

 AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

# RECORD

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2005

**TSUNAMI  
RELIEF**

*page 3*

**APPLYING  
A PROVEN  
PRESCRIPTION**

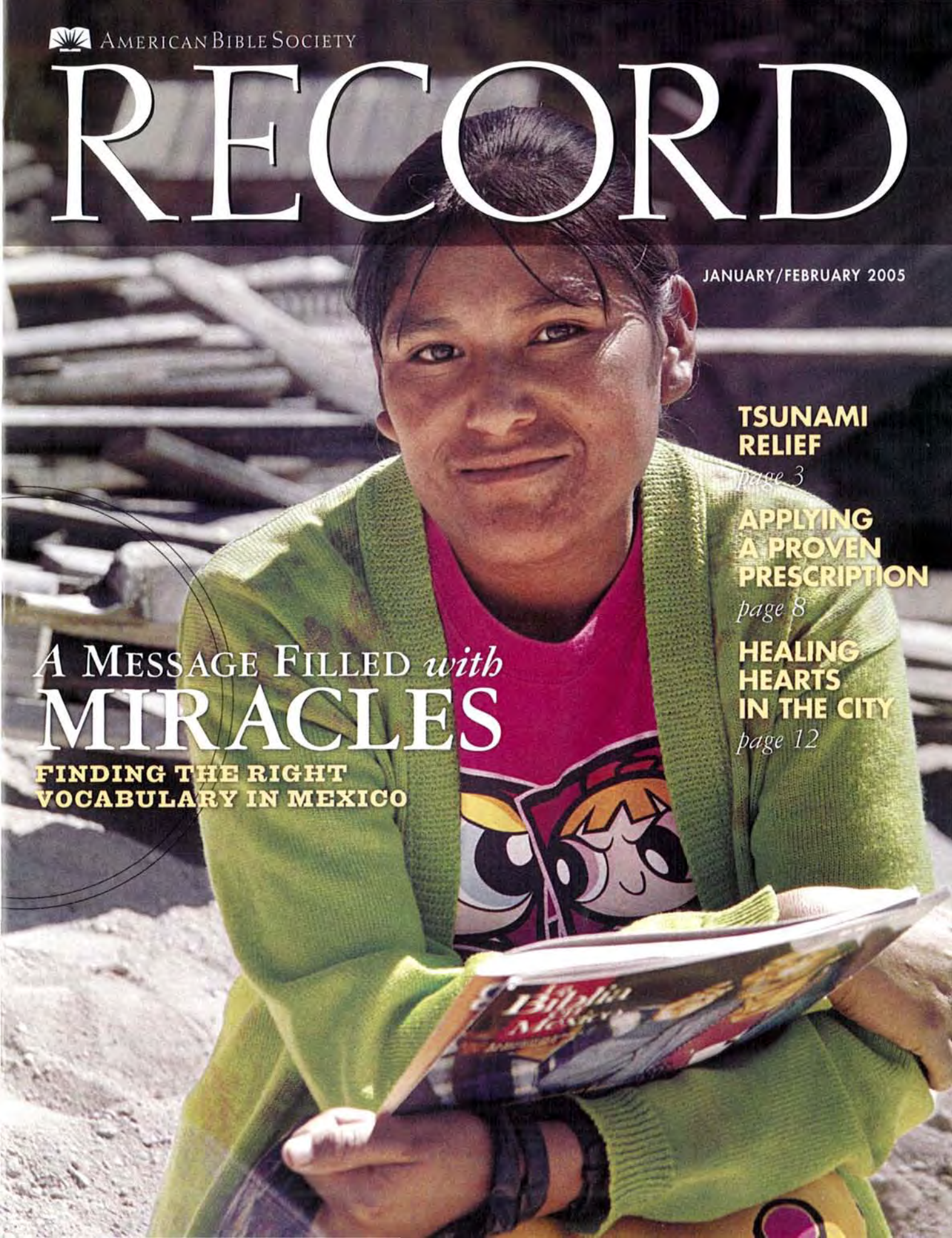
*page 8*

**HEALING  
HEARTS  
IN THE CITY**

*page 12*

A MESSAGE FILLED *with*  
**MIRACLES**

**FINDING THE RIGHT  
VOCABULARY IN MEXICO**



Publisher and President  
Eugene B. Habecker

Chairman of the Board  
R. Lamar Vest

Vice President, Development  
Robert L. Briggs

Vice President, Bibles.com  
John Cruz

Interim Vice President, Domestic Ministries  
Emilio A. Reyes

Vice President, Corporate Services & CFO  
Richard B. Stewart

Chief Communications Officer  
Denise London

Director, Publications & Executive Editor  
David Singer

Managing Editor  
Francine Lange

Staff Writer  
Liz Smith

Design and Production  
Journey Group, Inc.

e-mail  
absrecord@americanbible.org

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Mightier Than Words

*What has been done before will be done again. There is nothing new in the whole world.* Ecclesiastes 1.9b (GNT)

**B**ible translation is a sacred and demanding art form — a quest for the words and expressions, in any given language, which faithfully convey the Living Word. Then there is the challenge to present God's Word in ways that it will speak to the heart — that people will see how the Bible addresses their deepest longings. In this issue of the *Record*, we describe two very different situations requiring similar sensitivities in presenting the Scriptures.

Bible translation among an indigenous people in the remote regions of northern Mexico (page 5) was first undertaken in the 1930s, but until very recently, the Tarahumara did not seem to easily connect with any of them. Early attempts may have gotten the words right, but did not take into account how the Tarahumara talked about values or morality.

Now, an audio translation of stories from the Gospel of Luke seems to have made this heart connection.

