

SHARING GOD'S WORD WITH THE WORLD

Record

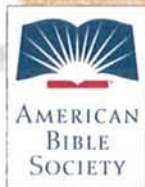
Fall 2006

So All
May Hear
Reaching Hearts
Through Audio
Scriptures

Prayers with
the Firemen
of 9/11

Touring the
Treasures of
Bible House

A Light Shines
in Liberia



Heroes of the Faith

"In conclusion, my friends, fill your minds with those things that are good and that deserve praise: things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and honorable." PHILIPPIANS 4:8 (GNT)

This spring our chairman Dr. Lamar Vest and I traveled to Montreat, N.C., to visit the Rev. Dr. Billy Graham. Our purpose was to present him with the first American Bible Society Heroes of the Faith Lifetime Achievement Award.

We gave him a Steuben glass sculpture depicting hands holding an open Bible, engraved in crisp detail. It carried the Scripture, "For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea," Habakkuk 2:14 (KJV) — the Scripture quoted at the founding of the American Bible Society.

Dr. Graham responded, "I am honored and overwhelmed, and I feel hope that not long from now I can present this to Jesus. It

is his Spirit that takes that Word and applies it to our hearts."

Billy Graham's long association with the Bible Society dates back to 1957, with the Bible Society participating in many of his evangelistic crusades. He gave early and enthusiastic support to the trailblazing translation *Good News for Modern Man* (also

known as the *Good News Translation*), which came out in 1966.

On that occasion, Dr. Graham spoke to a packed house at Lincoln Center. He cited two forces in the world: total license and totalitarian control. He proposed a third, alternative force: a return to the Bible. He stressed that society needs "a return to the old-fashioned biblical discipline of self-control, industry, honesty, conscientiousness, patriotism."

Thank you, Dr. Graham.



Rev. Billy Graham accepts an award from Dr. Paul Irwin.

Paul Irwin



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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 continuously 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 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)



AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

Record

SHARING GOD'S WORD WITH THE WORLD

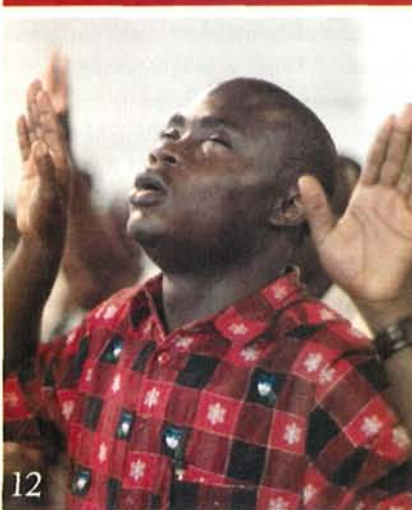
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SCRIPTURE HISTORY

Change for a Bushel?

The family Bible has been a cherished centerpiece of the home for centuries. It is not only a treasury of Scripture but also a record of births, deaths and marriages.

In the early days of our nation, however, books were rare and expensive, and Bibles were a big investment — beyond what many poor families could afford. A few decades before the founding of the American Bible Society, one publisher in Massachusetts hit upon a novel solution.

In 1791, Isaiah Thomas placed a newspaper advertisement for his deluxe two-volume Bible, and also offered a less expensive edition. It had the following payment option: "For those who are not able to pay for one all in Cash — from such the Publisher will receive one-half of the sum, or twenty-one shillings, in the following articles, viz.: Wheat, Rye, Indian Corn, Butter, or Pork. . ."

One of Thomas's Bibles now sits on the shelves of the Scripture Collection at Bible House (see the complete story on page 8). We don't know if it was paid for with a bushel of corn or a tub of butter, but it does put us in mind of the season of Thanksgiving — and the perennial harvest of God's Word.

"The land has produced its harvest; God, our God, has blessed us." PSALMS 67:6 (GNT) ■

COVER PHOTO COURTESY OF THE JESUS FILM PROJECT/CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST INTERNATIONAL IN PARTNERSHIP WITH FAITH COMES BY HEARING®

Update

FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

INTERNATIONAL

Spotlight on China's Christians

>> The American Bible Society hosted a delegation from China in early June for the third and final American stop of "A Lamp to My Feet, A Light to My Path: A Bible Ministry Exhibition of the Protestant Church in China." The weeklong exhibition, on display at the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine in New York City, showed the history of the Bible in China over 1,500 years.

At the opening event Rev. Dr. Cao Shengjie, president of the China Christian Council (CCC), expressed gratitude for American support of the vital Bible ministry in China under the auspices of the CCC. She also spoke at the daylong

Later that day, Mr. Kua Wee Seng, the China Partnership coordinator for the United Bible Societies, handed Dr. John Erickson the 40 millionth copy of the Bible to come from the Amity Printing Company since 1987. Dr. Erickson, the retired general secretary for the American Bible Society and the United Bible Societies, was instrumental in the founding of the Amity Press in China. The symbolic presentation of the Bible marked the successful efforts of China and the United States to print and distribute God's Word in China.



LARRY JONES AND DANIEL WACHIRA behind the wheel of a truck filled with food, supplies and Bibles.

LORD, as the waters cover the sea." They also pitched in to help with a Feed The Children (FTC) distribution across the city that took place on the last day of the weeklong festival. FTC President Larry Jones made sure some 30 semi-trailers full of boxes of food and hygiene supplies also contained Bible Society New Testaments with Psalms and Proverbs in Spanish and English. Some 50,000 people received the gift boxes.

