

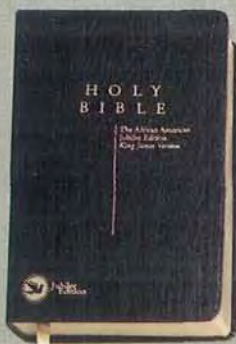
A M E R I C A N B I B L E S O C I E T Y

RECORD

December 1999 | January 2000

THE JUBILEE BIBLE

**ABS African
American
Edition**



The Creation



Jubilee Puts Food on the Table

"The Lord's Spirit has come to me, because he has chosen me to tell the good news to the poor."

Luke 4.18

Jesus began his ministry by reading from the Scriptures. But the position He staked out in this inaugural address was so radical it nearly got Him killed. By claiming Isaiah 61 for himself, Jesus, a hometown boy, claimed to be specially anointed of God. This is the reason often cited for the angry response of his listeners.

But perhaps even more disturbing was Jesus' abrupt declaration connecting this passage to a long-lost *Jewish* tradition—He announced a *jubilee* year. By reviving the year of *jubilee*, Jesus challenged his listeners to radical economic, social, and political change.

Was it His messianic claim or His call for tangible and sacrificial justice that most angered Jesus' audience? *Jubilee* is one place where the gospel gets down to the nitty-gritty. As outlined in Leviticus 25, *jubilee* was a divine prescription for human rights and the periodic redistribution of wealth—an equivalent of the first graduated income tax. Verse 10 reads, "This fiftieth year is sacred—it is a time of celebration when everyone will

receive back their original property, and slaves will return home to their families."

It is obvious why this sacred tradition has a special significance for the African-American community. Jesus outlined a ministry to prisoners, the blind, the poor, those who suffer—and the freeing of slaves.



Although we traditionally describe the Good News in spiritual terms, Jesus referenced tangible manifestations of justice and declared that His mission was especially Good News for the disenfranchised. The American Bible Society honors the spirit of *jubilee* with its just-off-the-press *African-American Jubilee Edition Bible*.

Prefaced with 284 pages of colorfully illustrated materials, this edition documents the rich African-American tradition of finding hope through faith and worship. These supplemental materials trace African culture, chronicle the role of Africans in the Bible and their religious experience during times of slavery, and give a context for revering Scriptures' *jubilee* tradition. Black achievements in preaching, music, art, and social and civic reform highlight the prominence of Christianity in the ongoing Black struggle around the world.

This new Bible from ABS will be a source of encouragement and pride for African American brothers and sisters. But my prayer is that it will also serve to remind all of us who claim to follow Christ of His charge to live out the spirit of *jubilee*. 📖

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Peter Feuerherd

Staff Writer

Thomas D. Sullivan

e-mail

absrecord@americanbible.org

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Published continually since 1818, the *American Bible Society Record* is the official periodical of the American Bible Society and the second oldest continuous publication in the United States. It is published six times per year, and is sent to anyone contributing \$4 or more each year to the Society. Postage is paid at New York, New York, and additional mailing offices. Other publications wishing to reproduce any of the articles contained herein are encouraged to do so. A credit line acknowledging the source of the material and a copy of the issue containing such material would be appreciated. (ISSN 0006-801)

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December 1999 / January 2000 | Volume 145, Number 1

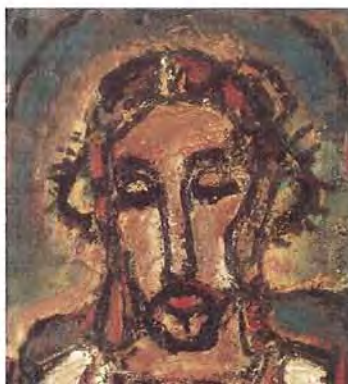
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ON THE COVER: *The Creation*, by Aaron Douglas, oil on canvas, 1935. (Howard University Gallery of Art)

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We encourage you to send your letters to:
Editor, *American Bible Society Record*, 1865
Broadway, New York, NY 10023-7505.
Telephone: (212) 408-8710. Reach ABS on
the web at www.americanbible.org

We Are All Evangelists

Dale Jackson believes that every Christian is called to be an evangelist. After all, Jesus said, "I am sending you, just as the Father has sent me" (John 20.21b, *CEV*). "We have a responsibility to take the message" to all the world, he says.

For Dale, evangelism means understanding those to whom you're reaching out. "We need

to spend time interacting with people who have the spiritual need," he says. He has a lot of experience in outreach, including 16 years as a missionary in Japan.

A pastor of First Assembly of God Church in Riverton, Wyo., he puts his beliefs into practice as a State Volunteer Coordinator. Dale shares his ABS responsibilities with his wife, Carol.

Carol and Dale recruit, train, and motivate ABS Volunteers in Wyoming. They work hard at being involved in all the different aspects of ABS

volunteering. Dale says that he makes a point of knowing about the full range of ABS Scripture resources, and looks for opportunities to offer God's Word.

For example, Dale extends his outreach to men and women in law enforcement. He serves

as a chaplain for the Riverton Police Department, the Fremont County Sheriff's Department, and the FBI in Wyoming. This work with police officers and FBI agents gives him another providing Scriptures to others.

Dale's son Dean, formerly the ABS State Volunteer Coordinator in Utah, had urged his father to get involved with ABS. Dale is a natural fit for Bible work—"all my life, I've passed out Bibles," he says.

The Year of the Bible has been a great opportunity to evangelize, he says. ABS volunteers have mailed copies of Year of the Bible New Testaments to every home in 16 of Wyoming's 23 counties.

And of all the Bibles Dale has given to others, he says that the *Contemporary English Version (CEV)* is the most effective tool for evangelism that he's ever used. He always knows that people read the *CEV* Bibles he gives them, because they come back and ask where they can get more *CEV* Scriptures.

And the reaction has been remarkably positive. In fact, Dale says, "I haven't had one negative response" from anyone who has received the *CEV*.

One woman told Dale that she read the New Testament much faster than the five-minutes-a-day Year of the Bible schedule. She said that she'd never before felt such excitement reading the Bible.

That woman is not alone in her love of the *CEV* Bible. Dale says, "I can't tell you how many people have told me: 'This is the first time in my life that I've ever wanted to read the Bible. It's so easy to understand, I can hardly wait for my next chance to read it.'"

Offering the *CEV* is easy for Dale. As he says, "I'm sold on the product." ■



Dale Jackson

VOLUNTEER AWARD OF MERIT

Did Christ not commission us to help the poor, to reach the lost, and bring his presence closer to others here on earth?

That is what Idora Ade of Owosso, Mich., has done over the past 18 years as an American Bible Society Volunteer.

"I am driven to help distribute Scriptures to the people that live in shelters with no earthly possession of their own. I believe that each



IDORA ADE

Bible that I share ushers the kingdom of God into an otherwise dreary life," she says.

When Idora was asked over 18 years ago to selflessly give of her time as an Area Coordinator for Vol-

unteer Ministries, she readily agreed. She realized the overwhelming need of the people around her for food, clothing, shelter, comfort, and love. Reaching for the best that she could ever afford, Idora gave Scriptures which brought everlasting hope and the promise of eternal riches.

There are many people on Idora's nursing home route whose lives are punctuated by loneliness and the pain that comes from abandonment. The residents cling to her hands as she moves among them sharing the Good News and quietly praying for their needs.

Idora has been able to measure the impact that her ministry of Scripture distribution has had on the lives of others by the numerous testimonies received from those who were saved by a Scripture Portion.

Idora is being rewarded this month with an ABS "Volunteer Award of Merit." 📖

—Patricia Sinclair

A Model for Ministry

As an anthropologist, Dr. Darrell Whiteman studies people of different cultures. This work gives him an insight into mission, as well as an appreciation of how well the ABS Board of Trustees work together.

A member of the Board since 1989, he says it is "a wonderful group to work with." While the men and women on the Board come from different church backgrounds (Dr. Whiteman is a Methodist), all of them are "committed to Scripture." That common purpose, he says, "brings unity out of diversity."

Dr. Whiteman, a professor of cultural anthropology at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Ky., heads the Board's subcommittee on translations. He advised ABS on the *Contemporary English Version*, a task that intrigued him. He offered the translators and editors of the CEV the cultural insight he gained through anthropology.



DR. DARRELL WHITEMAN

Scripture shapes Dr. Whiteman's view of anthropology and mission. For him, Philippians 2.5-8 teaches a rich lesson:

... Think the same way that Christ Jesus did.

Christ was truly God.

But he did not try to remain equal with God. Instead he gave up everything and became a slave when he became like one of us.

