

SHARING GOD'S WORD WITH THE WORLD

Record

Winter 2007

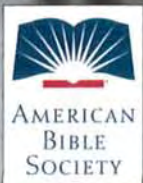
*Elementz of
Life™ Takes It
to the Streets*

A National
Treasure
Turns 100

Sunday School
in a Mailbox!

GLOBAL BIBLE UPDATE

Reaching
All of God's
Children



A Donor Writes

"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the truth, rebuking error, correcting faults, and giving instruction for right living."

2 TIMOTHY 3:16 (GNT)

Recently, one of the American Bible Society's faithful donors, Mr. Ken Makus of Neenah, Wisconsin, wrote in a gracious letter to the editor, "I so enjoy the *Record* and read it from cover to cover. [I have] one question though. . ." He asked if the magazine's claim to be the second-oldest (1818) continuously published publication in the U.S. was true, since the *Saturday Evening Post* (1728) and the *Old Farmer's Almanac* (1792) both began publishing earlier.

The American Bible Society's claim had actually been based on knowing of yet another long-lived publication, *The New England Journal of Medicine* (1812). Was the *Record* really the fourth-oldest continuously published publication?

As it turns out, the *Saturday Evening Post* — you may recall those wonderful Norman Rockwell covers — suspended publication in the late 1960s for about five years, so that was knocked out of the running. We asked for further help from Jacquelyn Sapiie, our Bible Q&A expert. She told us that the *Almanac* is an annual reference publication and not a reporting or news-oriented vehicle, which left us back where we began.

Thank you, Mr. Makus, for putting us through an interesting exercise and for paying attention to such details.

What is noteworthy, of course, is that the American Bible Society remains faithful and committed to its 190-year-old mission: *to make the Bible available to every person in a language and format each can understand. . . so all people may experience its life-changing message.*

In keeping with our historical intent, I draw your attention to our cover story, "Reaching Every Heart," about the depth and breadth of the American Bible Society's global work to fulfill the Great Commission. And I pray that you will continue to be as excited about this as I am.

Happy New Year!



Paul G. Irwin



Record

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EXECUTIVE EDITOR

H. Lee Manis

MANAGING EDITOR

Liz Smith

E-MAIL

absrecord@AmericanBible.org

DESIGN AND PRODUCTION

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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, so all people may experience its life-changing message. The Society is a member of the United Bible Societies, a partnership of the Bible Societies throughout the world cooperating to make Scriptures available to people everywhere in their own language.

Published since 1818, the *American Bible Society Record* is the official periodical of the American Bible Society and the second-oldest continuously published publication in the United States. It is published quarterly and is sent to as many of our supporters as budget allows. Postage is paid at New York, NY, 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 the *Record* articles must include a credit line. Please send a copy of the issue to the *Record* at 1865 Broadway, New York, NY 10023. (ISSN 0006-801)

Record

SHARING GOD'S WORD WITH THE WORLD

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SHARE YOUR STORY

Faith at Work

This experience was written by "Andrew" for ShareYourStoryNow.org, an online conversation about how the Bible impacts your life. Log on today to read stories like this or to share your own.

I was a finalist for a job that I thought I really wanted: to be director of the public relations office at my local university. I had the requisite experience (a solid grounding in journalism and a few years of PR work under my belt), and the initial interview went well. I felt confident that I would land this position.

One Sunday night, as I was leafing through the Old Testament, my eyes fell upon Proverbs 19.21 (CEV): "We may make a lot of plans, but the LORD will do what he has decided."

That Scripture just seemed to jump out at me. It halted me. I stopped to meditate on its meaning, and sought God's wisdom on how it might apply in my life.

The next day, I got the call that someone else got that job I thought I wanted so badly. As I hung up, the words of Proverbs 19.21 resonated in my spirit. We may make a lot of plans, but the Lord will do what he has decided. I realized then that I was more interested in what I wanted than what God's plans for me were. I was strangely content. ■

COVER PHOTO BY DAG SMEMO, COURTESY OF UNITED BIBLE SOCIETIES



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. E-mail: absrecord@AmericanBible.org. For questions for the American Bible Society not related to the Record, please call 866.895.4448.

Update

FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

INTERNATIONAL

INDIA

The Role of Women

>>In India, population 1.1 billion, some 70 percent of the women lack basic literacy skills, 65 percent are undernourished and 45 percent live below the poverty level. So the Bible Society of India, in partnership with church and para-church organizations, is getting the message out that women should be treated as full



INDIAN GIRLS pray during Bible Sunday services celebrated in Karnataka, India.

members of society. To that end they are distributing a specially designed comic book, *Jesus and Women*, along with Scriptures in the major Indian languages.

The response has been overwhelming, says the Bible Society. "Mothers play an important role in molding the lives of their children and will eventually be responsible for influencing the whole family to turn to Jesus. By the power of the gospel, we and our partners look for a radical revolution in this country, where women will obtain freedom from slavery and become strong professing Christian leaders."

CONGO

Bibles by Boat

>>The Bible Society of the Democratic Republic of Congo has been seeking the means to reach isolated communities. In May 2006, the Rev. Christophe Kongo Kote, the general secretary, traveled to Mbandaka, in Equateur province, to accept a motorized canoe donated by



BOAT TRAVEL in Congo is the only way for Bibles to reach some remote villages.

a Swiss woman who used to work in the area as a missionary.