A Message for Teens

>> According to a recent survey, 70% of U.S. teens find a correlation between the Bible's messages and their own lives, with African-American teens significantly more likely to find this true for them than teens of other races and ethnic groups.

The survey, conducted on behalf of the American Bible Society, also revealed that parents are crucial to bringing the Bible to a child's life. More than half the teens surveyed said their parents introduced them to the Bible. Dr. Paul Irwin, president of American Bible Society, said, "All of us were very excited to see, and have reinforced, the important role parents play in introducing the Bible to children at a young age."

NATIONAL

The Miracle on Azusa Street

>> One hundred years ago, the world's attention was riveted by a spiritual revival that started in a tiny African-American church in Los Angeles and spawned the Pentecostal movement, which now counts more than 600 million believers around the world. William Joseph Seymour led the revival, which participants said was fueled by a dramatic "infilling of the Holy Spirit." The services went around the clock for three years, with often a thousand people crowding into an abandoned building at 312 Azusa Street.

In April the centennial of the revival was celebrated over the course of a week at multiple locations in downtown L.A. Representing the American Bible Society, Dr. Paul Irwin, Dr. Lamar Vest and Chris Thyberg spoke and challenged attendees to be "a people of the Scripture" and to do their part to fulfill Habakkuk's prophecy that "the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the



REV. DR. CAO SHENGJIE sheds light on the changing climate for Christians in China.

China Symposium held at Bible House and said that social progress in China since the end of the Cultural Revolution in 1975 has led to the growth of the church there. However, new conditions in the country also mean that the gap between rich and poor is widening and that crime is on the rise.

Bible Sunday Nov. 19

Get Your Church Group Involved NOW!

The American Bible Society founded Bible Sunday in 1915 to help you and your church family pay special attention to the place of the Bible in your daily life.

This year, churches that participate in Bible Sunday will help all of us to "Live God's WORD. Give God's WORD," while narrowing the Scripture supply gap.

As a benefit for participating, churches will become honorary Bible-a-Month Club® members! This means your church will receive encouraging monthly members' reports about how God's Word is changing the lives of men, women and



children around the world. This is at no charge, with no obligation to give monthly.

Order your free Bible Sunday start-up kit by calling 1-877-THE-BIBLE ext. 1000, or e-mail ChurchPartners@AmericanBible.org.

"AN AMERICAN THANKSGIVING"

Co-hosted by Bryant Gumbel and American Bible Society President Paul Irwin, this is a must-see TV family event defining America's spirit of charity, liberty and hope. It celebrates a time when all Americans can give thanks for the religious freedoms and bountiful benefits we enjoy. Airs Thursday, November 23, 2006 on CW network. For details, go to www.ABSpresents.com.

Bible Q&A

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



In the Old Testament, did men undergo any special education to become priests?

The answer is no. The priesthood was a hereditary position, not one achieved through education.

In Old Testament times, a priest in Israel was a male descendant of the family of Aaron, of the tribe of Levi. The priest's responsibilities were to supervise Israel's worship center and to offer the sacrifices called for in the Law of Moses. The priestly order was often called the Levitical priesthood because only the descendants of Aaron, the Levite, could serve as priests. [Exodus 28.1; Leviticus 21.22]

Here's a question about Bible genealogy. In 1 Samuel 14.50,51, my Bible states that Kish was the father of Saul and Ner (Ner being the father of Abner, who was the son of Abiel). Is Abiel in fact the father of Kish and also Ner, making Kish and Ner brothers and Ner Saul's uncle?

You read your Bible closely and you have a keen eye. Kish is the name of five people in the Bible. The Kish you are asking about is the father of Saul, the first king of Israel, who was a member of the tribe of Benjamin, of the family of the Matri. He is variously described as the son of Abiel (1 Samuel 9.1) and the son of Ner (1 Chronicles 8.33; 9.39). However, according to 1 Samuel 14.50,51, Ner is not the

father of Kish but the brother, which agrees with 1 Chronicles 9.36, where Kish is mentioned before Ner, implying that Kish was the older brother.

I am unable to find a source that offers a definitive answer, father or son, but the above information seems to suggest that Kish and Ner were brothers as there is agreement on this point in two instances.

This is all the information about this particular Kish in the Bible, except that he was a man of wealth and possessed many servants and asses (1 Samuel 9.1-3). The four other persons named Kish, all with different genealogies, appear in three books of the Old Testament: 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles and Esther.

How many Bibles were distributed around the world by the American Bible Society and the United Bibles Societies last year?

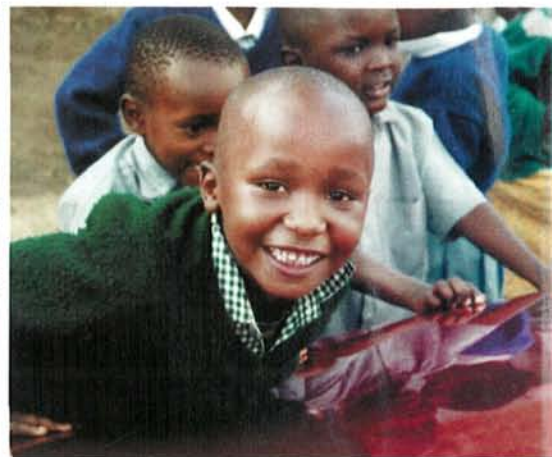
The total combined number was 24,261,178. This reflects only the distribution of Bibles, and does not include the distribution of more than 11 million New Testaments, 14 million Portions and almost 300 million Selections, or Portions and Selections for New Readers. Taking these into account, the total number of Scriptures distributed in 2005 was 372,585,792. ■

Only the descendants of Aaron, the Levite, could serve as priests.

