

American Bible Society Turns 195!

Record

GOD'S WORD WHERE NEEDED MOST

Spring 2011

Treasuring God's Word in China

Gifts for Easter and Mother's Day

New Hope in Haiti

Orphans Learn by Heart



AMERICAN
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All Things New

“Then the one who sits on the throne said, ‘And now I make all things new!’ He also said to me, ‘Write this, because these words are true and can be trusted.’”

Revelation 21.5 (GNT)

You need to see what happens when someone, after waiting her entire life, finally holds a copy of God’s Word in her own hands.



It’s a joy that is literally beyond words. And it’s the day-in and day-out story of our Bible ministry across rural China.

Here, in one of the fastest growing churches in the world today, thousands are living, still waiting. They have heard the truth. They love Jesus. But they still long for his Word.

I think about these sisters and brothers especially this Easter. As I read through the Gospels, I picture the first disciples so much like this — excited, challenged and waiting. Waiting to see what would happen. Longing for hope to prevail. Daring to believe all that Jesus promised.

And we know what happened. They were not disappointed. The same one nailed to the hard wood of a Roman cross rose to life, indeed making “all things new.”

There is still more to do — more lives still waiting. But we rejoice together knowing that the hope for which they wait, all that is promised in God’s Word, is secure. He who rose on Easter morning will make all things new.

Thank you for the ways you continue to partner with us. Your prayers and encouragement mean so much to me. No matter what the challenges, the promises of God’s Word stand: Death and the grave speak loudly, but they do not get the final word. Easter’s resurrection hope prevails.

See story about Mrs. Chen Guo Zi, pictured on cover, on page 6.

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CONTACT US

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD
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The mission of American Bible Society is to make the Bible available to every person in a language and format each can understand and afford, so all people may experience its life-changing message. The Society is a member of the United Bible Societies, a partnership of the Bible Societies throughout the world cooperating to make Scriptures available to people everywhere in their own language.

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Cover photo courtesy of Norwegian Bible Society/Dag Smemo (see story on page 6).

Record

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Get regular updates on
[Twitter.com/AmericanBible](https://twitter.com/AmericanBible) and
[Facebook.com/AmericanBible](https://facebook.com/AmericanBible)



American Bible Society has just launched a new website called Journeys, which offers a wide array of Scripture devotionals delivered by cell phone, e-mail and online. Through Journeys, you can find hope, encouragement and direction from God’s Word, delivered directly to you.

Recently, Terri Lynn Rucks, a Journeys user, shared her experience. She wrote, “This is an awesome concept, to bring God’s Word in modern technological ways.

“I went to SonFest in Orlando, Fla., with our youth group. I started a Journey that night with several of our youth. God is good! Many times, I have gotten just the right word at just the right time. For example, I was struggling to love an abusive coworker, and a text would come about love. Or, I didn’t know where the money for a need would come from, and I got a text about his provision.”

Sign up for the Bible Introduction Journey, Daily Bible Reading, *Lectio Divina* or any one of the thematic journeys that cover such topics as faith, confidence, depression and God’s love.

More than 100 journeys are available, and you can nominate a topic of your choice. You can also share your thoughts with others and spread the good word of God’s love.

Make your Journey an adventure.
ABSJourneys.org
[ABSJourneys.org/es\(Spanish\)](http://ABSJourneys.org/es(Spanish))

National Update

'A Soldier's Hope' POINT OF GRACE Promotes Armed Services Ministry



Denise Jones, Shelley Breen and Leigh Capillino are Point of Grace.

In December, Point of Grace performed 14 concerts supporting American Bible Society's Armed Services Ministry. Member Denise Jones said, "We are so excited to support 'A Soldier's Hope,' a program that is supplying the Word of God and Bible studies written for the soldier to our troops."

During the tour, concertgoers were immersed in the ABS Armed Services Ministry and were also given the opportunity to participate in the ministry by signing personal notes in more than 5,000 ABS Military E100 Bibles. These personally signed Bibles are being packaged for delivery to Servicemen and women overseas.

Jesus Facebook Ministry



The Jesus Facebook page was launched by American Bible Society in late December. It already has more than 225,000 members. On one recent Sunday, more than 72,000 people interacted on postings of Scripture and their love of the Bible and Jesus.

The Jesus Page is part of ABS's strategy to tap the power of digital tools to encourage more Americans to read the Bible.

On Track A Guide for New Disciples



In partnership with Youth For Christ, American Bible Society's Elementz of Life™ ministry has produced a new Scripture Portion for urban youth groups and individuals, called "On Track."

It is a beautifully illustrated 60-page discipleship booklet that combines Bible study, directions for getting on the right path with God, reflection questions and journal space.

U.S. Troops Overseas Received Three Times More Christmas Cards in 2010

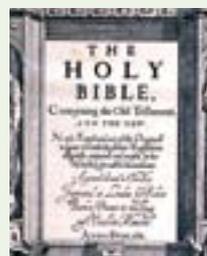


Christmas saw a tripling of Christmas cards to U.S. troops over Christmas 2009. In 2010, American Bible Society donors personalized some 63,050 cards with Christmas greetings, Scripture verses, drawings and signatures that were sent around the globe to our troops along with orders for military Bibles.



"KJB - The Book That Changed the World"

The Amazing Tale of the Birth of the King James Bible (film)
Special screening Sat., July 9
For more information, visit KJB.AmericanBible.org



On Eagles' Wings
The King James Bible Turns Four Hundred (exhibition)
July 8 - Sept. 18
Museum of Biblical Art
Broadway at 61st Street, NYC.

See related article on page 22



Point of Grace photo by Bob Hobbs.

International Update

Congo Healing Lives in DRC



Women in Goma pray for healing.

American Bible Society, in collaboration with the Bible Society of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, is launching trauma counseling for women ravaged by war. In nine cities in Eastern DRC, people will learn trauma healing techniques that will help survivors understand the biblical concepts of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Egypt Bible Society Requests Prayer



The Bible Society of Egypt's shop in East Alexandria.

"The eyes of the world have been on Egypt, wondering if a very courageous revolt demanding the resignation of the President, reforming the constitution and ending corruption, would possibly

succeed," reported Ramez Atallah, general secretary of the Bible Society of Egypt.

"... Last week, Egyptian history was rewritten, and we all believe we are in a new and exciting phase of this great nation's destiny. . . . There is a massive, spontaneous 'clean up' campaign going on in which Christians and Muslims of all classes of society are working together to clean up and rebuild Cairo and other cities. . . . The situation is extremely complex. . . . Please continue to pray for us!"

England United Bible Societies Welcomes Mike Perreau



Mike Perreau visited ABS in January.

After 13 years of service to the UBS fellowship, Miller Milloy has passed the mantle to his successor, Mike Perreau, who has assumed the leadership of United Bible Societies.

Sharing his vision for the fellowship, he said, "I am passionate about God's living Word and how it transforms lives everywhere. We are a fellowship, which is truly global, and my hope is that we will be a movement characterized by our availability to God rather than our abilities."

India Bible Society of India Turns 200



In February, the Bible Society of India celebrated its 200th anniversary. About 100,000 people participated in a Bible rally at the Gunta grounds, in Guntur.

