

EXEGETICAL • VERSE BY VERSE • HISTORICAL-GRAMMATICAL HERMENEUTICS

BIBLE LESSONS INTERNATIONAL

A Great Commission Ministry: Evangelism and Discipleship--Matthew 28:18-20

Dr. Bob Utley - 903.935.2532 - 800.785.1005 - PO Box 1289, Marshall, TX 75671

Newsletter 2007

Instead of the usual Christmas newsletter, this year I want to give a "state of the ministry" report. This will help our supporters know where their gifts are being spent and it will function as a way to introduce the ministries of www.BibleLessonsIntl.com (to order hard copies) and www.freebiblecommentary.org (to download free of charge) to those who do not know us!

Table of Contents:

1. Letter from Bob
2. Review of ministry around the world
3. Emails from the United States
4. Grateful acknowledgement to www.BibleDefenders.com
5. List of translations in progress
6. List of websites that have linked to ours
7. Other services
8. Family update

LETTER FROM BOB

Well, it has been quite a year as you can see from the emails included in this newsletter! It has been an especially productive year for me as a commentator. I have completed my work on Deuteronomy, Joshua, Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs. I have out-run both our typist and proof-readers! Hopefully, the new commentaries will be on the website in a few months. (Peggy says that just because I have finished my part does not mean the process is complete!!!!).

The free website has really grown this year. The Video Bible Commentary now has all of our Old Testament lessons. The New Testament (over 300 lessons) is not yet on the website but it is in process. Please take a look—you can see me when I had dark hair and sideburns, and I wore leisure suits!!! See it at www.freebiblecommentary.org.

As I write this newsletter (the end of September) the new free website has had 47,000 visitors in just nine months. Mike Miga, our computer technician, tells us that last month alone over 10,000 people visited the site and a large

percentage was outside the USA! That is exactly the audience we want to reach.

Please, please pray for us in these exciting days of open doors and Great Commission opportunities. It seems that the Lord is giving me more time to write commentaries. I also get to preach and teach the Bible regularly. He is so good to me! Thank you for remembering me in your prayers.

"And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'"
Matthew 28:18-20

"Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and He said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.'" Luke 24:45-28

REVIEW OF MINISTRY AROUND THE WORLD

Below is a list of countries where Bible Lessons International is having an impact. The emails are in response from our email offering the free resources on our website. As you read the names please pray for these leaders and ministries as they spread God's Word.

***It may be tedious to read all of these emails but we hope you will take the time to do so. It will be a blessing to you. We have printed these emails just as we received them.

ASIA

Thanks for your email and address to your website. I have looked at it briefly. It looks very beneficial for the body of Christ worldwide. Thank you for your work and making it so available. May God continue to bless and use you for His honor and glory.

For the Fulfillment of the Great Commission,
Jon De Rusha
Asian Field Administrator
Baptist Missions To Forgotten People, Inc.
Jacksonville, Florida

AUSTRALIA

Thank you for making contact. You have certainly put a lot of work into the content of your website. Congratulations and well done. I will include your site as a link from our ministry sites. Keep in touch.

Andrew Corbett
Pastor: Legana Christian Church /
<http://www.legana.org>
President: ICI Theological College Australia /
<http://www.icicollege.com.au>
Web: Christian Thinking Resources /
<http://www.andrewcorbett.net>

Hullo Dr. Bob,

What a splendid page on hermeneutics! Could you tell me, do you broadly class yourself as Reformed and non-dispensational? Looks like it. I hope to be able to access your commentaries, written and audio, as a totally blind Pastor with

the Presbyterian Church of Australia (similar to the pca in the States).

Blessings,
Stefan Slucki

Hi Bob,

I'm not sure who sent me an email with a link to your site, but I am very grateful they did! I pastor a tiny country church as well as work full time as business manager of a Christian school. I really enjoyed your 1 John intro video commentary. It made me think, stretched me, refilled me after pouring out my heart on Sunday. Thank you so much!

In Christ's love
Charles

BOTSWANA

BLI is sponsoring two pastors to teach at a Pastor's Conference in Botswana in November of this year (by the time you read this the conference will be over). Bob taught there last year and we wanted to encourage the believers as they are starting the first Baptist seminary in their country. Please pray for them and for this work to have lasting results.

BENIN

Beloved Bob,

Calvary greetings to you! Thanks for your mail and the contents. I went through the web site; it is nice and rich. I so much appreciate God for your dear life and all your great effort and contributions for the sake of the kingdom. I will try to send it to my friends.

Please Sir, we will like to invite you here in Benin Republic for a crusade and seminar, and to also be a blessing unto God's people and the nation.

We will be waiting to hear from you. Remain Blessed.

Stanley

BRAZIL

Dear Dr. Utley,

I appreciated receiving your information about the display

of your commentaries on the Bible. I checked them out and found them very helpful. As I was doing that, I asked myself whether we could be of help to make these commentaries useful and available also in Portuguese. It happens that the Bible Society of Brazil has an electronic system called: "Biblioteca Digital da Biblia." The idea is to translate your materials into Portuguese and make them available through our electronic system, which already has all our Portuguese Bible translations and other Bible study materials. Your commentaries would be an important addition to this material, which is used by many people in Brazil, especially seminary students and pastors.

Rudi Zimmer (Rev. Dr.)
Executive Director
Bible Society of Brazil

CANADA

Thank you very much for sharing this resource with us. It looks valuable, especially for our students who are not able to get to our campus often.

William Badke
Associate Librarian, Trinity Western University, for
Associated Canadian Theological Schools and Information
Literacy
Langley, BC, Canada <http://www.twu.ca/library>

I am glad to hear from you about your online lessons. We will love to work together with you on this and use your study lessons for some of our churches even in Africa. Thanks very much. Let me know if we can work together for a Bible school in Africa that we want to start. Thanks again for your work.

