

# THE WORD FOR THE WORLD BIBLE TRANSLATORS

## Outline For Master of Theology in Bible Translation Consultation At the South African Theological Seminary (August 2012)

### PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE

The objective of this programme is to assist suitable candidates to acquire the necessary skills to be accepted as Bible translation consultants, whether in the short term, or in a permanent capacity. In *The Word for the World (TWFTW)*, candidates will be required to do additional work, including an extended internship, before they will be accepted as Bible translation consultants.

### ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

1. Completion of *TWFTW's* Diploma in Bible Translation, or an equivalent of it
2. A BTh honours degree with Biblical Studies (including introduction to the Old and New Testaments, and the Theology of the Old and New Testaments, or an equivalent of that)

### COURSES (120 Credits)

#### 1. Required Subjects (4 Courses of 15 Credits each)

##### **RES5510 *Research Methodology***

Research module required by SATS for all post-graduate students.

##### **MBT5151 *Bible Translation and Mission***

A Biblical foundation for Bible translation

The centrality of Bible translation in the work of the church

##### **MBT5152 *Bible Translation Consultant Skills and Abilities***

Skills in the following areas: academic, Biblical studies, translation, language and cross-cultural, organizing and planning, consultancy

Growth plan for consultants

##### **MBT5153 *The Cultural Factor in Bible Translation***

Society, culture and language, taking into account Biblical culture/s, the Bible in those cultures, the culture of the translator, and the culture of the intended recipients of the Bible

Cultural adaptation in Bible translation

#### 2. Elective Subjects (3 Courses of 15 Credits each)

##### 2.1 **Biblical discourse and exegesis (2 from this group)**

##### **MBT5154 *Discourse Analysis in Bible Translation***

The study of different genres of Biblical discourse, and how to analyze them

Implications for Bible translation

**MBT5155 *Literary Issues in Bible Translation***

The study of the Bible as literature  
Different genres of literature found in the Bible, and how they should be interpreted  
Implications for Bible translation

**MBT5156 *Biblical Exegesis for Bible Translation***

Principles of Biblical hermeneutics, with utilization of insights from relevant aspects of linguistics, particularly semantics and sociolinguistics

**2.2 Bible translation and consultancy (1 from this group)**

**MBT5157 *Approach to Bible Translation***

The main trends in Bible translation historically and currently, with special emphasis on the Literary Functional Equivalence (LiFE) model

**MBT5158 *Contemporary Trends in Bible Translation Consultation***

Historical development of Bible translation consultation  
Innovations in Bible translation consultation, with the growing emphasis on translators working in their own languages  
Elements of a consultation: objectives, what is being checked, methods of checking, training events, the consultant as mentor, report writing, follow-up

**3. Internship (Required) (15 Credits)**

**MBT5159 *Internship in Bible Translation Consultation***

A minimum of four weeks working with a Bible translation consultant in consultation with a team(s) of Bible translators, and doing a write-up on the consultation

**THESIS (60 Credits)**

Possible topics for the thesis:

1. Further description of the implications of one, or a combination of, the above for Bible translation consultation
2. Write-up of the improvement of a translation as a result of consultation
3. The cultural factor in the translation of a specific portion of Scripture
4. How insights from Sociolinguistics impacted the translation of a portion of Scripture

These are suggestions only. Students will have the opportunity of submitting research proposals for possible topics, in consultation with academic supervisors.