Sailing Missionaries, Somali Pirates and ABS Scriptures

They didn't know it, but Scott and Jean Adam were on their final journey when their boat was taken hostage off the coast of Oman in February. They had been sailing around the world for years, bringing God's Word to far-flung places, including New Zealand, Mexico and China. Before they set out, they purchased a bulk order of Bibles from American Bible Society. On their website they wrote, "We seek fertile ground for the Word and homes for our Bibles. . . . When we arrive, we are often greeted by the attitude of 'we were expecting you.'" Their lives and sacrifice again remind us of the high privilege of serving in a mission worth our very best.

Photo of women in Goma by Timothy J. Walsh; photo of BSE shop courtesy of Bible Society of Egypt; video still of Mike Perreau by Eliu Cornielle; photo of BSI celebration by David Thorne.



Tears of Joy

Rural Christians Welcome
China's First Bible and Medical Van

By Andrea Rhodes

A woman weeps after receiving her first Bible during a visit to Shang Dang village church by China's first Bible and medical van.

Photo courtesy of Norwegian Bible Society/Dag Smeemo.

“I have been a Christian for 14 years, but I have never had a Bible before. Today, I have received my very first Bible,” said Chen Guo Zi, 80, as she held her new Bible and cried for joy.

Mrs. Chen is one of about 300 people who benefited from the debut journey in 2010 of China's first Bible and medical van, which has been deployed in Jiangsu Province. Some 300 Bibles were distributed and about 70 people received basic medical care during the van's visit to Shang Dang village, just an hour's drive from Nanjing, the provincial capital.

The village church, set amid fragrant fields of yellow rapeseed, was decorated with pink balloons and colorful flags in celebration of the van's visit. As it arrived, the church band began playing, and members of the congregation came out to welcome the two volunteer doctors and a group of visitors. They also helped to unload the boxes of Bibles and medical equipment.

After a short worship service, preacher Qiao Hong, 46, announced that the Bibles would be distributed to everyone who wanted one.

“These Bibles are given to us by friends from different countries who have a mission in this world to share the Word of God,” she told them. “As Chinese Christians, we want and cherish the Word of God.”



A rural church congregation anticipates receiving their Bibles.

As the Bibles were given out, people immediately opened them and started reading. Some held their new Bibles to their chests, closed their eyes and prayed silently and tearfully.

Fifty-five-year-old Qiu Chang Lai was particularly delighted with her copy. “Have you seen my old Bible?” she asked. “It’s falling apart and I’ve had to sew it together! I’ve been wanting a new one for some time, so I am very excited to get this new Bible today.”

The Church in China

During a visit in February to American Bible Society, the Chairman of the National Committee of the Three-Self Patriotic Movement (TSPM) of the Protestant Churches in China, Elder

Fu Xianwei, spoke passionately about the medical van program.

He said, “It plays a very important role in daily church life and proclaiming the Bible. Rural areas are difficult to travel to; it is not easy for those people to get Bibles and medical services. So we combined these needs.”

Elder Fu added, “A lot of local Christians think that they will never get sick if they pray. If they stay home and live by faith, they will stay healthy. Sometimes this means small problems become big problems. When you are sick, you must take medicine.”

The local government supports this and understands that the medical van is bringing spiritual food and medical service that equals preventative medicine.

Elder Fu also said that there are now 23 million Protestants in China, and the number is increasing daily. He hopes that with the support of American Bible Society, the medical van program will eventually include 12 vans.

Healing Bodies and Souls

Like many people in this area, Mrs. Qiu struggles to make ends meet. Her husband died seven years ago and she does not have a job, so



Members of Shang Dang village church unloading Scriptures and medical equipment from the van.

she spends much of her time praying and sharing her faith with others. She has been suffering with pain and a swollen neck and was one of the first people to join the long line to be seen by the doctors in a small room at the back of the church.

Dr. Li Xiao Fei, 36, examined her and did various tests using the equipment from the van.

“The tests showed that my heart is fine,” said Mrs. Qiu afterwards. “But I now know that I have a problem with my thyroid and need to seek treatment for it.”

Another patient, Rong Yao Mei, 63, was anxious about her heart, which she said had been beating too fast. She was examined by Dr. Hong Bi Hua, 71, who is retired.

“Your blood pressure is 200 over 104, which is far too high,” Dr. Hong

told her. Confirming that Mrs. Rong had access to the correct medication, she told her to start taking two pills regularly. “This will lower your blood pressure and you will start feeling much better,” she advised.

“We saw about 70 patients with problems similar to Mrs. Rong’s,” Dr. Hong said later. “. . . Problems like high blood pressure, dizziness, headaches and problems associated with old age, such as arthritis. The equipment we have is very useful in helping us diagnose problems and give good advice.”

Although the doctors who work at the medical van cannot offer comprehensive medical treatment or supply medicine, they can give patients an accurate diagnosis of their condition, prescribe medication and advise them how to seek appropriate treatment. For instance, when Dr. Li used the ultrasound scanner on one man, he discovered signs of a growth on his liver. Suspecting cancer, he advised him to go to a hospital as soon as possible — advice that could help save or prolong his life.

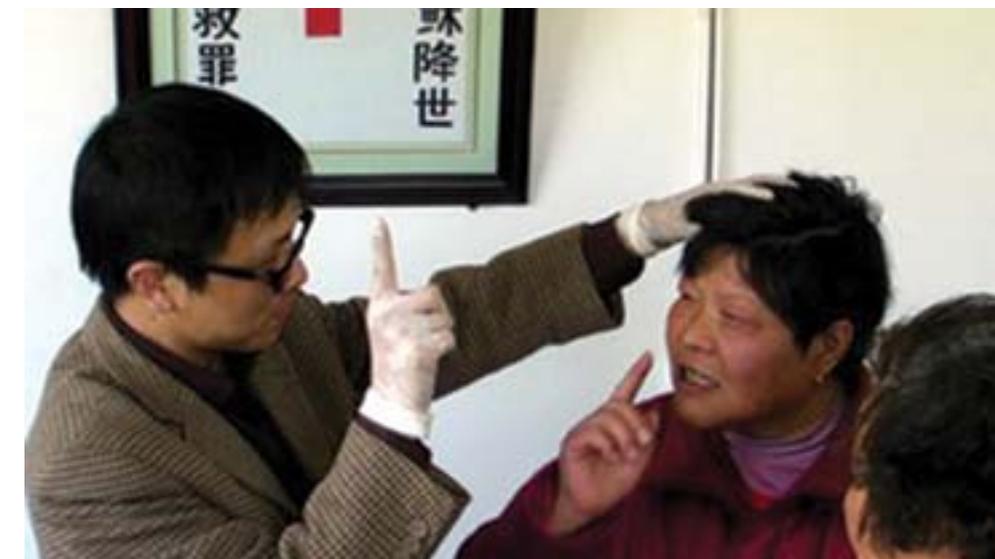
“People in rural areas get very little medical help,”



By the numbers

About **800 million people** — including **70 percent** of Chinese Christians — live in rural areas of China. They have little access to personal Bibles or medical care since distribution centers and medical institutions are concentrated in cities.

The program will give **150,000 people** access to healthcare through the 10 to 12 new vans once the program is fully implemented. Each van is estimated to be able to reach **15,000 people** in the first year of operation.



Dr. Li Xiao Fei examines two patients.

Bottom two photos by Dag Smemo; top two photos courtesy of John Mathews.



Spring Gift Catalog

God's Word Where Needed Most

Worth the Wait

By John Mathews

Certain images from my ministry trip to China have imprinted themselves forever in my memory, reminding me that the Bible is indeed a precious gift.

It's the sight of hundreds of Chinese people — young and old — who walked for hours to churches and waited even longer in those sacred spaces to receive their own copies of the Bible.