Rev. Joseph Inkum
IGFC, Toronto-Canada

COLOMBIA

Dear Brother Bob

My name is Fabio Miguel Castellanos and I am very

I am glad to hear from you about your online lessons. We will love to work together with you on this and use your study lessons for some of our churches even in Africa.

grateful for your email and your ideas, now I am opening your web page. I am studying in the Cali Baptist University in Cali Colombia and I am starting but I am very happy. Maybe we can interchange ideas and texts.

Thanks a lot,
Fabio Miguel Castellanos

CHILE

Dear Professor Utley:

Thanks so much for your e-mail and your web site. I am a Pastor-Missionary in Chile, South America. This is a great aid.

Thanks again and may God bless,
Mike Sheffield
Santiago, Chile

CONGO

Dr. Bob Utley,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I am very happy to hear about what you are doing for the word of God. But I do not have a way to enter in your web site. May I ask you to send me your commentary by attached document.

May God bless you!
Rev. Tshimungu Mayela Josue'
Republique Democratique du Congo

ENGLAND

Many thanks for the information. We had a couple of people look through it and there is certainly material which would be helpful to some of our students. We are including a link and a brief descriptor on our student's resources pages.

Calvin Smith
Course Directors, Midlands Bible College
Staffordshire, UK

Dear Dr. Utley

Warm Christian greetings from southeast England! You sent us an e-mail in August asking us to take a look at your online Bible commentaries. I have done so and would very much like to recommend it to the pastors we support in over 140 nations. Would you be happy for me to add your

REVIEW OF MINISTRY AROUND THE WORLD - CONT.

web address to the letters I send out with our mailings to
pastors and Bible colleges?

With kind regards
Mrs. Marina Conran, Administrator

Sovereign World Trust

Tonbridge Kent

Website: www.sovereignworldtrust.com

Dear Professor Utley

Thank you very much for your Bible Lessons but mostly I thank
The Almighty Lord God
Jehova for you. I am the
Founder and President of
Christ The Lamb Theological
Seminary and Rock of Ages
Interdenominational Ministries.

Born South African but
now residing in England
though I am still having
students all over Africa
including South Africa who
are studying Theology by
Extention and in England
they are studying full time.

Our Courses start from

Theology Certificate up to a Degree Level. All that I am now
looking for is the Overseas University that will accredit our
Degrees that is from Bachelor of Theology up to Phd. I will
be pleased if you can be our Professor, for now I am having
Students who are ready for Master's Degree programme in
Theology of which your lead is mostly and humbly required,
they had just completed their BTh this year.

My UK address: Professor Jabulani E.Mdlalose
95 Salisbury Road, Southsea PO4 9BX, England, Great
Britain

Dear Dr. Utley,

First of all my apologies for the delay in responding to you.
Secondly, thank you so much for getting in touch. Basil
Howlett, the Secretary of the FIEC Pastors' Association, has
asked me to forward your message on to the chairman of our
Training Team. This team publishes a regular bulletin which
is sent to our churches and pastors and includes information
on helpful resources. I have asked Martyn Hallett, the team
chairman, to get in touch with you direct if he needs any further
information.

Wishing you every blessing in your ministry for the Lord,
Elisabeth

The Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches
Pastors' Association

Dear Dr. Utley,

Thank you very much indeed for your message. You might
like to register your training resource at www.trainforChrist.org. Please click on "Training Provider Registration."

May God bless you.

Ian Benson, Coordinator
The Evangelical Training
Database

Associate of the International
Missionary Training Network of
the World Evangelical Alliance
Member Organisation of the
Evangelical Alliance
Member Organisation of
Global Connections (the
Evangelical Missionary Alliance)
In England and Wales

ETHIOPIA

Dear sir

I am interested in your ministry. Please send me Bible study
and other materials.

Daniel Tadiwos
Children and youth ministry coordinator
In Central Ethiopian Syond
PO Box 5749 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

GERMANY

Dear Dr. Utley!

Thank you for making your extensive Bible
study material available online. As you
suggested I did take a look, especially on
Matthew 5-7 which we are studying right now
in our fellowship. Thank you for the helpful
explanations.

May our Lord bless you richly for being so
generous in sharing what He has entrusted you
with for the extension of His glory.

With kind regards
DMG (German Missionary Fellowship)
Monika Schwarz, secretary

GHANA

Hello Bob,

I traveled to Wenchi, a village where our agriculture faculty is to organize the library for accreditation from the National Accreditation Board, to run a BSc in General Agriculture, Diploma in Horticulture and General agriculture. I arrived on Saturday. They are doing the translation of the book commentary on Romans and the 1,2 & 3 book of John. Yes, Bob, before I handed over the books to them I discussed it with them and they promised of doing an excellent job. They are the people who are currently translating our Methodist Hymn Book into our local language to the Methodist Church of Ghana. They do translate Bibles to other languages as well. I know they are trustworthy. A colleague of mine told me they are good translators and even showed me a book written by one of our Pastor's that they have translated into the Akan language.

But, as you said I promise to proof-read it before sending the PDF copy to you. I gave them some money for the start but they complain it is not enough for the three of them. That is why I requested that you send me some money to be given to them. Bob, I think for now any amount that will motivate them and give them the assurance of full payment after the work will do. You can send it to me as you did the first. But if you can also send all so that I pay them half of the amount and thereafter the rest it will be ok. But whichever way you think it will be ok for you.