Christ was humble. He obeyed God and even died on a cross. (CEV)

Dr. Whiteman says that this passage offers a "model of how we need to be involved in ministry." In order to enter into the world of other cultures, we need to "empty ourselves of power, of prestige, of bias, prejudice."

There's a price for this. When Jesus became man, it cost him his life. But Dr. Whiteman adds: "But what follows crucifixion? The resurrection." 📖

JUBILEE BIBLE

AFRICAN-AMERICAN

Once every 49 years ... trumpets are to be blown everywhere in the land. This fiftieth year is sacred—it is a time of freedom and of celebration when everyone will receive back their original property, and slaves will return home to their families.

(Leviticus 25.8-10, Contemporary English Version)



By Peter Feuerherd

"Jesus with the Elders," by Pheoris West. Collection, Mt. Vernon A.M.E. Church.



The Rev. Virgil Wood knows what it's like to be part of history. He worked with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and was active in integration struggles in Lynchburg, Va., and Boston.

That's a storehouse of memories, yet one in particular is set apart, inspiring the others. He remembers the day like it was yesterday:

He is 17 years old. As part of a church project, he is interviewing an elderly man, a former slave, who was 10 years old when Negroes in that part of Virginia were freed by President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation.

The former slave remembered that men came on horseback proclaiming the news. What the slaves heard was not only a political or eco-

nomonic statement. The newly-freed heard about their liberation in light of their biblical faith.

"He talked about it as the great jubilee. They understood freedom in biblical terms," recalls Dr. Wood about how the former slave remembered the epochal moment.

That same spirit animates the recently-released *Jubilee Bible* published by the American Bible Society. The *Jubilee Bible*, a collaborative effort involving ABS staff and biblical, cultural, and historical scholars, comes in both *King James* and *Contemporary English Versions*. What makes it unique is a nearly 285-page preface devoted to the role of the Bible in African-American life. It features 17 articles written by scholars and academics, including Dr. Wood, a graduate of Virginia Union, Andover Newton Theological, and Harvard and pastor of Pond Street Baptist Church in Providence, R.I.

The *Jubilee Bible* concept developed from

CELEBRATES HERITAGE OF FAITH



two streams. Dr. Wood had been working on a similar idea. And the Rev. Charles Smith, assistant director of Heritage Markets for the American Bible Society, traveled the country and saw the need for a Bible which could cap-

ture the imagination of African-American youth.

After years of effort, the final product is now available. It includes colorful photos and maps which tell the dual histories of African-

A pastor visits a family, 1800's woodcut. Courtesy of North Wind Picture Archives.



"Prayer Meeting,"
Hampton University
Museum.

American life and the role that Africans, including figures such as Hagar, the prophet Zephaniah, the Queen of Sheba, and others, played in the Scriptures.

"There's nothing like it out there," says Barbara Bernstengel, director of product development for ABS. "It's a culturist view of the Scriptures from an African-American perspective. But it's a story for all people."

The Scriptural themes in the text, including the jubilee vision of freedom and reconciliation and the Exodus theme of suffering and liberation, "parallels what African Americans have experienced," she says.

African Americans, says Ms. Bernstengel, see their own struggles in the Biblical stories, a cultural facet emphasized in the Jubilee Bible.

The preface material is comprised of two sections. One contains an introductory article on the Biblical Jubilee written by Dr. Wood

along with background information on the African-American experience, how Africans were brought to the New World in chains, African culture, the Black Church, and a chronology of struggles and victories. That chronology ranges from the first Africans brought as slaves to Virginia (1619), to this year's honoring of civil rights activist Rosa Parks with the Congressional Gold Medal.

Section Two contains articles by scholars on understanding the Bible and the world of Biblical Antiquity, the Black Church, and interpreting the Bible for African Americans today. At the back of the Bible is a study notes section containing maps and other helps.

The Rev. Fred Allen of Nashville, Tenn., director of church relations for ABS, notes that the *Jubilee Bible* is timed to coincide with the new millennium observances.

"Jubilee provides an avenue in which we can all be lifted from the burdens of vengeful attitudes," he says, echoing the theme from Leviticus.

The *Jubilee Bible* also offers an opposing perspective on biblical interpretations used in the past to malign African Americans.

One article on the alleged curse on Ham, a biblical story often cited to oppress black people (Genesis 9.18-29), is explored by scholar Gene Rice. The biblical story is about one of the sons of Noah. Some have argued that Ham is cursed and is a representative of African people, a thesis Dr. Rice disputes.

Dr. Rice, a professor of Old Testament Language and Literature at Howard University in Washington, notes that "the Bible knows nothing of a curse on Ham and nowhere does it have anything negative to say about Africans because of their race. The theological heartbeat of the Bible is that we are all sons and daughters of God, and that we are all related to one another as members of a family, that each one of us, whatever our race, ethnicity and nationality, is special and precious to God."

Its explanations like these which can help African Americans who may have abandoned reading the Bible because they viewed it as Eurocentric literature, says the Rev. Robert M.

Franklin, president of the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta.

The *Jubilee Bible*, he says, will “succeed in allowing people to revisit the Word of God” by putting the Scriptures into “a multicultural lens which is appropriate to the text.”

This special Bible edition features more than just words. The art in the book also tells a story, says Dorette Saunders, assistant director of product development for ABS.

Elizabeth Catlett’s *Three Women of America* honors the role of women in the development of the African-American family. The *Death on the Cross* painting from the Society of African Missions shows Jesus’ death as depicted by an African artist.

It was included in the volume, says Ms. Saunders, “to show how many African Americans identify with the sufferings of Christ and continue patiently in their struggle hoping to gain their reward in heaven.”

To illustrate an article on death in the Bible written by Diane M. Ritzie, an associate pastor at Shiloh Baptist Church in New Rochelle, N.Y., Ellis Wilson’s *Funeral Procession* is used, depicting an African-American family’s grief.



The book has been publicized at numerous denominational leadership gatherings during the past year. A publicity tour for late this year and early in the new millennium will be held in cities with large numbers of African Americans, including New York, Chicago, Baltimore, Atlanta, Los Angeles, and Houston. ■

**“From Door to Door,”
ca. 1933, ABS
Archives.**

The Jubilee Bible is available at the ABS Bookstore in New York City at 1865 Broadway, via direct mail by calling 1-800-32-BIBLE or by visiting the ABS website at www.americanbible.org. It is available in four editions; a leather-bound King James Version, a hardcover King James Version, and two Contemporary English Versions. Prices range from \$24.95 to \$49.95.

The family is a central theme of the *Jubilee Bible*. In an article by Maxine M. Walker, a hospital chaplain and minister of pastoral care and counseling at Cedar Grove Baptist Church in Simpsonville, S.C., she notes that “young people are our most precious resource. We must continue to instill in them that faith undergirds hope.”

Dr. Wood concurs. He adds that while the jubilee concept pertains to wider questions about economic development and social harmony, it is also about personal relationships. “Jubilee is about forgiving all offenses, starting with families,” he says.

Promotion of the *Jubilee Bible* will focus on reaching black families with the word that this cultural and religious treasure is now available.

Teens Gang up Against Gun Violence

By Jennifer Gill
Kissel; Photos by
Douglas Kaup



Laurence Benard, left, at the first annual Youth Summit to end gun violence, in Homestead, Pa. Below: David Bass, singer representing the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence.



ARMED WITH THE WORD

Dozens of red, purple, yellow, green, and blue balloons, tied in bunches to

folding chairs, whipped in the wind.

The balloons symbolized young people whose lives have been lost to gun violence and to represent the hope that such violence will end. They served as a welcome splash of color against the browning leaves and sandy ground, in a community park that once was lush with well-kept flower gardens before drugs, guns, and gangs became commonplace.

At the first annual Youth Summit to end gun violence, in Homestead, Pa., an old steel town near Pittsburgh, those balloons meant many things to the 300 participants.

Children wrapped the strings tightly around their wrists, reluctant to part with the pretty favors. Teens milling together held the balloons away from their bodies, as if holding them too closely meant an attachment they were not willing to express publicly. And mothers, fathers, aunts, and uncles held the balloons firmly, waiting to say goodbye.

"Think of your balloon as a young person who gave his life to a bullet," soloist Demareus Cooper implored. "Think of it as a mother's

heart that was torn from her chest. Think of it as a symbol of hope—of belief—that gun violence will end," she said, before breaking into a soulful rendition of "I Believe" from *The Wiz*. As she intoned "Believe ... in yourself," the balloons flew skyward. The silent crowd watched the balloons become specks on a cloudless sky.

