

Record

GOD'S WORD WHERE NEEDED MOST

Summer 2011

Reading is Believing

Knowing God Through His Word

Son of Sam to Son of Hope 14

Bible-A-Month Turns 50 16

Beauty from Ashes 20



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400 Years Young

Dear Friends,

This is one of those wonderful moments in history, when a big birthday for the Bible reminds us how vital the Word of God continues to be.



Across this year, it has been our joy to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible — the most published, most read, most influential and the most lasting translation of all time. This is the Bible that came alive in the hearts and hands of Abraham Lincoln, Helen Keller and Martin Luther King.

And continuing today, we are seeing God's Word moving forward in ways the King James Bible translators could barely have dreamed possible. This includes reaching thousands of at-risk, urban children, pulled back from illiteracy and a predictably rocky future; an infamous criminal who once filled the headlines with dread, now filling fellow inmates with faith; and the flourishing of God's Word in a place where many said it would not be possible.

Vickie and I recently had the privilege to hold in our hands one of the very first editions of this marvelous King James Bible. As I did so, I could not help but feel the mighty weight and wonder of this remarkable book. But let's remember, its greatest strengths are the same as the Bible you own, the one waiting to be opened to reveal the glory of God's love and the hope needed for this day and forever.



Lamar Vest and his wife Vickie examine a very early copy of the King James Bible at Hatfield House, Hertfordshire, England.

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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The King James Bible An Enduring Legacy

By Barbara Bernstengel

Did you know these oft-used phrases came from the *King James Version Bible*?

"... *Am I my brother's keeper?*" (Genesis 4.9)

"*To every thing there is a season . . .*" (Ecclesiastes 3.1)

"... *neither cast ye your pearls before swine . . .*"
(Matthew 7.6)

"... *charity shall cover the multitude of sins.*" (1 Peter 4.8)

Four hundred years ago, the *King James Version (KJV)* emerged as a translation of the Bible that set a high and unmatched standard for poetic rhythm and elegance of language — a legacy that continues.

Why is it that this translation has had such a significant impact on English speakers and remains a best seller to this day?

Within the African-American community, the *KJV* continues to be a preferred translation. The community reveres the *KJV* both for its language and its historical identity with the sacred text and spirituality of their enslaved ancestors who resonated with biblical narratives of bondage and liberation.

The *KJV* has also had a lasting impact on the process of Bible translation by initiating the use of collaborative teams of biblical scholars. These teams have established guidelines for planning the work, incorporating explanatory textual notes in the margins and putting into place a multistage review of drafted texts. Such a process was carried out by American Bible Society when preparing its two proprietary English translations — the *Good News Translation* and the *Contemporary English Version*.

In this anniversary year, we can celebrate the innovative precedents set by the *KJV* translators and the enduring legacy of this translation.

Cover photo of Aaron Robinette by Benjamin Leaman. Photo of Vickie and Lamar Vest by Lucy Barnes.

Photo of Cain and Abel (woodcut by Julius Schnoor von Carlsfeldt) by ©(Stockphoto.com)/AmericanBibleSociety.

National Update

Bibles to the Moon



This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Apollo 14 lunar flight — the first landing that succeeded in bringing the Bible to the moon. On Feb. 5, 1971, pilot Edgar D. Mitchell landed the lunar module Antares on the surface of the moon. He was carrying a packet of Bibles on microfilm, each the size of a color slide.

According to Carol L. Mersch in an excerpt from her book, *The Apostles of Apollo*, “Also included in the . . . Apollo 14 lunar Bible packets was a small folded certificate, referred to by Reverend Stout as a plaque, containing the first verse of Genesis in 16 languages contributed by the United Bible Societies, as these were the languages spoken by 60 percent of the world population. . . . In time the entire group of Apollo 14 Bibles became collectively known as the ‘First Lunar Bibles.’”

‘Thy Word is the Truth’ Church in China Exhibition

This exhibit focuses on more than a thousand years of Bible work and the development of the Church in China. It was organized to foster mutual understanding of

the churches in China and America. Seminars will be conducted that cover themes such as church life, social services and theological education. This exhibition is on tour now in the following venues:

Sept. 28 – Oct. 2
Mount Vernon Place United Methodist Church, Wash. D.C.

Oct. 12 – Oct. 16
Chicago Temple, Chicago

Oct. 30 – Nov. 3
Northwest Church, Dallas

Nov. 8 – Nov. 10
Billy Graham Library, Charlotte, N.C.

Rallying Leaders to Uncover the Word



In early May, ABS held its annual National Church Leaders Summit at Bible House in New York. Some 50 leaders gathered for a three-day conference that focused on increasing Christ-like character empowered by a renewed daily practice of Scripture engagement.

Summit leaders represented Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant churches; together, they wrestled with how ABS can help the whole Church develop and mobilize a contagious movement of daily Scripture engagement.

Researchers, including Willow Creek Association and the Barna Group, presented findings that

regular reading and reflection on Scripture is the most effective catalyst in growing in Christ-likeness. Supporting ABS’s Uncover the Word™ initiative, leaders pledged to find ways to raise up millions of new or renewed daily engagers with God’s Word.

9/11 Remembered



Though 10 years have passed since the attacks on lower Manhattan, the Pentagon and rural Pennsylvania, many of us can instantly recall vivid images from that day.

In the aftermath, American Bible Society was on the scene ministering to the first responders at Ground Zero and the victims of 9/11 in several ways. Ten years later, we’re still here, marking this occasion by gathering church leaders and sharing needed Bible resources. For this anniversary, the Scripture Portion *God Is Our Shelter and Strength*, is being reissued. Also to mark this anniversary, ABS is publishing *The Freedom Bible* in partnership with The Salvation Army as a testament and invitation to celebrate God’s amazing freedom in Christ.

National Prayer Breakfast

In February, American Bible Society participated in the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, D.C. A chief focus was seeking to raise awareness of *She’s My Sister*™ — an ABS initiative that responds to the vicious acts of war that have left women broken and children orphaned in the Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. The general secretaries of the Bible Societies of the DRC, Sudan and Uganda were present. The breakfast offered participants an opportunity to respond to God’s call to serve widows and orphans in need.

Carrying Her Story



On May 27, the CongoSister Bike Tour, themed “Carrying Her Story,” took off, cycling from Florida to Maine. The team of 11 college students and recent grads is investing their time and energy to fulfill a promise to the women in Eastern Congo that “We will not forget you!” Follow along at Bike.AmericanBible.org

King James on Embassy Row



A working model of the Gutenberg Press at *Passages* exhibition.

Passages, a remarkable Bible exhibition that premiered at Washington D.C.’s Vatican Embassy, brought together church and political leaders to celebrate the King James Bible at 400. Co-sponsored by American Bible Society and the Green Family, the opening event in March shined a light on one of the newest and most exciting collections of rare Scriptures in the world, previewing selections of a larger exhibition now on view at the Oklahoma City Museum of Art.

Archbishop Pietro Sambi, Pope Benedict XVI’s Ambassador to the United States and official host of this gathering, captured this event well. “In visiting this exhibit, one does not

merely see an exceptional display of books. One, in fact, senses deeply the letter of love, which God has written to each human being, down through the ages, offering the hope of his promises and the mercy of his redemption in Jesus Christ.”

Bible Talk Tuesdays



ABS Executive Vice President Julia Oliver hands out water bottles with invitations to Bible Talk Tuesday at the 59th Street subway entrance.