Hope to hear from you soon

Thank you

John Arthur

Methodist University College Ghana
Dansoman-Accra, Ghana

HAITI

Bob has taught at the OMS Seminary in Cap Haitian, Haiti for the past 3 years. The picture below shows Bob with his class. The Christian radio station (covers northern Haiti) there is playing (twice a day) lessons from our New Testament series. These lessons are in MP3 format. We are working on putting all of our Old Testament audio tapes in MP3 format also.

The physical needs in Haiti are overwhelming. The OMS serves a wonderful purpose by providing a health clinic which is one of the best in Haiti; the seminary to train pastors and other ministers; and other social services. Many volunteers from the U.S. and Canada serve there from 2

weeks to several months as their schedules allow. If you are interested in serving with them please contact us for more information (1.800.785.1005).



INDIA

Dear pastor, thanks a lot for your prompt reply.

Please send us a copy and we will copy it and give to our students. God is gracious to multiply a little thing to be sufficient for many. Please send all your works to us. We will be happy to spread it in India. We truly thank God for the ministry you do for the Lord. May the Good Lord strengthen you physically and spiritually to continue the great ministry. Please send us the videos also. One copy each is sufficient, we will copy it and will distribute it free of cost, so that we may also join in the great work you do for the Lord.

Dr. Saneesh Cherian

P.B.No. 8, Mulanthuruthy P.O.
Ernakulam, 682 314, Kerala, India

Dear Brother,

Thank for your concern towards us that you gave very useful information to us. I am Satyanarayana, founder and president of the "The Truth Ministries." At one branch we have Bible College, "Doulos Bible College." We have Hermeneutics subject also. We request you to send your books and audio tapes to us if it is possible. It will be so helpful for us. I don't know from which country you are but if it is possible for you we welcome you as guest faculty to our college and we are grateful to you if you can come and teach us.

Your Co-Labourer in Christ,

Satya
India

REVIEW OF MINISTRY AROUND THE WORLD - CONT.

Dear Sir,

I greeting you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

My name is Duhawm, I am doing my B.Th second year in Kerala (India). When I visit your Web, I knew about your free Bible commentary ministry. So that I want to get your free Bible commentary. Please sent me according to this address,

G.Lalduhawma

New India Bible Seminary, P.O.Box 2
Paippad, Changanacherry-686 537
Kerala, India

Beloved Brother in Christ,

Greetings to You in the wonderful name of Our Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ. Thank you so much for sending me the Free Bible Commentary series (New Testament). I have received three Books safely & in good condition today, namely: 1. Gospel of Peter (Vol. II) 2. Jesus half-brother's speaks (Vol. XI – James & Jude) 3. Hope in hard Times: The final curtain – Revelation (Vol. XII).

May God richly bless Your Ministry greatly. It's My earnest prayer.

Mr. H.Hercules Blah,
Jaiaw Main Road, Shillong – 793002,
Meghalaya – India

Dear Respected Beloved Sir Bob Utley in Lord

Greetings to you all in the mighty name of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. Praise the Lord. It is nice to hear about you and your great love and kind ministry. Thank you for your good faith, love and kind heart for His people in Him.

My name is SUNIL, servant of Christ from India. We are doing the Lords work, social work, sincerely faithful in our areas with independently and regularly conducting Prayer meetings, small Pastors conferences and sharing Jesus with others who don't know His Power, love and teaching Bible classes among children, and distributing gospel tracts among rural areas and full-time ongoing involvement in Christian works and social work in India.

In this connection I need appropriate encouragement from you. Could you please strengthen me in Him through your valuable prayers and holy suggestions. Please keep our prayer Points in your family, church, friends and all of your brothers and sisters daily prayers.

Prayer Points: We believe that Prayer can change everything what we need.

1) Pray for God's guidance and financial needs in our

ministry, church Work

- 2) Pray for our orphan children and widows, leprosy
- 3) Pray for India, people safe and world peace
- 4) Pray for fellow Pastors/God's people in India
- 5) Pray for we need Gospel materials

Know that we would like to have a long term relationship with you, your work. Because you, your truths, belongs to God. So please remember us in prayers and add my name to your mailing list and church prayer list. You are always welcome to encourage our churches. We will continue to keep praying for you and your family, all work.

I will send our orphan and church work pictures in next letter,

Much Love and prayer, I am looking forward to hear from you.

In His Great Service/Pastor
Independent Baptist Church
South India

INDONESIA

Thank you Dr. Bob, may the Lord bestow His blessing to your ministry

Blessing

Dr Frans Silahahi
Director, Back to the Bible Indonesia

KENYA

Dear Bob,

Greetings to you. I thank you for the good work for the Kingdom. God will continue to reward you for all that you have done to help people grow in the knowledge of God.

I am writing this from my homeland – Kenya – I visited your site and learnt a lot from it. I am a Lay – Reader in the Anglican Church of Kenya and also the Chairman of Kenya Anglican Men Association in my parish. The most fulfilling part of my life is serving the people and especially in helping them in spiritual growth. My engagement in the church is both voluntary and non-remunerative. I am also in employment in a charitable organization where we help uplift living standards of the poor people and fulfil the great commission.

I however feel deficient in knowledge of God and would very much request your help in this area. I would request if possible you send me learning materials (books, cds, dvds) to help equip myself to equip others.

Why am I seeking this help from you and we don't even know each other? As I was reading your site publications, the holy Ghost revealed to me that you can and you have actually been equipping committed Christians with deeper knowledge of God. I then felt a strong need within me to contact you.

I will be pleased to hear from you.

