

Preface

Exploring Theological English: Teacher's Guide introduces teachers, tutors, and other readers to the field of English for Bible and Theology and argues for the need to help learners of English as a second language bridge the gap between the type of English that is used in everyday informal conversation and the specialized variety of the language that appears in more scholarly biblical and theological publications.

In a more ideal world, all people would have the opportunity to study the Word of God in their native language, and all Christians would have available a range of Bible study tools written in their own language—tools to help them grow in their faith and to share that faith with others. But this is not an ideal world. Even though at least a portion of the Bible has been translated into more than 2,400 different languages, few Bible study resources are available in most of these same languages. This means that large numbers of Christians, including thousands of students in Bible schools and seminaries around the world, must use another language—most often English—in order to gain access to the wealth of biblical and theological publications available. The paucity of resources in a large number of languages also means that Christian leaders from all corners of the world frequently come to English-speaking countries, such as the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom, to pursue biblical studies in seminaries and graduate schools. Unfortunately, many of these individuals do not have the level of English proficiency required for tasks such as reading biblical journals and textbooks, taking course work, and communicating on a professional level with their colleagues in English. And even more troublesome, the teachers of many of these learners do not have the requisite preparation for designing and implementing an effective English program to upgrade the language skills of their students.

This *Teacher's Guide* provides practical help for these teachers. It discusses current issues and procedures related to teaching this specialized area of English as a second or foreign language (ESL/EFL) to native speakers of other languages. It addresses the practical needs of administrators and instructors in Bible institutes and seminaries, as well as educators in colleges and universities worldwide. It also provides valuable guidance for students who are preparing to teach English for Bible and Theology (EBT) and for teacher trainers in this discipline.

In writing this *Teacher's Guide*, we hope to reach a wider audience with the insights we have gained through teaching EBT and through training others to teach and develop materials in this specialized area of instruction. We have not only drawn upon our own experiences, but we have also

dialogued with others who teach EBT at various locations around the world. In addition, we have conducted a series of needs analyses and collected a broad range of data from survey forms, personal interviews, and on-site visits to overseas locations where EBT instruction is part of the curriculum.

Companion Website for teachers and students
www.ExploringTheologicalEnglish.com