

RECORD

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2004



A WIN-WIN OFFER

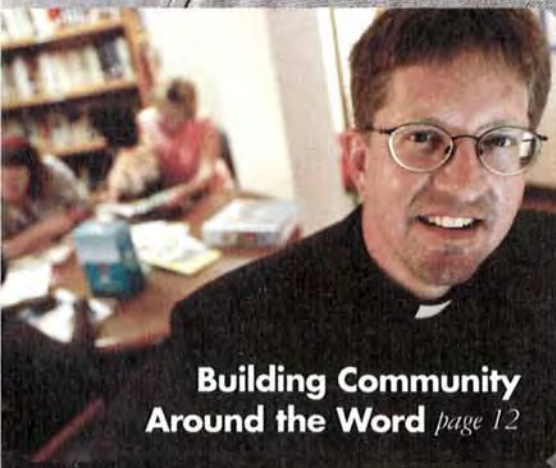
page 4

4 the Streets

page 8

**Sharing the Good News
by Other Means**

page 10



**Building Community
Around the Word** *page 12*

Connecting the Dots

“... there is nothing new under the sun. (Ecclesiastes 1.9b NKJV)”

The times, they are a-changin’,” sang Bob Dylan in his ballad, warning of the cultural upheaval to come. That was in the late sixties. Today, with ongoing strife in Iraq, genocide and starvation in the Sudan and threats of terrorism at home, the world, more than ever, seems an unsettled place. Progress in medicine and genetic engineering cause some to question the certainty of long-held beliefs. Everything seems up for grabs.

In the Scriptures, by contrast, the word “forever” appears some 325 times. God’s Word expresses a sureness that stands in sharp relief to society’s pervasive throwaway spirit. The writer of Hebrews assures us that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.” The Scriptures speak of things that matter most as “eternal,” invoking that word in more than 80 instances.

In his adage about change, Solomon took a heavenly view when he wrote, “That which has been is what will be, that which is done is what will be done . . .” (Ecclesiastes 1.9a NJKV) Amid much situational uncertainty and fluid mores, the Psalmist reminds us of God’s steadiness: “Long ago I learned from your statutes that you established them to last forever.” (Psalm 119.52)

Some too readily abandon the firm foundation of God’s Word — and are willing to adjust Scripture’s meaning to accommodate the latest “new” thinking. If there is ever an anchor in life, a centering point, it is a relationship with our Heavenly Father as revealed in Scripture.

Even some who say they follow Christ don’t thoughtfully apply the Scriptures to discern or act with eternity in mind. A study done in 2003 showed that less than 10 percent of Christians view life events — issues — from God’s revealed perspective.

Postmodern thinking allows people who say they believe the Scriptures to hold views that are contrary to what God’s Word says. Jesus scolded such inconsistency: “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and yet don’t do what I tell you?”

On page 8 we introduce you to *4 the Streets*, our new magazine for teenagers and young adults. It deals candidly with real-life issues confronting today’s youth. It offers them alternatives drawn from the “forever” perspective of Scripture. In many of our young people’s lives, where so much, especially relationships, seems conflicted and uncertain, God’s unchangeableness offers us a relationship of certainty. *4 the Streets* is one of the new ministries your support makes possible — a ministry that makes God’s Word real and relevant in the lives of our young people.



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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. The Society is a member of the United Bible Societies, a partnership of Bible societies throughout the world cooperating to make Scriptures available to people everywhere in their own language.

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

ON THE COVER:

God's love, shown by a friend and a stranger, broke through Paul Dordal's bitterness.

(Photograph by David Singer)



RECORD

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

VOLUME 149, NUMBER 5

FEATURES

DEPARTMENTS

- 3 PLEASE PRAY**
Requests from around the globe
- 7 HISPANICS COME TOGETHER IN OUTREACH**
A Bible Society initiative
- 11 BIBLE-A-MONTH CLUB**
Laughing and praying in Costa Rica
- 14 DEDICATED TO KINGDOM BUILDING**
American Bible Society benefactors
- 16 QUIET TIME**
Daily Bible reading guide
- 17 UPDATE**
National & International News
- 18 BIBLE IN THE NEWS**
Scriptures in today's headlines

4
A WIN-WIN OFFER
Making the right choice

8
4 THE STREETS
Straight talk in an urban dialect

10
SHARING THE GOOD NEWS BY OTHER MEANS
A Scripture listening program for the illiterate

12
BUILDING COMMUNITY AROUND THE WORD
Learning to read the "Book of Life"



8



12

PLEASE PRAY

A GUIDE TO PRAYER

IRAN — Pray that Scriptures in appropriate languages will be available for believers and seekers despite restrictions on importing and printing Scriptures. Pray that the government and society will become more open to Christian activities and influence.

IRAQ — Give thanks that the Bible Society in Lebanon has been able to import Scriptures and that people are open to God's Word.

LITHUANIA — Remember the more than 2,000 schools in Lithuania where there are still no Bibles.

MALAWI — Give thanks for the new audio Chisena New Testament and pray for the recording of new Scripture products. Pray as the Bible Society in Malawi publishes New Testaments in Tumbuka and Chisena and ask God to protect Bible Society property as crime escalates.