All His best,
Peter Njeru
Servanthood & Light Foundation
Nairobi – Kenya

Dear Bro Bob,

Greetings from Kenya in Jesus name. First allow me to introduce myself to you. I am Pastor Moses Zewedi the Senior Pastor of Lives Changing Church here in Kitale Kenya. Kindly I would like to write and thank you for taking your time and introduce us as the ministers of the gospel to your free Bible Commentary. This is gonna be a great blessings to the preachers of the Gospel here and am gonna try my best and forward to link as many ministers of the Gospel as I can. I have another request. You know here we have the desire to dig deep in the word of God to an extent of doing some Bible college and seminary courses. I have already done some courses from Grace Bible College and Seminary and unfortunately the college is not accredited. I did the Diploma course on Christian Living and Associate degree on Practical Ministry.

My desire is to see doing some Bachelor, Masters and also doctorate in future. Due to much poverty that surrounds our people here, we have the desire to learn but we can't afford the fees. I believe that if I stop learning today then I stop growing. There's a Bible college in India that has contacted me to do their courses but I can't afford the tuition fee. Sir is there any way that you can help me to go about these. Also if there's any other Bible

college or university there which can allow me to do lessons on correspondence at my own pace, I would really appreciate

to do some undergraduate and graduate studies, also if they can allow me to transfer my credits from Grace Bible College, I will as well appreciate. Kindly pray about my request and getting back to me. May God bless you as you labor there in your area of the harvest field.

Grace and peace to you.
Pastor Moses and Maureen Zewedi
www.liveschangingchurch.org

MALAYSIA

Dear Dr. Bob Utley,

Greeting in the blessed name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I write to thank you for the NASB (Update) Study Bible New Testament Supplement CD. I really appreciate your kindness in sending this wonderful tool for me. May our Lord bless your ministry very richly. I would appreciate an Online Bible CD to help me study the Bible.

Lau Sing Foo (Pastor)
Sungai Dua Church

MAURITIUS

Dear Professor Utley,

We wish to thank you warmly for allowing us the free use of your website. We thank our faithful Father for people like you who are a blessing to others. We assure you that we will pass the news to all our Pastors and friends and others.

Again thank you and may the Lord bless and guide you as you continue in your endeavour.

Blessings
Patricia, Secretary
Presbyterian Church of
Mauritius

Dear Brother hello!!

Today I had the tremendous surprise to receive your MP3 Cds and study Guide CD rom. They are absolutely tremendous and exceptional teachings. I have been listening to bits and I just could not stop praising the Lord for such fine resources.

Bob they are really unique and outstanding. I am so thankful and grateful to you for so many blessings. I trust they will help us tremendously in

As I was reading your site publications, the holy Ghost revealed to me that you can and you have actually been equipping committed Christians with deeper knowledge of God.

REVIEW OF MINISTRY AROUND THE WORLD - CONT.

our training ministries and many will be able to study and teach the Word of God faithfully. Our desire is to be able to declare the full counsel of God and with your resources I do believe we will. I really don't know what to say to thank you Bob. I also pray that one day you will be able to compile Old Testament teachings on MP3 as well. I really don't want to miss your Old Testament studies as well. For the time being we have your NT MP3 and this will keep us very busy for a long period of time. But can you please send us the OT ones when they are ready. Thank you for all your help, generosity and support.

In Christ
Anonymous

Ps: By the way we grew up all our Christian life in Southern Baptist churches before having the call to start an Evangelical non-denominational church and Bible School. As such we love your teachings and doctrinal stands.

Thanks Brother again for everything!! We are rejoicing here in Mauritius!!! Unfortunately we cannot download anything online. We have a very very slow connection in Mauritius and it will take hours to download just a few sermons/ teachings. As such we will never be able to download the OT teachings. But having the NT teachings is already bringing tremendous joy to our hearts. Thank you so much for the Study Bible as well. This is a very generous gift. I praise the Lord for your support encouragement and generosity. I really want to get back to listening of your teachings!!!

May the Lord bless you abundantly.

In his Grace
Anonymous
Mauritius

MEDITERRANEAN AREA

Dear Mr. Utley,

Many thanks for this valuable resource. I will share it with my schools.

Reina O'Hale

Mediterranean Association of International Schools

NIGERIA

Dear Bob,

Thanks so much for this opportunity of knowing your web site, it is fantastic. Please I will love for you to be my teacher in the word want to learn the deep things of the Bible. Here

in Nigeria we lack the facility to do research hence I will need your wealth of experience and materials. My name is Bolaji I was a full time minister but now work part time. My desire is to be a teacher, I believe you can train me.

Bolaji Akinfenwa

Dear Dr. Bob Utley,

Good morning and greetings to you in Jesus name, Amen. Thank you so much for your email, our pastors are suffering and looking for books and sermon notes for their preaching and teaching the word of God in their churches. We have over 2,856 Pastors in our region, I will be very happy to make a CD-Rom copy of your written commentaries for our Nigeria Pastors. We will also make some copies for Bible Colleges, Seminaries and Universities to help teach the student pastors. A CD-Rom cost \$1 plus copying in our Baptist Media House in Benin City, I will be happy to do this in Christ Jesus and I will send you report/Update and photos of distribution for your ministry record.

God Bless You,
Rev. Evbota Godstime

Dear Sir,

The Commentaries you sent to me got to me. I must express my profound delight and gratitude over my receipt of these precious gold. Thank you. I have been in your school through going through these materials which have in no small way blessed my life and ministries. The things that were hitherto unclear have been put right to me. I testify that I have a better understanding of the epistle to the Romans. I am yet to finish that of John epistle, and I will surely get back to you. One of the things I want to do is to share this gift with local and unexposed pastors and ministers that are sub-urban based. If you have more materials, I will gladly devour it and spread the knowledge. Another thing I want to do is to organize a one month Bible Leadership lessons for a few ministers-using your Commentaries as resource materials. Will you please permit me to do so?

Thank you for your love and may the rich God bless you indeed.

I remain yours sincerely,
Ima Nkanta

PANAMA

Thank you for the information on your website.

