

THE PAKISTAN BIBLE SOCIETY

Established as the Punjab Auxiliary since 1863 and Full Member of the United Bible Societies since 1969

HEAD OFFICE

Bible House, Anarkali, Lahore 54000
Phones: 92 (0) 42 722 0978 & 723 8537
Fax: 92 (0) 42 723 8587
E-mails: pakistan@biblesocieties.org
anthony@wol.net.pk
Website: www.bible-pakbs.org



UNCHANGING WORD ; FOR THE CHANGING WORLD

BRANCH OFFICE

P. O. Box 10405,
Fatima Jinnah Road, Karachi 75530
Phone & Fax: 92 (0)21 566 2060
E-mail: pbskb@cyber.net.pk

PESHAWAR OFFICE

1-Sir Syed Road, Peshawar Cantt.

PRESIDENT

Rt. Rev. Dr. Alexander John Malik
(*Sitara-e-Imtiaz*), Bishop of Lahore

GENERAL SECRETARY

Mr. Anthony Aijaz Lamuel

PBS Ref: T1-0211/11

May 31, 2011

Dr. Roy Taylor

Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church in America
Office of the Stated Clerk
Administrative Committee
1700 North Brown Road, Suite 105
Lawrenceville, GA 30043

Dear Dr. Taylor,

Greetings from the Pakistan Bible Society.

The Pakistan Bible Society was established in 1863 and since then we have been working for the promotion of the sacred Scriptures. We have a Governing Board of 20 persons and it represents all the denominations in Pakistan. We have the Bishop of Lahore, (Church of Pakistan) Dr. Alexander John Malik as the President, and Dr. Pastor Liaqat Qaiser top leader of the Full Gospel Assemblies and Dr. Arthur James of the Presbyterian Church Pakistan as the Vice Presidents. Besides these leaders we have two Bishops of the Church of Pakistan, Chairman of the Assemblies of God, American Reformed Presbyterian Church, Salvation Army and the Roman Catholic leadership serving on our Board. We are registered with the Government of Pakistan under the Societies Act 1860 and enjoy a very good relationship with the Church in Pakistan.

We are very concerned about the shift in the translation trends and since 1995 I have been raising my voice. In 1997 I became the General Secretary and in Pakistan we have been partnering with a group who promotes translations and prefers to change the Key terms in the Bible Translation. Since the last three years we have had consultation attended by the top leadership of Pakistan and we unanimously agreed not to change the KEY TERMS, as we would like to honor our faith. On April 8 we had a Board Meeting attended by 17 member and we passed a resolution that we will stop all work with Organizations which are promoting translations which are changing KEY TERMS.

04/GEN/11: Resolved to stop work with KoQ. It was further moved that the Arabization of Urdu Terms would not be accepted. The Church has a faith identity therefore dignity of our faith is to be maintained. It was decided to form a Sub-Committee of the following to discuss the Key Terms.

1. Pastor Dr. Liaqat Qaiser
2. Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Asi
3. Rev. Dr. Arthur James
4. Mr. Wolfgang Destch
5. Mr. Anthony A. Lamuel

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These translation projects are supported by Churches in the West and missionaries coming from the West are promoting them and working on them. Works like "Insider Movement," Target Audience friendly translations etc. We strongly feel that:-

01. The National Church leadership and their concerns particularly within a sensitive context in which we exist and work need to be respected and such translations are not helpful.
02. Experiments with the translation should not be at the cost of hurting the church and compromising our faith and beliefs.
03. A change or shift in style of translation (level of contextualization) should be substantiated by research and testing and not be based on speculation. The case study of Bangladesh has disclosed a lot and some of the stories from Pakistan also need to be looked into.
04. The faith identity and dignity of the church is to be respected.

It has come to my attention that you are discussing this issue at your General Assembly we ask for you to stand with us, to inform your churches and cease funding if they are to such translation projects. We would also request you to ask other churches in other denominations in America to do the same. We would humbly request you to join us in reaching people in need of the gospel in our areas without compromising.

We are thankful to God that the Church at large can partner in prayer, sharing concerns and stand firm for the truth of the Gospel. We can learn from each other and partner for the Bible Cause and for the furtherance of the Kingdom of God.

Thank you and Blessings


Anthony Aijaz Lamuel
General Secretary