The Tarahumara, rather than speaking about important life issues in a straightforward or direct manner, tell stories, much like Jesus used parables. It was sensitivity to this style of communication that enabled the Bible Society of Mexico to achieve a presentation of the Scriptures that carried the appropriate weight and tone to make God's truth accessible to the Tarahumara people.

In so many ways urban America seems far removed from the remoteness of this indigenous people. But to gain a hearing for God's Word among young people in big-city U.S.A. requires the same cultural sensitivity. Our report about *4 the Streets* magazine (page 12) and other *Elementz of Life* initiatives tells how we draw alongside gangland teens and relate the Scriptures to their struggles and hurts.

Today's media generation, rather than learning in linear fashion, tunes into a kaleidoscope of uncertainty and experience, labeled postmodernism. To help make a heart connection with these youth, we develop Scripture-based materials that accommodate postmodern tastes.

The author of Hebrews anticipated these apparent contradictions: "To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see." (Hebrews 11.1 GNT)

With each new generation, the challenge remains the same: to adjust the presentation in a way that it addresses people's felt needs. But the message never changes.

We're retooling our witness for Christ and keeping our advocacy for the Scriptures relevant, always being certain of the source.



*Eugene B. Habecker*

The mission of the American Bible Society is to make the Bible available to every person in a language and format each can understand and afford. The Society is a member of the United Bible Societies, a partnership of Bible societies throughout the world cooperating to make Scriptures available to people everywhere in their own language.

Published continually since 1818, the *American Bible Society Record* is the official periodical of the American Bible Society and the second oldest publication in the United States. It is published six times per year, and is sent to as many of our supporters as budget allows, including anyone contributing \$20 or more in a year to the Society. Postage is paid at New York, N.Y., and additional mailing offices. Other publications are encouraged to reprint the text of any *Record* articles, but prior written permission must be obtained from the *American Bible Society Record* to reproduce any images. Publications reprinting the text of *Record* articles must include a credit line. Please send a copy of the issue to the *Record* at 1865 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10023. (ISSN 0006-801)

# RECORD

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2005  
VOLUME 150, NUMBER 1

**ON THE COVER:**  
Mexico's  
Tarahumara  
people now hear  
Scripture in their  
own language  
on audiocassette.

(Photograph by  
David Singer)



## DEPARTMENTS

- 3 PLEASE PRAY**  
*Urgent requests for Southeast Asia*
- 11 BIBLE-A-MONTH CLUB**  
*A light for those in darkness*
- 15 PARTNERSHIP PROFILE**  
*Samaritan's Purse*
- 16 SETTING THE CAPTIVES FREE**  
*Story of an American Bible Society benefactor*
- 17 UPDATE**  
*National and International news*
- 18 QUIET TIME**  
*Daily Bible reading guide*
- 18 IN MEMORIAM**  
*Our loved ones remembered*

## FEATURES

**4**  
**A MESSAGE FILLED  
WITH MIRACLES**  
*Finding the right  
vocabulary in Mexico*

**8**  
**APPLYING A PROVEN  
PRESCRIPTION**  
*A biblical response  
to AIDS in Africa*

**12**  
**HEALING HEARTS  
IN THE CITY**  
*Scripture resources  
for urban youth*



BIBLE SOCIETY OF ZIMBABWE

Four-year-old Miracle Gumbo's father carries him to his handyman job every day in Zimbabwe because he has no one to care for him: Miracle's mother died from AIDS several months ago.


 EXPLORE OUR NEW WEB SITE AT  
[WWW.AMERICANBIBLE.ORG](http://WWW.AMERICANBIBLE.ORG)

## URGENT PRAYER FOR TSUNAMI VICTIMS

Please pray that resources would be forthcoming for the Bible Societies throughout Southeast Asia as they respond to the enormous spiritual and humanitarian needs generated by this tragedy.

- Pray for staff from national Bible Societies as they work with churches and aid agencies to help the millions of survivors.
- Pray for God's wisdom and guidance as the American Bible Society works with Bible Societies throughout the world to respond to the devastation and suffering left in the wake of this disaster.

- Pray that the aid rendered would open the hearts of many to the love of God and the hope and mercy provided in God's Word.
- Pray for the effective provision of food, medicine, shelter and sanitation, and especially clean water.
- Pray that donors will continue to give beyond the first outpouring of aid; experts estimate a cost of billions of dollars over many years to come.

 **YOU CAN HELP** — Our Global Hope Fund is receiving donations on behalf of these victims, to provide or



RAMON WILLIAMS/COURTESY OF YOUTH WITH A MISSION

replace Scriptures. For giving opportunities, go to our Web site at [Americanbible.org](http://Americanbible.org) and click on *Hope Fund: Tsunami Relief*, or use the coupon on the back cover of this issue. ■



A  
MESSAGE  
FILLED  
*with*



MIRACLES

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS  
BY  
DAVID SINGER

Jesuit missionaries arrived some 300 years ago but chose not to interfere with the traditional customs of Mexico's Tarahumara people. Retaining their Raramuri language and culture kept them isolated and politically marginalized. One custom in particular prevented progress.

Drinking Tezhuino, a locally produced liquor, was a social expectation. The Tarahumara devoted nearly half of each year to its manufacture and consumption, bringing with it poverty and dependence. These native people became landless nomads — foreigners in their own country. Relegated to the north-central mountains of rural Mexico, some still lived in caves much as their ancestors had.

Then, in 1980, an unlikely reformer arrived. Alfredo Guerrero had begun seminary at age 16. A premonition that God would use Alfredo led the director of the seminary, the Rev. Version Perkins, to be patient, allowing Alfredo to return

**Clockwise, from top left: Fiala came to faith through the prayers of Pastor Francisco Reyes, standing, left, with Pastor Alfredo Guerrero. Below: Francisco's mother with her adopted son at the translation celebration.**

to the school following each of four expulsions.