Laboring Together for the Worthy One,
The Andersons in Panama

PHILIPPINES

Sir, happy pleasant day! I'm Cesarlito M. Campana here in Philippines wanting to know about your free Bible commentary. I'm a preacher here who preach the Word of God but it is difficult for me to discuss something which I didn't know. I'm willing to know the truth but I have no reference to use in my study.

Hoping for your kindness and understanding. Thank you very much in advance.

Truly yours,
Cesarlito

RUSSIA

This year Dr. Bob's commentary on the Gospel of Matthew was translated into Russian. It is available on a CD-Rom with all of the English New Testament commentaries. The CD has been mailed to over 2,000 churches.

RWANDA

Dear Dr Bob and Minister of God,

I really thank you very much for the call of God you accepted to do such a tremendous work for the Ministry of building the Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I promise to be visiting the website and read it and also I'll pass it to other friends I know.

God bless you and your family so much as you serve the almighty God who will absolutely reward you the day of his coming back.

B. Musafiri and Jean Chrysostome
Advocacy/Child Protection Unit
World Vision International-Rwanda

SENEGAL

Dear Dr. Utley,

My name is Thomas ("Tom") Smith. My wife and I have been IMB missionaries in West Africa for 27 years. For the past 11 years we have worked with the Fulani people of Senegal. In addition I now serve as Field Strategy Leader for 7 people group teams in Senegal and Guinea.

I don't know how many email addresses you have for IMB personnel but I am forwarding this message to all of my team leaders. This is a wonderful resource you have made available to anyone with access to the Internet.

May God bless your work and give you strength. If you

ever have the chance to visit this area of the world please be sure to include Senegal.

Yours in Christ,
Tom Smith

SERBIA

God has really opened the door for translating Bob's commentaries into the Serbian language. At the present time the following commentaries have been completed:

1. Paul's Prison Letters (Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians and Philemon)
2. I Corinthians
3. II Corinthians
4. Revelation

The translation team is now working on the Gospel of John and I, II and III John. These are the only commentaries in print in the Serbian language!!!

SLOVAKIA

The following commentaries have been translated into Slovakian:

1. Romans (written and audio)
2. Revelation (written, to be printed and distributed soon)
3. Genesis 1-11 (for radio)
4. John (audio)

The radio station there, HCJB, says that it is a very popular program (see email below).

Dear Dr. Utley,

It is great pleasure for me to tell you shortly about our first experiences with your Bible teaching programmes—the book of Romans.

The greatest surprise for us is a huge response to your lessons from our listeners. Higher than the best of our programmes ever broadcasted! We did not expect such a response as we know some topics of the book of Romans are quite difficult for understanding. It is not a book for easy listening. Maybe the reason is the quiz with questions, answers and rewards in every lesson. People are listening very eagerly and we can see they understand the topics of the lessons. That is the reward for us that our hard work is not in vain...Even more, many people do not take part in the quiz, they only write us for their thankfulness for the lessons.

The lessons are spreading out also between the students of the Bible seminary. As I was told, Dr. Masarik from the seminary wrote you a mail recently.

REVIEW OF MINISTRY AROUND THE WORLD - CONT.

As we have started to prepare our programme schedule for the next year and beyond, please consider your programme contribution for the future decide to take part, we would prefer the Letters of John or better the Gospel of John.

SOUTH AFRICA

Dear Dr. Utley

I am very impressed with all the hard work you are offering on your Web page. I would like to ask permission to place certain PDF documents into Afrikaans, one of the official languages spoken in South Africa. There will of course be full reference to your Web page to allow visitors to experience the full impact of your Web page.

Thank you.
Hettie Woehler

Dear Bob,

Warmest Christian greetings to you in the Name of Jesus. I am writing to say thank you for the extra CDs that arrived the other day. I will place them with those that I feel need them. God Bless you for your involvement with us.

Regards,
John & Cecilia Perfect

TOGO

Bible Lessons International will be helping to host a Pastor's Conference in Togo in August of 2008. The purpose of the conference is to teach Bible interpretation and distribute the newly translated Gospel of John, I, II, III John, and Romans in French. Former missionaries to Togo, Frank and Melaney Dudley, are also going to teach at the conference.

TURKEY

We are beginning to negotiate with a Christian translator and publisher to get John, I, II and III John translated into the Turkish language. Please pray for open doors for this opportunity.

UGANDA

Greetings from Uganda Christian community. Thanks for the Bible commentary and we praise the Lord for people like you that are devoted to make a difference in other people's lives. That commentary is a great tool for equipping or capacity building. Do you have it in soft copy format? I

would definitely love to have a soft copy. I teach a lot among church partners. Please let me know how to access and download.

Jacques Masiko
Viva.org

ZAMBIA

Dear Sir,

I have just visited your website after I received your email together with its attachments and have browsed through Romans and the Seminar notes on Biblical Interpretation. What a blessing you are bringing into the hands of serious Bible Students and the people of God worldwide. I am inspired by the quality of the material as it is both thorough in its background and insightful in its application which releases faith in the Scriptures.

I am involved in Bible teaching and leadership training and so I plan to use this material extensively. I am the General Secretary of the Bible Society in Zambia. One final comment is it possible to order hard copies of the material I mean the printed one and CD's?

Blessings,
Mpundu Mutala

ZIMBABWE

It was good to meet a person like you. I am sure the translation of Romans into my local language will see many Shangaan people getting a better understanding of the Bible. As the President of my Convention, I am sending a letter to my translation team today. I am doing this through the Secretary General of the Convention. I am sure they should start it next Monday, if they have the stationary to start with. Our translation team is the department of Church Training and Discipleship in the Convention. You can send more tapes to us on this address:

Pastor Nhamo Chigohi
Southern Baptist Convention of Zimbabwe
Box 24 Neshuro, Masvingo Zimbabwe
Thank you for your service
Pastor Nhamo Chigohi

EMAILS FROM THE UNITED STATES

Here are a few emails that we have received this year from people and ministries in our country. They are in response from my email regarding the resources on our websites.