It's the elderly woman who took her copy of God's Word and kissed it, then hugged it closely to herself.

It's the young father who tucked his sacred gift in his knapsack, got on his bike, picked up his young child and gleefully rode off to share the Bible with his family.

It's the joy that radiated on the faces of every person — all of whom were poor farmers and peasants — who considered themselves rich beyond measure for having received their own copy of the Bible.

These images humbled me and made me appreciate God's Word even more. Some of these people have waited all their lives for a Bible. Knowing this gave me a true appreciation that the Word of God is a precious gift.

Most of us don't know what it's like to want something and to have to wait a lifetime to get it. The reactions among the Chinese people showed me that God's Word was definitely worth the wait.

John Mathews is an ABS philanthropic advisor in San Clemente, Calif.

said Dr. Li, who himself comes from an underprivileged background. "Most of the medical resources and services in China are based in cities, and many rural people are so poor that they cannot afford to travel to see a doctor or pay for medical advice. Seeing a doctor is a luxury for them. I want to help them because I know what it is like to be poor."

A Team Effort

"Christians in rural areas have been asking us to bring them medical help when our Bible distribution van goes to the villages, because it is difficult for them to see doctors," said the Rev. An Xinyi, chairman of the Committee of the TSPM in Jiangsu Province.

"So, with funding from the Bible Societies, we have gone ahead and bought this van and medical equipment. There are Christian doctors who are willing to volunteer their time and skills. We have bought things like blood pressure kits, an ultrasound scanner and an ECG machine."

Jiangsu's Bible and medical van is the first of up to 12 that the China Christian Council/TSPM and UBS hopes to roll out in different provinces. "We are so grateful to American Bible Society for your support and subsidy of Bible paper. That is very meaningful, especially for the rural areas in making it possible to give away Bibles," concluded Elder Fu at his visit to ABS in February.



For more about our ministry in China, visit: ABSRecord.com/china

Photos courtesy of John Mathews.

MISSION: LITERACY™

Learning the Love of Jesus While Learning to Read

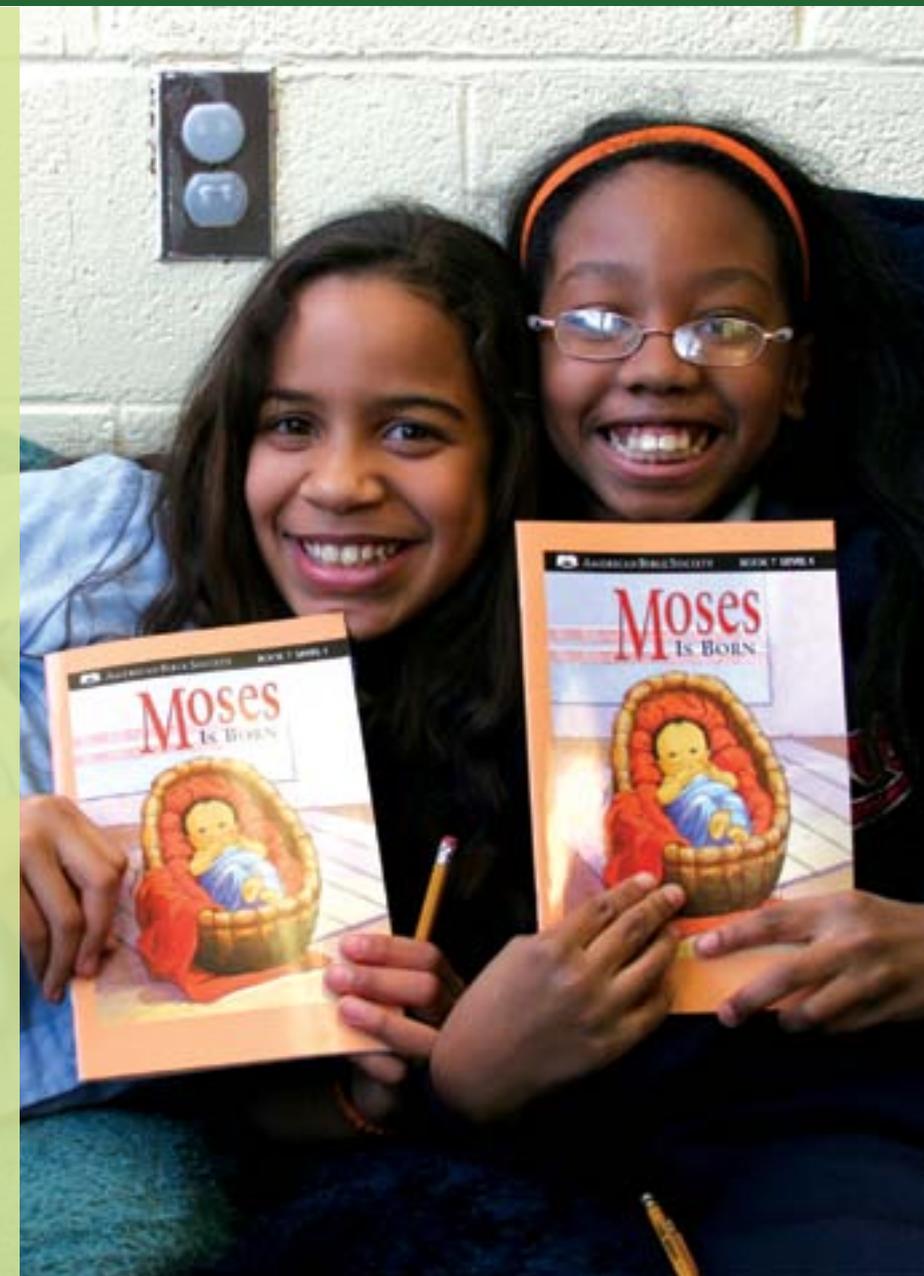
For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
John 3.16 (KJV)

Across our nation, millions of children have never read these words of Jesus — or any others. *Many of them can't read at all.*

Tragically, boys and girls who don't read proficiently may well be condemned to lives of poverty, frustration and failure. They will live their lives not knowing how to read the life-changing message of the Bible and not finding the transforming power of God's Word.

But you can help solve this problem. Give the gift of God's Word.

Learn more about *Mission: Literacy* and how you can help change the life of a child on page 13.



Turn the page to learn about making a gift to this and other vital Scripture programs.

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and change lives forever

Share God's Word and honor your loved ones

Your new American Bible Society Spring Gift Catalog is the perfect way to share your love and faith with family and friends celebrating special occasions this season. Every gift provides spiritual sustenance to hungry souls worldwide, letting them know that Jesus, the living Word, can change lives now.

The perfect gift for...

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- Mother's Day
- Father's Day
- Memorial Day
- Weddings
- Graduations
- Baby Showers
- Anniversaries
- Birthdays



Teach children how to read and how to live

through our Bible-based literacy program

“What’s a Bible?” Eric* earnestly asked his second grade teacher. Such precious innocence from this shy boy left his teacher speechless. That a child growing up in America would know nothing about God’s Word was a tragedy! Yet, today, millions of girls and boys like Eric are struggling to learn to read any book at all. Unless this alarming trend is reversed, they’ll be condemned to lives of poverty, failure and frustration. It doesn’t have to be this way. God will speak to them as they learn to read the Word of God for themselves.

Reading makes all the difference, especially if the first words a child reads are the story of God’s love for him. Eric now says, “Now I can read a lot of books . . . like my Children’s Bible! My teacher and mom tell me that I am a good reader now.”