After graduation, Alfredo returned to Monterrey, Mexico, and his old ways. For six years, he led what he calls a "godless life," dealing and using drugs. Still, Rev.

Perkins chased him down and invited him back to church. There, Alfredo finally met God. He told the pastor, "I feel a fire inside; I feel called by God to talk to people about Jesus." The pastor sent him to Chihuahua to be disciplined by Atta May Dixon, who Alfredo describes as tough, with daily study beginning at 6:30 in the morning and lasting until 7 or 9 in the evening. "She taught with the Word and with her life; she taught me how to pray." Then a consortium of mission groups (Alliance Mission Union of the North of Mexico) sent Alfredo — who had by then been ordained by the Methodist church — to witness to the Tarahumara people.

#### ON-THE-JOB TRAINING

With his ready smile, he recalls, "A local shaman [witch doctor] unexpectedly offered me some land for a house because he said the Tarahumara people needed to hear the gospel."

**FINDING THE RIGHT VOCABULARY IN MEXICO**



## *Alfredo had spent three years learning the Tarahumara*

But with his wife Julia pregnant Alfredo hesitated. “A week later I heard God telling me this was the thing to do. We moved into a house only two by three meters. We brought water by mule in canvas bags and held worship [services] under the trees for the next three years.”

With his wife and four daughters he chose the hardship of living among the Tarahumara, without sanitation or electricity. He provided the locals with handouts they came to depend on — food and clothes, and the gospel. They, in turn, told Alfredo they’d never heard such an amazing story. But after three years of preaching and teaching, no one had made a decision to follow Christ.

One Sunday morning, in desperation and ready to quit, Alfredo gave an altar call. No one responded. But a few days later, one of the men stopped by to talk. He told Alfredo, “Our problem is that you never tell us the end of the story.” He said that there were two things the “Chabodi” (non-Indian white man) didn’t understand. First, when instructing their children, fathers tell stories; they are never direct. Within the tribe, only respected elders can be tellers of stories. Even though he had the greatest story to tell, Alfredo had been teaching, not storytelling. Second, all his generosity had made him suspect; with these people, credibility always requires an equitable exchange. The white father didn’t tell stories and never asked; he only gave. Only when he spoke

**Pastor Francisco Reyes and his wife, Maria Elena Valenzula, enjoy a more dedicated marriage since turning to Jesus. Maria says, “I have a happy heart now that I am free from sin.”**



**Efrain Amaro from the Bible Society of Mexico served as project manager for the new audio translation and was overjoyed to deliver gospel tapes and activity books to the Tarahumara people.**

to them as an elder brother, telling stories and asking for something in exchange for his handouts, would they trust Alfredo’s admonitions to change — to live in a way that Jesus would never reject them.

Alfredo had spent three years learning the Tarahumara language without ever learning how to communicate. He considers the day of that heart-to-heart talk his graduation day — the day he was finally accepted as an elder brother, transforming his preaching and teaching to telling stories of what Jesus asks. It also prepared him to help guide a new joint translation project sponsored by the Bible Society of Mexico and the Assemblies of God Church.



### TRANSLATING TRUST

Alfredo finally understood why the Tarahumara had failed to respond to previous Scripture translations. True, most adults were not literate, but now Alfredo realized why even audio-taped Scriptures had not caught on. The Tarahumara were listening for morality stories told by a respected elder brother, much the way Jesus told parables. Unfortunately, Jesus’ parables were lost to these people when placed in the context of the gospel narratives.

Efrain Amaro, from the Bible Society of Mexico, was chosen to “father” a new translation. For four years, he and Alfredo spent many hours thinking and working through how to present the gospel message in a way that the Tarahumara would hear it. The challenge was not just a matter of getting the words right, but adjusting the presentation to accommodate the way these people were accustomed to receiving their life-instruction.

Efrain and Alfredo chose to translate stories from the Gospel of Luke, the gospel many of the Tarahumara would know from seeing the *JESUS* film, into audiocassettes. They consulted the many different Raramuri language groups. (The translation process unified the many different dialects, helping to preserve the language.)

On March 19, 2004, the first of 20,000 tapes of the new Raramuri translation of stories from Luke were given at an outdoor celebration in Cusárare, Sierra de Chihuahua, Mexico. The Tarahumara could now hear Jesus’ words in their own language.

Again in October, Alfredo and Efrain traveled to another church in the little mountainside village of Napochise to celebrate the delivery of 5,000 more audiocassettes of stories from Luke’s Gospel. The Bible Society also brought 5,000 Scripture activity books for the next generation of Tarahumara, children being schooled in both their own language and Spanish.

It was a wonderful occasion. When Alfredo began his work 24 years ago, there was only one small Christian congregation of 15 in a population of Tarahumara estimated at 100,000. Today there are some 40 congregations ranging from 10 to 200 members each.

The cultural change has been dramatic. According to Alfredo, breaking free of their enslavement to alcohol has left the Tarahumara with time for building houses and for farming, providing money to buy tools for both.

And they have witnessed other miracles. Following the dedication service, a young mother shyly shared how she had come to faith. When Fiala’s son was very sick, the pastor prayed for him and he recovered. She says, “He received the miracle of healing and I received Jesus. I’ve been freed from sin to serve God.” She has shared her faith with her sister and husband and will use the new Scripture booklet to learn about Jesus’ life with her children.

Maria Elena Valenzuela says, “I was sick with tubercu-

## CALMING THE WIND



It would be a long six-hour drive back to Alfredo Guerrero’s church in Chihuahua, Mexico, where he was to preach early the next day. Although he enjoyed celebrating with the 100 or so Tarahumara people who had come to get their new Scripture tapes and children’s books, Alfredo wondered why he had come so far when he did not have the extra time to carve out from his busy schedule.