◆ 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.



A **BOOM BOX** brings the Word to this public meeting in Togo (left). **YOUNG AFRICANS** respond joyfully to audio ministry (below). **THE PROCLAIMER** is an invaluable tool, combining ministry with cutting-edge technology (bottom).



Hearing the Call

Half the world cannot read. This should not keep anyone from receiving God's message.

BY DAVID SINGER

Sunwialei Kponkpogri, a chief priest to the Vagla people of Ghana, recalls how he came across a Bible listening group. "I strolled over and heard the cassette playing in our language, Vagla. When I got close enough, I heard the speaker on the tape say that whoever wanted to be great should be like a child — humble and obedient.

"The speaker, I was told, was Jesus," says the chief. "The message was clear. Each one of us is a lost sheep and Jesus had come to deliver us. I felt a weight lift off my shoulders. . . . I had come to realize that Jesus was greater than those gods I was serving." When the chief chose to serve Jesus, he says, "A boldness and a joy captured me."

This kind of response to hearing the gospel is the result of an effort to meet the spiritual hunger of billions of people around the world who can't or don't read. That's more than half the world's population. When God spoke the words, "I command the light to shine!" in Genesis 1.3 (*GNT*), he invented spoken communication. In this sense, Audio Scriptures share a heritage as old as the spoken Word. And they are now taking center stage in Scripture evangelism, propelled by new technologies and a new consortium of partnering ministries.

Last year, the American Bible Society adopted Hosanna's Faith Comes By Hearing® (FCBH) Audio Scripture Program as an enhanced emphasis in its worldwide outreach, in addition to its ongoing commitment to Bible translation, publication and distribution. Several other major international Christian ministries have also begun to incorporate FCBH into their efforts to fulfill the Great Commission.

NEW TEAMWORK

Campus Crusade for Christ International has drawn millions to Christ through The JESUS Film Project. Now, in some areas where the film is shown, local Bible Societies organize viewers into groups that meet regularly to listen to FCBH Audio Scriptures and discuss them. Through this process, many also learn to read Scriptures provided by the Bible Society, by following the printed Word as they listen.

Bible translation is always a first step and takes years of meticulous and often sacrificial commitment (see "A Light Shines in Liberia," page 12). Wycliffe Bible Translators and the Bible Societies have accelerated the translation schedule for thousands of languages still without Scriptures. Translations will then be published and made available.





NATIVE SPEAKERS are an essential part of every Bible translation — and every recording of Scripture. A team in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, spends days in the studio preparing a new recording (left). **BENEATH THE GLARING SUN** in Cameroon, Audio Scriptures supplement the Sunday services at an outdoor church (below).



"These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the father who sent me."

JOHN 14:24b (NIV)

Because most of the people who speak indigenous languages can't read the Scriptures, however, the logical next step is to convert them into audio format, where they can also be used for radio broadcasts. Right now tens of thousands of groups are hearing and studying God's Word in 84 countries and more than 204 languages. Increasingly, the majority of the world's people, who have the inclination or the need to get information aurally, have access to God's Word.

An FCBH partnership is now being explored with World Vision Africa, which has committed to supplying the organizational infrastructure for this program. The United Bible Societies (UBS) is working with FCBH to provide training, audio versions and reading copies of the Bible. Another group, Scripture Union, will contribute resources toward establishing listening programs in schools, as Audio Scriptures become key in literacy training.

For poor communities lacking reliable electricity or audio equipment, FCBH developed the Proclaimer. This device is smaller than a shoebox and features an audio Bible stored on a memory chip, and the battery can be recharged by a hand crank or by solar cells. It can play at a volume loud enough to be heard by groups of up to 300. The

first 1,000 units of the Proclaimer are now being field-tested in Africa and Latin America.

A LOOK AT THE FUTURE

Although the Bible has been translated into 426 languages and the New Testament is available in 1,115, the Audio New Testament is available in only 204 languages. This means there are 380 million people who still do not have any Scriptures in their language.

The American Bible Society's goal is to have the Audio New Testament available in 2,000 languages, covering 97% of the world's population, and to start 1,800,000 listening groups (a dramatic increase from the current 25,000) by its 200th birthday.

The benefits of this work are clear. Daantu Sule of Nigeria says she found it difficult making time to read her Bible. "And even if I did, I could hardly read it for ten minutes," she says. Audio Scriptures changed that, and as a consequence, changed her life. "Since the cassette [Bible] was introduced into our church, I can sit for more than two hours without getting tired. By this means the Bible has become more real to me. . . . My life has also been transformed." ■

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

DR. LIANA LUPAS displays a rare edition of the New Testament in High Wenli Chinese.



Treasures of the Ages

The American Bible Society Scripture Collection preserves the history of the printed Word.

BY JASON ANTHONY

Dr. Liana Lupas likes to pause by the shelves in the library of Bible House in New York City. She'll take down one of the books, and tell you in a confidential whisper, "This is my favorite Bible." The favorite changes often. It might be an edition from colonial America, or

a goatskin Bible from a roaming Ethiopian preacher. Depending on the day, it just might be any one of the 50,000 books that fall under her care.

The American Bible Society has the largest group of printed Scriptures in the western hemisphere. Dr. Lupas, as curator of the Bible collection for the past 15 years, jokes that she is the only librarian in the world who is paid to take care of only one book. That's a modest description of a major task. The collection aims to tell the complete history of the printed Word. It spans more than 2,400 languages. It contains Bibles from the invention of the printing press in the mid-15th century, right up to a brand-new translation of Scripture into the Dinka language of Sudan.