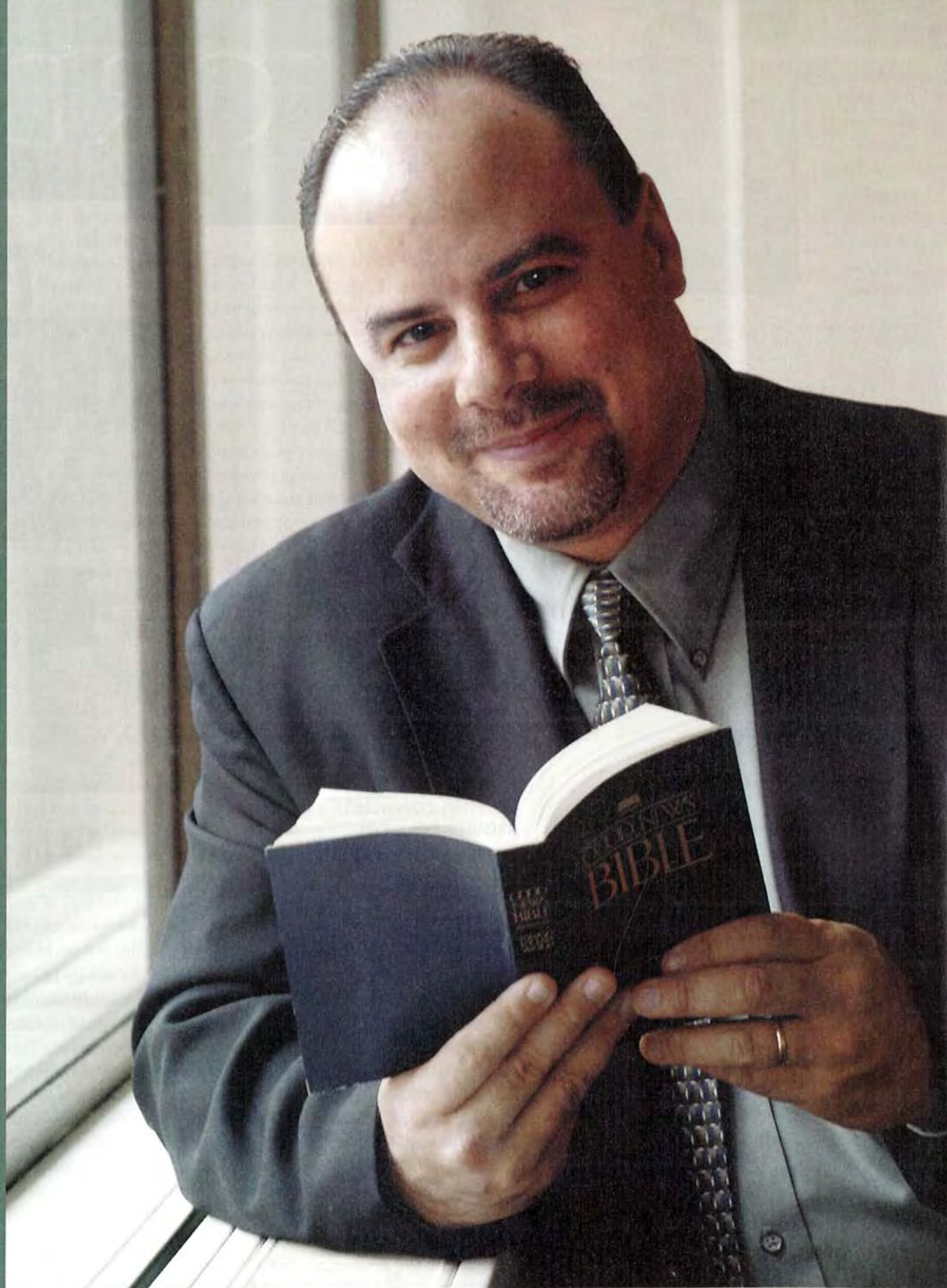
MOZAMBIQUE — Thank God for the

expansion of the *Faith Comes By Hearing (FCBH)* audiocassette Scripture listening program. Please pray for plans to make an audio recording of every local language in which the New Testament is already available.

SWAZILAND — Ask God to bless the Bible Society in Swaziland's work with young people and for the opportunity to provide Scriptures for children in hospitals. ■



We encourage you to send your letters 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



A WIN

Paul Responds to the Touch of Angels

On the surface Paul Dordal was always affable. His friend Carmen Feliciano says he showed the best manners of anyone she'd ever met; he had a knack for making everyone feel comfortable. But Carmen knew she'd crossed an invisible line when she handed him a gift-wrapped American Bible Society *Good News* Bible on Valentine's Day, 1995. ¶ Paul had bartended in a restaurant in the New York *Daily News* building on Manhattan's 42nd Street where Carmen occasionally interviewed celebrities for the newspaper. And she was an avid fan of the *Daily News* softball team on which Paul played. Even so, their friendship never ventured much beyond small talk. When Paul got work as a recording technician, although still in the *Daily News* building, their paths crossed even less. ¶ So it was unusual, thought Carmen, that while she was shopping for a Bible at the American Bible Society bookstore, Paul should pop into her thoughts. "I'll give him a Bible for Valentine's Day," she decided. When she went to the recording studio to deliver her gift, Paul was with friends, so Carmen asked him not to open the little box until after she left. ¶ Paul only needed to partially open

Story and Photographs by David Singer

WIN OFFER

the package to realize what it was. It triggered in him both fury and embarrassment; that evening he called Carmen to tell her so. Paul remembers, "I cursed her and all Christians for trying to spread their mythical beliefs." He threw the little blue Bible into the trash.