At the translation dedication service, when Alfredo’s turn to speak came, and he was introduced, a pastor in the audience recognized an important name from his past. Eighteen years earlier, while looking for free food, the pastor, then just a drifter, had dropped in on a showing of the *JESUS* film in Choquita, where Alfredo pastored. That day, strong winds caused the movie screen to flap wildly, preventing the showing of the film. The drifter remembered Alfredo saying a prayer for the winds to stop. And when the winds did stop, the drifter decided to follow the Jesus this miracle worker talked about.

Following the translation dedication, he sought out Alfredo to tell him how his prayer those many years earlier had caused him to give his life to Jesus. Alfredo says, “We had never met before. I then knew why I was supposed to come so far with so little time.” ■ —D.S.

losis. My sister, who lives in nearby Choquita, shared Jesus and prayed for me, and God healed me. A month later, when my husband saw that I was healed, he wanted what I had received.

“He used to drink a lot and sleep around. Many nights he wouldn’t come home at all. All that has changed — now we are a happy couple with a family.” (Her husband, a transformed man, pastors a church in Napochise.)

“Key to this translation,” says project director Efrain Amaro, “was the cooperation of many different groups. Now the work among these indigenous people can continue with the Scriptures they need in hand — people are more easily able to share Jesus Christ. We’ve learned that whether it’s a book or audiotape, it’s the message, not the format, that matters.” ■

# Applying

A

# Proven Presci



A Biblical Response  
to AIDS in Africa

BY JAMES WALKER



**A** doctor in Africa sits alone at his desk, head bowed, eyes closed, clenched hands pressed against his forehead in prayer. On his desk lie three AIDS patients' folders and a recent news release from the government.

Their medical histories are varied: "Charles," a homosexual and surgeon, was infected in a liaison with a patient. "Sally," a receptionist, supplements her meager income by working nights at an escort agency. "Nomsa," who's a widow and housekeeper, contracted AIDS through a tribal ritual.

The news release announces "a fantastic drug has been developed which can help a person with HIV live, on average, 8 to 10 years longer than by conventional treatment." But there's a catch. This treatment is only available for one person.

The doctor may choose only one for the treatment. Who would he choose?

Who would you choose?

Christo Greyling, the Church Relations Advisor for Africa with World Vision, presented this fictional scenario at the United Bible Societies HIV/AIDS Initiative Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa, last summer. The American Bible Society co-sponsored the conference.

He posed the question to participants from the national Bible Societies of Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe — eight countries with the highest percentage of AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa — as well as ministry partners that included Scripture Union, World Vision, Scripture Gift Mission,



MAURICE HARVEY/UBS

**Bottom left, Rwandan Christian workers, Immaculée Muhavye, left, and Valérie Nshiminyimane, center, join Konstanse Raen from Norway in praying for a dying AIDS sufferer. In Namibia, more than 47,000 children have lost parents to AIDS. The Bible Society in Namibia uses Scripture to help teach young mothers and fathers how to avoid contracting the disease.**

ription

Walk Thru the Bible and the International Bible Society.

Their responses, he pointed out, revealed a common attitude among Christians — compassion should only be extended to the innocent. Even churches tend to marginalize people infected with HIV/AIDS, “therefore, people are scared to disclose their status.”

## CONDITIONAL COMPASSION — NOT AN OPTION

According to the most recent UNAIDS (Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS) report, in six nations within Sub-Saharan Africa, the average child born today will not live to age 40. The region has just over 10 percent of the world’s population, but is home to more than 60 percent of all people living with HIV, some 25.4 million men, women and children. And that number is rising.

“We are experiencing the largest human catastrophe the world has ever known,” says Charlie Krueger, fund manager for the American Bible Society’s Global Ministries. “It’s taken down an entire generation of people [in Africa], and if that doesn’t break your heart, I don’t know what will.”

## Encouraging Stories From Africa

BY LIZ SMITH

Bible Societies in Africa bring God’s hope-filled message to people where AIDS, civil strife and poverty have brought on despair.

**ANGOLA** — The combination of 27 years of civil war, increased population mobility, 85 percent illiteracy and widespread poverty has hatched a virulent spread of HIV/AIDS. The Bible Society of Angola is currently distributing the *Living in Hope: Help From the Scriptures for Coping with HIV/AIDS* Scripture selection and hopes to produce an audiocassette version when funding becomes available.

**RWANDA** — Konstanse Raen of the Norwegian Bible Society runs a program in Rwanda to encourage outreach to those with the virus. Two HIV-positive women in the program, Valérie and Immaculée, travel to the poorest and most crime-ridden part of the city of Kigali, where they sit with the dying and share from the strength they find in God’s Word.

**SOUTH AFRICA** — Audiocassettes of the Scripture selection *Living in Hope* in Zulu, for the millions of people who cannot read, are proving an encouragement to the afflicted.

**ZIMBABWE** — The Bible Society of Zimbabwe, in collaboration with Torch Trust, developed a Braille version of *Living in Hope* in the Shona language. It was then produced on audiocassette with Trans World Radio in Shona and Ndebele. ■

## ALL SUFFER, ALL NEED COMFORT

Presenters at the conference emphasized the three-fold role of the Church: to openly minister to this marginalized group, their families, orphaned children, single parents, caregivers and counselors; to help change behavioral and cultural practices — polygamy, infidelity, wife inheriting, the inability of women to refuse sex from infected spouses — that cause the AIDS virus to spread; and to empower Christians and churches to minister to AIDS sufferers as Jesus would, no matter how the people contracted the disease.

The American Bible Society is now focusing on the eight African countries with the highest percentage of AIDS. Along with national Bible Societies of those countries and ministry partners, the American Bible Society plans to support the development of large scale, multi-year programs to provide Scripture resources to both educate and lessen the emotional pain and suffering of everyone involved.

