



## The AGNT Project Report—Q1 2024

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.



## Neither Rome Nor AGNT Was Built in a Day

Timothy Friberg

### February 2024 Annual AGNT Project Upgrade

February 2024 saw the final preparations and distribution of our annual AGNT project modules. It is always a high-activity month, but very satisfying as we see the results of the preceding twelve months of hard work come together.

Getting the right fonts in the right places and the often invisible formatting codes to cooperate is always a challenge, but it is nothing like the motivation guiding our work to help students and translators do a better job of representing the underlying Greek text in their target languages, whether it is familiar English or sometimes some very exotic and largely unknown minority language.

This year we are happy with 1347 revised lexical entries out of a total 5822 in the Greek lexicon. Many of them have also been “revisited,” basically tweaked to make the user’s experience of the *Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament* a more pleasant experience. This is the work of *Tony Pope*.

*Ray Gordon* continues to process digital formulas that, when finished, will color highlight the lexical entry for the Greek word being examined, making the look-up process more efficient. The revisittings above make for further refinement of the highlighting process, but the results are very satisfying. *Alan Buseman*, sometimes assisted by his wife *Karen*, lightens the task and writes the digital formula to relevant AGNT databases.

*Randy Leedy* is involved with vetting the parallel “innovating” version of ANLEX that incorporates several features of Greek lexicography into our ANLEX offering.

*Mark Nodine* is preparing a readable two-part summary of our multi-year revision of ANLEX project, which should be completed in the coming months. His task is not only to evaluate improvements to the original year 2000 ANLEX, but also to illustrate aspects of the lexicon available to serve the user’s task.

*Daniel Hoopert*, whose task is currently (and necessarily) the most stand-alone of our ongoing AGNT work, continues to provide revision insight to the conjunctions of the New Testament Greek.

### **An Unlikely Project Soon to Be Finished**

Baker's 1991 *Analytical Concordance of the Greek New Testament* (ANCONC, with lexical and grammatical focus volumes) had a short lifespan of a single printing. Of course printed concordances of any kind have largely given way to interactive computer searches of their underlying corpuses. We had fielded just enough reviews of ANCONC to see that there had been an unexpected interest in our grammatical focus concordance. But unfortunately, its production thirty-three years ago was before the time of archiving electronic texts and other wonders.

I had thought that maybe Google's onetime massive task of electronically archiving all extant printed knowledge in the world might have reached ANCONC before that undertaking was abandoned, but apparently not. So I wondered whether that was the end of the road or was there a way forward.

Always one to let others help me, I encouraged someone to scan the 4879 pages of this massive concordance set—incidentally originally prepared for Baker printing by our own *John Hughes* and his wife *Claire*. But that scanning task went nowhere. So I was pleasantly surprised when my sister, *Lois Carlson*, texted me with a video clip of the completed project, secretly undertaken by her skilled hands and willing heart.

But how to turn 4879 individual PDF files of the scanned concordance set into something more manageable? Enter *Christopher Samuel*, able computer technician working with SIL, who for a number of years has readied our AGNT project modules for SIL's applications of the same. Whereas my sister completed her secret mission in forty-eight hours over two weeks (100 pages per hour), Christopher was able to combine the files representing ANCONC volume I in just a very few hours. And promises to do the shorter second volume too.

When this task is completed, we will give copies to a number of seminaries or Bible translation organizations, where there might be an interest. Electronic works, it has been noted, don't have to be dusted.

### **Future Prospects**

There is always something to do, and we will not argue with King Solomon's observation (Ecclesiastes 12.12). Yet we do have a few further projects in mind:

1. *Eric Inman* wants to produce an AGNT-ANLEX web application. At any rate he has spent long hours cleaning up thousands of discrepancies between our six AGNT databases and our two ANLEX versions, discrepancies that almost entirely fly below the radar of casual observation.
2. Our original Baker ANLEX comprised two parts, AN, a listing with analyses of all individual Greek New Testament words and variants known to us at the time, and LEX, our lexical entries describing the meanings and use of Greek lemmas (and their constituting reflexes). Soon twenty years ago we separated the two parts of ANLEX and of course have given our main focus to the revision of the lexical entries.

We hope to carry on with the “AN” task, now made much easier by almost every variant being available in electronic form. We want to find these all, give grammatical tag analyses to each, and then to recombine our onetime division of ANLEX into its original whole. I remember and try to serve an observation made by a teacher of Greek. In paraphrase: “I rarely look at your lexical entries, but I declare that your list of possible Greek forms with analyses is one of the most complete I know.”

3. Our original volume with Baker Book House was the *Analytical Greek New Testament*, giving its name to the AGNT project. It was an analysis of the then-current United Bible Societies’ *The Greek New Testament*, third edition, which was later developed into the GNT, third edition corrected. Over the years we have added somewhat more than a thousand changes to our database of the original AGNT, some to reflect corrections to the GNT, third edition corrected, and some to right wrong analyses represented in our tags.

We would like to republish this with a publish-on-demand outfit, say with Trafford, which still carries the “uncorrected” third edition AGNT for us. I wonder what Solomon would say about publishing-on-demand. That we are content with the third edition when UBS is now readying its sixth edition is explained by several factors. First, our AGNT3 (or Classic AGNT) still has the pre-simplified AGNT tags, which we are keen to preserve, as none of our other electronic databases reflect them. Second, AGNT3 was simply a Greek line of text with underlying tags. Since then we had added ERGs and other enhancements. Rather than try to put to print all the enhancements (some ten lines of analysis and not just the original two), we’ll let our computer world handle that complexity, while we stick with the simpler past.

If we have raised an interest or question in your thinking, please do not be hesitant to contact us with any discussion you would like to convey.



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, translators, and laymen worldwide.

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