"We want you to leave today believing you can fly," the Rev. Linda Smith told the youth at the Aug. 29 summit, which was held in the park and at nearby Park Place African Methodist Episcopal Church.

The summit's message was simple: Gun violence must end. Ms. Smith emphasized that since 1969, homicide has been the leading cause of death in the U.S. for African-American males, 15-19, and that studies show a direct correlation between selling drugs and carrying weapons.

The 44-year-old Ms. Smith is the executive director of FAME Community Assistance Corporation in New York. FAME—Family and Minority Empowerment—aims to reduce violence among youth and create bridges of trust and friendship across barriers of race, gender, and class. The Youth Summit, which is just one of several FAME initiatives, will go to Bermuda next year, and later to other cities.

After the event, passersby and young participants received *Extreme Faith* youth Bibles from

the American Bible Society. Ms. Smith noted that the Bibles made an impact.

"After the Bibles were distributed, many children came back for more for their family and friends," she said.

One girl, about 12, was just passing by. "How did you know that I needed a Bible today?" the girl asked.

While the crowd swayed to a calypso beat, a gospel reggae singer wearing dreadlocks belted out inspirational messages. "Put down your gun, pick up your Bible," he sang.

Some children at the summit have never seen a gun except on television. Others have held guns in their hands, and some have perhaps even used a gun against another person. Some came with church groups, outreach programs or juvenile correction programs, but all came willingly.

Steve Ketterman, a 15-year-old who talked in street slang but with the maturity of a concerned adult, spoke in an open forum. "We aren't going to be able to stop guns unless we do it," he said to his attentive peers. "Some of us (who are using drugs and carrying guns) need to stop what we are doing," he said. Steve attended with four friends from Young Life, a national evangelical outreach program.

"Most people who come to these type of things put attitude to it while they're here, but not when they leave," Steve said before the summit. "If more people would come and share what happens when they leave, we could make a difference."

His cousin, Jessica Ketterman, 14, agreed. "Lately I've been talking to kids about what we do," she said, referring to similar anti-gun and anti-drug initiatives that she has attended. Jessica said that a couple of years ago, she was getting into trouble and drugs. Now she's concerned about friends who are still involved in drugs and violence.

During the summit's opening memorial service, which honored those killed by gun violence, local celebrities, college coaches, and community leaders encouraged youth to pray, to get involved in church, school, and meaningful activities, and to talk with their families. Young Life leader Ray Saunders, a 54-year-old Presbyterian minister, said he emphasizes to his teens

the need to stay focused on Christ. "I tell them to read Psalm 119," he said. "How can a young person keep his way pure?"

During the service, 12 young men, wearing ankle ID tags and led by three older men, entered the church. As they sat down, a speaker said, "To the men who led these youth here, I don't know what your purpose is, but you are doing a good thing."

Once outside in the park, juvenile counselor William "Fremont" Catlin explained, "Our guys have seen a lot of violence. It's important for them to experience things like this (summit)." He said the youth are minor offenders who are trying to turn their lives around by attending counseling in an alternative-to-incarceration program. "Their friends have passed on," said Mr. Fremont.

"They have seen blood in their neighborhoods. They do not want to go through that again. They are making a concerted effort to stop the violence."

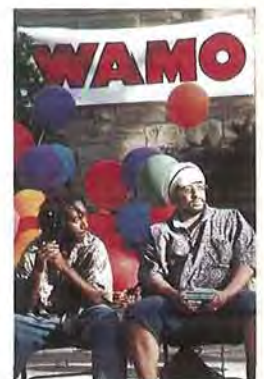
Mr. Catlin said that at the summit the youth could hear from "people who've made it," and feel the influence of faith. "Every chance we get, we let our kids hear the Word and let them know there's a higher power," he said. "Kids just have to be loved. Show them concern. Talk, talk, talk!"

Following the concert, 15-year-old Mike Thompson addressed the crowd. "I lost some friends to violence. Ain't no need to have a gun! Get it melted down," he pleaded.

As the final ballad was sung, a young man sat alone, his eyes cast downward. Yet he held his balloon almost gently. Slowly, he stood and walked to a clearing in the park. He looked from his balloon to the sky, back to his balloon, and then released it. With large, soft brown eyes, he watched his balloon fly away and disappear. As he turned to go, he gestured toward the sky and murmured, "We shouldn't have to be here, doing this." He straightened his shoulders. "Maybe someday, kids won't have to worry about guns." 📖



Wayne Williams speaks to 300 participants at the first annual Youth Summit to end gun violence in Homestead, Pa.



Jesus, Joseph cited as Favorite Bible Heroes

By Peter Feuerherd



When we asked *Record* readers for their favorite Bible heroes, we were in for a few surprises.

Jesus, not surprisingly, was No. 1. Joseph—who was sold into slavery by his jealous brothers only to re-emerge as the Hebrew dream interpreter of Pharaoh's court—ended up a surprisingly strong number two. The rest of the field was filled with figures from both the Old and New Testaments, men and women who inspire Scripture lovers, including some who are rarely brought up in Sunday sermons.

The end result proved at least one thing: *Record* readers not only take their Bible seriously, they connect in a deeply personal way with the people who populate the stories which have animated the Judeo-Christian spiritual tradition.

There were 71 votes—which might seem like a tiny response, except that we requested readers to submit a 300-word essay explaining their selections. Voters in this election had to work to make their ballots count. Those that responded indicated that their Biblical heroes—although they lived thousands of years ago—still have an impact today.

Jesus garnered 12 votes (17 percent). Joseph also had 12 votes. But Jesus was also cited in a number of other entries which cited other Biblical figures.

Other figures who were cited included St. Paul (7 votes); King David (4 votes); the Hebrew spy and relatively unknown Caleb (3 votes); the afflicted Job (3 votes); and the devoted daughter-in-law and foreigner Ruth (3 votes).

Those who cited Jesus routinely described him as the most important person in the Bible.

"Without his ultimate sacrifice, I wouldn't be here today," said Bebra R. Jones of Shreveport, La.

"Jesus is a unique combination of God and man. How could we have any other favorite person in the Bible?" asked Kathryn Weghorst of Macomb, Ill.

Srimati Radharani of Providence, R.I., described herself as a Hindu and a Bible reader who "knows how great Christ and Christianity is!"

Joseph, a Genesis hero, intrigued readers who found in his many travails a testimony of "trust, endurance, and devotion to God," as

Deborah White of Hollister, Ca., described it.

After recounting Joseph's amazing story—his nearly being left for dead by his older brothers who were jealous of their father's affection for him; his being sold into slavery; his resistance to the sexual advances of his Egyptian master's wife; his interpreting of dreams which caused him to advance in the hierarchy of Pharaoh's court, and his meeting up with his brothers who came to Egypt to escape famine—Donna Stormer of Fort Thomas, Ky., wrote that she found that "Joseph's faith in God amazes me."

Pat Wroten of Smyrna, Ga., sees a connection between Jesus and the figure from Genesis: "Joseph is so much like the Lord because he was able to forgive those who did him so much harm."

Terry Cross of Concord, N.C., praised Joseph for his steadfastness, particularly for his rebounding from the cruel actions of his brothers: "What kind of future could he have possibly foreseen from the bottom of that deep, cold pit?"

The conversion of St. Paul, who was transformed from a persecutor of Christians to a zealous missionary spreading the message of Jesus, also inspires *Record* readers.

"He is a good example of what God can and will do in our lives when we do His will," noted Geneva R. Marshall of Charlottesville, Va.

Patricia Roberts of Indianapolis wrote that God took Paul's "misplaced zeal and put it on another road. Look what happened! If not for Paul's travels, Christianity would have stayed just a little religious sect in the Middle East."

God's forgiveness was also evident in the life of King David, the favorite Bible figure of Ingrid Anderson of Chetek, Wis. "He sinned very grievously. He lied, cheated, committed adultery and even murder," she wrote. "Still God claimed him, all because he humbled himself and grieved deeply and begged for forgiveness in heart rending confessions we read in the Psalms."

Julie Bailey of Magnolia, Del., voted for Job



Above: Ford Madox Brown, *Jesus Washing Peter's Feet*. Tate Gallery, London, Great Britain. (Art Resource, New York)

Opposite Page: Rouault, *Ecce Homo*. Città del Vaticano, collezione d'arte Religiosa Moderna. (Art Resource, New York)



Menescardi Giustino,
Abigail che Placa E disarma David.

© Archivio Cameraphoto
Venezi.

(Art Resource, New York)

as a person of great faith able to endure unbearable suffering. “Job stands for every man in his frustrations and his inability to understand why terrible things are happening to him. His friends represent our friends with their frustrations and opinions and their inability to really help us when times are very tough.”

