

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY TURNS 190!

SHARING GOD'S WORD WITH THE WORLD

Record

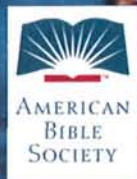
Spring 2006

Messages of
Hope from the
Middle East

"Flying Bibleman"
of Australia Brings
the Good News

Bible Q&A:
Back by Popular
Demand!

Moving
Mountains
in China



The Year of Our 190th Anniversary

"Watch for the new thing I am going to do. It is happening already – you can see it now!" ISAIAH 43:19a (GNT)

Just in time for the 190th anniversary of the American Bible Society, we are pleased to present you with an updated look for the *Record* magazine. We've brought back one of your favorite columns, "Bible Q&A," and hope you will enjoy reading the answers from Jacquelyn Sapiie, our library services supervisor, to questions you send us. Please keep those questions coming, because we all learn something!

Spring brings with it the hope and blessings of the Easter season. We are pleased to present one of our feature stories from the Holy Land, where it all began, about the amazing advances the Bible Society is making for Christ in the Middle East. Last year a very special "vision trip" to the Middle East involved some of our donors and staff. It was a life-changing experience for all of them. Please keep these countries and their Bible Societies in your prayers for protection and peace.



Our cover story on China reveals our continued efforts in the blossoming and opening up of that massive country, seeding it with God's Word. This spring, if you plan to be in Los Angeles, Atlanta or here in the Big Apple, please include the Chinese exhibition, The Bible Ministry Exhibition of the Church in China, on your itinerary. Look for details on page 15.

Most of all I want to say thank you for your faithful prayers and gifts in support of the American Bible Society. May God grant you and your family a blessed Easter season.



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Bible in the News

SCIENTIST TAKES A PAGE FROM EXODUS

>> Professor Marcus Pembrey of University College in London recently cited a passage from Exodus 20 to explain his research, which is in the field of epigenetics. He told Britain's *Daily Mirror* that his studies show that a father who smokes and eats poorly can have a negative effect on the "gene action" of his sons and grandsons. "As the Bible says, the sins of the father are visited upon his children unto the third and fourth generations."

SCRIPTURE ON THE SIDELINES

>> The nation mourned with the coach of the Indianapolis Colts, Tony Dungy, when his son James was found dead last December. The cause of death was thought to be suicide. James was 18 years old.

It was nearing the end of the NFL season, and fans wondered when the heartbroken coach would be ready to come back to the playing field. "There's a story in the Bible," Mr. Dungy told reporters. "David's son is sick, and they're praying for him. The whole time, he won't eat, won't do anything. The son ends up dying. What David says, basically, is 'I've got to go to temple and worship. I've got to get back to work.'" Dungy went back to work two days after his son's funeral. The Colts finished their regular season with a decisive — and emotional — victory. 🏈

COVER PHOTOGRAPH BY
MAURICE HARVEY



We encourage you to send your letters and inquiries to: Editor, *American Bible Society Record*, 1865 Broadway, New York, NY 10023-7505. Telephone: 212.408.8754. Note: For questions for the American Bible Society not related to the *Record*, please call 212.408.1200. 🌐 www.AmericanBible.org

Update

FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

INTERNATIONAL

IRELAND

Healing the Divide

>> Although it may take many years for the wounds caused by the conflict in Northern Ireland to heal, the two Bible Societies on the island, headquartered in **Belfast** and **Dublin**, have been working together for many years to advance the Bible cause. They both celebrate **200 years of Scripture ministry** this year and next year, and are collaborating with Irish churches to promote emotional healing. One tool they've created is a booklet titled *Love Your Neighbour*.

Another project, the *Handwritten Bible*, begins this spring and involves copying Scripture by hand. So far 100 groups have registered to participate and organizers hope to complete at least one handwritten Bible, in the *Contemporary English Version*, for each part of Ireland. In 2004, in **Portugal**, the *Handwritten Bible* project had a deep impact on the 95,000 people who participated. Volunteers running the *Scriptoria* (or writing stations) were often asked, "Did you choose this verse especially for me?"

AUSTRALIA

God's Word by Air

>> The tiny settlement of Warburton in western Australia is so remote that visitors are rare. For "Flying Bibleman" Phillip Zamagias, though, reaching such communities is part of day-to-day life. When he landed his Cessna 206 there in October, he delivered United Bible Societies' translation consultant Dr. Carl Gross and several boxes of the new *Ngaanyatjara Shorter Bible*. The Bible dedication ceremony took

place in front of the local church, where Christians expressed their joy that, nearly 15 years after the launch of the New Testament in their own language, they now have parts of the Old Testament too.