In a spirit of outreach, 12 employees from American Bible Society handed out 3,000 water bottles and fliers in May, inviting New Yorkers to join them for Bible Talk Tuesdays. Reminiscent of the Fulton Street Revival, Bible Talk Tuesdays is a noontime reading and discussion of a Bible passage. Participants are welcome to bring their lunch while simultaneously feasting on God’s Word.

DRIVING FOR BIBLES 5TH ANNUAL AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY GOLF BENEFIT

Tuesday, September 27
Rockaway Hunting Club
Lawrence, New York
Golf tournament followed by awards dinner, benefiting ABS Global Ministries
Contact Don Cavanaugh at 212-408-1200



Photo by ©iStockphoto.com/AmericanBibleSociety.

Photos clockwise from left by Amber Boutut, Judy G. Rolfe, Drew Segawa and ©iStockphoto.com/American Bible Society.

International Update

Brazil 100 Million Seeds of Peace and Hope



Rudi Zimmer, general secretary of the SBB, holds up the 100 millionth Bible.

The Bible Society of Brazil's (SSB) printing press is the largest manufacturer of Bibles in the world. Since its opening in 1995, it has produced 100 million Bibles for 100 countries, sowing 100 million seeds of peace and hope. The Bible Society celebrated this achievement on June 10 at José Corrêa Sports Arena in Barueri (State of São Paulo), where some 5,000 people participated.

Egypt Opening Access to Scriptures



Egypt is a transit point for refugees seeking passage to the Middle East and Europe, with some 8,000 entering yearly. Most enter from bordering Sudan. Blind adults and

those who bring along visually impaired children, face considerable discrimination and neglect.

The Bible Society of Egypt (BSE) is reaching out to them with God's Word in audio, visual and print formats. Through this outreach, BSE anticipates that 10,000 refugees and 10,521 blind people will engage with God's Word.

England Bible in Royal Company



Vickie and Lamar Vest recently gathered with HRH The Prince of Wales in London for one of several events celebrating the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible. Dr. Vest is a trustee for the King James Trust, the global organizing committee for this anniversary.

Italy School for Translators



James Maxey, Antonia Carcelen-Estrada and Stefano Arduini engage in a discussion at the Nida School.

For two weeks in May, more than 50 translation scholars and practitioners from all over the world convened for the 2011 Nida School of Translation Studies in Misano Adriatico, Italy. Several attendees described it as one of the most enriching experiences of their academic careers. The school was organized by ABS's Nida Institute, and this year's theme was Translation in History and Ideology. Armenian Sona Haroutyunian said, "I was very enthused by the interest that was shown for the Armenian tradition of translation."

Nicaragua Kids Overcoming Cancer



In the only pediatric hospital in Nicaragua, in Managua, cancer is a leading cause of death for children ages 10 to 19. The Bible Society of Nicaragua is meeting the needs of these pediatric cancer patients and their families with spiritual care and biblical materials. It is training and equipping pastors, volunteers and medical personnel to provide emotional and spiritual support. One patient who received an illustrated Children's Bible said, "I don't like being in the hospital

because the medicine makes me hot inside and hurts so much . . . but, when . . . my mother reads the Bible to me, it calms me. It somehow makes me feel less uncomfortable and more peaceful. I can feel God's love for me."

Philippines 5 Million Bibles



The Philippines is the only predominantly Christian nation in Southeast Asia, but a 2005

Nielsen study, commissioned by the Philippine Bible Society (PBS), found that only 40 percent of Filipinos had a Bible. A five-year nationwide campaign is uniting key Roman Catholic and Evangelical churches in the distribution of 5 million low-cost Bibles to the poorest families. Before this campaign, called "May They Be One," PBS had been distributing about 700,000 Bibles yearly. This campaign is projected to reach 4.7 million people with Scriptures by the end of 2013.

Zimbabwe Releasing God's Word



Members of the *Chikunda* translation team in prayer. The New Testament was released in 2009 and the whole Bible is slated to be finished by 2015. About 145,000 people speak *Chikunda* in Zimbabwe.

"People are really turning to God," said Pastor Ikabodi Chinayati, the new general secretary of the Bible Society of Zimbabwe. With an inflation rate of an incomprehensible 231 million percent and a chronic shortage of cash and basic necessities, Zimbabwe is in a deep economic crisis that is affecting every aspect of life for ordinary Zimbabweans.

A cholera epidemic adds to the chaos into which this formerly prosperous country has descended.

Even so, Mr. Chinayati's most pressing concern upon taking office was securing the release of 40,000 Bibles and Scripture Portions that were held for more than a year in a clearing house. The Bible Society had been unable to pay the release fee until one local businessmen stepped in to cover all costs and release these Bibles. Mr. Chinayati is asking for prayer for positive political, social, economic and spiritual change.

SNAPSHOT FROM CHINA Back from the Edge



For much of his life, Ting was gripped in the jaws of addiction and would do anything to get his next fix: steal, rob, even murder. On the run from authorities in his hometown of Pu-er City, Yunnan Province, he moved from city to city, disengaged from his family, himself and God. But God was not disengaged from Ting.

After much urging and prayer from his sister, Ting agreed to

go to a Christian rehabilitation center. While there, he received a Bible — thanks in part to support from ABS — and its wisdom became a guiding force in his life. Whenever he wanted to take drugs or pick a fight with others, he'd turn to the pages of Scripture. Particularly in 2 Timothy 2.21, he took in the message about cleansing himself from evil things and the virtues of patience, humility and obedience.

The Lord changed Ting's life forever, and he now wants to go to Kunming's theological college after his stay in rehab. He also credits his love for music in helping him recover.

He shares the Chinese saying: "When a man reaches the edge of his life, he finds God." Or in Ting's case, God found him.

Photos courtesy of the Bible Societies of Brazil, Egypt and Nicaragua; photo in Italy courtesy of the Nida Institute; photo in England by Lucy Barnes.

Photo of Ting by Jock Foo; photos courtesy of the Bible Societies of the Philippines and Zimbabwe.

Reading is Believing

By Benjamin Leaman

From the back of an abandoned chapel, Lynne Verhaagh watches as 12-year-old Alicia* screams and throws a chair across the empty room. Tears flood the girl's thin, pale face as she picks up another chair and hurls it. Her mother has recently died of cancer, and pain and anger flow from Alicia in a display of raw emotion.

Lynne knows Alicia very well. A little more than two years before the incident in the chapel, Alicia appeared at the Fergus Falls, Minn., corps of The Salvation Army — her hair a mess, dirty clothes hanging from her gaunt frame. Angry and alone, Alicia was living out a story of pain, and Lynne knew she was desperate.

“She kept screaming: ‘I hate God! I hate God for giving me this kind of life,’” says Lynne, a sweet-voiced Fergus Falls native. “She was very angry.” Alicia was battling for her life from the moment Lynne met her. **Name changed for privacy*

Photo by Benjamin Leaman.

Mission: Literacy™, the Bible-based literacy program from American Bible Society, is helping at-risk children across the globe to read and interact with the inspired Word of their creator. The child pictured here, like Alicia, is benefiting from the partnership between ABS and The Salvation Army.

Alicia never knew her father. She had seen him once, for 15 minutes. Addicted to drugs and alcohol, her mother was only present in the flesh. Alicia was forced to act as the parent, providing food and taking care of her mother who was strung out and incapable of holding a job. Half the time the cupboards were empty. Alicia wanted nothing more than to get away.

So, at the age of 10, she took up hitchhiking. She spent long, cold nights on the shoulder of I-94 with her thumb out. Jumping into a stranger's car was an easy way for Alicia to escape. She started skipping school, running away for days.