The Bible Society has had a depot in Mbandaka since 2003, but had been finding it very difficult to get stocks of Scriptures out to villages that are accessible only by water. "We are very grateful for this precious gift that will allow the expansion of Bible work on the River Congo and its tributaries from our base in Mbandaka," Rev. Kote said.

NATIONAL

CALIFORNIA

Pray Without Ceasing

>>Phil Presley makes a living in California as an executive recruiter for hotels, but his passion is his work as

a critical incident stress management (CISM) volunteer chaplain.

In July of 2004, Mr. Presley began praying daily for the soldiers, marines, and other servicemen and -women deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan and Israel. Since then he has mobilized an e-mail network of some 20,000 pastors and laypeople, and not one day has passed without their collective prayers.

Each day's e-mail includes the names of four to six people, and Mr. Presley recommends the following prayer: "Father, we humbly ask that your hedge of protection and charge of angels be around them in their going out and coming in. Keep them from all problems and pain, grant them peace and success in all that they do by your power for his glory."

Thousands of Bibles have been given out to these military personnel from the American Bible Society. One miracle Mr. Presley marvels over is the recent safe return of an entire unit of 781 soldiers of the 101st Airborne. After 500 missions covering 65,000 miles of desert in Iraq, every single one of them came home. He credits the "incredible work of the Holy Spirit" for this.

If you're thinking "Here I am — send me" in your prayers, you can be added to the prayer chain now by e-mailing Presley at philpresley@earthlink.net. "Even Christians who aren't mobile can pray," he says.

Witness a Gilded Legacy

This fall, the Museum of Biblical Art at Bible House exhibited folios from *The Saint John's Bible*, a modern illuminated Bible being shown around North America (see a detail from the illustration "Messianic Predictions" at right). And now through March 11, MOBiA will feature Bible-themed art from major 20th-century artists, in an exhibition titled "Biblical Art in a Secular Century."



FROM LEFT: PHOTO BY ILARI SÄKKINEN; PHOTO COURTESY OF BIBLE SOCIETY OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO; PHOTO BY JERRY WARD

NEW YORK

Elementz of Life™

>>>The publication of the American Bible Society's third volume of *Elementz of Life™* magazine was celebrated in



NUTTIN BUT STRINGZ, aka Tourie and Damien Escobar (left and right), meet with *Elementz* editor Tonya Wilder-Butts (center).

October in downtown Manhattan. The hip but wholesome party featured live music by Christian hip-hop singers, including **Sean Slaughter** and **Richie Righteous**.

This issue is packed with intensely personal stories and outstanding original art depicting the raw realism of life in the inner city. "The magazine relays the message of the gospel in a language that youth can relate to," says **Tonya Wilder-Butts**, editor-in-chief.

The cover story by Jose Velez focuses on his intense journey "from gangs to grace" in Chicago. For Jose and others featured in the magazine, Jesus' love has penetrated pain and abuse and brought them to a place of change. There is also a story about **Nuttin But Stringz**, a Juilliard-trained violin duo who blend classical music with hip-hop, jazz and R&B.

Tonya invites church youth workers and outreach organizations to receive free copies of the magazine by sending a request to info@elementzoflife.com. ■

Bible Q&A

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



How were the founders of the American Bible Society affiliated with the American Revolution?

The first president of the American Bible Society was Elias Boudinot, the president of the Continental Congress from 1782 to 1783. The second president of the American Bible Society was John Jay, the former first Chief Justice of the U.S., governor of New York and also a delegate to the Continental Congress. Jay was called to Paris by Benjamin Franklin as joint commissioner for negotiating the peace with Great Britain in 1782, which marked the end of the Revolutionary War. The third president of the Bible Society was Richard Varick, a colonel in the U.S. Army who had been a captain in the New York Regiment during the Revolutionary War.

I have an old family Bible from the American Bible Society dating back to 1847. Does it have any value?

The Bible was reprinted more often and in more copies than any other book. Millions are in existence, and an extremely limited number of them have any commercial value. Of course, all Bibles have sentimental value for the family that owns them.

Important editions of the Bible have been collectible items for many years. These include the earliest printed Bibles;

the first authorized English (King James) version; those that belonged to famous persons; and a variety of 16th- and 17th-century oddities, such as the "Breeches" Bible or the "Wicked" Bible, which are sought out because of some misprint or peculiar wording.

As a rule, 19th-century English and American Bibles are not considered collectible items. But if any family history is recorded in your Bible, it may be important for genealogical research.

Consult your local historical society.

Important editions of the Bible have been collectible items for many years.