In America, one child in four grows up not knowing how to read. But if a child never learns to read, she may never learn about Jesus — and never know his love.

Help children learn to read through our **Bible-based literacy program**. Your gift will help struggling elementary-age students learn basic reading skills using stories from the Bible. They also get their very own Bible to keep. You can provide Bibles, Bible-based reading materials, teacher training and more:

1 fully-equipped classroom	MLIT1	\$ 3,500
16-week literacy course for 24 children	MLIT2	\$ 2,350
16-week literacy course for 4 children	MLIT3	\$ 390
Literacy course for 1 child	MLIT4	\$ 98
Help provide literacy materials	MLIT5	\$ 40

*Name changed for privacy.



Bibles and food for children

and families in Appalachia

No child in America should suffer from hunger. But many do — especially in Appalachia, where poverty is widespread and severe. You can help by giving Bibles, food, medical care and more to needy children in Appalachia’s most destitute regions.

Bibles and basics for 15 children and families	BTAPP1	\$ 120
Bibles and basics for 10 children and families	BTAPP2	\$ 80
Bibles and basics for 4 children and families	BTAPP3	\$ 32

Giving is easy.
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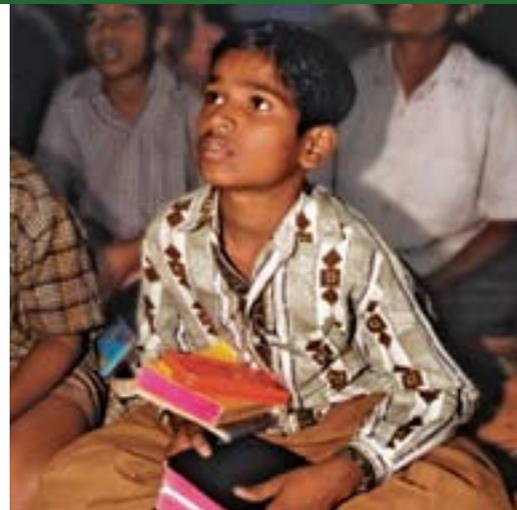
By mail:
Order and payment form inside front cover

Sharing God's Word since 1816 For nearly 200 years, American Bible Society has been all about impacting the lives of millions of people through God's Word. This would not be possible without help from generous friends like you, who have provided over 6 billion Bibles worldwide since 1816. Thank you for helping us continue to share God's life-giving water with a thirsty world.

Bless India's abandoned children

In India, orphanages are crowded with millions of precious, abandoned children. Many more are struggling to survive on the streets. These boys and girls need the assurance that they have a heavenly Father who loves them and will never leave them. You can provide Bibles for thousands of little ones who need the promise that he has a plan to give them hope and a future! (Jeremiah 29.11, *CEV*).

Illustrated Bibles for 15 children in India	INDOR1	\$ 120
Illustrated Bibles for 10 children in India	INDOR2	\$ 80
Illustrated Bibles for 5 children in India	INDOR3	\$ 40



Help women recovering from brutal sexual assault

Only God can bring peace to a woman whose life has been shattered by rape. That is why your gift to help brutalized women in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is so important. Thousands of women have been sexually assaulted over a decade of conflict. These women are in anguish and desperately need trauma healing, medical care and God's healing love.

Bibles and counseling for 30 women	CONGO1	\$ 225
Bibles and counseling for 20 women	CONGO2	\$ 150
Bibles and counseling for 4 women	CONGO3	\$ 30

Bibles for our world's children

God's Word transforms lives. Our world's children need to know of his love, but there simply aren't enough Bibles for every child who needs and wants one. Your gift will help supply Bibles where the need is greatest. The book of Romans asks, "How can people have faith in the Lord and ask him to save them, if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear, unless someone tells them?" Romans 10.14 (*CEV*). You can help tell them today!

Bibles for 25 spiritually hungry children	KPR1	\$ 100
Bibles for 8 spiritually hungry children	KPR2	\$ 40
Bibles for 5 spiritually hungry children	KPR3	\$ 25



The Hunger of India's Orphans

Satisfying a Deep Spiritual Need

By Elrena Evans

Christmas came early for some of India's orphaned children, who were recipients of children's Bibles distributed by Bible Society of India (BSI) and supported by American Bible Society. Even the tiniest children were delighted to receive their Bibles. Lucy Barnes, wife of American Bible Society Executive Vice President the Rev. Simon Barnes, recalls being in the infant room in one of the orphanages and playing with a little girl about 18 months old. "She did not want to play with the cup and saucer and the teapot that I was trying to play with," Lucy said, but then someone asked her if she would like her Bible. "Her face just lit up . . . she was just riveted. It was hers, and she knew it was precious."

In early December, Simon and Lucy traveled to India with Bible Society colleague Michael Gibeault to partner with BSI and visit orphanages, distribute Bibles to the children and witness firsthand the love of Christ in action to the least of these in India. With a population of more than 1 billion, India is currently the world's largest democracy. Yet, despite growth as a rising economic power, the country remains troubled by extreme poverty, vestiges of the caste system, and 25.7 million orphaned or abandoned children, many of whom are infected with HIV/AIDS.

"I particularly wanted to go and see the work that [BSI] was doing amongst orphanages,"

Simon explains. Approximately 500 of these orphanages are Christian, and "the spiritual needs of these orphanages are great."

While visiting the orphanages, the team distributed gifts of candy and sweaters to the children, along with the Bibles. "We don't think of India as being a cold country," Simon points out, "but parts of India are very cold. And they wouldn't have the resources to buy a sweater." It wasn't the sweaters,

One 4-year-old girl had memorized 32 of the Psalms and gave a recitation to the team.

though, that captivated the children's attention.

"Invariably, if we asked them what they would like to have first, it was always the Bible," says Simon.

The hunger these children have for Scripture is palpable. "If you point to a story in the picture Bible, they'll tell you what it is," Michael says. One 4-year-old



These girls live in Reaching Hand Orphanage. They just received a Bible from ABS after having been asked what they wanted first, "chocolate, Bibles or sweaters?" "Bibles!" was their reply.

girl (pictured below) had memorized 32 of the Psalms and gave a recitation to the team. "You couldn't stop her," says Simon. "There is this incredible hunger there.

"You see the importance of giving Bibles to these children," he affirms, recalling a young orphan he met who was dying as a result of HIV/AIDS. "What struck me with this little girl was her incredible Christian assurance. She wasn't frightened . . . she knew where she was going. She knew that Jesus loved her, and that she was going to be in Heaven with him."

Watch our slideshow at ABSRecord.com/orphans



Photos by Michael Gibeault.