She had slipped through the cracks and now, at age 12, was living in survival mode. All she could think about was finding food to eat and a place to lay her head at night. But, ditching school meant missing valuable lessons, and Alicia fell far behind her grade level in reading.

Statistics show that two-thirds of children who cannot read proficiently by the end of the fourth grade will end up in jail or on welfare. Girls between 16 and 19 who have below average reading skills are six times more likely to have children outside of marriage than other girls their ages.

One afternoon, Alicia learned that her mother had been diagnosed with stage four cancer. Faced with another seemingly impossible challenge and a sense that she had no options, Alicia made a decision that would change her life forever: she ran to The Salvation Army.

Many of the children who find their way to The Salvation Army's doors are desperate. Pain and survival are the status quo; heartache is the norm. Poverty and lack of parenting push children into survival mode, and they quickly fall behind in reading comprehension.

Alicia showed up at the Fergus Falls corps looking for anyone with whom to share her desperation. This was the day she met Lynne Verhaagh. Lynne and The Salvation Army took Alicia in, providing new clothes and food for her family and afterschool care for her and her brother. Alicia enrolled in the *Mission: Literacy*™ program. Through her persistent work with *Mission: Literacy* and follow-up from her tutor, Alicia began to ask questions about God and desired to learn more about him. After learning to read his Word, Alicia accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior. What's more, she brought the story of God's redemption home with her, and because of her work in the *Mission: Literacy* program, her mother accepted Jesus, as well.

Mission: Literacy was developed by ABS in conjunction with Bank Street College of Education in New York City, which has been a leader in the field of literacy teaching since its founding in 1916. The program was designed to equip struggling readers, ages 8-12, with critical literacy skills as well as biblical principles for daily living.

A year and a half after coming to the *Mission: Literacy* program, Alicia's scraggly hair was washed, her clothes new and clean. She was fed and bathed. After completing 16 weeks of *Mission: Literacy* after school, Alicia was reading at grade level and receiving A's and B's in school. The Scripture booklets used to teach Alicia how to read also taught her about Jesus and changed her heart. *Mission: Literacy* taught Alicia the importance of love, family and salvation. Now she was living back at home with her mother, caring for her each day. Alicia's life drastically changed as she gained confidence in school and learned what trusting God really meant.

This trust was tested in the fall of her second year with Lynne at The Salvation Army. Alicia's mother's cancer got worse, and in October 2010, she died.



Thirty stories make up the curriculum of *Mission: Literacy*; 10 present the life of Jesus, and the rest are Old and New Testament stories. Each is presented in a 28-page illustrated book.

After completing 16 weeks of Mission: Literacy, Alicia was reading at grade level and receiving A's and B's in school.

Leaders of the after-school program came alongside Alicia, setting up her transition to living with her aunt and facilitating the burial and memorial service for her mother. It was in the chapel after the service where Lynne witnessed Alicia's raw display of helplessness. Lynne watched as Alicia cried out to God: "Why would you give me this life?" Throwing her chair across the chapel, she broke down under the pressure and prospect of life without her mother. Just when she thought her life had turned around, she was thrust back into sorrow.



Aaron Robinette, a fourth-grader, is sharpening his reading skills and embracing God's love, thanks to an after-school *Mission: Literacy* program he attends every day.



Included in each sleek red *Mission: Literacy* tool-box are 60 beautifully illustrated Bible stories at two different reading levels; a Road Map Manual to train tutors on the mechanics of literacy instruction; a Tutor's Guide Manual with easy-to-follow teaching plans; student activities; literacy resources and a Bible-based alphabet and phonics book.

After watching Alicia for some time from the back of the chapel, Lynne softly called her name, approached her and wrapped her in her arms. Lynne explained to Alicia that her mother, because of her acceptance of Christ as her savior, was now in heaven. She told her that the Jesus she learned about in her *Mission: Literacy* studies had saved her mother. What came next was astounding: Alicia stopped crying. With strength and dignity, Alicia spoke to Lynne: "I've read about Jesus. I have Jesus in my heart."

Of all the challenges Alicia had faced to this point in her life, this was the most difficult. But now she was equipped to deal with the loss of her mother. She would not be alone in her sorrow; she had "Jesus in her heart" and understood her mother's death in relation to Jesus's redemptive work on the cross.

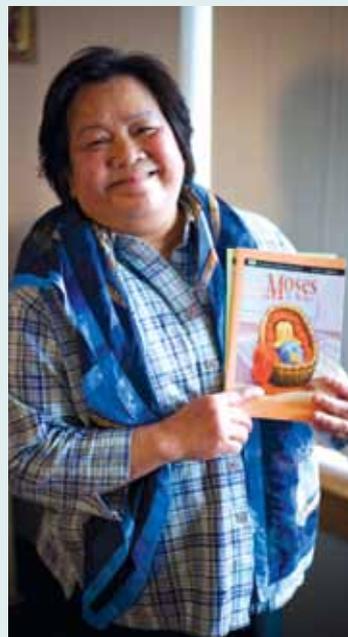
Alicia's life was saved, her mother redeemed. And, a desire had been planted deep within her to pursue the God she encountered through *Mission: Literacy*, using her newly acquired reading skills to learn more about him.

Alicia's story of redemption is just one of many coming out of the *Mission: Literacy* program. Since the ABS partnership with The Salvation Army began in 2006, roughly 851 individuals from 260 different corps have been trained in the use of the curriculum, just like Lynne. Stories of changed lives emerge every single day.

Close to 86 percent of children who have had 16 or more tutoring sessions show measurable improvement. The average overall improvement is seven reading levels as measured by the assessment guide provided in the curriculum.

Around the world, *Mission: Literacy* is chipping away at illiteracy with the most effective tool: God's Word. The two-fold benefit of the program is changing hearts and minds for Christ's kingdom and equipping the next generation to effectively engage and respond to the written Word of God. 📖

Reaching Far and Wide



Mission: Literacy lessons are currently being taught in 138 tutoring groups in 100 sites in 97 cities across the United States, including 16 newly opened sites in Hawaii.

Stretching overseas, new *Mission: Literacy* sites have opened in Ghana, Kenya,

the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia (including Guam) and more recently in Australia.

In many sites, tutors have adapted *Mission: Literacy* into an English Language Learner (ELL) tool for adults whose second language is English. This use of the program prompted American Bible Society to again work with the Bank Street College of Education to develop a more extensive ELL curriculum, which has an estimated launch date in the summer of 2012.



To learn more and make a gift, please visit:
MissionLiteracy.org
AmericanBible.org

Photos starting from top by Caleb Komorowski, Benjamin Leaman and Michael Gibeault.

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Bible Search is part of **Uncover the Word™**, an ABS initiative to mobilize people of all generations to move toward a fresh discovery of God and his Word. Through Uncover the Word, lives will be transformed as Scripture shapes the hearts and minds of those who are committed to reading it.