A CHILD in Warburton, western Australia, where the *Ngaanyatjara Shorter Bible* was dedicated in October 2005

NATIONAL

NEW YORK

Global Bible Summit 2005

>> The American Bible Society's second annual **Global Bible Summit** (GBS) was held over a November weekend that kicked off with the National Church Leaders Symposium. The purpose was to inspire, inform and challenge attendees — donors, ministry leaders and special guests — and to explore innovative ways to connect followers of

Christ around the globe to the life-changing message of the Bible.

Dr. George Barna, author and founder of the Barna Research Group, spoke about his new book, *Revolution*. **Steve Saint** (son of the late Nate Saint) spoke of his experience living with and evangelizing the very tribe that killed his father in 1956, inspiring the film *End of the Spear*. **Dr. Peter Okaalet**, Africa director for Medical Assistance Programs (MAP) International, relayed stories of AIDS in "the red and bleeding continent of Africa" and the progress to combat the disease. **Morgan Jackson**, international director of Faith Comes by Hearing®, demonstrated the Proclaimer, an audio playback device that uses a digital memory chip powered either by battery, solar energy, electricity or hand crank, depending on location. This device can play the entire New Testament in any translated language.

Perhaps the most moving testimony over the weekend was given by **Jose Velez**, a former gang leader from Chicago who has become a Christian since the first GBS in 2004. Then, he spoke on a panel with other gang members about the stress of coming out of gang life. In 2005, he took the podium by himself. He said, "Last year I was still in the street gangs. I came home from the Global Bible Summit, and 48 hours later I was shot twice in front of my house. In the ambulance I was thinking, 'I can't believe I didn't accept Christ

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY TURNS 190 IN MAY!

The countdown to our **200th anniversary** begins. If you are in New York City the week of **May 8 to 13**, stop by Bible House for an unusual daytime event "on Broadway": a Bible Read-a-thon. Local churches will provide readers who will read **Genesis through Revelation** aloud in a variety of languages for 90 hours. For more information, please consult www.AmericanBible.org in May.



DR. PAUL IRWIN, president of the American Bible Society, speaks with Jose Velez.

in New York when I had the chance.” During his recuperation, “the God of second chances” reached Mr. Velez, and he decided it was time to change. People from the American Bible Society, whom Mr. Velez had met at the Global Bible Summit, kept in touch with him and encouraged him to read the Bible. Since then he has been reading the *Contemporary English Version*, an American Bible Society translation, and has found that he and the other youth he counsels in Chicago love it for its readability.

SOUTH CAROLINA Reporting From St. Helena Island

>> Stephanie Simon of the *Los Angeles Times* covered the unveiling of *De Nyew Testament*, an American Bible Society publication of the first translation of the Bible into Gullah. “Twenty-six years in the making,” she wrote in the story that appeared on December 29, “the Gullah gospel was written by descendants of slaves under the direction of traveling missionaries.” The 900-page volume, available online at www.bibles.com, includes an English translation of each verse. ■



The Gullah Bible

Bible Q&A

OUR LIBRARY SERVICES SUPERVISOR JACQUELYN SAPIE ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BIBLE.



How far did Jesus have to carry the cross?

The traditional path walked by Jesus from Pilate’s praetorium through the Old City of Jerusalem to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre as it exists today was established in the 13th century. It is known as the *Via Dolorosa* or the Way of the Cross. The path is 650 yards long, which is a little over a third of a mile. The 14 stations were fixed in 1914. Nine of these are along the *Via Dolorosa* in the Old City of Jerusalem and five are inside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

The phrase “born again” is used three times in the King James Version.

Testament first appeared in Robert Stephens’ edition of the Greek New Testament in 1551. Henry Stephens, Robert’s son, revealed that the divisions were devised by his father during a journey on horseback from Paris to Lyons. This system was quickly adopted and first appeared in English in the *Geneva Bible* (1569), the popular translation prior to the *King James Version*. It was applied first to the New Testament (1557), then to the full Bible (1560).

When was the division of chapters and verses in the Bible first used?

The introduction of the modern system of chapter divisions is sometimes ascribed to Cardinal Hugo de St. Cher (d. 1263), who used it in his concordance of the Latin Vulgate. However, the system that is in use today, with modifications, was introduced before Hugo in the Latin Bible by Stephen Langton (d. 1228), a lecturer at the University of Paris and later Archbishop of Canterbury. The divisions were adopted before the advent of printing (ca. 1456) in Bible manuscripts in languages other than Latin as well. The current verse divisions in the New

How many times is “born again” used in the Bible?

The number of times a word or phrase occurs in the Bible depends on the translation. The phrase “born again” is used three times in the *King James Version* (KJV), the *New International Version* (NIV), and four times in the *Good News Translation* (GNT). It occurs in all three in John 3.3, John 3.7 and 1 Peter 1.23.

In John 3.3 and 3.7, “born again” is translated from the Greek *gennatha* meaning “born” and the Greek *anothen* meaning “from above” and “again” or “anew.” The expression allows various renderings, to be gotten from above or to be born again.

