The AGNT Project Report—Q1 2014

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.

Overview of Some AGNT Activities During the First Quarter of 2014

This article provides an overview of some AGNT activities during the first quarter of 2014.

We are happy to report that the revision project on Classic AGNT (original printed AGNT) is nearing completion. We have made somewhat less than a thousand changes to the Greek text (adjusted to UBS GNT3-corrected; mostly punctuation related) and to AGNT tags (some error correction, but largely reanalysis of verbal voice to that of AGNT4). The appendix has been corrected to reflect changes in the text and analysis, and we have added exhaustive references.

We call this an archiving effort. Whether replacing our original Baker hardcopy AGNT, now published by Trafford as an on-demand product, or making it available as an electronic database for those licensing the same from GBS, we are happy to be able to surrender this to the judgment of history. The tagging is original, intentionally not having been revised to our simplified tags of the 1990s. As in the original AGNT, the presentation is Greek text and AGNT tags. The last step in the archiving process will be to typeset Classic AGNT and preserve that in PDF format.

And just in time. For with GNT5 coming out in May, as GBS's translators' complement to NA28, AGNT4, representing GNT4, will increasingly be left behind for AGNT5, though at least one agency plans to continue to use AGNT4 for the foreseeable future. It won't be long before we will want to archive it too, this time as Greek text, AGNT tags, and ANLEX lemmas. Its tagging analysis is in the simplified tag format. Though our AGNT ERGs, PERGs, and PLERGs were introduced in beta version for AGNT4, it will be archived without them. By the time GNT5 is out in hardcopy, we will change the beta status of our latest enhancements to official and call them part of AGNT5.

We have had AGNT5 ready for quite a few months. Once we gain access to a hardcopy of GNT5 and/or an official electronic copy of the same to use to check the accuracy of our punctuation, we will release AGNT5.

As is well known, NA28 and GNT5, though identical in text, show differences in punctuation, capitalization, and paragraphing. To help those who would rather use AGNT with NA, we also have prepared AGNT-NA28. Although it is available, we have not yet completed checking our tags against its punctuation. At most, we anticipate a handful of tag changes where, for example, GNT5 may punctuate a given verse as a question, requiring an indicative tag, whereas NA28 may give that same verse as a statement, possibly requiring an imperative tag.

Currently, we are actively editing Classic AGNT3, AGNT4, AGNT5, AGNT-NA28 and BYZAGNT.

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The alternate voice analysis project, which Carl Conrad is working on, is moving ahead. We currently have his draft of an alternate statement of AGNT appendix 5.3 in the first of two tiers of referees. The first level is intended to elicit comments from scholars; the next level will elicit input from active users or would-be users of AGNT on the alternate statement.

Here are the questions we are asking:

"We do not ask which is a better—or the right—system. That is not the discussion point of this survey. (But you are certainly welcome to comment on it, if you want to.) Rather, we would like to ask the following:

"1. Regardless of the truth value of either statement, are they roughly equivalent in **comprehensibility** by those that habitually use AGNT (that is, low to middle-level students of Greek, translators, etc.)? Which is better on this point? What suggestions would you offer to improve both or either?

"2. Are they roughly equivalent in **explanatory value** with respect to the phenomenon of voice in Greek? In practical terms for the user? Which is better on this point? What suggestions would you offer to improve both or either?

"3. Might both or either be organized differently for better effect? Feel free to offer specific steps toward improvement."

If you as a scholar or student would like to see the draft document these questions are addressing, please contact us. We are happy for your input.

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It has been a year since we introduced our AGNT enhancements, including ERGs, PERGs, and PLERGs. Before we move them from beta status to official status, we are reviewing everything once again. Ray Gordon is doing this now, checking the interface between AGNT and ANLEX. I hope to begin my own comprehensive read through the databases (both AGNT and BYZAGNT) in June.

We are very happy for a spike in comments from users (mostly from those using AGNT as part of the UBS Paratext software), and we are weighing each comment carefully. We expect to receive more comments on ERGs than on the grammatical tags, as the latter are easier to overlook, until one finds himself stumped by what the Greek text is saying.

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Other AGNT tasks go forward without much fanfare, for example, the review of all conjunction tags and glosses by Dan Hoopert.

We also have reviewed and regularized our Unicode symbols (where there is more than a single code to choose from). Standardization is important whenever it helps those who implement our data into their software.

We wish Sam Pflederer and his bride Elizabeth well as they leave on April 11 for Mozambique via Brazil, where they will be in Portuguese language study for a year. Thanks again for your AGNT help, Sam. (Sam and Elizabeth really are headed out for serious language study and not positioning themselves for the World Cup in June!)

If you or any friends with expertise in Greek (and/or linguistics, translation, or computing) are interested in helping us further develop AGNT for translators, students, and pastors, please get in touch with us. AGNT has been a cooperative undertaking from the beginning. We see no

reason the present and future should be any different. As such, we look to God for those that might partner with us in carrying these tasks forward.

Timothy Friberg
Makassar, Indonesia

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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