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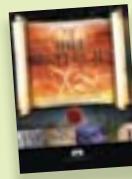
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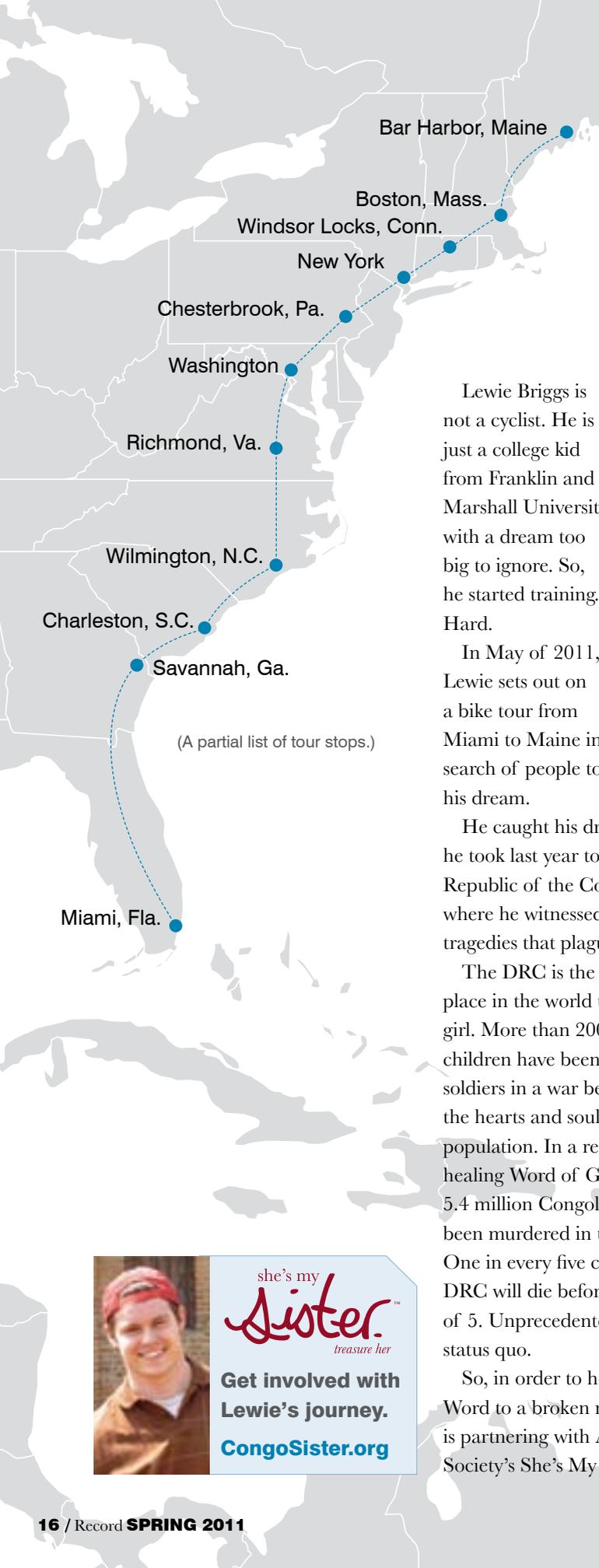


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Find comfort and hope in the prophecies in God's Word in this beautifully illustrated book.

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* American Bible Society reserves the right to substitute a free item based on availability. You may also forgo receiving a free gift by indicating so on the order form.



Biking For Our Congo Sisters

A College Student Dreams Big So Others Can Heal

By Benjamin Leaman



Lewie Briggs is not a cyclist. He is just a college kid from Franklin and Marshall University with a dream too big to ignore. So, he started training. Hard.

In May of 2011, Lewie sets out on a bike tour from Miami to Maine in search of people to share in his dream.

He caught his dream after a trip he took last year to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), where he witnessed firsthand the tragedies that plague that country.

The DRC is the most dangerous place in the world to be a woman or girl. More than 200,000 women and children have been raped by rebel soldiers in a war bent on decimating the hearts and souls of an entire population. In a region where the healing Word of God is scarce, some 5.4 million Congolese nationals have been murdered in the last five years. One in every five children in the DRC will die before the age of 5. Unprecedented terror is the status quo.

So, in order to help bring God's Word to a broken nation, Lewie is partnering with American Bible Society's She's My Sister™ initiative,

in a ride up the U.S. eastern seaboard, gathering support and advocacy for the people of the DRC. Stopping in 16 locations, Lewie and his crew of cyclists will be rallying together "Advocates," asking each of them to commit to bringing Scripture and healing to 100 women in need. It costs just 10 dollars to do so. Lewie's goal? \$500,000.

You have sisters in the DRC. Treasure them.

Look for Lewie at a church near you and become an "Advocate" for your sisters in the DRC.

She's My Sister™ is a ministry of ABS that responds to the violent acts of war that have left women broken and children orphaned in the eastern DRC. Heeding the call of Scripture, ABS strives to help heal a shattered people through the provision of God's Word.



she's my **Sister**™
treasure her

Get involved with Lewie's journey.

CongoSister.org



Bible Q&A

Q I am doing some research on Bible translations, and I was wondering when publishers started printing "red letter" edition Bibles (Bibles with Jesus's words in red letters). Do you know when and where (and even why) this practice began?

— **The Rev. Peter Nafzger, Hugo, Minn., by e-mail**

A According to Gerald C. Studer, the editor of *Bible Editions and Versions* (formerly *Bible Collectors' World*), the idea of printing in red letters the words ascribed to Jesus in the New Testament originated with Louis Klopsch (1852-1910), a German immigrant who came to New York at a very young age and eventually became the editor of *The Christian Herald*. The first Red Letter edition of the New Testament alone was published in 1899. The first Bible to include a Red Letter New Testament was issued in 1901.

Q Is it true that ABS printed a special Pony Express Bible? How many Bibles did ABS distribute by 1860?

— **Kathie Kurth, by e-mail**

A In 1861, American Bible Society made a grant of 300 Bibles "to Messrs. Major and Russell ... for distribution among their men." The recipient of the grant was the firm of Russell, Majors and Wadell, best remembered as the owner of the Pony Express*.

Photo from iStockPhoto.

Photo by Shutterstock Images.

Alexander Majors insisted that all his employees lead an exemplary life and provided each of them with a Bible printed by ABS. He also made sure that a copy of the Bible was available in each of the more than 160 stations along the route.

American Bible Society printed 1,396,386 copies of Scriptures between 1816 and 1830 and 14,103,579 between 1831 and 1860.

**The Pony Express was a mail service that used a relay system of horseback riders in the Western U.S. for 18 months from 1860 through 1861.*

Q Is there any internal Scriptural evidence that the Gospel of John was written later than the Synoptic Gospels?

— **Robert Randle, by e-mail**

A I would call your attention to two things that point to a later date for John's Gospel. First, there are three passages in John's Gospel that allude to the banning of Jewish believers in Christ as the Messiah from synagogues (9.22; 12.42 and 16.2). This is a practice that occurred after the A.D. 70 destruction of the Temple by the Romans. Second, there is no mention in John's Gospel of the scribes, Sadducees and Herodians (all of whom are mentioned in the Synoptics.) This would point to a later date for John's writing, as only the Pharisees maintained and enhanced their influence in the Jewish community after the destruction of the Temple.



Puzzled by a Scripture passage? Submit your Bible-related questions to Dr. Liana Lupas at LLupas@AmericanBible.org or via U.S. mail.

ABSRecord.com/bibleqa

Yearning for a New Day

Rebuilding Hope in Haiti

By Rhoda Gathoga

She's clad in a red and white checked shirt and a navy blue skirt, her hair braided in three ponytails. Her feet sport black shoes and white socks raised to the ankle, and her face and alert eyes convey confidence despite her circumstances. Marie Lunie Laventure, at 9 years old, is the hope of Haiti's new reality. Her dream is to one day be a program director like her current project leader.

For many children in Haiti, like Marie, their childhood has been stolen by the impact of the devastating earthquake that hit their nation more than a year ago on Jan. 12, 2010. Many people are still living in tents, some too afraid to return to their previous homes, and others literally have no place to go as their homes were reduced to rubble.

