



The AGNT Project Report—Q4 2009

As a licensee or friend of AGNT or ANLEX, we would like to update you once a quarter about our continuing work to enhance and perfect these databases and about our plans for the future.



The Project. *The AGNT Project Report—Q3 2008* introduced the team, outlined ongoing tasks, and discussed potential tasks.



A Search for Volunteer Greek Experts for a Worthy Cause

The Analytical Greek New Testament Project is now in its thirty-four year. Its purpose is to provide aids to translators, students and even scholars of the Greek New Testament.

The initial product was the “Analytical Greek New Testament” (AGNT), which was published by Baker Book House in 1981. It is now published by Trafford Publishers, a division of Author Solutions, Inc. The electronic version of AGNT is licensed to interested parties on behalf of the project by John Hughes of Bits & Bytes, Inc.; through such licensing it is also available in several commercially available software packages. (Though an electronic version of the 1981 “printed” AGNT is available on request, what is usually supplied electronically is the enhanced, revised AGNT [for which see below].)

The second product of the project was the “Analytical Concordance of the Greek New Testament,” published in two volumes (lexical focus; grammatical focus) by Baker Book House in 1991. (These are out of print and not to be reprinted.) Due to advances in computing between 1980 and 1990 (to say nothing of those through the present time), there is no need to represent electronically the exact form of the concordances, since their content and more are available through user-initiated interactive searches in the Greek text enabled through several good software packages.

The third output of the project was the “Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament” (ANLEX) published in 2000 by Baker Book House. It is now published by Trafford Publishers, as above. Again, the electronic version of ANLEX is available through Bits & Bytes, Inc.

The current major activity of the project is the revision of AGNT (see below). We have also been asked to produce a Byzantine Text version of AGNT, which is now almost complete. The revision of AGNT involves enhancements at various levels. The “first line” (Greek text) has been upgraded from the original UBS GNT3 to their GNT4 (and is ongoingly updated to whatever corrected printing is current). The “second line” (morphological analysis/grammatical “tags”) has been corrected—indeed is always open to correction. A simplification has also been incorporated, especially of the form of complex tags. A “third line” has been introduced, giving the Greek lemma (citation

form) for each successive Greek word in the text. The revised three-line AGNT is currently available only electronically, while the original two-line printed AGNT continues to be the original (oft corrected) 1981 version, which waits on a “fourth line” before its revision and reissuing becomes official.

The fourth line of the revised AGNT is main focus of current project activity. It comprises an English “reference gloss,” superficially an interlinear translation, but conceptually much different. In quick summary it is an uninflected English gloss (word or, rarely, words) giving the appropriate lexical subentry for each successive Greek reflex. It is context sensitive, while not giving the details as to inflection, tense, etc. that the hesitant reader should be able to get from line two. There will be no indexing of reference glosses to show proper English reading order. It is indeed just what its name states, a reference gloss.

The need for volunteer assistance: Along with other, smaller project undertakings looking for volunteer help at this time (a description of which is available on request), the fourth-line English reference gloss is the focus of current labors most needing assistance from scholarly volunteers.

This isn't so much drudgery that might be assigned a willing retiree (though ignorant of Greek) merely by providing him a Greek lexicon and a form to be filled in. Rather it is a scholarly endeavor providing not a little personal satisfaction, wherein each reflex of every lemma is examined in the context of the Greek text for the appropriate English gloss to be assigned it from the entries of ANLEX.

Though much more information will be provided to potential volunteers, suffice it to clarify here the larger scope of the endeavor. A special program was developed (CheckGloss, John Baima) by which the volunteer will have on his computer screen the Greek text, the relevant entry of ANLEX and the individual forms to be given a gloss assignment. Actually an initial glossing has been done for the reflexes of each lemma undertaken, partly automated, but with only an estimated 80% accuracy figure, far below the perfection we strive to provide. Others prefer to work without CheckGloss, working in tabular format.

The work will proceed by lemmas, and not by New Testament books, for the obvious reason that the assignments need to be done in light of the totality of GNT usage, even though subregularities of usage occur within the writings of particular authors or even within single books. Blocks of alphabetically consecutive lemmas will be assigned in the usual case, though if a volunteer feels particularly expert in some subset of lemmas, work on that more specific area can easily be arranged. Involvement to date indicates that we also separate work on more purely lexical lemmas (nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs) from work on more grammatical and often discourse-determined lemmas (conjunctions, particles, prepositions, determiners). The latter group is ideally reserved for those with some experience in discourse analysis, particularly but not limited to that developed by Wycliffe Bible Translators' translation department over the last thirty years.

The main need is to correct the draft reference gloss for each reflex of the assigned lemma, bringing about the proper fit between that lemma's use in GNT context and the meaning entry given in ANLEX. Related tasks also involve (1) correcting or revising ANLEX, if and when its entry proves inadequate or just plain wrong; (2) marking the corrected reference gloss with the outline number from the entry of ANLEX (for later cross-indexing); and (3) passing judgment on the AGNT grammatical

tag given for that reflex. We would like to have two volunteer scholars examine each lemma (with its set of reflexes). Then the results of their work will be reviewed by project consultants. And onwards until this large and involved undertaking is completed, the Lord willing and enabling.

To that end we are looking for volunteer Greek experts that are computer literate and can give a minimum of five hours weekly to the project. (Computer literateness isn't absolutely necessary, but its absence must be compensated for by scribal attention to detail second to none!) Everything done through the AGNT project through thirty-three years has been without monetary compensation and without compulsion. We will provide to productive volunteers a complimentary printed copy of AGNT and ANLEX. (These are not strictly necessary for working on the project for those using the computer program.)

If you are interested in volunteering or know someone that might be interested—or merely interested in knowing more, please send an email directly to Timothy Friberg at <trfriberg@mailit.org>. (Location of the editors at the moment is Sulawesi, Indonesia.) Correspondence to Bits & Bytes, Inc. may be addressed to John Hughes at <johnhughes@centurytel.net>.

Thank you,

Timothy Friberg



As always, we remain open to developing AGNT and ANLEX in ways that are most useful to the needs of students and readers of God's Word.

Thank you for your continued support of *The AGNT Project*, for faithfully marketing the AGNT and ANLEX databases, and for making these state-of-the-art tools for studying the Greek New Testament available to students, scholars, pastors, and laypeople worldwide.

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