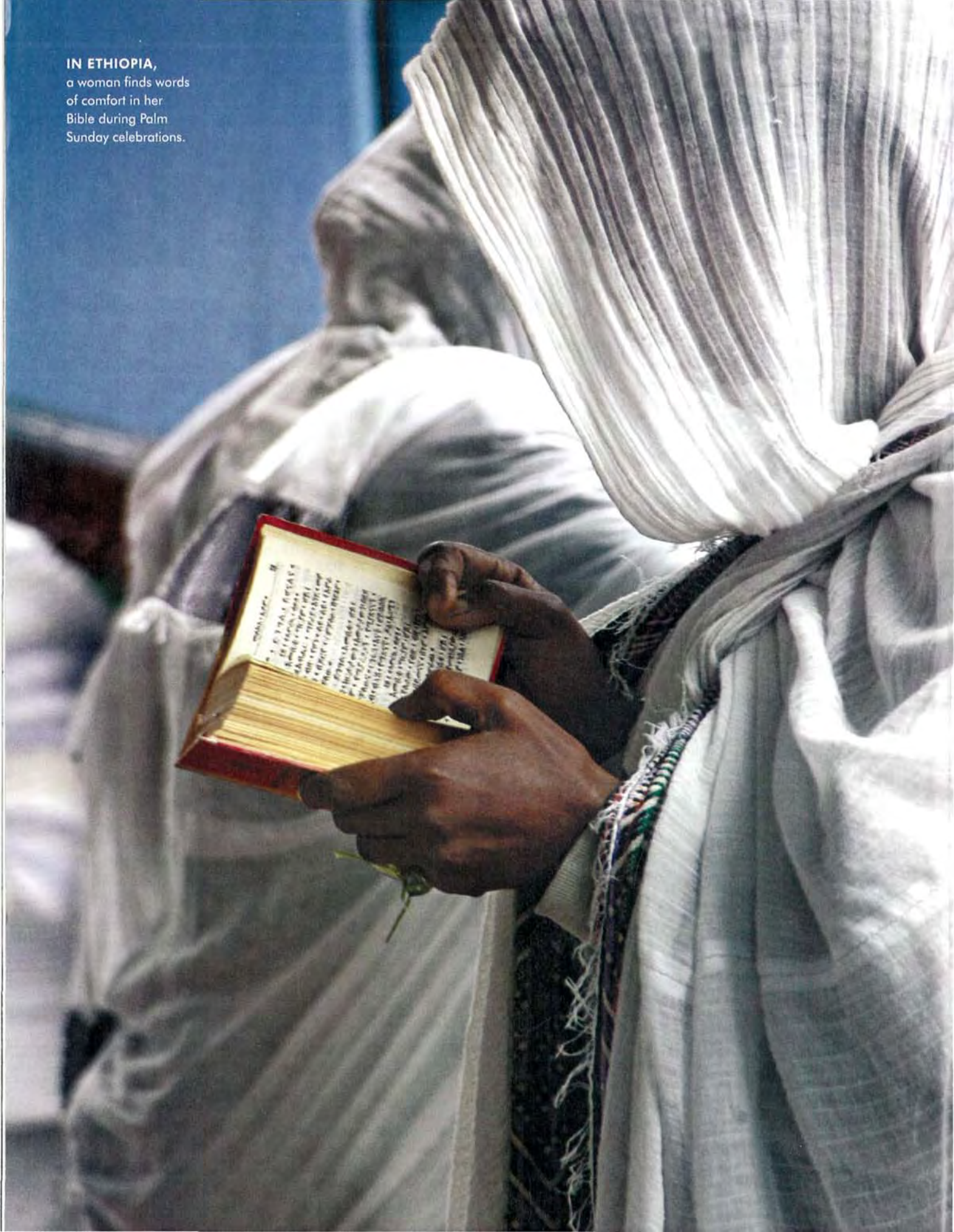
A biblical kingdom and a woman in the Bible share the same name. What is it?

Lydia was the name of a prosperous commercial center in western Asia Minor. The Lydian King Croesus, whose wealth and power were legendary, allied himself with the Egyptians and Babylonians against the Persians, but was defeated and captured by Cyrus the Great in 546 B.C.

Lydia was also the name of Paul's first convert in Europe, a God-fearer living in Philippi (Acts 16.14-15). She was a businesswoman who traded luxurious purple-dyed cloth, and had a house large enough to use as lodging for Paul and his companions. Her house also served as the initial meeting place of the church of Philippi (Acts 16.40). ■

◆ 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.

IN ETHIOPIA,
a woman finds words
of comfort in her
Bible during Palm
Sunday celebrations.



“And so we shall all come together to that oneness in our faith and in our knowledge of the Son of God; we shall become mature people, reaching to the very height of Christ’s full stature.”

EPHESIANS 4.13 (GNT)

Reaching Every Heart

From the Arctic Circle to the sands of Ethiopia, the Bible’s message is taking root.

For almost 200 years, supporters of the American Bible Society have been energized by one guiding principle: to make the Bible’s message available to every person, in a format each can understand and afford. A decidedly tall order — but a joyful one, with God working alongside all the while. • It has meant translating the Bible into plain English through the *Contemporary English* and *Good News Versions*, finding practical ways — such as the colporteur model — to distribute Bibles, and making use of innovations like radio, television and the Internet to bring the Word to the widest possible audience. • But more than that, it has meant a history of reaching out: crossing barriers of language and ethnicity, welcoming new technologies and partnerships, going beyond national boundaries and sharing fellowship across divisions of faith. In short, getting the Word out is now a mission to millions of people. • As a new year begins, here is a picture of some of the ways the Bible Society has found homes for the one message that has endless possibilities for new life.

[TRANSLATION]

Scriptures for the Inupiate

As early as 1818, the Bible Society sponsored Scripture translation into the language of the Delaware Indians. Since then, it has been actively bringing God’s Word to all Americans in the first languages of their hearts.

The Inupiate people live in the very northernmost part of Alaska, “as far as you can go without having to speak Russian,” says Bob Hodgson, director of

the Eugene A. Nida Institute for Biblical Scholarship at the Bible Society. Although there are roughly 4,000 Inupiat speakers among the 8,000-strong Inupiate people, the traditions of this subsistence whaling people have long been on the wane. But a Bible translation is preserving a piece of the North American human landscape, by introducing Scriptures and hope in the Inupiate language.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)



ALASKA'S NORTH SLOPE is home to a severe climate and a new translation of Scripture.