## APPLYING BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES

“We want to empower our Bible Society colleagues to deliver country-based solutions that are not predicated on the medical community,” says Charlie Krueger. “Twenty years into this crisis, doctors are nowhere close to a cure. Why not try living by biblical principles [abstinence, fidelity to one partner, self-respect, compassion not judgment]?”

Linette Masiga, the HIV/AIDS coordinator based in Nairobi, Kenya, introduced *Take Charge!*, a Bible study program for youth on HIV/AIDS prevention. She told the delegates that “the book has one major message. If you choose to control your sexual desires and behave according to God’s will, the chances of getting AIDS are very small.” Another resource, *Living in Hope*, lists passages from the Bible affirming God’s acceptance and love. Adapted from an original American Bible Society text by the Bible Society of South Africa in 1999, it was one of the first Christian publications printed in Southern Africa to help people coping with HIV/AIDS. It is now available in more than 40 indigenous languages as well as on audiocassette and in Braille. Says one church leader, “It provides practical and spiritual information for those who are already *infected* and for those *affected* by the disease.”

*Where is the Good Samaritan Today?*, published in several African dialects, uses the story of the Good Samaritan and other passages from the Bible to help churches and Christians stand up and fight against HIV/AIDS.

Charlie says that this seemingly simple solution, “providing Scriptural tools that advocate living according to biblical principles and God’s Word,” can unleash a “godly epidemic” that will have a worldwide impact. ■

**H** To contribute to this ministry, visit us at [www.americانبible.org](http://www.americانبible.org), or you may send your check made out to: American Bible Society, 1865 Broadway, New York, NY 10023, and indicate “Global Ministries: Africa.”

# A Light for Those in Darkness



In Kampala, Uganda, Benon Ndaziboneye saw only darkness in his future. Being blind, he felt that his goals were unreachable. But hearing Psalm 113:7-8, which reads, "He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap," changed his outlook. "I thought that if God could lift somebody from those lowest levels to sit with princes, then he could do the same thing in my life."

Mr. Ndaziboneye began meeting with a fellowship group, where he learned more about the Bible. "I managed to get a lot of Scripture into my head," he said, "which helped me to get a positive picture of myself and what my life was to be." Today, he is a senior program officer for Uganda's Action on Disability and Development, working to improve opportunities for people with disabilities.

Having seen the immense impact that Scripture can have on a person, Mr. Ndaziboneye has been impressed with the Bible Society of Uganda, which produces Braille Scriptures for blind people.

In Uganda, many schools now integrate both blind and sighted children in the same classroom. Resources for the blind, however, remain in short supply. The Bible Society of Uganda has taken this disadvantage to heart, providing children's Bible stories in regular print and Braille. The Bible Society has supplied one Ugandan school with 20 sets of *New Reader* Scripture booklets in Braille for its library.

Your **February** gift will help support Bible work in Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda. Your **March** gift will provide Scriptures to Venezuela, Colombia, Chile, Peru, Suriname and Uruguay. To find out more about joining the Bible-a-Month Club, fill out the reply form below or write to:

American Bible Society  
Bible-a-Month Club  
1865 Broadway  
New York, NY  
10023-7505

 [www.americanbible.org](http://www.americanbible.org)

## JOIN THE CLUB! SHARE THE JOY!

As the church grows around the world, so does the need for Bibles. Many of the believers in China, and many more in Russia, do not have a Bible. In Africa the need is staggering. For as little as \$4 a month, the cost of giving one Bible, you can extend your witness to these nations. As a member of the Bible-a-Month Club, you will share God's Word with people who long to read the Scriptures in their own languages. Each month you'll receive stories and testimonies of the people who are benefiting from the

Bibles you provide. To join the Bible-a-Month Club, simply fill out the coupon. **Or call toll free 1-888-227-8262.**



*yes!* I want to join the Bible-a-Month Club. I will give \$ \_\_\_\_\_ a month to provide \_\_\_\_\_ Bibles at \$4 each.

My first Bible-a-Month Club gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed. **JF205REC**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

[BIBLE-A-MONTH@AMERICANBIBLE.ORG](mailto:BIBLE-A-MONTH@AMERICANBIBLE.ORG)

Mail this coupon along with your tax-deductible gift in the envelope provided in the Record. Or mail to:

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY  
BIBLE-A-MONTH CLUB  
1865 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK, NY 10023-7505





# HEALING HEARTS IN



WARREN F. JOHNSON

Kim and Sean Slaughter, second and third from left, run Slaughter Music, a Virginia-based ministry.



"Growing up, I hated the person I was, and most of all, I hated the person I thought I was going to become." These harrowing words come from Kim Slaughter, who wrote about her life of physical and mental abuse and despair for the second issue of the American Bible Society's *4 the Streets* magazine.

She recounts that at four months, one of her mother's boyfriends stubbed out cigarettes on her body "because he said I cried too much." At 11, she entered foster care, experiencing more cruelty in some homes. Her story is all too familiar to many, but she speaks out to encourage others caught in similar situations and lets them know that there's a way out.

"I found God through one foster parent that I was with for three weeks," Kim says. "I knew I had a purpose and a destiny; I just needed to find them both."

When you meet her today, you see a self-assured wife, mother, minister and entrepreneur. "We also own a recording studio and independent record company. God has not stopped blessing us!"

### MAKING SCRIPTURE CONNECT THROUGH INNOVATION

Kim's testimony is a sample of the articles that appear in the magazine. Others include an open letter and appeal for peace in the inner-city streets from a Cobra gang member in northwest Chicago (who was recently shot as he was leaving a church service), and a first-person account from a high school dropout who finished her GED and enrolled in college at 17.