When they bumped into each other in the *Daily News* building a few days later, Carmen sensed his coolness. A week later, Paul lost his job and disappeared altogether.

LETTING GO

Carmen never suspected that her gift would uncork a fountain of turmoil seething just beneath the surface. At age 14 Paul, a New York native living in the Bronx, had begun to use drugs and alcohol to mask his inner rage. He was angry at the God he professed didn't exist — he held Christianity and the faith both his Puerto Rican parents avowed responsible for the breakup of their marriage and his home. He had recently prayed to the "nonexistent" God to somehow release him from his life of emotional agony and addictions.

For years Paul had assured himself that he was OK. He hung with some of the best people — high profile newspaper and entertainment executives. But the only thing they held in common, Paul had come to realize, was their addictions. He had now become so dysfunctional from his drug use that it cost him his job at the recording studio.

About a month passed; people at the *Daily News* began to wonder out loud what had happened to Paul. Then Carmen, already packed for a California vacation, got an unusual telephone call; it was Paul's dad, someone she had never met or spoken to before. He urged Carmen to visit Paul right away; he was at New York Presbyterian Hospital. She figured that, at worst, it might mean taking a later flight. But the father's tone convinced her that her visit mattered.

The doctor who met her said that Paul had overdosed and suffered a life-threatening accident. He advised her to just listen to what Paul had to say.

The night before, on March 28, 1995, Paul had drugged himself into unconsciousness. The crumpled position he fell into on the floor cut blood circulation to his right hand and leg. He awoke 14 hours later feeling tremendous pain in his arm. In his leg, which was now paralyzed, he felt nothing. At first he guessed he had suffered a stroke. He crawled to a telephone and called 911. When the paramedics arrived he couldn't get to the door, so they broke in.

At the hospital, tests showed that Paul's liver and kid-



Carmen Feliciano's friendship with Paul Dordal moved her to share God's Word with him. Go to www.americanbible.org to read other stories about changed lives.

neys had failed. The doctors advised him that he might not survive the surgeries needed to excise the dead muscle in his thigh that was poisoning

him; even if he did, he might lose his leg.

As he waited outside the operating room crying, a young fellow Hispanic rolled up alongside in a wheelchair. He asked Paul the reason for his tears. Paul explained that he might die that night. "He responded with a win-win proposition," explains Paul. "He said that if I turned my life over to Jesus and I died, I'd go to heaven. And if I didn't die, if Jesus healed me, I would have him with me for the rest of my life."

As medical staff wheeled Paul into the operating room, he grasped at that precious possibility — he committed his life to Jesus. And that's what he so urgently wanted to tell Carmen — that from that moment on he felt the presence of God's spirit like a huge hand holding him in a secure embrace.

LEARNING TO WALK

It took seven operations to save his leg and arm. During his two months of recovery relearning how to walk, Paul had time to read a second *Good News* Bible that Carmen had brought him the night of her first hospital visit. He read it through twice and eventually sought out a church community that emphasized teaching from God's Word. (Carmen, who now works at the Bible Society, has helped pastors, Sunday School teachers, ministries, the military and law enforcement agencies distribute more than 100,000 pieces of Scripture materials.)

In the years since, Paul married and began a family, graduated college and seminary, was ordained and became pastor of Norwood Community Church near his home in the Bronx. He served as Vice President for Development at his alma mater, Nyack College, and just recently answered a call to pastor the Crestmont Alliance Church in Pennsylvania.

Paul says, "God has been good to me since the day of my salvation. I have been blessed beyond my wildest imagination. I feel like God reached down and snatched me up much like he apprehended the Apostle Paul as he traveled on the road to Damascus." ■

To read more about Bible translation, visit www.americanbible.org.

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

HISPANICS COME TOGETHER IN OUTREACH



Mario Paredes

MARIO PAREDES DISCOVERED the American Bible Society while looking for a bilingual New Testament for his students at Northeast Hispanic Catholic Center in Brooklyn. "It was the only bilingual Spanish-English New Testament and it was only available from the Bible Society," he says.

As a new member of the Bible Society's Board of Trustees, Mario recently

helped organize *The Bible in Hispanic America*, a fundraising event recognizing two other Hispanics who have used their public prominence as a forum for Christian witness within the Hispanic community.

Mario traces his passion for witness to his education under the Jesuits. His calling became focused on issues of justice during a visit to the Holy Land in the early 1980s, where he traveled to the Church of the Beatitudes. "On the mountain, I started to read the Beatitudes and I discerned that the Lord was speaking to me about the importance of working for justice," he says.

In the 1970s, Mario joined Cesar Chaves and the United Farm Workers Union to secure amnesty for the workers and improve their working conditions. He was appointed by President Reagan to observe elections in Nicaragua, Surinam, El Salvador and Haiti and he was awarded a papal knighthood for his tireless efforts on behalf of others.

Mario currently applies that passion for justice as Director of the Hispanic Market in Multicultural and Diversified Business Development for Merrill Lynch. He has written books on justice and articles for *El Diario-La Prensa*, *Immigration Today* and *Catholic New York*.

As a trustee Mario is committed to "opening the door to and working with Hispanic leaders in the corporate,

academic and religious worlds to assist the Bible Society in outreach to the Hispanic community."

A CONGRESSMAN'S CONTRIBUTION

THE BIBLE SOCIETY RECOGNIZED CONGRESSMAN ROBERT Garcia for more than 50 years of public service in the name of Christ. The Congressman says that his overriding goal as a public servant is to empower people, especially Hispanics, "spiritual empowerment brought about by reading the Bible."