The collection is a world-renowned resource for students of the Bible, of course, but it also is important for students of language,

printing and even for family historians who need help identifying the background of an ancestral Bible. Dr. Lupas says the books can almost tell the story of the last 500 years, since some of the volumes on the shelves — like Martin Luther's groundbreaking translation into German — have carried enormous historical weight, making the Bibles almost figures in history.

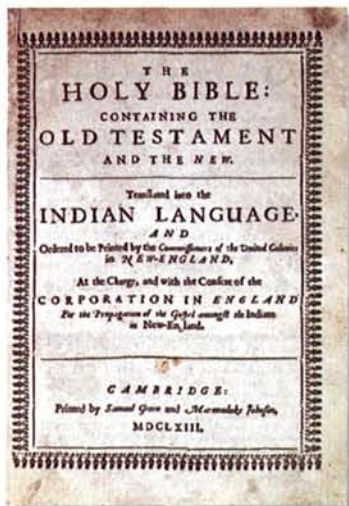
The books sometimes are acquired through donations or at auction (four rare volumes were purchased at Sotheby's of London in April of this year). But mostly, Bible publishers help fill the shelves. "My real talent seems to be begging," says Dr. Lupas. Most new Bible translations or editions are now sent to the Bible Society as they are printed, just as other publishers might send a new book to the Library of Congress.

With the work of Bible translators spreading God's Word around the globe, and the Bible appearing in 20 to 30 new languages every year, the library is growing faster than it has at any time in history. Bible House has the honor of being home to one of the largest collections of God's printed Word anywhere. Some treasured volumes from its shelves are pictured on the opposite page.

The collection aims to tell the complete history of the printed Word.

◆ Visit www.BibleResourceCenter.org to learn more about the Scripture Collection at Bible House.

DR. LUPAS: PHOTO BY DAVID SINGER; GUTENBURG BIBLE: DAVID SINGER; OTHER SCRIPTURE PHOTOS: GINA F. WALKER



THE MASSACHUSETTS BIBLE (1663)

A translation of the Bible into an Algonquin dialect was the life's work of Presbyterian pastor John Eliot, and a monumental labor of love. Although the Bible could be read by only a handful of literate tribespeople, and the Native American language is no longer spoken, the book was a testament to faith in the New World — and the first Bible to be printed in the Americas.



THE GUTENBERG BIBLE (1455)

This Bible and the man behind it — Johann Gutenberg — tops many lists of the great legacies of the last millennium. The printing press he invented started the explosion of information that shaped the modern world. Bible House has only four leaves from this, the first book ever printed. The red text was added later, by hand.

ENGLISH NEW TESTAMENT (C. 1440)

Although condemned in England since 1408, the Wycliffe Bible was part of the earliest English translation of the entire Bible and the most widely read English text before the invention of printing. The translation was inspired by John Wyclif, an Oxford scholar and one of the precursors of the Reformation.



TORAH IN HEBREW (15-17TH CENTURY)

This traditional Hebrew manuscript belonged to a remote synagogue in Kaifeng, China. It may have been in use by the Jewish community there for more than 300 years. The goatskin document, which is 71 feet long, was damaged in the flood that destroyed the city in 1642 and extends only to Leviticus 18.19.

COMPLUTENSIAN POLYGLOT BIBLE (1514-1517)

Scholarship took a leap forward with an edition that featured the original languages of the Bible in parallel columns. The project was completed at enormous expense, and was possible only through the stewardship of the powerful Francisco Cardinal Jimenez de Cisneros — who died months after the final volume was printed.



GOSPELS IN ARMENIAN (15TH CENTURY)

Bibles in the Middle Ages were often reverently bound. This manuscript features a traditional Armenian cover, which has been decorated with precious and semi-precious ornaments and metal crosses. Each cross was given by a mother who had lost an infant who died before baptism.



*"God is our shelter and strength,
always ready to help in times of trouble."*

PSALMS 46.1 (GNT)



Our Shelter and Strength

BY LIZ SMITH

The staff of the American Bible Society had a unique glimpse of the world of the firefighters who were witnesses to the terrible events of 9/11.

FDNY firefighters Jerry Sillcocks and Rich Draves came to Bible House on May 4, the National Day of Prayer, to pray and be prayed over. They prayed wholeheartedly for the many firefighters whose lives are still affected by the terror and horror, even five years later. Jerry and Rich bowed their heads while 14 or so Bible Society staffers encircled them in prayer, deeply honored to do so. The Holy Spirit was in the room and left the teary-eyed firefighters inspired and strengthened.

On their way out, Jerry showed us a pin on his lieutenant's uniform. It read "343★" — for the number of firefighters who perished at Ground Zero on 9/11. The star on the pin signifies that the wearer had been on the scene after the Twin Towers collapsed (two stars mean the wearer was there before the towers collapsed).

In June we caught up with more of "New York's Bravest" at a Firefighters for Christ meeting in Queens. After planning their next outreach to firefighters in the boroughs, some were willing to relay a story or two about 9/11. One firefighter said he lost 25 friends and

many acquaintances, and that the fateful day is a topic he still cannot discuss with his wife or his kids. Another spoke of going to three or four funerals a day for weeks and being disheartened that most of the eulogies implied that all these men got a free pass to heaven. Certainly a nice thought, he said, but he knew that dying as a hero is no guarantee unless you also embrace the gospel.