Many of these children have been through a lifetime of deprivation, now worsened by the earthquake, cholera outbreaks, hurricanes and election conflicts, all in a span of months.

"I am worried about my friend who cannot walk because he was hurt during the earthquake. Sometimes I go to see him, and I help him to walk or go to the bathroom," said Guilove Morency. "I feel bad because my parents' eyes look sad."

Haitians yearn for a new day where Marie and other children like her can experience for themselves the Jesus who helps them and gives them hope.



Haitian Children at the Christian Institute, Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

"My hope is that even though things are terrible, we can still do something," says Magda Victor, general secretary of the Haitian Bible Society. "Our work of providing Bibles is a constant need. We must also encourage our leaders to be involved, especially the political leaders, as things cannot stay as they are. We have to do our part — ensuring people have God's Word for themselves — for only God can change people. I am hopeful for our nation and still keep the faith that things will change."

Despite the problems, many Haitians credit their survival to the God who never leaves them alone. To them, being alive each day is enough. Even though they go

without a meal for that day, many consider it a privilege to be alive.

Haitians tell of the victory they are seeing day by day and the hope they have in Christ. While all else seems doomed, the prayers and God's Word from the Bible sustain them.

"There were many people that came to visit us in our homes, to check how we were doing, how our children are doing. They gave me hope that I was not forgotten," says Emma Rosetta.

To view a slideshow of our ministry in Haiti, visit ABSRecord.com/haiti

Photo by Rhoda Gathoga.



Schoolchildren getting drinking water supplied by Water Missions International, funded by ABS.

Donor Report

Since the earthquake over a year ago, more than 300,000 people in Haiti have perished. But, one survivor after another tells of the miracle of God leading them out of collapsed buildings and other tragedies. They cling to Bible verses such as, "Do not be a terror to me; you are my refuge in the day of disaster." (Jeremiah 17.17)

We are pleased to report that as of January 2011, the goals of the initial relief project have been achieved — thanks to the quick and generous response of our donors.

The Haitian Bible Society took a holistic approach, providing:

- 200,000 people with Scripture Portions
- 165,000 people with Bibles in French or Creole
- 50,000 people with clean drinking water through Water Missions International

Photos by Michael Gibeault.

The Need Continues

As relief and reconstruction continue in Haiti, the restoration required is not only in the physical structures and humanitarian efforts, but in the heart of Haitians who remain deeply traumatized. Pray that as people engage with the Scripture Portions they have received, they will experience the hope and comfort of Jesus.

To learn more, go to Haiti.AmericanBible.org

Words of Jesus for Migrant Workers

Expatriate Workers in the Gulf Find Hope

By Jennica Stevens

"[The word that I speak] will not fail to do what I plan for it; it will do everything I send it to do."

— Isaiah 55.11 (GNT)

Prakash wakes up each morning surrounded by sand, heat and a burden of loneliness. A migrant worker in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Prakash lives in a cramped, dusty labor camp more than 1,000 miles away from his family in India. He spends his days working near Sharjah, the third-largest city in UAE, and returns to the desert labor camp at night. . . if he's lucky.

As economic growth in cities such as Sharjah, Dubai and Kuwait City has slowed, demand for migrant labor has disappeared. But the laborers are still there — stuck in camps without an income or a way to return home.

New Hope

Prakash, who became the family provider after his father died several years ago, is no stranger to despair. He remembers one point when he felt the pressure would consume him. Prakash had been hearing reports of migrant workers committing suicide. And he may have considered taking his own life. But during this period of anxiety, he attended a prayer meeting. The focus that night was on Matthew 6.26, 27 (GNT):

"Look at the birds: they do not plant seeds, gather a harvest and put it in barns; yet your Father in heaven takes care of them! Aren't you worth

much more than birds? Can any of you live a bit longer by worrying about it?"

As Prakash heard these words, he felt a sense of peace. He understood that in his moment of need, God would provide for him.

A Field for Harvest

Since the oil industry catapulted the Gulf's economy onto the world scene, expatriate workers like Prakash have poured into the Gulf States, which include UAE, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and Yemen. In some countries, the number of expatriate workers exceeds the number of nationals; roughly 80 percent of people living in UAE and 75 percent in Qatar are expatriates. Conditions are harsh, and people need the support of Scripture to bear their burdens. Yet many workers who come from countries such as India, Pakistan, the Philippines and Somalia, cannot engage with God's Word because they don't have access to Bibles in their own language.

The Bible Society in the Gulf (BSG), with support from American Bible Society, is responding to this need by providing God's Word to expatriate workers in mediums they can understand at affordable prices.



Migrant workers in Dubai with Scriptures from the Bible Society in the Gulf.

Hrayr Jebejian, general secretary of the Bible Society in the Gulf, says that the Bible Society — the only Christian publishing organization in the region — provides Scripture in the context expatriates are familiar with. Then the workers can begin to understand how the Gospel applies to their struggles.

At its 16 Bible Resource Centers scattered throughout the Gulf, BSG offers Scripture materials in more than 60 languages. Because nearly one-third of workers in the labor camps are illiterate, BSG also provides audio-visual Scriptures, and recently, it began training people to tell Bible stories orally. The Word of God is bearing fruit.

To see another story about migrant workers in the Gulf, visit ABSRecord.com/gulf

Photograph courtesy of the Bible Society in the Gulf.

UNCOVER THE WORD™

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

Uncover the Word™ is a national movement of people who have committed to the daily practice of Scripture engagement and reflection with a desire to be personally transformed into the likeness of Christ and to positively impact culture.

The movement is:

- individuals
- churches
- denominations
- organizations

coming together to see God's Word come off the shelf and into the hearts and lives of people.

Pray with us that this effort will ignite a revival across the United States as people engage God's Word.

Find out more at

UncoverTheWord.com

The Elegant King James Bible

Celebrating 400 Years of Influence

By Barbara Bernstengel

This year commemorates the 400th anniversary of the publication of the *King James Version (KJV)* of the Bible. Known today for its elegance, the *KJV* has immeasurably shaped the rhetoric and literary expression of generations of English speakers.

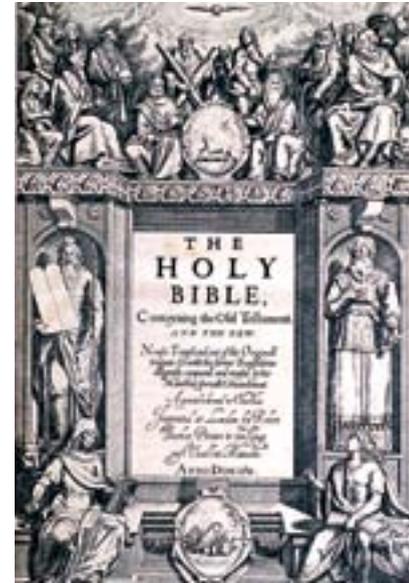
James I of England convened the Hampton Court Conference of 1604 for the purpose of bringing unity among various religious factions that were dividing the English people over the text of the Bible. John Reynolds, a leading Puritan representative, suggested that a new translation of the Bible be undertaken.

Some 50 scholars from three eminent institutions — Oxford and Cambridge Universities and Westminster Abbey — were divided into six groups or “companies”; three companies were assigned the Old Testament, two were

assigned the New Testament, and the sixth company was assigned the apocryphal books. These scholars commenced translating late in 1604, and their goal was to produce a fresh translation in an English style that would communicate clearly to all the people the message of Scripture and unite them around a common English Bible.