A Bronx native, he was elected to six terms in the United States Congress. Now he and his wife, Jane Lee, serve as missionaries to the Christian Embassy in Washington, D.C. There, Bob conducts weekly Bible studies for members of Congress and another for foreign ambassadors. Jane holds Scripture studies for the wives.



Robert Garcia

PITCHING FOR GOD

MARIANO RIVERA, ALSO RECOGNIZED BY THE BIBLE SOCIETY, has a story that is equally inspiring. His father earned a meager living as a boat captain in Puerto Carmito, Panama. "I had nothing," Mariano said, "but I was happy." At age 12, he joined the local baseball team, where he played without shoes, used a bat made from his mother's broom and a glove fashioned from cardboard. But what he lacked in resources he made up for in skill and confidence. Mariano joined the national team at 19 and, during a critical game, relieved an exhausted pitcher to win the game.

Two weeks later, New York Yankees recruiters arrived in Panama and signed Mariano up in record time. He said that sharing God's love and presence with others, especially young people, means more than all the success and accolades he has received as a Yankee. ■



Mariano Rivera

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY FRANCINE LANGE

the streets

Straight talk in an urban dialect

As the American Bible Society's youth-directed magazine reaches churches and ministries across the United States, many readers recognize their own stories within its pages and are drawing Scriptural answers to their life questions.

Rosa Melendez stands at 5 feet and, with an attractive, moon-shaped face framing her shy smile, looks to be no older than 17. As a self-described “party girl” who sought intimacy by regularly visiting New York City clubs, the 25-year-old New Yorker sounds like other young people searching to quell an inner loneliness. For so many, that search only intensifies the emptiness.

“We can get addicted to false love,” she says. She thought nothing of following a young man home from a club for sex. “My God, how many times did I say yes to someone, how many times did I let myself be led out the door.” But things changed dramatically when Rosa began attending New Dawn Christian Ministries in Brooklyn. There, she met Julissa Lopez, who offered a safe place for Rosa to talk frankly.

As New Dawn’s assistant pastor, Ms. Lopez ministers to all age groups, but recognizes that young people need ministry that is relevant to their own generation’s culture. So she’s integrating *4 the Streets* — the American Bible Society’s *Elementz of Life*™ magazine — into her discipleship program. In it, illustrations by 22-year-old graphic artist Ron Pichardo, whose edgy urban-flavored style convincingly conveys the ongoing battle between the dark side of humankind and the light and freedom of life in God. The articles, written with raw honesty by young men and women, speak candidly to their peers about the downward pull of darkness — domestic violence, sexual, physical and substance abuse, eating disorders, suicide, gang involvement and more. A section on self-mutilation includes a graphic poem, alternatives to “cutting,” toll-free numbers for the National Youth Crisis Hotline and Scripture: “But in every part of me I discover something fighting against my mind, and it makes me a prisoner of sin that controls everything I do. . . . Thank God! Jesus Christ will rescue me. So with my mind I serve the Law of God, although my selfish desires make me serve the law of sin.” (Romans 9.23, 25)

Ms. Lopez says, “We’ve seen a big impact in our youth group,” after centering discussions around *4 the Streets* articles. Says Rosa, “There are many stories that I can relate to.” As she went out “clubbing,” she compared Christ’s unconditional love with the temporary and self-serving admiration young men offered — interested more in her



Assistant Pastor Julissa Lopez, right, uses the Bible Society’s youth-relevant materials to minister to youth such as Rosa Melendez. Rosa relates to the stories in *4 the Streets*, an American Bible Society publication written by young people.

body and their own gratification than a meaningful relationship. Rosa finally concluded, “I can’t do this anymore.”

She accepted God’s love as her own and has been attending New Dawn regularly for the past several months. “It’s the best thing I’ve ever done,” she adds. (She recently visited a club, and when approached with direct invitations, said, “Listen, I practice celibacy.”)

Ms. Lopez observes that this generation is a restless one, always “looking for something to do.” With resources like *4 the Streets* and Scripture materials from the Bible Society, she believes that many young people can

draw on the spiritual strength to use their talents and energy to a positive end.

Says Liana Roa, manager for *Elementz of Life*™ and the magazine’s editor-in-chief, “The Word of God, when presented in an appropriate context, speaks powerfully to all generations and cultures. Our goal is to join with churches and youth ministries to offer that Word in youth-relevant forms — music, magazines, Web sites and any other medium that will speak to and connect this generation with the Bible’s life lessons and guidance.” ■

For more information about *Elementz of Life*™ go to www.americanbible.org and click on “Domestic Outreach” under “What We Do.”



Sharing

the Good News by other means

Elizabeth Odi recalls only too well when her addiction to alcohol caused her and others so much trouble. "It became my habit each morning to drink, even on Sundays, before I went to church. I would cause a lot of disturbances during the church service, and often had to be escorted out by the ushers."

Then, one Sunday morning when Elizabeth stopped in at her favorite bar before church she was told that the liquor was sold out. Upset, she set out for home. But for some reason she felt compelled to go on to church where congregants were listening to a tape of Scripture. Elizabeth heard Galatians 5.19-21: "People's desires make them . . . hard to get along with. People become jealous, angry, . . . get drunk, carry on at wild parties, and do other evil things as well. . . . No one who does these things will share in the blessings of God's kingdom."