Dear Dr. Utley,

Absolutely yes! It will take me a while to add them all as I am continually updating/adding other things but I will definitely add them as time allows. I own your commentaries (Libronix format) and find them helpful and right on. I had no idea they were also available at no charge and so was quite surprised to get your email.

Thank you for the head's up. You can rest assured they will be added to the glory of God. If you know of other conservative, sound doctrinal material like yours that I don't have on the site please let me know.

I assume you are still in Marshall, Texas. My first job in pathology after finishing training at Southwestern

Med School was in Longview. I was saved about 10 years later in August at age 39 (that's where I was born and had always wanted to practice medicine). I have been saved about 23 years and about 2 years ago I retired to do this website full time. I love posting material of the quality that you produce as it really edifies the saints for the work of service. Do you also preach?

May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,

Bruce Hurt, MD
Austin, Texas

Hello Dr. Utley,

PTL, I'm thrilled to be able to offer your materials to our students at Ames International School of Ministry www.amesbible.org or www.freebiblecollege.com I appreciate your balanced approach, my only reason for checking back was because some folks of different backgrounds are very dogmatic and legalistic perhaps against the gifts of the spirit and maybe would not want to be linked to our site knowing our beliefs. I think the disclaimer is a good idea. I will begin to post your links ASAP. I think they will be a great addition to our program. I have wanted to record our courses like you did the commentaries and I was very impressed. Hopefully, Lord,

willing, this will drive traffic to your sites. I will promote both your site that has messages that can be purchased in printed and audio form and on the student page I will promote both. With 16,000 enrolled and 100 new enrollments a week you should see an increase. Let me know if you do. I really think that your messages will add value to my program.

Have a blessed weekend.

Dr. Vince
Ft. Myers, FL

Dear Bob,

Thank you for making available this helpful and greatly needed commentary material on the Bible.

I have read through some of your written commentary material and found it to be exceptionally accurate and purely scriptural without so much of the denominational slant that many commentators

add. This is indeed refreshing.

Bob, since I travel in mission throughout the world, it would be a privilege to make your website available to servant leaders in third world countries. They desperately need access to good sound biblical materials. With your permission and blessing, I will make this available to them.

Dan Hubbell
Winn斯boro, Texas

Dr. Utley

I have really appreciated your commentaries, particularly on I Corinthians. I am pursuing a PhD in NT and have found your work to be very helpful in my research.

My only regret is that I didn't come across them earlier.

Keith Krell
Senior Pastor
Emmanuel Bible Fellowship
Olympia, WA

Dear Guys,

Once in a while something good happens. Bob Utley's teaching commentaries are wonderful. He is a retired Professor of Hermeneutics at East Texas Baptist University. You can access his 6,000 pages plus commentaries at www.amesbible.org.

EMAILS FROM THE UNITED STATES - CONT.

freebiblecommentary.org This is a good one.

Blessings!
Bro. Lonnie
North Shore Baptist Association

Dear Bob,

Thank you for your website and for making available your commentaries. I have looked at some random places and also what I would consider key passages to check your perspective. I have to say from what I have seen, yours is a very sane, gentle, accurate and honest approach to the Scriptures. I appreciate how you gently debunk the Dispensational ideas that so dominate our western Evangelical churches. I appreciate your solid grip on the redemption provided by Jesus and our inability to add anything to salvation or earn a portion of it while at the same time you teach with clarity our call, our necessity to walk in righteousness and bear the fruits of salvation. I appreciate your grasp on what I believe is the true eschatological view of the triumph of the Gospel in all nations.

From the short time I have spent with your commentaries I perceive a gift of great treasure to the Body of Christ and I am very grateful for your work and the generosity of God through you.

Rev. Eugene Clingman
International Church Council Project
Winona, MO

Dear Brother in Christ,

Thank you for the mail you sent to the OM ships headquarters, which was forwarded to me. I will certainly communicate this to those who may benefit from this. Very thoughtful to inform us about this webpage.

Joop Strietman
Director of training for OM Ships International

Dr. Utley,

This is indeed a vast and impressive resource. As we seek to expand and improve BIBLES.NET later this year, we will seek to make use of resources such as this website.

John Lawton Jeffcoat III
director@greatsite.com

Dr. Bob,

I am a graduate of Talbot School of Theology and currently working on my D-Min through Phoenix Seminary. I am totally impressed with your written commentary! It harkens me back to the days of such expositors and exegetes as Spurgeon and Ironside. We live in a dismal day of commentary life. Your

disciple is refreshment to my inner man!

John Wallace Miller
Pastor, Northwest Bible Church
Tucson, AZ

Dear Bob,

Thank you for your material online. Because the focus of TMAI is on Bible exposition, we will try to make good use of your study. Thanks for your faithfulness.

Dave Deuel
The Master's Academy International
Valencia, CA

Dr. Utley,

My name is Michael Garrett and I am the founder of Faith Cycle Ministries (www.faithcycleministry.org). Our two fold mission is 1) to help Christians with their next step in faith and 2) supply missionaries with technology and technical support.

I am writing to you asking if we may use some of your material on our website to offer our web visitors more options in writing material. We would gladly make a Dr. Utley page and then list your works that you allow us to have on our site, a bio of you and a link to your site. We also would like to put your material on our Virtual Learning Centers (VLC). Our VLC's are 500 GB hard drives that we send to 3rd world countries that cannot access the internet due to location or cost. The missionaries who receive our VLC's use them to train and evangelize the locals in that area. Our VLC's contain evangelism material, training material and medical information like how to do first aid and other necessary items to make them more efficient on the front line doing God's will.