The sense in 1 Peter 1.23 is to have been born anew through the gospel. ■

>> READERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SUBMIT THEIR QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BIBLE TO Jacquelyn Sapiie, library services supervisor at Bible House in New York. Questions should be sent to absrecord@AmericanBible.org or via U.S. mail to American Bible Society, 1865 Broadway, New York, NY 10023.



THE FACE OF CHANGE

is shining with hope, as you can see on this boy in Giza, Egypt.

NOTHING IS MORE

dramatic than springtime in the Judean Desert in Israel — a country where there is now “more openness to the New Testament” (right).

A Long-Awaited Spring

In an era of unrest, the Bible Societies of the Middle East plant the seeds of new life.



| BY DAVID SINGER

Springtime brings to mind blossoms and new life, and the promise of Easter — a promise that came to us from the Middle East. But for years now most news from that part of the world has clashed with the spirit of spring; instead of new life, the media broadcast scenes of suicidal despair and desperation. Fierce struggle for political dominance rages throughout the Holy Land. Hostility runs hot and deep.

Yet the Easter promise lives on, breaking through hatred and hostility with tender, delicate shoots of new life. Quietly seeding and cultivating this tender crop are the Bible Societies of the Middle East: Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, Turkey and the Arabian Gulf.

FINDING FREEDOM IN EGYPT AND ISRAEL

In a region of the world where so much cruelty is exercised in the name of God, the spiritual climate is tense. Ministry requires creativity, sensitivity and patience. But the challenges of conflict also leave people aching for spiritual comfort — for redemption and forgiveness, healing and hope. A yearning for reconciliation and God's love tugs at people's hearts.

"We're a socially conservative nation," said Ramez Atallah,

general secretary of the Bible Society of Egypt. "God is a part of everyday life. Pornography is illegal. Divorce is difficult. Morality is tightly controlled. A marriage certificate is required to get a train ticket for a sleeper car. Family bonds are important."

But that spirit of control — a sort of religious legalism — shows itself in less favorable ways too; trespassing on or crossing religious boundaries is socially and legally unacceptable.

"There is mourning in the land," said Doron Even-Ari, former general secretary of the Bible Society in Israel (Mr. Even-Ari died of a heart attack in November 2005), noting that because of the political climate, tourism in Israel had fallen by 70 percent.

"But there's also more openness to the New Testament," Mr. Even-Ari said. He told how last year, for the first time, Israeli schoolchildren were being taught about Christianity in the context of cultural traditions in first-century Israel. Israel's Ministry of Education asked the Bible Society for permission to publish its modern-text Hebrew New Testament in a book and a pamphlet that would teach students about Christianity.

Meanwhile, the choice of colors for a reprint of the New Testament also turned out to be an unforeseen blessing. "When the color orange was chosen [for the cover]," said Mr. Even-Ari, "we had no idea that this would be the color representing those

opposed to the disengagement process [in Gaza].” So during the withdrawal, camouflage-green New Testaments were distributed to soldiers and orange New Testaments were distributed among those who opposed the disengagement.

“During this painful [disengagement] process, people — most of whom are religious Jews — were literally thrown out of their homes,” he said. “The main question on their hearts was, ‘Where was or is God in all of this?’ This was a good opportunity to provide those who asked with a Hebrew New Testament and its message of hope.”

Throughout the region, the balance between sharing the Easter promise and respecting faith boundaries is delicate; proselytizing is forbidden. But more and more, people are themselves seeking a path to new life.

SEEDS OF HOPE: PALESTINE AND IRAQ

In Palestine, Labib Madanat, executive secretary of the Palestinian Bible Society, laments that the Arab-Israeli conflict has decimated a small but vigorous community of Christian churches there. But Mr. Madanat also cites the many miraculous openings for Bible ministry in war-ravaged Palestine.

“We struggled for years to get a license for our bookshop in Nablus,” said Mr. Madanat.

“I went to the governor of Nablus and he asked, ‘Why do you need a center for 600 people?’ I told him, ‘Sir, I’m not just coming for the Christians, because the Bible is for all, and Jesus is for all.’ He said, ‘I’m honored to have a Bible shop in my city.’”

“Through *Operation Palestinian Child*,” adds Mr. Madanat, “we reach between 30,000 and 40,000 children in refugee camps where we sing and use puppet shows to tell Bible stories: the Prodigal Son, the Good Samaritan. We take a smile. We take some joy.”

Following a puppet show at her school, a little girl in Ramallah told a member of the Bible Society team, “The greatest gift of Christmas is the birth of Jesus in my heart.”

Last year in Iraq, in the days before Easter, the Bible Societies joined with Christian humanitarian agencies to meet both the spiritual and physical needs of a traumatized people. Hundreds of food packages and illustrated Bibles were distributed at church compounds throughout Baghdad.