Feeling that the Apostle Paul was naming her sins, she asked that that section of the tape be replayed. "I wept until I could weep no more. That day marked the end of my drunkenness." Elizabeth's life-changing encounter with God's Word is just one example among many in Ghana of how audio Scriptures are having a dramatic effect on communities and individuals.

Although literacy rates in developing countries are on the rise, increasing the number of people who have access to God's written Word, there remain millions of people who cannot read, especially in south Asia, Africa and the Middle East. In these areas, alternatives to the written Word are essential in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. The American Bible Society's partnership with Campus Crusade in promoting the *JESUS* film, which uses the Bible Society's *Good News Translation*, has reached millions with the message of new life.

Hosanna's *Faith Comes By Hearing* (FCBH) Scripture audiocassette ministry, from which Elizabeth benefited, is another partnership that has been increasingly fruitful.



Two participants of a *Faith Comes By Hearing* workshop in Ghana examine the Scripture cassettes.

In Ghana, where nearly a third of the population over the age of 15 cannot read, Scriptures on audiocassette are transforming lives with the Good News.

Many people who attend listening groups have described how hearing the Scriptures spoken aloud helped them to understand the Bible's message very clearly. One man said that he had been obsessed with money, and despite becoming a Christian, continued consulting fetish priests in search of wealth. One day he heard Matthew 6.25-26 read at an FCBH listening session. ". . . Don't worry about having something to eat, drink, or wear. . . . Look at the birds in the sky! They don't plant or harvest. . . . Yet your Father in heaven takes care of them. Aren't you worth more than birds?" He took its message to heart and no longer visits fetish priests.

With the support of faithful donors, the Bible Society has been able to establish 1,510 listening groups in Ghana, where tens of thousands of people regularly listen to the Scriptures in one of six languages. ■



Laughing *and* Praying in Costa Rica

Five-year-old Tiffany closes her eyes, presses her hands together and begins to pray. She is one of the more than 100 children — either living in the streets or growing up in a deprived home — who gathered at a small hall in a poor section of San José.

The party, sponsored by the Bible Society of Costa Rica, features singing, games and Hector the Clown. Hector shares God's Word, then hands out Scripture coloring books and children's Bibles. He has just asked Tiffany to pray for four of the parents who have come forward to accept Christ's love.

This ministry operates as part of the Bible Society's children's club, Nofetin, and is funded by the *Opportunity 21* Scripture distribution project *In the Hands of God*.

Nofetin, Hebrew for "beehive," brings the children and their parents into a Scripture-honoring context of fun and hope — one that encourages the children to share their faith with others. Partygoers also receive Scriptures to hand out to friends and family, thus taking "honey" from the "beehive" out into the community.

The Bible Society of Costa Rica has also produced a series of videos for teens to stimulate discussion about the Bible — its origins, its message and its relevance to modern life. The series, broadcast on national television, has helped many in Costa Rica with their personal Scripture study.

Your **October** gift will bring the Word of God to Costa Rica, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua. Your **November** gift will support Bible work in Southeast Asia: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. To find out more about joining the Bible-a-Month Club, fill out the reply form below or write to:

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Using the American Bible Society's *Mission: Literacy* booklets, Joy Winkle, far left, coaches 6-year-old Atong Dut. Debra Lubhan, center, works with 11-year-old Achol Dut, left, and Agum Dut, 9.

Building

BY FRANCINE LANGE

Community

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALLEN BRISSON-SMITH

Around

Pastors often urge their congregants to become "Christ's hand extended" — to become servants of faith in their communities. Associate Pastor Jim Kroonblawd found a very practical way to equip his parishioners to carry out such an exhortation.

Rochester, Minn., a community where he has ministered for six and a half years, has an increasing inflow of immigrants, refugees and professional expatriates. So when Pastor Kroonblawd was introduced to the American Bible Society *Mission: Literacy* Program, he saw a natural opportunity for his parishioners at Trinity Lutheran Church to serve the growing foreign-born population.

Rochester, population 92,000, is home to the Mayo Clinic, Mayo Foundation, IBM Rochester and a number

of other computer companies that employ international staff. Then there are the refugees who have fled persecution in Somalia and the Sudan. One measure of the need is a public school listing of more than 55 languages spoken by its students. The Rochester community is committed to providing language training to those who need it. With the Bible Society literacy materials, "I saw an opportunity to address the need of [immigrant and refugee] children falling behind in school," Pastor Kroonblawd said. He added that the materials are not used exclusively in English Language Learner (ELL) classes, but provide a good supplement to standard ELL materials.

"We found it very effective for every age level, children, parents and grandparents," he added. "It's already giving some confidence to the adults who have had little English background." Three generations are learning to read English using the Scripture-based materials — both physical and spiritual needs are being met.