Women in the Bible, such as the Old Testament Ruth, also inspire *Record* readers.

“The Lord tells me to love everyone, and I find Ruth giving unconditional love to her mother-in-law Naomi,” said Geraldine Vadnais of Manchester, N.H.

Bernice A. Christopher of Seymour, Ind., sees Ruth as an example for women in modern marriages in transient America.

“My husband in our earlier married years had to take several job transfers. The words of Ruth always gave me comfort: ‘Your people will be my people and your God, my God. Where you die I will die and there I will be buried.’”

Carole McDonnell of Peekskill, N.Y., voted for Hagar, the slave mistress of Abraham who bore him a son, Ishmael. “In the battle between Sarah (Abraham’s wife) and Hagar, I was always for Hagar. She mocked Sarah after having Ishmael because Sarah was childless. Shouldn’t a slave who’s been sexually used and trapped into bearing a child for her master and his wife be allowed the humanity of mockery?”

Hagar’s recognition of the “God who sees me” shows “great spiritual truth and insight and yet it is the kind of deep truth that could teach the small child and heal the wounded adult,” wrote Ms. McDonnell.

Marie Hogan of St. Louis sees Mary, the mo-

ther of Jesus, as a young woman of courage. “Working in a crisis pregnancy center makes me more aware of the agonies that might have tormented Mary, the rumors and gossip that would have instilled shame even if there shouldn’t have been any,” she wrote.

While Mary raises the issue of pregnancy, a more obscure Biblical figure, Hannah (1 Samuel 1), raises the issue of faith in God overcoming infertility, noted Sara Rapp of Delta, Colo.

“As a barren woman belittled by other women, she poured her overwhelmed heart out to God. Then she truly left her burden on His altar. When he blessed her with a child, she did not forget her promise to God,” Ms. Rapp wrote.

Some of the responses cited Biblical figures generally unknown to even the most devout Bible readers.

William Webb of Lakewood, N.J., voted for Ebedmelech, whose story is told in the Book of Jeremiah. The prophet Jeremiah, like many of the Old Testament prophets, was not very popular among the political leaders of his day. As a result, he was thrown into a cistern filled with mud.

Ebedmelech, an Ethiopian in service to the King, believed that the prophet was treated unjustly. He gathered 30 men to lift Jeremiah to freedom.

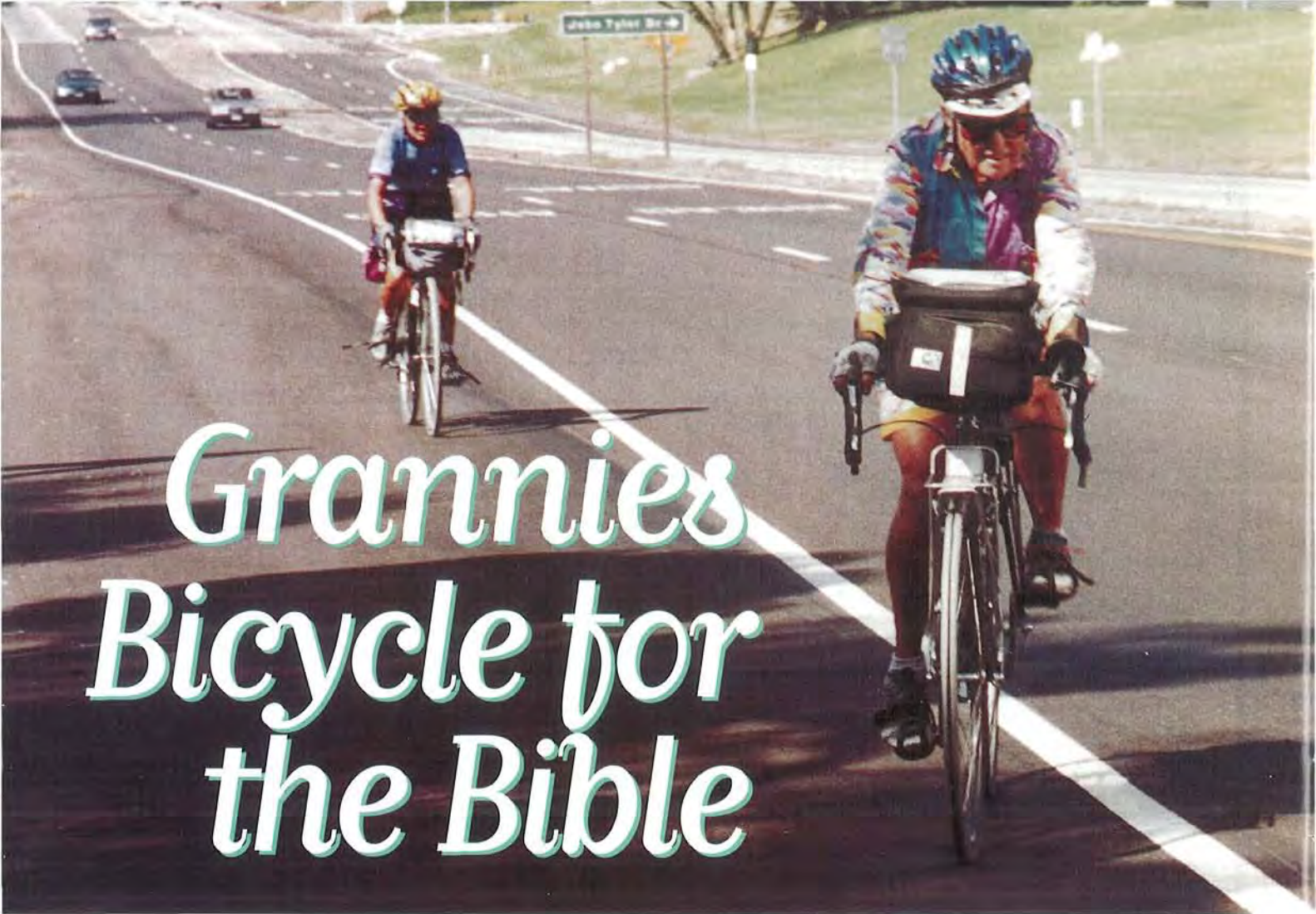
Lewis Huang of Poway, Ca., cited Mephibosheth of II Samuel Chapter 9. “He was the one whom God looked upon with favor, especially since he was crippled in both feet,” said Mr. Huang.

Mephibosheth is the forerunner of “Tiny Tim” of Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol*, noted Mr. Huang. “This person just serves to show me how every human life is so precious in God’s sight and should be esteemed that way.”

While Mr. Huang noted God, only one reader cited the Deity as a favorite figure. Deborah Gaehring of Tabernacle, N.J., wrote, “I am awestruck by the reality of God that I find in the Bible.” She added, “Coming to know and understand the wonderful character and personality of God, as He reveals Himself through His Word, is my chief delight ... I read the Bible because in it I find love letters from my favorite person—God.” 📖

Results of vote on *Record* readers’ favorite Bible heroes:

Jesus	12
Joseph (O.T.)	12
St. Paul	7
King David	4
Ruth	3
Job	3
Caleb	3
King Solomon	2
Daniel	2
Woman at the well	2
Esther	2
Mary Magdalene	2
Single votes for Abigail, Barnabas, Ebedmelech, Elijah, God, Hagar, Hannah, Lydia, “the persistent widow” (NT parable), Joshua, Mary (the mother of Jesus), Mephibosheth, Peter, Phoebe, Samson, Thomas, and Zaccheus.	



Grannies Bicycle for the Bible

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS
BY THOMAS D. SULLIVAN

Charlotte Reicks stands at the shore, singing, "... We've got a

song you want to hear about the BGs, the BGs. ..."

Charlotte and her friend Evelyn Logan are the BGs, the Bicycling Grandmothers. They have just finished criss-crossing the United States by bicycle, telling people about the *Year of the Bible*.

Charlotte and Evelyn pedaled 8,402.2 miles (Evelyn measured it, and she's precise about these things), from California to Maine to Florida to Oregon, and back to California.

On Jan. 1, Charlotte was reading the Lutheran Hour Ministries' *Daily Devotionals for Advent*, when she saw an announcement for the *Year of the Bible*. The American Bible Society and

Lutheran Hour Ministries joined together to urge people to read the Bible. The reading for the day—Psalm 119—includes the phrase "I will not forget thy word." (KJV)

For some time, Charlotte and Evelyn had been planning to bike across America, and they wanted to link their journey to a great cause. When Charlotte read about the *Year of the Bible*, "It was just like a flashbulb going off in my head."