Boundless Mercy

Once a serial killer,
David Berkowitz now shares his conversion to Christ

By Maria Wolf

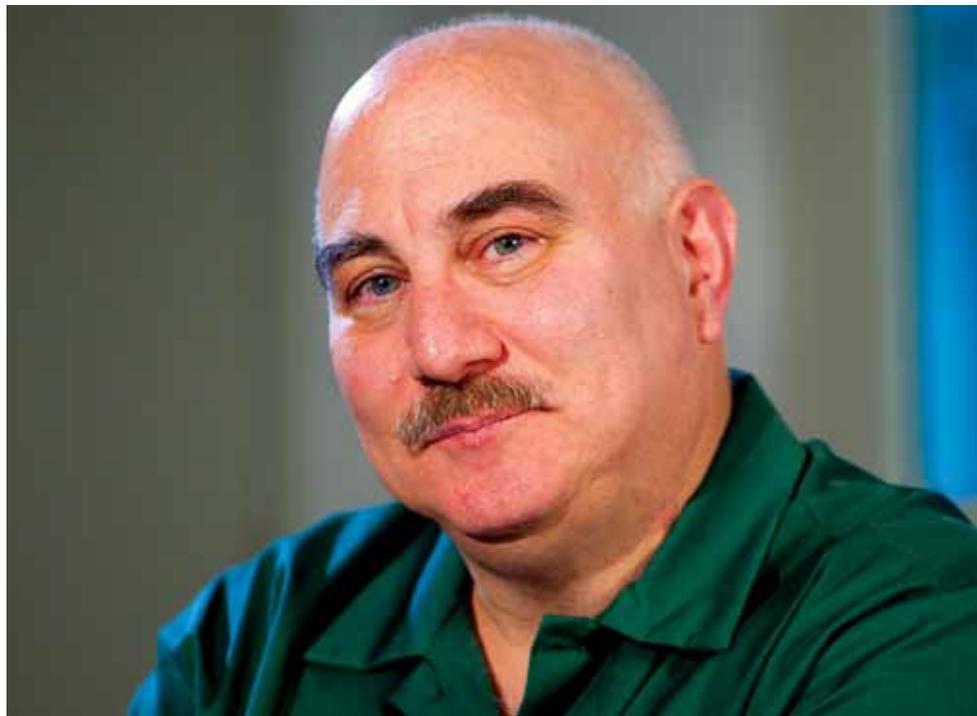
When you meet David Berkowitz, you're standing in the company of one of our nation's most notorious serial killers.

David Berkowitz, the so-called Son of Sam, killed six people in New York City, injured others and sent a wave of terror through the city during the late 1970s.

Yet Christ chose to meet him in the most humble of places — a prison cell — and transformed Berkowitz's heart, mind and soul. He does not forget his acts of violence, nor the harm he caused. But he is indeed a changed man.

One Cold Night

American Bible Society, through its God Sets You Free™ program, interviewed Berkowitz in his maximum security prison in upstate New York in December 2010. ABS videotaped David as he recalled the start of God reaching out to him. It was a cold night, nearly 10 years after he first entered prison. Berkowitz needed to get away from the din of outbursts, cursing and noise that punctuates daily prison life.



As he walked the prison yard, a man came toward him; Berkowitz eyed him suspiciously. This stranger, who was named Rick, introduced himself. Then he looked Berkowitz in the eyes and said, "David, Jesus Christ loves you, and he wants to forgive you. He has a plan and purpose for your life, and he sent me to this prison to tell you this."

Berkowitz shook his head, immediately dismissing Rick's statement. "There's no way Jesus Christ could love me," Berkowitz said. "I've done too much evil."

"David," Rick insisted, "Jesus doesn't hate you. He loves you."

Berkowitz again shook his head, but allowed Rick to enter his life. They walked the prison yard together, lifted weights in the gym

or simply spent time talking. Rick told Berkowitz about his life as a Christian and even read Scripture to him. The experience didn't do much for Berkowitz, who listened politely but felt "as if his words were falling on deaf ears. I felt there was no hope for me, that God had no interest in me whatsoever."

Psalm 34 Comes Alive

Berkowitz, however, accepted the gift Rick gave him: a copy of the New Testament with the Psalms and Proverbs. Because he liked to read, Berkowitz flipped through the Psalms and identified with many of them. He also liked the poetry and "found it really beautiful," he says.

But up to this point, the Psalms were simply lyrical poetry — until he started reading Psalm 34. Then God's Word became alive and active in his heart. Emotion welled up in his soul, and he began to cry at verse 6: "This poor man cried and the Lord heard him and saved him out of all his troubles."

Feeling an overwhelming desire to talk to God, Berkowitz knelt on a cold cement floor for nearly 30 minutes, crying to Jesus and asking for forgiveness.

When Berkowitz got up from the floor, he felt as if a "tremendous weight had been lifted from my shoulders. I slept like a baby."

A few days later, Berkowitz saw Rick and told him what happened. "David," Rick said, "from this moment on, your life is never going to be the same. God is going to do amazing things for you."

Shortly after this, Rick was transferred, and Berkowitz never saw him again. But Berkowitz thanks the Lord every day for sending Rick into

his life. "I shudder to think what my life would have been like if I never came to Christ," he says. "I honestly believe I would not be alive today. I probably would have taken my own life."

Son of Hope

David's story is powerful, but not unusual.

The apostle Paul's conversion is one of the most dramatic displays of God's power to transform lives. Saul/Paul persecuted Christians and was on his way to Damascus to kill even more believers when he encountered the risen Christ in a searing vision of light.

From that moment, he changed and became the greatest missionary in Christianity.

Berkowitz, too, has a new name: Son of Hope. Each week, he assists with chapel services in the prison. He is an elder, as well as a worship leader. He visits people in a nearby mental health housing area and cares for their daily needs.

Standing as a living testament to the power of God's love and forgiveness, Berkowitz says the Lord's mercy is boundless. "No one has done so much bad or so much evil that God can't forgive them," Berkowitz says.

Even though he's been in prison for more than three decades, Berkowitz says he "no longer sees the prison bars. My eyes are focused beyond that to see Jesus who is the author and finisher of my faith.

"My freedom is found in one word: Jesus."



God Sets Prisoners Free Every Day

"I am more positive and understanding and a lot less selfish! There was a girl who came in my dorm and stole from me. I was mad at first but I read my Bible and let it go and (I) forgave her." So said Lauren H. Estrella, an inmate at Intents Jail in Phoenix, Ariz., in response to the question, "What are some positive changes you've noticed in yourself since reading God's Word?"

Since American Bible Society partnered with the Joplin, Mo.-based American Rehabilitation Ministries 10 years ago, more than half a million inmates have been equipped with a *God Sets You Free*™ Bible.

A survey of 2,555 inmates revealed that 51 percent of those receiving a Bible read it every day. As a result, some 89 percent wanted to make a positive change in their lives.

Photo by Andrew Hood.

Photo by Chris Leaman.

GOD SETS
YOU
FREE™

For more on ABS's prison ministry program, go to
ABSRecord.com/prisonministry

A 50-Year Legacy of Changing Lives

Bible-A-Month Comes of Age

“I will never forget that very first experience of reading the truth . . .”

— A college student from Russia, who found God when he received his very first Bible

They didn't know they were making history, but God was calling them to act.

It was 1961. Denying God's very existence was the latest philosophical fad. There was a battle being waged for the hearts and minds of millions.

A small group of key leaders at American Bible Society decided to push back against the growing influence of atheism around the world. They understood that the Bible was the one book that could open blind eyes to eternal hope and impart “the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.” (2 Timothy 2.15 *GNT*)

Each person in the group pledged to give an extra gift a month from his or her paycheck to send a Bible to someone who needed it. Bible-A-Month began from the seeds of their efforts.



In 1962, when a small but dedicated group of ABS staff and their friends pledged a part of their paychecks to help deliver Bibles to a different country each month, they didn't know they were making history.

The “club” caught on. Soon, some 35 American Bible Society staff and friends were contributing each month. That's when the Bible-A-Month Club went public. Within two years, Bible-A-Month had helped distribute more than 83,000 Bibles. Five decades later, Bible-A-Month partners have helped distribute Bibles to millions of people in 100 countries.