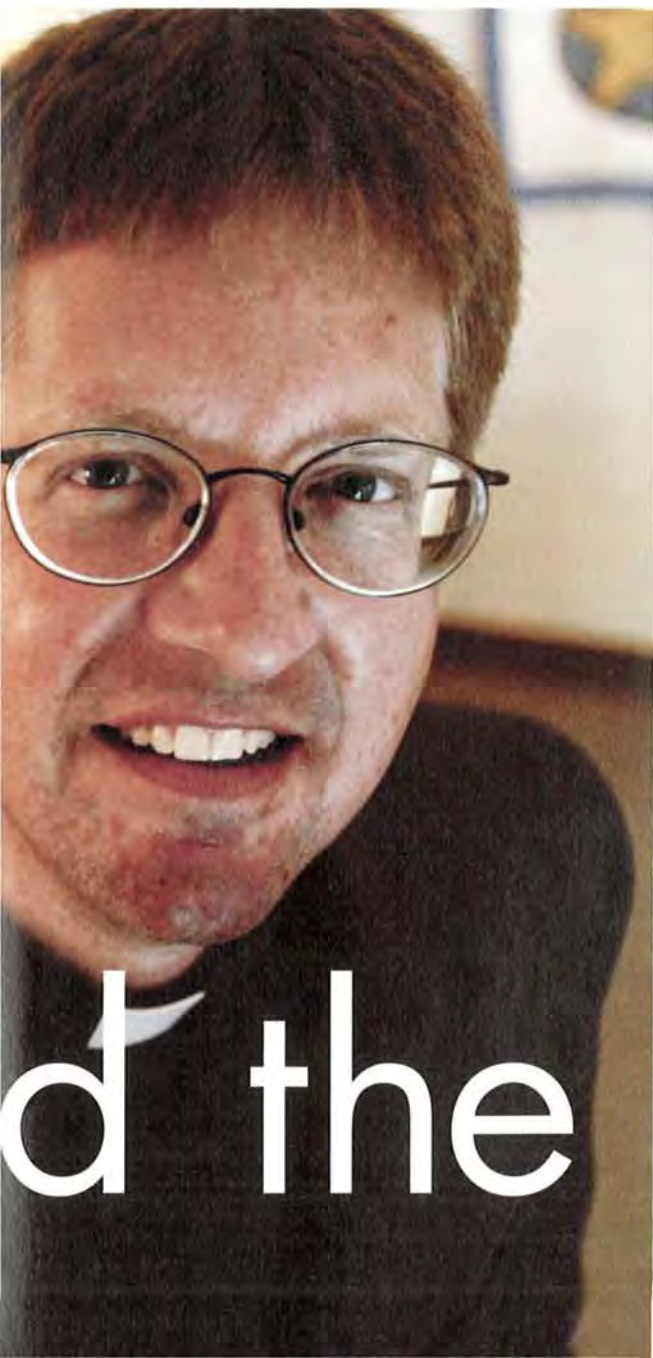
The program has also been touching another group, the tutors. Pastor Kroonblawd said of one young woman, who volunteered as a high school senior and worked with children in the church's after-school program, "Her faith is being impacted simply because she gets a chance to share it."

As the tutors work with students, they connect them to the church community. "[*Mission: Literacy*] builds relationships, that's the key." The materials also provide a no-cost means of training volunteers as ELL tutors. "The church has an army of volunteers that can bring the gospel to people through an ELL program," said Pastor Kroonblawd.

"I'm convinced that this is what the church needs to be about. Rochester's not unlike other communities in Minnesota . . . dealing with immigrants coming into their communities. This is an opportunity for the churches to build relationships with communities . . . as well as bring the gospel to someone who might not have ever had any contact with the Bible. I think there's tremendous need to reach people who speak a different primary language and have never heard the gospel before."

Pastor Kroonblawd recently accepted a new position at Trinity Lone Oak Lutheran Church in Eagan, Minn. He intends to use the literacy program there, after assessing the needs in his new community. ■

For more information about Mission: Literacy or to support this program, please contact Jean Bross-Judge toll-free at 800-688-7108 or send your gift to: American Bible Society, attn: Literacy Program, 1865 Broadway, New York, NY 10023. You may also access our Web site www.americanbible.org to learn more about other Bible-sharing initiatives.



d the

Word

Learning to Read the "Book of Life"

A COUPLE DEDICATED TO KINGDOM BUILDING

"Anyone who comes to me and listens to my words and obeys them . . . is like a man who, in building his house, dug deep and laid the foundation on rock. The river flooded over and hit the house but could not shake it, because it was well built."

(Luke 6.47, 48 GNB)

BY JAMES WALKER

WENDELL AND VIRGINIA RUSS HAVE SPENT A GOOD PART of their careers in real estate and construction, and they've used top-quality materials to build homes that will last a lifetime. The Russes have also contributed to helping people build their lives — by supporting American Bible Society Scripture-sharing programs overseas. "We can't go to the mission fields," says Wendell, "but we can send our money."

Wendell remembers going to church as a child in Athens, Ohio. "I was so small I couldn't see over the pews." At 14, his mother died, and as the oldest of seven in the family, he had to go to work.

In 1939 he married Virginia, and while living in Erie, Penn., delivered milk from a horse-drawn wagon for a local dairy. During World War II, Wendell served under Gen. George Patton in Europe, with the 1252nd Combat Engineer Battalion. It was this experience in construction that led him into the home building industry in Erie after the war. He built a series of houses called "Homes by Wendy," which both Wendell and Virginia claim still look good after nearly 50 years.

But the weather in Erie can work against an industry where much of the work is conducted outdoors. The snow and bitter cold can halt construction for much of the winter.

So in 1957 the Russes moved to California, where they ran a coffee shop for a time. Wendell later sold mobile homes for several years.

Through these transitions Wendell always sought the Lord's leading, guided by the Bible and the faith he had claimed as a child. And on Easter Sunday in 1962, Wendell, Virginia and two of their three children publicly dedicated their lives to the Lord and his Word at their church in Chula Vista, Calif. As Wendell explains, the Bible "is the road map, a guide, it's the guidebook of life." In 1971 Wendell put his expertise in construction to work, serving on the board of directors for the Church of God Retirement Homes in Ocean-side, a service he continued for 20 years.