“In every group that we bring Bible translation to, we don’t just bring the Scriptures; we also bring a new sense of personal identity and self-worth, and a new respect for forebears,” says Hodgson.

The translation landscape has a vast horizon. Of the approximately 6,400 languages in the world, only 2,400 have at least some Scripture. The Bible Society and sister agencies have set themselves a goal of translating at least portions of the

Bible into the remainder of the world’s languages by 2016.

At the head of this effort is the Nida Institute, a global resource for scriptural accuracy. As part of its mission, the Institute provides educational resources for churches and scholars and serves as “quality control” for translators and others who work with the Word.

And translation doesn’t just mean bringing the Word to remote language

groups. *Elementz of Life*™ is a hip magazine put out by the Institute that makes the Bible relevant for “unchurched urban youth looking for answers,” says Hodgson. “It’s not just about handing them a leather-bound Bible and saying, ‘Friend, I’d like you to hear the Good News,’” he says. The task of translation at the Nida Institute goes much deeper. “It’s about providing Scriptures in a format and form that [people] can understand.”



[HISPANIC AND LATINO OUTREACH]

Salvador Rocks the Word

The Bible Society has always reached out across the borders of ethnic identity. One of its major commitments today is to the growing Hispanic population in the United States, an estimated 40 million people who make this the fifth-largest Spanish-speaking country in the world. Meeting their spiritual needs has become a primary concern.

Salvador, a Christian/Latin/pop band from Austin, recently joined that effort. They will make appearances at 200 concerts across the country and distribute Spanish-language Scripture booklets produced by the Bible Society, inviting listeners to Bible readings as part of *La Biblia Es Mi Guía* (The Bible Is My Guide), a national advocacy



campaign to engage and motivate Latinos to read the Word of God. Salvador and other prominent Latino figures will become “champions for the Bible cause” by promoting Bible reading among Hispanics in the Los Angeles, Miami and New York areas.

Lead singer Nic Gonzales says, “As a Christian man and the son of a pastor, there is no greater honor than to be a part of a campaign that promotes reading the Bible.”

The Bible Society has also been active in reaching out through radio, since studies show that many Hispanics get information by radio rather than newspapers or TV. Initiatives like *Palabra Eficaz* (The Effective Word), 365 two-minute devotionals that are broadcast

THE BAND SALVADOR recently partnered with the Bible Society to promote *La Biblia Es Mi Guía*, a biblical advocacy program, at Christian events nationwide.

daily, and *24 Hours With the Bible*, which aired in November 2005 and 2006, have attracted listeners around the world via radio and the Internet. A three-hour spin-off, *The Last Hours of Jesus*, was also broadcast, and the combined programs have been heard by more than 1 million people.

Hispanic/Latino ministries is reaching out through print as well. A brand-new annual magazine, *The Record en Español*, tailors content to Hispanic audiences. A new Portion in Spanish called *Rumbo a un Nuevo Hogar* (On Your Way to a New Home) was produced to help provide Scripture-based guidance for the 10 million undocumented immigrants who speak Spanish.

To facilitate Bible reading for Catholic Latinos, the Bible Society created an excellent manual, *Encuentro con la Biblia* (Encounter With the Bible), to train and guide members of a parish in the use of *Lectio Divina*, a method for studying Scriptures devised by the Carthusian monk Guigo II in 1173.

Hispanic/Latino ministries has also developed a vital partnership with Esperanza USA, the largest Hispanic faith-based organization in the country committed to strengthening the Hispanic community. The Bible Society provides several bilingual publications for distribution by Esperanza USA, including two that support education in the church about domestic violence and HIV/AIDS, both areas of major concern in the Hispanic community.

Creating One World

Transcending borders is a central part of the Bible Society's greater mission. In the nearly two centuries since its founding, its international outreach has multiplied many times over.

Since 1816, the Christian church has grown from 200 million to more than 2 billion; and, as in New Testament times, most of that growth has been among the poor and the oppressed — those people desperate for God's Word. Today, the need is profound.

Partnering with agencies and Bible Societies around the globe, the American Bible Society helped found Bible Societies in France, Liberia, Mexico, Nigeria and elsewhere. When the Soviet Union collapsed, the American Bible Society committed \$23.5 million to revive or found Bible Societies in 24 of the newly-freed countries. In 1946, it helped organize a fellowship that now numbers 141 national Bible Societies with ministries in more than 200 countries and territories.

Partnership is the future of Bible outreach. At the dawn of the third millennium, the Bible Society, the Maclellan Foundation and the fellowship of United Bible Societies launched Opportunity 21 (O-21), a four-year program designed to energize and transform worldwide Bible ministry. Now, in partnership with like-minded ministries (including Campus Crusade for Christ International, *Faith*

Comes By Hearing[®], SIL/Wycliffe Bible Translators, SAT-7 television, Scripture Union and Samaritan's Purse), the American Bible Society created a Global Ministries Department that, in 2006, began supporting projects in more than



CHILDREN'S SCRIPTURES bring hope to a remote village in the Amazon (top). Women in India gather for fellowship and Bible reading in the noonday sun (below).

200 countries and territories worldwide.

The founders of the Bible Society saw the Scriptures as essential for moral formation, societal reconciliation and redemption. Today, the Society provides tools for ministry in Africa for people struggling with HIV/AIDS, promotes peace in the Middle East, uses Audio Scriptures for those who can't read and translates God's Word into the languages in which people pray.