Their vision and impact have been incalculable. American Bible Society President R. Lamar Vest says, “Our Bible-A-Month partners have been an answer to prayer for millions of spiritually starved souls.

“For so many who have been forced to live without the Bible,” Vest says, “the Bibles our partners provide are proof that there is someone out there who loves them, and that God has not given up on them.”

Vest believes that Bible-A-Month is also proof that little things can make a tremendous difference. “From the very beginning, the whole idea was that anyone could participate, because the monthly commitment was so modest.” As Bible-A-Month



Thanks to our Bible-A-Month partners, these children and many others have been filled with the joy of knowing that Jesus loves them.

has come of age, so have the benefits of the partnership, which include monthly partner reports that tell stories of changed lives, exclusive access to an interactive website and an annual Scripture calendar designed to help deepen their walk with God. Each month, the focus is on a different area of the world. Many Bible-A-Month partners have commented that they feel as if they're traveling the globe, “just like a missionary.”

But by far the greatest benefit is the opportunity to be part of sharing the Good News that changes lives for eternity. For 50 years, Bible-A-Month has been proving that anyone can help impact the world with God's Word.

To learn more about how to become a Bible-A-Month partner, please see the back page of this *Record* and visit us online at AmericanBible.org/BAM.

Left photo courtesy of ABS Archives; right photo courtesy of Bible Society of Ghana.

Bible Q&A

Q Is it true that the King James Bible was published on May 2, 1611?

— R.M., by telephone

A The *King James Bible* was certainly published in 1611, but the exact date of its release remains unknown. Since 1557, all new books published in England had to be registered with the Stationers' Company of London, and the date of their registration became their date of publication.

The first edition of the *King James Bible* was not registered with the Stationers' Company, probably because it was considered a revision of the Bishops' Bible rather than a new work. Prior to 1557, some printers chose to mention the exact date when their Bibles had been officially authorized. The fourth edition of the so-called Great Bible, for instance, was authorized on May 6, 1541. It seems to be the only early English Bible published in May.

Q What does the apostle Paul mean in Galatians 3.13 when he says that “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree,” and why does he quote from Deuteronomy 21.23?

— Fazal Bismil, Karachi, Pakistan

A According to Jewish law, the corpses of executed idolaters and blasphemers were hanged on a tree to show that they were accursed by God (Deuteronomy 21.22, 23). Such severe punishment was intended to have a deterrent effect within the community. In these instances, the corpse of the criminal could be hung for public display as a warning. In this situation, the corpse must be removed and buried before nightfall of the day of execution. Otherwise, the presence of death would render the land unclean and bring it under God's curse.

In Galatians 3.13, the apostle Paul is quoting from Deuteronomy 21.22, 23. The Deuteronomy passage speaks of the threatening curse from which Christ freed us by his death on the cross (tree). Christ freed us from the Law's curse so that we might enjoy “the blessing of Abraham” and “so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith” (Galatians 3.14). In Galatians 3.10-13, Paul argues that “by becoming a curse for us,” Jesus has overturned the Law's power to condemn us and opens the way for God's blessings to be bestowed on us.

The apostle Paul sees in Jesus's crucifixion the revelation of his obedience (Philippians 2.8) and love (Galatians 2.20). Jesus's crucifixion brings deliverance from sin (Colossians 2.14) and the curse of the law (Galatians 3.13) and brings about reconciliation and peace (Ephesians 2.16).

Q What Scripture passages would you recommend to someone with anger issues — someone who cannot control his temper?

— Monty, by e-mail

A Reading the following Scripture passages prayerfully and meditating upon them, perhaps even memorizing them, may prove helpful to someone with anger and temper issues: Psalm 37.7-9; Psalm 40.1-5; Proverbs 15.1,4; Proverbs 25.28; Matthew 5.21-26 and 43-48; Romans 12.17-21; Ephesians 4.26-27 and 31-32; and James 1.19-21.



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

New Topical Bibles for Spanish Speakers

American Bible Society has designed new Spanish-language Reina-Valera 1960 Bibles that focus on different themes in order to provide wisdom, comfort and hope in times of need.

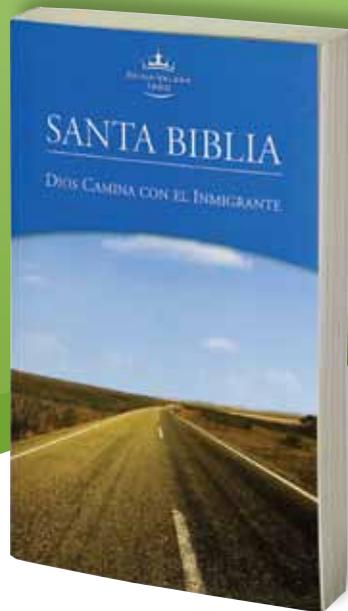
Each Bible includes up to 24 pages of guides and references specific to each topic. In addition to the thematic content, these Bibles include maps, a daily Bible reading guide, readings for special occasions and more.

Mix and match to make your own case of 24!

To place an order please call toll free 1-800-32-BIBLE or go to www.Bibles.com Sourcecode: RCRDF

Trim Size: 8 1/4" x 5 1/4"
Pages: 952 – 968
Binding: Paperback
Price: \$4.50 each or \$3.75 each in cases of 24

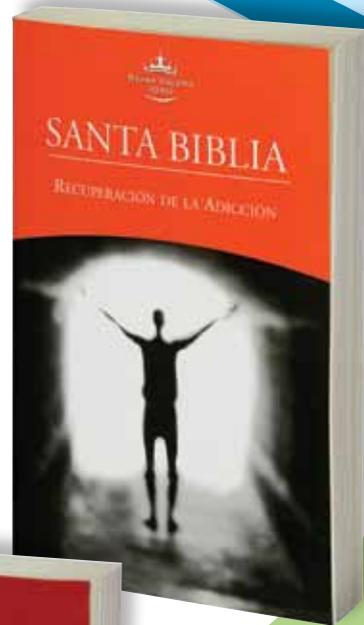
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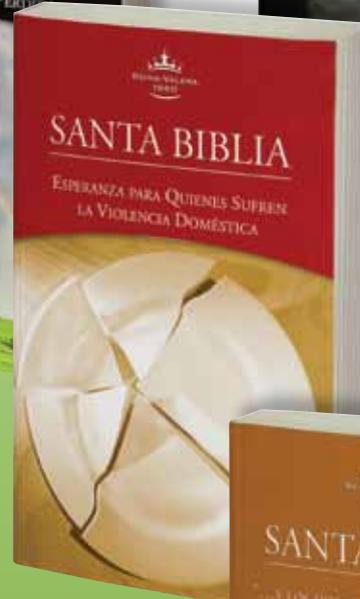
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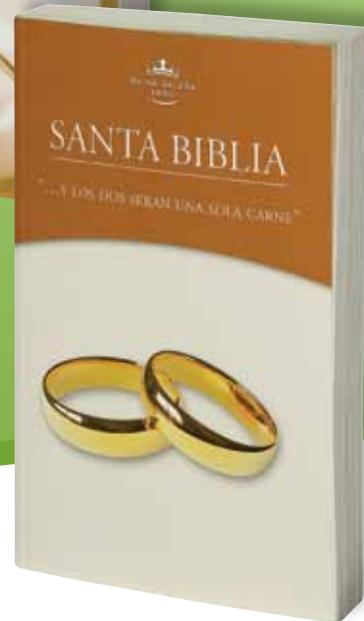
Addiction ▶
(#122450)



Domestic Violence ▶
(#122448)



Marriage ▶
(#122451)



Satisfying the Hunger for God's Word in Cuba

By Rhoda Gathoga

"Teach your children right from wrong, and when they are grown they will still do right." Proverbs 22.6 (CEV)

Like the mustard plant, the Church in Cuba has taken root in this lush Caribbean nation. It was anything but easy in what had been an atheistic culture, where the Church struggled to survive for many years.