A retired captain said he came out of retirement and spent every day of the first month after 9/11 at Ground Zero. Then he felt the Lord urging him to get out — that he'd done enough. But one tool that had emboldened him to share the gospel over and over was the American Bible Society's booklet *God Is Our Shelter and Strength*. That was partly because it pictured firefighters on the cover and it was something to offer in a time too difficult for words. He has one box of booklets left and still gives them out.

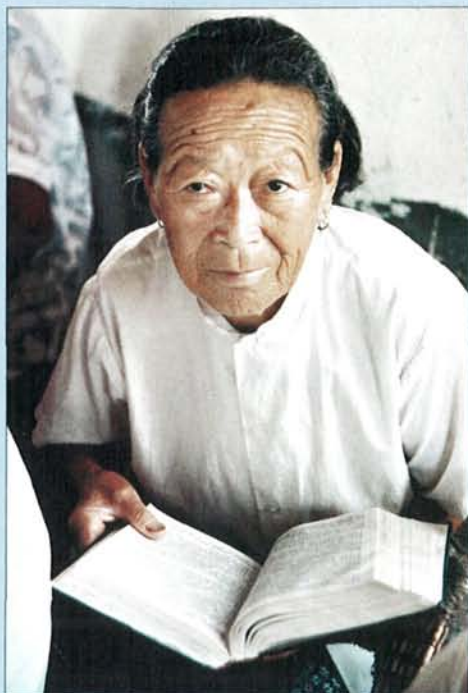
As the nation commemorates 9/11, including the many in Pennsylvania and Washington,

D.C. who lost their lives, we are encouraged that firefighters, police officers and all mourners find strength together through our trust in the power of God's Word. Please join us, in this season of remembrance, in praying for communities around the world that long for reconciliation and peace. ■



RICH DRAVES AND JERRY SILLCOCKS (seated, from left) join staffers from Bible House during the National Day of Prayer. TOP: A cross of steel beams found in the rubble of Ground Zero.

Visit our Web site at www.AmericanBible.org/shelter to download a free copy of *God Is Our Shelter and Strength*.



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

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

As a member of the Bible-a-Month Club[®], you will help share God's Word with people who long to read the Scriptures in their own language. Each month you'll receive stories and testimonies of the people who are benefiting from the Bibles you help provide.

To join the Bible-a-Month Club[®], simply fill out the coupon below, or call 1.888.227.8262 toll-free. Or, become a member online right now by going to www.AmericanBible.org/club.

Yes! I want to join the Bible-a-Month Club[®] to help make an eternal difference in people's lives throughout the world. Each month you can count on my gift of:

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A Light Shines in Liberia

Bible translation teams bring hope to a war-torn nation.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY DAVID SINGER

In the 1990s, bandits in the African country Côte d'Ivoire made it dangerous to travel after dark. But about four times a year, Rev. Don Slager, a United Bible Societies (UBS) translation consultant, made the trek to the country's interior. He was reviewing the progress on a Bible translation project for Bassa, a language spoken by 350,000 Liberians. As a rule, he aimed to arrive back in Abidjan, the capital of Côte d'Ivoire, before five in the afternoon. But one day his bus got a flat tire. It was hours late.

As the bus approached the last stop, Don tensed. An unruly crowd of men was hanging around outside. Then he realized he wasn't the only passenger. Two women, whom he hadn't noticed before, were sitting in the back.

When the bus stopped, the women got out and, Don recalls, "It was like Moses parting the Red Sea, the way those men let them pass." The reverend followed them; then one of the women hailed a cab and rode with him to where he was staying. When he offered to pay the fare, she refused. Reflecting on what had happened, he thought, "I've been rescued by angels."

CENTURIES OF HISTORY

In the 30 years Don has consulted in West Africa, he has found that the battle raging between good and evil is palpable. And Bible translation seems to be at the center of this struggle — especially in Liberia.