Charlotte called Evelyn, who liked the idea. Charlotte asked for and received her pastor's blessing for the trip. Then she called the Rev. Ron Mixer, who heads the *Year of the Bible* program at ABS, as well as Lutheran Hour Ministries, which gave their approval and encouragement.

For Evelyn, this bicycle journey was her way

Grandmothers Evelyn Logan (front) and Charlotte Reicks pedal on the last day of their six-month cross-country journey for God's Word.

of thanking God after overcoming seven years of agonizing back trouble. She feels grateful to the Lord and says, "I celebrate life and movement each year." She bicycled across America twice before this Bible-celebration trip.

Charlotte found someone to temporarily take over her transcription business. And then she and Evelyn set out on Easter Sunday, April 4, from Santa Monica, Calif. They cycled in the mornings and early afternoons, and depended on Christians along the way for lodging. Sometimes the BGs would stay at homes, at other times, they'd sleep in churches, on pews and pew pads. Only occasionally did they need to stay in a motel.

Since Charlotte is Lutheran, they started out asking for help from Lutheran churches. But as they traveled on, they got help from other churches, whose clergy and staff eagerly assisted the Bicycling Grandmas.

"What really helped was the American Bible Society," says Charlotte. "Wherever we went—Baptist churches, Methodist churches—they'd say, 'We get materials from the American Bible Society' or, 'We know people at the American Bible Society.'"

They found help through these churches—people who would offer their cars and trucks to carry the BGs, or the BGs' equipment. This shortened some tough stretches on the road.

Scripture strengthened them in their pursuit. Evelyn kept Bible verses in a plastic map pocket atop her handlebar bag. Philippians 4.4, "Rejoice in the Lord" (*King James Version*) comforted her. Charlotte found Nehemiah 8.10, "The joy of the Lord is my strength" (*KJV*), a great help.

Charlotte says that she kept thinking on their trip, "I know God you're with us. You never said this would be easy."

Along the road, Charlotte and Evelyn would tell people about the *Year of the Bible*. They handed out business cards that read "Who is God? THE BIBLE KNOWS," and included telephone numbers for ABS and Lutheran Hour Ministries. Callers could receive a special imprint *Year of the Bible* New Testament from ABS for 99 cents, and Lutheran Hour Ministries would send a free Bible reading guide.

Their journey offered the BGs frequent opportunities to witness. Evelyn recalls talking to one man about the Bible, who told her "I've read the Bible once." That struck Evelyn as shortsighted. Reflecting on it later, she said, "Do you talk to your children once? Don't you talk to them all the time—several times a day? Doesn't God want you to talk to him more than once a day? And maybe read your Bible several times a day?"

Their journey's last day began with prayer outside the home of Pam and Mark Hoffman, who hosted the BGs in Port Hueneme, Calif. Evelyn's friend Betty Ludwick had arrived to join the BGs on their last leg, carrying some of their equipment. Charlotte and Evelyn climbed on their bicycles, and pedaled off into the morning fog.

Shortly, Charlotte and Evelyn reached the Pacific Coast Highway, which cuts between California's dry hills and the ocean. They pushed past Point Magu, then stopped briefly to check their route with Betty.

They wheeled up and down hills, Evelyn leading the way (as usual), and stopped for lunch with Betty. They reached Santa Monica, rejoicing, and Charlotte hugged Evelyn. To crown their journey, they pushed their bicycles to the shore, fulfilling a cross-country bicycling ritual by dipping their wheels in the cool Pacific tide.

Evelyn was especially grateful for reaching their goal a bit early—her daughter Dawn Orwiler was due to leave soon for Thailand for missionary work. Dawn, her husband Rob, and her children joined Evelyn and Charlotte on the beach. Evelyn played with two of her grandchildren as waves rolled in and out.

Evelyn and Charlotte thanked God. Charlotte talked about how they managed to get through the arduous trek—taking it one day at a time. Charlotte says, "When you turn the day over to Him, you don't have to worry about it." ■

Betty Ludwick talks with Evelyn and Charlotte as they plan the last leg of the trip.



Charlotte and Evelyn rejoice on Santa Monica's beach.



Jump-Starting with the Word

On a warm afternoon in September, New York University students packed a blocked-off street, strolling past the many groups celebrating Club Day.

A wide array of clubs seized the chance to get new student members—choirs, ethnic groups, and even fans of Japanese cartoons. Near the end of one of the rows, some students wanted to tell others about Christ and offer them the Scriptures.

Campus Crusade for Christ was offering the Word, tucked into attractive blue bags.

Dozens of students picked up the “Freshman Starter Kit.” Inside, they would find Josh McDowell’s book, *More Than a Carpenter*; a video about alcohol abuse; a genuine

Duncan yo-yo; and a Bible printed by ABS specifically for Campus Crusade for Christ.

In a city full of distractions, the Scriptures remain a steady source of truth. Scenes like this one were repeated at campuses across America, where Campus Crusade provided eye-catching ABS Scriptures to students.

Manning the table for Campus Crusade were three NYU students—sophomores Joe Chiang and Mike Smith, and Mickey Sanchez, a junior. Ross Queener, a staff member of Campus Crusade, helped the student volunteers with the Freshman Starter Kits.

As students milled around Campus Crusade’s table, Mickey Sanchez, said, “Things are going really great. ... It’s been amazing.”



Freshman Starter Kits



A student speaks with Mickey Sanchez (right).

FOR THE RECORD

Pony Express Bible

The famous Pony Express lasted less than two years, from April 1860 to October 1861. Still, the romance surrounding the overland mail route on the western frontier from St. Joseph, Mo., to Sacramento, Calif., has lasted more than a century.

Pony Express riders, celebrated for their spirit of adventure in Western novels and Hollywood films, also were required to carry a Bible everywhere they traveled. The Bibles were given by the American Bible Society to the Central Overland California and Pike’s Peak Express Company, the company which ran the Pony Express for the federal government.

The Pony Express, upon its founding, received 300 Bibles for distribution among its riders. Character was a concern of the company. Riders were expected to take an oath in which they promised to abstain from profane language and alcohol while on duty. They also promised to “conduct myself honestly, be faithful to my duties, and so direct all my acts as to win the confidence of my employers.”

ABS’ association with the Pony Express remained well after the service disbanded when telegraph lines were completed across the continent.

In 1938, G. W. Wickland of the Wells Fargo Bank & Union Trust Company in San Francisco presented ABS with one of the actual Bibles used by Pony Express riders. The Bible, kept in the ABS library in New York today, is one of only 10 such Bibles still in existence.

ABS Gallery Donor

Donald Samick, the president of J&R Lamb Studios in Philmont, N.Y., the oldest stained glass and church arts studio in the U.S., recently donated more than 50 books to the Gallery at the American Bible Society. The books focus on Judeo-Christian art, iconography, stained glass, and also include Biblical commentaries and encyclopedias.

Mr. Samick was inspired to make the contribution after attending the gallery’s stained glass exhibition last year.

The donation provides the beginning of a gallery library which ABS hopes to add to in the future, noted Dr. Ena Heller, gallery director.

Planning for Tomorrow



The American Bible Society has been reaching the world with Scriptures for almost 184 years. One reason that ABS has been able to fulfill its mission is sound financial planning. Similarly, it has taken you years to build your estate into what it is today. To ensure that you and your family will continue to benefit from your hard-earned financial success, it is important to plan wisely for tomorrow. An ABS Gift Annuity can help you prepare for a secure future.

By establishing a gift annuity through the American Bible Society, you and your beneficiaries can enjoy financial advantages, such as an assured income for life and an immediate income tax deduction. In addition, you will enjoy the satisfaction of knowing you have helped continue the distribution of God's Word, both here at home and around the world.

ABS has created an informative brochure which explains the benefits you can expect from an ABS Gift Annuity. For your FREE copy simply complete and return the coupon below, or call us at 1-800-820-6227. We will be happy to assist you.

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**Emma Moore
Weston**

Seeing the Hand of God in Personal Change

At 96 years of age, Emma Moore Weston, an American Bible Society annuitant, has long known that change can be her friend. She doesn't believe in a facile change for change's sake. Rather, in the events that have transformed her life, she is quick to see the hand of God calling her to new things.

Last year, she began writing poetry for the first time and had some published in a book titled *Path of Gold*. The title refers to the look of the sun setting over water. She writes, "there is a path of gold that comes from the sun to you." That image, she says, is much "like the love of God" which, she believes, pours over everyone.

Rolling with changes and seeing the hand of God in them is something Mrs. Weston has done throughout her life.

When she was 60, she wrote her first article for publication about her experiences flying with her pilot husband, who she lived with on a Nevada ranch. That began a new chapter in her life as a writer and editor.