The Bible Society pursues its mission in a Christ-like manner: he was anointed to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery

of sight for the blind and to release the oppressed. The American Bible Society, and those who support its work, come alongside people on the road of life and help them discover the freedom and new life that come with a commitment to Jesus Christ.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)



MINISTRY ON THE CUTTING EDGE

Sharing Scripture has also meant harnessing the latest technological innovations, from the Bible Society's horse-and-buggy past to today's Information Age.



1817 The "stereotype" process kicks off a century of printing advances, including Adams presses (1845) and electrolyting equipment (1853).



1920s A set of stereopticon slides is accompanied by manuscripts for use in churches and Sunday schools.



1941 The radio program that later becomes *The Bible Quiz* goes on the air. It runs for more than 25 years.



1946 Bond Productions produces a series of 16-mm films in sound and color that feature stories from the Bible.



1952 Teams of children from local churches compete on *Know Your Bible*, a weekly television program on WNBT in New York City.



1960 "Finger-Fono Scriptures" arrive — a hand-turned plastic device for people unable to read.



1999 ForMinistry.com provides "tools, tips and information" for churches to create their own Web sites.



2004 *Faith Comes By Hearing*[®], a partner of the Bible Society, conceives of and develops the *Proclaimer*, which can play Audio Scriptures in hundreds of languages.

A Bible for Greek Children

From its earliest days, the American Bible Society has been a resource for all Christians who proclaim the Bible's life-changing gospel message. Its founders, like the founders of America (and in many cases the same people), represented diverse Christian denominations but set a course toward unity, carefully avoiding divisive or sectarian positions. Today, a rich diversity is represented on the Bible Society's board of trustees, including His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit of the Greek Orthodox faith.

His Eminence recently expressed his pleasure with an American Bible Society collaboration: the *Children's Bible Reader*. From Alabama to Athens, Greek Orthodox children who speak English can now see stories from the Bible come to life with easy-to-understand text and Byzantine iconographic illustrations. "It is my warm prayer that the *Children's Bible Reader* will find its way into every Orthodox parish — and every home with children," he said.

The book has earned the endorsement of the Church of Greece and the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and was created through the efforts of the Greek Bible Society, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and the American Bible Society.

The *Children's Bible Reader* is only the



A GREEK NUN bows to pray in Athens.

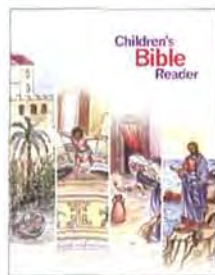


METROPOLITAN NICHOLAS AND ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS (center left and right) welcome the publication of the *Children's Bible Reader* (below) at a church-laity convention.

most recent chapter in a dynamic partnership. In the summer of 2004, the American and Greek Bible Societies co-sponsored a Bible Expo in Volos, Greece, where part of the Olympics was taking place, and created a special imprint of the Bible in Greek and English to be distributed at Olympic events.

On the technology front, Nick Garbidakis, the chief technology officer of the American Bible Society, reached out to Theo Nicolakis, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese's director of the department of information technology. Together they helped to create the Orthodox Web Builder, which launched in 2004. Based on the American Bible Society's Forministry.com technology, www.orthodox-webbuilder.com hosts information for almost half the Greek Orthodox churches in the U.S.

Tom Durakis, director of publishing services at Bibles.org (the publishing arm of the American Bible Society), says the successful launch of the *Children's Bible Reader* is more than just good for relations with the Greek Orthodox Church. "It also serves as a prototype of how we work with churches in the future," he says.



The Journey Ahead

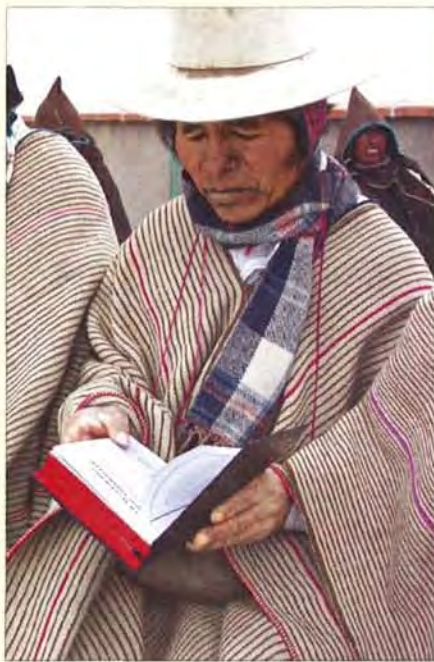
As part of the inaugural events of 1816, the founders of the American Bible Society quoted the awesome vision of Isaiah

11.9 and Habakkuk 2.14: "We shall do our part . . . until the whole earth be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea."

There is a long road ahead. From the arctic reaches of Alaska to the Mediterranean shores of Greece, from streets afflicted by poverty in distant lands to the landscapes of urban America, the American Bible Society continues to journey forth on its 190-year-old mission to share the ever-renewed treasures of Scripture with the world. As another year begins, the American Bible Society is grateful for the ongoing support and collaboration in this work from all who have been touched by the Bible's life-changing message, and for all who join in this exciting vision for the future. ■

Reported by Jason Anthony, Roy Lloyd, David Singer and Liz Smith.

Visit our Web site at www.AmericanBible.org to learn how to become involved in our global mission.



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

Many believers around the world do not have Bibles. In places like South America, China, Russia and Africa, the need is staggering. You can help supply one Bible a month for as little as \$4, or two Bibles a month for \$8, etc., and extend your Christian witness to these regions and to other parts of the world.