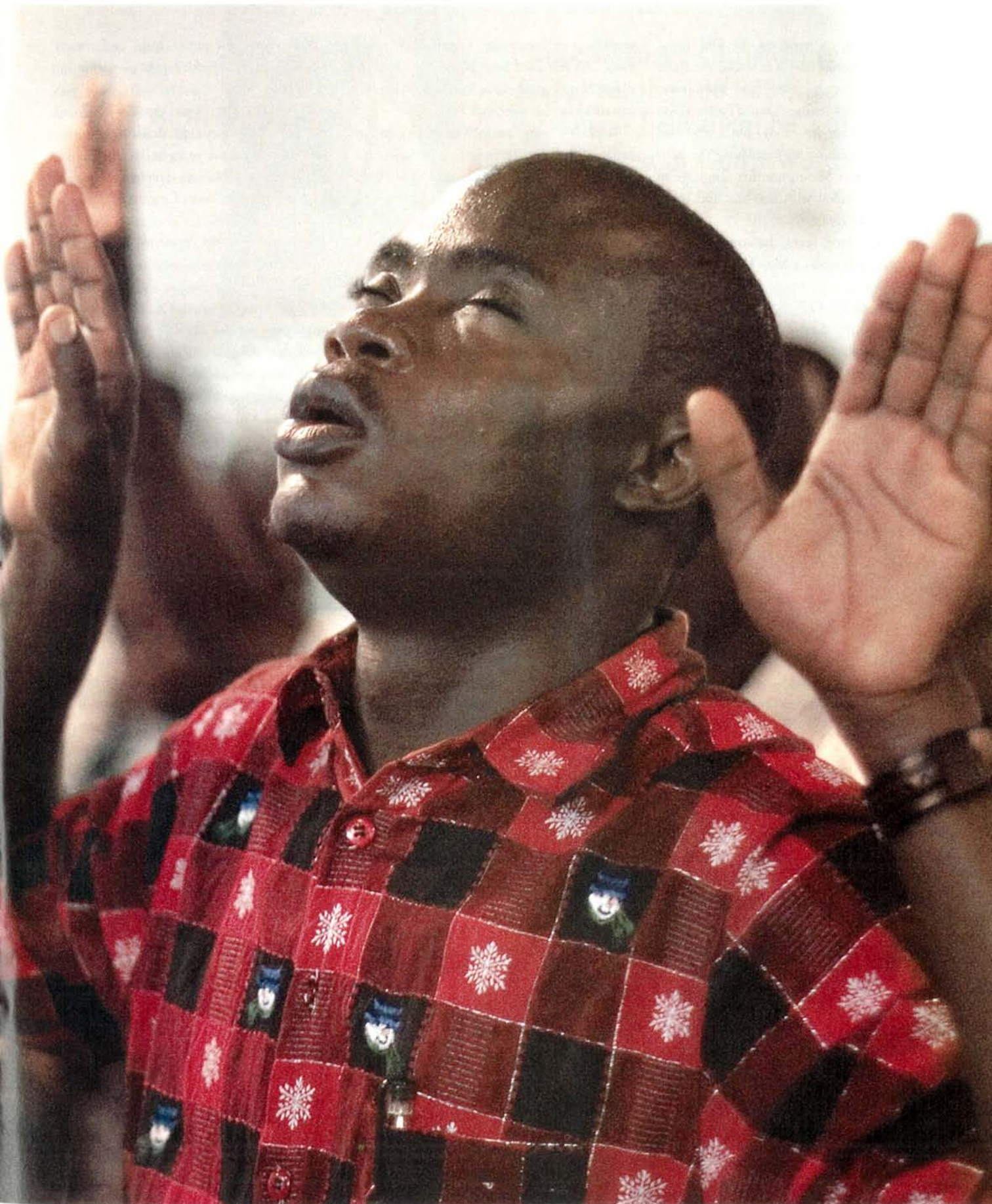
William Crocker was the first missionary to translate part of the Bible into Bassa. In 1836, he wrote, "I hope to do something, at least, toward having their language reduced to writing, so at some future day they may be able to read the sacred oracles in their own tongue."

Crocker began work on the Bassa Bible a few years later, but the project languished for nearly a century after the government mandated English-only education. In the late 1930s, however, translation resumed and three decades later a British missionary, June Jackson, completed the New Testament.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 14)

BASKING in God's peace, Christians of Liberia found solace in their faith during two brutal civil wars.





Others took up work on the Old Testament, but Liberia's civil war forced the Bassa translation team to move the work from Liberia to neighboring Côte d'Ivoire (Don joined that team in 1983). June, who had turned her attention to translating the New Testament into *Mano*, another language of Liberia, was killed with her husband in an ambush in 1990.

After 167 long years, the complete Bassa Bible was dedicated on May 15, 2005.

THE STORY OF KLAO

When Nancy Lightfoot set out in 1983 to translate the New Testament into Klah, another Liberian language spoken by 184,000



REV. DON SLAGER (left) and translators Humphrey Kumeh (center) and Nyanatee Sayon hone in on the final stages of the Klah Bible, a project beset with difficulty since its launch in 1983.

people, she recruited native Klah speakers Humphrey Kumeh, who was a Methodist pastor, and Nyanatee Sayon.

"At first," Nyanatee said, "the idea of translating God's Word was too heavy. But Nancy persisted. She offered to come at no charge to teach me. She paid for me to go to a Bible

workshop in Greenville, Liberia, 300 miles away. She recruited both Humphrey and me there. Now I praise God for the job. He has sustained me for this work."

With her team assembled, Nancy began work on the New Testament, and they completed a draft by 1989. Anticipating work on the Old Testament, Nancy and Humphrey went to Jerusalem to study Hebrew. Nyanatee would come later after finishing some spelling corrections. But before he could follow, civil war broke out in Liberia, and the team member had to flee with his children.

Nancy assumed that all their work on the New Testament — work she had left with Nyanatee — was lost. There had been no

news of him for a year and a half. But when she returned to Liberia from the States in 1991, a Methodist minister brought her the computer and floppy disks Nyanatee had left at his church. A tech-savvy missionary cleaned the mildew from the floppies. For the few short books that were either missing or unreadable, Nancy found drafts at her house in Greenville, Liberia, which had not

been looted or damaged in the fighting.

The Klah team gradually reassembled in neighboring Côte d'Ivoire, just as the Bassa translation crew was doing. It seemed that each time a village was torched in Liberia, another member of the Klah review committee would show up seeking refuge in Côte

d'Ivoire. Soon the entire team and review committee were together again — except for Nyanatee.

A respite in the civil war came in 1997 and Nyanatee, long assumed dead, reappeared. For seven torturous years he had been hiding in the bush. His two daughters had died during the ordeal, one of starvation and the other from exposure.

Nyanatee eagerly rejoined Nancy and Humphrey in finishing the Klah New Testament. But in the turbulence the manuscript was lost several times. Once, the typeset proofs were sent to Nancy's mother back in the States. After surviving a civil war, the proofs were misplaced for six months when Nancy's sister stored them away while housecleaning.

Finally, the Klah New Testament was dedicated in January 2000. So far, the Bible Society in Liberia has published 50,000 copies.

NEW BEGINNINGS

Only a year after the dedication, an automobile accident seriously injured Humphrey and killed Nancy.