The magazine springs from *Elementz of Life*, one of the initiatives from the Bible Society's Urban Youth Strategies department. *Elementz* presents the gospel message in the "language" of today's youth — the music, styles and art of hip-hop culture. A taskforce — of young Christian hip-

BY FRANCINE LANGE

# THE CITY

hop musicians, performers, youth ministers, artists and other urban youth — advises and works with *Elementz* Program Manager Liana Roa to develop materials geared to non-churched youth. A Christian hip-hop music CD and *4 the Streets* magazine have already garnered support from



Kim Slaughter, in foreground, with her daughter Lyric Nicole and husband Sean, says her life is an emotional “rags” to spiritual “riches” story.

inner-city youth, gangs and ministers (who use it as part of their curriculum).

Many kids living in inner-city settings take as their role models people they see “making it big” in their neighborhoods: gang members, drug dealers, prostitutes and strippers. A traditional Christian outreach may not be effective. But when they read *4 the Streets*, written by peers with similar backgrounds and experiences — young people sharing about their own sexual and physical abuse, domestic violence, alcoholism, AIDS, depression and gang life — they take notice. Articles provide hope and encouragement directly from Scripture in the Bible Society’s easy-to-understand *Contemporary English Version*.

## STRATEGIES FOR URBAN YOUTH MINISTRY

Another service helps those who work with urban young people. Strategic Initiatives Director David Ramos, along with Monique Rubio and Sherod Edmonds, introduced *Assessment, Consultation, Training and Support (ACTS)* to youth leaders, a curriculum that trains them to minister more effectively in their congregations and communities. The first 12-week pilot session drew more than 25 people from New York City and New Jersey. Topics included team building, project management, strategic ministry planning and how to conduct a community assessment.

One participant, 27-year-old Emerson Quintana, says he’d been given the position of youth pastor in his Hispanic church in Brooklyn without prior training. So he saw David’s invitation to attend as an answer to prayer. After the first sessions, Emerson was able to formulate a clear plan for his staff. Now, the church is establishing an after-school center, with tutoring and counseling for youth.

Emerson has also gleaned ideas and strategies from the other participants and received some much-needed personal ministry; every week the youth leaders prayed for and encouraged one another.

Al Taylor runs a Friday night youth group in New Jersey for some 25 kids, ages 9 to 14, using hip-hop music, *4 the Streets* magazine and Scripture. He says he’s becoming a better listener and has a clearer understanding of the challenges facing young people. Echoing the other participants’ comments, he adds, “Things are never going to be the same for the people that were in that [training].”

The American Bible Society aims to be in the inner city, on the streets, sharing the message of God’s love, hope and forgiveness to this generation. ■

## Are **SAYING** About *4 the Streets*

What **PEOPLE**

“We’re doing a class called ‘Living for God in a Thugged Out Culture,’ and we use the magazine for the class. The articles just cause people to open up.”

— Heather Rhodes, youth worker, California

“It’s changing my life. I really wish other people, especially those having problems with drugs and alcohol, would read this magazine. I think it would change their lives completely.”

— Hundee Ababa, 18

“A great way to address spirituality without putting the kids off.”

— Ryan Bernat, behavioral technician, Catholic Charities

“People are going through these kinds of things in life whether we want to admit it or not. The magazine . . . deals with issues straight on and focuses on the solution to the problems.”

— Steve Saunders, Pennsylvania

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

# A SCRIPTURE COURSE AND TEXTBOOK FOR LIFE

BY FRANCINE LANGE

WHEN CHARLIE KRUEGER VISITED CENTRAL AFRICA last spring, he observed firsthand how three Christian organizations were collaborating to furnish physical and spiritual comfort to needy children.

The American Bible Society, where Charlie serves as a fund manager for Global Ministries; Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organization; and the Mailbox Club joined together to live out 1 Corinthians 12:5-6 (CEV): "There are different ways to serve the same Lord, and we can each do different things. Yet the same God works in all of us and helps us in everything we do."

## JUNIOR EVANGELISTS

In Ndola, Zambia, last March, Charlie presented each of the 275 Bible course graduates with New Testaments. "Here [in Africa]," he said, "it's a precious commodity." The provision of Scriptures is hindered by poor infrastructure; and because of unstable economic conditions and poverty in many African countries, as many as 20 people may have to share a single Bible.

The students, ages 8 to 14, had just completed the free, 10-lesson Bible correspondence course from the Mailbox Club. The curriculum is tailored for specific ages and spiritual maturity.

Charlie explained that rewarding graduates with New Testaments allows the kids to continue their study, "getting into the Word and sharing it, not only with their families, but also with others they come in contact with, making them, to some degree, 'junior' evangelists."

Other children in the small village joined in as the graduates celebrated their accomplishment, and all received

## Why Reach Out to the Young?

**30%** of the world's population is under 15.

**70%** of children are born into non-Christian homes.

**85%** of all Christians accept Christ before the age of 14.

Source: Child Evangelism Fellowship



**"In a part of the world that is experiencing very little 'good news,' it was simply awesome to see these children — the faces of Africa's future — on fire with a hunger and passion for God's Word."**

— Charlie Krueger, above

gift-filled shoeboxes — toys, clothes, candy, toiletries — through Operation Christmas Child, a Samaritan's Purse initiative that distributes the gifts to

millions of children in some 95 countries.