In the 1990s, the culture officially began to become more tolerant of religious belief. This paved the way for believers to openly express their belief in God and stimulated the spiritual hunger of many of Cuba's 11 million citizens.

The Catholic Church is the predominant group of believers, but evangelical denominations are also flourishing. Hundreds of thousands of Christian Cubans make up the island's 56 Protestant denominations. *Casas cultos* — or house churches — are thriving. These fledgling Christian communities, some with up to 300 members, are cropping up everywhere.

Reaching Young People

The Biblical Commission of Cuba (BCC) is legally authorized to provide Scriptures in Cuba. For many years, BCC has distributed Bibles, New Testaments for children, manuals for Sunday School teachers and other Scripture resources for the Church. BCC collaborates with different denominations in the dissemination of these materials. BCC seeks to assist the Church in reaching out to youth, defined as those up to age 30.

"In these times, we are confronted with the reality that youth do not

attend church because the world lures them with other things. But, childhood is an important stage in the life of each Christian," says Alain Montano, general secretary of the BCC.

Montano is excited about the chance to reach a group that so desperately needs God's Word. But getting Bibles into their hands is a challenge because they must be imported, and they are relatively expensive at an average cost of \$8 each. The *H₂O Bible*, published by United Bible Societies, is popular among youth in Cuba.

BCC has government permission to print the book of Proverbs locally. "If our youth can learn what's covered in Proverbs, they can know God," he says. "Proverbs provides a good foundation for youth to have a life model and to know Christ." Still, he longs for the day when he can place a Bible in the hands of every young person who wants one.

And the church needs to be poised to help them. To do that, Montano is putting God's Word into the hands of pastors, deacons and Sunday school teachers. But these teachers simply cannot take their copy and keep it to themselves. Instead, they must pledge to disciple others in the Word. Like the mustard plant, the Church is spreading its branches to all who want to nest there.



Young Cubans receiving the *H₂O Bible*.

You can pray

- For leaders to be effective in attracting young people to an experience of knowing God
- That the Biblical Commission of Cuba will continue to be able to provide subsidized Bibles to young people
- For sustained Church growth



To support getting Bibles into Cuba, please call 1-866-895-4448.

Beauty from Ashes

Care for Trauma Survivors

Interview by Hannah Wildasin

"Religion that pleases God the Father must be pure and spotless.

You must help needy orphans and widows and not let this world make you evil." James 1.27 (CEV)



Dr. Diane Langberg Dr. Phil Monroe

Q What is the purpose of the Trauma Healing Advisory Council, and what do you anticipate will be accomplished through it?

A Our purpose is to guide ABS as it refines its programs, materials and training processes related to the care of individuals traumatized by war, rape, genocide and natural disasters in the Great Lakes region of central Africa. In this area, there are many women whose lives have been destroyed by sexual violence as a part of the warring that has gone on between countries and rebel groups. ABS has launched *She's My Sister* to promote healing. What we hope is that our final product becomes a template for other trauma recovery interventions around the world — a template that encourages culturally sensitive, sustainable mercy ministry.

Q How has your work in Rwanda helped prepare you for this?

A Our visit to Rwanda last year was preceded by more than a year of reading about the history leading up to the 1994 genocide and the subsequent aftershocks in that country. We spent our entire trip listening to the stories of those who acted as perpetrators and those who were victims. We listened to church leaders and to

government officials. We knew we needed to learn from Rwandans first before offering interventions. We needed to understand how Rwandan culture and history shapes the people. We wanted to see examples of resiliency as well as cultural expressions of trauma.

Did you know that many Africans may feel happy in the moment but not particularly hopeful about the future? We Americans do the reverse. We are optimistic about the future but rather unhappy in the present.

Drs. Diane Langberg and Phil Monroe got a full-immersion course in trauma counseling while ministering to Rwandans struggling with post-traumatic stress disorder.

That experience, combined with their extensive clinical expertise, equips them to serve as co-chairs of American Bible Society's Trauma Healing Advisory Council for *She's My Sister*[™], a ministry that is initially focusing on helping women and children in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).



she's my
Sister[™]
treasure her

Learn more at
CongoSister.org

Photo of Diane Langberg courtesy of Diane Langberg & Associates; photo of Phil Monroe by Stacy Salvatori; bottom photo by Timothy J. Walsh.

Our trip enabled us to develop ideas for how to take what we know about trauma and apply it to the specific context of Rwanda. This same strategy will help us as we consider the varying traumas in the wider region. While we have lay and professional materials we could use with rape victims in the United States, it would be foolish for us to assume that the same materials could be used with a woman raped in Goma, DRC.

Q How can those of us in the broader Christian community respond to the types of injustice taking place in the Great Lakes region of Africa?

A Getting educated is the first step. Too often we turn off the news or turn away from seeing the plight of others because we feel helpless to do anything. As we educate ourselves, we need to pray for opportunities to talk with others about how we may answer the biblical call to protect widows, orphans, aliens and other vulnerable people. This is the heart of the gospel (James 1.27).

And when we talk and pray as a church body, things begin to happen. I suspect this is what happened in Acts 13 when the first missionary movement began. Beyond that, give gifts to those who are working in the region.

Photo by Frederick Barasa.



These are leaders who were recently trained and now conduct local trauma healing workshops in their communities. Dr. Harriet Hill is pictured right of center wearing sunglasses and a blue and green dress.

Changed Lives Through Trauma Healing

By Frederick Barasa

"I was 'blind' . . . I have been a pastor for so many years and didn't realize that I was traumatized." So said Pastor Samuel Muhemwa from Bukavu, DRC, while he was attending the first five-day trauma healing session in February.

As senior research analyst with Global Scripture Impact, I also attended the workshop. I was impressed to see an overwhelming outpouring from men who apologized on behalf of other men who committed atrocities against women. They pledged to sensitize other men to respect and honor women. The seminar, which was led by American Bible Society, had 18 participants and program managers from seven Bible Societies in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Sudan and Central African Republic.

The participants, who were grouped according to regions, prepared workplans and made commitments to hold trauma healing seminars in their areas.

Some openly shared their pain for the first time. Pastor Muhemwa also said, "I have been helping other people to tackle their problems but did not know how and whom to talk to regarding burdens that I have in my family . . . I have cried and God has opened me. . . As a country . . . we need to experience this kind of healing . . ."

Dr. Harriet Hill, author and director of Scripture Engagement Content at American Bible Society, leads the trauma healing sessions. Of the second session, she said, "It was a very exciting adventure to see Scripture engage people in the midst of their pain, to hear the Scripture songs in beautiful Congolese music styles and languages, to see them track intently with the telling of the stories in their languages, to hear the discussions around the stories, to observe the 'aha' moments, and over [time] to see the anxious faces replaced with beaming smiles — to share life and laughter, pain and tears with these people."

Today's Generation Uncovers the Book of Books

By Arthur L. Satterwhite III and Allen Paul Weaver III

"God's Word is alive and powerful!" Hebrews 4.12a (CEV)

Picture 10,000 young people with hands raised in complete surrender; eyes closed in total reverence; mouths wide, voices loud, worshipping with absolute abandon.