With the companies diligently checking one another’s drafts, the manuscript was completed in 1610, and the Bible was published in 1611. First known as the Authorized Version, because its authorizing patron was King James I, it quickly became known more widely and popularly as the *King James Version*.

In this landmark anniversary year, American Bible Society celebrates the historic achievement of the *KJV* translators and the precedent they



KJV title page.

set in the ongoing field of Bible translation. This legacy continues to ensure that the message of the Bible affirms the power of God to speak to every generation through the Holy Scriptures.

A Brief History of the English Bible

Translation of the Holy Scriptures is based on the ancient texts (Hebrew, Greek, Aramaic).

3rd–2nd century b.c.

Septuagint Greek Old Testament

4th century a.d.

Jerome’s Latin Bible (Vulgate)

ca. 1384

Wycliffe’s Bible

Under John Wycliffe, the first translation of the Bible into English was made from Latin.

1526-1531

Tyndale’s New Testament, Old Testament Portions

Church authorities in England prohibited a new English translation, so William Tyndale went to Germany where he translated the New Testament from the original Greek and Portions of the Old Testament.

1535

Coverdale’s Bible

Like Tyndale, Miles Coverdale fled to Germany to complete a translation of the Bible. He used Latin and German versions as well as Tyndale’s New Testament and Portions of the Old Testament. This was the first printed English Bible.

1537

Matthew’s Bible

Matthew’s Bible, a revision by John Rogers of Tyndale’s work, contained additional sections of Tyndale’s unpublished work and Portions translated by Coverdale.

1539

The Great Bible

Largely a revision of Matthew’s Bible

undertaken by Coverdale and incorporating good contemporary scholarship, its name is descriptive of the large format that facilitated church use.

1560

The Geneva Bible

A revision of the Great Bible, with decidedly Protestant commentary, was produced by English Puritans in Geneva.

1568

The Bishops’ Bible

A revision of the Great Bible, prepared by Matthew Parker and others, served as the basis for the revision ordered by King James.

1611

King James Bible

Quiet Time

“So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.” Isaiah 55.11 (KJV)

April 2011

God’s Word Goes Forth
Trust in God’s Promises

- 1 Esther 2.5-23
- 2 Esther 3.1-15
- 3 Esther 4.1-17
- 4 Esther 5.1-14
- 5 Esther 6.1—7.10
- 6 Esther 8.1-17
- 7 Daniel 3.1-30
- 8 Daniel 6.1-28
- 9 John 5.1-18

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

- 10 John 5.19-47
- 11 John 6.1-24
- 12 John 6.25-59
- 13 John 6.60—7.24
- 14 John 7.25-52
- 15 John 11.1-44
- 16 John 11.45—12.11

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

- 17 Matthew 21.1-17
- 18 Matthew 21.18-46
- 19 Matthew 26.1-35
- 20 Matthew 26.36-75

MAUNDY THURSDAY

- 21 Matthew 27.1-26
- 22 Matthew 27.27-56
- 23 Matthew 27.57-66

GOOD FRIDAY

- 24 Matthew 28.1-20
- 25 John 20.1-31
- 26 John 21.1-25
- 27 Hebrews 4.14—5.14
- 28 Hebrews 6.1-20
- 29 Hebrews 7.1-28
- 30 Hebrews 8.1-13

May 2011

God’s Word Goes Forth
Rejoice in Hope

- 1 1 Corinthians 15.1-34
- 2 1 Corinthians 15.35-58
- 3 John 8.12-30
- 4 John 8.31-59

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

- 5 Psalm 85
- 6 John 10.1-21
- 7 John 10.22-42
- 8 1 Peter 1.1-25
- 9 1 Peter 2.1-25

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

- 10 1 Peter 3.1-22
- 11 1 Peter 4.1-19
- 12 1 Peter 5.1-14
- 13 2 Peter 1.1-21
- 14 2 Peter 2.1-22

2 Peter 3.1-18

- 15 2 Peter 3.1-18
- 16 Isaiah 25.1-12
- 17 Isaiah 26.1-21
- 18 Isaiah 40.1-31
- 19 Isaiah 41.1-20
- 20 Isaiah 42.1-25
- 21 Isaiah 43.1-21

Isaiah 49.1-26

- 22 Isaiah 49.1-26
- 23 Isaiah 51.1-16
- 24 Isaiah 65.17-25
- 25 Jeremiah 29.1-23
- 26 Jeremiah 30.1-24
- 27 Jeremiah 31.1-22
- 28 Jeremiah 31.23-40

Ezekiel 43.1-27

- 29 Ezekiel 43.1-27
- 30 Revelation 21.1-27
- 31 Revelation 22.1-21

June 2011

God’s Word Goes Forth
Be Filled with the Holy Spirit

- 1 1 Corinthians 12.1-11

ASCENSION DAY

- 2 Acts 1.1-26
- 3 Romans 8.1-17
- 4 Romans 8.18-39

John 14.1-14

- 5 John 14.1-14
- 6 John 14.15-31
- 7 John 15.1-17
- 8 John 15.18—16.4a
- 9 John 16.4b-33
- 10 1 Corinthians 14.1-25
- 11 Joel 2.28—3.8

PENTECOST

- 12 Acts 2.1-21
- 13 Acts 2.22-47
- 14 Acts 3.1-26
- 15 Acts 4.1-22
- 16 Acts 4.23-37
- 17 Acts 5.1-16
- 18 Acts 5.17-42

Acts 6.1-15

- 19 Acts 6.1-15
- 20 Galatians 3.1-20
- 21 Galatians 3.21—4.7
- 22 Galatians 5.1-26
- 23 Galatians 6.1-18
- 24 Ephesians 1.1-23
- 25 Ephesians 2.1-22

Ephesians 3.1-21

- 26 Ephesians 3.1-21
- 27 Ephesians 4.1-16
- 28 Ephesians 4.17-32
- 29 Ephesians 5.1-33
- 30 Ephesians 6.1-24

Photo courtesy of American Bible Society’s Rare Scriptures Collection.

Photo by iStockPhoto.com

To download 2011 Scripture readings or to subscribe to daily Bible readings by e-mail, go to:

DailyBible.AmericanBible.org

Pray Around the World

“We know that God is always at work for the good of everyone who loves him.” Romans 8.28a (CEV)



Representatives of different churches are united through Taizé prayer. Pictured here is Slovenia's recent Bible Marathon, titled “Your Word — Strength in Times of Distress.” Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Hungary

Thank God for helping us through the financial crisis without any serious impact on our work. Praise him for progress with preparing the new revision of our Bible and for the warm response to our Bible advocacy initiatives. Pray for the members of our revision team, for our staff and board members and for our growing family of supporters.

Jordan

Praise God for more than 30 years of serving the truth in Jordan and Iraq through the Bible Society in Jordan, located in Amman. Ask that he will guide us to the best location for our new headquarters. Give thanks for new opportunities for ministry, particularly among factory workers and prisoners, and for stronger relations with churches. Pray also for our ministry to children and young people.

Kazakhstan

We praise God for many things: the opportunity to distribute Scriptures to 15,000 disadvantaged people,

the *Lectio Divina* program, which has opened doors for us in the Catholic Church, and the affordable Bibles provided for people in remote areas. Ask God to help us serve children, young people and prisoners and to bless our efforts to distribute a special Olympic calendar for the 7th Asian Winter Games that take place here this year.