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"Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always, to the end of the age."

MATTHEW 28.19, 20 (GNT)

God's Love by Mail

Children receive the joyous lessons of Scripture, thanks to the Bible Society and its partners.

BY LIZ SMITH

Mercy and Ruvimbo's families were next-door neighbors in Zimbabwe, but their parents had long stopped speaking to one another because of an old quarrel. The girls, who went to the same school, secretly remained friends.

Mercy's family attended church, but Ruvimbo's family did not. When Mercy received a special shoe box full of gifts from across the ocean one Sunday, she was so excited that she immediately thought of her friend. Quietly she called Ruvimbo and gave her treasures from the box — a teddy bear, some candy, a pair of socks and some hair ties.

When Ruvimbo's parents found the gifts and confronted her, she told them the truth, and off they went to Mercy's house. Mercy's father was angry, but Mercy was bold enough to tell the grown-ups about the love she had been taught at church.

Samaritan's Purse, an American Bible Society partner, has been teaching lessons on generosity from the Bible to children in poor and remote locations around the world through "shoe box" gifts as part of its ministry project, Operation Christmas Child (OCC). Thousands of volunteers in churches worldwide pack shoe boxes with toys,

clothes and toiletries that are appropriate for boys or girls of different ages. These boxes are colorfully wrapped and handed out to children in Africa, India, Russia, South America and Southeast Asia, along with the message that Jesus loves them.

In 2000, OCC struck up a partnership with The Mailbox Club, a Bible correspondence-course ministry founded in 1965 by George

and Laura Eager. Many of the shoe box recipients are invited to participate in a pen and paper Bible study. Children receive Bible lessons with question pages and Scripture verses that they can read, fill out and send back. After the lessons are graded, they are returned to the students with the next Bible lesson.

With 10 lessons in each course, it can take a few weeks to a few months for a Mailbox Club student to complete the course. Thanks to long-established relationships forged by Billy and Franklin Graham, a vast worldwide network of churches provides

mentors to work with all children who enroll in The Mailbox Club, even those in remote villages. When they "graduate," the student receives a diploma with his or her name.

In 2003, The Mailbox Club worked with Samaritan's Purse to enroll more than 458,000 children in 32 countries. It will distribute 16 million Bible lessons to children in 57 countries this year alone,



LEFT: PHOTO BY DAVID SINGER; OTHER PHOTOS COURTESY OF SAMARITAN'S PURSE



A MOPED SPEEDS over dirt roads to bring shoe box gifts and Scriptures to a village in Cambodia (top left). **COULD IT BE...?** A young Cambodian girl clutches her new gifts (above right). **SHARING SMILES**, boys in Uganda learn about biblical lessons of generosity (above left). **A NEW GRADUATE** (opposite left) receives her diploma from The Mailbox Club — and a New Testament — from Charlie Krueger.

thanks to the OCC network. In 2004, the partnership brought in the Bible Society to fill in the missing piece: giving new Mailbox Club graduates their very own New Testaments.

“We are thrilled and blessed that the American Bible Society came on board to supply New Testaments to our graduates,” says director John Mark Eager, the son of The Mailbox Club’s founders.

Recently, OCC, The Mailbox Club and the Bible Society sent representatives to Durban, South Africa and Ndola, Zambia. Charlie Krueger from the American Bible Society gave out the New Testaments, each with a signed form inside stating that their very own New Testament was a gift from the American Bible Society and Samaritan’s Purse. Charlie says, “It’s encouraging to see the joy on the faces of these children when we hand them their very own Bibles. They are a precious

treasure and soon become dog-eared from use in countries like Zambia, where 75 percent of the population is Christian and Bibles are scarce.”

Samaritan’s Purse was founded in 1970. Franklin Graham has been its president and CEO since the early 1980s. Last December, he wrote to say that Samaritan’s Purse was honored to partner with the Bible Society “to share the love and Gospel message of Christ’s love with hurting children around the globe.”

As for Mercy and Ruvimbo, the following week Mercy convinced her parents to allow her to invite Ruvimbo to their church. When the girls arrived, The Mailbox Club was introduced to their Sunday school. The materials were so interesting that Ruvimbo promised she would continue to come to church. Mercy’s love and the gift box she received helped to reconcile the two families. ■

◆ Visit our Web site at www.AmericanBible.org to learn more about ministry partners like Samaritan’s Purse.



CELEBRATING 100 "POSITIVE" YEARS, a radiant Ruth Stafford Peale enjoyed the fellowship of well-wishers, including American Bible Society President Paul Irwin.

A Century of Spirit

Guideposts dedicates a new ministry to Ruth Stafford Peale on her 100th birthday.

BY DAVID SINGER

More than 700 people gathered at New York City's Marriott Marquis hotel on September 23, 2006, to mark the centenary birthday of Ruth Stafford Peale. Dr. Robert Schuller, pastor emeritus of the Crystal Cathedral, quoted from Proverbs 31, "She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. She watches over her household and does not eat the bread of idleness, her children arise and call her blessed."

Along with her late husband, Rev. Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, Mrs. Peale founded *Guideposts* magazine, a collection of daily devotionals and inspiring stories that now goes out to more than 8 million people. Perhaps equally important is the prayer fellowship that was spawned by *Guideposts*: Every Monday, *Guideposts*' staff would pray for requests solicited from readers.