In one instance, a family whose son was killed in the war failed to come for their food package. So the parish priest, The Right Rev. Vazken Azizian, decided to make a delivery. Everyone welcomed him except a young daughter; she refused to leave her bedroom.

After two more visits the girl agreed to speak with Rev. Azizian. “I have nothing against you, Father,” she said. “I’m upset at God because he did not spare my brother’s life.” The priest handed her an illustrated Bible and said, “Read this; you’ll find that God did not spare his only son either, because he loves you and me.”

The next Sunday the family came to church, and the girl was with them, holding her Bible. Surprised, Rev. Azizian asked if she had read it. “I have,” she replied, “and I have reconciled with God.”

NOURISHING THE GULF STATES

There are other emotional needs that make the gospel very attractive in the Middle East. Rapid economic expansion in the Arabian Gulf has spurred a massive influx of migrant workers from many countries, including China, India, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. New congregations have sprung up, speaking languages such as Malayalam, Tamil, Telegu and Sinhala. These workers are isolated and away from home for long periods. Bible Centers offer Scripture publications, and audio and audio-video Scriptures in these and many of the other languages spoken by the expatriate workers, providing encouragement as well as social and emotional connections.

Hrayr Jebejian, general secretary of the Bible Society in the Gulf, says that the churches in the countries that he oversees (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates and Yemen) have come to appreciate the Bible Society “not just as a bookshop but as a ministry that is involved in the community and here to support church outreach.”

As an example, Mr. Jebejian recites the experience of Dinesh, a

migrant worker from Nepal who had come to Dubai to earn money to send home. Dinesh was drawn to the Bible Center because he heard that it catered to expatriates like him. But the only link to home he could

More and more, Middle Easterners draw a connection between the message they are exposed to in the Bible and their desire for freedom.

>> HRAYR JEBEJIAN, BIBLE SOCIETY IN THE GULF

find was a Nepalese Bible, so he began to read it.

About this time, Dinesh got word that his wife had fallen seriously ill and was not responding to treatment. He found the Bible to be a source of encouragement. He also began to pray, supported by members of the local Christian community. His wife gradually recovered, and Dinesh gave thanks to God and decided to follow Jesus. Less than a year after his chance encounter with God’s Word, he was baptized.

“I pray for Bible Centers everywhere so that others will have the same opportunity to come to know the true meaning of life through reading God’s Word,” Dinesh said.

LIBERATION IN LEBANON

More and more, Middle Easterners draw a connection between the message they are exposed to in the Bible and their desire for freedom, according to Mr. Jebejian. “The Gospel of John, for example, marks clearly and beautifully the way a person can find freedom,” he says. “Knowing the Bible leads to knowing the truth, and the truth sets you free.”

Since the end of Lebanon’s civil war in 1990, the Bible Society there has been instrumental in revitalizing its Christian churches, promoting a common text Bible for use by Catholic, Orthodox and

Protestant churches. In Beirut, more than 10,000 children in the past two years have come to experience the teachings of the Bible at the Bible World activity center, which uses multimedia technology to bring the Bible to life. The Bible Society in Syria provides Scripture resources for churches in Syria, and its booth at the Damascus International Book Fair is an annual attraction.

The popularity of Mel Gibson's movie *The Passion of the Christ* opened many doors for engaging people with the Scriptures throughout the Middle East. "Middle Easterners are threatened by thoughts of an open culture, by globalization," says Mr. Atallah. "Yet they

love technology." This includes a love for American movies, which sometimes send a mixed message about Western values.

Mr. Atallah says this film boosted interest in *Jesus*, a film by Life Agape that the Bible Society advertised on TV and packaged with New Testaments. At the annual book fair in Cairo, the largest in the Middle East, the Bible Society sold 2,200 copies of the movie in the first two weeks.

The actions of these Bible Societies are small, hopeful steps in a troubled political climate. But faith is strong. Through careful, patient cultivation, Easter is coming to the Middle East. ■

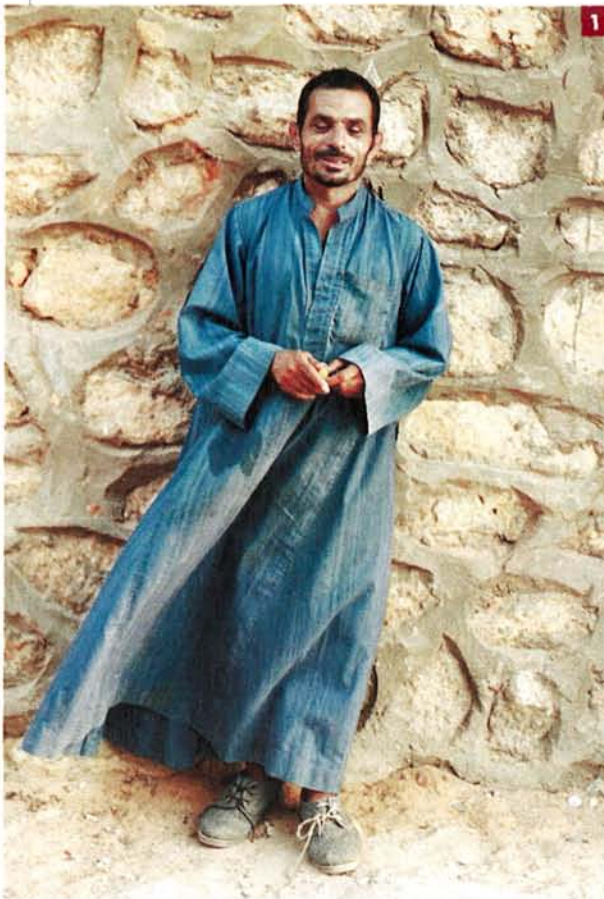
DONATIONS AT WORK IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Pilgrimage to the Desert