Mali

Praise God for political stability, for the recording of the New Testament in *Kossonké* and for all our partners in this work. Give thanks, too, for the impact of our Holy Scriptures for Better Interaction With the Bible project. Pray for peaceful presidential elections, for land for a Bible House, for plans for a multimedia education center, for a distribution vehicle,

for our fundraising and translation work and for safety along our northern border.

Slovenia

Thank God that our annual Bible marathon has been welcomed by the Catholics and by all other churches. From it a new program has emerged, called Developing a Bible Reading Culture. Pray that this will create a new need for the Word of God in our liberal, secular society. Pray, too, that the Lord will lead and guide our efforts so that many committed brothers and sisters will join us.

Suriname

Thank God with us for the commemoration on May 3, 2010, of 45 years of Bible Society work in Suriname. Give thanks and praise for the opening of Bible Society regional distribution and promotion offices in Suriname and Guyana. We praise God for the revised New Testament in the indigenous *Patamuna* language from Guyana. Please keep praying with us for our Bible translation work in *Sranan Tongo*, *Surinamese Javanese* and *Arowak*. Remember, too, our work in French Guiana.

Photo courtesy of Bible Society of Slovenia.

In Memoriam

“Everyone who has faith in the Son has eternal life.” John 3.36a (CEV)

Our mother,
Lottie G. Huennekens
Given by Travis and
Marcella Huennekens

Our mother, **Gretta Jacobs**
Given by Mrs. Dallene Keller

Kathleen A. Johnson
Given by Mr. and
Mrs. Frank Brown

Martin S. Quigley
Given by
American Bible Society
*In memory and gratitude
for his service as a trustee*

My Husband, **Hans H. Schafft**
Given by Lillian Schafft

Betty Titler
Given by Mary B. Jones

William Tropea
Given by George and
Dolores Frenzel

Honor the memory of a loved one by helping to provide Bibles to people who don't yet have them. Memorials of \$500 or more for one individual or family unit will be published in the American Bible Society *Record*. For further details about the memorial process, please write to: **Donor Relations, American Bible Society, 1865 Broadway, New York, NY 10023.**

Miao and Later

By Liz Smith

“God brings wars to end all over the world.” Psalm 46.9a (CEV)

Nearly 70 years after being held at an internment camp in China during World War II, Col. Jack Graham III found himself riveted by a 2010 cover story in *Record* magazine. The story featured the new Miao Bible translation and transported Jack back to his childhood in China, where his parents and grandparents served as missionaries.

Their pioneering translation work in developing a written language for the Miao people is now bearing fruit. He was overjoyed to read about the many lives being changed by this translation — the very one for which his family had laid sacrificial groundwork.

Jack's life in China was not easy. He and his sister were held prisoner for 45 months by the Japanese at their school on the northeast coast of China at the outbreak of World War II. They were 2,000 miles away from their parents.

Later they were moved, in the hold of a ship, to the Weih sien Internment Camp. Here, they met Eric Liddell, who had

also been born of British missionary parents in China. Liddell was famous for breaking the world record for the 400-meter race at the 1924 Olympics, as depicted in the 1981 film “Chariots of Fire.”

Jack remembers Liddell operating one of the prison kitchens. Though Liddell had a hard job feeding the prisoners, he found time to work with the children — keeping them busy and distracted with stories and games. Sadly, Liddell died at that camp at age 43 of a brain tumor, only five months before the war ended.

News of the Miao Bible translation brought to mind better memories of Jack's time in China. Out of the joy of this personal connection, Jack has made a generous gift to American Bible Society.

Today, Jack and his wife Gerry make their home in Missouri. On Dec. 6, 2011, the 70th anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day, Col. Jack Graham III will celebrate his 80th birthday.



Col. Jack Graham III pictured, at lower right, at age 4, with his parents Ella and Jack Graham II, and sister Enid, in Miao costumes, South Yunnan Province, China, in 1935.

Bottom photo courtesy CCC/TSPMI; top photo courtesy of Col. Jack Graham III.



If you would like to learn more about leaving a legacy gift to American Bible Society, please visit ABSGift.org

See Israel Through Jesus's Eyes

JOIN AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY SEPTEMBER 16 – 25, 2011



Join us on a special expedition to the Holy Land hosted by American Bible Society's Executive Vice President, The Rev. Simon Barnes. Our guided tour, "In His Footsteps," will take you from the site of Christ's cradle to his cross — and everywhere in between.

You'll also meet regional Bible Society leaders to see how God's Word is spreading in this part of the world.

We sincerely hope you will take advantage of this exclusive opportunity for friends of American Bible Society to see and experience the place where Jesus began his world-changing ministry.

For more information, please contact Rebecca Detrick at 1-866-960-7966 or RDetrick@AmericanBible.org.

I Wanted to Walk Freely with our Lord Jesus



When Mr. Horner Chen was 31, his country went communist. His brother, a minister, was pushed into a bonfire clutching his cherished Bible. Mr. Chen left China to create a new family and a new life where he could continue to walk freely with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Today, he lives in Houston. Mr. Chen has established multiple American Bible Society gift annuities to store his treasure in heaven and to receive secure income for life.

Because Horner Chen donated several Charitable Gift Annuities, he receives:

- ✓ **Secure income for life;**
- ✓ **The joy of knowing he is supporting the American Bible Society mission, now and forever.**

Horner Chen at home in Houston.

American Bible Society Gift Annuity Program

"Secure Income You Cannot Outlive"

We pioneered the country's first gift annuity program. For more than 165 years, ABS has provided thousands of people with a lifetime of secure payments through gift annuities.

Through two depressions, four economic panics, six recessions, eleven wars and multiple world crises — ABS has not missed a single payment.

Find out more today about creating an American Bible Society Gift Annuity for yourself (one life) or for you and another beneficiary (two lives). Your gift will continue to generate the gift of God's Word throughout the world for eternity.

800-549-3328
Annuity.AmericanBible.org

An American Bible Society Gift Annuity is a financial agreement between one or two individuals and our ministry, exchanging a gift of cash, stock or bonds for fixed payments that last a lifetime. The minimum age required to create a Gift Annuity is 50; the minimum gift amount is \$1,000.

Photo by Liz Smith.

 **AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY**
Gift Annuity

REFERENCE CODE:

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Help Provide God's Word in China FOR JUST \$1!

Some have prayed for their very own Bible — for years.

That's why American Bible Society is helping to provide 300,000 Bibles to men, women and children in China — a land still suffering a Scripture famine. Yet the shortage of Scriptures grows.

Because of our ministry partnerships in China, all we have to do is cover the cost of paper for the Bibles these men, women and children crave. **That means every dollar friends like you send will help give a Bible to a Chinese brother or sister.**

When you share your blessings, you will help satisfy searching souls who have been waiting for the hope and comfort of God's Word — perhaps all their lives. Please help place a Bible into the hands of someone in China whose heart is hungry for the Truth.

Thank you!

Choose one of three ways to make your tax-deductible donation:

1. Make a simple, safe and quick gift online at **ABSRecord.com/biblesforchina**
2. Call our toll-free number now **1-866-895-4448**
3. Return the coupon with your check payable to:
American Bible Society
P.O. Box 96812
Washington, D.C. 20090-6812



Yes! I want to help answer the prayers of spiritually starving people in China who are still waiting for the Good News.

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Please return this coupon with your check made payable to American Bible Society. Contributions to American Bible Society are greatly appreciated and are tax deductible as allowed by law. Please know that if the Lord blesses us with funds beyond this need, we will prayerfully use them for further Scripture ministry.

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DETACH

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