Shortly before her death, she wrote about the project's misfortunes and how the hand of God repeatedly saved it for publication.

Nancy's death and Humphrey's injuries once again threw doubt on the future of the Klah Bible. The accident left Humphrey in a body cast. Nevertheless, he said he wanted to finish the translation work they had begun.

Don Slager picked up coordinating the translation of the Klah Old Testament in 2001. He now works with Nyanatee and Humphrey in Monrovia to complete Nancy's dream of a Klah Bible, knowing how sweet it is to hear God's voice in your own language.

BIBLE TRANSLATION FACTS: LIBERIA, AFRICA AND THE WORLD

- English is the official language of Liberia, but it is spoken as a first language by only about 10% of the population.
- Liberians can read the full Bible in Bassa and English — only two of the more than 20 major languages spoken in the country.
- Some part of the Bible exists in 16 more Liberian languages.
- At least part of the Bible has been translated into 683 African languages, by far the highest number for any continent.

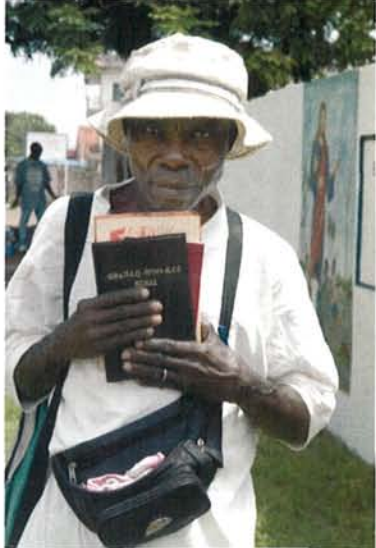


- Almost a third of the world's languages are spoken in Africa.
- The latest studies indicate there are nearly 7,000 living languages spoken around the world.
- Some part of the Bible has been translated into 2,403 of these languages, and 426 languages have a full Bible.
- Teams are currently translating the Word into 1,640 more.
- Scriptures were introduced in 26 new languages last year.

They have finished a first draft of the Old Testament. The review committee of 10, representing Klao dialects and denominations, is busy evaluating meaning and language.

“Once everyone is pleased with the work, we will go back and revise the New Testament so that there’s a nice marriage between it and the Old Testament,” says Don. He expects that they will finish the task by 2008.

“Translation is my passion,” says Don. “Christianity in Liberia is a mile wide and an inch deep. I hope to make Christianity a little deeper for the 180,000 Klao speakers — help them be a little more rooted in God’s Word. When people look into God’s Word through



A STREET BIBLE VENDOR calls the new Bassa translation his “bestseller.”

a second language, it’s like looking through a clouded window.”

Less than 10% of these native groups can read the languages they grew up with — the languages in which they dream. Don longs to see translations converted to audio format, opening God’s Word to the many people who don’t have access to the printed Word.

He remembers a time when Humphrey experienced God’s love through a familiar

Klao voice. The night before, neighbors had killed and eaten a dog Humphrey had adopted — a yappy friend that had often warned him of approaching danger during the war. Humphrey was sad and distracted. Then he heard a boy walk by, whistling a familiar Klao hymn — written to the very same words of Scripture they were just then translating. Humphrey suddenly felt the sure comfort of God’s love in the familiar Klao words, both on the page and in the tune outside.

He sobbed uncontrollably. In that healing moment, Humphrey knew God’s closeness. ■

I hope to make Christianity a little deeper for the 180,000 Klao speakers — help them be a little bit more rooted in God’s Word.

>>REV. DON SLAGER, UBS TRANSLATION CONSULTANT

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Please Pray

“PRAY ON EVERY OCCASION, AS THE SPIRIT LEADS.”
EPHESIANS 6.18b (GNT)

INDONESIA

Nearly 6,000 people died in the earthquake that struck the city of Yogyakarta in south central Java on the morning of May 27. More than 10,000 houses were destroyed and some 200,000 people were left homeless and displaced by the quake, which measured 6.3 on the Richter scale. This is the third natural disaster since the tsunami of December 2004, which was followed by the earthquake of March 2005.

H. Duta Pranowa, general secretary of the Indonesian Bible Society, requests prayers that “God may restore and heal again, physically and spiritually, all the surviving victims. And may God bless those who have helped and are helping them.”

THE MIDDLE EAST

Please pray for a political resolution and the real peace that only God can provide. Pray that supplies of food, gasoline and electricity

remain available. Pray for protection for Bible Society staff in these countries, and their families, as they continue to distribute God’s Word and humanitarian relief alongside churches and para-church organizations.

SRI LANKA

The Ceylon Bible Society



seeks prayers for peace from the fellowship of United Bible Societies (UBS) for restoration of law and order in Sri Lanka.

The nation is steadily plunging into civil war, reports Ravi Navaratnam of the Ceylon Bible Society. The cease-fire called in 2002 and recent peace talks seem to be derailed. In June, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (Tamil Tigers) may have detonated the claymore mine that killed 67 people on a passenger bus in the north central province of Anuradhapura.

The full extent of civilian casualties is not yet known, but hundreds have died in clashes since April.

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INDONESIAN FLAG: AMET JEAN PIERRE/CORBIS SYGMA; SRI LANKAN FLAG: STOCKBYTE/GETTY IMAGES; CHINESE WOMEN: RUNE HANSEN

In Matters of Trust

BY DAVID SINGER

Marjorie Horvath remembers when she was a little girl and heard for the first time that Jesus loved her. “I was ecstatic. I didn’t think that anyone loved me,” she says.

