LET THE BIBLE BE YOUR TUTOR!

By director of Global Learning Initiative, Nicolai Winther-Nielsen, November 5, 2015

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STUDENTS OF THEOLOGY CAN LEARN FROM THE BIBLE IN HEBREW AND GREEK WITH FUN AND EASE. THEY CAN ALSO ASSESS THEIR LANGUAGE SKILLS ONLINE!

The Global Learning Initiative promotes the web-application Bible Online Learner as a way to test your skills in the Biblical languages and to improve them through self-directed practice. Our persuasive technology offers effective, adaptable and free learning everywhere and for free.

GLI has finished the project on Hebrew in Madagascar 2010-2015 and is now introducing Greek language learning. We can document how Bible OL improves learning outcomes and foster more active ways of learning and collaboration.

Join GLI to engage in new projects together with us and help your partners improve Biblical Studies in countries with poor or no internet, low income per capita and few resources for theological studies.

Global Learning Initiative

GLI http://global-learning.org/ is a vision to offer World-wide support for a new and more effective way of learning Biblical languages. The Hebrew and Greek texts of the Bible is the motor driving the learning, and motivation is the fuel for the learner whoo is directing his personal learning project. His facilitator may be an older peer, a local instructor or teacher or online ressources supported by skype.

Launched in August 2014, the goal of GLI is to continue to develop and brand a new approach to learning which was developed by the European Union project EuroPLOT 2010-2013. GLI is an informal group of researchers, developers and volunteer students, who create learning technology, build digital courses for instruction in the Biblical languages and offer f2f courses, instruction and supervision to train teachers and advanced students in global settings. Our primary mission is to offer adaptable language learning activities and resources for teachers and students who cannot afford Western softwares and textbooks, nor have affordable or sufficient access to free resources on the internet.

In funded projects, we offer to introduce Bible Online Learner as an effective way to improve the needs of teachers running existing educational programs. We focus on skills requested by institutions who wish to improve their curriculum and want to meet learning outcomes defined by the Barcelona process. We provide better training of language skills and solid documentation of learning outcomes.

Bible Online Learner

Our solution is available as the web-application Bible OL http://bibleol.3bmoodle.dk/. Any interested learner can open passages in our corpus from the Hebrew Bible in Hebrew or in transliteration or from the New Testament Greek text and he or she can explore words and higher levels in the text. The learners can then use exercises to practice his or her skills and get instant feedback from the Biblical texts.

For Hebrew learners we recommend two tests, which can help them and their facilitators to assess the level of skills for students who have already learned some Hebrew. You can try these tests for yourself by clicking on the links below. If they do not work, go to the menu, select *Text and Exercises*, then *Exercises* and finally the folder *GLI*, and there you find the exercises. The first test is for beginners level, the second for the basic level:

Test 1 on Gen 1.1-5 http://bibleol.3bmoodle.dk/text/select_quiz?dir=GLI/Test%201%20on%20Gen%201.1-5 is for beginners who have learned to read and write, a limited vocabulary, noun declension and the qal forms of the Hebrew verb, and who have studied the first five verses of the Hebrew Bible. This level equals 2.5 ECTS.

Test 2 on Genesis 1-3 http://bibleol.3bmoodle.dk/text/select_quiz?dir=GLI/Test%202%20on%20Genesis%201-3 is for learners who have studied the basics of Biblical Hebrew grammar and have read the first three chapters of Genesis. They are familiar with both regular and irregular verbs and are able to translate the text. This level equals 7.5 ECTS.

How did you do? If a learner wants to have his or her test results stored for the record and shared with a facilitator or an institution, he og she should contact Nicolai Winther-Nielsen at GLI. Login with your Google or Facebook account, and use password "GLITest" to have your scores recorded. Bible OL is designed is designed to adapt to any context needed. Creating classes can be arranged through GLI. Do not hesitate to contact us.

Transforming theological education

GLI continues its global goals on the basis of our experience from Madagascar http://global-learning.org/mod/forum/discuss.php?d=9

Since 2010 the Lutheran Graduate School of Theology (SALT) in Fianarantsoa has tested our technology and scaled our solution to the entire theological education of a 3,5 million member Lutheran Church in Madagascar.

In Madagascar, Bible Online Learner is introduced for training of all graduate students, and it is now also introduced at the 6 pastoral training centers of the church. Bible OL is one of the technologies used by the church to reach the standards of the Barcelona Process.

The Madagascar projects are funded by Danmission in Copenhagen. This organisation is eager to see Greek and Hebrew implemented at partner universities in East Africa in 2015-2017in a new project called Global Learning for Bible and Languages, or in short GLOBAL. We are also in contact with other Danish and international missions who support theological education in development countries. We welcome new partnerships for global education in Theology.

We seek Academic partnerships for research and certification. We collaborate with the Eep Talstra Center for Bible and Computer at the Calvinist VU University in Amsterdam http://global-learning.org/mod/forum/discuss.php?d=5

Oliver Glanz from the Seventh-Day Adventist Andrews University in Berrien Springs, USA, uses Bible OL and contributes to its development.

We seek further contacts to academic institutions who want to collaborate on education and research technology.

The GLI Educational Network

In Madagascar, we have in October 2015 installed two servers to test our new solution with limited or no internet. Claus Tøndering is setting up the Linux servers and Judith Gottschalk and local IT personnel will install them and overview the process of maintenance and upgrade.

We used two old laptops and installed Bible Online Learner and our statistics module Learning Journey on these computers and we used switches to connect PCs or laptops with cables. We are now testing two kinds of network solutions. At the graduate school, the servers are integrated with the local WIFI network, but they do not rely on a slow bandwidth. At a pastoral training center with no internet connection, our web-applications work without cables. Up to 15 PCs or laptops can be connected in this network.

On these servers, we also offer access to Moodle courses donated for testing of elearning and blended learning in a global setting. Harold Kime is offering two Global Greek Grammar courses http://global-learning.org/mod/forum/discuss.php?d=6   and Barry L. Bandstra is offering Reading the Old Testament http://rtot.com/ .

We envision a future where course developers in the West collaborate with teachers in global settings to develop, test and implement open source and free Moodle courses for our GLI Educational Network. You can help us bring elearning out into rural areas where resources are scarce. Your Moodle course or other material must be academic and you must have contact and funding for the receiving party.

Join us

We welcome all interested contributors. GLI is only an open research framework initiated by and maintained by Fjellhaug Internal University College Denmark in Copenhagen.

- Two professors of the Hebrew Bible, Jens Bruun Kofoed and Nicolai Winther-Nielsen, participate as staff with funding from outside sources.
- Claus Tøndering continues to develop Bible OL since 2008 without funding.
- Judith Gottschalk develops solutions as part of her PhD at Aalborg Universities.

The source code of Bible OL is completely open and we welcome programmers who want to change global learning for theology or contribute to our development of open persuasive corpus-driven learning. We are also seek interaction with researchers who build courses or develop material which can be shared in online learning.

Our passion is to support teachers in development countries who want to improve the level of Hebrew and Greek and need to document an international standard for their students. We want to help teachers responsible for teaching hundreds of students, but cannot afford textbooks and do not have internet, but need of training of staff and learners, we seek assistance for volunteers and funding from donors.

Join us to support the Bible as tutor of the next global generation of Bible scholars, teachers, translators and pastors!

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