Welcome to Winter Jam and Winter Fest 2011. At each concert, audiences experienced powerful worship and applicable biblical instruction from the chart toppers of today's Christian music.

Again and again, attendees at this year's Winter Jam referenced the Bible as much more meaningful to them than an ancient 2,000-year-old book. One young man described it as "The book of books. It gives us the truth and knowledge that we all need. . . . It's the best book that I've ever read." A young woman said, "Anything you're going through — there is something in the Word that will get you through your day."

Their hope was contagious, sending a strong message of a generation of young people who are hungry and looking for answers to the increasing number of questions and challenges they face each day.

It's this deep desire for more of

"My experience with Uncover The Word™ was great. I've done the seven-day journey three times now. I think that receiving Scriptures to my cell phone each day is a great way to start off my day. . . . Thank you for the opportunity to use your services and God bless!"

— Jamie Dollar, Knoxville, Tenn.; attended Winter Fest 2011

God and the truth they have found in him that calls them to leave the normality of the world around them, throw their hands high, and experience God's Word through music. Christian music artists, including Dove Award winners Chris August and Sidewalk Prophets,

understand this. This is why they have partnered with American Bible Society to help make Scripture accessible to this young generation.

Nearly 90,000 young people have shown a willingness to begin a fresh engagement with the Word of God.

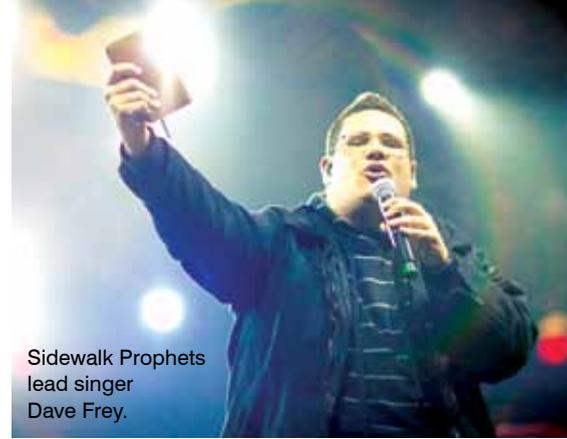
Through the Uncover the Word™ initiative, American Bible Society will continue to work with Christian music artists to captivate, motivate and spark a movement of young people who are scripturally founded and spiritually grounded in God's Word.

20,000 people attended. At each venue, ABS invited attendees to begin a seven-day Scripture journey, resulting in more than 4,000 people embarking on such a journey.



Photos by Andrew Hood

Chris August, 2011 Dove Award winner for best new artist.



Sidewalk Prophets
lead singer
Dave Frey.

Quiet Time

"Give thanks to the Lord because he is good; his love is eternal." Psalm 136.1 (GNT)

July 2011

God's Word Goes Forth
Tell of God's Mercy and Forgiveness

- 1 Psalm 32
- 2 Psalm 103
- 3 Genesis 32.1-32
- 4 Genesis 33.1-20
- 5 Genesis 41.1-36
- 6 Genesis 41.37-57
- 7 Genesis 42.1-38
- 8 Genesis 43.1-34
- 9 Genesis 44.1-34
- 10 Genesis 45.1-28
- 11 Genesis 46.1-27
- 12 Genesis 46.28—47.26
- 13 Genesis 47.27—48.22
- 14 Genesis 49.29—50.26
- 15 Exodus 33.1-23
- 16 Exodus 34.1-35
- 17 Leviticus 16.1-34
- 18 Numbers 14.1-25
- 19 Joshua 1.1-18
- 20 Joshua 2.1-24
- 21 Joshua 3.1-17
- 22 Joshua 6.1-27
- 23 Judges 13.1-25
- 24 1 Samuel 1.1-28
- 25 1 Samuel 24.1-22
- 26 1 Samuel 26.1-25
- 27 2 Samuel 9.1-13
- 28 Matthew 18.21-35
- 29 Matthew 20.1-16
- 30 Philemon 1-25
- 31 Hebrews 10.1-39

August 2011

God's Word Goes Forth
Encourage One Another in Faith

- 1 Hebrews 11.1-22
- 2 Hebrews 11.23-40
- 3 Hebrews 12.1-11
- 4 Hebrews 12.12-29
- 5 Matthew 14.13-36
- 6 Matthew 15.1-20
- 7 Matthew 15.21-39
- 8 Philippians 1.1-30
- 9 Philippians 2.1-30
- 10 Philippians 3.1-21
- 11 Philippians 4.1-23
- 12 1 Thessalonians 1.1-10
- 13 1 Thessalonians 2.1-16
- 14 1 Thessalonians 2.17—3.13
- 15 1 Thessalonians 4.1-18
- 16 1 Thessalonians 5.1-28
- 17 2 Thessalonians 1.1-12
- 18 2 Thessalonians 2.1-17
- 19 2 Thessalonians 3.1-18
- 20 1 Timothy 1.1-20
- 21 1 Timothy 2.1-15
- 22 1 Timothy 3.1-16
- 23 1 Timothy 4.1-16
- 24 1 Timothy 5.1-25
- 25 1 Timothy 6.1-21
- 26 2 Timothy 1.1-18
- 27 2 Timothy 2.1-26
- 28 2 Timothy 3.1-17
- 29 2 Timothy 4.1-22
- 30 Joshua 23.1-16
- 31 Joshua 24.1-33

September 2011

God's Word Goes Forth
Grow in God's Wisdom

- 1 Matthew 5.1-20
- 2 Matthew 5.21-48
- 3 Matthew 6.19-34
- 4 Matthew 7.1-29
- 5 Matthew 12.1-21
- 6 Matthew 12.22-50
- 7 Matthew 13.1-23
- 8 Matthew 13.24-58
- 9 Matthew 22.1-22
- 10 Matthew 22.23-46
- 11 Matthew 25.1-30
- 12 Matthew 25.31-46
- 13 1 Corinthians 1.1-17
- 14 1 Corinthians 1.18-31
- 15 1 Corinthians 2.1-16
- 16 1 Corinthians 3.1-23
- 17 1 Corinthians 4.1-21
- 18 James 1.1-27
- 19 James 2.1-26
- 20 James 3.1-18
- 21 James 4.1-17
- 22 James 5.1-20
- 23 Psalm 34
- 24 Psalm 37
- 25 Proverbs 8.1-36
- 26 Proverbs 9.1-18
- 27 Proverbs 10.1-32
- 28 Proverbs 12.1-28
- 29 Proverbs 16.1-33
- 30 Ecclesiastes 11.9—12.14

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



Pray Around the World

“Love your neighbor as you love yourself.” The whole Law of Moses and the teachings of the prophets depend on these two commandments.” Matthew 22:39b, 40 (GNT)

Benin



Thank God for his grace in granting peace for our country and **The Bible Society of Benin**. Thank him, too, for our good relations with the churches and for our translation, literacy, distribution, fundraising and Faith Comes By Hearing® programs. Pray for our links with government offices and non government organizations for holistic projects.

Burkina Faso



Praise God for his blessings, even in difficult financial circumstances. Give thanks for the forthcoming publication of the **San Bible** and pray for its influence on those who read it. Continue to remember our ongoing translation projects. Ask for God’s protection for all our staff and pray for the impact of our literacy program.

Japan



Following the March 11 earthquake and tsunami, aftershocks and additional earthquakes and tsunami warnings plagued the island nation. Japan has also been facing the threat of nuclear contamination, as submerged reactors were rendered inoperable. More than 10,000 lives have been lost and hundreds of thousands were forced to evacuate in northern Japan.