Then at age 17, she drifted away. It wasn’t until years later, after she was married and her son, Daniel, began to have seizures that she felt herself return to Jesus. She says, “I got down on my knees and prayed that if the Lord would heal Daniel, I would bring my child up for him.” After a few months Daniel was healed. “Though I had left the Lord for a while, he never left me,” says Marjorie.

Over the years Marjorie Horvath had faithfully given to the American Bible Society. But then finances got tight. Wealthy in resources, she was income poor. She stopped tithing, deciding that she “couldn’t afford it.”

While Marjorie’s husband was alive, she always left the family finances to him. When he died, he left her with assets that included a substantial commercial annuity, but the annual interest rate it paid her was very low.

Soon she discovered that she couldn’t afford not to tithe. “When I began to trust the Lord with my life and finances again, doors began to open.” Through a television ad, Marjorie learned of a charity that could double her income if she exchanged her commercial annuity for a gift annuity. But she did not feel at



MARJORIE HORVATH says she “put out a fleece.”

peace about the change.

That’s when the American Bible Society came to mind. After much prayer, she decided to “put out a fleece” (Judges 6.37 *KJV*) — and work with whichever charity contacted her next.

Jim Sheldrew, a representative from the Bible Society, was the next to call. After meeting with Marjorie and consulting with other members of the Bible Society’s planned giving team, he told

Marjorie that cashing in her commercial annuity would cause a large and unnecessary tax bill. She paid heed to his advice and decided to withdraw the funds gradually.

“God steered me to the American Bible Society,” says Marjorie. “Mr. Sheldrew had the knowledge to steer me in the right direction; he had my interests at heart.” She also decided to set up a testamentary Charitable Remainder Trust for her children and testamentary Gift Annuities for her grandchildren.

Now she feels like a part of the ministry. “The Bible Society is a stable, down-to-earth, Godly institution that is taking God’s Word across the face of the earth. And when my children and grandchildren get their checks from the American Bible Society, it will be a reminder to them of God and his Word.” ■

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

Quiet Time

DAY-BY-DAY BIBLE READINGS



“But I am like an olive tree
growing in the house of God; I trust in his
constant love forever and ever.”
PSALM 52.8 (GNT)

OCTOBER 2006 · BELIEVE THE GOOD NEWS AND WORK FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 1 CORINTHIANS 11.17-34	2 PSALM 9	3 PSALM 10	4 PSALM 72	5 PSALM 82	6 PSALM 85	7 PSALM 94
8 1 SAMUEL 25.2-44	9 NEHEMIAH 5.1-19	10 AMOS 5.1-27	11 OBADIAH 1-21	12 JEREMIAH 22.1-23	13 JEREMIAH 23.1-22	14 JEREMIAH 23.23-40
15 ISAIAH 28.1-29	16 ISAIAH 56.1-12	17 ISAIAH 57.1-21	18 ISAIAH 58.1-14	19 ISAIAH 59.1-21	20 ISAIAH 61.1-11	21 ISAIAH 62.1-12
22 MICAH 1.1-16	23 MICAH 2.1-13	24 MICAH 3.1-12	25 MICAH 4.1-13	26 MICAH 5.1-15	27 MICAH 6.1-16	28 MICAH 7.1-20
29 PSALM 52	30 PSALM 46	31 JOHN 8.31-59				

NOVEMBER 2006 · BELIEVE THE GOOD NEWS AND GIVE THANKS FOR GOD'S BLESSINGS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 PSALM 8	2 EZRA 5.1-17	3 EZRA 6.1-22	4 NEHEMIAH 8.1-8
5 EXODUS 35.1-29	6 NUMBERS 6.22-7.11	7 NUMBERS 7.12-89	8 DEUTERONOMY 26.1-19	9 JOSHUA 3.1-17	10 JOSHUA 4.1-14	11 MALACHI 3.8-18
12 2 CORINTHIANS 8.1-24	13 2 CORINTHIANS 9.1-15	14 PHILIPPIANS 2.1-18	15 PSALM 50	16 PSALM 75	17 PSALM 92	18 PSALM 95
19 BIBLE SUNDAY PSALM 96	20 PSALM 97	21 PSALM 98	22 PSALM 99	23 THANKSGIVING PSALM 100	24 PSALM 108	25 PSALM 145
26 PSALM 146	27 PSALM 147	28 PSALM 148	29 PSALM 149	30 PSALM 150		

DECEMBER 2006 · BELIEVE THE GOOD NEWS AND SPREAD JOY TO EVERYONE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 JEREMIAH 33.1-13	2 JEREMIAH 33.14-26
3 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT LUKE 21.5-38	4 PSALM 24	5 PSALM 122	6 PSALM 124	7 PSALM 126	8 PSALM 127	9 PSALM 128
10 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT MALACHI 3.1-4	11 LUKE 3.1-20	12 JOHN 3.1-21	13 JOHN 3.22-36	14 ISAIAH 11.1-9	15 ISAIAH 12.1-6	16 ISAIAH 35.1-10
17 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT ZEPHANIAH 3.8-20	18 ZECHARIAH 9.9-17	19 ISAIAH 7.10-25	20 ISAIAH 9.2-7	21 LUKE 1.1-25	22 LUKE 1.26-56	23 LUKE 1.57-80
24 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT LUKE 2.1-20	25 CHRISTMAS JOHN 1.1-18	26 LUKE 2.21-40	27 JOHN 2.1-12	28 REVELATION 1.1-20	29 REVELATION 4.1-11	30 REVELATION 7.9-17
31 REVELATION 19.1-10						

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