I pray that you will allow us to use some of your material for our ministry.

Michael Garrett, Faith Cycle Ministries
Burlington, NJ

Greetings Dr. Utley,

Thank you for being a blessing to the "Body of Christ." Your courses and lessons are extraordinary in exegesis, theological honesty and biblical integrity. We are blessed to be able to share your material with a broader audience.

Initially, I placed an Independent Directed Studies links on our website and later plan to integrate many of your courses

From the short time I have spent with your commentaries I perceive a gift of great treasure to the Body of Christ and I am very grateful for your work and the generosity of God through you.

and lessons into our online program of study.

Dr. Johnson
Future Education for You
(www.futureed4u.org)
Tallahassee, FL

Dear Dr. Utley:

Thank you for informing us about this substantial work of yours. I look forward to sharing this resource with colleagues and associates.

David M. Chandler
Online Managing Editor
National Ministries
American Baptist Churches USA

Dr. Bob;

Thanks for making your bible resources available online free of charge. What I saw looks very interesting. I will check them out further in the future.

Pastor David Johnston
First Baptist Church, Coon Rapids, MN

Dr. Utley,

Thanks in advance for the material on your website. I desire to attend Bible College soon. Since I am blind I use a computer with screen reading software. Your site is a Godsend.

Bill Russell

Thanks, Bob, this looks like a great resource. I've already passed it on...

Andrew Maddox
Web Designer/Champion Forest Baptist Church

Dear Dr. Utley,

What an incredible gift. We thank God for you and your faithful commitment to Holy Scripture through the years. You are so generous to share the fruit of your hard work. May God's blessings be multiplied to you in abundance. Please know of my deep gratitude, and I am sure I speak for so many others in expressing genuine appreciation to you.

David S. Dockery, President

Union University
Jackson, TN

Thank you. The site looks wonderful and I will use it as I continue to integrate Scripture into my education lessons. God bless.

Dr. John Farris
Oklahoma Baptist University
Shawnee OK

Bob,

Thanks for making this available. I will pass the word along (I already did to my CIM students) to everyone and will put a link on our website.

Randy Babin,
Director of Missions
Soda Lake Baptist Association
Marshall TX

Dr. Utley,

Thanks for the email and I am excited to be able to post this on the Neches River Association website. You have been such a blessing in my life as a pastor and as a DOM. Maybe we can have you do a conference sometime.

Bill Jones, DOM
Neches River Baptist Association
Crockett, Texas

Thanks Bob for your great wisdom and insight in the Word. Blessings on you.

John L. Yeats
Director of Communications
Louisiana Baptist Convention
SBC Recording Secretary

Dr. Utley:

I am grateful for this resource. I am pleased to pass it on to my associates. "The Cooperative Program enables me to partner with you in making Christ known by serving churches."

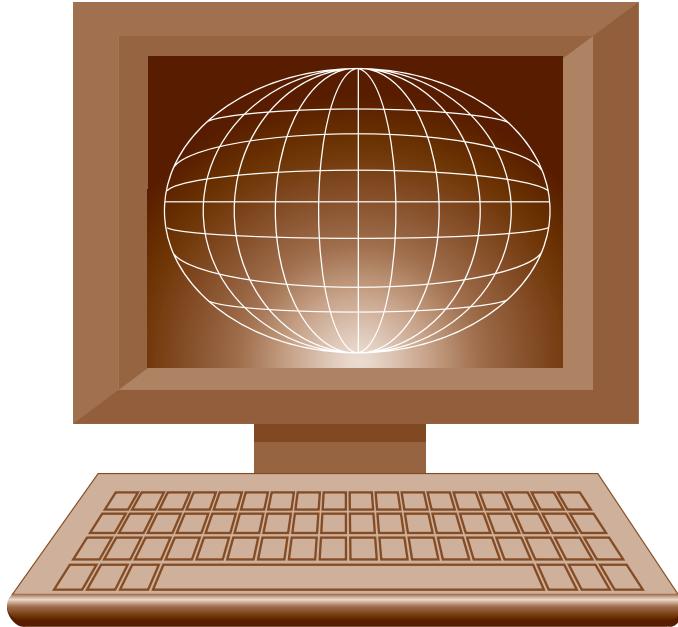
Bill Northcott, DMin.
Church-Minister Relations
Brentwood TN

GRATEFUL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO BIBLE DEFENDERS

This is an especially wonderful website:
(www.BibleDefenders.com). The following is listed on their website:

Dr. Bob has made, in my opinion, the most detailed Bible commentary ever on video, audio and paper. The best part about it is that it is FREE!!!!!! He is one of the most influential, fundamental and Biblical teachers of the scriptures that I have ever met.

One of the reasons why Dr. Bob Utley shares his resources and commentaries with people is because he realized "how many different interpretations of this book (the Bible) were advocated, sometimes even within the same churches and schools of thought." He is a teacher who is dedicated to teaching the Bible without any pre-suppositions by emphasizing the importance of allowing the Bible to interpret itself, rather than putting one's own interpretation on the Bible.



Dr. Bob points out the fact that most interpretations of the Bible are based on "(1) personal philosophies, (2) ancient myths, (3) personal experiences, or (4) psychological projection." He admits "Although I can never be totally objective, I can become a better reader of the Bible. I can limit my biases by identifying them, but I have confronted my own weaknesses. The interpreter is often the worst enemy of good Bible reading!" Dr. Bob also points out the fact that we must base our interpretations on: "historical setting, literary context, grammatical structures (syntax), contemporary word usage, relevant parallel passages and genre."