The American Bible Society invited several supporters to experience how their contributions are changing lives in Egypt, the Gulf States, Israel, Lebanon and the Palestinian territories. During this three-country tour, they connected to the frontlines of ministry and renewed a prayer that God's Word would touch and transform the Middle East.

When Dr. Martin Quigley, a senior trustee for the American Bible Society, his wife Katherine, and Bob and Aileen Adams arrived in Beirut, Lebanon, tensions were high. Giant posters of the recently assassinated Lebanese prime

minister were everywhere. Sporadic bombings terrorized the city. The atmosphere in Lebanon was an introduction to a world where religious and political conflicts undermine hopes for long-term stability. >



1 EGYPT On the streets of the "Garbage Village" in Cairo, a man is dressed in a traditional *djellaba*.

2 EGYPT Young people are responding to messages of hope spread by the Bible Society in Egypt.

3 GAZA Children in Gaza City play on a beach at the edge of the Mediterranean Sea.

PHOTOS AND ESSAY BY FRANCINE LANGE

4



4 EGYPT A load of pita bread makes its way around Cairo (the Bible Society of Egypt also makes deliveries — of Scripture).

5 LEBANON Katherine Quigley speaks with a girl who has grown up in the shadow of political unrest.



5

6 ISRAEL The Bedouin camps are areas where Israel allows the free distribution of Scripture.



6

7 EGYPT Since biblical times, fishermen have played a central role in life along the Nile.



8

8 GAZA Puppeteers from Operation Palestinian Child offer smiles and Bible stories in Gaza and the West Bank.



7

On the trip, the travelers spoke with Labib Madanat, executive secretary of the Palestinian Bible Society, who ministers to people confined to Gaza and the West Bank, and urges them: “Don’t wait until things get better. Today is the day of salvation. It’s here now.” His team visits children in schools and villages, and with permission from the village authorities, they weave Bible themes into puppet shows, music and a clown act.

The travelers visited a Bedouin camp near Jerusalem and got approval from parents to pass out booklets of Bible stories to children crowding close. “The opportunities are enormous

in this land,” said Doron Even-Ari, the late general secretary of the Bible Society in Israel.

The visitors also heard about groundbreaking projects in Egypt. The Bible Society there offers free home delivery of Scripture materials to Cairo residents. It also provides a “speed number” to call. Ramez Atallah, general secretary of the Bible Society of Egypt, joked, “Unlike Pizza Hut, we don’t sell a consumable product.”

Through such innovative programs, the work of the Bible Societies of the Middle East is spreading like a blanket of peace. ■

As the church grows around the world, so does the need for Bibles.



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OLD AND YOUNG,
China's Christians are
discovering ways to
celebrate their faith in
a changing economic
climate.



Waking Up to God's Word

As China's economy roars into the 21st century,
a spiritual hunger is growing.

BY PETER FEUERHERD

When the history of the present century has been reckoned, China will have emerged as an economic superpower. With a current population of 1.3 billion, it is a country in the midst of a massive awakening. It exports \$762 billion in goods every year, and its economy is ranked fourth in the world. Its industries and its cities are booming. Shanghai, for example, boasts a skyscraper that towers over anything in New York City.

While entrepreneurs eye Chinese consumers eager for the goods of modern life, Kua Wee Seng, United Bible Societies' representative to China, sees more than just another consumer market. He sees the increasing disparity between rich and poor, and souls hungering for the Word of God.

Today an estimated 7 percent of the Chinese population is Christian, up from 0.4 percent in 1900. Bible work in China presents challenges. Much of the countryside is undeveloped, left behind in a march of economic progress that has centered on cities. People in China's minority language groups desire the Scriptures in their own languages. And, of course, there are the widely publicized tensions between some Christians and the Chinese government, which have discouraged the devel-

opment of "house churches" and other unregistered movements.

But thanks to the Bible Societies, much has been accomplished in feeding that spiritual hunger.