In 1985, the then 82-year-old widow moved from a retirement home in Oregon to San Francisco to assist her former pastor, the Rev. Charles Gilbert Weston, pull together his notes on the Bible. She began to learn computer typesetting. Within a few years, she had married Mr. Weston and, after his death, she continued work on what had become their joint project. In 1993, the *Weston Study Bible* was published.

She was not content to sit on her literary laurels. Two years later, she published *The Patched Coat Story, A Pattern for Christian Living*, offering her thoughts on 90 years of reflections on the Gospel. In 1997, she pulled together notes for her deceased husband's book on theologian C.I. Scofield and had them published.

Changes keep coming in her life, even at her

advanced age.

This year, Mrs. Weston is moving from her home in Turner, Ore., all the way across the country to Ossining, N.Y., where she will live close to her granddaughter who runs a Bible ministry in the New York area.

When she spoke with the *Record* this fall, she had never even been to Ossining, located about 25 miles north of New York City in suburban Westchester County. But, as it has always been in her life, she trusts that God has great things in store for her.

She senses how much of her long life has been blessed by seemingly tragic events which God has allowed good to come out of.

That was true from the very beginning. She was born in Missouri, but her father found work as a carpenter rebuilding San Francisco after the 1906 earthquake. After he returned to Missouri, he spotted snow on the ground, and then became convinced the family needed to permanently move to the sunny West Coast. They settled in Orange, Calif., where Mrs. Weston studied piano and performed in her church choir at the tender age of 8.

Mrs. Weston's favorite Scripture passage, not surprisingly, is Romans 8:28: "All things work for the good of everyone who loves God."

She sees that passage in the context of a simple household metaphor. "Vanilla is bitter alone," she says, adding, "but it works in the cake."

She sees her own contributions to the ABS cause as part of what God has in store for her. Her annuity investment, she says, is a "fine and safe one" excellent for older people, like herself, who don't have surviving children (a daughter pre-deceased her). It will also, more importantly, "help the Lord" while providing her with a regular income to navigate the changes which, she is sure, God has in store. ■

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820-6227.**

■ **JUBILEE PROPOSED ON DEBT**

Irish rock star Bono has become a leader of the worldwide movement to mark the millennium by forgiving the international debt of the world's poorest countries. The *Jubilee 2000 Coalition* has earned the support of Pope John Paul II and other international Christian leaders.

It takes its inspiration from the Biblical Hebrew custom of jubilee, a time, every 50 years, when debts were forgiven and the poor were given a chance to start anew. (Leviticus 25.10).

Writing in the *London Sun*, Bono noted, "We have the opportunity to give a fresh start to one billion people. On New Year's Eve we want the world's banks to drop the debt that is owed to them by the poorest of the poor. Millennium night shouldn't only be about champagne and fireworks. We can make a difference."

■ **BEST-SELLER CHARTS CONVERSION**

Writer Anne Lamott has described her conversion to Christianity in her best-selling book, *Tender Mercies*. "Lamott claims she doesn't tackle theological doctrine in her work, although Abraham, Isaac, and Elijah all make appearances," notes writer Kimberly Burge in *Sojourners Magazine*.

The reflections in *Tender Mercies* focus on such disparate subjects as Ms. Lamott's struggles with her fatty thighs, thoughts on the impact of her parents' troubled marriage on her life, how she dealt with the death of her best friend and her own struggles raising a child as a single mother. The subjects are dealt with in a sometimes barbed, always witty, style.

"If Jesus doesn't have a great sense of humor, we're doomed," Ms. Lamott says in the *Sojourners* interview.

■ **BIBLICAL HOLE-IN-ONE**

The Lexington, Ky., Ice and Recreation Center is not your typical miniature golf course.

Duffers who roam through the 54-hole course do more than practice their putting. They

are offered a lesson in the Bible as well, reports Todd Van Campen of Knight-Ridder Newspapers, in an article published in the *Fort-Worth (Texas) Star Telegram*.

The course has 18 holes inspired by the New Testament, 18 inspired by the Old Testament, and another 18 based on biblical miracles.

A brochure describes each hole and its Scriptural significance. The holes include Mount Sinai, four feet of "mountain" surrounded by artificial turf, the most difficult shot on the course.

Other holes are devoted to the Genesis creation account, Noah's Ark, Jacob's ladder, the plagues of Egypt, Jericho, Bethlehem, the Red Sea, and the lion's den.

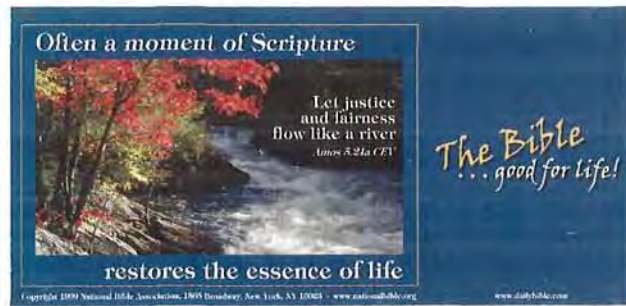
The course is the brainchild of co-owner Tom Christopher. "We don't want to be pushy to anyone. The idea is to have a creative, positive experience," he says. Despite obstacles—including a tornado which ripped the roof off the center—Mr. Christopher's business has been profitable.

■ **BIBLE NAMED A TOP STORY**

Among the top ten religion stories of the millennium, as picked by the Indianapolis-based Lilly Foundation and public television's *Religion and Ethics Newsweekly*, is the printing of the first Gutenberg Bible in 1455, which paved the way for mass production of the Scriptures.

The other top stories were: the 1054 schism dividing Christianity into Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches; the Crusades; the Muslim expansion; Church patronage of the arts; the Protestant Reformation; the impact of colonialism on Christianity; the settling of the English Puritans in Massachusetts; the ideas of 19th-century thinkers, including Darwin, Marx, and Freud; and ongoing anti-Semitism, culminating in the Holocaust and the founding of Israel. ■■

The National Bible Association expanded its advertising to 10,000 billboards this year. Money from ABS and other contributors covered costs for printing and shipment of the billboard posters.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

■ **TURKEY**

The Bible Society in Turkey has joined in efforts to rehabilitate the country after the disastrous August earthquake which killed tens of thousands there.

To assist those in the rebuilding effort, the Society has distributed 100,000 Scripture selections consoling those in difficult circumstances. The staff at the Bible Society in Turkey all survived the quake. Ameniël Bagdas, president of the Society, was appointed coordinator of an ecumenical Christian committee formed to assist those needing assistance in the largely Muslim country.

"I have been 27 years in Istanbul. This is the worst earthquake that has taken place in Turkey," Mr. Bagdas reported.

■ **COLOMBIA**

A robbery at the Colombian Bible Society headquarters in Bogota was a setback for Bible

distribution efforts there, according to Alfonso Corzo, general secretary for the Society. Thieves took off with a large quantity of Bibles, a fax machine, \$600 in cash, telephones and a binding machine, a total of \$100,000 in equipment.

"With the economic problems we already have to face, this sort of event is an extra blow to the Bible Society," said Mr. Corzo.

The theft caused the Society to fall two weeks behind in its massive Scripture distribution effort, he said.

■ **CANADA**

The Canadian Bible Society reports that a Saskatchewan Human Rights tribunal has banned the use of the Bible in public schools there.

The decision was the result of an inquiry into complaints registered by the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission about the schools' policy of having the Lord's Prayer recited and the Bible read in classrooms. It is one of the few areas left in Canada where the Bible is regularly read and prayers are said in public school.

The ban was criticized by the Rev. Greg Bailey, national director of the Canadian Bible Society.

"Not being exposed to the teachings of the Bible could have irreparable consequences among our youth," he said, citing similar concerns expressed about young people in U.S. public schools.

A letter from the Canadian Bible Society offices to Canadian church leaders urged them to contact government officials to protest the ban.

■ **SPAIN**

The Bible Society of Spain has been accused by a human rights association based in Andalusia of violating the freedom of worship of prisoners.

The human rights group criticized the Bible

Children pause to pray during a lesson to learn their own tribal language, held after a church service in Myanmar. Photo by Irene Voysey, Bible Society in Australia.



Society for distributing 20,000 New Testaments to the nation's prisoners, arguing that such actions represented coercion foisted upon those being held in jails. The Bible Society of Spain rejected the criticism.

"No prisoner has been compelled to read the Scriptures. ... The distribution of the Holy Scriptures is something that has been tried out for many years among prisoners in many countries with very positive results. Prisoners have regained their dignity and been able to rebuild their lives," responded Lola Calvo, information officer for the Bible Society of Spain.