In 1996 Wendell and Virginia moved to Arizona to live



Wendell and Virginia Russ celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary.

in one of the houses that Wendell refurbished. And recently, a financial windfall in a homebuilding deal prompted the Russes to invest with the American Bible Society. Through their *Gift Annuity*, the Russes are able to get Bibles to people who don't have them and contribute to missionary outreach while providing for themselves and their family. ■

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.



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Or call 1-800-820-6227 today and tell us your age(s) and an amount for your Gift Annuity.

 AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

You may write us for more information at:
Planned Gift Programs, 1865 Broadway, New York, NY 10023
1-800-820-6227 www.americanbible.org

quiet time

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

OCTOBER

Filled with Hope and Working for Peace and Justice

- 1 Luke 11.37-54
- 2 Isaiah 61.1-11

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

- 3 1 Corinthians 11.17-34
- 4 Exodus 23.1-13
- 5 Deuteronomy 5.1-22
- 6 Deuteronomy 5.23-33
- 7 Deuteronomy 15.1-18
- 8 Numbers 27.1-11
- 9 Numbers 36.1-13

SUNDAY

- 10 Amos 5.1-27
- 11 Micah 2.1-13
- 12 Micah 3.1-12
- 13 Micah 4.1-13
- 14 Micah 6.1-16
- 15 Nahum 1.1-15
- 16 Nahum 2.1-13

SUNDAY

- 17 Nahum 3.1-19
- 18 Jonah 3.1-4.11
- 19 Zephaniah 1.1-18
- 20 Zephaniah 2.1-15
- 21 Zephaniah 3.1-13

- 22 Zechariah 9.1-17
- 23 Zechariah 10.1-11.3

SUNDAY

- 24 Zechariah 11.4-17
- 25 Psalm 10
- 26 Psalm 11
- 27 Psalm 12
- 28 Psalm 75
- 29 Psalm 76
- 30 Psalm 97

SUNDAY

- 31 John 8.31-59

NOVEMBER

Filled with Hope and Giving Thanks and Praise to God

- 1 Genesis 14.1-24
- 2 Hebrews 7.1-28
- 3 1 Chronicles 16.7-36
- 4 Psalm 18.1-19
- 5 Psalm 18.20-50
- 6 Psalm 24

SUNDAY

- 7 2 Corinthians 8.1-15
- 8 2 Corinthians 8.16-24
- 9 2 Corinthians 9.1-15

- 10 Psalm 92
- 11 Psalm 93
- 12 Psalm 95
- 13 Psalm 96

SUNDAY

- 14 Psalm 144
- 15 Psalm 145
- 16 Psalm 146
- 17 Psalm 147
- 18 Psalm 148
- 19 Psalm 149
- 20 Psalm 150

BIBLE SUNDAY

- 21 Psalm 138*
- 22 Psalm 135
- 23 Psalm 132
- 24 Deuteronomy 26.1-15

THANKSGIVING DAY

- 25 Psalm 126
- 26 Psalm 127
- 27 Psalm 128

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

- 28 Matthew 24.29-44
- 29 Isaiah 11.1-9
- 30 Isaiah 12.1-6

*National Bible Week is Nov. 21 - 28, 2004.

IN MEMORIAM

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

Memorials of \$500 or more for one individual or family unit will be published in the American Bible Society Record. For further details about the memorial program, please write to: Donor Relations, American Bible Society, 1865 Broadway, New York, NY, 10023-7505.

In memory of my beloved husband,
David M. Anderson
Given by: Esther M. Anderson

My father, Myrle Bly
Given by: Ronald P. Bly

Margaret Lowther Smitley Burdick
Given by: William A. Prentice

Nancy Walker Brooks
Given by: Peter C. and Elizabeth D. Forster

My wife, Mary Claycamp
Given by: Kevin Claycamp

My father, Jere Lawrence Crook, Jr.
Given by: The Crook Trusts

Martin C. Durciansky
Given by: The Donnar Trust

My husband, Phillip L. Egnew
Given by: Nadine L. Egnew

John Gordon Gray
Given by: Geraldine J. Gray

My son, Gary Maize
Given by: Robert Maize

My mom and dad,
Blaine and Addie Musick
Given by: Mr. and Mrs. Williams Monroe, Jr.

Our mom, Bessie Perry
Given by: Forrest, Bruce, Jeannette and Kay

My parents, Asa and Miriam Prentice,
and my son, William Lee Prentice
Given by: William A. Prentice

Lorayne Quyls
Given by: Mr. and Mrs. Glenn W. Collaer

My mother, Billie Joan Randall
Given by: Ronald and Debra Garrou

My wife,
Mrs. Doris Franklin Reed
Given by: The Rev. Ralph M. Reed

Sarah Stob
Given by: Mavis Tebben

Mary V. Wall
Given by: John M. Wall

Mrs. Willie Mae Cask Watts
Given by: Mrs. June Watts Cobb

update

N A T I O N A L

■ CELEBRATING THE KING JAMES BIBLE

More than any other book of the past 400 years, the King James Bible has shaped the course of English literature, language, drama, politics and religion. An almost 1,000-year history of translating the Bible, first into Anglo-Saxon, then into early English, paved the way for its publication.

Last June, the American Bible Society's Nida Institute for Biblical Scholarship presented a symposium celebrating the 400th anniversary of the birth of the *King James Version* (KJV).

