

Local minister writes 'Self-Teaching New Testament'

By Carla Pampe
Staff Writer

For Benny B. Bristow, minister at Ruston Church of Christ, the recent publication of his "Self Teaching New Testament, Volume I," was the culmination of more than five years of hard work. But more than that, it was the realization of a dream that Bristow has had for many years.

In the preface of his book, he states "For more than forty years it has been ^{fh}is author's privilege to preach and teach the word of God. However, one day the thought occurred to me that the time will come when this privilege and opportunity will be taken away ~~due~~ to possible health failure, the aging process, and eventually death."

It was this realization that led Bristow to begin work on a self-teaching version of the New Testament that would help teachers and their students in studying the scriptures.

"I wanted to leave something worthwhile behind," he said. "I wanted to make it easier for the teacher to teach and the student to prepare the lesson."

Volume I of the series contains the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John in a modified King James Version. Each verse is fully identified, and explanations and definitions are listed in parenthesis ^{brackets} along with the verse. Parallel accounts are listed, and references are listed to scripture in both the Old and New Testaments.

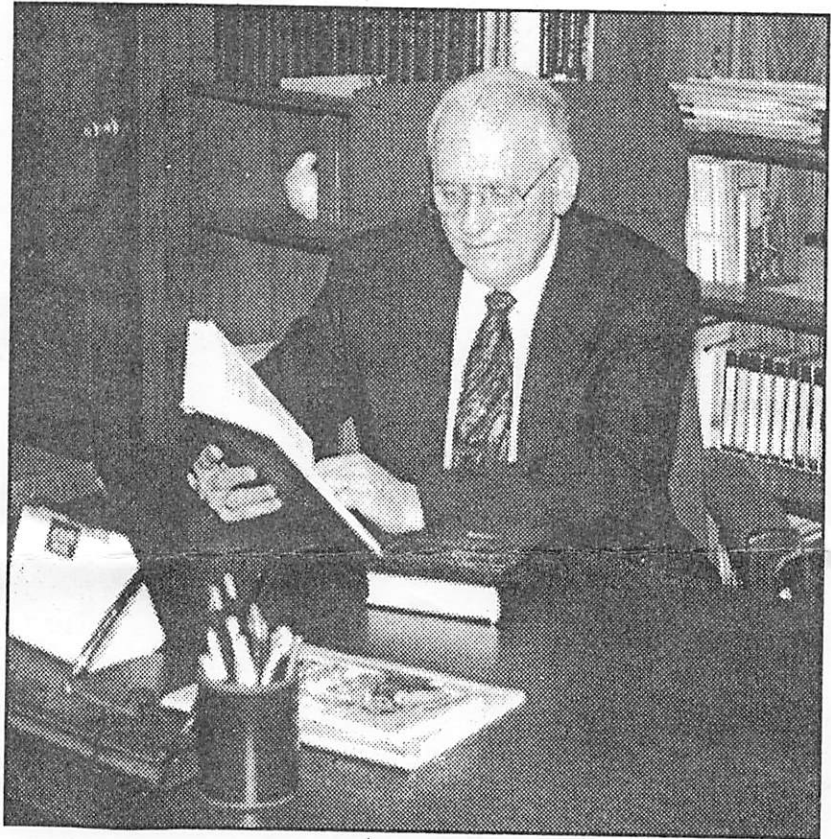
Bristow has already completed Volumes II (Acts through Galatians) and III (Ephesians through Revelations) of the "Self-Teaching New Testament," which will be published at a later date by Quality Publications, who also printed the first volume.

He said that many people he's talked with about the book seem to be very excited. And members of his congregation "are very pleased."

In addition to this series, Bristow has also written approximately 15 other books, including "Youth Power for

God," "Thinking with Solomon," "Living for Eternity," and several daily devotionals.

"It took a lot of hard work and several years for me to finish these volumes," Bristow said. "But it was the ultimate dream for me."



^{sw} Benny Bristow, minister of the Ruston Church of Christ for the past five years, carefully edits a copy of his new book, "Self-Teaching New Testament, Volume I." The book is meant to be an aid for teachers and their students who are studying the New Testament. ^{sw} Volume I contains the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. ^{sw} Volumes II and III, set to be published at a later date, will contain the remaining books of the New Testament.

Leader photo by CARLA PAMPE