

## Bio of Ed Nelson

Ed Nelson is a life-long student of the biblical languages having studied formally Hebrew, Greek and Latin. He did introductory studies in the Aramaic language. He is also a student of modern languages, with a focus on conversational Spanish and Mandarin Chinese.

He was an Executive Secretary for the American Bible Society, located in New York City, NY from 1973-1978. The American Bible Society is a charter member of the United Bible Societies (UBS) with headquarters in Stuttgart, Germany. The American Bible Society along with the British Foreign Bible Society and other members of the UBS translate, publish and distribute the Holy Scriptures around the world in more than 2,000 languages.

With his work with the Bible Society movement around the world, he associated with some of the best recognized Bible translators and scholars at the time, including Eugene Nida and Bob Bratcher.

In his tenure with the American Bible Society, he oversaw the distribution of Scriptures in the United States in over 200 languages, including the inauguration of Today's Chinese Version. He directed the first translation of Bible portions into a written language for the deaf, coordinating his work with Gallaudet College, the national university for the hearing impaired.

In 1978 he was invited to become one of the directors of the world mission enterprise of the Assemblies of God with national headquarters in Springfield, MO. He served as one of the nine directors of the mission work from 1978-1988, working in over 156 countries of the world. The Assemblies of God is the largest evangelical church in the world with over 63 million adherents.

In 1993 he founded Bellwether International, a non-traditional mission agency whose primary purpose is to evangelize and make disciples of unreached and/or unengaged people groups of the world, particularly in the region popularized as the 10/40 Window.

In the early years of founding the work in ten different language groups of Asia, he served as the Executive Director. More recently he serves as President and Chairman of the Board. Dr. James Stewart (Sumter, SC) accepted the position of Executive Director in 2010.

Bellwether International is headquartered in Srivilliputtur, Tamilnadu, India, and is directed in Asia by Dr. K. M. Arulappan, a former Hindu priest who has two earned doctorates, one in linguistics and the other in anthropology. He is trained and proficient in Sanskrit, Hebrew and Greek, and speaks five modern languages. Though not fluent, he formally studied Russian.

Bellwether International (Asia) translated and published the first Bible concordance, Bible dictionary, Hebrew and Greek lexicons, and first inter-layer Bible and hundreds of Bible commentaries and related books in the Tamil language of southern India. Previous and on-going translation and publications works include the languages of Hindi, Urdu, Chinese, Malayalam, Nepalese, Tibetan, Dzongkha (Bhutan) and others.

Ed Nelson's textbook, *Hebraic Roots of the Messiah Jesus*, was published in 2006 in India for use in India's Bible colleges and seminaries. The website, [www.ed-nelson.com](http://www.ed-nelson.com), is representative of some of his scholarly articles in a popular format on the biblical Hebraic understanding of the Bible, both Old and

New Testaments. He and Dr. Jack Cairns (Trenton, NJ) moderate a Hebraic Roots study group on biblical Hebraic hermeneutics of the Bible on the website, <http://hebraicroots.net>.

He pastored Assemblies of God churches in Sumter, SC (1991-1993), Rockaway, NJ (1977-1978), Bellevue, WA (1988-1993) and Anderson, SC (2001-2010). During his tenure in Washington State, he served as an Executive Presbyter for the Northwest District of the Assemblies of God.

In 2010 he was elected by the South Carolina Assemblies of God to serve as one of the three executive officers as Executive Secretary-Treasurer. He continues to serve in this position while overseeing the work of Bellwether International. He is a General Presbyter of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, USA.

He received his education at Gulf Coast Community College, Panama City, FL, Southeastern University, Lakeland, FL, and Erskine Theological Seminary, Due West, SC where he received a M.Div. degree and later continued doctoral studies.

He is married to his first and only wife, Gail. They have two adult children and two grandchildren. They live in and between two residences, the primary home in Anderson, SC and an apartment in Lexington, SC, the later to accommodate his week-day service to the South Carolina District Council located in West Columbia, SC.