■ **A U S T R A L I A**

The Bible Society in Australia has published the first significant piece of literature ever produced in Auslan, the language of the Australian deaf. The Bible Society has produced two video presentations of the Old Testament books of Jonah and Ruth.

Auslan has its own unique grammar, with verbs, nouns, sentences, and signs which correspond to sounds in the language of the hearing. Although English is the main language of the deaf, the majority prefer Ausland, which is easier for the deaf to understand.

Another 30 books of the Bible, including Psalms and Proverbs, are planned for future projects.

■ **N E P A L**

The Nepal Bible Society has launched the first-ever locally printed Nepali Bible.

The printing of Bibles in Nepal was previously undertaken by the UBS Asia-Pacific Regional Service Center. The ability to print Bibles and other Scripture materials within the country will mean that the Nepal Bible Society will be able to serve the Nepali-speaking world more

effectively, according to Nabin Sunuwar, executive secretary.

The new Scripture printing was celebrated at an ecumenical Christian service held in Kathmandu last summer.

■ **S W A Z I L A N D**

George Mashwama, the executive secretary of the Bible Society in Swaziland, was found shot to death Aug. 26.

Mr. Mashwama, a man in his 40s, held the leadership post for the Bible Society only for the past year. He was returning from Johannesburg with a consignment of Bibles when he was ambushed soon after entering Swaziland. The motive for the killing apparently was car theft.

He is survived by his wife, Clementine Phindili, and two daughters. 📖




**VISITS TO THE
 ABS WEB SITE
 PER MONTH**

DECEMBER 1998
20,868

MARCH 1999
34,494

AUGUST 1999
49,061

A young man reads a Portuguese New Reader Portion of the story of Noah at the Center for the Education of Children in Luanda, Angola. Photo by Maurice Harvey, United Bible Societies.

NATIONAL NEWS

■ NEW YORK

American Bible Society headquarters in Manhattan was host to a September conference which brought together foundation officials and African-American Church leaders to discover how the Black Church in the U.S. can better address social issues such as poverty, illiteracy, and AIDS.

The conference was titled "Tinting the Lens: Grant Making in the Black Community."

New Formations, a group of grant makers, non-profit managers, and religious leaders, teamed with ABS in organizing the meeting.

The Rev. Robert Franklin, president of the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, urged ABS to play its role in promoting reading and the acquiring of "moral literacy" among the young. That means, he says, "ensuring that young people have some awareness of the narratives, the proverbs, the texts, and the exemplary lives that make for the good life."

■ TEXAS

Bible portions were distributed to grieving friends and relatives at a memorial service Sept. 19 for the seven victims of the massacre which occurred at Wedgwood Baptist Church in Fort Worth on Sept. 15.

The special delivery of 800 copies of a Portion titled *Families Under Stress* was organized by the Houston office of the American Bible Society.

The Portion contains some 50 pages

of passages from parts of the Bible offering consolation to families experiencing difficulties.

The Portions were distributed at a community-wide memorial service held at the Amon Carter Stadium on the campus of Fort Worth's Texas Christian University.

The victims had all been attending a youth prayer rally Sept. 15 at Wedgwood when gunman Jack Ashbrook walked in and opened fire. Five of those killed or wounded were Bible students, either current students or graduates of Fort Worth's Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, the largest in the world.

The service was both a memorial for the dead and a celebration of faith as students and staff of the Seminary packed the 1,600-seat auditorium. Students and faculty members sobbed, hugged each other, applauded, sang, prayed, and even cheered throughout the service as emotions and reactions of the victims were shared.

■ NEW YORK

The American Bible Society is attempting to curtail millennial anxieties through the publication of *Y2K: Hope for the New Millennium*, a new Scripture publication containing the New Testament with Psalms and Proverbs.

"The Scriptures were written to teach and encourage us by giving us hope," said Eugene B. Haebeker, president of the American Bible Society.

Introductory material for the new book attempts to reassure readers troubled by the potential impact of the Year 2000 on technology and the threat of social disorder raised by some commentators.

More information on *Y2K: Hope for the New Millennium* can be obtained by calling 1-800-32-BIBLE or by contacting our website at www.americanbible.org.

The Rev. Robert Franklin, left, speaks with the Rev. Gary Simpson, center, and ABS vice president Trevón Gross during a break at a conference on promoting social ministry in the African-American Church. (Photo by Thomas D. Sullivan)





Ugandan Blind Beggar Sees Through the Scriptures

George Tinkamayire of Kampala, Uganda, knows more than a little bit what the Biblical figure Job experienced. His life has been far from easy.

He has been blind for the past six years and has been crippled since birth. Tragedy has struck those around him. He is the father of seven, but he lost four children to the ravages of measles and his wife died as the result of a snakebite.

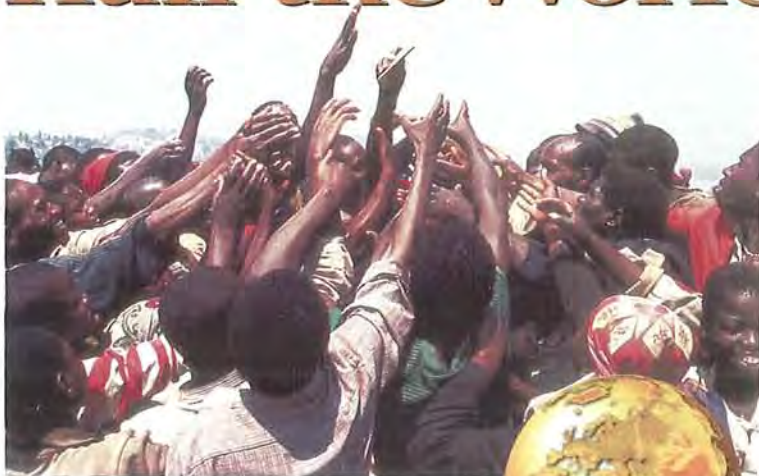
But those tragedies have had no apparent impact on his cheerful countenance. George is known on the streets of Kampala for the radiant smile on his face. He has been a Christian for the past 15 years and, while some know him as a beggar, he begs to differ. He never begs, he says. He simply waits for God to prompt people to give.

"It is Jesus who feeds me on the street," he says. When people give him food, George will recite a Bible verse as payment. When Joseph Sauli of the Bible Society of Uganda brought him a Braille New Testament, George was very excited. But there was one thing wrong. George had to concede that he was unable to read Braille. His beloved Scriptures would remain inaccessible.

Joseph arranged for someone to teach him through the Bible Society. That is not unusual: the Bible Society in Uganda routinely distributes Scripture in a variety of tribal languages. Braille is one of many languages of the Scriptures. Thanks to the Bible Society, George now has access to the Bible. 📖

Your December gift will bring Bibles to people in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and a January gift will provide Scriptures for Israel, the West Bank, and Italy. To find out more about joining the Bible-a-Month Club, fill out the reply form below, or write: American Bible Society Bible-a-Month Club 1865 Broadway New York, NY 10023-7505

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PLEASE PRAY

For the readers of the Record—May our readers find inspiration in the heroic figures of Scripture. [See pages 12, 13, and 14.]

African American Christians—Pray that the *Jubilee* Bible produced by the American Bible Society may inspire African American Christians seeking renewed faith and a greater appreciation of their cultural heritage. [See cover story.]

Youth—May God grant courage to those young people seeking solutions to violence. [See pages 10 and 11.]

ABS Volunteers—Pray that more people will be inspired by the example of the “Biking Grannies” to dedicate their time to spreading God’s word. [See pages 16 and 17.]

ABS Trustees—May God grant the leadership of the American Bible Society wisdom as our trustees plan the future of our Scripture distribution efforts. [See page 5.]

College students—That God may assist young people to grow in mind and spirit through the efforts of campus ministers and Scripture distribution efforts. [See page 18.]

Journalists—Pray that the news media will spotlight how the Word of God continues to make an impact on the world. [See page 21.]