■ While there are Protestants and Catholics who worship outside the purview of the Chinese government (the so-called underground church), many other Christian churches operate openly and legally. United Bible Societies (UBS), in partnership with the American Bible Society, works with the officially recognized China Christian Council (CCC), which is gaining in worldwide influence. The president of the Beijing Christian Council, The Rev. Yu Xinli, presented President George W. Bush with a copy of a Chinese-English Bible, published by CCC and printed at Amity Press. During that official

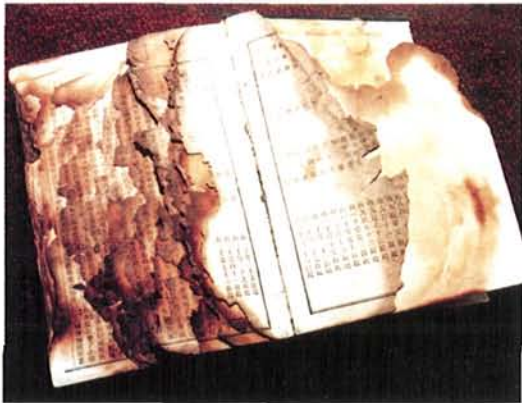
visit in November, President Bush encouraged greater openness to religious freedom in China.

■ The Bible continues to be translated into various languages spoken by China's minority groups, including the Black Yi, 160,000 people who live in northern Yunnan Province. They are largely isolated from China's economic progress. But Christian missionaries have made inroads through their long tradition of ancestor worship. Some Black Yi Christians, who number about 60,000, are acting as missionaries to their own people. Many are combating illiteracy and discovering that



IT'S WALL-TO-WALL worship at a church service near the suburbs of Xi'an, a historic city in central China.

WORKERS AT AMITY PRESS made over 4 million Bibles last year — a victory in a country where many Bibles, like the one shown below, were burned during the Cultural Revolution.



*“Your word
is a lamp to
guide me
and a light for
my path.”*

PSALM 119.105 (GNT)

their efforts have opened the Christian Scriptures to the Black Yi as they work on a translation accessible to their people.

■ China, once seen solely as a mission recipient, is now engaged in its own kind of vital Christian outreach: worldwide Bible printing. Amity Press, initially funded by UBS, has printed nearly 40 million copies of the Bible and New Testament — 3 million copies for export and 37 million for distribution within China — since the organization’s founding in 1987. In November, the company held a groundbreaking ceremony for a much-needed new press. Last year Amity Press printed 5.2 million copies of the Bible, more than it has in any year of its history. Bibles go not only to China but also around the world to Africa and Latin America. The goal is to double the printing capacity of Amity Press in the next few years to meet these emerging needs.

“Amity Press works within the legal framework of the country and complies with the regulations of the land. It takes orders from the legally registered churches in China and prints Bibles that have the proper permits from the authorities,” emphasizes Kua Wee Seng. But he notes that the Bibles are available for sale and distribution to Christians who are members of non-registered churches, as well as non-believers. Beyond the reach of the cities, distribution vans donated by UBS are used to transport Scriptures to hard-to-reach villages. The Word, says Kua Wee Seng, is getting out through a variety of channels.

Following the words of Jesus, “I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink; I was a stranger and you received me in your homes, naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care

of me . . .” (Matthew 25.35-36a, GNT), CCC has also begun to promote HIV/AIDS education. The disease is frequently spread by unauthorized blood donation centers, which attract donors in poor, rural areas by offering stipends. Workers from the CCC warn against these dangers, visit AIDS patients and their families, deliver Scripture booklets and medical supplies, and provide other help.

A LIGHT ON HISTORY

The energy of the gospel message in China will be reflected for American audiences this year through an exhibition sponsored by CCC in conjunction with the American Bible Society.

One of the organizers, Blair Carlson, hopes that it will show Americans not only the progress that Christianity has made in China but also the deep roots that its message has there. Mr. Carlson is very familiar with the recent chapters of that history. He was born to missionary parents and helped to organize The Rev. Billy Graham’s 1988 crusade in China.

Mr. Carlson says that many Western histories of China trace the roots of Christianity to missionary efforts by the Jesuit priest Matteo Ricci, who reached China in 1582, or to the efforts of Hudson Taylor of the China Inland Mission, who arrived in 1854. But, he emphasizes, archaeological findings indicate that Christian missionaries from Persia reached China as early as the seventh century and have impacted Chinese life ever since.

The exhibition will chronicle history and celebrate progress, particularly the work of Amity Press. Showcased will be artifacts dating to the 17th century: displays of Bible ministry,

handwritten Bibles, Catholic Bibles, children's Bibles and those printed in minority languages, as well as music, dance and Christian art never before shown in the United States. During the exhibition's recent run in Hong Kong, the biggest attraction was a large wood relief depicting the life of Jesus by artist Zhang Wan Long. The work includes 75 intricately detailed scenes carved on a single piece of camphor wood. It took Zhang Wan Long and his workmen the equivalent of 10 years of labor to complete the work.