The two-day celebration, organized by Dr. Robert Hodgson, dean of the Nida Institute, brought together experts from around the world to dis-

cuss the way people's lives have been changed by this translation and how society, language and thinking were affected.

One presenter, Dr. Cheryl Sanders, associate professor of Christian ethics at Howard University School of Divinity, spoke about the sustaining influence of the KJV in African American churches. She noted that because slaves in the United States were forbidden to read, they learned the Bible through memorizing and singing the word. Through Scrip-



FRANCINE LANGE

▲ **Dr. Cheryl Sanders, a third-generation member of the Third Street Church of God in Washington, D.C., serves as its senior pastor.**

ture, they experienced God as "liberator, parent, bringer of justice for those who are powerless to advocate for themselves." The enslaved Africans "incarnated [Jesus'] suffering in themselves."

Dr. Sanders, senior pastor of the Third Street Church of God in Washington, D.C., and a third-generation member, said, "In my tradition, preaching is done from the Bible," and the KJV lends a special dignity and grace to worship when that version is used. ■

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

■ ARGENTINA

Every day, a small Christian radio station in Formosa, Argentina, broadcasts the Word into the homes of tens of thousands of eager listeners from diverse cultures.

"There's a great need for people in this area to have the gospel," said Silverio Moreno, the Alpha and Omega Radio station manager. The transmitting range, even though limited to 6 miles to 62 miles (depending on weather and time of day), has the potential to reach nearly 20,000 people. The programming



LARRY JERDEN/UBS

▲ **Silverio Moreno, director of a small Christian radio station in Argentina, says his station not only broadcasts in three languages but also aims to collaborate with all the churches in his broadcast area.**

includes Scripture reading in Spanish as well as various indigenous languages (such as Wichí and Toba), preaching and Christian music.

Many Wichí people who live in this far northern corner of Argentina cannot read, but most listen to the radio, giving inspiration to create the station in 1996 to minister to area residents. The Anglican Church oversees the station, but the goal, said Mr. Moreno, is to welcome programming from all church traditions, regardless of denomination.

The Argentine Bible

Society has been helping this venture by providing audio Scripture materials. And in 2002, the Bible Society completed the translation of the Bible into Wichí, a 20-year project that made God's Word available to this indigenous ethnic group in their own language. The Argentine Bible Society, the Finnish Bible Society and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland are now working together to produce literacy training materials in Wichí.

The radio ministry also looks ahead to reaching a younger generation of Argentines, said Mr. Moreno. "Today, many young people say they are helped a lot by Christian radio because it helps them to grow in the faith," he explained, "so we want to use it more to teach." ■

BIBLE IN THE NEWS

Doing Business by the Good Book

■ David L. Steward grew up in the racist south, but with perseverance and prayer he became the founder and CEO of an innovative billion-dollar business in information technology, World Wide Technology (WWT). Today, WWT is the largest black-owned business in the United States, according to CBN.com (the Christian Broadcasting Network).

Mr. Steward credits the Bible for guiding him in his business, and he considers his company a ministry. CBN.com states that, "It [WWT] provides an opportunity for [Mr. Steward] to apply the lessons in the Bible and also serves as a platform on which to serve God by being an ambassador in the business world."

At the request of their pastor, Mr. Steward and his wife, Thelma, started a Bible study for businesspeople in their church. He eventually turned the lessons into a book, *Doing Business by the Good Book: 52 Lessons on Success Straight From the Bible*.

Says CBN.com, "David's hope is that the corporate world picks up his book and that it directs them to the Bible. 'This is the milk that gets people excited about the prosperity God has for their lives. If it directs them to the Word, then mission accomplished.'"

A Guide for the Workplace

■ What happens when a woman of faith gets involved in a dappled deal? In the case of Jose Zeilstra, she asked, "What would Jesus do?"

According to *Crain's New York Business*, Ms. Zeilstra, a manager of a global investment bank in China, "vetoed a decision to sweeten a bid for a contract with a large shipment of tea to the client." Instead of getting input from her associates, she contemplated the morality of the act. Her bank lost the client, but Ms. Zeilstra knows she did the right thing. She told *Crain's* reporter Anita Jain, "The whole underlying premise of the Bible is, 'Do unto others as you would like them to do unto you.'" ■



DAVID SINGER

▲ **KIDSGAMES '04:** This summer, in 12 cities across the country, tens of thousands of kids came up winners, wearing the *Gold of Champions* provided by the American Bible Society. Embossed on the back of each medal was Paul's admonition in 1 Corinthians 9.24, 25 "to run to win." The Bible Society also gave Scripture coloring books based on the life of Paul, biblical puzzles and *God's Playbook*, a CEV *New Testament* with articles titled "How Can the Bible Be My Game Plan?" and "Does God Really Want Me on His Team?" Pictured are some of the 5,000 or so champions at the closing ceremonies in Orlando, Fla.

MARK THE DATE!

November 23rd is Bible Sunday

Join with us in observing Bible Sunday — celebrate the gift of God's Word, and join with thousands of other churches to encourage people to read and to share its life-transforming message. Bible Sunday is also an opportunity to partner with believers around the world as you and your congregation provide the resources to share the Good News in simple yet powerful ways.

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for Those Who Cannot Read!

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because they can't read at all. Yet there is a way to make God's Word come alive for them . . . the Bible on audiocassette.

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They must hear. That's why your gift today is critical. Please give generously. Thank you!



Yes! I want to help spiritually hungry people hear the Good News.

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