The Christian author known for the Message Bible translation has died. Eugene Peterson passed away after being admitted into hospice care one week ago. He was 85. Peterson was a lover of classic texts who mined Dostoevsky, Dickinson, and Hopkins for theological insight and inspiration. The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language is a paraphrase of the New Testament, Psalms, and Proverbs that has sold over 16 million copies. Peterson was a pastor of Christ Our King Presbyterian church in Bel Air, Maryland for nearly 30 years. He published more than 30 books on biblical spirituality, pastoral theology, and Christian living. Peterson authored hundreds of articles and books, including his 2013 memoir The Pastor and A Long Obedience in the Same Direction, which was a New York Times bestseller. He also served for 35 years as founding pastor of Christ Our King Presbyterian Church in Bel Air, Maryland. Today, he is retired and lives in Montana. Peterson was known for his work with classic texts and his ability to capture the tone of the text in contemporary English. He is perhaps best known for the one book he didn't write: The Bible paraphrase, The Message. Peterson's work has been recognized with numerous awards, including the prestigious ECPA Gold Medallion Book Award. Peterson is survived by his wife, Janet, and their three children.
Eugene H. Peterson was an author, scholar, and theologian who is best known for The Message, a paraphrase of the original languages of the Bible, translated into contemporary English. He was also a pastor, professor, and poet, with more than 30 books to his name. Peterson’s work has been celebrated for its accessible and unique approach to the Bible, making it more relatable for contemporary readers.

Peterson died at the age of 85 on October 22, 2018, after a long battle with cancer. His death was mourned by many, including other prominent figures in the Christian world. Peterson was known for his humility and generosity, and his work continues to influence and inspire many today.

The Message, published in segments from 1993 to 2002, is a highly idiomatic translation of the Bible. It was created by Peterson and published by NavPress, the publishers of the original Message. The translation is known for its use of contemporary slang and idioms, making the Bible more accessible to modern readers.

Peterson’s work has been both celebrated and criticized. Some have praised it for its simplicity and directness, while others have questioned its accuracy and fidelity to the original text. Despite these opinions, Peterson’s influence on the way the Bible is read and understood continues to be felt today.