## A GIFT FOR THE MULTITUDES

The American Bible Society is committed to working side by side with ministry partners to share the gospel. Through the generosity of our faithful donors, this year the Bible Society was able to provide 100,000 New Testaments to Mailbox Club graduates in eight countries, including Uganda, Malawi, Nicaragua and Colombia. For many of these graduates these Scriptures will be a "textbook" for lifelong learning. ■



PHOTOS BY JOINTY WILDE/SAMARITAN'S PURSE

# SETTING THE CAPTIVES FREE

BY JAMES WALKER

ONE NIGHT IN 1953, BILL BONNER SAT IN HIS LIVING room reading the Bible. "It was Paul's letter to the Corinthians, in which Paul wrote about what Christians should and should not do," he says. Bill, in his 30s at the time, needed strength to help him during a difficult time in his family's life. "I set the book down and thought to myself, 'I wonder if this is true today?'"

Bill remembers that moment when, "a light went off and filled the entire room . . . it was as if a voice told me 'It is as true today as when it was written.'" That defining moment in his life drew Bill into a deeper faith with Christ and helped him surmount other major challenges. He raised two sons alone (Bill's wife had died, and his second wife lived for less than a year). "I was working, and was away for nearly 12 hours a day," he recalls, but, "even though it was a tough time for us, it brought all of us closer together."

In 1982, he retired from a 39-year career at Shell Oil, which included positions that took him from Tennessee, to California, Illinois, New York and finally to Texas.

Bill says he always wanted to share Scriptures with others, and soon began looking for ways to do that. "Everyone needs

to know the Lord's work, and giving Bibles away is the best way I know to share that with everyone," he explains.

His third wife, Virginia, told him about a member in their church in Houston who had a ministry to prisoners. Bill decided to contact the chaplains serving at the Huntsville State Penitentiary (near Houston) and the Houston city jail. Each chaplain gladly accepted Bill's offer to share Scripture with the inmates. He chose prisoners, he says, because they "have the time to sit and read and think about the Word. If they have any interest at all, then the Bible should attract their attention, and if they can read, they will read it and enjoy it, and it will have a positive impact on their lives."

His ministry inside reached outside; the chaplain in Huntsville sent him a letter of gratitude and a request.

Bill explains, "The men in the prison asked the chaplain for more of the illustrated Bibles, but not for themselves. They wanted . . . to send them to their families and to share their newfound faith."

He was about to send a fourth Bible shipment to Huntsville when his accountant suggested donating funds to support the American Bible Society, which would also give him a tax deduction. Having contributed to other Bible Society work since 1945, Bill followed through on the advice.

That contribution allowed the Bible Society to set up a fund for prison ministry, which now provides Bibles directly to chaplains at U. S. correctional institutions. For more than 20 years Bill has added to the fund with outright gifts and by establishing gift annuities with the Bible Society.

Virginia died eight years ago, but at 87, Bill walks nearly a half-mile to attend the Metropolitan Baptist Church of Houston. Despite failing eyesight, he continues to draw comfort from God's Word — on audiocassette. And he references a favorite Scripture to illustrate God's care in his own life. "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." (Proverbs 3.6 KJV) ■



Bill Bonner with his late wife, Virginia

**H**You can obtain more information about planned giving programs sponsored by the American Bible Society by visiting us at [www.americanbible.org](http://www.americanbible.org), or calling the Planned Gift Programs Department at 1-800-820-6227.



## update

## N A T I O N A L

## ■ NEW YORK

Scholastic, the largest publisher and distributor of children's books in the world, and the American Bible Society have announced a partnership to develop a variety of Bible

study and devotional books, Bible storybooks and age-appropriate Bibles for children.

"We are pleased to be working with the American Bible Society to create books and introductions to

the Bible while helping children develop a love of reading," said Barbara Marcus, president of Scholastic Children's Books.

The first title is scheduled for publication next fall. ■

## I N T E R N A T I O N A L



BIBLE SOCIETY OF LEBANON

**Mike Bassous runs the extra mile, organizing 83 runners to raise awareness of the Bible and its life-changing message.**

rewarding feeling of crossing the finish line for the Bible cause." Their sweat and tears paid off; the team raised nearly \$25,000. "We plan to donate the Scriptures to our newly established Christian lending library in Beirut, Books for Life," said Mike, "to provide Christian literature free of charge to young people in an area of the city with a dense student population."

His favorite running Scripture comes from Paul's letter to Timothy: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race." (2 Timothy 4.7)

## ■ LEBANON

Michael Bassous, executive director and acting general secretary of the Bible Society in Lebanon, takes his Bible work outside the office, and has inspired others to do the same.

Last October, 83 runners, ages 11 to 67 (including a group from Norway), joined Mike for the Beirut International Marathon in a public forum to raise money for Bibles. As spectators spotted their theme, "Running for Bibles," emblazoned on runners' bright red team shirts, they cheered and applauded.

"What motivated me during the practice sessions," Mike said, "was the

## ■ ETHIOPIA

The Gumuz people of Ethiopia waited many years for the Bible to be translated into their mother tongue.

Last February, their wait was rewarded, when a tiny aircraft that carried New Testaments in the Gumez language landed in a village in western Ethiopia. Villagers crowded around it with tears in their eyes and welcomed the visitors — representatives from the Bible Society of Ethiopia and the Norwegian Missionary Society — who

**A mother and child in Ethiopia at the launch of the Gumuz New Testament.**

had sponsored the translation project from its beginning in 1986. (Some 600,000 people speak the Gumuz language, one of 83 other dialects in this country.)