Y2K fears—May those who fear the onset of the new millennium be comforted by the words of Scripture. [See page 24.] ■

JANUARY 2000

A Fresh Beginning by Following Jesus

1 Mark 1.1-15

SUNDAY

2 Mark 1.16-28

3 Mark 1.29-45

4 Mark 2.1-17

5 Mark 2.18-28

EPHRAIM

6 Matthew 2.1-15

7 Mark 3.1-12

8 Mark 3.13-45

SUNDAY

9 Mark 4.1-20

10 Mark 4.21-34

11 Mark 4.35-41

12 Mark 5.1-20

13 Mark 5.21-43

14 Mark 6.1-13

15 Mark 6.14-29

SUNDAY

16 Mark 6.30-44

17 Mark 6.45-56

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY BEGINS

18 Mark 8.22-30

19 Mark 8.31—9.1

20 Mark 9.2-13

21 Mark 9.14-32

22 Mark 9.33-50

CHRISTIAN UNITY

SUNDAY

23 John 17.1-26

24 John 14.1-14

25 Acts 9.1-25

26 Acts 9.26-43

27 Acts 10.1-16

28 Acts 10.17-33

29 Acts 10.34-48

SUNDAY

30 John 21.1-14

31 John 21.15-25

FEBRUARY 2000

A Fresh Beginning by Living in the Light

1 John 8.12-20

2 1 John 1.1-10

3 1 John 2.1-17

4 1 John 2.18-29

5 1 John 3.1-10

SUNDAY

6 Ephesians 1.1-14

7 Ephesians

1.15-22

8 Ephesians 2.1-10

9 Ephesians

2.11-22

10 Ephesians 3.1-13

11 Ephesians

3.14-21

12 Ephesians 4.1-16

SUNDAY

13 Ephesians

4.17—5.2

14 Ephesians 5.3-20

15 Ephesians

5.21—6.4

16 Colossians

1.1-14

17 Colossians

1.15-23

18 Colossians

1.24—2.5

19 Colossians

2.6-23

SUNDAY

20 Colossians

3.1-17

21 Colossians

3.18—4.1

22 Colossians

4.2-18

23 Titus 1.1-16

24 Titus 2.1-15

25 Titus 3.1-15

26 1 Peter 1.1-12

SUNDAY

27 1 Peter 1.13-25

28 1 Peter 2.1-10

29 Matthew 5.1-16

THE OCTAVE FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY IS JANUARY 18-25, 2000.

I N M E M O R I A M

M E M O R I A L I Z E A L O V E D O N E B Y H E L P I N G T O P R O V I D E
B I B L E S T O P E O P L E W H O D O N ' T Y E T H A V E O N E

MARGARET BEST
Given by: Mrs. Thelma R. Hood

MR. CARROLL BERNER
Given by: Mr. & Mrs. John Strom

MY MOTHER,
HAZEL I. BISCHOFF
MY WIFE,
VIOLET D. BISCHOFF
Given by: Mr. Robert W. Bischoff

OUR BROTHER,
JOSEPH W. BRINSON
*Given by: Pastor I. L. & Mrs.
Betty B. Williams*

HARVEY TAYLOR BONSER
*Given by: Mr. & Mrs. C. W.
Spencer*

KATHERINE C. BROOKS
*Given by: Michele, Larry, Killian
& Keenan Brooks*

OUR BELOVED AUNT,
MABEL C. CARSON
*Given by: The Estate of Mabel C.
Carson*

CLYDE OWEN CARTER
Given by: Mrs. Etta Mae Carter

LEON D. DAILEY
AND
HOWARD W. LUTHER
*Given by: Mrs. Rebecca Louise
Dailey*

MY PARENTS,
JEAN AND JOSEPH DAWSON
Given by: Miss Betty C. Dawson

RAGNHILD DEGERNESS
Given by: Mr. Alvin Degerness

MY SISTER,
SUSAN B. DEMARCILLAC
Given by: Mrs. Alta B. Woodard

COL. HERBERT H. DONEGHY
*Given by: Richard C. & Mabel
Leyda*

MARTIN AND THELMA
DULANSEY
Given by: Mrs. Gloria Croft

MY FATHER,
MELVIN DUNN
Given by: Mr. Alan A. Zurauski

DAVID ELSER
*Given by: Gordon & Marian
Mackensen*

MY SISTER,
MARTHA FLECK
Given by: Mrs. Frona Davis

ROSE FRASHELLA
*Given by: George & Delores
Frenzel*

MY HUSBAND,
JAMES FREED
Given by: Mrs. Betty Freed

MY BROTHERS,
PAUL & CARL GALLMEIER
Given by: Miss Ruth Gallmeier

CHAPLAIN LUTHER F.
GERHART & HIS WIFE
DOROTHY PURSELL GERHART
*Given by: Mr. & Mrs. Norman L.
Gerhart*

MR. & MRS. HAROLD GEYER
*Given by: The Rev. & Mrs.
Howard H. Schaar*

THE REV. WALTER L. GIENAPP
Given by: Miss Karen Soeken

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RODNEY F. AND CAROLYN A.
GLASCOCK
Given by: Patricia C. Glascock

ALYCE GUSTAFSON
*Given by: Mrs. Marie Thompson,
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Froistad,
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Sleeth,
and Mr. & Mrs. Charles DeWendt*

MY PARENTS,
WILLIAM & JESSIE HARRISON
Given by: Gene H. Hall

DOROTHY HEITMAN
*Given by: Ken & Virginia
Rosencrantz*

OUR SON,
MARVIN ROBERT
HEMMINGER
*Given by: Carl & Alice
Hemminger*

ELLEN BICE HINES
Given by: George & Sue Riddle

ELEANOR DIANE HULL
*Given by: Miss Myra Joan
Wright*

MATTHEW JOHNSON
*Given by: Mrs. Thelia N.
Williams*

MY WIFE,
VERNA JOHNSON
*Given by: Mr. Francis E.
Johnson, Sr.*

MY PARENTS,
MR. & MRS. W. O. KILGORE
*Given by: Mrs. Aileen Kilgore
Henderson*

EINAR LANDT AND
VIOLA LANDT
Given by: Myrna Chatelle

MY MOTHER,
MARITA NYE LARKIN
Given by: Mrs. Dale L. Brittle

MY PARENTS,
DR. LEROY W. LEE AND
DOROTHY R. LEE
Given by: Mrs. Marie L. Johnson

HELEN & JAMES MCCANN
Given by: Ms. Nicole Fitzgerald

MY MOTHER,
MARY HUNT MCDOWELL
Given by: Mary Faye McDowell

MY SISTER,
BONITA COOK MCGEE
Given by: Miss Rosa Lee Cook

MY HUSBAND,
DR. G. D. MILLER
Given by: Mrs. Frances M. Miller

MY PARENTS,
HUGH & ANNETTE MILLER
MY HUSBAND,
HUBERT W. AUSTIN
Given by: Ms. Elsie Jean Austin

OPAL DINE MORELINI
Given by: Ms. Barbara J. Morgan

BEATRICE "BEBE" NELSON
Given by: Lisa K. Pals

RICHARD NYBRO
*Given by: Sheldon & Renee
Hermanson*

MY HUSBAND,
WEBSTER ("WEB") PENN
Given by: Mrs. Margaret B. Penn

WAYNE W. PETERSON
*Given by: Juanita, Grace & Joel
Peterson, Family & Friends*

MY DAUGHTER,
DONNA K. (MCELWAIN)
REEBY
*Given by: Mr. Sharp M.
McElwain*

ALICE SCHNOOR
Given by: Mrs. Evelyn F. Bos

NANNIE SCHUMANN
Given by: Mrs. Hazel Wheeldon

MRS. VARENA B. SEALE
*Given by: Mr. & Mrs. Claude H.
Richey*

REV. WESLEY EVANS SMITH
*Given by: Dr. & Mrs. George
Reul*

MAXWELL SMITH
Given by: Lynn & Patti Blystone

MY BROTHER,
CLAYTON D. SPRIGGS
Given by: Mr. Whanell Spriggs

MRS. E. TJEERDSMA
Given by: Mr. Anthony Admiraal

RUSTY WILLIAMS
Given by: Miss Sharon K. Bailey

DR. GEORGE R. YAKE
*Given by: E. David and Adelaide
P. Jones*

CARL
Given by: Eunice L. Skupski

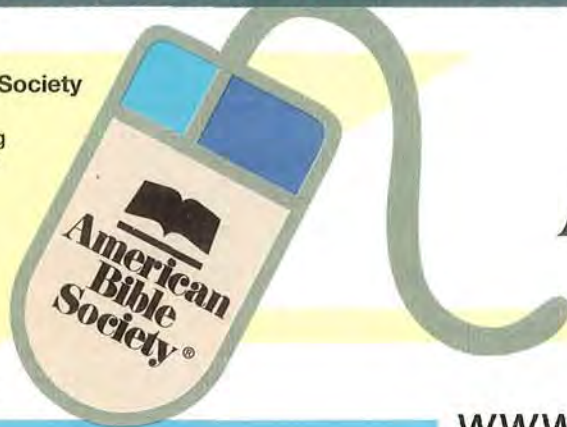
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