The exhibition, says Mr. Carlson, will illustrate that "God is alive and well and doing his work around the world," particularly in the planet's most populous country.

Kua Wee Seng is hopeful that the exhibition will reap renewed benefits for mission work in China. "We hope that through this exhibition, the American people will become more aware of what God is doing in China through the church and through his Word, and that the

American people will be encouraged and inspired to pray and support the church in China and its Bible ministry," he says.

Perhaps in time China will become not only an economic superpower, but also a superpower of Christian faith. ■

CHINA COMES TO AMERICA

The Bible Ministry Exhibition of the Church in China will be on display in three major metropolitan areas starting in April. It will show a Christian history little-known in the West — the 1,500-year journey of the Bible message in China. Historical photographs and artifacts will share the floor with multimedia presentations and Chinese Christian art (below). Admission is free. For more information, please contact Tamara Collins at 212.408.1433.

APRIL 27-MAY 4

Los Angeles: Garden Grove, Crystal Cathedral

MAY 19-24

Atlanta: Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church

JUNE 5-12

New York City: The Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine



Artist Zhang Wan Long displays his life of Jesus.

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Please Pray

“THE PRAYER OF A GOOD PERSON HAS A POWERFUL EFFECT.”

JAMES 5.16B (GNT)



HONG KONG

Praise God for his leading in all aspects of Bible work. Pray for the publication and distribution of the *Revised Chinese Union Version* New Testament in appropriate formats. Also pray for the launching of the first *Chinese-Spanish Diglot Bible* (side-by-side translations). Ask God to inspire the Bible Society team as they create new ways to reach people, especially the young, with Scriptures.

SYRIA

We are grateful for God's guidance during the past year, especially for the distribution of Scriptures in remote areas. We thank God for providing the resources to print a special New Testament edition for people visiting monasteries and for

the New Testaments we plan to place in schools. Pray for the Year of the Family events and accompanying distribution programs. Pray, too, for the establishment of a Bible resource center in Damascus and for our distribution projects and exhibitions.

GULF STATES

Give thanks for the new Bible center in Al Ain, United Arab Emirates, for the success of the Year of the Bible campaign and for the growing involvement of the churches in distributing the MegaVoice audio Scripture player. Pray for the Year of the Family, run by the Middle East Council of Churches, and for the involvement of the region's Bible Societies in this campaign.

IRAQ

Give thanks for God's protection of our staff and our new property. Praise him particularly for the new warehouse next to Bible House. Despite difficult conditions, we are continuing distribution in partnership with several Christian agencies. Pray for the safety of our staff and for the new project to establish bookshops in churches. Ask, too, that we have continued freedom to import Scriptures and to supply God's Word to all who seek him.

TAIWAN

The most important work for the Bible Society in Taiwan this year will be continuing the preparation of a new *Chinese Study Bible* based on the *Chinese Union Version*. We will concentrate on extensive

footnotes, photographs and maps, as well as questions for personal reflection and small-group Bible study. Pray for God's grace upon all the Chinese scholars involved in this project and the staff who are managing this program.

JORDAN

Give thanks for the newly extended Bible House, which provides a more effective working environment and a focus for Bible work. Thank God, too, that we can serve the people of Jordan and also act as a base from which Bible work can be undertaken in Iraq. Pray also for our staff, board and members as we go through a period of change, and ask that our programs bring God's Word to all Jordanians. 📖

>> VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT WWW.AMERICANBIBLE.ORG TO LEARN MORE ABOUT MINISTRY AROUND THE GLOBE.

Home at Last

We are all God's children
 From the morning time of birth;
 He lets us live and love and laugh
 And have our time on earth.
 And when at last our time
 On earth is done,
 One by one, with a gentle voice,
 He calls His loved ones home.

— MARY CULP McBREY

Kittie-May always included this poem with memorial notes to grieving friends.



KITTIE-MAY SHAW at the age of 97

Kittie-May Shaw

(1906–2005)

Daughter, sister, wife, mother, aunt,
 grandmother, great-grandmother, missionary,
 teacher, friend, philanthropist, artist

Kittie-May Shaw believed God at his Word and lived life by that simple truth. In 1927 she married The Rev. Raymond Shaw, a Methodist minister. In 1942, when he entered the Army Chaplain Corps, the family traveled widely in Europe and lived in Germany. Returning to civilian life, they served churches in Pennsylvania, New York and Oregon.

Her favorite place was Crater Lake National Park.

Throughout her life, Kittie-May was an avid photographer and produced thousands of slides of her travels. Remarkably, in her nineties, Kittie-May picked up painting again, a passion she had put aside in her seventies. She painted some 200 scenic pictures in the last decade of her life, and every single family member owns one. She was also a skilled seamstress and crocheter, and played piano and organ for church and pleasure.

