its apparent prudishness often masks the meaning of other critical passages in obscurity. Particularly, I am referring to those portions of Scripture which are clearly intended to deal with sexual morality. *The New International Version* carefully resists the temptation to be casual in its expressions and retains a dignity often lost in other present attempts to translate or paraphrase the Scriptures. However, it still manages to speak with a modern clarity which makes it equally appropriate for use in personal counseling or pulpit ministry.

Of course, I will continue to use other translations in my attempt to understand what God is saying to me through His Word; but for the first