

Here is a brief synopsis of the chronology of the translation and some reasons why I took the measures I took.

June, 1994 - On my first trip to [Romania](#) I was assured by my Romanian guide, a young Romanian going to [Bible college](#) in the USA, that the "Cornilescu Version" was the exact equivalent of the KJV. I had therefore prepared my spiritual blinders and just accepted this information as being true. I prepared to go to Romania with this in my mind.

November, 1995 - I arrived in Romania and was asked to preach a sermon on salvation in my first service. The translator began a curious habit, he told me to be patient while he explained to the people the differences in what I read and what they had in the Cornilescu - 3 days, one sermon, and the red flags were up all over the place in my mind.

September, 1996 - I was convinced the Cornilescu was not an accurate translation and tended towards a paraphrase but could not "prove it" because I did not speak the language well enough. I was beginning to make ultimatums to God about the lack of a usable Bible.

May, 1998 - By this time I had already tried to "fix" the Cornilescu with the help of my Romanian assistant, Beni Lariu, but we found out that we didn't have the expertise, ability or desire to finish the whole process. I was completely disallusioned with the Cornilescu Version and had started to make notes regarding the plethora of textual and translational mistakes. I had become a full fledged opponent of the Cornilescu but didn't know what to do about it other than to do preliminary "work" and investigation - this continued as a part of my language study until March, 2002 - almost 4 years.

March, 2002 - The church had been formed, we were averaging about 70-100 people a week. We had a Bible Institute. One day one of the men stopped me during my teaching and asked why I always had to explain to them what the Bible really said. "Why can't we have the same thing in Romanian that you have in English?" he asked me. I told him because nobody had ever done it. He made the most incredible statement, "Why don't we do it?" I laughed and told him to try. The Bible project was born... it was a very small, premature infant at that stage, but the "child" was born and process was launched.

June, 2002 - We began to meet with a small translation committee to see what we could do. We still had in our minds to fix the Cornilescu. We began work in the NT and worked long hours. We were trying to fix the Cornilescu to the the Greek TR. This process was a learning curve and it went on for approximately 6 months. After 6 months we realized the Cornilescu was NOT able to be fixed, it was just too full of mistakes, mistranslations and was, in fact, a paraphrase. We threw out 6 months of work and started over from scratch around the end of 2002.

August, 2003 - We needed help with the translation and more expertise. God sent us men who were capable translators - the work picked up. We ran into yet another buzz saw and had to start over again with a revision. We began yet again on a new translation of the NT but we mostly revised what we had just done and incorporated the new translational procedures. The problem was we were not sure how to properly translate the huge amount of passive verbs in the NT and we had not been consistent. We finally came up with a solution and pushed forward.

September, 2005 - we prepared to print our first NT plus Proverbs. I thought the "brethren" would be happy and would help us by using it and by showing where it could be improved. I was very wrong in my assessment of their willingness to do anything other than to point out how "arrogant" and how "unscholarly" we were to think we had the ability to translate the Word of God. The opposition was so severe that we almost abandoned the project. The fact is, they were right about some things and the translation needed correction from a grammatical standpoint. It was an "every word" Bible but the words used just didn't fit with what people expected. We pushed the envelope too far in modernizing the translation and it had to be rolled back. We began yet another NT revision that lasted FIVE years. The end product is such that it has begun to change the minds of some of our most severe critics.

September 2005 until April, 2010 - Translation of the OT continued and was finally finished. During this time we also revised the NT at least 4 times. If another revision is necessary we will do it. We have learned alot during this process. We did not seek to make a name for ourselves, we answered the need of an accurate Bible in the [Romanian language](#). This was a translation done by [Romanians](#) with the help of some Baptist, American missionaries. God put it on my plate and I ate it... it was sweet to the taste but gave me great pains during the process of working it all out. Praise the Lord for his goodness.

The Fidela Bible is the Word of God in the Romanian language. It is a Masoretic / [Textus Receptus](#) translation. It was verified with the [King James English Bible](#) and found to be in accordance with it. People criticize the translation as being the "[Romanian King James Version](#)." To this we reply, very simply, "Thank you."

Total investment in this translation has been:

11 years of work from planning to completion

55,000 man hours

\$170,000 plus of investment in translation and printing

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