Personally, I think that he is one of the least biased teachers of the Bible alive. I really recommend that you check his material out since much can be learned from his teachings on the Bible.

LIST OF TRANSLATIONS IN PROCESS

Arabic—John and Romans

Armenia—Romans

Botswana—Romans, Prison Epistles (Ephesians, Colossians,

Philippians and Philemon)

Brazil—Romans

Burma (Myanmar)—Romans

Ghana—John and Romans

Haiti—Romans

Hungary—John and Romans

Pakistan—John and Romans

Romania—Romans

Zambia—John and Romans

Zimbabwe—Romans

If you look at the website you will see that we have the following commentaries already translated:

Bangladesh—Matthew

Czech/Slovakia—John and Romans

Russian—Matthew

Serbia—Prison Epistles, I & II Corinthians and Revelation

Spanish—Matthew (partially finished)

Togo—(French) Romans

LIST OF WEBSITES THAT HAVE LINKED TO OURS

These links show the wide interdenominational appeal of Dr. Utley's commentaries. This listing is not an endorsement of their website, only a directory. They are not listed alphabetically.

www.baptist.org.n2 "web food"
www.abiblecommentary.com
www.onlinebible.net "links to other sites"
www.religioustolerance.org "conservative Protestant Christian sources"
www.etbu.edu "Library, electronic resources"
www.Christiantopsites.com "links"
www.wvba-sbc.com "helpful links"
www.churchontheweb.com "links/bible commentaries"
www.1-word.com "home"
www.advocatesinternational.org "prayer calendar"
www.worthylinks.com "Christian ministries"
www.cranky.eons.com "Bible commentaries"
www.batist2maxnet.co.n2 "eweb food"
www.wcbcenter.com "Bible/Baptist"
www.edwardfudge.com "family notes"
www.bibledefenders.com
www.theologicalweb.com
www.yajugle.com "free-bible-videos"
www.Jesus.org.uk "hermeneutics"
www.univball.com "free-online-bible-commentary"
www.ask-about.net "Old Testament surveys"
www.mennolink.org
www.biblicalstudies.org.uk
www.alanhorvath.com "bible-study-tool-php"
www.freebiblecollege.com
www.findingtruthmatters.org
www.andrewcorbett.net
www.wordsearchbible.com
www.faithcycleministries.org
www.churchrestoration.org
www.futureed4u.org
www.logos.com
www.E-sword.com

OTHER SERVICES

Bible Lessons International continues to provide Sunday School lessons in written and audio form. We send them free to prisons and hospitals. Churches and individuals subscribe to them and we send them quarterly.

We also continue to send Bibles and other materials overseas to Pastors and Christian ministries. However, the cost of postage has risen (in some cases it has tripled) so much that we are not able to send as much as we did before.

We also have a "Tape of the Month" program. For those who give at least \$25 per month to the ministry we send audio cassettes or CD's of Bob's Bible studies.

If you are interested in helping the ministry in any way please contact us at 1.800.785.1005 or by mail at PO Box 1289 Marshall TX 75671. Our email address is bli@biblelessonsintl.com. All gifts are tax-deductible.

I hope you will send our website address to your Pastor, Sunday School teacher, friends and missionaries

(www.freebiblecommentary.org)

We are so grateful for your gifts to Bible Lessons International which make it possible for us to provide these materials

free of charge to the world.

UTLEY FAMILY UPDATE

It doesn't seem possible that another year has passed. It seems like yesterday that I was writing the 2006 Christmas newsletter! We hope that your year has gone well and you can see that God's hand was guiding you along the way. He is so faithful to assure us of His love and to bless us with the simple pleasures of life. Even through the difficult times He is there to give us comfort and grace to face whatever the challenge may be. It grieves me that so many people do not know Him and will never know His love, peace, grace, wisdom and salvation. We must continue to pray for them.

Our daughter, Michelle, and her family (husband John, Taylor [10] and Tiffany [7]), moved into their new home in April and they are enjoying it so much. It is on a beautiful piece of land on one

of the highest points in Harrison County, in Hallsville, Texas. John teaches High School Biology and Health. He is Head Coach of the Varsity Girls Basketball team and also the Junior Varsity Football Coach. Michelle teaches 5th and 6th Grade Math and Language Arts. They are very active in their church, Life Point, in Longview.

Jason and his family (wife Shannen, Avery Grace [3] and Noah [10 months]) have lived in Tomball, just northwest of Houston, for the past three years. As of October 16 they are living in St. Paul, Minnesota. Jason is working for On Assignment. It is a health care agency that supplies medical personnel for hospitals, doctor's offices, labs and other medical facilities. He matches the health care professional with the medical facility.

He did this same kind of work at one time when he lived in Houston. Shannen plans to work on her PhD in Speech at the University of Minnesota. Her father and step-mother live in St. Paul and both sets of her grandparents live in Wisconsin (about 4 hours away). We will miss them very much but we are excited for them in this new adventure.

They were very active in their church, Northwest Houston Baptist Church. Please pray that they find the church where the Lord wants them to plant their lives.

Jeremy and his family (wife Daniell, Tucker [5]) live in Marshall. Jeremy drives to Tyler three days a week where he works at East Texas Medical Center as an RN in the Emergency Department. Daniell graduated from Cosmetology school and works part-time. They are still

looking for a church home.

Bob and I celebrated our 38th anniversary this year. We feel so blessed! The Lord has given us a special love which has deepened over the years. We are so content just to be with each other and to enjoy the life God has given us. It is so rewarding to serve Him and we are humbled by His love and grace. We pray for each of you as you seek to serve the Lord in the place where you live.

"Let us not lose heart (grow weary) in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith." Galatians 6:9-10

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Po Box 1289 • Marshall, TX 75671