The villagers celebrated the achievement, beginning with a chorus of young people in pristine choir robes who sang from their hearts. And, "some verses from the Gospels were read in Gumuz," said Haile Eyesus, a translation consultant with the Bible Society. "I asked an elderly man how he felt. . . . 'I have been waiting so long for this day. Sometimes I wondered whether I would live to see it.'" Mr. Eyesus said, "The Gumuz Church is growing, and Gumuz believers are now bringing their New Testaments to church. Praise be to God for this day!" ■



THOR BJARNE BØRE

# quiet time

*We hope you will use this guide in your daily study of the Bible. Please write to tell us how you use it.*

## FEBRUARY

*Rooted in Christ and*

**Coming to the Lord in Prayer**

- 1 Mark 1.21-39
- 2 Acts 4.23-31
- 3 Ephesians 3.1-21
- 4 Ephesians 6.10-24
- 5 Colossians 4.2-18

**SUNDAY**

- 6 1 Samuel 2.1-11
- 7 Daniel 9.1-19
- 8 Jonah 2.1-10

**\*ASH WEDNESDAY  
(WESTERN CHURCHES)**

- 9 Matthew 6.1-18
- 10 Psalm 51
- 11 Psalm 56
- 12 Psalm 57

**FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**

- 13 Matthew 4.1-11
- 14 Psalm 91
- 15 2 Chronicles 1.1-13
- 16 2 Chronicles 5.2-6.11
- 17 2 Chronicles 6.12-42
- 18 2 Chronicles 7.1-10
- 19 Hebrews 4.14-5.10

**SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**

- 20 Psalm 3
- 21 Psalm 4
- 22 Psalm 5

- 23 Psalm 6
- 24 Psalm 25
- 25 Psalm 26
- 26 Psalm 27
- THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**
- 27 Psalm 28
- 28 Psalm 30

## MARCH

*Rooted in Christ and*

**Trusting in God's Promises**

- 1 Genesis 15.1-21
- 2 Genesis 16.1-16
- 3 Genesis 17.1-27
- WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**
- 4 Genesis 18.1-15
- 5 Genesis 18.16-33

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

- 6 Genesis 21.1-21
- 7 Galatians 3.1-14
- 8 Galatians 3.15-4.7
- 9 Galatians 4.8-20
- 10 Galatians 4.21-31
- 11 Romans 4.1-12
- 12 Romans 4.13-25

**FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

- 13 Jeremiah 31.1-14
- \*14 Jeremiah 31.15-30

- 15 Jeremiah 31.31-40
- 16 Jeremiah 32.1-25
- 17 Jeremiah 32.26-44
- 18 Jeremiah 33.1-13
- 19 Jeremiah 33.14-26

**PALM/PASSION SUNDAY  
(WESTERN CHURCHES)**

- \*\*20 Matthew 21.1-17
- 21 Matthew 21.33-46
- 22 Matthew 26.1-30
- 23 Matthew 26.36-56
- 24 Matthew 27.1-26

**GOOD FRIDAY**

- 25 Matthew 27.27-56
- 26 Matthew 27.57-66

**EASTER SUNDAY  
(WESTERN CHURCHES)**

- 27 Matthew 28.1-10
- 28 Matthew 28.11-20
- 29 Hebrews 8.1-13
- 30 Hebrews 9.1-22
- 31 Hebrews 9.23-10.18

*\*Orthodox Lent begins on Monday, March 14, 2005.*

*\*\*Orthodox Christians will observe Holy Week April 24-30, 2005, and Easter on May 1, 2005, and may wish to substitute the readings from April 24-May 1 in place of the readings for March 20-27, and the readings from March 20-27 in place of the readings for April 24-May 1. This substitution will allow for the Passion and Resurrection readings to coincide with the Orthodox dates.*

## IN MEMORIAM

### MEMORIALIZE A LOVED ONE BY HELPING TO PROVIDE BIBLES TO PEOPLE WHO DON'T YET HAVE ONE

*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 program, please write to:*

**Donor Relations, American Bible Society, 1865 Broadway, New York, NY 10023-7505.**

My beloved sister,  
**Louise Doris Bechlein**  
*Given by: the Trust of her beloved brother,  
Harry E. Bechlein*

My beloved wife, Myrtle M. Boswell  
*Given by: Keith R. Boswell*

In memory of **Howard L. Carlson**  
*Given by: Mrs. Joan L. Holmes*

My Aunt, **Gertrude Cuthbert**  
*Given by: Gary F. Klamm*

My beloved father, mother and sister,  
**Henry and Julia Anna Gumpert  
and Julia Marie Gumpert**  
*Given by: the Estate of their beloved daughter  
and sister, the late Henrietta F. Gumpert*

My beloved wives, **Aloyes D. Johnson  
and Martha M. Johnson**  
*Given by: the Trust of their beloved husband,  
Harry T. Johnson*

# Give Spiritual Aid to Tsunami Survivors!



Survivors of the deadly earthquake and tsunami in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand are in desperate need of our prayers and also of God's Word.

That's why the American Bible Society is working to provide Bibles and a wide range of spiritual resources to the people of this devastated region. From Scripture booklets of encouragement for grieving survivors, to activity books for orphaned and traumatized children and replacement Bibles for churches and Christians who have lost everything . . .

Please help us meet the spiritual needs of countless thousands who seek the answers, comfort and hope that only God's Word can provide.

**Won't you help us rush God's Word to the thousands of men, women and children who need him now?**

**Yes!** I want to help give hope for the future to these devastated men, women and children through God's Word.

Enclosed is my gift of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

FAX \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

**H** Or, make a secure gift online right now by going to [www.americanbible.org/tsunami](http://www.americanbible.org/tsunami)

Please return this coupon with your check made payable to the **American Bible Society**. Contributions to the American Bible Society are greatly appreciated and are tax deductible as allowed by law. Funds raised in excess of this need will be used to help provide God's Word where the need is also great.



AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

JF01REC

1865 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, NY 10025 | [WWW.AMERICANBIBLE.ORG](http://WWW.AMERICANBIBLE.ORG) | TOLL FREE: 1-866-895-4448



AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

1865 BROADWAY

NEW YORK, NY 10023

[WWW.AMERICANBIBLE.ORG](http://WWW.AMERICANBIBLE.ORG)

Nonprofit Organization

U.S. Postage

PAID

American Bible Society