As a birthday tribute to Mrs. Peale, that ministry, now expanded into a worldwide 24-hour-a-day praying community, was renamed the Ruth Stafford Peale Prayer Network. Van Vaner, former editor-in-chief of *Guideposts*, wrote, "Now, amazingly, a department at Carmel [N.Y.] handles about 100,000 requests a month!"

In his birthday tribute, former President Bill Clinton wrote, "Through your writing, public speaking, and of course, through *Guideposts* you have enriched the lives of countless others, serving as an example of faith and a source of inspiration to people of every background . . . you have made a positive difference to our world and our future — and we know you're not finished yet!"

In keeping with her mission to motivate people to think positively, Mrs. Peale joined the board of trustees of the American Bible Society from 1948 until 1993, when she was appointed honorary trustee to the board of directors. As a board member for the Bible Society, she began serving on the Committee for National Distribution.

In her book, *A Lifetime of Positive Thinking*, Mrs. Peale wrote that positive thinking starts with God, and the way to find out what Christianity is really about — righteousness, truth, life and love — is "to go back to the sources": the gospels and the letters of the apostle Paul. Dr. Paul Irwin and the board of

trustees thank Mrs. Peale for her many years of service and inspiration in promoting the promise and power of God's Word. ■



THE FIRST GUIDEPOSTS in 1945 went out to 10,000 people. Today, it has an audience of millions.

Please Pray

"EVERY TIME I THINK OF YOU, I THANK MY GOD. AND WHENEVER I MENTION YOU IN MY PRAYERS, IT MAKES ME HAPPY."

PHILIPPIANS 1:3, 4 (CEV)

CAMBODIA

Thank and praise God that the *Children's Bible* and the new *Khmer Standard Version Bible* are in demand. Thank



Children from Tuol Krang

God for the financial and prayer support we receive, and pray for wisdom for our finance staff. Pray for the effectiveness of our Siem Riep distribution center. Ask God to bless our building plans, our literacy classes and our relationships

with church leaders and other Christian organizations.

CHAD

Praise God that Bible work is progressing. Thank him for the dedication of our staff in the face of significant challenges and pray that he will strengthen us. Pray for



the launch of the Sar Bible and the Gulay New Testament and ask that our *Faith Comes By Hearing** program will become widely

established in rural areas. Pray, too, for the completion of Bible House, for political stability and for the launch of the HIV/AIDS education program.

LAOS

Praise God for the recently published *Revised Lao Common Language New Testament* and ask him to guide us as we record it into audio format. Pray for the effective distribution of both formats — that they will touch



many Laotians, especially young people in search of meaning. Ask God to bless the Laos Partnership team as it works to develop more Lao children's Scripture materials.

NIGER

Give thanks for our new distribution vehicle. Pray that churches will become more open to Bible work and give it their full support. Ask, too, that we will be able to raise funds for literacy work. 📖



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A Gift of Faith

BY LIZ SMITH



LILLIAN SCHAFFT has helped her community give Bibles to the military.

Mrs. Lillian R. Schafft of Esmont, Virginia, was inspired by an article she read in *Record* magazine about Brian Waite, a chaplain who baptized soldiers in the Tigris River in Iraq. The article gave her a vision to take action, so she recruited her community and her church to gather funds for military Bibles.

In the spring of 2006, Mrs. Schafft sent the check to the American Bible Society on behalf of Immanuel Lutheran Church, which she and 60 to 70 fellow churchgoers attend on Sundays. In her cover note she wrote, "A Lt. Col. National Guard Chaplain friend, just back from Iraq, commented that Fort Bragg offers the most fertile time for soldiers to find Christ. Perhaps our gift could be helpful there!"

Long before Mrs. Schafft's success in grassroots fundraising and advocacy for the provision of God's Word to our men and women in military service, she was a major donor to the American Bible Society. Thanks to her faithfulness over 22 years, hundreds of people around the world have been blessed in having their greatest needs met through the Bible.

"The Bible Society does so much in translations work to reach people all over the world in their own languages," says Mrs. Schafft. "It's inspiring and exciting — and that is one basic reason for my support."

At 84, Mrs. Schafft still donates to Habitat for Humanity of the greater Charlottesville area and is active on its advisory board. She also supports Lutheran World Relief and the Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots U.S.

For Christmas this year, she took out new Bible-A-Month Club® memberships for her entire family (five grandchildren and their parents) and even took one out for the young man who helps out on her farm. When they receive their monthly mailings, with country updates, Mrs. Schafft thinks that each will gain appreciation for the Scripture ministry of the Bible Society around the world. She trusts that they will also catch the vision and stay on as members over the coming years.

As a forward-thinking person, Mrs. Schafft has considered her legacy and has graciously chosen the American Bible Society to receive a future bequest in her will. ■

◆ You can obtain more information about planned giving programs sponsored by the American Bible Society by calling the Planned Gift Programs Department at 1.800.820.6227, or by visiting us at www.AmericanBible.org.

