

## **PLAN AHEAD--Reformation Sunday (October 30, 2011)**

Reformation Sunday comes this year on October 30. To celebrate the occasion the Reformed Institute recommends a focus on the **King James translation** of the Bible, which was first published 400 years ago, in May of 1611. This celebrated translation, which is one of the most influential texts ever published in the English language, was the product of a political struggle that was at the heart of the Protestant Reformation in England and Scotland. It was the product in particular of a struggle between the Puritans and their opponents in the Church of England for control of that church, and part of the motive for creating it was to counter the influence of the so-called Geneva Bible.

We always recommend treating Reformation Sunday as an opportunity to educate Presbyterians about their heritage, and we think a focus on the King James translation would be a particularly good way of doing this in the year of the 400th anniversary of that work. How might that be done? Here are some suggestions:

- Invite a member of the Institute's Company of Teachers to tell the story of the creation of the KJ translation in the adult education hour.

- Invite a member of your congregation (or some other appropriate person) who is qualified to discuss the KJ translation as a piece of literature make one or presentations on that topic.

- Invite a member of the Company of Teachers (or some other appropriate person) to make a presentation discussing the history of Biblical translations in English.

- Do a book study of Alister McGrath's *In the Beginning--the Story of the King James Bible and How It Changed a Nation, a Language, and a Culture* (Anchor 2001)

- Preach a sermon on the meaning and importance of Biblical literacy (using Stephen Prothero's *Religious Literacy* as well as the materials developed for the Institute's "education roundtables" as background)