



## The AGNT Project Report—Q4 2013

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.



### English Reference Glosses in AGNT and BYZAGNT—II

Timothy Friberg, PhD

Our last AGNT Newsletter (3Q2013) tried to solicit a response from you our readers regarding the English Reference Glosses (ERGs) of the AGNT project, whether it should reflect a more literal sense of their underlying Greek reflexes or be a more contextual figurative glossing.

We received five responses from among your ranks. Interestingly there were four positions represented in those responses. A very interesting expression of opinions indeed, some of which led to quite extended discussions.

Having seriously weighed your input, we conclude the best thing to do is to continue with our current principled approach, which is to give more literal ERGs in the general case, while giving figurative ERGs when clearly that was the original author and his readers' sense of individual words. When figurative meaning obtains in longer phrases, we will continue our practice of giving the more literal sense word by word and then give the figurative sense in our PERGs (phrasal ERGs).

We remain eager to field all user input as to specific and local ERG assignments. One noted by an alert user since the last newsletter was that at Revelation 16.10 our assignment had citizens of the darkened kingdom gnawing their languages! We might have to eat our words, but hopefully not have to gnaw our language, at least in any metaphorical usage known to us.

Thank you again for reading our discussion and special thanks to those that communicated their thoughts. If you intended to write but didn't, we will still happily receive your input.

As I have often noted with appreciation lately, 2013 has been a very productive year for AGNT. One of the reasons for that was the fulltime availability of volunteer Sam Pflederer, WBT translator recruit for Mozambique. Sam brought to his task a keen sense of both linguistics and translation principles as well as knowledge of Greek and the ability to process our data electronically. The result is several significant steps forward for AGNT.

First, Sam revised our AGNT electronic Appendix, making it a fully compatible discussion of our underlying analytical decisions for *both* AGNT *and* BYZAGNT. While he was at that task, we discussed and revised scores of specific AGNT analyses. Then he put pointers at roughly a third of BYZ/AGNT tags tying them to the appropriate Appendix discussions. This is part of a beta version of tag annotations.

He also made a parallel set of *strict morphology* AGNT tags, also for the annotation enhancement in which all interpretative information in our regular tags has been stripped away. Finally for this same enhancement task, he adapted the Maurice Robinson GNT4 and

Byzantine Textform *seconds* notations, that is, for second futures, aorists, perfects and pluperfects.

For any reader interested we have short descriptions of these three annotative enhancements. That a yearlong task can so easily be summarized in one or two pages is encouraging to me.

Jan Hoogland has been developing his TGNT (Transformation Greek New Testament) for the last score of years. Sam (with help from John Lewis) also took Jan's *intrinsic meanings* from his *Transform Lexicon* and applied them to each Greek reflex in both AGNT and BYZAGNT as a separate field. Jan's is a separate, independent project, but since he takes AGNT tags as adequate morphological transformation, he needed only to add his intrinsic meanings to balance understanding with lexical transformation. There is also a short write-up explaining TGNT to interested readers.

All the enhancements noted above are being readied for beta testing in 2014 in a number of nonprofit and commercial formats.

We wish Sam and his new bride, Elizabeth, God-speed on their way to language school in Brazil and then to a translation project in Mozambique. Naturally, he will want to have reference to AGNT. If you know a potential volunteer with some combination of skills shown by Sam, right now we will be happy to usher him right up to the front of the queue.

In 2013 the German Bible Society introduced NA28. It hopes to produce a printed GNT5 by April 2014. Since the NA28 and GNT5 are textually identical (and different from NA27 and GNT4), we have now also produced a new AGNT5. We have a parallel check underway to see if any of the punctuation differences between NA28 and GNT5 will require any AGNT tag changes in its expression of the former.

As this year closes, we are also happy to be closing a revision task updating our original printed AGNT (Baker Book House). We now call it Classic AGNT. In this undertaking we have updated the original Greek text of AGNT from GNT3 to GNT3-corrected. This involved mostly making hundreds of punctuation changes. At the same time, we corrected scores of errors in our original tagging (out of 138,019 tags). Also a few other updates found in our current AGNT were also incorporated, but we took special pains to leave untouched all systematic choices current in 1981. This means that the tagging system itself remains what it was prior to the simplification of our tags in the 1990s, an important archive in our thinking.

A minor revision of the Classic AGNT Appendix will be the next step. Besides having Classic AGNT as an electronic text, we also hope to typeset it and thereby archive it as a PDF file, consistent in format with the original AGNT.

At very least this represents an archiving of GNT3-corrected. If this project finishes well, we may extend the concept to archiving GNT4 (with AGNT tags *and* lemmas). And why not someday an archiving of the new GNT5 to include AGNT tags, lemmas, ERGs and PERGs? We don't have such big plans as we are thinking through establishing good patterns for future reference and access.

A number of long-term AGNT tasks continue at this time. But they will not be mentioned at this point, as they are still very much in process.

Have a fruitful year 2014.

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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