Please pray for rescue efforts and care for survivors and families with lost loved ones. Pray for the outreach of the **Japan Bible Society**, providing critical ministry and God’s Word for thousands affected. Pray for protection against further aftershocks.

Malawi



Praise God for the final year of the Yao translation project, asking that we will be able to publish this Bible as soon as possible. Pray for our other translation projects, for the **Good Samaritan** program and for the **National Scripture Recital Extravaganza** and **Bible Youth Advocates** projects. Give thanks for the Bible shop in the north and remember the Faith Comes By Hearing® program and our local fundraising initiatives.



A student at El Bethel Yagma School in Burkina Faso is holding the illustrated *Ma Première Bible*.

Peru



We give thanks to God for **Pan de Vida**, a program that allowed us to provide breakfasts and Scriptures to child survivors of last year’s floods here, for the impact of literacy projects for the Quechua, for our campaign for the prevention of domestic violence and for the national **Read the Bible** campaign. Pray that God continues to bless us and that we can continue to help Peru’s neediest people.

Russia



We praise God for keeping us well. We also thank him for the successful completion of the **Chuvash Bible** translation, a project that lasted 19 years. Please join us in prayer for God’s blessing and help to complete the Bible translation in contemporary Russian and prepare it for printing. We ask God to continue blessing our ministry of distributing Scriptures and promoting Bible engagement in Russia.

American Bible Society staff members prayed on behalf of more than 500 donor prayer requests on April 15. Let us know your prayer requests for our next donor prayer event.

Photo by Joyce Van De Veen.

In Memoriam

“One day spent in your Temple is better than a thousand anywhere else.” Psalm 84:10a (GNT)

ROCK BECKER
GIVEN BY THE HAYDENS VIA TAMMY HAYDEN

GLADYS MARQUIS
GIVEN BY MR. AND MRS. NICK HIGGINS

MY PARENTS,
OMAR AND HILDA ERLANDSON
GIVEN BY MRS. JEAN G. BEARD

MY MOTHER,
MARJORIE P. MUNIZ
GIVEN BY MRS. PAULA ACKER

MY PARENTS,
ROBERT AND BETTY JANE ETTER
GIVEN BY LINDA ROSE ETTER

REBECCA PENICK
GIVEN BY MR. AND
MRS. NORMAN M. PENICK

OUR BROTHER,
WALTER GROCE JR.
GIVEN BY MR. AND MRS. ROBERT H. GROCE

MY HUSBAND,
DR. MARTIN QUIGLEY
GIVEN BY KATHERINE QUIGLEY

OUR MOTHER,
GERTRUDE HOPP
GIVEN BY NADINE J. HOPP AND SISTERS

MR. ALLAN P. MATTHEW
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MR. AUBREY ROBINSON
MR. LESTER B. ROBINSON
MR. HARRY WHITCOMB
GIVEN BY KEITH P. ROBINSON

MY AUNT,
NORMA M. KEARSLEY
GIVEN BY NELLIE C. NEUMANN

REV. MARVEL G.
AND VIVA M. UPTON
GIVEN BY MR. AND MRS. KENT CARTRITE

MY HUSBAND,
EDWARD A. LEPCZYK
GIVEN BY MRS. EDWARD A. LEPCZYK

Photo by Konstantin/Shutterstock.com.

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.**

A Thankful Heart

By Liz Smith

“In every thing give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (KJV)

“I started picking blueberries and delivering newspapers at 11 and haven’t been unemployed since,” said Art Borden, speaking by phone from his retirement community in Virginia. Art retired for good on June 30, after a career spanning 71 years and six different career paths. For some 30 of those years, Art worked for American Bible Society. He helped establish the Bible Societies in Venezuela, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama.

Art readily admits that he was no expert in any of the jobs he endeavored to do, but he would commit to doing each one to the best of his ability. He knew he didn’t have to know the answer to every question, but he had to know whom to ask. His other jobs ranged from representing two agencies of the government of Puerto Rico in Washington, D.C., to being president of the Evangelical Council of Financial Accountability.

Art has certainly made the most of every opportunity. He always maintained that if an organization was worth his time working there, then it was worth supporting as well. And to him it made sense to be “giving while I’m living” so he could be sure where his gifts were going. He and his wife Alice have 17 gift annuities with American Bible Society.



Students at a public school in Managua, Nicaragua, after receiving Scriptures from the Bible Society of Nicaragua. American Bible Society is currently funding Scriptures for the Indian Miskitu people and for children with cancer there. Art Borden helped set up the Bible Society of Nicaragua in 1969. Art and his wife Alice are pictured below.

In the last couple of years, Art and Alice have turned 80. To help celebrate, their children wrote 80 things they learned from Dad and 80 things they love about Mom. These lists read like Proverbs — rife with wisdom, humor and love.

From Art, his children learned “how to enjoy Jersey corn and tomatoes; that driving to get somewhere is part of the vacation;

and that it is easier to make a good first impression than to overcome a bad one.”

About Mom, they said she “prepares meals with plenty of food for everyone; taught us to love Jesus and trust him for our salvation; and taught us the value of a dollar.”

Art and Alice continue to give generously because they know they are merely stewards of God’s gifts.

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



Top photo courtesy of Bible Society of Nicaragua; bottom photo by Olan Mills.

How will you hand your baton to the next generation?

“Don’t leave me when I am old and my hair turns gray. Let me tell future generations about your mighty power.”

Psalm 71:18 (CEV)

Help us build a better magazine. Please fill out the attached survey.



Each of us, as friends of the Bible, is carrying a baton and running a race — to finish the work God has given us in sharing God’s Word across the world.

Each generation needs God’s Word handed to them personally.



Just last year, as we reported in this magazine, the Shang Dang villagers in China received their first Bibles. Mrs. Chen Guo Zi, 80, pictured, held her first Bible and wept for joy.

Thanks to you, people who need it the most have been touched with

the Word that you passed on to them. But when your homecoming arrives, to whom will you hand your baton? Until the last person on earth receives God’s Word in his or her own heart language, our work is not finished.

We need your help.

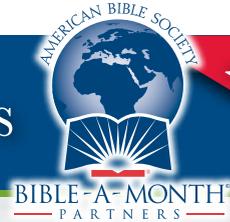
Please help us continue to tell the story. Give us your feedback on this magazine and how we can serve you.

Complete the attached survey, or call us at 800-549-3328 to tell us how to help you pass on your baton.

Please mail the survey in the postage-paid envelope. Thank you!
ABSGift.org

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A Fifty-Year Legacy of Changing Lives



**50 Year
Anniversary**

A Special Invitation to Change Lives for Eternity

*"I will never forget that very first experience of reading the truth.
It was such an emotional moment for me."*

— A college student from Russia, who found God when he received his very first Bible



The benefits of being a Bible-A-Month Partner include monthly Partner Reports, a Scripture calendar and a quarterly devotional to guide Partners each day of their spiritual walk with God.

Fifty years ago, a small group of American Bible Society staff and friends began pledging part of their paychecks each month to help distribute Bibles around the world. They were convinced that with even a small commitment each month, they could make a difference in a great many lives for eternity. Bible-A-Month was the product of their efforts.

Five decades later, Bible-A-Month Partners have helped distribute more than 41 million Bibles. But millions more still wait and pray for the comfort found only in God's Word.

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Yes! I want to become a Bible-A-Month Partner to help answer the prayers of spiritually starving people who wait for the Good News. My monthly commitment is \$ _____.

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