



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PAKISTAN

Registered under No. RP / 185 / L / S / 83 / 5008

Rev. Dr. Altaf Khan

B.Sc., M.B.A., M.A., M.Div., D.M.S., Ph.D

Senior Pastor

Rahmat Memorial Presbyterian Church Nawabanwala

Moderator

Nawabanwala Presbytery Faisalabad Pakistan

Acting Moderator

Presbyterian Church of Pakistan

Attn: Christian Leaders and Believers Worldwide

I, Rev. Dr. Altaf Khan, the Acting Moderator of Presbyterian Church of Pakistan [PCP] would like to bring into your attention the recent translation issues brought by Summer Institute of Linguistics [SIL] or Wycliffe Bible Translators.

The controversy arose when the idea of contextualization was first floated by SIL. In the name of contextualization, SIL intended to remove Father or Son from the future translated versions citing that some local Muslims can only see sexual connotations to these terms. PCP in its General Assembly held in November 2011 [around 200 Church leaders participated], executive meeting [around 30 Church leaders] and multiple gatherings in different cities where Christian leaders from all denominations participated, has publicly condemned such justifications for the sake of convenient translation. In this regard, PCP board of directors unanimously passed the following submissions:

- 1) The Precedent of Centuries old Biblical Translation established by our forefathers, missionaries, biblical institutions cannot and must not be overturned, amended, or omitted by SIL or any other foreign translating institution.
- 2) That before making any changes to the current Bible translation, SIL must take into confidence all the major Christian denominations and Church leaders.
- 3) The doctrine of Trinity is and remains one of the rudimentary tenets uniformly adopted by the First Council of Nicaea [Ecumenical Council 325 A.D.]. And that such well settled doctrine of our faith cannot be omitted by any Translating institution.
- 4) That any interpretative measures which substantially and adversely affect our fundamental dogmas must be prohibited at all costs.
- 5) That certain creeds, canons, and beliefs which are rationally related to our faith cannot be jeopardized for the sake of any particular target audience.
- 6) That any such autonomous and arbitrary act by SIL would bring irreparable injury to our faith, community, and Church worldwide.
- 7) That PCP will sever its nexus with SIL or any other translating institution as a matter of principle and continue to denounce such actions at all levels.

Furthermore, in light of scripture, every Christian believer is to pay special heed to the admonition in the Bible “And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll.” [Revelation 22:19]

Rahmat Memorial Presbyterian Church Nawabanwala Faisalabad 38070 Pakistan

Postal Address: P.O. Box 410 Faisalabad 38000 Pakistan

Email: khanmuksanim@hotmail.com / rmcp222@gmail.com

Website: www.graceandgospel.org/ graceandgospel.khan@gmail.com

TEL. (Res) +92-41-240-6434~5 (Off) +92-41-240-6450 (Fax) +92-41-256-0050



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Briefly, PCP is one of the oldest religious institutions in Pakistan established in 1850. PCP has founded F.C. University Lahore, Gordon College Rawalpindi, Murray College Sialkot, Kinnaird College for women Lahore and many famous Christian Mission Hospitals in Sialkot, Lahore, Rawalpindi, Taxila, Sahiwal etc. This Church organization has great contribution in the field of health, education and countless social development projects. This organization is the pioneer in the above mentioned fields and we have a vision to work more for the development of our country.

We would request all the stakeholders to join us in this struggle to defend our faith. Please continue to cover us in your prayers as we promulgate the Gospel of our Lord Jesus and His Grace.

Sincerely Yours,

Reverend Dr. Altaf Khan

Dated: Feb. 08, 2012

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