In December, Kittie-May's son, Ed Shaw, wrote, "On behalf of my mother, Kittie-May, our family wishes you a Merry Christmas with the hope that you remember her in future years by living your life with kindness and happiness based on the teachings of Jesus." These words accompanied a generous bequest from her estate to the American Bible Society.

People all over the world will be blessed by her for many years by receiving Bibles provided through these gift annuities, countless gifts and the bequest. Kittie-May Shaw's giving has traveled and is traveling to the far corners of the earth, much as she did in life. ■

"The road the righteous travel is like the sunrise, getting brighter and brighter until daylight has come."

PROVERBS 4.18 (GNT)

>> YOU CAN OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PLANNED GIVING PROGRAMS SPONSORED BY THE AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY BY VISITING US AT WWW.AMERICANBIBLE.ORG OR CALLING THE PLANNED GIFT PROGRAMS DEPARTMENT AT 1.800.820.6227.

Quiet Time

YOUR DAY-BY-DAY GUIDE FOR BIBLE READINGS

“Take my yoke and put it on you, and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in spirit; and you will find rest.”
 MATTHEW 11:29 (GNT)

APRIL 2006 • BELIEVE THE GOOD NEWS AND REJOICE IN HOPE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 ISAIAH 42.1-20
2 FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT ISAIAH 43.1-28	3 ISAIAH 44.1-28	4 ISAIAH 45.1-19	5 ISAIAH 48.1-22	6 ISAIAH 49.1-26	7 ISAIAH 52.1-12	8 ISAIAH 52.13-53.12
9 PALM/PASSION SUNDAY MARK 11.1-11	10 MARK 11.12-33	11 MARK 12.1-27	12 MARK 14.1-26	13 MARK 14.27-65	14 GOOD FRIDAY MARK 15.1-32	15 MARK 15.33-47
16 EASTER SUNDAY MARK 16.1-18	17 ISAIAH 54.1-17	18 ISAIAH 55.1-13	19 ISAIAH 60.1-22	20 ISAIAH 65.17-25	21 REVELATION 21.1-27	22 REVELATION 22.1-21
23 1 PETER 1.1-25	24 1 PETER 2.1-25	25 1 PETER 3.8-22	26 1 PETER 4.1-19	27 1 PETER 5.1-14	28 2 PETER 1.1-21	29 2 PETER 3.1-18
30 HEBREWS 6.13-7.10						

MAY 2006 • BELIEVE THE GOOD NEWS AND TRUST IN GOD'S PROMISES

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 HEBREWS 1.1-14	2 HEBREWS 2.1-18	3 HEBREWS 3.1-19	4 NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER HEBREWS 4.1-13	5 HEBREWS 4.14-5.10	6 HEBREWS 5.11-6.12
7 EXODUS 3.1-22	8 EXODUS 4.1-17	9 EXODUS 6.1-13	10 EXODUS 11.1-10	11 EXODUS 12.1-28	12 EXODUS 12.29-51	13 EXODUS 13.1-22
14 EXODUS 14.1-25	15 EXODUS 14.26-15.27	16 NUMBERS 9.1-23	17 DEUTERONOMY 8.1-20	18 DEUTERONOMY 28.1-14	19 DEUTERONOMY 30.1-20	20 PSALMS 105
21 GENESIS 15.1-21	22 GENESIS 18.1-15	23 ROMANS 4.1-25	24 GALATIANS 3.1-18	25 ASCENSION DAY ACTS 1.1-26	26 COLOSSIANS 1.1-23	27 EZEKIEL 37.15-28
28 HAGGAI 2.1-23	29 JEREMIAH 16.1-21	30 JEREMIAH 29.1-14	31 JEREMIAH 30.1-24			

JUNE 2006 • BELIEVE THE GOOD NEWS AND BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 ROMANS 8.1-17	2 ROMANS 8.18-30	3 ROMANS 15.1-13
4 PENTECOST SUNDAY ACTS 2.1-21	5 ACTS 2.22-47	6 ACTS 4.1-22	7 ACTS 4.23-37	8 ACTS 11.1-18	9 ACTS 15.1-21	10 ACTS 15.22-41
11 ACTS 16.1-15	12 ACTS 16.16-40	13 ACTS 17.1-15	14 ACTS 17.16-34	15 ACTS 18.1-28	16 1 CORINTHIANS 12.1-11	17 1 CORINTHIANS 12.12-31
18 GALATIANS 5.1-26	19 EPHESIANS 4.1-16	20 EPHESIANS 4.17-5.2	21 JOHN 14.1-14	22 JOHN 14.15-31	23 JOHN 15.1-17	24 JOHN 15.18-16.4A
25 JOHN 16.4B-33	26 JOHN 5.1-21	27 EZEKIEL 2.1-3.11	28 EZEKIEL 3.12-27	29 EZEKIEL 37.1-14	30 JOEL 2.28-3.8	

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