Quiet Time

DAY-BY-DAY BIBLE READINGS

“You are the source of all life, and because of your light we see the light.”
PSALM 36.9 (GNT)

JANUARY 2007 · LIVE IN UNION WITH GOD AND CELEBRATE UNITY IN CHRIST JESUS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY EPHESIANS 1.1-23	2 EPHESIANS 2.1-22	3 EPHESIANS 3.1-21	4 EPHESIANS 4.1-24	5 EPHESIANS 4.25-5.20	6 EPIPHANY PSALM 72
7 EPHESIANS 6.10-24	8 LUKE 3.1-22	9 LUKE 4.16-30	10 LUKE 4.31-44	11 LUKE 5.1-16	12 LUKE 5.17-39	13 LUKE 6.1-16
14 LUKE 7.1-17	15 LUKE 7.18-35	16 LUKE 7.36-50	17 LUKE 9.1-17	18 LUKE 9.18-36	19 LUKE 9.37-62	20 LUKE 10.1-24
21 ECUMENICAL SUNDAY JOHN 17.1-26	22 LUKE 8.19-39	23 LUKE 8.40-56	24 LUKE 19.1-10	25 ACTS 9.1-25	26 ACTS 9.26-43	27 ACTS 10.1-33
28 ACTS 10.34-48	29 ACTS 3.1-26	30 ACTS 4.1-22	31 ACTS 4.23-37			

FEBRUARY 2007 · LIVE IN UNION WITH GOD AND SHARE GOD'S LOVE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 LUKE 10.25-37	2 LEVITICUS 19.1-18	3 DEUTERONOMY 6.1-9
4 1 JOHN 1.1-10	5 1 JOHN 2.1-17	6 1 JOHN 2.18-29	7 1 JOHN 3.1-24	8 1 JOHN 4.1-21	9 1 JOHN 5.1-21	10 2 JOHN
11 3 JOHN	12 ROMANS 8.31-39	13 ROMANS 12.1-21	14 1 CORINTHIANS 13.1-13	15 JOHN 15.1-17	16 JOHN 15.18-16.4A	17 PSALM 36
18 PSALM 63	19 GREAT LENT (ORTHODOX) PSALM 51	20 PSALM 57	21 ASH WEDNESDAY JOEL 2.1-17	22 HOSEA 11.1-11	23 HOSEA 14.1-9	24 PSALM 136
25 1ST SUNDAY IN LENT LUKE 4.1-15	26 COLOSSIANS 1.1-23	27 COLOSSIANS 2.6-23	28 COLOSSIANS 3.1-17			

MARCH 2007 · LIVE IN UNION WITH GOD AND PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 PSALM 116	2 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER LUKE 11.1-13	3 LUKE 18.1-18
4 2ND SUNDAY IN LENT NUMBERS 14.11-25	5 1 SAMUEL 2.1-10	6 2 SAMUEL 22.1-25	7 2 SAMUEL 22.26-51	8 1 KINGS 3.1-15	9 1 KINGS 18.1-29	10 1 KINGS 18.30-46
11 3RD SUNDAY IN LENT 2 CHRONICLES 5.1-6.2	12 2 CHRONICLES 6.3-21	13 2 CHRONICLES 6.22-42	14 2 CHRONICLES 7.1-10	15 PSALM 112	16 PSALM 113	17 PSALM 115
18 4TH SUNDAY IN LENT EZRA 9.5-15	19 NEHEMIAH 1.1-11	20 NEHEMIAH 9.1-18	21 NEHEMIAH 9.19-37	22 ESTHER 3.1-15	23 ESTHER 4.1-17	24 PSALM 4
25 5TH SUNDAY IN LENT JEREMIAH 12.1-13	26 JEREMIAH 32.16-25	27 JEREMIAH 32.26-44	28 LAMENTATIONS 3.1-33	29 LAMENTATIONS 3.34-66	30 DANIEL 9.1-19	31 DANIEL 9.20-27



On the Front Line

BY JOHN GRANT

In the last 18 months, American Bible Society donors have been escorted by Bible Society staff members on visits to the "front lines" of ministry — the Middle East, Russia and Siberia, and most recently to South America. Front line ministry experiences are more than a blessing; they are eye-opening, inspiring and life-changing. In September, a small group went to Peru and Paraguay. One traveler, American Bible Society trustee John Grant, shared one of his experiences:

"On the outskirts of Lima, Peru, we drove up an unpaved road and lost our way among the look-alike shacks and shanties. It was poverty like I had never seen . . . no electricity, no heat, no running water or indoor plumbing. We pulled up in front of a small building made of 4x4 plywood sheets about three-quarters of the way up Genero Mountain. Inside were about 50 children sitting patiently around a large table awaiting our arrival. As we entered, they began to sing for us and then they prayed.

These children literally depend on *Pan de Vida* (Bread of Life) for their daily bread. The program, run by the Peruvian Bible Society, provides them with one meal a day and for many, that is the only meal they get. Most come from single-parent and broken homes. They have little or no medical or dental care, and skin infections are rampant. But the children are clean and well-mannered, and they know the Bible because Bread of Life feeds them food

and the Word of God.

Tonight's menu was a sandwich with a very sparse spread, watered-down powdered milk with oatmeal and a granola bar. One girl put the granola bar in her pocket for her mother. We helped pass out the food. . . .

After the meal I hoisted them up, one by one, onto my shoulders. They hugged us for dear life and we hugged them back. We came there to love them but they loved us. We didn't speak the same language but we didn't have to — love is a universal

language. I started to cry and looked over at my wife to see her tears openly flowing. A mother also cried as she thanked us, as representatives of the Bible Society, for helping to provide for her four children (which she could not).

I said a prayer of thanks that I was able to provide for my own children, but then realized that these children have something not all American kids have . . . the love and the Word of God in their heart. Maybe these kids aren't so poor after all." ■



BREAD OF LIFE is a program run by the Peruvian Bible Society. Beverley Grant experiences firsthand how the children gratefully receive both food and the Word of God.

Visit our Web site at www.AmericanBible.org to learn more about ministry around the globe.



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